

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

Tel: 07957 952784

CLERK: Emily York

Tel: 07842 430003

nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 14th July 2022.

Members Present: Cllrs. Aplin, Knight, Macey, Palmer (Chair), Parsons, Vacher, Mrs K Street, & Mrs S Hayman

In Attendance: E York (Clerk), Mrs Jane Hole, Mrs Fiona Gledhill, Mr Malcolm Prosser, Mr David Knight
Cllr Ross Henly, Cllr Sarah Wakefield and two parishioners

Public Session

Mr Peter Crossley asked on behalf of John Williams if the Parish Council could find out the intentions for the management of the Bickenhall Burial Ground; the signs have been removed.

Cllr Ross Henly advised that he will speak to the Woodland Trust for an update on the maintenance.

Mr Peter Crossley asked that the Parish Council not follow the results of the recently conducted survey regarding Curland Green, the results of which were disclosed at the Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Crossley felt that the Highways Authority had agreed to fund an improvement. Cllr Macey explained that we would need to put a proposal together for the Highways Authority to consider.

Clerk to contact the Highways Authority to arrange a further meeting.

Mr Tim French asked for clarification on the new Parish Council meeting agenda format which he felt removed the ability of Parishioners to have their chance to speak in a Parish Council meeting. Cllr Palmer explained that the Parish Council Standing Orders had been updated in April 2020 but the agenda format not brought up to date to reflect the change.

Clerk to publicise the means by which parishioners may add items to the agenda for forthcoming meetings.

2022/35 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

2022/36 Declaration of interest and dispensations

Cllr K Street declared an interest in discussion of item 10 on the agenda; T2/11 update.

2022/37 Confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 12th May 2022

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

2022/38 Reports from County Councillor

Cllrs Ross Henly & Sarah Wakefield were present at the meeting.

Cllr Henly congratulated everyone on the recent Annual Parish Meeting, which he felt was very positive.

He has a few local issues on going which he will follow up on and report back to us, including with the Woodland Trust regarding Bickenhall Burial Ground.

There has been a lack of progress around the formation of Local Community Networks for Somerset Council, but an officer has now been appointed. A meeting of the local group including Neroche Parish Council has been arranged for August, at which he will be in attendance. There are currently pilot schemes running elsewhere. Biggest concern is that rural parishes should not be joined up with larger urban parishes due to differing priorities.

Cllr Wakefield introduced herself. She reminded those present that due to the heat forecast, waste collections will commence at the earlier time of 5.30am.

2022/39 Co-option of Candidates

Mrs Jane Hole, Mrs Fiona Gledhill, Mr Malcolm Prosser and Mr Dave Knight were present at the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Street that they all be co-opted to the Parish Council. Cllr Macey seconded the proposal and there were no objections raised.

- Cllr Jane Hole will represent Curland Parish
- Cllrs Dave Knight and Fiona Gledhill will represent Staple Fitzpaine Parish
- Cllr Malcolm Prosser will represent Bickenhall Parish.

One councillor vacancy remains for Orchard Portman & Thurlbear.

2022/40 Actions from minutes of the last meeting

- Standing Order 8 – Amendment to the agenda.

There is no longer provision in the Standing Orders for Members to ask questions within the meeting; previously standing order 8. Only business on the agenda can be discussed at a Parish Council meeting so members must contact the Clerk to add items to the agenda; or raise them under “Items for the Next Agenda.” In addition, Standing Order 1 (d-h) no longer refers to public participation in a Parish Council meeting, this is now dealt with in Standing Order 3(e). On advice from the Somerset Association of Local Councils the agenda has been amended to allow the parishioners to make representations and answer questions in a dedicated session at the beginning of the meeting.

- Thurlbear Polling Station

Cllr Street had kindly obtained information regarding the use of Thurlbear School as a polling station. The school could choose to use an inset day as the issue comes with inviting general public without appropriate DBS checks into the school building. There is an appeal process, and it is possible to use a business premises, or a private dwelling as a polling Station.

Cllr Palmer to discuss with the Head Teacher.

- Road Signs

Cllr Macey has contacted Dave Brown from the Highways Authority who confirmed that all road signs with the exception of the fingerposts are the responsibility of the Council. Road signs take 3-6 months to be replaced.

Mr Tim French explained that there is a Give Way sign missing on New Road if you are coming from the Farmer’s Arms and has asked if this could be replaced.

- Curland Green Survey

40 responses were received out of 60 surveys issued. Results were:

62.5% of respondents suggested that the Green be left as it is

20% of respondents suggested that increased signage be erected

17.5% of respondents wished to see an increase in the size of the junction to make it safer for traffic turning.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways for an official response as to what they deem appropriate before we put together a proposal.

2022/41 Bank Account Update

Cllr Palmer explained that he has investigated transferring the current Natwest accounts to Unity Bank who specialise in banking arrangements for Parish Councils. They offer a switching process and can accommodate up to three nominated signatories to authorised online banking transactions.

There were no objections.

Cllr Palmer to complete the switch.

2022/42 Planning

i) Cllr Palmer explained that we need to be commenting on all planning applications. Cllr Aplin explained the way that this had been dealt with previously, and it was agreed that all councillors will respond to the Clerk within 10 days of receiving the applications to enable the Council’s response to be collated.

Planning applications were discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to discuss with the Neroche Communications Group the most effective way of ensuring that parishioners see planning applications.

ii) Planning applications received since the last meeting were discussed. All Cllrs are requested to provide their responses for application 33/22/0013 to the Clerk by Monday 18th July.

2022/43 Accounts for payment

It was resolved that the following accounts be paid:

Richard Hunt		£ 40.00	PAID
		£ 20.00	PAID
		£ 20.00	
Salary & Expenses of Clerk		£ 692.85	
CPRE Membership		£ 36.00	
SALC			
	Councillor Essentials Part 1 (x2)	£ 50.00	
	Councillor Essentials Part 2	£ 25.00	
	Counillor Essentials Part 3 (x2)	£ 40.00	
	The Good Councillors Guide (x5)	£ 25.00	
	Essential Clerk Part 1	£ 30.00	
	Essential Clerk Part 3	£ 30.00	
	The Code of Conduct	£ 25.00	£225.00
Neroche Parish Hall	Jan / Mar / May Bookings	£ 45.00	
Bickenhall & District WI	APM Refreshments	£ 40.00	

The Clerk's report for Q1 income and expenditure against budget was distributed to Councillors.

2022/44 Items of Report & Correspondence

- T2/11 – Update

Cllr Palmer read the response from SCC's Rights of Way team which explained that an application had been received to delete T2/11. As this has occurred before the clerk will clarify with SCC what the current position is.

Cllr Macey added that his contact in the Rights of Way department had advised him that their biggest complaint is that incidents are reported on footpaths which are rarely used, which leaves less funding to repair RoW which are in constant use.

- Somerset Bus Partnership

Cllr Palmer has been appointed as the Parish Council's representative for the Somerset Bus Partnership.

2022/45 Somerset Code of Conduct

It was resolved to adopt the new Somerset Code of Conduct.

Proposed by Cllr Hayman and seconded by Cllr Aplin.

2022/46 Standing Orders

There are several blanks to fill in within the new Standing Orders. It was resolved that a draft copy of these be completed and circulated to all members for them to then make comments.

2022/47 Financial Regulations

It was resolved to adopt the new Financial Regulations.

Proposed by Cllr Aplin and seconded by Cllr Street.

2022/48 Annual Parish Meeting

- Neighbourhood Plan

The current parish plan was written 13 years ago and in legal terms has been superseded by Neighbourhood Plans. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for assistance in writing Neighbourhood Plans, and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to take advice. Cllr Palmer proposed that we investigate this as a Neighbourhood Plan would give the Parish Council more say regarding planning, and an increase from 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy (capped) to 25%, uncapped.

Action – Cllr Palmer to find out more information and look into a speaker for either the next Parish Council meeting; or a public meeting.

- Village Gateway

It was noted that the Councillor who had previously run the fund which could have provided a village gateway is no longer in position.

Cllr Macey advised that the Highways Authority had said we could erect our own Gateway as long as it was 600mm from the metal of the road.

Cllrs Knight and Gledhill to investigate this further, including funding & donations

Clerk to forward previous emails and details received.

- Public Rights of Way

Cllr Hayman advised that the group has been set up and she is in the process of having maps copied and laminated.

It was suggested that a copy of the Countryside Code be installed on all noticeboards.

Clerk to contact NFU to provide footpath signs.

- Biodiversity

Cllr Hole advised that this group was very much in its infancy, and she is currently taking advice.

Clerk to forward details of Middleroom Wood and contact them to provide an article for the Village Newsletter

- Dog Waste

Cllr Henly has advised that he is following this up.

Clerk to email Rob at Forestry Commission for an update.

2022/49 Items for and date of the next meeting

Cllr Macey requested that it be added to the next agenda to have an update about Airband, as they have been seen in the village surveying over the last few days.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8th September 2022, at 7.30pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm.