

# PURITON PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes for the Annual Parish Assembly 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Present: Councillors S Langley, J Fletcher, J Lunn, D Saunders, J Coleman, B & V Crow  
Parish Clerk S Diaz

1. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr S Langley for the period April 2021 to March 2022

Good evening ladies and gentlemen thank you for coming.

First and foremost I would like to thank Sally for all the hard work and the way she keeps us in line, especially me, and her efforts for making things happen are truly above and beyond her remit, the help she has given with the pump track fund raising, payments and organising the contractors has been truly amazing and she has come back for more and is now helping to organise the jubilee celebrations, the youth group and keeping the council on an even keel. Secondly, I would like to thank Sue Chambers for her work she has done to help the local community and has sadly had to resign, we all wish her very well for the future and a huge thank you for your support and hard work. Third I would like to thank the councillors, who work free of charge to make Puriton Parish run, walk cycle and be. They investigate planning applications and associate funding for good causes, as well as the smooth running of the parish.

What are our achievements to date? We installed one of the best pump tracks around the area into the sports centre, with the help of the J'Dan pump track group who also helped to organise a wonderful event to celebrate the opening officially. A huge thank you to Villages together and Viridor credits for their incredible generosity providing £114000 to finance the construction of the pump track and provide outdoor furniture, a youth shelter, still to come, maintenance for the next ten years and funding for the future. The track was built with no cost to the parish coffers and all of the funds were raised by members of this community working with the children to achieve something to be very proud of. Thank you to everyone involved, you know who you are. The opening event, again organised by the pump track group, was a resounding success and raised over £4000 from generous donations, and fund raising on the day by our local community. J'Dans Café has also started trading inspired by a group of selfless individuals who offer their services free of charge, all profits from the café are either reinvested back into the café project or held by the parish Council for future funding for the pump track. The community benefits from a hub that all are welcome to, and the cakes and tea are delicious. The company isn't all that bad either, there's always a welcoming smile from Ian, Ali and Sammy and any number of willing young helpers, make sure you pay it a visit.

We have resurfaced and improved access along the path to the school from Old Puriton Hill as well as replacing the dangerous steps from Webbers Way. Our wonderful village ranger has continued to keep the parish tidy and looking pristine in keeping the grass cut and looking after the foot paths, thank you Chris.

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There are many things that go unseen that the council do, many of the councillors are involved in subgroups that look to improve areas around the parish and the lives of our local people. Villages together chaired by Vanda and John who sits on the committee. Sandra and Judith run the sports centre and form part of the playing fields committee that look after the park and land surrounding the village hall. Julie, who with other council members, and Sally are creating a new youth club at the sports centre, members of our community all participate in voluntary work to make Puriton Parish a better place to live. Barry sits on the district council and helps to create a good communication path between us and them, thank you for all your hard work. We are now working on a Jubilee event this should be an event to remember and we hope is as successful as the J'Dan Pump track opening event. This will include events shared with Woolavington over the four days of the celebrations. Puriton Parish council together with members of various groups have been working to provide an afternoon and evening of entertainment, good food and a few beers, dancing and merriment, on the Saturday of the weekend's celebrations including a bus service which runs from Woolavington to Dunball and Downend. More details on this event will be published in good time before the Jubilee celebrations.

The youth group headed up by Councillor Julie Coleman has made great strides to creating a new place for young people to meet at the sports centre, plans are being made to accommodate a new look room which will enable an outside youth provider to offer, hopefully, two or three sessions a week in a comfortable and inspiring place during term time, together with some amazing tech and opportunity to have a professional ear to talk to. Many children and teenagers have been victim to unprecedented events, have been witness to some traumatic events in recent times, and haven't always coped with the effects of the pandemic. Puriton Parish Council believe that investing in our youth will not only help to encourage strength and wellbeing in our young people, but will also help to maintain a community spirit, investing in our youth to be the next generation of our local community and for the world and beyond, is an investment worth making.

The council has invested money back into the community with grants although they have been few and far between this last year, I think a lot due to the pandemic. The community came together throughout the pandemic and so many wonderful people helped each other and those less able to help themselves over the last two years. Again, the council have carried on with business as normal, as it can be, and held Zoom meetings during the lock downs and beyond. Getting back to normal has been a strange but welcome change to appearing like the brady bunch every first Tuesday of the month. The venue for meetings has changed and Parish Council meetings are now held at the Sports centre from 7PM.

We have written responses to the numerous consultations on planning and all other business affecting our community and the wider sector. Some of these applications have been contentious and obviously some have the potential to have an impact on local infrastructure and those that neighbour these developments. We look at every application with both thoughts of the impact of residence and the need for improvement and new housing. We offer a balanced view but also realise that things need to move on. The Gravity project which is now well under way having a new infrastructure for transport around the village has made a difference to village life and traffic. The future of this project is out of our hands, but the Council are constantly talking with Gravity to ensure the views and concerns of the parish are recognised. The opportunity of employment isn't something to be sneered at or condemned in this ever-changing world, our community is destined to grow larger and investment in our community is paramount for growth and sustainability. Obviously, some will be distressed at

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the massive changes to our surroundings, but change is inevitable, and the council worked to the best of their ability to stay involved and be the voice of our community.

The Neighbourhood plan is nearing completion. The opportunities that will be gained by the Parish to have more input into planning applications within the Parish and gain the greatest amount of money that is set aside to aid the community and fund projects. Thank you to our team who has again been working tirelessly to make this happen. We are nearly there.

Another development within the community is starting to gain pace and again anticipate community inclusion in the planning of this latest development and hope that it also meets the needs of young families within the community.

Thank you to our Parish magazine editor Jessica Cather and experts in words John Lunn and Judith Fletcher we continue to produce an excellent Parish Magazine full of news and information about what's going on in and around our Parish. Please feel free to submit any stories to Jessica I'm sure she will appreciate your contributions.

The village Hall has new projects that will improve some of the areas of the hall that are in need of renewing and development I know Alan and his team work tirelessly to ever improve the facility and maintain it for future generations. Another big thank you to them for there contributions to helping to maintain this wonderful asset.

Finally, I would like to thank you our wonderful community for being amazing during the pandemic and for all the generous and wonderful things you do.

## 2. Financial report for the period April 2021 to March 2022

The Parish Council's finances remain healthy due to the sound financial management of the Council.

At the start of the financial year the Council's bank balance stood at £100238. At the end of February, the balance was £146825. There are only March payments outstanding and a VAT refund of £17396 in July 2021 and we are waiting for a VAT return of £4258 plus any VAT for March for 2021-22 which will be applied for at the end of the financial year. Therefore, the Council's cash assets effectively total £151083.

The Council have not received any CIL funds during this year. The Council plan to use CIL funds to increase the size of the patio at J'Dan Pump track and Café for families to enjoy and an additional dog bin which will cost approximately £12-£15000.

Village grants for 2021-2022 have totalled £982, there are additional requests made for £2000 at the March Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council received a grant from Viridor of £56872 and £25714 from Villages Together for the construction of the J'Dan Pump Track, a further £34286 is to be awarded. The Parish Council received funding from Somerset County Council to create a Nature Reserve at the Puriton Sports Centre for £28730

The J'Dan Pump Track has received donations totalling £3643.

The precept demand has increased by £10000 to £60000. This will mean that a band D house will pay an additional £12.51 more a year to the Parish Council which equates to 24p per week.

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This decision to increase the Precept was taken to cover the cost of a youth provision in Puriton that was village led and identified after the Neighbourhood Plan event and subsequent consultations.

I am very confident that all financial decisions taken by the Parish Council have been the correct ones.

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## Minutes for the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Present: Councillors S Langley, J Fletcher, J Lunn, D Saunders, J Coleman, B & V Crow  
 Parish Clerk S Diaz  
 County Councillor M Healey

- 22/3A To receive any apologies of non-attendance  
 Councillor Tizzard sent her apologies
- 22/3B To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda  
 Councillor Fletcher declared an interest in item 22/3M
- 22/3C To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
 It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- 22/3D To receive the County Councillor's report  
 The report was circulated prior to the meeting.
- 22/3E To receive the Clerk's report  
 The Clerk reported that funding had been applied for from the National Lottery for the Jubilee celebrations and that funding from Somerset County Council for the Youth Provision had been awarded. The Litter Picker Alliance have been contacted by the clerk, but no reply received so far regarding the activity in the village. The clerk will continue to pursue. Quotes received for the work to the tree on Rye and the clerk will instruct the contractor. The willow at the Orchard is in poor repair and is unlikely to be salvaged and will need removal.
- 22/3F To consider the following planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
42/22/00004  For information only	43 Puriton Park, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8BH	Erection of a two storey extension to the front (West) elevation & erection of a single storey extension to the rear (East) elevation.  Due to delegated powers the Parish Council made no comment on this application on 22.2.22. After correspondence from Sedgemoor District Council, the Council have agreed to support this application as it is a useful addition to improve the living space and inline with other properties in the area.

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42/21/00033  For information only	7 Greenacres, Puriton, Bridgwater, TA7 8FN	Erection of a cabin for a business treatment room.  The Parish Council are unable to make a decision on this property until further information is provided by Sedgemoor District Council
42/22/00006  For information only	30 Rye, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8DA	Demolition of a section of wall for the formation of a new access and hardstanding area  Due to delegated powers the Parish Council made no comment on this application on 22.2.22
42/22/00008/	12 Hillside Crescent, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8AP	Erection of a two-storey extension to side (North) elevation, single storey extension to the front (West) elevation and roof lantern to the rear elevation  The Council have resolved to support this application as it is a useful addition to improve the living space of the property.
42/22/00001	Land At, Dunball Roundabout, Puriton, Bridgwater, TA6	Erection of single storey drive-thru (Class E) and associated works  Puriton Parish Council resolved to support this application although it is another drive thru for the area, it will provide employment locally.
42/22/00002	Land At, Dunball Roundabout, Puriton, Bridgwater, TA6	Proposed installation of 11no. internally illuminated signs and 9no. non-illuminated signs.  Puriton Parish Council are unable to comment as there are no plans online to show the location of the signs. Please provide suitable plans and the Council will relook at the application.

22/3G To note the outcome of the following planning applications:

The decisions were noted.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
42/22/00003	2 Rowan Close, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8AL	Awaiting decision

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42/21/00027	3 Woolavington Road, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8BE	Awaiting decision
42/21/00031	Land To The North Of, Northmead House, North Mead Drove, Puriton, Bridgwater	Awaiting decision
42/21/00030	35 Hillside, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8AN	Awaiting decision
95/21/00001	Land At Former, Royal Ordnance Factory (Gravity), Woolavington Road, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8AD	Awaiting decision
42/21/00013	Land To The North Of, The Gables, Puriton Hill, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset	Awaiting decision
42/21/00021	Land At Former, Royal Ordnance Factory (Gravity), Woolavington Road, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8AD	Awaiting decision
42/21/00009	Adjacent To A38 And North Of Dunball Roundabout, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6	Awaiting decision
42/21/00007	Installation of 17no. internally illuminated signs, 5no. non-illuminated graphic signs and 2no. internally-illuminated totem signs.	Awaiting decision
42/21/00002	Mfg Dunball Service Station, Old Works Road, Dunball, Bridgwater, TA6 4BQ	Awaiting decision
42/20/00014	Land to the South of, Woolavington Road, Puriton, Bridgwater, TA7	Awaiting decision

22/3H To approve the budget, bank statements and payments.

It was resolved to approve the budget, bank statements and payments.

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
11.2.22	Local Toilet Hire	Portaloos for the Jubilee	£636.00
11.2.22	Citizens Advice Sedgemoor	Donation	£400.00
14.2.22	Paris bubbles Entertainment	Childrens entertainer for the Jubilee-deposit	£200.00
30.1.22	S Chick	Pump track Maintenance	£160.00
25.2.22	S Marsh	Face Painting for Jubilee	£250.00
25.2.22	Puriton Playing fields	Room Hire	£46.80
25.2.22	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Accounting Package	£561.60
25.2.22	Sedgemoor District Council	Tree work to culvert in Purewell	£672.00
25.2.22	JS Kids Entertainment	Childrens entertainer for the Jubilee-deposit	£15.00
25.2.22	A Class Corporate Travel	Transport for Jubilee events-deposit	£450.00
28.2.22	Plusnet	Broadband	£26.40
	Staff Costs	February	£2053.20

22/3I To consider the Parish Plan.

There was no update on the Parish Plan. Councillor Langley will ask Gravity for an update on the 20mph speed limit.

22/3J To discuss plans for the Queen's Jubilee.

The clerk updated the Council on plans for the jubilee. After recent meetings with volunteers, additional plans have been made for a window trail, refreshments, and food

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court at the triangle on Rye/village green on 3.6.22. Plans continue for the Parish Council event with planned stalls from brownies and the WI to add to the celebrations.

- 22/3K To consider a new dog bin for Woolavington Road.  
It was resolved to approve another dog bin at Woolavington Road.
- 22/3L To consider the grant application from the Village Hall for £2000 toward new doors.  
It was resolved to approve the grant from the Village Hall for £2000 for new doors.
- 22/3M To consider the quotes for a new patio area and to remove the cattle grid at Puriton Sports Centre.  
After considering the three quotes provided, It was agreed to approve the quote from Dan Addicott Construction Ltd.
- 22/3N To consider the quotes to refurbish the sign on Riverton Road to Woolavington and Glastonbury.  
The Council approved the quote from Somerset Forge to refurbish the sign on Riverton Road to Woolavington and Glastonbury.
- 22/3O To receive an update from Villages Together.  
Councillor Crow provided a general update on Villages Together including funding had been provided to J'Dan café and the involvement in the new path between Puriton to Woolavington.
- 22/3P Councillor reports  
Councillor Fletcher advised that the Annual General Meeting for the Playing Fields Committee was held on Monday 7.3.22. Decoration in the upstairs room had been carried out and work to the fire exits continues. Football nets had been added to the goals outside and quotes for lighting were being obtained.  
Councillor Lunn advised that surveyors were seen in Riverton Road.  
Councillor Coleman advised that funding of £2480 had been received from Somerset Community Fund for equipment for the Youth Club. The deadline for quotes for tender is now closed and the applications will be evaluated, and providers selected to present their bid. Further consideration will be made on how Villages Together could be approached for funding.  
Councillor B Crow advised that the focus at District Council is on the elections and the Unitary Authority.  
Items for the next agenda-Jubilee

The next meeting will be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7pm.

End of minutes