

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 17 February 2026.

In Attendance: Councillors Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr J Parsons, Mrs S Hayman, Mrs K Street, Mrs F Gledhill and Mr D Macey

Also Present: Cllr Mrs Sarah Wakefield, Mrs E York (Clerk) and One Parishioner

Public Session: Parishioner present wished to thank the PC for being proactive on ditches and gullies; flooding is much improved.

The PC have agreed to hold the funds from the History Group in the PC bank account as earmarked funds – additional fingerpost monies - £539, history group monies - £1,200.

An overhaul of the fingerposts will be arranged in the Spring.

The hall roof project is 3-5 years away and will factor in a solar / battery scheme which will feed into the PC resilience plan.

2025/139 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr D Knight and Mr T Pope and Mr M Prosser.

These were recognised as approved absence for the purposes of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2025/140 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declaration of interest or dispensation.

2025/141 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

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

It is noted that Cllr Street's apologies were omitted from the minutes; these were sent in advance of the meeting and are to be added.

2025/142 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported.

A major incident remains in place as floodwater hasn't yet resided. Senior officers have been diverted to make sure that people are safe and have drinking water etc.

7000 potholes have been reported across the County. Cllr Wakefield asks that members of the public please keep reporting potholes as an assessment is being made of how urgent they are based on the number of reports and number of road users.

Somerset Council have been told that they cannot put up council tax by more than 4.99%. There is further government support for one more year which includes additional money for roads.

County budget meeting is delayed to 4 March.

Locally Cllr Wakefield reported regarding removal of a section of hedge at Curland this does not require planning but may require a section 171 notice to highways. The parish council are to notify Somerset council if a change of use occurs.

There is no news on the Curland planning application. Cllr Wakefield continues to chase on an update and reasons why there is not any news.

Bill Cotton has been appointed as the new head of planning.

Cllr Wakefield has contacted Kate Brown regarding outstanding lines and signs including more signs at the top of Staple Hill where cars go across the junction into the field opposite. Clerk to contact Buckland St Mary parish council and to record accidents. Clerk to contact Stoke St Mary parish council regarding issues with road signs in the new speed limit area.

Taylor Wimpey Homes will be promoting Orchard Portman Farm for development. There will be opposition, but Somerset Council are required to build an additional 75,000 houses. The Somerset local plan runs out in three years, and the council haven't yet built the houses required by that. There is due to be a large amount of mitigation on the South side of the development. This will be a new settlement and not an extension of Taunton. Decisions regarding the provision of GP's is made by the NHS not Somerset council. 1600 sites were submitted to Somerset council on the call for sites last year the results of this are due to be published later in the year.

2025/143 Actions from the last meeting

2025/144 Items of Report and Correspondence

Clerk has a new contact at Airband who hopes to be able to provide an update on the broadband rollout for the parish. To continue to chase.

2025/145 Local Community Network Update

None

2025/146 Planning and Applications

None

2025/147 Rights of Way Update

This item is deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Hayman reports that there is an issue on right of way number T2/7 where a gate and style have been put on an unofficial route

2025/148 Environmental Matters

It is reported that ditches and gullies have held up well during the heavy rain. Issues are reported opposite Crossways Farm and Bulford bridge.

2025/149 Finance

- 1) The following items were agreed for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£480.00
BHPN Donation	£50.00

2025/150 Highways

- 1) To receive any update regarding potholes and local road repairs. As reported
- 2) To note accidents in the locality since the last meeting. None reported
- 3) Grit bins at Thurlbear School – Clerk to register
- 4) Netherclay Junction - Clerk reported that this matter was raised by a parishioner. It is noted that a speed limit wouldn't be possible in this area but agreed that the Clerk is to ask advice of highways regarding alternative measures here such as double white lines

- 5) Cllrs Palmer and Parsons met the CEO at Taunton racecourse. The racecourse would like either traffic lights or a footbridge. SID to be utilised to record speeds along this road. Clerk to speak with Pitminster Clerk as this affects their parish also.

2025/151 Community Matters

Following discussions with the whole committee it is noted that a generator would need to be 110kVa which could be run by a 150hp tractor.

It was suggested that a secondary defibrillator be installed at the parish hall. Clerk to obtain quote.

It was agreed that Cllr Parsons attended the village hall meeting.

2025/152 To consider Candidates for Co-Option

It was agreed that vacancies with the council be re advertised by the Clerk with the County Monitoring Officer

2025/153 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

- 1) Annual meeting
- 2) Newsletter

The meeting was declared closed at 21:19.