

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Puxton & Hewish: in the North Somerset Council Ward of Congresbury & Puxton

Clerk: Donald Hill - 18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset BS49 4JG

Tel: Mobile: 07774 125578 e-mail: clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk Website: puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7.30pm on Thursday June 4th 2026

All meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Although under no obligation to, Dan Thomas, our NSC Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Lynda Redding (Chair), Jim Corbett, Christine MacFie, Peter Penfold, Clayton Penfold, Helen Riddell.

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

057/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mel Ellis, NSC Ward Cllr Dan Thomas by email.

058/26 DECLARATIONS: *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re precept setting, and Village Hall matters)*

Cllr Redding re Minute 062/26 b. Did not participate as the immediate neighbour.

059/26 PUBLIC SESSION *(15 minutes - contributions limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point)*

None

060/26 LAST MEETING MINUTES

- I. May 7th 2026 Parish Council Draft Annual Meeting Minutes were agreed and signed.
- II. May 7th Annual Parish Meeting Draft Minutes were noted and initialled but will be formally signed at the 2027 APM.

061/26 GOVERNANCE 1: The Annual Governance Statement, being Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025-2026 to be approved and signed.

062/26 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

iii. New:

- a. **26/P/1013/TEN:** Wick Lane Erection of two broadband poles, one either side of the M5 bridge (for information - no paperwork). Noted.
- b. **26-P-0944-FUL26-P-0944-FUL:** Palmers Elm Farm - Demolition of dwelling known as Little Haven and erection of triple garage. Works to include a ground mounted solar array to the north boundary of the site. Discussed. No objections raised. **Clerk to so inform NSC planners.**

iv. Decisions Due:

- a. **22/P/3067/OUT:** Haybow Village *(Banwell PC)*.
- b. **25/P/1418/FUL:** *(Kingston Seymour PC)* Solar Farm at Yew Tree Farm.
- c. **25/P/1098/FUL: Dolemoor L Solar Farm** *(Congresbury PC)*.

- d. **25/P/2609/FULL** Manor Farm Solar Farm, Wick Lane, West Hewish.
 - e. **26/P/0810/LDP** Caffle side extension (*for information*).
- iii. **Approved:** none.
- iv. **Appeals:**
- a. **24/P/0143/FUL** - gypsy/traveller site adjacent to Heathfield Park. **Appeal Dismissed**
 - b. **23/P/2593/FUL** - gypsy/traveller site opposite the Full Quart.

063/26 FINANCE

- i. **2026-27 Accounts:** were reconciled with Bank Statement.
- ii. **Payments Approved:** Phil Smith Internal Auditor £66.00. HMRC PAYE Apr/May/Jun £248.40. **Clerk to pay.**
- iii. **Clerk's Expenses:** An explanation of the clerk's expenses is felt to be needed to counter some mis-briefing that has been circulating in relation to them. The meeting noted that the Clerk's employment costs are managed through HMRC directly via their own online system and acknowledged as received by them on a monthly basis. The clerk's payslips are generated via that same HMRC online system. Unless specifically requested to do so at a meeting of the council, the clerk claims no overtime or expenses for work he does for the council, which is deemed by him to be a service to the community as much as an employment. As part of his contract of employment the Clerk claims a monthly sum of £34.30 to cover home office costs as computed in 2016 on the basis of HMRC generated guidance. This monthly figure has not been raised since 2016, although the mix of expenses making up that figure has altered over time. This situation has been subject to internal and external audit over the years and has never been the subject of a professional query.

064/26 GOVERNANCE 2

AGAR, 2025-26 accounts and Public Rights notices per a. - f. Below were approved and signed for publication on the web and notice boards:

- a. **Approval of Certificate of Exemption** – AGAR 2025/26 Form 2
- b. **Review** of 2023-24 internal auditor's report.
- c. **AGAR Section 1** – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26: see Minute 061/26 above
- d. **Approval of AGAR Section 2** – Accounting Statements 2025/26
- e. **Approval** of the 2025-2026 Bank Reconciliation.
- f. **External Auditors** Conflict of Interest Form

065/26 GOVERNANCE 3

Vexatious Behaviour: This order is due for renewal during June. Although there is general assent to the renewal as a matter of course given the high levels of vexatious communication received, the matter was raised and that general assent re-affirmed by members.

066/26 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Matters re the NSC Highways Portal:**
 - a. **Fly-tipping:** Cllr Riddell provided a sequence of photographs indicating an entrance being made to Dolemoor Lane that is blocking the water flow. More appropriate than going via the portal, Cllr Redding has reported the problem to the Internal Drainage Board and will supply them with his new evidence. This represents the limit of what the council is able to do to get this matter on private land resolved.
 - b. **Request for 30mph Limit:** Cllr Redding has submitted a Highways Improvement form for the complete length of Maysgreen Lane and Puxton Road. Response awaited.

- c. **Wick Road 30 mph request:** This is proceeding to stage 3 of the NSC online system.
 - d. **A370 Central Refuges:** at The Full Quart, Moorland Park (refused): awaiting clarification re Full Quart and Garden Park proposed crossings. Cllr Thomas will chase.
 - e. **Old Post Office Lay-By:** 'To Bristol' bus stop crashed into verge. A replacement bus stop sign has been fixed to the lamp post.
 - f. **Safety outside the School:** Cllr McFie has tried to speak with the Operations Manager for the school and has left messages but she is still waiting to hear back. Work on the airport consultation has taken up much of her time.
 - g. **Highway Verges and potholes:** These are an ongoing and constant concern for this Parish. Reporting continues via the NSC portal.
 - h. **HGV Repair Centre:** There is no specific evidence available against which the Council can pursue this claim.
- ii. **Wick St Lawrence PC SID Hire:** No communications have been received.
 - iii. **St Anne's School Car Park Lease:** revision of agreement. Clerk to confirm that our solicitor proceed to deal with the leaseholders with an undertaking by them that they will, as in the past, bear the legal expenses involved. **Clerk to so instruct the solicitor.**
 - iv. **Assertion 10 and email addresses:** Email addresses are still awaited.
 - v. **Bristol Airport Expansion:** Cllr MacFie introduced two papers:
 - a. **Paper 1:** as a proposed response to the Bristol Airport Expansion consultation invitation to local Parish Councils. This focussed on the issue of increased noise pollution as a likely outcome of Bristol airport expansion plans and proposed various noise abatement action points to help mitigate this. Following animated discussion on the issues raised, it was agreed unanimously that Cllr MacFie should submit Paper 1 as Puxton Parish's response to North Somerset Council Planning body before the consultation closing date of 28th June 2026. **actioned per Annexe 1 to these minutes.**
 - b. **Paper 2:** This summarised information on the role and activities of the Parish Councils Airport Association, listed its current membership and proposed that Puxton Parish Council should join it at an annual cost of £95.00. During discussion there was strong support for this proposal and it was agreed that Puxton Parish Council would join the Association to leverage the benefits it offered. **Clerk to action via Annexe 2 to these minutes**

067/26 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Riddell: The annual bat survey is now underway in our area and the Church Maintenance team are contributing to a national wildlife survey. Cllrs Riddell and C Penfold will collect and plant the annual Free Flower donation from Glendale.

Cllr P Penfold: A huge thank you was registered to Cllrs MacFie and Riddell for the diverse but vital work they have been involved with. The meeting all agreed and joined in this vote of thanks.

068/26 NEXT MEETING: 2nd July 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm

ANNEXE 1 re Minute 066/26 va. - 8 pages

From: Christine MacFie christine.macfie@outlook.com 
Subject: 26/P/0686/OU2 Bristol Airport Expansion Plans - Puxton Parish Council Response
Date: 9 June 2026 at 19:18
To: BAconsultees@n-somerset.gov.uk
Cc: Donald Hill clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk, Lynda Redding redding.lynda@gmail.com

CM

Dear Development Management

Thank you for sharing Bristol Airport expansion consultation papers with Puxton Parish Council.

At our meeting on 4th June, a draft response was discussed and agreed.

As also agreed, I am submitting this response on behalf of Council members, to meet the 28th June date specified and it is attached for your information and consideration.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Christine MacFie
Puxton Parish Council Member

**Puxton PC Agreed
Response to Bristol...**



10.1 MB

Bristol Airport Consultation on Expansion

Current position on passenger numbers, flights and aircraft noise

In 2025 privately owned Bristol Airport Limited (BAL) carried more than **10.7** million passengers and hosted over 78,000 aircraft journeys (**Ref.1**).

North Somerset Council (NSC) expects BAL to meet set noise limits for an area around the airport. These are published as noise contour maps and based on measurements taken during the day and at night. The set level is **57** decibels (**Ref. 2**) detected over a 16-hour average, as the minimum threshold of aircraft noise nuisance. This equates to normal conversation, or an electric toothbrush.

The airport also has an annual quota of **4,000** nighttime flights (**Ref. 3**) undertaken between 11.30pm and 6am, issued by NSC. Special dispensation applications to exceed that quota are meant for exceptional circumstances only, such as danger to life. The 2025 BAL Annual Report stated there were **4,700+** flights that year.

BAL's published Noise Action Plan 2024-2029 has actions to offset current levels (**Ref. 4**). It fines older, noisier aircraft and lists various mitigations, including noise insulation grants for the worst affected properties. In 2025 it allocated **£200,000** and funded acoustic upgrades for **39** local properties.

Hewish and Puxton fall under the western flight path to BAL's single east west runway and are subject to low flying aircraft landing and taking off, depending on the conditions. As a result, local aircraft noise has already increased in volume and frequency during the daytime and at night (**Ref. 5**).

Bristol Airport Ltd new expansion application to North Somerset Council

BAL has applied to NSC to raise its current maximum passenger number from **12** to **15** million a year, along with plans to expand the airport itself. It contends that changes to the runway layout, explained in its final 2040 Master Plan, mean it can cater for larger, newer aircraft, which will help it cope with the extra passenger capacity.

BAL plans to encourage airlines to deploy newer planes that are quieter, implying that in future, overall noise nuisance will not be significantly worse than now.

The legal position on Aircraft noise

Aircraft noise is exempt from legal action arising from UK Environment Protection law (**Ref. 6**). It is also excluded from direct regulation by the Civil Aviation authority that polices all other aspects of aviation. Responsibility therefore rests with BAL and NSC to decide what is acceptable. NSC has few powers to enforce its conditions other than planning controls, leaving the onus on BAL to comply with any agreements made.

Key action points to raise with North Somerset Council Planning body

Limit total passenger flights to current level of 85,990 a year

The existing cap on BAL's annual number of flights is currently set at 85,990 (**Ref. 7**). In its application to expand passenger numbers, BAL has not said how many extra flights will occur after the proposed increase in journeys. As BAL has made no request to raise the annual number of flights needed to meet passenger demand, the existing cap on annual number of flights should remain the same.

Mandate including independent verification of BAL current and predicted noise contour maps

BAL's predicted 15 million passenger noise contour map (see Annex 1.1) does not show Puxton and Hewish area as exceeding nuisance thresholds. However, third-party noise maps of current noise contours suggest that they do (**See Annex 2.1 and 2.2**).

Coupled with a lack of transparency on anticipated flight numbers or ratio of old/new aircraft types, it remains unclear how BAL can be certain that their noise contour prediction is accurate.

It is, therefore, a concern that the noise contour maps presented by BAL do not represent the true extent of noise nuisance in the Puxton and Hewish area.

Independent verification of their accuracy and relevance to noise experienced, free from the commercial interests of the BAL, is therefore necessary as an integral part of the application proposal process.

Include a mandatory penalty scheme for airlines breaking nighttime noise regulations and return income generated as funding for beneficial community projects

Under the Airport's Master Plan proposals, night flight quotas will be raised. Bristol airport has a demonstrably poor record of keeping to these - significantly worse than other major airports, such as London Gatwick, which are busier. There are currently no financial penalties for breaking these limits.

BAL's current Noise Action Plan quotes the Civil Aviation Act 2006. This gives airport operators statutory powers to introduce noise control schemes for the purpose of avoiding, limiting or mitigating the effect of noise connected with the taking off or landing of aircraft. Any income generated through penalty schemes must be put towards projects that benefit the local community.

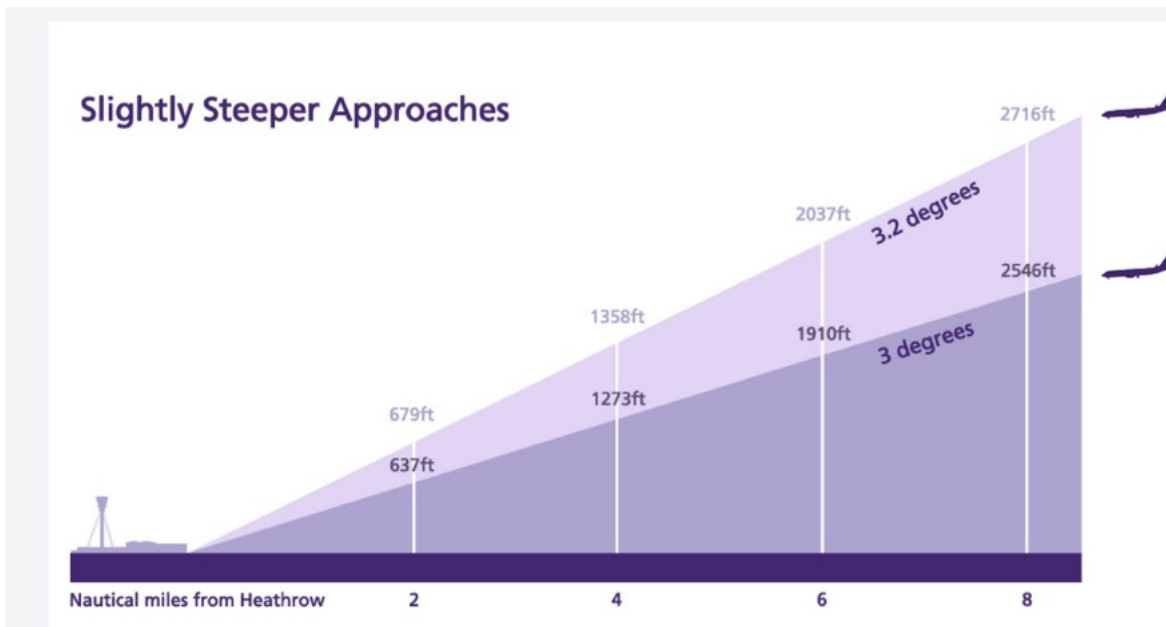
It is important to recognise the additional health impacts of night flights (**Ref. 8**). As other UK airports operate penalty schemes that fine airlines for breaking nighttime noise regulations and return these as funding for community projects, it seems appropriate for BAL to follow their lead.

Establish a dedicated Community Noise Liaison body that includes Environmental Health professionals, to oversee BAL’s noise action plan

Major airports such as Gatwick Airport have a dedicated body that oversees their noise action plan. Membership includes Environmental Health professionals drawn from the surrounding local authorities, to add expertise and connection with the locality. BAL does not currently offer this and has not indicated any plans to do so. Given the difficulties highlighted above with compliance and noise measurement, it seems appropriate for it to do so.

Mandate workable local noise abatement measures

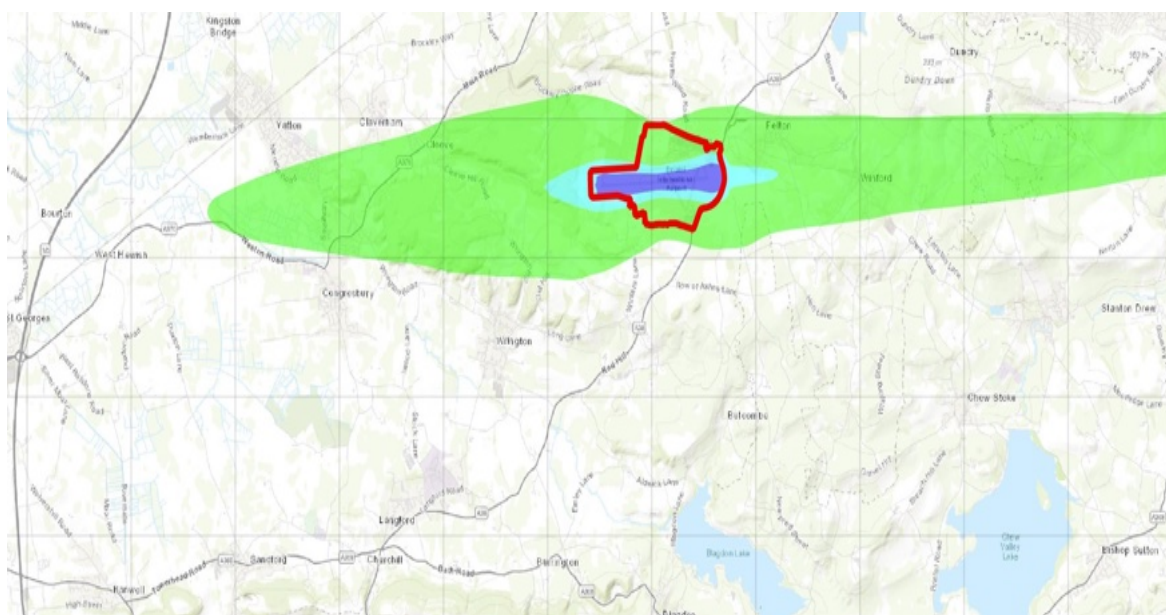
Heathrow, by far the busiest airport in the UK, has adopted a steeper landing profile scheme, so that aircraft stay higher in the approach and descend closer to the runway, to limit noise in the surrounding area (Ref. 9). As there is no such commitment in the BAL Master Plan, it seems worth exploring its feasibility to mitigate local noise nuisance.



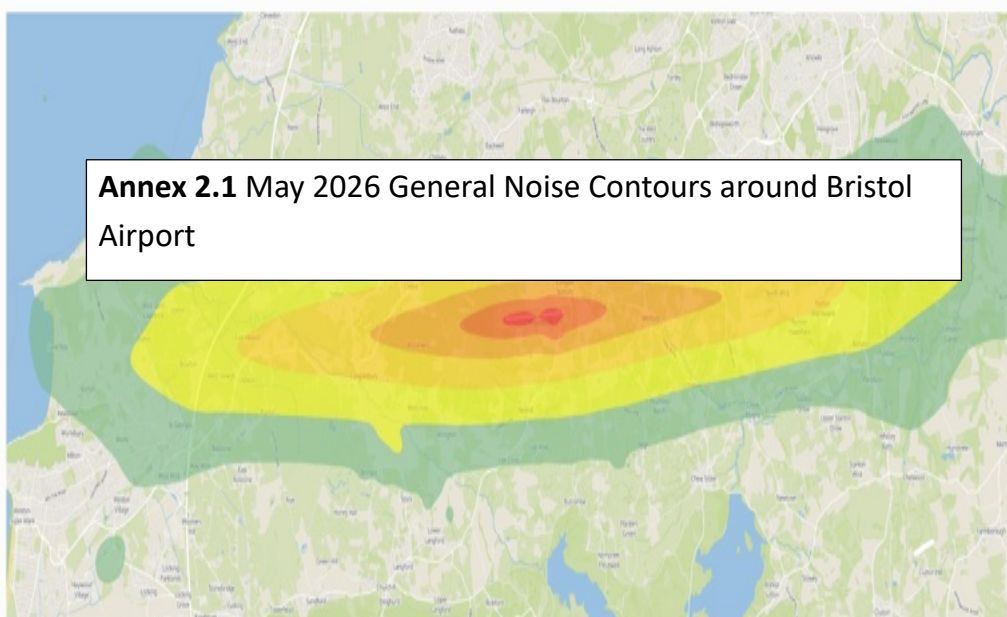
Sources for Bristol Airport Consultation

- Ref 1** Bristol Airport Air Transport Movements and Passenger Q4 2025 Report
- Ref 2** Aviation Policy Framework (Referred to in Bristol Airport Noise Action Plan 2024 -2029) sets 57 Db contour as threshold of noise nuisance.
- Ref 3** Bristol Airport Noise Action Plan 2024 -2029 – refers to North Somerset Council Planning condition 17 – night flights to be restricted to 4000 in a 12-month period. Overall figure of actual night flights quoted from Bristol Airport Facts and Figures 2024.
- Ref 4** Bristol Airport Noise Action Plan 2024 -2029
- Ref 5** Bristol Airport – Living near the Airport – Where Aircraft Fly
- Ref 6** Aviation Environment Federation (AEF) - Web page titled “Isn’t there a law against aircraft noise pollution?”
- Ref 7** Bristol Airport Noise Action Plan 2024 -2029 – refers to North Somerset Council Planning condition 5 and 13 - passenger movements restricted to 12 million per annum and 85,990 aircraft movement in the same period.
- Ref 8** Aviation Environment Federation (AEF) - Web page titled “Health Impacts”
- Ref 9** https://www.heathrow.com/company/local-community/noise/making-heathrow-quieter/slightly_steeper-approaches

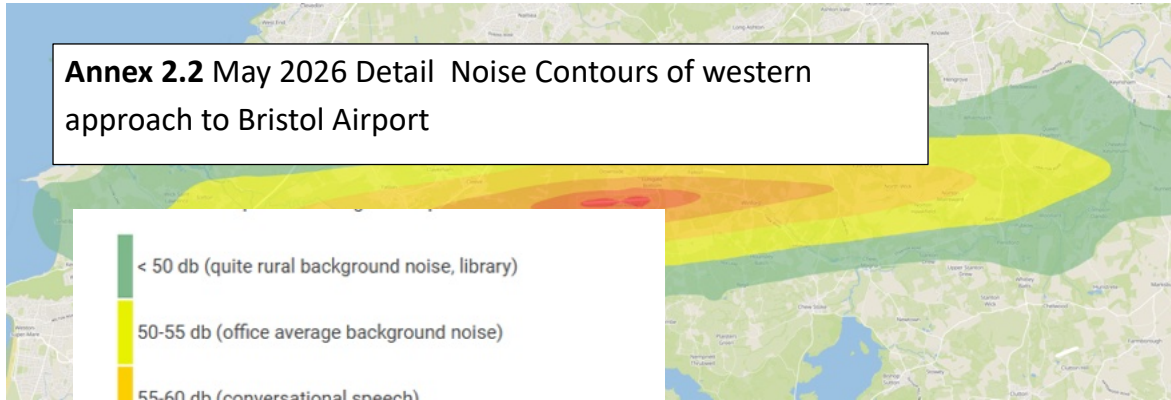
Annex 1.1 Extract of 15 million passenger Predicted Summer Day Noise Contour published by Bristol Airport Ltd.



Annex 2.1 May 2026 General Noise Contours around Bristol Airport



Annex 2.2 May 2026 Detail Noise Contours of western approach to Bristol Airport



- < 50 db (quite rural background noise, library)
- 50-55 db (office average background noise)
- 55-60 db (conversational speech)
- 60-65 db (piano practice)
- 65-70 db (noisy restaurant)
- 70 > db (vacuum cleaner)

The noise values reported in this dashboard app are based on the measure [Leq](#). The noise value in each position is calculated based on flight information and other factors.

Source: noise-m

From: Bristol Airport Consultee BAconsultees@n-somerset.gov.uk
Subject: Automatic reply: 26/P/0686/OU2 Bristol Airport Expansion Plans - Puxton Parish Council Response
Date: 9 June 2026 at 21:20
To: Town & Parish Clerk Puxton clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk

BC

Thank you for your email and response to the consultation on the planning application for the expansion of Bristol Airport. Due to the substantial number of responses, if you have e-mailed with a query, depending on the nature of the query, we would aim to get back to you within 5 working days. Please note, this email address is only for responses from the consultation bodies to whom the Council notified of the address. If you are an individual, or a body that has not been notified of the email address, please submit your comments via the planning website [Search for a planning application | North Somerset Council](#) using the reference 26/P/0686/OU2 – such individual comments sent to this email address cannot be considered.

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ANNEXE 2 re Minute 066/26 vb. - 3 pages

Paper 2

The Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA)

About the PCAA

Founded in 1971 to provide a forum where affected Parishes could discuss all areas of airport operations that were having an adverse impact on communities in the South West of England.

Originally called the Parish Councils (Airport) Committee and representatives from 8 Parish Councils attended the inaugural meeting to discuss concerns around Bristol Airport operations, extension plans and aircraft noise (particularly at night).

Since 1971 Association membership has grown to 26 Parish Councils and 2 Town Councils today, and is run by volunteer representatives from the member Councils.

The PCAA works closely with other organisations, such as Bristol Airport Action Network (BAAN), to scrutinise activities by Bristol Airport Limited (BAL) and other operators which affect the surrounding Parishes and Towns: See [Parish Councils Airport Association](#) For more information.

What does the PCAA do now?

It has members with expert knowledge, who take the lead in Planning; Airport related noise; Net Zero/Climate Change/Airport Emissions; Parking and the Green Belt; Air Space Modernisation; and Biodiversity***. Members also sit on various other groups including the Airport Consultative Committee, allowing the PCAA to directly question BAL on its activities and operations on behalf of member Councils.

It alerts all member councils to planning applications, not just for the airport but those related to it such as parking and hotels etc, issues regarding the North Somerset Local Plan, general aviation matters including increased flight routes, and airport-related traffic problems. The PCAA also responds to planning applications and airport-related consultations on behalf of member Councils, and assists member Councils to establish whether they wish to also make a response.

The volunteers on the PCAA have significant knowledge and experience in matters relating to the airport, and work on behalf of hard-pressed parish councils who don't have the experience or capacity to directly engage with the airport. These specialisms are focused in a number of Special Interest Groups***.

PCAA membership cost

Annual cost is £95.

PCAA Membership

Information about constituent member Councils can be found on their websites using the following links:

Backwell PC	https://www.backwell-pc.gov.uk
Barrow Gurney PC	https://www.barrowgurneyparishcouncil.org.uk
Brockley PC	https://www.brockleypc.org
Burrington PC	https://burrington-pc.org.uk
Butcombe PC	https://butcombeparishcouncil.co.uk
Chew Magna PC	https://www.chewmagna.org.uk
Chew Stoke PC	https://chewstoke.org.uk/parish-council
Churchill PC	https://www.churchillpc.org.uk
Cleeve PC	http://www.cleeveparishcouncil.co.uk
Compton Dando PC	https://comptondandopc.org.uk
Compton Martin PC	https://comptonmartinparishcouncil.gov.uk
Congresbury PC	http://www.congresbury-pc.gov.uk
Dundry PC	http://dundry.org.uk/parish_council
East Harptree PC	https://www.eastharptreeparish.org
Keynsham TC	http://www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk
Kingston Seymour PC	https://www.kingstonseymour.org.uk
Long Ashton PC	https://www.longashtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Numpnett Thrubwell PC	http://www.nempnettthrubwell-pc.org.uk
Portishead TC	https://www.portishead.gov.uk
Publow with Pensford	https://www.publow-with-pensford-pc.gov.uk
Saltford PC	https://www.saltfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Stanton Drew PC	https://stantondrewpc.co.uk
Stowey Sutton PC	http://www.stoweysuttonpc.org
Timsbury PC	https://www.timsbury.org.uk/parish-council/
Winford PC	https://www.winfordpc.org.uk
Wraxall and Failand PC	https://www.wraxallandfailand-pc.gov.uk

Wrington PC	https://wringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Yatton PC	https://www.yatton-pc.gov.uk