

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 9th July 2024.

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

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Mrs Sarah Wakefield.

Public Session:

There were no parishioners present.

Cllr Mr Mark Palmer notified councillors present that a meeting is being held with Forestry England at Thurlbear Woods on 25th July regarding the recent works which have been undertaken in the woods.

2024/43 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Messrs J Parsons (illness), D Knight (work), T Pope and Mrs K Street (holidays). These were recognised and approved as absences under s185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2024/44 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None were declared.

2024/45 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2024 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2024/46 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was present at the meeting.

- Further to matter raised at the last meeting, Cllr Wakefield confirmed that Somerset Council (SC) do in fact have responsibility for the surface of PROW, but that where damage is caused by vehicular use of that RoW then the landowner will be asked to rectify the damage. In the case of T2/9 the landowner has confirmed that he will make good the damage once his works are completed. Curry Mallet Drove is on the list to have vegetation cut this month.
- Update provided to clerk regarding Highways works. Clerk to circulate to all councillors.
- Cllr Wakefield confirmed that SC are in a far better financial position at this point in the year than they had expected / forecast to be. Adult Social care is within budget, and Cllr Wakefield explained that she is starting a public awareness campaign of what to expect from adult social care in the autumn.
- BT have confirmed that they will not withdraw copper cables until a solution is in place for personal alarms which currently use the copper cable network.
- Cllr Wakefield has written to Kate Brown of the Traffic Management department regarding the white lines at Crossways Farm.
- Cllr Palmer raised that SC hedge cutting has overlapped with PC hedge cutting which is not cost effective. Cllr Wakefield confirmed that every LCN has a half a week person for works such as these which have recently been recruited. LCN AGM has been moved to 22nd July at Corfe Village Hall.
- Regarding CDS progress, Richard Wilkins is the contact at SC for technology.

2024/47 Planning and Applications

None have been received since the last meeting.

2024/48 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Curland Hedge Update – await response from Highways regarding letter sent.
- 2) Parish Council Noticeboard in Hall / Communications Update – Cllr Gledhill to circulate her slides regarding ideas for the Hall Noticeboard. It was agreed that permission be sought from the Hall committee to create a PC noticeboard in the hall for current and recent project information. It was agreed that information from the noticeboard should be duplicated to the website and new Neroche Parish Council Facebook page.
- 3) Dog Mess in the forest and villages – FE have previously agreed to engage with the PC regarding this and it was agreed that this should be an educational piece; Clerk to request FE permission to use their notice boards on the paths in the forests.

2024/49 Items of Report and Correspondence

- 1) Speeding in Curland – Clerk has been contacted by police regarding this matter who confirmed that speed limit and street lighting had been requested. Response from Traffic Management was that the recorded average speeds for this section of road are below 30mph and it would not be a priority location for a change of speed limit. Additionally, the cost would be in the region of £5,000 to be funded by the Parish Council. Installation of lighting would also be at a cost to the PC.
- 2) Verge Trimming – As previously discussed with Cllr Wakefield.
- 3) Neroche Hall – Cllr Jane Hole advised that she has met with Karen Learoyd who indicated that the hall is in financial difficulties, not least because the roof is in need to repair to the cost of approx. £43,000 + VAT. They will be installing sound clouds in the roof at further additional cost to help with the acoustics. The Hall Committee have requested that that PC start helping with the costs of the hall. It was agreed that the Clerk check the spending powers of the PC regarding this. It was agreed that Cllr Hole take on a role as the PC representative on the hall committee. It is noted that the Hall has charitable status and is a listed building.

2024/50 Rights of Way Update

No further update

2024/51 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk £426.51

2024/52 Highways

- 1) Refreshed quote has been received from JACS and costs have been queried with Traffic Management. They have been asked to add the speed limit change and associated works to their works list, pending confirmation of whether the PC purchase the gateways directly and Council install them, or gateways are purchased through Somerset Council's contractor. It is noted that permission is required from the Road Records Team to be able to erect a new noticeboard on the highway in Orchard Portman.
- 2) There is no update on the speed limit reduction. It was resolved that the clerk follow up with Traffic Management with regard to a number of missing signs.
- 3) Potholes in Underhill Lane have been painted white (28 day notice of works)
- 4) There are no accidents to note since the last meeting.

2024/53 Community Plan

Cllr Hole has updated the action plan

It was agreed that landowners be written to with regard to blocked / unmanaged ditches and a separate meeting be arranged to identify those landowners. Cllrs Hole, Palmer and Macey to arrange.

It was agreed to look into a QR code being available which links parishioners directly to the Somerset Council website for reporting potholes

Cllr Hole to circulate the revised action plan to councillors.

2024/54 Date of the Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

- 1) Local Plan
- 2) LCN Update
- 3) Letters re: Hedges to be sent to Mill Farm & The Rectory

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th August 2024.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:09

DRAFT