

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 15th April 2025

Present: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr M Prosser, Mrs K Street, Mrs S Hayman, Mr T Pope, Mr J Parsons and Mr D Macey

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Councillor Sarah Wakefield, Mrs Nicola Quick (Carter Jonas), and one Parishioner

Public Session:

Parishioner present raised a query regarding local plans for forest fires following recent events in Ireland. It was agreed that this be followed up with Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue in conjunction with Forestry England and be included in the Parish Emergency Plan.

Mrs Nicola Quick facilitated a visit to Park Farm regarding planning application number 04/25/0001 ahead of the meeting. She requested during the public session that the applicant would have the support of the Parish Council in requesting that the application be put to the planning committee, as the planning officer assigned to the case was minded to refuse it.

2024/164 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr D Knight and Mrs F Gledhill (work commitments). These were recognised and approved as an absence under s185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2024/165 Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation.

2024/166 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record to be signed by the chair.

2024/167 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported.

Cllr Wakefield confirmed that she will write to the planning officer regarding application number 04/25/0001 and request that this goes to committee.

Regarding the planning application for the traveller site in Curland, this is ongoing. Cllr Wakefield confirmed that she has had confirmation that there is no impact on this application by the fact that there is a commercial traveller's site with vacancies nearby. She emphasised that there are issues with water and drainage for the proposed site.

Planning at Somerset Council is working through the "easy" pile to reduce the backlog. They have more planning officers coming in.

The new structure is in place at the Council with a new feeling of intent, and in a much better position than they were.

Cllr Wakefield's team are trying to come up with a strategy which ensures that affordable housing is not cut from new developments; they are often pushed out during the viability stage of the development as they don't make the developers any money, but there is a clear need for affordable housing across Somerset.

The Council are selling more property to try and cover the financial gaps which still exist.
LCNs are under review – villages are supported by the COP and BHPN and don't need to be a part of another group which doesn't help them.
There are ongoing issues with the replacement of a septic tank in Curland which Cllr Wakefield is involved with.

2024/168 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Parish Emergency Contingency Plan – This matter was deferred to the next meeting.
- 2) Curland Planning – The next meeting for the planning committee is 20 May. Cllr Street is working with parishioners for put together a pack in preparation.

2024/169 Items of report and correspondence

Correspondence received from Stoke St Mary PC regarding a blocked footpath in Thurlbear. Cllr Palmer to inspect.

2024/170 Local Community Network Update

Nothing further to report.

2024/171 Planning and Applications

04/25/0001 – Following visit to site ahead of the meeting, it was confirmed that previous comments submitted by the PC were based on the response of the conservation officer whom, it transpires, has not visited the site. The application presents a 10% reduction in overall size of the dwelling already granted under Class Q permission which has not been taken into consideration by the conservation officer. Furthermore it was agreed by Councillors that the new dwelling is more in keeping and sympathetic to the local aesthetic. Councillors agreed unanimously to write to planning officer in support of this application, and retracting previous comments.

33/25/0001 – The Manor – No Objections

2024/172 Rights of Way Update

Cllr Hayman reported.

T2/10 is now much improved, thanks to a period of dry weather.

Still no communication from the RoW Officer, Rob Coate.

T2/9 – No change from that previously reported

T2/1 – Complaint received that the marked footpath is not accessible. It was confirmed that the landowner has fenced a permissive footpath / bridleway around the field boundary as a part of the Herepath and there is no need to use the footpath as marked on the map. Cllr Palmer to inspect waymarkers.

2024/173 Environmental Matters

- 1) Flood Reporting – Nothing to report
- 2) Drain Clearance – We await map of gullies as requested from Keir.
Issue on Underhill Lane where new STP is pumping grey water onto the road.
Not all drains in the Parish have been cleared by Somerset Council.

2024/174 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£501.85
SALC Affiliation Fee	£55.05

Clerk reported that the precept has been received.

Clerk to arrange transfer of reserved funds to the Instant Access account.

2024/175 Highways

1) Village Gateway

As reported by the Clerk, Traffic Management have confirmed that whilst their contractor had the 30mph signs in stock and ready for installation, they have only just ordered the Gateways. These have a three week lead time, so we now expect installation towards the middle / end May.

2) Potholes and Road Repairs

Nothing to report.

3) Accidents

It is reported that a vehicle hit a tree near to Brandy Bridge and the vehicle was abandoned. Anti-Social driving has been reported in the Curland area, parishioners are discussing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

2024/176 Community Matters

1) Neroche Newsletter – Aiming for June publication. Cllrs to collate reports for inclusion.

2024/177 To Consider Candidates for Co-Option

There are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council. All to consider Parishioners who might be willing to give their time and input. These have been advertised, and co-options can be made at the May meeting, assuming that an election is not requested.

2024/178 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next Parish Council meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting and will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall

The meeting was declared closed at 20.35