

Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 12th May 2022 at 7.30pm.

Members Present: Cllrs. Macey, Palmer, Parsons & Vacher

In Attendance: E York (Clerk), Karen Street, Sue Hayman, Jane Hole and one parishioner

2022/11 Election of Chairman

Mark Palmer was re-elected as the Chairman of Council; proposed by Cllr. Parsons, seconded by Cllr. Macey.

2022/12 Election of Vice Chairman

John Parsons was re-elected as Vice Chairman of Council; proposed by Cllr. Macey, seconded by Cllr. Vacher.

2022/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Aplin.

This was recognised as an approved absence for the purpose of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972

2022/14 Declaration of interest and dispensations

None were declared.

2022/15 Confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 10th March 2022

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

2022/16 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Neither were present and no reports were received.

2022/17 Questions from members under Standing Order 8

Middleroom Wood – Cllrs Palmer and Parsons attended a meeting at Middleroom Wood, regarding the proposed BEAR Centre (Blackdowns Experimental Archaeology Research Centre). This will turn a currently unused area of Forestry Commission land into an outdoor centre for learning about how our ancestors lived in, shaped and used the woods. There will be a small number of reconstructed Mesolithic, Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon buildings set in three zones of woodland that will each be managed as it would have been in that era. The next meeting is on Monday 16th May at 10.30 for anyone who wishes to attend.

Thurlbear Polling Station – Cllr Macey has been asked to find out why the school hall is used as the polling station for Thurlbear, as it interrupts the school week, and if there is a way that this can be changed.

Action – Cllr. Street is going to investigate this and report back to Clerk

Road Signs – Cllrs. discussed a few missing / damaged road signs around the parish. Whilst extensive work has been undertaken on the Fingerpost Project, road signs are not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Action – Cllr. Macy to contact Dave Brown regarding replacing signs.

Cllrs. asked for clarification to the contents of Standing Order 8.

Action – Clerk to provide contact SALC and advise.

2022/18 Questions from members of the public under Standing Order 1 (d-h)

Traffic Management - Curland Green - Peter Crossley was present to continue discussions about this following 2021/35. It was agreed that a more comprehensive survey of Curland residents be undertaken, outlining the three options available – (a) to do nothing; (b) to change the one-way system; or (c) a reduction in size of the Village Green to allow more space for vehicles turning.

Action – Cllrs. Palmer, Parsons and Street to organise a questionnaire for residents to report back at the next meeting.

2022/19 Actions from minutes of the last meeting

There were no actions from the minutes of the last meeting.

Neroche Parish Council

2022/20 To consider co-option of suitable candidates to fill vacancies on the council

Karen Street was co-opted to the Parish Council as a representative for Curland.

Sue Hayman was co-opted to the Parish Council as a representative for Staple Fitzpaine.

2022/21 To appoint a representative to Village Hall Committee

Cllr Street was appointed as a representative to the Village Hall Committee.

2022/22 To appoint members to the Finance Advisory group

Cllrs asked the purpose of the Finance Advisory Group which was explained by Cllr Parsons.

Cllrs. Palmer, Parsons, Macey and Hayman were appointed.

2022/23 To receive the Annual Accounts for 2021-22

The Annual Accounts were presented to council ahead of the meeting.

Income amounted to £13,846.91, and expenditure incurred was £12,213.33, resulting in reserves being increased by approximately £1500.00.

The Council approved the Annual Accounts which will be published to the website.

2022/24 To receive the internal audit report for the council

The Internal Audit has been completed and the auditor has no issues to raise with the Council.

The audit was completed by Gillian Midworth, who has provided her services free of charge.

2022/25 To approve AGAR section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021-22

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

2022/26 To approve AGAR section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021-22

The Council approved the accounting statements for 2021/22

2022/27 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review

The Council agreed to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review and the certificate of exemption was signed.

2022/28 To review and renew the Parish Council Insurances

The insurance renewal premium from Came and Company has increased from £168.00 to £621.79. An alternative quotation has been sought from Zurich. The Parish Council agreed to commence a new policy with Zurich for a premium of £337.80

2022/29 To review and confirm the annual risk assessment

The risk assessment has been updated by the Clerk, and there are no areas that are considered high risk. It was resolved to agree the risk assessment report and mitigation measures

2022/30 Local Community Network formation

Local Community Networks will form a part of the Somerset Unity Council. Cllrs. Parsons and Palmer have recently met with several neighbouring Parish Councils to discuss. Although there can be no guarantee of the neighbouring councils we will be joined with in a LCN when the Unity Council comes into force, there were no objections from Cllrs. about the continuation of discussions.

2022/31 Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Palmer introduced Jane Hole, who has kindly agreed to arrange the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on Tuesday 5th July at Neroche Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting will take the form of a community forum, and parishioners will be encouraged to put forward questions and ideas.

2022/32 Accounts for payment

It was resolved that the following accounts be paid:

• Salary and Expenses of Clerk	£600.47
• Orchard Portman PCC	£260.00
• Village Hall Grant	£2500.00
• Insurance Renewal	£337.80
• Village Hall Booking for APM	£40.00
• Curland Grass Cutting (R. Hunt)	£40.00
• Curland Grass Cutting (R. Hunt)	£20.00
• Blackdown Hills Parish Network	£50.00
• Fingerpost project	£50.00

2022/33 Items of report and correspondence

- Receipt of SALC Grant for Neroche Hall

The Clerk confirmed receipt of a grant of £2500 for Neroche Hall

- Receipt of Precept for 2022/23

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the precept of £7357.00

2022/34 Items for and date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 14th July 2022, at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.