

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Thursday 13th April 2023.

Members Present: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr A Aplin, Mr D Knight, Mrs K Street, Mr J Parsons, Mr M Vacher, Mr D Macey, Mr M Prosser, Mrs S Hayman, J Hole

In attendance: E York (Clerk), and 1 Parishioner

2022/128 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fiona Gledhill (personal reasons)

These were recognised and approved absences for the purpose of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972

2022/129 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Karen Street declared an interest in agenda item 2022/138 – Rights of Way.

2022/130 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023 were approved without amendment as a correct record and will be signed by the chairman.

2022/131 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was in attendance at the meeting.

- Curland Planning – Cllr Ross Henly has an update on this which he will provide to the Clerk.
- Somerset Council is now up and running. Please provide Cllr Wakefield with feedback on the new website.
- Planning is split N/S/E/W – Cllrs Wakefield and Henly are both on the planning committee. The Local Plan was inherited from Taunton Deane and is now to be replaced with a local plan for the whole of Somerset. This is a 4-5 year project.
- First meeting being held for the Taunton Garden Town Board. This will mostly affect new developments in the area with the inclusion of cycle routes and active routes into town.
- Taunton Town Council elections are being held for the first time.
- Local Community Networks – due to commence June/ July. Chair for each LCN to be elected at the first meeting. Cllr Wakefield has proposed that it would be prudent for the LCN meetings to move around the LCN, but that they should also be hybrid meetings so could only be held in venues with appropriate facilities to enable this. LCNs will be able to give views on planning but not make decisions. Each LCN member has a vote. The LCN can't go against the council
- Cllr Wakefield stated that she and Cllr Henly will not allow the Orchard Portman development to go ahead. The M5 should be the boundary for development of Taunton, but this will have to be fought.
- A358 – appears to have reached a pause point, possibly a financial issue?

2022/132 Actions from the minutes of the last meetings

1. Planning Summary Sheet

Clerk confirmed that this has been updated to include dates; to be circulated to Councillors. It will be a rolling document, which applications staying on until decision reached.

2. Access Requirements for Parish Council Meetings

Clerk referred to the Parish Council's own accessibility statement. Members concluded that it is not acceptable to hold meetings in the committee room due to lack of disabled access.

It was resolved that the Clerk to liaise with the Village Hall Bookings Secretary to negotiate an alternative meeting date.

3. Curland Green – Title Docs and Grass Cutting

The Clerk reported that the Green is unregistered with Land Registry. Chairman Cllr Palmer invited a member of the public to speak regarding this topic due to knowledge of the subject. Title was passed as part of the Post Office until 1985 when it was deemed that proper title couldn't be proved due to the road between the Green and the property, and no consistent use of the Green by property occupiers.

It was resolved that the Clerk will investigate further.

Cllr Macey suggested that Andrew Parsons be approached regarding grass cutting at Curland Green. It was resolved that the Clerk contact him and ask that he do so after May, which will be observed as No Mow May

4. Grit Bins

The grit bins have now been delivered. Highways have advised that we need to mark the locations of where they are to be sited on a map, and this needs to be approved. Clerk to action.

Kings Coronation Weekend

It was resolved that a small working group be formed to further discuss a potential event / commemorative item for the Coronation. Cllrs Palmer, Prosser and Street to discuss.

2022/133 Planning

Planning applications received since the previous meeting were discussed as follows:

28/23/0002/LB – Badger Street Farm – It was noted that the Council have no objections to this application

Regarding the various enforcement actions, it was resolved that the Clerk follow up with Environmental Health to ensure that waste is being correctly dealt with.

2022/134 Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment -

2022/135 Items of Report and Correspondence

1. Church Parking – Access Issues

An issue has been reported regarding the drain at the end of Underhill Lane, but we have been advised by the Highways Superintendent that they will not dig the ditch alongside the church wall as it is pushed in by vehicles parking up past the national speed limit signs. It was noted that there is also not room to pass a fire engine.

It was resolved that Cllr Knight take this on as a project to help ease the access and enable the ditch to be dug.

2. Dog Waste Bins – Forestry Commission

Having previously agreed to fund the waste collection and bin from Staple Hill; FC have now advised that this will not be possible.

It was resolved that the Clerk discuss with Somerset Council and FC for the PC to site our own bins and to obtain quotes for bins.

2022/136 Traffic Management

It was resolved that the Village Gateway project be progressed with Highways to obtain a final quote and design.

The pothole at Badger Street is now in the hands of the contractor.

A query was raised at the APM regarding a speed limit reduction coming down Staple Hill. It was resolved that the Clerk raise this with Highways.

2022/137 Community Plan

175 responses were received from the consultation, which equates to 37% - as very good response rate. Results will be received later in the month, which is followed by report writing. The project is on track for the Council to be in receipt of the final report at the July meeting.

2022/138 Rights of Way Update

No further progress has been made regarding T2/8.

It was suggested that we may need to meet with the RoW officer at Somerset Council. Cllr Parsons to provide a statement regarding his visit to the landowner.

2022/139 Kings Coronation

Dealt with under actions from the last meeting – nothing further to add.

2022/140 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

Curland Planning Enforcement update

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed, depending on Hall availability.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.05pm.