

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 6th October 2022.

Members Present: Cllrs. Aplin, Knight, Macey, Palmer (Chair), Parsons, Prosser, Ms J Hole, Mrs F Gledhill & Mrs S Hayman

In Attendance: E York (Clerk), and two parishioners

Public Session

There were no questions from the public.

2022/50 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Vacher and Cllr Mrs Karen Street.

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

2022/51 Declarations of interest and dispensations

None were declared.

2022/52 Confirm the minutes of the meeting on 14th July 2022

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

2022/53 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Neither were present. The Clerk confirmed receipt of a report from Cllr Sarah Wakefield in advance of the postponed September meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate report to Cllrs.

2022/54 Actions from minutes of the last meeting

- Bank Account Update

The Clerk confirmed that progress is being made with transferring the bank account to Unity, to enable the Council to have an online banking facility. There have been some technical difficulties in getting the information required to them, but paper copies have been sent by recorded delivery this week.

- Dog Waste in the Forest

Forestry England have confirmed that they are still happy to pay for the collection of dog waste from bins in the Forest. The Clerk confirmed that she is in receipt of an email trail dating back to 2019 between FE and SWaT, but unfortunately the contact at SWaT appears to have left so trying to be put in contact with someone who can resurrect this plan.

2022/55 Planning

Cllr Palmer proposed that the Council move to a monthly meeting to enable Cllrs to respond to planning applications in a more effective and timely manner.

It was resolved that a vote would be held at the next meeting.

- 04/22/0002

Discussion was held regarding this planning application.

It was resolved that the Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council.

2022/56 Accounts for payment

It was resolved that the following accounts be paid:

TD & AA Lock	Verge Cutting	£ 456.00	PAID
SALC	Responding to Planning Applications	£ 25.00	
	The Code of Conduct Explained	£ 25.00	
	Affiliation Fee	£ 117.73	
	Payment to NALC	£ 33.63	£ 201.36
Salary & Expenses of Clerk		£ 606.41	
Richard Hunt	Curland Green Grass Cutting	£ 20.00	

2022/57 Items of report and correspondence

- Middleroom Wood CIC Open Air Museum

The Parish Council have received an invitation to the Project Launch Feast on 4th November. An update was provided to new Cllrs who were unaware of the project.

- Airband – Update

Airband have been in the Parish conducting some works. Their updates are vague.

It was resolved that the Clerk contact Airband for an update which includes timescales for each Civic Parish. Cllr Aplin advised that Airband had been due to speak at a neighbouring PC meeting; Clerk to invite Airband to future meeting.

- The Chair's Awards for Service to the Community 2022-23

The Council have been asked to provide a nomination for the above.

It was resolved that Cllrs provide their nominations to the Clerk by email.

- BHPN AGM – 10th November 2022

Cllr Palmer to attend, possibly with Cllr Mrs Street.

- SCOP II Climate Conference – 5th November 2022

Cllr Palmer and Cllr Mrs Hayman to attend.

2022/58 Standing Orders

A discussion was held regarding the Public session at the beginning of the meeting and the best way to run this, to allow Parishioners to have their say but enable a more structured Parish Council Meeting.

It was resolved that the session be restricted to 20 minutes, with Parishioners each allowed four minutes to speak, with that time being extendable at the discretion of the Chair.

It was resolved that the Clerk amend the wording of the Agenda item to clarify

It was proposed by Cllr Parsons, and seconded by Cllr Aplin that the Council adopt the new Standing Orders as discussed and agreed.

Action: Clerk to finalise Standing Orders and circulate to all Cllrs and update the version on the website.

2022/59 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Mrs J Hole has been in contact with the Community Council for Somerset (CCS), who provide support for Parishes to complete Community Plans (CP), which are different from Neighbourhood Plans (NP). The NP is land based, whereas CP would look at a wider range of local issues including environmental and biodiversity aspects.

CCS have funding available from SALC for CPs, which are easier to do and a shorter piece of work which could ultimately feed into the work required for a NP. There is one funded place left, which would start now and conclude in June 2023. A large part of the project would be a Community Consultation which could also form the basis of the NP at a later date.

It was agreed by a unanimous vote of Cllrs that the Council accept the final funded place for the CP with a view to complete a NP at a later date.

2022/60 Traffic Management Update

Traffic Management (TM) and Dave Brown (Highways Superintendent) attended a meeting with Cllrs Palmer, Knight and Cllr Mrs Street to discuss.

- **Curland Green**

It was concluded that the white line markings are to be refreshed, and signs around Curland Green to be cut out of the hedges and replaced where necessary. They may move a couple of the signs to more visible spots. TM are going to check the minimum road widths for larger vehicles to turn and report back. At present the volume of traffic doesn't warrant improvements being made – any improvements would have to be funded by the PC. Clerk confirmed that she has contacted Cllr Ross Henly & Cllr Sarah Wakefield who have advised that no funding is available for scheme such as this.

- **Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway**

There are three elements to the Village Gateway project: 1) Gateways at either end of Staple Fitzpaine; 2) Management of Bulford Bridge and; 3) Speed Limit in Staple Fitzpaine.

Cllr Knight reported that the meeting with TM had been constructive and that in principle they were in favour of village gateways at either end of Staple Fitzpaine; near to the Manor, and by Mill Farm.

There is deemed to be too much of a "countrified" area between the initially proposed site above Bulford and the Manor. Cllr Macey suggested that perhaps the gateway on Mill Farm side of the village would benefit from being further up the hill; as large vehicles would struggle to suitably adjust their speed at that point of the hill.

TM are going to arrange a weeklong speed check through Staple Fitzpaine, as conversely the speed needs to be low through the village for them to consider reducing the limit from 40MPH to 30MPH. The speed limit change would be within the gateways.

The constraints to the project are the length of time it takes to put through the system, and funding.

With regards to Bulford Bridge, TM felt that the signage was adequate and good. They would potentially consider painting the speed limit on the road here.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up with TM as the speed check was meant to happen quite fast. Cllrs to advise Clerk when it goes in place. Clerk to find out if gateway can be put in place without the time constraint if the Council fund the project.

ACTION: Cllr Knight and Cllr Mrs Gledhill to look at costings and signage options for the gateway.

2022/61 Rights of Way Update

- **T2/8**

There are new owners of the land that this RoW traverses who have installed three new stiles and a gateway without consultation. Cllr Mrs Hayman explained that the stiles are too high to safely allow access and make it impossible for access by less able people. There have been 12 complaints recorded in the last 12 months. The Rights of Way Department have confirmed that they are hoping to remove the stiles and replace them with accessible gates.

- T2/11

The Clerk confirmed that she has had contact with the RoW department regarding this RoW. They have advised that the landowner has submitted new evidence to support a new application to have this bridleway removed from the definitive map.

It was resolved that the Clerk continue to chase RoW regarding this and see if we can find out what new evidence has been submitted.

2022/ 62 Community Infrastructure Levy

It was noted that the Council received £799.47 of Community Infrastructure Levy in the last financial year which had not been recorded in the minutes.

It was felt by Cllrs present that the Council did not require a specific project for this money as it could be put towards other projects discussed.

2022/63 Road Conditions

It was noted that issues with the road condition should be reported directly to Somerset County Council:

[Roads and transport \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport)

2022/64 SAAA External Audit

Cllrs approved the Parish Council remaining in the External Audit Scheme for the next 5 years.

2022/65 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

There were no items for the next agenda.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 10th November 2022, at 7.30pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:40.