

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer
CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 18 November 2025.

In Attendance: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mrs K Street, Mr M Prosser, Mrs F Gledhill, Mr J Parsons, Mr D Macey

Also Present: Cllr Mrs Sarah Wakefield, Ms E York (Clerk)

Public Session: No Parishioners were present, and no public session was held.

2025/94 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Hayman, Mr T Pope and Mr D Knight.

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

2025/95 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Mr D Macey declared an interest in agenda item 2025/101 regarding planning application number 33/25/0001

2025/96 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes are to be updated to include account for payment and were otherwise approved as an accurate record of the meeting to be signed by the chair.

2025/97 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported:

- SW has spoken to Kate Brown in the Highways department – programme date is awaited for replacement of signs and lines
- SW has met with Beth from the LCN. New wards for the County Council have been delayed, and they are aware that this LCN (Chard and the Blackdowns) isn't working well
- Accelerating Reform Fund - £600,000 Government Grant which is available to support community groups in expanding their offering. Other counties have used to support the Shared Lives Scheme, but this is not a scheme which has much uptake in Somerset.
- Awaiting answer regarding the need for RoW complaints to have to come directly through Parishioners, rather than via the Parish Council – as raised in a previous meeting.
- Somerset Council now classified as "Financially Fragile" rather than being in a state of Financial Emergency.
- Sunday Parking Scheme – introducing a Sunday parking tariff could generate revenue of circa £300,000 extra.
- SW has provided the clerk with the map of ditches and gullies for circulation to Councillors for reference.
- There is a requirement for 75,000 more houses in Somerset in the next 20 years – the Gravity site will have 4000 workers. The "Call for Sites" earlier in the year hasn't yet been evaluated – this is not expected until next Easter which will help to generate the Local Plan which won't be completed until 2029.

- Phosphates are beginning to unwind – Somerset Council believe that Wessex Water are taking enough Phosphates out which might help to unblock the planning system.

2025/98 Actions from the last meeting

- 1) History Group Money: Clerk has consulted with SALC regarding this, there is no issue with this money being held by the Parish Council as long as it is shown in ear marked reserves within the accounts. It was resolved that this be held on behalf of the History Group.

2025/99 Items of Report and Correspondence

- 1) Charitable Collection Licencing Policy – This was circulated ahead of the meeting. Doesn't affect this grouped Parish and no further action required.
- 2) Changes to AGAR under Assertion 10 – Clerk explained some of the changes coming under Assertion 10, including the need for a generic clerk@.....gov.uk email address. This has been requested. Additionally, councillors were reminded of the importance of attending Code of Conduct training on a regular basis, that their attendance at meeting is mandatory and that Parish Council matters should not be discussed outside of a Parish Council meeting. Councillors may raise matters on behalf of parishioners to be discussed in a future meeting and reported within the minutes, or by individual communication to the parishioner (s) involved.

2025/100 Local Community Network Update

Councillor Palmer attended the Frome Wellness Conference.

2025/101 Planning and Applications

33/25/0001 – No objections were raised

37/25/0013 – No objections were raised

28/25/0003 – It is noted that this application has been withdrawn.

2025/102 Rights of Way Update

Nothing to report

2025/103 Environmental Matters

- 1) Drains and Gullies – map to be circulated to Councillors.

2025/104 Finance

- 1) The following items were agreed for payment:

Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£491.55
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- 2) A date for the finance working group meeting was set for 2 December 2025
- 3) It was agreed that these matters be discussed during the working group meeting and budget setting exercise. All to consider any additional matters.

2025/105 Highways

- 1) To receive an update on potholes and road repairs

New Road repairs are completed by the contractors have left a mess and a sign.
The Grit Bins have now been filled.
- 2) To note any accident in the locality since the last meeting

Accident on the Thurlbear Straight and one on the S bend at Orchard Portman. To be logged on to the accident record.

- 3) Missing Signs Update
As previously reported

2025/106 Community Matters

Nothing to report.

2025/107 To consider Candidates for Co-Option

A discussion was held over the role of Councillor suitable candidates. All to continue to consider / discuss with appropriate people.

2025/108 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

- Contingency Plan Update
- Trees at Orchard Portman

The next ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 at 7.30pm in Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 21:10.