

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 12th November 2024

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

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Wakefield and four parishioners

Public Session:

Parishioners present introduced themselves as having attended due to their planning application being on the agenda for the meeting.

Paul Partington from the Open Spaces Society – emailed Peter Hobley (SC PRoW Officer) regarding T2/8 and T 2/11. He notes that the comments imply that the stile was at point D, not point E. Clerk to circulate email.

2024/93 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr D Knight.

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

2024/94 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Prosser declared an interest in agenda item number 2024/100 due to an application being his own.

Cllr Street declared an interest in agenda item number 2024/105 due to a conflict of interest.

2024/95 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were approved without amendment as an accurate record to be signed by the chair.

2024/96 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was present at the meeting and reported as follows:

- Curland Planning is still being chased. Has not yet gone to committee or been decided. Cllr Wakefield will discuss with the Chief Planning Officer.
- Continuing to follow up with Kate Brown regarding Gateway project
- New fund available from the Somerset Rivers Authority for small grants for localised flooding. Approximately £300k available in total.
- Local Plan – SC have written to all clerks for information. There will be a call for sites in the next few months; where do we or don't we want houses. Somerset are being asked for a lot more houses by Government; will probably need another new settlement. Villages need to think about sensible developments.
- Neighbourhood plan – lots have been done locally, recently. Need to have planning knowledge or get assistance.
- NPPF focuses on Green and Grey belt development
- A358 has officially been cancelled. There is currently uncertainty what will happen with Nexus25.
- Developers have slowed down
- Second stage Monkton Heathfield plan being brought forward for a further 1500 houses.

- Levels can't be built on, plus Somerset has a number of National Landscapes; Quantocks, Blackdown Hills, Mendips, Exmoor.
- Cllr Wakefield to follow up regarding A358 turning to Hatch Beauchamp.

2024/97 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Parish Emergency Contingency Plan – Clerk to circulate examples
- 2) Curland Green Bench and Management – Cllr Prosser to carry out repair to bench. It was agreed that the Green be levelled and seeded and planted with spring bulbs which will enable easier ongoing maintenance and grass cutting.
- 3) Orchard Portman Notice Board – to note that the new noticeboard cannot be put up until the walk at Cygnet has been rebuilt.

2024/98 Items of report and correspondence

- 1) Connecting Devon & Somerset – Update
Gideon Amos arranging meeting with Chris Bryant and will be inviting Parih Councils to attend. CDS had state aid rather than vouchers previously. Open Reach have asked CDS to consider the original area.
- 2) Somerset Local Plan – Questionnaire
Cllr Hole to collate responses from the Community Review
- 3) BHPN – Hunt the Heat – Letter to Residents
Clerk to put together letter
- 4) The December Neroche newsletter to be the last. It was agreed that thanks be sent to Karen Learoyd and Roger Keate. Clerk to contact Karen regarding the future of the newsletter

2024/99 Local Community Network Update

No update was received.

2024/100 Planning and Applications

- 04/24/0006 – change of use to residential with erection of garage building with ancillary accommodation above on land to the rear of 301 Park Farm Cottage, New Road, Bickenhall.
Discussed with no objections from Councillors.
- 33/24/0005 – erection of detached garage at 229 Underhill Lane, Staple Fitzpaine
Discussed with no objection from councillors

2024/101 Community Matters

- 1) Local Plan - As discussed elsewhere
- 2) Open Reach - As discussed elsewhere
- 3) It is noted that the Bus Shelter in Staple Fitzpaine needs to be reclad and refelted. It was agreed to factor in these costs for the forthcoming year.

2024/102 Environmental Matters

It was confirmed that the Gullies were last cleared on 22/08/2022 along Staple Fitzpaine Road. The frequency is being decreased and Somerset Council are now looking at doing them on a four yearly basis, at a cost of £10 per gully, per year. They were due to be done post April 2024.

Cllr Street advised she has received a quote for the gully in Curland to be cleared where the pipe is sinking down a hole and thus backing up.

Cllr Palmer has added a flood reporting sheet to the PC accident spreadsheet, for data collection.

2024/103 Finance

- 1) The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£516.50
SALC	£25.00
TEEC	£409.99

- 2) The finance working group will meet at 7pm Tuesday 3rd December 2024
- 3) Jacq Wanstall was present at the meeting and presented costs on behalf of the Neroche Hall Committee. The Hall costs £7,500 to run annually. £10k has been spent on the roof. The Hall committee have asked for the support of the Parish Council towards the running costs. It was agreed that this be taken into consideration in setting the budget and precept for the next financial year.

2024/104 Highways

- 1) Village Gateway
Clerk confirmed that the Gateway has been ordered. To continue to chase Traffic Management for timescales.
- 2) Staple Hill; speed limit reduction
No update
 - 2a) Badger Street – Speed Limit Request
A request has been received for the PC to consider a reduction in speed limit along the road at Winterwell. This was discussed.
- 3) Potholes and Road Repairs
Fly Tipping on Staple Hill has been reported.
 - 3a) It is noted that the contractor who carried out the trenching works along New Road is responsible for the road surface for three years. To report the sinking to J and N Civils.
- 4) Accidents
It was noted that a car had been hit by a tractor on Brandy Bridge, Staple Fitzpaine Road
- 5) A358 Update
As discussed elsewhere.

2024/105 Rights of Way Update

Cllr Hayman reported:

Himalayan Balsam is being dealt with by Somerset Council.

T2/8 – there is one stile remaining that Somerset Council are reluctant to do anything about. Cllr Hayman has submitted a FOI request which shows the stile in 2021.

Clerk to circulate the RoW Maintenance update.

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

It was requested that the following items be added to the agenda:

A358 junction

Village hall noticeboard

Dog waste posters

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.