

## NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer	Tel: 07957 952784	mark.palmer@nerochevillages.org.uk
CLERK: Emily York	Tel: 07842 430003	emily.york@nerochevillages.org.uk

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**Draft minutes of the Annual meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Hall on Tuesday 19 May 2026.**

**In Attendance:** Cllrs Mr M Palmer, Mrs S Hayman, Mr D Macey, Mr M Prosser, Mr T Pope and Mrs F Gledhill

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

**Public Session:** None

### **2026/1 Election of Chair**

Mr Mark Palmer was voted in as chair of the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Hayman

Seconded by Cllr Macey

### **2026/2 Election of Vice Chair**

Mr John Parsons was voted in as Vice Chair of the Council

Proposed by Cllr Macey

Seconded by Cllr Pope

### **2026/3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr J Parsons and Mrs K Street

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

### **2026/4 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None were declared

### **2026/5 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**

Clerk noted that the incorrect version of the minutes was circulated to council which omitted the report from Cllr Wakefield. Correct version to be circulated and approved at the next meeting.

### **2026/6 Report from County Councillor**

Somerset Council report was circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. Cllr Sarah Wakefield reported:

- Health checks are available to all aged 40-74 free on the NHS

- Renters Rights Act comes into effect with effect from 1 June 2026. Somerset Council can assist with homelessness prevention measures. There are 13,000 household on the home finder waiting list and 1,500 houses come available in Somerset each year. Somerset has the third highest rate of homelessness in the country. Somerset Council are trying to bring together services to deal with complex needs in an efficient manner.
- Slinky buses are available – book online
- Somerset Council have put in a bid to Government for funding for the work required on Cleeve Hill Road (Blue Anchor to Watchet)
- Cllr Wakefield has chased the planning application at Curland which still has not been decided.
- It is noted that a planning enforcement action has been raised regarding the works at Greenway Farm
- TWH – Plans to oppose the development in principle are being put in place.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Ruishton Council has help from a retired planning officer. Cllr Wakefield to provide details.
- Clerk to email Traffic Management and cc Cllr Wakefield regarding Staple Hill lines and signs and meeting onsite.
- 30 May Blagdon Hill fete
- Cllr Wakefield advised that Cllr Henley will not be standing for this area at the next election but will instead stand for an area closer to his home.

#### **2026/7 Actions from the last meeting**

All actions have been carried forward to the June 2026 meeting.

#### **2026/8 To consider co-option of suitable candidates to fill vacancies on the Council**

Charlotte Stamper was proposed as a new Councillor for Orchard Portman and Thurlbear by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Macey.

#### **2026/9 To appoint a representative to the Village Hall Committee**

Subject to her approval it was agreed that Cllr Street be asked to be the Council representative on the Hall Committee.

#### **2026/10 To appoint representatives to the Finance Working Group**

It was agreed that Cllrs Macey, Parsons, Palmer and Hayman retain their position of the finance working group

#### **2026/11 To receive the Annual Accounts for 2025-26**

The accounts for 2025-26 were received and approved.

#### **2026/12 To receive the internal audit report for the Council**

The internal audit report was received and approved.

**2026/13 To approve AGAR Section One – Annual Governance Statement 2025-26**

The annual governance statement was received and approved; signed by the Chair and the Clerk

**2026/14 To approve AGAR Section Two – Accounting Statements 2025-26**

The accounting statements were received and approved; and signed by the Chair

**2026/15 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review**

Councillors confirmed that they wish to certify the Council as exempt from a limited assurance review. The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chair and RFO.

**2026/16 To review and renew the Parish Council Insurance**

Copies of the Parish Council Insurance were circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. It was resolved to renew the existing policy with Zurich.

**2026/17 To review and approve the Parish Council Asset Register**

The Parish Council Asset Register was reviewed and approved without amendment.

**2026/18 To review and confirm the annual risk assessment**

The annual risk assessment was reviewed and confirmed without amendment.

It is noted that this does not cover specific activities which may be carried out by the Council and agreed that Risk Assessments be completed on a case by case basis.

**2026/19 To review council policies and documents**

Council policies were reviewed. It was agreed that the new IT and Data Protection policy be amended to include the use of encrypted messages for council communications.

It was agreed that the Clerk obtain a quote for a PO Box for the Council.

**2026/20 Planning and Applications**

None were received

**2026/21 Items of Report and Correspondence**

Polling Station Review – this was completed during the meeting and submitted.

**2026/22 Rights of Way Update**

T2/8 – Abbey Hill Drove – Pedestrian gate to be removed

T2/1 – It was agreed that Cllr Palmer speak with the landowner.

**2026/23 Report from the Local Community Network**

The LCN format is being reviewed as it is not working well.

Communication via the liaison officer is difficult.

Cllr Palmer will continue to attend meetings.

### **2026/24 Finance**

The following items were approved for payment:

Salary and Expenses of Clerk

Reimbursement for Hedgehog Warning Signs

Zurich

### **2026/25 Highways**

As previously discussed it was agreed to arrange a meeting with Traffic Management onsite regarding the outstanding works on Staple Hill.

There were no accidents to report.

### **2026/26 Environmental Matters**

There was nothing to report

### **2026/27 Community Matters**

It is noted that a police report was raised last week at Netherclay Livery as a vehicle was spotted driving into various properties; the occupants were taking photographs and acting aggressively.

### **2026/28 Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 7.30pm.

Items for the Agenda:

- Neighbourhood Plan
- PO Box
- Lines and Signs
- Parish Meeting

The meeting was declared closed at 20:48.