

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

Public Session:

Parishioner wished to raise Council attention to damage to the bridge in Staple Fitzpaine which was hit by a drunk driver. Damage has been reported to Highways and the report has been closed with nothing having been done to repair damage to the bridge. Highways have confirmed that the bridge is in their ownership. The driver has been prosecuted. Cllrs Henly and Wakefield to follow up with Highways.

Parishioner wished to discuss the encroachment of a section of hedge in Curland, and safety concerns regarding this, previously discussed by the council. Clerk to follow up with Highways and to send letter to landowner referencing advice from Open Spaces.

Members Present: Councillors Messrs M Palmer (Chair), D Macey, M Prosser, J Parsons, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs K Street, J Hole

In attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Mr Ross Henly, Cllr Sarah Wakefield and 2 member of the public

2023/67 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr Dave Knight (work); Mrs Fiona Gledhill (family commitments) and Mrs Rebecca Humphrey (Holiday)

2023/68 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Mrs Karen Street declared an interest in agenda item 2023/77 relating to Rights of Way due to a work conflict.

2023/69 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th August 2023 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 15th August 2023 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

It is noted that appropriate thanks were not given to Mrs Karen Morgan for her input and work towards the new Neroche Villages website.

2023/70 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Councillor Henly reported that he and Councillor Wakefield have been involved in a case of the replacement of a sewage treatment plant which serves four properties in the parish. Current facility is faulty, and it has been agreed that this will be resituated and replaced in early October.

Cllr Henly has been in contact with the enforcement officer regarding the ongoing cases in the parish. It is understood that a planning application has now been received for the newer site although noted that the Council have not been notified of such an application. Enforcement officers have met with the landowner and his agent regarding the second site and a comprehensive list is being compiled of what should / should not be on site. Discussions with the agent are ongoing.

Cllr Wakefield reported that she is liaising with Airband and the owner of Abbey Hill Drove regarding the supply of Fibre Broadband; Airband have rights to put poles on public road but must have permission for private land.

Clerk to invite Airband to attend a Parish Council Meeting.

Clerk to send Somerset Council Report to be published on the website.

2023/71 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

There were none.

2023/72 Planning

No applications have been received since the August meeting and there is no further update regarding enforcement beyond that reported by Cllr Ross Henly.

It is noted that application number 04/23/0002/CQ has been withdrawn.

2023/73 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary and Expenses of the Clerk	£543.69
CPRE	£48.00
NCAG	£100.00
Neroche Hall	24.00

It is noted that the donation to NCAG differs from previous years, due to the amendment in payment for website hosting. Cllrs present were all in favour of making a contribution towards the newsletter which is noted to be a vital source of information for the community.

2023/74 Items of Report and Correspondence

1. Bridge by the Greyhound
This matter was discussed in the Public Forum. It was resolved that the Clerk follow up
2. Email addresses
Two councillors reported not having set up their new email addressed yet, and one councillor reported issues with accessing. All to try and remedy by October meeting.
3. Communication between Councillors
It was suggested that a WhatsApp group be set up for Councillors to share information quickly. Clerk to check regarding GDPR / FOI restrictions and confirm to Councillors. Councillors to share mobile numbers with the Clerk.
The Clerk reminded Councillors of the importance of using blind copy when emailing Parishioners.

2023/75 Highways

1. To receive any update relating to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project
Cllrs Mr Dave Knight and Mrs Fiona Gledhill met with Traffic Management on 8th September. Report is expected back from them within the month.
2. To receive any update relating to Staple Hill – potential speed limit reduction
Cllrs Mr Dave Knight and Mrs Fiona Gledhill met with Traffic Management on 8th September. Report is expected back from them within the month.
3. To receive any update regarding potholes and road repairs
Nothing to report. It is noted that the pothole in Badger Street has now been there for 12 months, and no progress has been made. This has been passed from Highways to the Contractor.
Cllr Mr Mark Palmer met on site with a project manager following roadworks where a large amount of rubbish had been left onsite. Cllr Palmer to follow up with J N Civils regarding this.

4. To note any accident in the locality since last meeting
None to report. It was suggested that the WI be asked to report back regarding any known accident as well adding to the website to widen the reporting net.
5. A358 Update
No response received from National Highways. Cllr Palmer to follow up with COP organiser to ensure that our views are heard.

2023/76 Community Plan

It was agreed that Councillors should be known as “Key Contacts” rather than Portfolio Holders as will be point of contact for Parishioners and will then report to Parish Council meetings rather than running projects on behalf of the PC.

2023/77 Rights of Way Update

1. T2/8
One stile remains on this footpath and has been adapted to allow for easier access. Middle stile has been replaced with a gate and the front stile has been removed altogether. It is noted that the No Dogs sign remains in situ.
A S147 Highways Act 1980 application has been submitted – a request to keep the gate.
2. T2/11
BHS and Ramblers are compiling evidence regarding this RoW. Cllr Mrs Sue Hayman has provided details from Council meetings.
3. T2/12
Abbey Hill Drove - As discussed by Cllr Sarah Wakefield.

2023/78 To consider candidates for Co-option

Agenda item deferred to next meeting.

2023/79 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

Items for the Agenda are noted as follows:

- 1) Crown Covenants
- 2) To discuss moving the meeting to 7pm
- 3) Curland Hedge

The meeting was declared closed on at 21:12.