

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
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Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 17 June 2025.

In Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr D Macey, Mr J Parsons, Mrs K Street, Mr M Prosser, Mr T Pope, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs F Gledhill

Also Present: Mrs E York (Clerk) and Cllr Sarah Wakefield

Public Session: None

2025/29 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr Dave Knight

This was recognised as approved absence for the purposes of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2025/30 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None were declared

2025/31 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that minute number 2025/08 be amended to include the result of the ballot.

2025/32 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported:

J26 of the M5 has now been closed. Foxmoor Business Park remains open. The locks have been broken on the service access points four times since the road closed, on Sunday evening. The contractor is excavating to 0.5m depth.

Cllr Wakefield confirmed that the road closure on Silk Mills Road is relating to the gas main, not Highways. Road works in town are now completed.

No update on Curland planning.

Lots of travellers in Taunton at the moment.

No update on the proposed changes to LCNs.

It was requested that Cllr Wakefield follow up regarding the junction to Hatch on the A358 which Cllr Ross Henly was looking at. It was agreed that Cllr Wakefield check the data receives from her FOI request and that the Parish Council write to Somerset Council in connection with the other local parishes affected.

In Ruishton there have been complaints that the angle of the green light on the traffic lights needs to be realigned as it is misleading and has reportedly caused a number of near misses.

Cllr Wakefield working on hospital admissions / discharges / intermediate care for patients with dementia. MPs complaining about closure of Yeovil Maternity Unit – Musgrove has SCBU and paediatric specialists; Yeovil only had one stream of Doctors.

8 Beds have been closed in Frome hospital. Will go the same way as Wellington Cottage Hospital; open for (e.g) cancer patients.

Somerset NHS to be joined with Bath, Dorchester etc.

Somerset Independent Living Centre in Wellington is being relocated to Taunton Library.

Somerset Council have won an award for their work in adult Social Care.

Cllr Palmer requested that Cllr Wakefield follow up on broadband roll out

Cllr Macey raised a local issue regarding an agriculturally tied property – it was agreed that this matter be raised with the planning department.

Somerset Council have appointed a new interim Chief Financial Officer.

2025/33 Actions from the last meeting

1) Parish Emergency Contingency Plan

It was agreed that Cllr Macey will obtain a quote for the installation of a plug socket for a generator at Neroche Hall, along with a quote for connection of a PTO driven generator.

It was agreed that a working group be formed: Cllrs Gledhill, Hayman, Palmer, Parsons, Pope and Macey.

2) Defibrillator Update – Clerk to update Cllrs by email

3) Quote for new PC laptop to be circulated

4) Quote for high-vis jacket to be circulated

2025/34 Items of Report and Correspondence

None

2025/35 Local Community Network Update

The Annual meeting of the LCN is next month. Cllr Palmer to circulate the link for Cllrs to join online.

2025/36 Planning and Applications

04/25/0004 has been received by the clerk, today. It was agreed to ask for an extension to the consultation period to allow this to be discussed during the July meeting.

2025/37 Rights of Way Update

T19/2 – Cllr Palmer is trying to arrange to meet the area warden (Clare Haskins) regarding this RoW.

Request has been received for a marker at the end of Forest Drove.

2025/38 Environmental Matters

1) Flooding reporting – none to report

2) Drain Clearance – Septic tank at the bottom of Underhill Lane is still causing a problem. It was agreed that Cllr Pope contact the resident to whom it is believed that the tank belongs.

Gully clearance was only completed on the main road.

We continue to await the map of gullies from Keir.

It was agreed to request a copy of the work programme

It was agreed to amend agenda item to “Ditches, drains and gullies” moving forward.

2025/39 Finance

The following items were agreed for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£491.55
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Neroche Hall	£2,500
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2025/40 Highways

1) It is noted that the gateway has now been installed. Roundals are yet to be painted on the road.

2) It is noted that the junction at Crossways Farm has been painted.

Missing and damaged signs still on Staple Hill; Cllr Gledhill has taken photos of the issues.

It was raised that there have been a number of near miss incidents on the corner at Smokey Bottom and suggested that a request be made to Highways for this to be double white lines.

It was noted that 1st September is the hedge cutting season, unless there is a safety issue.

- 3) Car crashed through the hedge by the bus stop in Staple Fitzpaine. The council have been notified that this incident involved a stolen vehicle.

2025/41 Community Matters

- 1) Clerk is working on Newsletter – Only three articles have been received.
- 2) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – it was agreed to look into a new scheme and a village Whatsapp group.

2025/42 To consider Candidates for Co-Option

All to consider

2025/43 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:07.