

# NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

Tel: 07957 952784

CLERK: Emily York

Tel: 07842 430003

[nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com](mailto:nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com)

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## **Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

**Members Present:** Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr J Parsons, Mr D Macey, Mr A Aplin, Mrs S Hayman, J Hole

**In attendance:** E York (Clerk), and 6 parishioners

### **Public Session**

Following letter from the Parish Council, landowners were present to discuss the previously discussed issues with the T2/8 right of way. It was explained that unfortunately users of the RoW fail on many occasions to stay on the designated footpath, which creates health and safety issues given that there are often brood mares. The path remains accessible on foot, but the landowner has found it necessary to restrict access to dogs.

There has also been vandalism of signs erected at the entrance to the path, and thefts from the property which has resulted in CCTV being installed.

It was not possible to reach a conclusion to the access issues which meet the requirements of both the landowner, and the users of the path.

Parishioners were also present regarding planning enforcement number E/264/15/22 which relates to caravans in Curland. It is believed that the caravans are in permanent occupation, with children enrolled in local schools. There are concerns regarding disposal of both human and animal waste, along with potential animal welfare concerns.

It was understood that the planning enforcement officer would have forwarded a copy of an email to the landowner, to the Clerk but this has not been received.

**ACTION** – Clerk to write to enforcement officer and environmental health and copy to Cllrs Ross Henly & Sarah Wakefield.

It was suggested that any incident relating to threatening or aggressive behaviour be reported directly to the PCSO.

Parishioners were present to discuss agenda item 6.iv. regarding planning applications 15/21/0004/AGN & 15/21/0005/AGN. It was explained that it had been stated that any more than one tractor / trailer / baler should be removed from the property which has not been implemented.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to Somerset County Council to follow up.

### **2022/107 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr M Vacher, Mr D Knight, Mr M Prosser, Mrs K Street and Mrs F Gledhill.

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

### **2022/108 Declarations of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

### **2022/109 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved without amendment as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

### **2022/110 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**

No Councillors were present at the meeting.

It was requested that the Clerk follow up with Cllrs Sarah Wakefield and Ross Henly as neither have been present at recent meetings.

### **2022/111 Actions from minutes of the last meeting**

The Clerk reported that the PAYE has now been set up, and the first month's wages have been processed under PAYE.

### **2022/112 Planning**

- i. The Clerk circulated a list of all 2022 planning applications ahead of the meeting. This will be kept up to date to record planning results as they are granted. It was requested that the list be updated to include the dates the applications were submitted.
- ii. Planning application 15/23/0001 was discussed. There are no objections to the application given that due care and attention is paid to the surrounding trees.
- iii. As per the public session, the Clerk will write to the enforcement officer and to environmental health. This item to remain on the agenda.
- iv. As per the public session, the Clerk will write to Somerset County Council, to follow up on the enforcement of action required to remove machinery from the site.

### **2022/113 Accounts for payment**

The following payments were approved for payment:

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Salary & Expenses of the Clerk   | £352.11 |
| Repairs to Thurlbear Noticeboard | £48.63  |

### **2022/114 Items of report and correspondence**

Somerset Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

The consultation was circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting; it was resolved that no action was required.

Cllr Daniel Macey attended a recent meeting in Stoke St Mary regarding the development of Higher Broughton Farm which is owned by the Crown Estate. It had not previously been possible for them to obtain planning for 5 large houses, only Q (permitted development) permission had been granted. Permission has since been sought for light industrial units at the site. It was suggested by Stoke St Mary parishioners present at the meeting that a more beneficial use of the site would be for a development of 10 affordable homes for local people – youngsters from the village and people wishing to stay in the locality, but to downsize.

### **2022/115 Traffic Management**

With regards to the road condition, Somerset County Council have declared a state of emergency, which means that their standard SLAs for road repairs has increased threefold.

Staple Fitzpaine 30MPH – there is no formal paperwork to complete to progress the project. Cllrs Dave Knight and Fiona Gledhill are currently carrying out consultation of people within the speed limit. There is

a £5,000 cost associated with the completion of the project and it was resolved that no final decision be made until after Parishioners have been made aware at the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **2022/116 Community Plan**

The Community Plan Working Group are meeting monthly, and questionnaire is being written. It will be live on 3<sup>rd</sup> March via email and QR code. The target response is 50-60%

Email addresses are still being collected; there is a shortage for Parishioners in Staple Fitzpaine, Orchard Portman & Thurlbear.

A double-sided flyer is being produced for the Community Review and the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was requested that the working group be authorised to issue the questionnaire for the community review, which was approved.

### **2022/116 Rights of Way Update**

Updates were received as follows:

- T2/8

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Rights of Way department and explain that it has not been possible to reach a resolution which appeases both the RoW requirements for users, and the Landowner.

- T2/1

Cllr Mark Palmer met with the British Horse Society and the landowner. The Landowner has agreed to provide a 3m wide strip of path from Sturms Plantation to Ben's Copse, as a ten-year permissive path. This will be fenced, and the fencing will be funded by the BHS.

### **2022/117 Parish Council Meeting Location**

Meetings have returned to the Committee room at Neroche Hall, which has raised queries about access for less able people, due to the steps at the entrance.

It was agreed that the Clerk would check the requirements for access to a Parish Council meeting, but that the Council should be mindful of the needs of the Parishioners; both long and short term.

### **2022/118 Curland Green – Grass Cutting**

Cllr John Parsons reported that a Parishioner had commented how nice the Green had looked last summer due to being cut regularly. The previous contractor has now stepped down so we will require another to carry out fortnightly cuts from (approx.) April – September.

Cllr Daniel Macey has kindly offered to donate a load of top soil which could be raked out across the Green by a working party to level the ground, as a community biodiversity project.

### **2022/119 Grit Bins**

It was previously resolved that the Council buy grit bins, as Somerset County Council will fill them free of charge.

It was proposed that bins be sited at: Wych Lodge entrance, Hill Farm entrance, Staple Hill, near to Neroche hall and bags of grit be kept in the bus stop.

It was resolved that we look into the potential of mechanising gritting the roads in the local area ourselves, and that the Clerk obtain quotes for the bins.

It was resolved that Parishioners be made aware that they can use the grit bins themselves in bad weather.

### **2022/120 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda**

It was noted that the next meeting will be short, as is being held ahead of the Annual Parish Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Committee Room at Neroche Hall at 7pm

The meeting was declared closed at 21:30

DRAFT