

Puxton Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Mr. Colin Hill, 84 Beach Road, Kewstoke
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Chairman:

**Minutes of the Puxton Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday
the 5th January 2012 at Hewish Village Hall. The Meeting commenced at 7-30pm**

Present Councillors M Cunningham (Vice Chairman), M Hamlin, A McKenzie
G Board and T Dalley
Clerk Colin Hill

9. Members of the Public

Public Participation –

Mrs. Thomas wanted to wish the Council and Councillors a Happy New year

Mr. Glinstead requested how the decision letter sent to NSDC Planning related to the democratic process of the Council when it did not meet. The Clerk explained the process that took place

Mr. K Glinstead asked about the position of the Chairman of the Council Cllr Gilbody
The Clerk informed Mr. K Glinstead it was an Agenda item

Mr. Thorne of the Full Quart reported that two street lights have been turned back on at night because of crime and possible accident related issues. They were at the Wick Junction and outside the Full Quart Pub

Mrs. Edwards reported the state of the road entering the side of Palmers Elm where the pot holes were very bad. The Clerk would report again

P.C Church Report if available.

The Police were unable to attend but sent a report

There were 16 calls to the station during the period December to present, no crimes were committed

Over the year crime was marginally up but the detection rate was above 40% which is way above the National Average

New P.A.C.T Priorities

The PACT priorities will remain the same

1. Opening of the Meeting and Apologies for Absence.

The meeting opened at 7-46pm

Apologies for absence were received from, Unitary Councillor I Porter,
Liaison Officer M Jones. P.C Church
Cllrs Redding and Gilbody .

2. To accept the resignation of Chairman Cllr Gilbody

Cllr McKenzie had been to see Cllr Gilbody about issues relating to his report and part of that visit centered on his resignation

The position was now clear and had been confirmed in writing to the Clerk that Cllr Gilbody could not continue as Chairman as he could not give the commitment but would remain for the foreseeable future as a Councillor.

3. To elect a new Chairman for the Quadrennial (optional)

The Clerk as the Nominated Officer for the Council called for nominations for Chairman of the Council for the rest of the Quadrennial

Cllr McKenzie was proposed by **Cllr Board** and was seconded by **Cllr Hamlin**

There were no other nominations therefore **Cllr McKenzie** was dually elected as the Chairman for the rest of the Quadrennial

3a, To elect a Vice –Chairman for the Quadrennial (optional)

Cllr Cunningham agreed to remain as Vice-Chairman so no vote was necessary

At this juncture Cllr Dalley asked if it would be possible for Councillors and Officers to indicate if they would be in attendance the following month. This would help the Council plan Agenda items for the future. It was agreed.

4. Notification of Interests.

None

5. Adoption of Minutes (already circulated) of The Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2011

Cllr Dalley raised issues relating to 6a, 8b, 13 item5. Matters relating to Public 6a Add to minutes Cllr Redding and the Clerk to progress the Community Money offer.

Agenda Item 8b

Third Line down will now read

Cllrs had received an email from Cllr Dalley highlighting the issue and suggesting his solution. Not all Councillors are on e-mail

It will now read

Cllrs had received an email from Cllr Dalley highlighting the issue and suggesting his solution. Only one Councillor is not on email .

Agenda Item 13 Councillors Reports

Clerks Position

All possible candidates have been informed of the delay

Issue not recorded

In relation to the matter of dealing with planning applications if a monthly meeting is not held

It was confirmed that Cllr Board and Redding would view the plans and they could make a delegated decision

6. Matters Arising as a Matter of Report from those Minutes

Glinstead Report

Cllr McKenzie addressed his report by asking for comments or issues as it had been circulated well in advance.

Cllr Dalley raised objections to the report as he considered it was partly non factual. The main thrust of his report was he considered the June minutes did not reflect the decision made. Mr. Glinsteads planning application was supported and the minutes indicated that the letter suggesting Council had no comments was wrong. The minutes were presented in July and were agreed as factual. Cllr Dalley was not at that meeting but had emailed the Chairman and Clerk with his concerns. The e-mail was raised at the appropriate time but the minutes remained unchanged. The Clerk contended the minutes were correct as instructed and duly signed off.

Cllr Hamlin asked why this was such a big issue and Cllr Dalley contended that it may have made a difference to the overall decision made by other bodies.

Cllr McKenzie reluctantly suggested waiting until the only other Councillor at the relevant meeting was present and the issue would be discussed again.

Following this decision a debate took place about the whole issue of site visits and the role of Councillors in that process

The Clerk gave his clear advice that in his opinion when dealing with major or controversial possible planning decisions Councillors should work to an agreed procedure and that was an organised site visit with the Clerk in attendance. The reason was to protect Councillors from being lobbied and to deem within in the public domain that all was fair and proper.

Cllr Dalley rejected this advice and had sought advice himself. His opinion was, he was free to act independently if necessary

It was decided to clarify the issue by writing to the Monitoring officer of NSDC

7. Finance

a, Clerk Salary & exp November/December

£326.40, £ 60.00 Expenses, £81.60 Inland Revenue

This was agreed

8. Planning Issues

a, Applications

11/P/1937/F Land adjacent (South West) to Moorland Park Caravan Park, Hewish, Puxton

Applicant Moorland Park Residents Association via Agent

Change of use of land and engineering works to include alterations to the level of the land, to provide an equestrian center, to include ménage, jumping/training areas, and trap racing track, paddocks and lake

Holding letter sent -: Copy available

Cllr's and the Clerk had had little feedback from the public however it was decided to add the issues relating to the usage of such a track and its pitfalls in a letter to NSDC should the application be granted.

11/P/1981/F Field 82 off Weston Road (A370) Hewish, Puxton, Somerset

Change of use from agricultural land to Touring/caravan site for 15 caravans.

Delegated Decision -: Letter Available

The policy of delegated decisions was explained in Public Participation

11/P/1980/F Little Farm, Puxton Road, Puxton

Applicant Mr. S Grey & MS E Frake

Erection of a single storey and two rear and first floor extensions for additional first floor living accommodation. Erection of a conservatory to the north east elevation. Erection of a single storey porch

No comments

11/P/2175/F Field 9322 North of Consersation Pond, Puxton Lane, Hewish. Puxton

Applicant Mr. M Dew

Siting of 4no static caravans for use as fishing lodges/holiday accommodation, 11 months per year to be sited on concrete bases with raised decking and construction of access road with parking for 4no cars

Mr. Dew spoke to his application at this stage. He contended that this was stage two of his plan, it was straight forward as he was looking to improve his venture with fishing type holidays.

The Chairman gave his thoughts that provided the holiday homes were well built and it was a holiday type venture and not for full domestic use he supported the venture

Other Councillors agreed

Proposed Public Path Diversion Order

Applicant Owners Puxton park

Public Footpath AX24/13a and AX 24/17 in the Parish of Puxton and Footpath AX 3/44 in the Parish of Banwell at Puxton Park Hewish

The Clerk explained that as he understood this path would be diverted away from a busy farm vehicle yard and would join up with other paths in the area. On the basis of the application this seemed a good idea and practice.

Councillors with local knowledge agreed and no objection would be lodged against the order

11/P2248/F Puxton Park, Cowslip Lane Puxton

Applicant Mr. A Mead

Change of use from Delivery Yard/Car Park to outside Garden Products Retail Area

This application was deferred as Cllrs were aware that other applications were pending.

It was decided to ask Mr. A Mead if he would agree to an organised site visit by Parish Councillors where he could explain his objectives within the plans.

b, Planning Approved/Rejected/Appeals etc.

11/P/2074/F 6, The Council Houses, Puxton Road, Puxton

Applicant Alliance Homes

Erection of a single storey rear extension

Permission granted

Confirmation of Public path Diversion Order

Footpath AX 16/44 Pilhay Sluice off A370 Puxton

Application for Prior Determination for Existing Cow Shed at Willowbrook Farm, East Hewish Lane, Hewish

Prior approval not needed

Application 11/P/1652/LDE

Applicant Mr. A McDonough

Certificate of Lawfulness of existing use or development

The House and hardstanding at the front of the house was agreed but the hardstanding at the back of the house was refused

9. Network Rail Bridge Update

From information available it would appear the project was on schedule however there were concerns about the approach roads. A more detailed date would be sought for the February meeting

10 Web Site

Cllr McKenzie agreed to oversee the website

Proposed by Cllr Dalley seconded by Cllr Hamlin

All agreed

11. General Correspondences. (Not agenda items)

Southern Area Committee Papers for December

Review of Supported Bus Service Consultation findings

Standards Committee Papers for December 2011

All Agreed

12. Village Plan.

It was decided because there was no public interest of note the issue would be reviewed again in 6 months time

13 Precept for 2012-2013

The Clerk produced a report and balance sheet projection. These are attached to these minutes. On the basis of the information available and no major wishes of Councillors to do any major projects it was decided to leave the Precept the same.

Proposed by **G Board** seconded by **A McKenzie**

The vote was four for and one against.

Cllr Dalley commented that he felt the Council was standing still

13. Councillors Reports

Cllr Board reported that the new tarmac laid between Maysgreen Road and the Council Houses was in part breaking up. Clerk will report to NSDC

Cllr Hamlin reported that because of the high winds and the recent heavy recycling collection problems over the Christmas period the hedgerows around the area was full of rubbish. Ask NSDC to have a major Clean up

Cllr Hamlin asked if there was an update on the Travellers Rest situation.

Clerk would try and get an update

Cllr Hamlin reported flytipping in Balls bar Lane

Cllr Hamlin reported the fence opposite the cottages close to Palmers End was falling into the road Cllr Board will try and find out who owns or rents the field

Cllr Dalley raised the issue of having a form of Public Participation following the meeting. Other Councillors felt it was not a good idea.

It was decided that the discretion of the Chairman in matters of debate was a tool that could be used if facts within a debate would be helpful from members of the public

Cllr McKenzie raised the issue of poster flytipping from the Cadbury Hotel advertising weddings etc. NSDC seem not to want to act to take them down therefore could the Parish Council act as an agent

Clerk will write to NSDC and request guidance

14. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday February 2nd February