

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 Thursday 12th January 2023.

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

In attendance: E York (Clerk), Mr T French (NCAG), and one parishioner

2022/93 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr A Aplin and Mr M Vacher.

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

2022/94 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Mrs K Street declared an interest in agenda item 11; Rights of Way update.

2022/95 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2022 were approved with amendment as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

2022/96 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

No Councillors were present at the meeting. Clerk to circulate report from Cllrs Sarah Wakefield & Ross Henly.

2022/97 Actions from minutes of the last meeting

There were no actions from the last meeting.

2022/98 Planning

Planning application number 28/23/0001/LB was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk respond to Somerset West and Taunton Council with no objections to the planning but with regard to comments made by the Parishioner present.

2022/ 99 Accounts for payment

The following payments were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of the Clerk	£378.12
Expenses for Community Plan	£22.10

2022/100 Items of report and correspondence

- BHPN AGM – Report

Cllr Mrs K Street provided a report from the Blackdown Hills Parish Network AGM held in November 2022. There are 39 parishes which make up the BHPN, giving them more weight than an individual parish; for example it was their work which kept the road across the Blackdown Hills to Wellington cleared in the snow. Cllr Street will provide the 2023 Business Plan and Statement of Purpose to the Clerk for circulation to Cllrs.

It was noted that it is not necessary to be a parish councillor to be involved in the PHPN projects.

2022/101 Traffic Management

Cllr Knight met with the PCSOs before Christmas regarding the Community Speed Watch which we now await formal confirmation of. It was noted that it is only permissible to make use of this in 30/40mph speed limits and the position must be approved by the PSCOs.

The Clerk reported that the mean speed has been recorded in Staple Fitzpaine as 34.2mph which is which the limits for applying to have the speed limit reduced to 30mph. The Highways Engineer has sent the plan of extents to the police for approval and provided a cost estimate.

Clerk to follow up with Highways Engineer.

It was noted that there is not currently a confirmed date for the road closure for the pothole in Badger Street.

2022/102 Community Plan

A flyer has now been distributed to every house in the Parish and members of the working group have also gone door to door.

A questionnaire will be going out online in March which will focus on the main concerns of parishioners currently being identified: - Environment – Speed – Rights of Way – Planning – Broadband

The online questionnaire requires email address collection, and councillors were asked to help the group to collect email addresses. Paper questionnaires will be available for those unable to access online.

Councillors were asked to help with going door to door.

2022/103 Rights of Way Update

Updates were received as follows:

- T2/8

A registered letter was sent to the landowner on Monday 9th January asking for them to attend a Parish Council meeting before May. No further action can now be taken until this point.

- T2/11

It was noted that each time a new application / appeal is made, the whole process takes about 9 years and that this seems to be able to continue in perpetuity. There is no action that can be taken by the Ramblers Association currently as they have a large backlog.

2022/104 Neroche Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 9th March 2023. This will be preceded by a short Parish Council meeting at 7pm and will coincide with the Community Plan Questionnaire being available online between 3rd and 24th March 2023.

Speakers to include – Community Review speaker – Environmental speaker (Young Wood?) – Cllr Ross Henly and/ or Cllr Sarah Wakefield.

Cllrs were reminded that this is an event which gives parishioners the opportunity to meet with their local Parish Council representatives and it was hoped that all would be present.

Cllr Palmer to source refreshments.

13. 2023/24 Budget and Precept

The draft budget was circulated to Cllrs in advance of the meeting and discussed. It was noted that all councils within the Community of Parishes have been asked to consider making 10% of their precept available for contribution to a fund to pay for solicitors' fees regarding the A358 if it is necessary.

All were in agreement with this.

The budget was discussed at length and it was agreed that the council is becoming more proactive, but there has to be funds available to facilitate these projects, such as the speed limit reduction, village gateway and actions which arise from the completion of the Community Plan.

It was therefore agreed to increase the precept to £11,000. This was agreed by show of hands by councillors present with 8 votes in favour and one vote against.

Clerk to complete the precept request.

14. Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

Items for the next agenda were noted.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th February 2023 in the Committee Room at Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:20

DRAFT