

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

In Attendance: Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr D Macey, Mr J Parsons, Mrs K Street, Mr M Prosser, Mr D Knight

Also Present: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Ross Henly

Public Session: None

2024/1 Election of Chair

Mr Mark Palmer was unanimously voted in as Chair

2024/2 Election of Vice Chair

Mr John Parsons was unanimously voted in as Vice Chair.

2024/3 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Fiona Gledhill, Mrs Sue Hayman and Jane Hole

These were recognised and approved absence for the purposes of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2024/4 Declarations of interest and dispensations

None were declared

2024/5 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2024/6 Report from County Councillor(s)

Cllr Ross Henly reported:

- 1) Planning Enforcement – difficult to recruit and Cllr Henly is investigating this further
- 2) No resolution on the Curland planning application
- 3) Airband – Cllr Henly will share the response from questions raised at the Somerset Council meeting. Noted that this is a county wide issue. Cllr Palmer advised that he is exploring a community company to take over the broadband installation for the local area. Airband underquoted for the work and are now unable to deliver the project on budget. They don't get paid until the connections are made and so are focussing on making connections, rather than rolling out further installation.

2024/7 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

All actions have been carried forward to the June 2024 meeting

2024/8 To consider co-option of suitable candidates to fill vacancies on the council

It was agreed that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting; various approaches to be made to parishioners who may be interested in joining the council.

2024/9 To Appoint a representative to the Village Hall Committee

It was agreed that this position is not required.

2024/10 To appoint members to the Finance Working Group

It was agreed that Cllrs Macey, Parsons, Palmer and Hayman retain their position on the finance working group. It was noted that this is not a decision-making group, as all discussions are reported back to a full council to enable the budget to be finalised for the forthcoming year and thus the precept be set.

2024/11 To receive the annual accounts for 2023-24

The accounts for 2023-2024 were received and approved.

2024/12 To receive the internal audit report for the council

The internal audit report was received and approved.

2024/13 To approve AGAR Section One – Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

The annual governance statement was received and approved; signed by the Chair and the Clerk

2024/14 To approve AGAR Section Two – Accounting Statements 2023-24

The accounting statements were received and approved; and signed by the chair

2024/15 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review

Councillors confirmed that they wished to certify the Council as exempt from a limited assurance review. The Certificate of exemption was signed by the Chair and RFO.

2024/16 To review the Parish Council Insurance

Copies of the Parish Council Insurance were circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to renew with Zurich.

2024/17 To review and approve the Parish Council Asset Register

The Parish Council Asset Register was reviewed and approved without amendment. It was noted that last year's asset register included the noticeboard at Orchard Portman which does not exist; this has been removed.

2024/18 To review and approve the annual risk assessment

The annual risk assessment was reviewed and approved without amendment.

2024/19 Planning

It is noted that the application for the annex to the cottage at Hop Cottages has been withdrawn.

With regard to the planning application at Curland, it was resolved that the PC will send a representative to the planning committee meeting.

2024/20 Items of Report and Correspondence

- 1) Portrait of the King

The PC have been donated a portrait of HM The King. It was resolved that this be donated to the Village Hall Committee.

2024/21 Rights of Way Update

Cllr Macey shared with councillors a letter to landowners received from Somerset Council . It was resolved that the clerk write to Somerset Council

Footpath near Whitty – Stile and Fingerposts to be reinstated.

Drove at Bakers (Paddocks) – Clerk to write to adjoining landowner to repair / reinstate damage caused by access to the field.

2024/22 Report from the Local Community Network

Meeting held Monday 8th May – hybrid meetings – speaker was Elozabeth McNabb from the Blackdown Support Group who provided details of the services that they provide including medical transport and assistance with form filling. A Health and Wellbeing working group is being formed.

Tristan Colaco from Forestry England spoke regarding the felling work at Thurlbear Woods. Euroforest bought the standing timber; felling should now be completed.

Meeting at Neroche Hall for the Neroche Rewilding Project – all welcome.

2024/23 Finance

1) The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk		£475.95
T & A Lock	Ditching	£120.00
Jane Hole	APM Fliers	£68.00
Zurich	Insurance Renewal	£346.13
ICO	Data Protection Fee	£40.00
CPRE	Membership	£60.00
John Parsons	APM Refreshment	£151.80

2) The Clerk confirmed that the full precept has now been received.

2024/24 Highways

- 1) To receive any update relating to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project
Awaiting quote from contractor for works
- 2) To receive any update relating to Staple Hill – potential speed reduction
Somerset Council are reviewing this following email from Clerk regarding speed reduction on Corfe Hill.
- 3) To receive any update regarding potholes and road repairs, including ditches and drainage
It was resolved to book in the verges for the beginning of June
- 4) To note any accident in the locality since last meeting
None to note
- 5) A358 Update
No update

2024/25 Community Plan

It was noted that the bench on Curland Green is not being used with the grass uncut. A request has been received for the Green to be mowed once No-Mow-May is finished. It was agreed that the first 1m of the Green be mowed for visibility purposes plus a path to the seat. A list of the species found last year is to be published. It is noted that the seat needs to be repaired.

2024/26 Date of the Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th June 2024 at Neroche Hall at 7.30pm.

2023/160 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield provided an overview of the planning system:

- 21 days correspondence.
- Important to respond in your own words – focus on planning issues
- Can post more than one response if you think of further things
- Where an application goes to committee, the Planning officer issues report ahead of the planning meeting (probably 2-3 months)
- Need to advise in advance if you wish to speak at the committee meeting
- If planning committee disagrees then the applicants can go to appeal – public comments need to be resubmitted at this time.

20mph proposals including Otterford & Ruishton
Electric Buses

2023/161 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Quote has been received for the replacement of noticeboards at Curland, Bickenhall and Thurlbear plus a new one at Orchard Portman; to be made locally. Orchard Portman to be sited next to the post box. It was agreed that Cllr Mr M Palmer would check the sizes of the other boards, as the quote is for noticeboards the same size as the Church wall at Staple Fitzpaine.
- 2) It is noted that the hedge at Curland has been cut but not sufficiently. It was agreed that the clerk write to highways as there is a health and safety concern. To also write to landowner with a copy of the land registry and ask that the hedge be cut back to within the property boundary.

2023/162 Items of Report and Correspondence

Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

2023/163 Rights of Way Update

No update was available

2023/164 Finance

- 1) The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£542.01
SALC	£25.00
Neroche Hall	£376.20
BHPN Subscription	£50.00
- 2) It is noted that the precept has not yet been received from Somerset Council

2023/165 Highways

- 1) Awaiting quote for the final figure for the gateway and associated works from the contractor. It was proposed that that the council consider proceeding with the speed reduction scheme, but not the physical gateways and instead put the money towards speed indicator devices which would be moved around the villages where speed limits are in place.
- 2) It is noted that Corfe hill is now a 40mph limit from the crossroad at the top. Clerk to revert to highways to use this as a precedent for a speed reduction on Staple Hill.
- 3) New contractor Keir are now in place. It was reported that they have refused to use the “repair in a bag” system as it is not of a good enough standard.
- 4) Car on its roof along Castle Main this morning; near Castle Neroche.
- 5) No update relating to the A358

2023/166 Community Plan

Nothing to report.

2023/145 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 – this is the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:15

DRAFT