

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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

In Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr D Macey, Mr J Parsons, Mr K Cutler, Mr D Knight, Mrs K Street, J Hole, Mrs R Humphrey

Also Present: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Ross Henly, and one member of public.

Public Session: Parishioner present wished to provide an update relating to RoW T2/11. It has been confirmed by the RoW officer that a S143 notice has been served on the landowner to remove the obstruction by 10 March 24. It is noted by the Parish Council that significant infrastructure is required to maintain a RoW as a bridleway over and above the requirements of a footpath.

2023/130 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Hayman (illness) Mr M Prosser, Mrs F Gledhill (work commitment)

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

2023/131 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Mrs K Street declared a work conflict in agenda item 2023/135 Rights of Way Update.

2023/132 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2023/133 Reports from County Councillor

Cllr Ross Henly was present at the meeting. He reported that he has been in contact with Somerset Council (SC) and the landowner regarding T2/11. SC are adamant that it is a bridleway which the landowner is not. Awaiting the results of an ecological survey which was carried out in January relating to the impact on Dormice. Somerset Council are intent on keeping the RoW open.

Number of complaints continue to be received about Airband. Please report any issues to either Cllr Henly or Cllr Wakefield.

SC request to government to increase council tax by 10% has not been granted. Increase will be at the maximum 2.99%

2023/134 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

1. Crown Estate Covenants – this matter was not settled before Jenny Stewart left Savills and has now been passed across to the new agent.
It was agreed to rephrase the questions as 1) Are the Crown Estate going to move the retained land covenants; and 2) did the retained land covenants pass to the new landowners.
2. Curland Green – Highways will replace signs. Further investigation required to establish ownership.
3. Orchard Portman Noticeboard – clerk in communications with Cygnet Hospital regarding a new noticeboard. To confirm that the old one was situated by the letter box, and it would be preferable for a new one to be sited in the same place. Clerk to revert to Cygnet.

4. Curland Hedge Encroachment – a letter was sent to the property owner and Cllr Mark Palmer met with them along with the Highways Engineers. Property owners have agreed to cut back last years' growth and a bit extra, along with cutting back around the layby area.

2023/135 Rights of Way Update

1. T2/8 – Clerk has sent as letter to Ron Coates – await his response.
- 2.

2023/136 Planning

1. To receive updates relating to planning enforcement applications
 - a) E/105/15/19 – Land Adjacent to New England, Curland (Closed)
Clerk provided update from Myra Spalding (enforcement officer) confirming that this matter has been closed and independently reviewed and confirmed that the requirements of the enforcement matter had been met.
 - b) E/264/15/22 – Caravans in field, Curland Common Road
Planning application due to be submitted by the beginning March.

2023/137 Finance

1. The following items were approved for payment:

Salary and Expenses of Clerk	£516.75
Neroche Hall (APM)	£51.00

2023/138 Items of Report and Correspondence

1. Open Spaces Membership – now completed and received.
2. Airband – it is believed that the project is being taken over by Giga clear.
Contractor confirmed that the works requiring the road closures have been postponed for 90 days. Airband are consolidating areas being completed before moving on to new areas. It is believed that Openreach have confirm they will have active lines in the area before the end of the year.
3. Dog fouling and Dog Waste Bins - Cllr J Hole to provide clerk with the new ranger's details. Clerk to contact.
4. BHPN Hunt the Heat Project – Cllr Palmer has attended the training session with the thermal camera. Best to carry out surveys at first light of day when the heating is on. Now available to go out and carry out heat surveys of properties in the Parish.
5. Annual Parish Meeting – a meeting has been held to discuss. APM to be held on 16 April 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Nibbles and Wine.

2023/139 Highways

1. To receive any update relating to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project
As per email update provided by Clerk to Councillors – await quote from new contractor after 1st April.
2. To receive any update relating to Staple Hill – potential speed limit reduction
As per email update provided by Clerk to Councillors – Highways deem that there is appropriate signage along the road and the average speed readings do not reflect a need to have a reduced speed limit. To look into cost of speed indication devices.
3. To receive any update regarding potholes and road repairs
It is noted that potholes have not been repaired to a good standard recently.
4. To note any accident in the locality since last meeting
An accident occurred on the morning of Friday 9th February where a vehicle has come off the road and rolled into the ditch.
5. A358 Update – nothing to report.

2023/140 Community Plan

The deferred review of the Community Plan was carried out, with a comparison of progress to date against the action plan. It was agreed that Cllr Palmer arrange a community litter pick.

Clerk to write to Suez regarding waste falling out the back of lorries.

Water quality testing is available through the Western Rivers Trust. Cllr Palmer to look into this through BHPN of which we have membership.

To remind parishioners to report potholes via the Somerset Council website.

ROW maintenance group to be established.

Cllr Palmer reported on matters from the recent LCN meeting:

Roads and Transport Working Group continue to look into problems with highways, Uber Bus scheme, RoW, ditches and maintenance. They have been pushing SC and Head of Highways Andrew Turner on a scheme which would allow Parishes to put works directly into the contractor's database.

Environment Working Group – Only 4 parishes were represented. Cllr Palmer has been voted in as Chair.

Nature Recovery Scheme – Hedges and Water control

- Wetlands and land management
- Local power generation – air quality monitoring
- Litter and dog waste – educate dog owners to take responsibility.
- Promotion – it's your countryside.

2023/141 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 21.25.