

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of the Meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at the Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 20th May 2021 at 7.30pm.

Members Present: Cllrs. Bell, Aplin, Beck, Macey, Palmer, J Parsons, C Parsons and Street

In Attendance: J Wanstall (Clerk), Cllr John Thorne, and 1 parishioner.

2021/4 Apologies

Apologies were received by Cllr Bray and Cllr Pope.

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

2021/5 Vote in a new Chair

After 8 years as Chairman Cllr Bell wishes to step down. Cllr Palmer was proposed as the new Chair and all present voted in favour of this new appointment.

2021/6 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Street will not be commenting on the matter of Footpath T2/11 due to a personal relationship with an interested party.

2021/7 Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th March 2021 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 22nd April 2021 were approved as a correct record will be signed by the Chairman.

2021/8 Questions from members under Standing Order 8 (Voting on Appointments)

None reported

2021/9 Questions from members of the public under Standing Order 1 (d-h) (Rules of Debate at Meetings)

Footpath T2/11- Parishioner Mr French spoke to the council seeking their support in his efforts to get Somerset County Council Rights of Way Dept to take action to obligate the landowners to reopen Bridleway T2/11. He is asking for NPC support as individually he hasn't managed to make any progress on this issue. A discussion was had amongst the Councillors around the history of this footpath, with many differing opinions stated. A vote was taken as to whether NPC should write to SCC, stating Mr French's concerns. The vote was 7 in favour and 1 against, so the outcome is the Clerk will send an email and liaise with Cllr John Thorne on this issue.

Neroche Newsletter Parish Council Contribution- It was agreed that this agenda item will be moved to the July meeting in the absence of the Neroche Communications Action Group Chairman, Mike Asprey.

2021/10 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Thorne (SCC) circulated his written report to the council members via email. The main point Cllr Thorne highlighted in the meeting was the update around the local government reform, One Somerset or Stronger Somerset. This decision will be made by 22nd July 2021.

2021/11 Matters arising from the last meeting

CLlr Aplin attended a meeting on the A358, where other parish councils were also present. He noted that the NPC outcomes and recommendations, from our Extraordinary Meeting in April and sent to Highways England differ from the opinions of other councils.

2021/12 Accounts for payment.

Resolved that the following accounts be paid.

- a. Salary and expenses of Clerk £286.72
- b. Came and Company Insurance £218.00

2021/13 Items of report and Correspondence

CPRE and BHPN Membership-

CLlr Street enquired about the progress of the NPC re-joining The Blackdown Hills Parish Network and C.P.R.E The Countryside Charity. Parish Clerk to investigate this.

Verge Grass Cutting-

CLlr J Parsons raised the subject of grass cutting at the road junctions. All agreed it was well received by the parishioners and this will be actioned.

-Update on defibrillator

This has now been ordered and paid for. Delivery is due at the end of June. CLlr Bell suggested, if the old defibrillator is like the new one, we could use the older model for training purposes.

-Grass cutting contract Curland

As agreed at the last meeting, this work was put out to tender and 3 quotes were received. After reviewing the costs, the Councillors agreed to award the contract to Fenton Puckett.

- Finance update

- a. The Covid fund of £500 given last year, was unused and has been returned to the NPC.
- b. VAT Returns- for the last 3 years have been completed by the Clerk and submitted.
- c. Bookkeeping-the Clerk requested that the bookkeeping for NPC to be done in Excel as oppose to manual books. All present agreed with this request.
- d. Online Banking- the Clerk requested to sign the NPC up to online banking, to make payments and receiving bank statements easier. All present agreed with this request.
- e. Year End Audit- all the paperwork for the last financial year has now been completed and will be going to the Internal Auditor this week.

2021/14 Items and date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8th July 2021 at the Neroche Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.16pm