

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 27 January 2026.

In Attendance: Councillors Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mrs F Gledhill, Mrs S Hayman, Mr T Pope, Mr J Parsons, Mr M Prosser and Mr D Macey

Also Present: None

Public Session: There was no Public Session

2025/124 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr D Knight.

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

2025/125 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declaration of interest or dispensation.

2025/126 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

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

2025/127 Report from County Councillor

The County Councillors were not present at the meeting. The Somerset Council report was circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

2025/128 Actions from the last meeting

Newly cut gateway through hedge in land adjacent to Mill Equestrian Centre. This has been reported to the Planning Department but as the entrance opens on to an unclassified road it does not require planning permission, however Highways may require a Section 171 to be issued

Cllr Gledhill suggested that the PC set up a crowd funding page in order to buy local land for Community use. Clerk to investigate opportunities.

2025/129 Items of Report and Correspondence

None

2025/130 Local Community Network Update

None

2025/131 Planning and Applications

None

2025/132 Rights of Way Update

No new issues in the area. More notifications have been issued regarding T2/8 as the footpath remains blocked by the fallen oak

The tape markers used to mark out the bridleway T2/12, reopened last year between Curry Mallet Drove and Forest Drove South, have been moved nearer to the hedge making the way narrower.

Action - Cllr Hayman to measure - Bridleways alongside a hedge need to be 3 metres wide

2025/133 Environmental Matters

Work at Brandy Bridge where the trees have been cut down has left motorists vulnerable as the metal safety rail is incomplete. It was agreed that this needs to be reported to Highways.

Gullies are working at the moment despite the heavy rain. Areas do flood but the water does drain away within hours. Cllr Parsons noted the flooding at Badger Street. Cllr Macey will contact the landowner to discuss possible ways to redirect the water off the highway.

Overhanging trees at Orchard Portman - no change

2025/134 Finance

- 1) The following items were agreed for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£610.80
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2025/135 Highways

- 1) To receive any update regarding potholes and local road repairs. Some potholes have been repaired at Stuckeys but the rain has washed it out already
- 2) To note accidents in the locality since the last meeting. Several accidents recorded during the very cold icy weather. Cllr Gledhill has recorded these and has reinforced the need for more prominent signage and speed reduction, especially along Staple Hill Road.

Highways have undertaken a survey of signage along Staple Hill Road but no update has been given to the PC

Wednesday 7th January - four cars involved in an accident on the Thurlbear straight by the Netherclay turning - one turned over.

Thursday 8th January - car overturned and upside down at Winterwell

- 3) Grit bins at Thurlbear School. The Highways Superintendent has advised that the Council do not fill grit bins for schools with less than three hundred pupils. The school has two grit bins which Cllr Macey has filled with salt and grit. It was agreed to attempt to register Grit Bins at the School

2025/136 Community Matters

Village Hall - Forest Electricals (Nick Rutland) has surveyed the VH roof and found as it faces South it is very suitable for PV panels. As the power supply has not been upgraded only a domestic supply could be installed. The roof will also need to be upgraded to be able to support the panels. The building is Grade 2 listed and the Hall would need lottery funding to be able to upgrade the roof, add solar panels and battery storage. Cllr Prosser to arrange a second quote for works.

Cllr Palmer has been informed that the defibrillator pads need to be replaced by the end of April 2026 – Clerk to order.

2025/137 To consider Candidates for Co-Option

A discussion was held over the role of Councillor suitable candidates. All to continue to consider / discuss with appropriate people.

2025/138 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

1) Defibrillator at Neroche Hall

2)

The meeting was declared closed at 21:07.

DRAFT