

# NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), D Macey, M Prosser, J Parsons, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs F Gledhill, Mrs R Humphrey, Mrs K Street, J Hole

**Also Present:** Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Ross Henly and three members of public.

**Public Session:** Parishioner in attendance at the meeting requests that matters relating to the Hedge encroachment at Curland, and the Bridge at Staple Fitzpaine remain on the Parish Council Agenda until they are resolved. Clerk was able to provide updates from Cllr Sarah Wakefield on both items as follows:

- 1) Hedge at Curland - An inspection of the location has been arranged and any safety defects identified will be actioned as necessary. Confirm system reference 620720.
- 2) Bridge at Staple Fitzpaine – Cllr Wakefield has confirmed that she has received a response from the Service Manager Structures as follows:

*“With regards to the damaged bridge at Staple Fitzpaine, near the Greyhound Inn. We know this structure as **Staple (2161203)**. A task order has been issued to our contractors Walters to clear the rubble, erect any TM/Protection measures necessary and to instigate the necessary repairs. I can confirm that we have managed to get hold of the details of the vehicle responsible for the damage and will be pursuing their insurance company for the necessary costs in due course. However it should be noted that even if their insurers accept liability for the damage/repair costs it is very unlikely that we will get all of our costs reimbursed as their loss adjusters usually don't accept our contractors charges or quibble about the length of time things take etc, but where we have details of the responsible party we always try and recover the costs or at least some of the costs”*

### **2023/93 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr Dave Knight (Work Commitments).

This was a recognised and approved absence for the purposes of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **2023/104 To consider candidates for Co-option**

The Chair moved this item up the agenda.

Mr Keith Cutler was proposed as a new councillor by Cllr Jane Hole and seconded by Cllr Mr John Parsons. Mr Cutler will stand as a councillor for Bickenhall.

### **2023/94 Declarations of interest and dispensations**

Cllr Mrs Karen Street declared an interest in agenda item number 2023/103 Rights of Way due to work conflicts.

### **2023/95 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

### **2023/96 Reports from District Councillor**

Cllr Ross Henly reported:

T2/11 – Cllr Henly walked this RoW with residents to see where Somerset Council are planning to forcibly take down a hedge after 18 November.

Curland Enforcement – Cllr Henly wished to make it known that he had not previously been advised that enforcement case 105/15/19 had been closed as previously reported. It has now been closed as of 18 September with an ongoing case with the Ombudsman.

Clerk to follow up with enforcement for details of the completion / closure of the case.

Somerset Council – Financial Emergency – Local Government funding cuts of 80% since 2010. Somerset Council froze Council Tax during the period 2010-17 which equates to £270 million not collected. The move to the Unitary Council didn't deliver the savings promised. An ongoing and fluid situation.

### **2023/97 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting**

#### **1. Crown Estate Covenants**

Clerk is liaising with the Agent for the Crown Estate and will continue to follow up with her.

#### **2. Curland Green – ownership**

Clerk has contacted Highways regarding their possible ownership of Curland Green; no response has yet been received. Clerk confirmed that it is not registered as Open Land or Common Ground and will look into registering.

#### **3. Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

The annual meeting of the Parish was discussed and it was agreed that a small committee be formed to arrange the next meeting. Cllrs Messrs John Parsons and Mark Palmer have both volunteered to help.

#### **4. Orchard Portman Noticeboard**

Cllr Jane Hole reported that there was previously a noticeboard in Orchard Portman next to the post box. It was situated on the wall, which is now possibly owned by Cygnet Hospital. Clerk to investigate wall ownership and noticeboard reinstatement.

### **2023/98 Planning**

#### **1. To discuss and review planning applications received since the last meeting**

- a) 28/23/0003/LB - Replacement of windows, reinstatement of rear door and internal alterations at Badger Street Farm, Staple Fitzpaine Road, Staple Fitzpaine

It was agreed that the council have no objection to this application.

- b) 28/22/0003 - Change of use of agricultural buildings to equestrian livery at Orchard Portman Stables, Orchard Portman Road, Orchard Portman (retention of works already undertaken)

It was agreed that the council will support comments made by the neighbour to this application in their quest to achieve the outstanding actions.

- c) 33/23/0005/LEW - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing non-compliance of the agricultural occupancy condition (Condition No.7 of 33/04/0005) at Staplelawns Farm, Pickeridge Lane, Corfe

Councillors present voted 6 in favour of objection to the removal of the agricultural occupancy condition.

#### **2. To receive updates relating to planning enforcement applications**

- a) E/105/15/19 – Land Adjacent to New England, Curland

As reported by Cllr Ross Henly.

- b) E/264/15/22 – Caravans in field, Curland Common Road

Clerk provided an update to this action from Somerset Council Enforcement Officer; Simon Moon. Original planning application was not accepted by council; awaiting resubmission by agent.

### **2023/99 Finance**

#### **1. The following items were approved for payment:**

Salary and Expenses of Clerk	£527.55
Clerk backdated pay award	£245.00
TEEC (Website Planning Tracker)	£28.80
SALC	£25.00

#### **2. To set a date for a meeting of the Finance Committee**

It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance Committee would be held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at The Greyhound.

### **2023/100 Items of Report and Correspondence**

1. Flooding at Bickenhall (Reported to highways)  
Clerk reported that flooding on Grughay Lane has been reported to Highways. Cllr Mr Malcolm Prosser confirmed that this was inspected on Friday morning.
2. Biodiversity Policy  
Clerk reported that it will shortly be a requirement of all Parish Councils to have a Biodiversity Policy. Clerk to provide draft / example policy.
3. SALC AGM – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023  
Cllr Mr Mark Palmer will attend.

### **2023/101 Highways**

1. To receive any update relating to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project  
Clerk reported that report for the Highways Officer has now been received, and the TRO is to be advertised with effect from 16 November 2023. This is for the reduction of speed limit in Staple Fitzpaine, with the new speed limit coming into effect from the current village sign (Taunton side) and gateway location.
2. To receive any update relating to Staple Hill – potential speed limit reduction  
Clerk reported that Highways have advised they will refresh and renew the signage on Staple Hill, but are not looking to put a speed limit in place as it has the potential to actually make the road more dangerous.
3. To receive any update regarding potholes and road repairs  
As previously reported.
4. To note any accident in the locality since last meeting  
None to note.
5. A358 Update  
Cllr Mr Mark Palmer provided an update from the COP meeting. A number of parishes accepted NH offer of meeting and met with them to discuss the A358 plans. Parishes are forcing NH to show their data for biodiversity, traffic figures etc.

### **2023/102 Community Plan**

It was reported that it was felt that taking on Highways items from the devolution list would be supported by the community.

Cllr Hayman has been in contact with the new footpaths officer regarding footpaths and community plan.

### **2023/103 Rights of Way Update**

To receive updates relating to:

1. T2/8  
Closed with effect 8 November due to a fallen tree
2. T2/11  
S130 has been served on Somerset Council  
Clerk to circulate letter from Landowner – has asked for the support of the Parish Council.

### **2023/105 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30 in Neroche Hall.

Airband Liaison Officer is due to be in attendance.

Matters for agenda – meeting noise.