

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 14th January 2025

Present: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr D Macey, Mrs K Street, J Hole, Mrs S Hayman, Mr M Prosser, Mr D Knight and Mrs F Gledhill

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Wakefield and one parishioner

Public Session:

Parishioner present wished to enquire about the state of the droves – specifically Curry Mallet Drover where the damage has now extended the whole length of the drove. The condition is almost unwalkable.

Clerk further read an email from a parishioner regarding this matter.

Cllr Hayman provided an update. She met with the contractor on site who was seemingly unaware of the damage that has been caused. Cllrs Macey and Parsons confirmed that they had also inspected the Drove and confirmed that the work had not been carried out in a tidy fashion. Cllr Palmer has spoken to the farm manager regarding the matter. Cllr Hayman has contact John Melrose at Somerset Council. Cllr Wakefield advised writing to the landowner and requesting that he provide a plan to remedy. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the landowner and ask for a timescale for the works to be completed. To invite to a PC meeting.

Flooding on Staple Fitzpaine Road near the A358. It is noted that the ditch has been cleared, and the drain has been rodded but there is a blockage. It is noted that we had 75mm rain in 48 hours. This is due to be cleared by Somerset Council between now and the end of April.

2024/121 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr J Parsons (illness) and Mr T Pope.

These were recognised and approved as an absence under s185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2024/122 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Knight declared an interest in agenda item 2024/126

Cllr Street declared an interest in agenda item 2024/129

2024/123 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

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

2024/124 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was present at the meeting and reported:

- Council budget up £59m last year to cover the costs of Adult Social Care. Currently under budget due to keeping people at home and re-enablement.
- Somerset Call for Sites is now open – 6 weeks. Need to think about where development might be acceptable – can write to SC once the list of sites is published.
- LCN boundaries are to be reviewed and possibly amended.

- Sarah has not had a response for the Planning office regarding planning at Curland. This month's Somerset Council West Planning Meeting isn't happening. It is thought that newts had been found in the area when planning was submitted for the neighbouring site. There is now a permanent site at Slough Green which has vacant pitches. It was agreed that the clerk follow up with the planning officer. To explore the options of a planning consultant and crowd funding. Planning meeting details are only published a week before the meeting.
- Gideon Amos MP has a surgery in the Parish on 28 February. It was agreed to request a 20-minute PC slot with him. Clerk to write and request a meeting with the Parish Council.

2024/125 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Parish Emergency Contingency Plan – It was agreed to meet ahead of the next meeting to brainstorm /discuss ideas. All Councillors to please read circulated examples in advance.
- 2) Neighbourhood Plan – it was agreed to apply for funding and look into assistance

2024/126 Items of report and correspondence

- 1) Email from Staple Fitzpaine PCC. It is noted that Staple Fitzpaine PCC had contacted the clerk regarding grant funding which has previously been given to the Churchyards. Further correspondence was received from St Michaels in Orchard Portman. Clerk confirmed that email was sent to Rev. Joanna on behalf of all of the Seven Sowers Churches on 2nd November 2024. It was agreed that no grant funding be offered this year but that all could request it be considered for the 2026/27 year. Clerk to respond.

2024/127 Local Community Network Update

LCN meeting on Monday.

It is noted that the LCN co-ordinator is not responding to emails.

Cllr Palmer is requesting details of all local gullies so that the PC can inspect.

2024/128 Planning and Applications

No planning applications were received in advance of the meeting.

2024/129 Rights of Way Update

As reported during the public session.

2024/130 Environmental Matters

- 1) Flood Reporting – as previously noted during the public session.
Issue on Staple Hill – Cllr Palmer to provide the W3W location.
Gully on the side of the road is unlikely to be repaired as it doesn't affect the metal of the road
- 2) Drain Clearance – this is an improved situation, but it is noted that the gullies are silting up already
- 3) Curland Green – Damage has been caused by a delivery lorry. It has been swept up but has not been repaired. Cllrs Macey and Prosser to attend to this matter
- 4) Curland Hedge – This is now at an acceptable level but needs to be maintained as such
- 5) Dog Waste Posters – Cllr Gledhill has produced these. Cllr Palmer to arrange lamination.

2024/131 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£566.05
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2024/132 Highways

- 1) Village Gateway

No further update.

- 2) Staple Hill; speed limit reduction

No update

- 3) Potholes and Road Repairs

40 potholes have been marked up for repair on Underhill Lane.

Salt bins are now registered and ready to be filled

Corfe is the only road which is gritted as it is a B road.

- 4) Accidents

Accident was reported at Winterwell between Christmas and New Year

- 5) A358 – Hatch Junction Update

No further update.

2024/133 Community Matters

- 1) Neroche Newsletter – it was agreed that Cllrs Palmer and Hayman would meet with Karen Learoyd regarding this
- 2) Village Hall Noticeboard – Cllr Gledhill has produced some literature for the noticeboard which has now been put up in the hall.

2024/106 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 21.14