

## NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at the Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Members Present:** Cllrs. Aplin, Bell, Macey, Palmer, Vacher and J Parsons

**In Attendance:** Clerk J Wanstall, Cllr John Thorne, and 3 parishioners

#### **2021/46 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received by Cllr Street, Knight, Pope, and C Parsons

It was resolved that the absence of this Councillors be recognised as approved absences for the purposes of s.185 Local Government Act 1972.

#### **2021/47 Declarations of interest and dispensations**

None reported

#### **2021/48 Confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September & Extraordinary Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

There were a few amendments to the Extraordinary minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021, and no changes to the Ordinary minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Sept meeting. All were then approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

#### **2021/49 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**

Cllr Thorne (Somerset County Cllr) circulated his written report to the council members via email. The main area Cllr Thorne highlighted in the meeting was the structural changes within SCC, including the timing of the next elections and the number of Councillors we will have. No firm decisions have been made yet. The new name for our new council will be Somerset Council.

There is going to be a speed limit reduction by Thurlbear School, with a flashing sign in school hours. This is expected to be in place by December.

#### **2021/50 Questions from members under Standing Order 8**

None reported

#### **2021/51 Questions from members of the public under Standing Order 1 (d-h)**

Possible Fingerpost damage by vehicles- Jane Hole was present and spoke about some damage that has already occurred to our wonderful new fingerposts. This renovation project has been ongoing since 2018 and many volunteers have spent hundreds of hours creating and erecting the new posts. Since the project began, there have been 2 incidents of damage and Jane was requesting the support of NPC to write to all the local farmers and business owners, to please take great care when driving or working near the new posts.

Action- Clerk to work with Jane to write a letter to local farmers and business owners.

Traffic management around Curland Green- a few weeks ago, several Councillors and the Clerk met with our local Highway Superintendent to discuss the issue of large vehicles not having enough space to turn around the Curland Green, causing damage to a parishioner's property.

From this discussion, we have 2 possible solutions. 1- remove the one-way system currently in place at the top of the green, and widen the road at the top, to allow improved visibility for vehicles turning right. 2- take the corner off the bottom of the green approx. 7 metres, thereby allowing farming and other large vehicles enough tailspin room to safely turn right.

Following this meeting, we have been liaising with the residents of Curland to ask their views on this. Feedback from several residents is that they do not wish to lose any of the Green and they fear that widening the road will result in more traffic. Due to differing opinions, it was decided to have a longer consultation period with Curland residents about this before any decision is made.

Traffic calming measures in Staple Fitzpaine- the Clerk has been contacted by a parishioner to see if we could have a village gateway in Staple Fitzpaine, to slow traffic down, making it safer for all. This was initially discussed in 2017, but unfortunately NPC missed out of the funding for it. It was suggested by Councillors present, if no funding is available, we could fundraise to raise the money.

Action- Clerk to pick this up again with Cllr John Thorne, with regards to possible funding.

Online capabilities of NPC meetings- following our Extraordinary meeting, in October, a few parishioners have requested that NPC meetings are held online, as well as in person. Unfortunately, due to the lack of wi-fi in our village hall and the very poor mobile signal, this is not possible at present.

#### **2021/52 Actions from the last meeting**

Clerk to work with the Neroche Village Hall Trustees to secure re-opening grant. Done. The grant money of £1,500 has been received.

Clerk to write a letter to the Highways Team arranging a meeting regarding traffic management around Curland Green. Done. Meeting was held on 2 November and follow up work is underway.

#### **2021/53 Allocation of Areas of Responsibility for Councillors**

All Councillors were present were against the idea of having set areas of responsibility and prefer to continue to work as a team. This item will be removed from future agendas.

#### **2021/54 Accounts for payment.**

Resolved that the following accounts be paid.

- Salary and expenses of Clerk £479.20
- Neroche Village Hall Hire £75
- Bristol Foundry £150
- Neroche Hall, repayment of Grant Funds £1,500

#### **2021/55 Items of report and Correspondence**

Fingerpost Project Update- nobody was present to report, so the item will be placed on January's agenda.

Finance Working Group- Action- Clerk to arrange date of finance meeting to agree the 2022/23 budget.

A358 Working Group and the Neroche Parish Survey- at the time of the meeting, we had only received 4 responses from parishioners on the survey.

Action- Clerk to work with NPC Chairman to write our response to National Highways and send it by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Queen's Jubilee- Beacons for Neroche Parish- it was agreed the beacon should be next to the event/s run by the church and Neroche Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Working Group for Footpaths- nobody was present to report, so the item will be placed on January's agenda.

#### **2021/56 Items and date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Neroche Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.10pm