

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

In Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr D Macey, Mr J Parsons, Mr K Cutler, Mrs K Street, Mrs S Hayman, Mr M Prosser, J Hole

Also Present: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Wakefield, and 17 Parishioners.

Public Session: Parishioners present wished to speak on behalf of the Curland Common Neighbours regarding a controversial application which has now been received for the site which was subject to the enforcement action. Parishioners wished for Parish Councillors to recognise the plight of the neighbours. Asked PC to vote against the planning application. Also urged other parishioners to write comments / opinions to the planning authority.

Cllr Sarah Wakefield explained the role of the parish council in the planning process as a statutory consultee – have to be notified of and consulted on all applications. Can only object on planning grounds. It was noted that planning notices had not been displayed and queried if this invalidated the timescales for consultation period. Clerk to follow up with planning officer. It was noted that it is a civil offence and not a criminal offence to breach planning laws.

Cllr Macey confirmed that his planning application relates to an existing building, not an additional one.

2023/156 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr D Knight and Mrs F Gledhill

These were recognised and approved absence for the purposes of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2023/157 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Mr D Macey declared an interest in agenda item number 2023/159 (3)

Cllr Mrs K Street declared interest in agenda item number 2023/163

Cllr Mr J Parsons declared a non-prejudicial interest in agenda item number 2023/159 (1)

2023/158 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2024 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2023/159 Planning

1) 15/23/0003 – it is noted that there is clearly no local support for this application. Not in keeping with the local area, not good for local ecology. Councillors present voted unanimously in objection of this application

2) 28/24/0001 – Cllrs present did not object to the structure itself or its requirement. It was noted that a number of the issues raised relate more to building standards than planning requirements.

3) 33/24/0002 – No objection

4) 04/24/0002 - No objection

2023/160 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield provided an overview of the planning system:

21 days correspondence.

Important to respond in your own words – focus on planning issues

Can post more than one response if you think of further things

Where an application goes to committee, the Planning officer issues report ahead of the planning meeting (probably 2-3 months)

Need to advise in advance if you wish to speak at the committee meeting

If planning committee disagrees then the applicants can go to appeal – public comments need to be resubmitted at this time.

20mph proposals including Otterford & Ruishton

2023/161 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

1) Quote has been received for the replacement of noticeboards at Curland, Bickenhall and Thurlbear plus a new one at Orchard Portman; to be made locally. Orchard Portman to be sited next to the post box. It was agreed that Cllr Mr M Palmer would check the sizes of the other boards, as the quote is for noticeboards the same size as the Church wall at Staple Fitzpaine.

2) It is noted that the hedge at Curland has been cut but not sufficiently. It was agreed that the clerk write to highways as there is a health and safety concern. To also write to landowner with a copy of the land registry and ask that the hedge be cut back to within the property boundary.

2023/162 Items of Report and Correspondence

Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

2023/163 Rights of Way Update

No update was available

2023/164 Finance

1) The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk £542.01

SALC £25.00

Neroche Hall £376.20

BHPN Subscription £50.00

2) It is noted that the precept has not yet been received from Somerset Council

2023/165 Highways

1) Awaiting quote for the final figure for the gateway and associated works from the contractor. It was proposed that that the council consider proceeding with the speed reduction scheme, but not the physical gateways and instead put the money towards speed indicator devices which would be moved around the villages where speed limits are in place.

2) It is noted that Corfe hill is now a 40mph limit from the crossroad at the top. Clerk to revert to highways to use this as a precedent for a speed reduction on Staple Hill.

3) New contractor Keir are now in place. It was reported that they have refused to use the “repair in a bag” system as it is not of a good enough standard.

4) Car on its roof along Castle Main this morning; near Castle Neroche.

5) No update relating to the A358

2023/166 Community Plan

Nothing to report.

2023/145 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 – this is the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:15