

# NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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## **Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Mrs Sarah Wakefield and two parishioners.

**Public Session:** 1) It is noted that the meeting information on the website is not up to date. Clerk to arrange update.

2) Parishioner present wished for an update regarding damage to Curry Mallet Drove (T2/10). Cllr Hayman confirmed that this matter is being dealt with by John Melrose and provided an update on the damage. Cllr Wakefield confirmed that Somerset Council will not repair the surface of the Drove, as this falls outside of their responsibility. Cllrs Palmer and Hayman to continue to monitor the damage / repairs as they are implemented.

### **2024/30 Apologies for Absence**

None were received.

### **2024/31 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None were declared.

### **2024/32 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**

It is noted that there are some typos within the minutes from the May 2024 meeting. These are to be amended and are approved as an accurate record of the meeting to be signed by the Chair.

### **2024/33 Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was present at the meeting.

- Council AGM was held in May. Large settlements were discussed for those taking voluntary redundancies. Council will be smaller but is being shaped. Compulsory redundancies will now follow.
- Executive Meeting – an update was provided on water quality and phosphates. It has been confirmed that water quality responsibility lies with Wessex Water not Somerset Council.
- Gravity Site – various matters relating to the site will need to go through full council meeting. It is anticipated that work will begin, and batteries will be being made on the site in approximately two and half years.
- Planning – Cllr Wakefield provided an update on planning matters. Planning has confirmed that no chasers / reminders are sent to put up planning notices. Cllr Wakefield to forward full details to the Clerk. There is currently a two week pause on planning matters to allow the department to catch up.
- Airband – Cllr Wakefield sent a follow up email regarding Airband. The CDS partnership is between local councils for those with broadband speeds less than 30MBpS and will remain in place. Properties in scope for Airband will remain contracted to Airband and so cannot be offered to other providers.  
National Gigabit Access Scheme is largely paused.

Openreach are in competition with Airband.

Cllr Wakefield is going to follow up, as Councillors confirmed that the wires are up across the Parish. Also to investigate if there are deadlines in place for the “milestones” at which Airband are paid.

- Highways – Councillors raised with Cllr Wakefield that the white lines are due to be repainted by Crossways Farm; that Keir are not filling “neighbouring” potholes, as was the intention under the new contract. Cllr Wakefield asked that the Council feed back to her if Council workers are seen to be “wasting time”.

#### **2024/34 To Consider Candidates for Co-option**

Tom Pope was present at the meeting.

Tom was proposed as a Councillor by Cllr Macey, seconded by Cllr Hole.

Tom will become a Councillor for Bickenhall Parish.

#### **2024/35 Planning and Applications**

There were no planning matters to discuss.

MA/56759 – Application for a premises licence – Taunton Racecourse, Orchard Portman  
Councillors had no objections to this application.

#### **2024/36 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting**

- 1) Noticeboards – Clerk to discuss the proposed new noticeboard at Orchard Portman with highways to obtain permission. Cllr Palmer and Clerk to progress the replacement of the other boards.
- 2) Curland Hedge encroachment – Cllr Macey scraped away the dirt from the layby last week. It was agreed that the clerk will write to highways including details from the OSS provided by a parishioner. Copy of letter to be sent to homeowner.

#### **2024/37 Items of Report and Correspondence**

- 1) Somerset Council Community Awards. It was agreed that Cllr Gledhill will complete and submit the form.
- 2) Parish Council Communications – Internal and External. Cllr Knight raised that the Parish Council did not portray itself well at the recent APM and a discussion was had to improve the communication between Councillors internally and with the Parish. Clerk to attempt to circulate minutes sooner after the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Palmer would set up a Parish Council Facebook page on a trial basis. All Councillors, who are on Facebook, are to be made administrators of the page. This will be a closed group, with a verification process.  
A noticeboard space to be set up in the village hall – Cllrs Gledhill, Hole and Palmer to arrange.

#### **2024/38 Rights of Way Update**

Cllr Hayman provided an update on T2/11. It has been confirmed that the fence was put up by a third party, not Public Rights of Way department.

Cllr Palmer met with the area warden regarding the stile to the north of Whitty – a gate is due to be put in – Trevor Lock to be asked to quote to install gatepost for the new gate. Way marker has been reinstated.

#### **2024/39 Finance**

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk      £389.37

**2024/40 Highways**

- 1) Quote has been received for the installation of the village gateways by the new Highways contractor. It was agreed that Cllr Gledhill will refresh the original quote received from JACS to compare the price. Clerk to obtain quote from Highways for the installation only of the gateways if the Council purchase directly. To confirm to progress the speed reduction, lines and signs in the interim.
- 2) Clerk confirmed that Highways have been asked to re-assess Staple Hill. To follow up on the updated lines and signs
- 3) Nothing further to note.
- 4) None to note, Cllr Gledhill has set up a shared spreadsheet to document accidents.

**2024/41 Community Plan**

Cllr Hole to update the action plan and to provide Cllr Palmer with an update on the Water Sampling project.

**2024/42 Date of the Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda**

- 1) Curland Green
- 2) Noticeboard in hall
- 3) Dog Mess in the Forest and the Village (to confirm legalities around dog waste)

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:30