

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 13th August 2024.

Present: Cllrs Messrs M Palmer (Chair), J Parsons, D Macey, M Prosser, T Pope, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs F Gledhill, Mrs K Street, J Hole

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Mrs Sarah Wakefield.

Public Session:

There were no parishioners present.

2024/55 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr D Knight (work).

This was recognised and approved as absences under s185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2024/56 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Mrs Karen Street declared an interest in agenda item number 2024/65 Rights of Way Update.

2024/57 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2024 were approved (pending amendment of a spelling mistake) to be signed by the Chair.

2024/58 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was present at the meeting.

- Cllr Wakefield advised Councillors present that she had been contacted by PCSO Sam Bushen – there is a planned protest in Taunton on 17th August. Police have advised that there is not expected to be any risk to the community.
- Update from highways – white lines have been painted at Crossways Farm. Pothole filling – Kier have been around the area filling some; but it is noted that they have not always been doing a good job. It is important to use the system to report potholes. Hedge cutting schedule is to be shared with the PC.
- LCN – Cllr Wakefield has reported that there is a disconnect between Chard and the villages in the LCN. The next meeting (14/10) will focus on the environment. Each meeting will have a theme.
- Cllr Wakefield is having Housing and Homelessness added to her portfolio along with Adult Social Care. 300 asylum seekers were housed in Bridgwater. Central Government gave Somerset Council money to buy homes for Afghan asylum seekers but did not cover the full costs. Council building Block C has the potential to be converted into housing for Key Workers. Somerset Council have brought in foreign care workers; but this has slowed due to them no longer being able to bring families with them .
- It is noted that funding for Churchyards is payable this year 2024/25 but not next year.

2024/59 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Parish Council Noticeboards / Communications Update – Cllr Gledhill shared ideas for PC noticeboard in the Hall. Cllr Hole to speak to the Hall committee and confirm that PC are able to

have some noticeboard space. Cllr Gledhill to collate information regarding PC powers vs Unitary Authority responsibilities.

Cllr Palmer noted that those in the Facebook group should now start to add parishioners as members, so that the group may be utilised.

- 2) Forestry England – Noticeboards – Clerk has contacted FE regarding use of their existing noticeboards; awaiting a response.
- 3) Neroche Hall – Clerk has reached out to other clerks regarding PC ability to support the hall. Awaiting further information.
- 4) Orchard Portman Noticeboard – Awaiting response from the Road Records department regarding the installation of a noticeboard in Orchard Portman.
- 5) Curland Hedge – To follow up with highways.
- 6) Identification of Landowners – update – following meeting, it was agreed that Cllrs Macey and Pope take the lead in contacting farmer landowners where there are issues with ditches needing digging rather than writing letters.

It was agreed to identify flood issue points at the next meeting.

It is noted that hedges can be cut September to March.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Savills and notify them that the roadside hedge at Broughton Farm needs to be attended to.

Additional point – Cllr Hole advised that she has received a response from Richard Wilkins (SC) regarding CDS. He has asked for an update from Airband.

2024/60 Local Community Network Update

Cllr Palmer reported that a new link co-ordinator has been appointed.

The next meeting, as previously discussed will focus on the environment. Please feed environmental issues / items which would be of interest to Cllr Palmer.

2024/61 Planning and Applications

None have been received since the last meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact planning department regarding the Curland planning application.

2024/62 Community Plan

Action plan has been updated. Clerk to ensure that the most recent version is published on the website.

River water quality – report doesn't come back to us but feeds into wider data.

Cllr Palmer to contact Somerset Rivers Authority regarding ditching.

Neighbourhood Plan – it was agreed to follow up regarding funding availability.

2024/63 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£426.20
HMRC	£101.20
SALC (affiliation fees)	£154.03

Cllr Gledhill advised that she cannot access the online banking; Clerk to investigate.

2024/64 Highways

1. Village Gateway – Awaiting response from Traffic Management – Cllr Wakefield advised we should hear from them by the end of the week.

2. Staple Hill – Waiting for improvement of signs and lines. Cllr Wakefield to follow up on the missing sign at the top of the hill.
It is noted that the speed risk on Staple Hill to those crossing the road is not only from motorists, but from cyclists too.
3. Potholes & Road Repairs - As previously discussed.
4. Accidents – It was noted that there had been an accident at the entrance to Hill Farm; no injuries were reported but the road was closed for a while to recover the vehicles involved. It was confirmed that the glass from the accident had now also been removed from the incident, having not been cleared at the time.
Cllrs reported that there appears to be issues with fast food rubbish being abandoned along this driveway; clerk to report to The Crown Estate and suggest that Private Property signage might be appropriate.

2024/65 Rights of Way Update

Cllr Sarah Wakefield has been out today with Cllrs Hayman & Palmer to look at the issues on T2/9 where builders rubble has now been used to fill over the pipe. Cllr Hayman reported that John Melrose of the RoW department has been in contact with the landowner who has advised that the track will only be used 3-4 times per year. They also looked at the railings erected on T2/11.

With regard to T2/8 Cllr Hayman reported that this RoW remains almost impassable. The tree has not been removed, and gates have been erected which are almost impossible to open. It is noted that the field remains to be equestrian use, and that the caravan on site had permission for only three years but has been there longer.

Clerk reminded Cllrs that all alleged breaches of planning legislation should be reported online via the portal and cannot be reported directly to Planning Enforcement officers.

It is noted that a request has been from a parishioner for Forest Drove North to be strimmed. Cllr Palmer to attend to this matter.

2024/66 Date of the Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th September 2024.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:01