

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

Tel: 07957 952784

CLERK: Emily York

Tel: 07842 430003

nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com

Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 8th August 2023.

Public Session:

A parishioner wished to express dissatisfaction to the Council's decision to have not mowed Curland Green until late this year and observing No Mow May. Explained the need to cut the grass in spring to allow the wildflowers to germinate. It has taken a long time to get the Green right again. It is noted that it was felt that this was an unsuitable location for a wildflower meadow due to the commitment and resources required for such a project. The growth also obstructed vision for the junction.

Cllr Mark Palmer welcomed prospective councillors to the meeting.

Members Present: Councillors Messrs M Palmer (Chair), D Macey, M Prosser, Mrs S Hayman, J Hole

In attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), Cllr Mr Ross Henly, 5 members of the public

2023/52 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr Dave Knight (illness); and Mr John Parsons, Mrs Fiona Gledhill and Mrs Karen Street (family commitments)

2023/53 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Mr Daniel Macey declared an interest in agenda item number 2023/58 (2) due to this being his own planning application.

2023/54 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th July 2023 were approved without amendment to be signed by the Chair.

2023/55 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Councillor Ross Henly was present at the meeting and reported as follows:

- First LCN meeting was held last week. Keith Read has been voted in as Cahir and Sarah Wakefiled as Vice Chair.
- Somerset Council – Cllr Henly has been campaigning about the closure of the Neurodivergent community. Consultation has been extended to 1st October.
- In role as Chair for the Governance Committee they have been looking into the impact of requiring ID for Voters at polling stations and the number of voters who returned to stations with ID after having been turned away.
- Enforcement – The case being handled by Simon Moon had a deadline of the end of July. Awaiting update.

The other case is now being handled by Myra Harding who has taken on a workload of 250 cases.

This case is a priority and is very much a "live" case. Further details to be provided to Clerk.

2023/56 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

1. To discuss and review the ongoing maintenance of Curland Green
Clerk has been in conversation with Andrew Parsons who has mowed the Green this year; he has suggested that it be levelled and maintained. It was resolved that no decision be made on the ongoing maintenance of Curland Green until the Community review report has been reviewed by the Council.
It is noted that 26 varieties of wildflowers were identified on Curland Green in June and 5 grasses. Clerk to confirm that grass to be cut again.

2023/57 Community Review

Due to a large number of Councillors being absent from the meeting, it was resolved to postpone the discussion of the Community Review to a future meeting.

2023/58 Planning

To discuss and review planning applications received since the last meeting:

1. 04/23/0003/CQ – Elms Farm, Forest Drove, Bickenhall
Councillors had no objection to this application.
2. 33/23/0004 – Underhill Farm, Staple Fitzpaine
Councillors had no objection to this application.

2023/59 Finance

Items for payment were approved as follows:

Salary and Expenses of Clerk	£394.16
TEEC – Website Migration	£720.00
TEEC – Website Hosting	£381.19

2023/60 Items of Report and Correspondence

1. Website and Email Addresses Update
The clerk reported that the new Neroche Villages website is now live; and offered thanks to Tim French and Andrew Morgan for their hard work in bringing it all together. All councillors have now been issued with new @nerochevillages.org.uk email addresses which are compliant with current regulations and enable the council to maintain control over email addresses when councillors resign from the council.
2. To receive a report from the Local Community Network meeting held on 2nd August 2023
Cllrs Mr Mark Palmer and Mrs Sue Hayman attended the initial meeting of the Blackdown and Chard LCN on 2nd August 2023. Keith Read of West Hatch PC has been elected as Chair, with Cllr Sarah Wakefield being vice-chair. It is noted that two of the larger parishes in the LCN were not in attendance at the meeting.
Meetings will be held 6 times per year on a hybrid basis.
3. Airband – Forest Drove, Bickenhall
It is noted that a sign had been put up along the Drove requesting that the landowner contact Airband. Concerns have been raised by residents, as to Airband plans along this section of the footpath – underground / overground cables – as there is a membrane underneath the path which enables the path to be used all year round.
It was agreed that Cllr Mark Palmer would contact Airband regarding this.

2023/61 Highways

1. To receive any update relating to the Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway Project
The meeting with the Traffic Management has been arranged for 8th September 2023.
2. To receive any update relating to Staple Hill – potential speed limit reduction

Traffic Management confirmed that they will drive this route on 8th September 2023 and explore possibilities for speed reduction.

3. To receive any update regarding potholes and road repairs
Nothing to report

4. To note any accident in the locality since last meeting

It is noted that there was an accident at Winterwell approx. 2 weeks ago, along with a recent accident on Badger Street bends.

2023/62 Rights of Way Update

To receive updates relating to:

1. T2/8

Whilst this RoW is being actively worked on by Somerset Council, there are still issues with the explanatory note which was incorrect, and the presence of a stile along the route. Cllr Sue Hayman to liaise with Open Spaces if further support required.

It was resolved that it is necessary to confirm the legality of electric wire being used along the route of a right of way.

2. T2/11

BHRA are serving a S130 notice to Somerset Council regarding this footpath. It was resolved that Cllr Hayman may share relevant information with them to aide their case.

2023/63 To consider candidates for Co-option

Councillors welcomed Mrs Rebecca Cooper to the meeting. Mrs Cooper was proposed as Councillor for Bickenhall by Cllr Sue Hayman, seconded by Cllr Mark Palmer.

2023/64 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

1. Crown Estate Covenants to be added to the agenda

The next ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30 in Neroche Hall.

An Extraordinary Meeting of Neroche Parish Council was called by the Chair, to discuss the Community Review. To be held on Tuesday 15th August 2023 at 7.30 in Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed on at 21:12.