

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 20 May 2025.

In Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Palmer, Mr D Macey, Mr J Parsons, Mrs K Street, Mr M Prosser, Mr T Pope

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

Public Session: None

2025/1 Election of Chair

Mr Mark Palmer was voted in as chair of the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Parsons

Seconded by Cllr Macey

2025/2 Election of Vice Chair

Mr John Parsons was voted in as Vice Chair of the Council

Proposed by Cllr Macey

Seconded by Cllr Prosser

2025/3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Fiona Gledhill, Mrs Sue Hayman and Mr Dave Knight

These were recognised as approved absences for the purposes of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2025/4 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None were declared

2025/5 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2025 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2025/6 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported:

J26 of the M5 is due to be closed from 15 June to end September. The road is being rubblised onsite which is a quicker method. The National Highways depot for gritters is just off the roundabout here, so access to the roundabout has to be maintained for gritting purposes from October to May.

Gerbestone Lane is closed from 1 June to allow for storage of machinery.

Elsewhere, work is being done to protect the dam at Chard reservoir

Churchstanton will change to Uffculme School catchment from September 2026.

LCNs remain under review

Matt Barrow from Devon CDS scheme gave a briefing to Somerset Council. There is a possibility that Airband may finish the project. Voucher scheme is going to reopen for people to say that they want to connect to the new fibre network – possibly August. This is a Government project and is meant to reach

99% of houses. It is noted that BT have come to the edge of Curland, but only on the 01460, not 01823 exchange.

2025/7 Actions from the last meeting

All actions have been carried forward to the June 2025 meeting.

2025/8 To consider co-option of suitable candidates to fill vacancies on the Council

Cllr Palmer invited the Parishioner present who had requested to be considered as a candidate for co-option to give a short presentation to the Council of his reasons for wishing to become a Councillor. This was heard by Councillors present and as the parishioner had requested to become a councillor, a secret ballot was held. The result was announced at the end of the meeting and Councillors present voted against co-option.

2025/9 To appoint a representative to the Village Hall Committee

It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee be invited to attend a Parish Council Meeting and report.

2025/10 To appoint representatives to the Finance Working Group

It was agreed that Cllrs Macey, Parsons, Palmer and Hayman retain their position of the finance working group

2025/11 To receive the Annual Accounts for 2024-25

The accounts for 2024-25 were received and approved.

2025/12 To receive the internal audit report for the Council

The internal audit report was received and approved.

2025/13 To approve AGAR Section One – Annual Governance Statement 2024-25

The annual governance statement was received and approved; signed by the Chair and the Clerk

2025/14 To approve AGAR Section Two – Accounting Statements 2024-25

The accounting statements were received and approved; and signed by the Chair

2025/15 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review

Councillors confirmed that they wish to certify the Council as exempt from a limited assurance review. The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chair and RFO.

2025/16 To review and renew the Parish Council Insurance

Copies of the Parish Council Insurance were circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to renew the existing policy with Zurich.

2025/17 To review and approve the Parish Council Asset Register

The Parish Council Asset Register was reviewed and approved without amendment.

It was agreed that the Clerk check that the defibrillator is registered with the BHF.

It was agreed that a quote be obtained for a new Council Laptop

2025/18 To review and confirm the annual risk assessment

The annual risk assessment was reviewed and confirmed without amendment.

It is noted that this does not cover specific activities which may be carried out by the Council and agreed that Risk Assessments be completed on a case by case basis.

It was agreed that to obtain a quote for high-vis jackets in multiple sizes

2025/19 To review council policies and documents

It was agreed to adopt the new Financial Regulations with effect from 20 May 2025

2025/20 Planning and Applications

15/25/0004/CQ – Councillors had no comments to make on this application

04/25/0002 – Councillors had no comments to make on this application

04/25/0001 – By way of notification, this application has been withdrawn

04/25/0003/CQ – this is a resubmission of existing Class Q permission already granted, to restart the 3 year planning clock

2025/21 Items of Report and Correspondence

Defibrillator replacement parts – as previously discussed

2025/22 Rights of Way Update

T19/2 Cllr Palmer reported that this RoW which runs alongside the racecourse has deteriorated. The earth steps are collapsing and need to be rebuilt, and fingerpost has fallen down.

Cllr Palmer has requested a meeting with the Area Warden.

2025/23 Report from the Local Community Network

It is noted that Keith Read is standing down as the chair of the LCN at the next meeting.

2025/24 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary and Expenses of Clerk	£611.55
Zurich	£360.38
ICO	£40.00
Open Spaces Society	£45.00
McAfee	£109.99

2025/25 Highways

1. Village Gateway – awaiting delivery and then is to be installed as a priority matter
2. Fibre Cable channel in New Road has not been filled
3. Cllr Macey to arrange for the road junctions to be trimmed
4. It is noted that a vehicle has hit a tree at Sturms Plantation

2025/26 Environmental Matters

There was nothing to report

2025/27 Community Matters

Clerk is working on Newsletter – hoping to have published by end June

2025/28 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:20.