

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
CLERK: Emily York

Tel: 07957 952784
Tel: 07842 430003

mark.palmer@nerochevillages.org.uk
emily.york@nerochevillages.org.uk

Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 8th October 2024

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

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Ross Henly & 1 Parishioner

Public Session:

Parishioner present thanked the Council for their work in the reopening of bridleway T2/11. Particular thanks to Cllr Hayman for her involvement. Cllr Palmer confirmed that it was not without assistance and due thanks should be given to the Ramblers and BHS.

2024/80 Apologies for Absence

None were received.

2024/81 Declarations of interest and dispensations

None were declared.

2024/82 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

It was noted that apologies had been received from Cllr Knight which were not included.

This amendment to be made and the minutes to be signed as a true and accurate record, by the chairman.

2024/83 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Ross Henly was present at the meeting. Cllr Henly read the council report provided by Cllr Sarah Wakefield; clerk to circulate to Councillors. There is a Somerset Council update to Clerks next week regarding the Somerset Local Plan.

TWH planning application at Ruishton was refused and has gone straight to appeal. TWH have requested an eight-day public enquiry which will be held in January (8th?).

No news on A358 project

Cllr Henly confirmed that he will speak to Somerset Council regarding improvement of the junction from Bickenhall Lane to Hatch Beachamp.

2024/84 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

1) Curland Hedge

It is noted that the hedge is required to be cut back further.

Cllr Macey shared a graphic from Exford Parish Council which clearly explains the requirements for hedges.

The drain remains completely covered.

2) Identification of flood issue points

Following recent meeting, all blocked drains before Crossways junction have been reported. Cllr Hole has collated a list of landowners adjoining the road.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllrs Macey and Pope are to contact landowners, rather than letters being sent from the Parish Council

ACTION – flood / drain issues to be marked on a map

ACTION – to look into collating a parish emergency plan

ACTION – Cllr Palmer to contact Keir to obtain a map of culverts and gullies

IT WAS AGREED that all councillors familiarise themselves with issues local to themselves between now and the next meeting

3) Flooding – Staple Fitzpaine Road

It was noted that this was flooded on the night of the meeting.

Cllr Macey is following up with highways regarding this matter.

2024/85 Items of report and correspondence

Clerk reported that Stoke St Mary PC are continuing their grant towards the upkeep of St Mary's Churchyard. Clerk to contact the PCCs with regards to how the money is spent.

2024/86 Local Community Network Update

Cllr Palmer reported that there is an LCN meeting next week which will include the Community Health and Wellbeing Officer from SALC. Meetings are hybrid.

The two working groups; Highways and Transport, and Environment and Conservation; have now been combined.

Trying to co-ordinate the reporting of blocked gullies / accidents etc.

Cllr Palmer met with Chris Goode from Forestry England; he covers a large area but seems to be more responsive / communicative than local rangers previously. Clerk read email from Chris Goode regarding dog waste in the forest; IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Gledhill will design a sign / poster which can be displayed.

2024/87 Planning and Applications

It is noted that the Council have not received any planning applications since May 2024.

2024/88 Community Plan

IT WAS AGREED that the Council will consider making an annual donation to the upkeep of the Parish Hall during forthcoming budget discussions.

Openreach have been operational in the area; their engineers report to expect to be completed by early December. It is noted that this only applies to those living in the 01460 telephone area; not the 01823 area.

2024/89 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary and Expenses of Clerk	£415.26
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2024/90 Highways

1) Village Gateway

Clerk confirmed that she has requested that this be added to the works list; to obtain approximate timescale of works?

2) Staple Hill; speed limit reduction

No update

3) Potholes and Road Repairs

It is noted that the culvert in Badger Street has collapsed again

4) Accidents

It was noted that there had been an accident at Crossways.

Stoke St Mary PC are applying to reduce the speed limit from Corfe to the junction at the Lemon Tree to 30MPH.

2024/91 Rights of Way Update

Cllr Hayman reported:

T2/11 is open but is subject to a deletion order.

Japanese Knotweed is being dealt with by John Melrose in the RoW Department

T2/9 – Clerk to write to landowner

Himalayan Balsam on Forestry England land, coming down the hill from Castle Neroche; to be reported.

2024/92 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

It was requested that the precept be added to the agenda for the November meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.57pm.

DRAFT