

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at The Greyhound, Staple Fitzpaine on 28th November 2023.

Members Present: Cllrs Messr D Macey, M Palmer, J Parsons, Mrs S Hayman.

Also present: Mrs E York (Clerk)

FC/2023/01 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

FC/2023/02 Review of 2023/24 Financial Position

Income and Expenditure for the current year were reviewed against the budget. It is noted that the 2023/24 budget included provision for the Village Gateway at Staple Fitzpaine which now will not complete during this financial year. Costs have risen, and it would be prudent to allow additional costs for this project for the forthcoming year.

Transfer was made at the end of the last financial year from the current account to the high interest account and reserves are sufficient to allow for a delay in precept being paid and elections, should they be required.

FC/2023/03 Review of expected costs for 2024/25

In light of the letter regarding devolution received from Somerset Council it was discussed what could be put forward to the Council as activities which the Parish Council could take on. All present agreed that a sum should be included for carrying out the following activities, which also fit with the outcomes from the Community Review:

- Ditch and gully clearance.
- Hedge trimming.
- Additional cuts of verges across the Parishes.
- Maintenance of footpaths and public rights of way.

It is expected that costs continue to rise for certain costs such as hire of the hall, insurance, wages and an increase in precept should be included for these items.

The new website and email address hosting costs more than the previous contribution to the NCAG; and we continue to also make a contribution towards the costs of the newsletter.

A number of new councillors have joined and not yet attended any training courses; costs for these to be included.

Additionally, it was discussed that one outcome of the community review was to install a new noticeboard in Orchard Portman. Some existing noticeboards also require renovation / complete replacement.

FC/2023/04 Precept Setting

It was agreed that a precept for 2024/25 of £16,000 be recommended to the full Parish Council; taking into consideration all of the above factors.

It is noted that whilst this looks like a steep increase from 2023/24 precept of £11,000 there has been an increase in the Tax Base for the Parish and the increase for a Band D property is equivalent to £19.66 per year or £1.97 per month.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm.