

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 11th February 2025

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

In Attendance: Mrs E York (Clerk), and five parishioners

Public Session:

Curland Planning – Parishioner present gave an overview of planning concerns in the Curland Area. Attention was drawn to planning for two sites adjacent to the current contentious application (15/23/0001). Parishioners requested that the PC submit request for restrictions to the site under material considerations as this application may not now go to a full planning meeting. Decision by the senior planning officer is expected to be imminent. A judicial review would cost in the region of £60,000.

Regarding Damage to the Drove – Clerk re-read email from parishioner which was presented last month for the contact of the complaints about the condition of the Drove.

Parishioner present confirmed that Abbey Hill Drove was cleared by him approximately 8 years ago, and he received complaints regarding this at the time. He has been made aware that local residents have been rude to his contractor who has been on site recently and confirmed that the works which have been undertaken are entirely necessary for the ongoing maintenance of ditches. He advised that the ditches at the start of the Drove (which are not his responsibility) also need clearing at The Paddocks (T2/10). He explained that pending this he would be restricting access to the permissive section of the Herepath from Ben's Copse to Sturms Plantation – bridleway. The footpath across the field will remain open. The track will be used to run animals down. It was also confirmed that a road sweeper is always on site during maize harvest. A second parishioner present confirmed their belief that the membrane under the surface of the drove had been brought to the surface.

2024/135 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr T Pope and Mr M Prosser (work commitments). These were recognised and approved as an absence under s185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2024/136 Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation.

2024/137 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record to be signed by the chair.

2024/138 Report from County Councillor

County Councillors were not present at the meeting.

The clerk reported a request from the County Councillors that the PC meetings be moved to another Tuesday night, as the second Tuesday clashes with Otterford. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the Hall and try to move to either the first or third Tuesday of the month.

2024/139 Actions from the minutes of the last meeting

- 1) Parish Emergency Contingency Plan – It was agreed to obtain quotes for a PTO generator hook up at the hall and a supply of Iodine tablets
- 2) Neighbourhood Plan – it was agreed that the clerk is to progress an application for funding.
- 3) Curland Planning – Clerk read email from Parishioner requesting PC support should the application be heard at a planning committee meeting.

It was agreed that Cllrs Street and Parsons to collaborate and attend the planning meeting should it happen.

It was agreed that Councillors Street, Parsons and Gledhill form a working group.

2024/140 Items of report and correspondence

- 1) Dog attacks – Clerk has been contacted by the Agent for the Crown Estate, in connection with Forestry England regarding a number of dog attacks in the local area. Clerk has collated information from a number of affected parishioners and will feed this back.
- 2) Family Farms and IHT – email from Membury Parish Council was read to Councillors. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Membury Parish Council and confirm the council's support of the scheme.
- 3) Blackdown Hills Parish Network – Clerk reported that the BHPN have removed their subscription fee but have written instead requesting a donation. It was agreed to donate £50 as this had been budgeted as a membership fee.

2024/141 Local Community Network Update

No update was received.

2024/142 Planning and Applications

28/25/0001 – there were no objections to this application.

It was noted that two new applications have been received for a site in Curland. These have not been notified to the Parish Council as they are submitted as 28 Day Agricultural Notices.

2024/143 Rights of Way Update

As reported during the public session.

2024/144 Environmental Matters

- 1) Flood Reporting – nothing to report
- 2) Drain Clearance – Pipe under junction of New Road and Staple Fitzpaine Road has been rodded. Forestry Ditched to be dug – clerk to liaise with Alyson Stevens and David Lloyd at Forestry England.
- 3) Curland Green – It is reported that the Herbal ley is growing. The damage caused by a delivery lorry has been repaired. It was agreed that this matter be removed from future agendas.

2024/145 Finance

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£497.85
SERC	£72.00

2024/146 Highways

- 1) Village Gateway
No further update.

- 2) Staple Hill; speed limit reduction

No update

- 3) Potholes and Road Repairs

Debris up Underhill Lane has been removed. It was agreed to raise with Cllr Sarah Wakefield that the crews attending to fill potholes came from Manchester and Bath.

Cllr Palmer confirmed that he has an email from Kier and that they will send maps of gullies and drains in the Parish.

A blocked culvert was reported on Pearce's land – clerk to write and advise.

- 4) Accidents

None were reported.

Post meeting note – an accident was reported on 06/02/25 on Thurlbear Straight.

2024/147 Community Matters

- 1) Neroche Newsletter – Cllr Palmer has met with Karen regarding the Newsletter. Present designer is possibly willing to take on a new newsletter. It was noted that the newsletter usually makes a loss, but confirmed that the council budget for 25/26 includes provision for the newsletter. It was agreed that Cllr Palmer obtain the figures / finances. It was agreed that all current contributors be contacted.

2024/106 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall, unless otherwise notified by the Clerk.

The meeting was declared closed at 21.28