

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
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Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

In Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr D Macey, Mr J Parsons, Mr K Cutler, Mr D Knight, Mrs K Street, Mrs S Hayman, Mr M Prosser

Also Present: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Wakefield, and three parishioners.

Public Session:

1. Parishioners present wished to present issues with number of lorries traversing Underhill Lane. A number of suggestions were put forward to ease the impact on residents affected.
2. Parishioner wished to query the increase in Parish Council Precept. Clerk confirmed that minute of the Finance meeting would be made available on the website before the Annual Parish Meeting
3. Daniel Macey spoke regarding lorries at Underhill Farm. He confirmed that at April 2023 the project was ahead of schedule and unfortunately his comments made at the Annual Parish meeting concerning a hoped completion date were taken as gospel. Mr Macey confirmed that there are no constraints on the number of lorries implemented by planning. Contract for the soil is on a cubic metre basis, not a tonnage basis. The project is now past the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark, but no comment was made as to the number of cubic metres of soil required to complete the project.

Cllr Dave Knight to confirm the What3Words location of the potholes at Bow Green to the Clerk to report. Underhill Lane has standing water in the area where the potholes are an issue, which is the cause of the potholes. The damage is not caused by the lorries.

Cllr Sarah Wakefield confirmed that Highways are prioritising the areas where the roads are collapsing all over the county. Highways are only responsible for water that falls on the highway, not water that runs onto the highway; that is the responsibility of the landowner.

2023/142 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Hole (Holiday), Mrs F Gledhill (family commitment).

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

Mrs R Humphrey has stood down as a Councillor due to personal circumstances. Clerk to advertise vacancy.

2023/143 Declarations of interest and dispensations

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

Cllr Mr D Macey declared a personal conflict in agenda item 2023/149 (1) – Underhill Lane – Lorries

Cllr Mr M Prosser declared a personal conflict in agenda item 2023/151 – application number 04/23/0005

2023/145 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2023/146 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported:

Somerset Council budget was passed on 20 February.

No absolute answer has been received from Government regarding the capitalisation directive but they want to see what cost cutting exercises have been completed and the difference this has made.
Gravity site – contract has been secured bringing jobs and opportunities across Somerset. Govt grant will cover the interest on the borrowing and business rates will be paid on the site. There will be a railway extension into the site.

New Highways Contractor with effect 01 April 2024

Ross Henly to email update regarding T2/11

It is noted that the hedge at Curland is better than it was, but is still not back to the telegraph pole; vehicles are starting to be able to pass – this is an ongoing project.

Kier are to tupe across highways staff. Sarah to investigate the reported closure of the Taunton depot.

2023/147 Report from the Local Community Network

1. Transport – 2nd Meeting has been held. Only 3 parishes represented.
Integrated public transport in rural areas
Hatch Beauchamp to Taunton and Ilminster cycle path
Side meeting to be held at tomorrow night's LCN meeting.
ToR has been established.
Looking into speed indication devices which could be shared between parishes.
2. Environment & Conservation
Cllr M Palmer to provide notes of discussion to clerk.

2023/148 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

1. Crown Estate Covenants – no update
2. Curland Green – Ownership – previous minutes establish that Curland Green is the responsibility of Somerset Highways
3. Noticeboard – no update regarding Orchard Portman noticeboard. The quote for the noticeboard replacement has not yet been received.
4. Curland Hedge Encroachment – as previously discussed, this is an ongoing matter. To report back to Clerk
5. BHPN – Hunt the Heat – no feedback yet from BHPN regarding dates. Cllr M Palmer to include as a topic for the Annual Parish meeting.

2023/149 Items of Report and Correspondence

1. Underhill Lane – Lorries
As previously discussed. It was resolved that the clerk write to the landowner
2. Annual Parish Meeting – 16th April 2024
Clerk to provide PC name badges
3. Forestry England Update
Clerk met with new community ranger, Chris Goode, at Staple Hill. He is keen to work with the PC for community engagement and education.
4. Parish Council Communications update
All to be included on the Whatsapp group. Still some issues with email accounts – some are unable to send emails from mobile devices. Clerk to investigate shared drive for councillors documents.
5. Highway Services Devolution – Letter of 27th February
It is noted that for the Parish this mainly concerns the ongoing maintenance of ditches and gullies, which was an anticipated cost and has been accounted for in the increased precept request.

2023/150 Rights of Way Update

1. T2/8 – No update
2. T2/11 – County have issued a s130 notice. The RoW has been blocked both ends by fencing and vehicles and the surface of the path has been severely rutted with vehicle tracks.

2023/151 Planning

1. 04/23/0005 – Erection of an agricultural storage building for fodder & machinery at Lower Park Farm (retention of works already undertaken) – no comment
2. 15/24/0001 – Replacement of conservatory and lean-to with the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Orchard House, Curland Common Road, Curland – no comment

Planning enforcement applications

1. E/264/15/22 – Caravans in field, Curland Common Road
Report from enforcement officer Simon Moon that 3 out of 4 documents have now been submitted.

Other applications

1. MA/56940 Application for a premises licence – Vanwest Event – No objections

2023/152 Finance

1. The following items were approved for payment:
Salary and Expenses of Clerk £434.25

2023/153 Highways

1. To receive any update relating to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project
No update – await start of new contractor in April. It was suggested that any excess budget could be spent on a Speed Indication Device for the area.
2. To receive any update relating to Staple Hill – potential speed limit reduction
No update
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
A single car accident on Staple Common Hill was reported.
5. A358 Update – nothing to report, it is noted that this project is probably not going to continue at this time.

2023/154 Community Plan

No update was available.

2023/145 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 21.37.