

Neroche Parish Council

Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 10th March 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Members present: Cllrs. Aplin, Bell, Palmer, Knight and Macey

In attendance 2 parishioners

2022/01 apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Parsons (holiday), Cllrs Pope and Cllr Vacher.

Cllrs Street and C. Parsons both have Covid19 and are unable to attend.

These were recognised as approved absences for the purpose of s.185 of the local government act 1972.

2022/02 Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were none.

2022/03 Confirmation of the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held on 13th January 2022

These were approved without amendment as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

2022/04 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

A comprehensive report from Cllr. Thorne (Somerset C.C.) had been previously circulated to councillors by e-mail was noted. The chairman raised a question about how carbon emissions from construction work to upgrade the A358 would fit in with Somerset County Council's plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions. However as Cllr. Thorne was not present this will have to be raised with him on another occasion.

2022/05 Questions from members under Standing Order 8

Cllrs. Enquired what steps were being taken to appoint a new clerk. The chairman has arranged for the post to be advertised via the local e-mail alert system and on social media. The terms of an advert by the Society of Local Council Clerks were felt not to offer value for money and will not be pursued. No potential applicant has been found as yet. Because the NatWest bank will not give us on-line access to our bank account the chairman has made enquiries with Santander Bank, who would allow this. They would require personal details to be submitted by all councillors, the need for and extent of were questioned by some. The Chairman will make further enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

Action – Chairman to obtain further information from Santander Bank.

2022/06 questions from members of the public under Standing Order 1 (d-h).

A parishioner asked what progress had been made with negotiations with the land owner over establishing bridleway T2/11, re-opening of footpath T2/8 and the recent installation of a new style here which is believed not to meet Somerset County Council criteria.

Cllr. Thorne's report indicated there has been a meeting between the rights of way team and the land owner. Cllr Thorne had been unable to discover the outcome of this meeting but believed an agreement over bridleway 2/11 had been reached in principle but not finalised but he had no details regarding this.

There has also been a meeting between the land owner and Cllr Parsons, however was not present to report on this. The chairman believed no progress had been made by this time.

A parishioner asked what plans were for an Annual Parish Meeting this year. It is a statutory duty to hold Annual Meeting for the four individual Neroche parishes but there is no duty to hold a large public event, as has been done in recent years. There is no current plan to do so this year. A date has not yet been set for the statutory Annual Parish Meetings, the Chairman will check possible dates for this and circulate options to Cllrs. By e-mail.

Action – chairman to circulate possible dates for Annual Meetings of the four Neroche parishes.

2022/07 Actions from the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

Actions over bridleway T2/11 and footpath 2/8 covered in 2022/06 above, action over salt bins covered in agenda item 11 below.

2022/08 Accounts for payment

A cheque for £260 was raised for payee Stoke St. Mary PC for 2020 but has yet to be cashed. The Chairman agreed to check our records and re-issue the cheque if appropriate.

Action – Chairman to check bank records and re-issue cheque if appropriate.

2022/09 items of report and correspondence

Cllr. Macey has contacted highways and reported they will fill salt bins free of charge. However we will have to purchase the bins and inform highways of their locations. Cllrs. Agreed we should purchase three bins this year, with further discussions over the most useful places to site them

It has been agreed that a contract for grass cutting at Curland Green should be awarded to a contractor recommended by Cllr. Parsons, who quoted the best price for providing the service and would cut the grass more frequently.

2022/10 Items for next meeting

It was agreed to obtain an update on the latest developments regarding the upgrade of the A358 road.

The meeting closed at 8.24