

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 13th June 2023.

Public Session: Councillors welcomed Mr Paul Partington of the Open Spaces Society, regarding Public Right of Way T2/8. Mr Partington explained that he has walked the RoW in question and found a number of obstructions. He explained to County Councillors present that he did not feel that Somerset Council were acting appropriately in relation to this ongoing RoW issue.

Mr Andrew Hughes of Wych Lodge Mountain Bike Trails was also in attendance. Mr Hughes explained the nature of the historic relationship between the Trails and Forestry England, and the difficulties they have experienced recently with notice being given for them to close.

Members Present: Councillors Messrs M Palmer (Chair), J Parsons, D Knight, M Prosser, Mrs F Gledhill, Mrs K Street, Mrs S Hayman, J Hole

In attendance: E York (Clerk), Paul Partington (Open Spaces Society), Andrew Hughes (Wych lodge MBT), Councillors Mr Ross Henly and Mrs Sarah Wakefield.

2023/26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mr Daniel Macey due to work commitments.

These were recognised and approved absences for the purpose of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972

2023/27 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Councillor Mrs Karen Street declared an interest due to work conflict in agenda item 2023/37 regarding T2/8.

2023/28 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 were approved without amendment as a correct record and will be signed by the chairman.

2023/29 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Cllr Ross Henly – In contact with Cllr Mike Rigby with regards to Wych Lodge Bike Trails

Currently not any further updated relating to planning enforcement in Curland which has been ongoing now for four years. Cllr Henly confirmed that he will be raising with the Chief Planning Officer and the Chief Executive at Somerset Council. Simon Moon (Enforcement Officer) has confirmed that he is expecting a planning application to be received. Cllr Henly to obtain timescales.

Cllr Sarah Wakefield – Taylor Wimpey are looking to develop 160 houses in Ruishton and hoping to get land allocated in the next Local Plan. Currently the land is unallocated.

Hatch Beauchamp PC are allocating £1,800 of PC funds to improve the bus service – one day a week trial and they will need to show the need for the service to continue. Details to be provided to Clerk.

T2/8 – not enough staff in Rights of Way to deal with this at present and they are only dealing with urgent issues.

2023/30 Actions from the minutes of the last meetings

1. Dog waste bin update
The Clerk has received confirmation from Somerset Council of the collection charges for a bin at Staple Hill Car Park. Awaiting additional quote for a bin from Warthog Machinery.
2. Thurlbear School – Speed Limit Sign
The Clerk has been in contact with the school regarding this, and received a response from the Head that he has been speaking to Cllr Sarah Wakefield regarding this. Cllr Wakefield to take this forward.
3. Land Registry Access
It is not possible for the Council to have a business log in for land registry. The Clerk has a log in and all requests for title documents are to be passed to the clerk.
4. Chairs Award for Service to the Community – Nominations
Nominations were received from Councillors for the Somerset Chairs Aware for Service to the Community. It was agreed that Mr Paul Hart be put forward this year. Cllr Fiona Gledhill to assist with the nomination form.
5. Church parking update
Cllr Dave Knight reported that the “cone zone” is being observed but that unfortunately a couple of the cones have been damaged by vehicles. The cones will now be removed, and the parking situation will be monitored.
6. Horse Crossing Signs – Bickenhall
By way of note – the Clerk has been informed by Traffic Management that a horse crossing sign has been requested in Bickenhall near to the livery.

2023/31 Planning

33/23/0003/LEW – Lawful Development at Ruttersleigh Farm, Staple Fitzpaine

An anonymous email was received from a parishioner regarding this development application which was circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. The matter was discussed, and all were in favour of the latter being submitted to Planning with a statement from the Parish Council in support of the letter of objection.

To receive updates relating to planning enforcement applications

No further updates have been received.

2023/32 Finance

1. To approve items for payment, as per circulated list
The following items were approved for payment:

Salary and Expenses of the Clerk	£436.11
HMRC PAYE	16.20
Grass Cutting	£480.00
Community Review Costs	£33.50
SALC	£50.00

2. To record receipt of the precept
Following issues reported at the last meeting with the precept not having been paid, this has now been received in full.

2023/34 Items of Report and Correspondence

1. Wych Lodge Bike Park

It was resolved that the clerk follow up with David Lloyd, the local warden at Forestry England regarding this.

2. **Curland Hedge Encroachment**

Reports have been received by the Council of a hedge which is obstructing the highway in Curland. It was resolved that Cllr Parsons speak with the property owner in the first instance, before the matter be raised with Highways.

2023/35 Highways

1. To receive any update related to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project

It was resolved that Cllrs Dave Knight and Fiona Gledhill circulate suggested designs for the Gateway for Councillors consideration ahead of the next meeting.

2. To receive any update related to Staple Hill – potential speed limit reduction.

Last update regarding this was that Kate Brown from Traffic Management was going to drive the stretch of road concerned and check the possibilities for speed reduction. It was resolved that the clerk follow up with her.

3. To receive any update regarding potholes and road repairs

It is noted that the repair works to Underhill Lane are now completed.

New Road has been marked up, but it seems that this is Airband, rather than Highways.

4. To note any accident in the locality since last meeting

Two accidents have been recorded in the last month:

- 12/06/23 – Land Rover hit bridge by the pub.
- Approx three weeks ago – head-to-head accident on Badger Street bends

2023/36 Community Review

1. To receive an update regarding the Community Review

2. To discuss the role of the Parish Council – adoption of the Community Review

The review is now in its second draft format. The action plan based on feedback is now with the community council. There are implications for the PC – councillors will need to lead / support on projects and take on specialist roles.

Final report is due by 29/06 – to discuss and adopt by council at the July meeting.

Cllr Palmer thanked Cllr Jane Hole and team for their work on the community review.

2023/37 Rights of Way Update

To receive updates relating to:

a) T2/8

Case has been taken over by Debbie Ebsely who has been really helpful. They are meeting with the landowner at the end of June and discuss. Middle stile to be removed and the landowner will need to prove that other stiles are historic.

Letter to be sent to RoW stating what parishioners would like.

2023/38 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.30 in Neroche Hall.