

THE CIVIL PARISH OF PUXTON
Comprising the villages of Puxton and Hewish
In the North Somerset Council Ward of Congresbury and Puxton

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday 7th MAY 2026 AT 8.00 pm

Present: Lynda Redding - Chair; Helen Riddell; Minute Taker (electors of the parish); and 20 other electors of the parish.

In attendance: Ward Cllr Dan Thomas

APM26/01 APOLOGIES

Don Hill, Clerk, due to illness.

APM26/02 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING

The 2025 Minutes attached to the agenda were reviewed and promised actions via the parish council confirmed as having been addressed. The minutes were signed as a true record. Cllr Thomas introduced himself to the meeting and asked for the following expression of thanks to be recorded – for the attendance of so many interested residents and for the hard work of the councillors year round to help the parish.

APM26/03 REPORTS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

Puxton Parish Council Chair Report of the Chair

Meetings

The Parish Council held meetings on the first Thursday of each month except August, as usual. The April meeting had to be delayed a week due to a website problem caused by all parish councils conforming their websites and email addresses to Assertion 10.

Agendas

We are complying with the new Accountability Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) requirement, Assertion 10, which among other things mean we will be using dedicated Parish Council email addresses for PPC business when these become available.

We have had a steady stream of planning applications, mostly fairly routine. The application for a solar park across the fields of Manor Farm, The Grange and The Elms is with North Somerset for consideration.

The speeds of vehicles along our lanes are always a concern and we continue to urge North Somerset Council to consider reducing the speed limits. Highway improvement forms have been submitted giving reasons why the speed limit should be reduced to 30 mph, we await a

response. Online forms have been submitted explaining the difficulty of crossing the A370 to reach the bus stops: online forms are the only way we can communicate with NSC. The opening of the adult learning centre, Burley Inclusive, on the Full Quart site may help our cause in requesting a central refuge there. Damage to the roads caused by heavy traffic continues to be reported but there seems to be little in the budget for any more than temporary filling of all but the largest potholes that are on a central part of the highway.

Data from the Speed Indicator Device has helped inform our requests for highway improvement. A precis of the most recent data is published on the Parish Council website.

The damage to the central refuge installed by the Wick Lane bus stops was repaired within weeks but we have no date for the repair to the bus stop post on the to Congresbury side of the A370.

Fly tipping is an ongoing problem. Dolemoor lane has been cleaned up and gated at the Puxton end, we are talking with Congresbury PC about gating the Congresbury end.

Finance

Another uneventful year, the precept was £12,352. The online banking continues to facilitate payments. We are grateful to our Clerk for managing our finances, accounts and audits efficiently.

Lynda Redding - May 2026

Hewish & Puxton Village Hall Ltd

In the last year in addition to the usual electrical and plumbing maintenance the guttering has been rectified and a fence erected to improve privacy for hall users and our neighbour. The kerosene tank has been moved to the required distance from the building so that it is now compliant; this has improved the view through the hall windows.

Bookings have remained buoyant so fees have remained the same. Maintaining our not-for-profit ethos we were able to hold a free party in October with live music provided by NiteShift. The raffle helped raise money for a defibrillator: the WI have now raised enough for installation in the next few months.

I would like to thank our regular users and the committee for their support.

Lynda Redding - Chair Hewish and Puxton Village Hall

APM26/04 OPEN DISCUSSION - a summary of the discussion points

1. **Bristol Airport Expansion:** a resident raised his concerns about the Bristol Airport expansion. A spirited discussion ensued with some contributors expressing detailed knowledge of noise legislation. It was suggested that the Parish Council insist on a full and comprehensive 'Acoustic Study' be completed by the airport authority.

This minute to be passed to the Parish Council to be progressed

2. **Gypsy/Traveller Sites:** A resident raised her concern about the proposed new Gypsy Traveller sites. It was explained that these are still going through the Appeals process
3. **Damaged to-Bristol Bus stop:** A resident raised her concern about the damaged bus stop o/s the Old Post Office. LR has reported this and temporary signs are in place.
4. **Flavours Car Park:** A resident reported their concerns about the car park area at the old Flavours restaurant site appeared to be being filled with shipping containers. LR stated it had already reported as a breach of planning for other matters including this and was with the Planning Enforcement Team.
5. **Fly-tipping:** A resident reported their concern about the fly-tipping and the apparent lack of action from NSC. It was explained that we regularly report any such issues and that NSC do attend and clear the mess. The maintenance orderly explained that he had hosted a meeting with the NSC officer with responsibility for fly-tipping alongside Cllr Thomas and parish councillor Riddell where several requests were made for resources such as signs, cameras but nothing has been forthcoming – not even replies to emails ! He has raised the possibility of devolved powers being given to parish councils to report and initiate proceeding against individuals where the evidence exists but this has not been actioned by NSC. HR and JG reiterated their priority to try and keep the village free of litter and in a state of good repair.
6. **Re-cycling Sites Booking System:** A resident stated they were not happy with the new booking system for the NSC recycling centres and felt this would contribute to littering. Some present disagreed saying they had found the system to work well when they had used it.
7. **Potholes:** A resident raised the constant problem of potholes. The process of reporting was clarified for those present. One resident suggested that if more people claimed for the damage to their car that this might speed up the repairs.
8. **Local Boundaries and WECA:** A resident raised the matter of the local boundary changes and the possibility of NSC becoming part of WECA. This matter is due for decision within weeks. Apparently there are ward boundary reviews every 10 years but it is believed this would only affect 1 ward in NSC. Cllr Thomas explained there are mixed views across the council but that having access to the funds that are available to WECA might see improvements not currently possible with the current funding picture in NSC.

Meeting closed at 9pm and was followed by refreshments