

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th July 2024

In the Ray Shill Room, Northway Community Hub, Northway, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Chairman) Cllr J Roberts
Cllr G Fancourt Cllr P Godwin
Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr K Poole
Cllr S Terry

In Attendance: Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/160/24 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Shelton, Beadle and Mackenzie.

C/161/24 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

C/162/24 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Godwin, Roberts and Poole declared their interest in item 15 on the agenda, relating to The Northway Pantry, Cllr Godwin also declared an interest in item 17, relating to Northway Youth Club, and Cllr Terry declared an interest in item 14, relating to a Singing Group she wanted to run at Northway Community Hub. No further declarations of interest were made, as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12th April 2023 (Minute Ref C/85/23).

C/163/24 **Co-Option**

Members received an application for co-option. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that Roy Godwin was elected on to Northway Parish Council. Cllr Poole SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/164/24 **Minutes of Previous Council Meeting**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 12th June 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Poole SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Poole
Cllr Barnes Cllr Fancourt
Cllr Godwin Cllr MacTiernan

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Roberts

C/165/24 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

C/130/24 Fundraising – *The remaining postcards of the Coronation artwork had been circulated to the relevant high schools to be given to pupils involved.*

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C/165/24 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report (continued)

C/157/24 Correspondence for Action, Safety of Lithium-Ion Batteries and E-bikes and Scooters Campaign to get a Bill through to Parliament regarding the disposal of lithium batteries – The Council's support of this campaign had been forwarded to organisers. A poster had been provided to allow the campaign to be advertised in the community.

C/150/24 Annual Governance And Accountability Return 2023/24 (AGAR) – This had been forwarded to the External Auditors. The Clerk advised that an amendment had been made to the Minute Reference, which the Chairman had initialled, and so this would be resubmitted.

C/166/24 Roads & Road Safety

Cllr Roberts reported that the road outside Apple Tree Court (Northway Lane) was in a bad condition.

Cllr Poole referred to comments made on Facebook about speeding and loud vehicles travelling along Northway Lane. The complainant was encouraged to report this to the Parish Council.

Cllr Roberts queried whether the Speedwatch camera was working. The Clerk explained that the camera, although installed, was still indicating that it was 'very poorly' and so she was trying to arrange for its replacement.

Cllr Fancourt reported overgrowth on the humpback bridge, by the traffic lights. Cllr Terry believed that some of this had been cut back. Cllr Barnes encouraged people to keep reporting issues.

C/167/24 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th June 2024.

C/168/24 General Purposes Committee

- a. **Minutes** – Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19th June 2024.
- b. **Skatepark Funding** – A response was still being awaited in relation to the Parish Council's grant application to Enover (Min Ref: GP/80/24 refers).

C/169/24 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr MacTiernan announced that the Borough Council's name-change consultation had been extended to allow responses up until 31st July 2024.

There had been a leak at the Borough Offices which resulted in there being no water, this had since been fixed, however, the lifts were not yet operational as a result and repairs were expected to take a while.

Cllr MacTiernan also reported that Chris Ashman had stepped down as Director of Place at Tewkesbury Borough Council.

C/170/24 Councillor Training

Cllr Poole reported that she had attended an 'Engaging with Young People' training event, information from which had been circulated to Members.

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C/170/24 Councillor Training (continued)

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Cllr Poole's attendance at this event, at a cost of £45.00, should be ratified. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Roberts Cllr MacTiernan
 Cllr Barnes Cllr Fancourt
 Cllr Godwin Cllr Terry

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Poole

C/171/24 Council Accounts

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £19,463.60 should be approved. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/172/24 Tewkesbury Garden Communities

An informal meeting had been arranged for Wednesday 17th July (prior to Planning Committee Meeting) to receive an update from the North Ashchurch Garden Communities.

C/173/24 Northway Community Hub

Members considered allowing free use of the Main Hall at Northway Community Hub for Cllr Terry to run a Singing Group, this would be for one hour on one Monday a month and free to attend.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval of this request. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Roberts Cllr Godwin
 Cllr Barnes Cllr Fancourt
 Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Poole

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Terry

C/174/24 Northway Pantry

The Clerk reported that, despite numerous emails, Johnsons had not yet provided information regarding possible installation of a canopy (or similar) for the garden building. Cllr Roberts offered to raise the issue at the next Northway Pantry Meeting to see whether a canopy was still wanted.

C/175/24 Civility & Respect Pledge

Members reviewed the information provided relating to signing the Civility & Respect Pledge. It was noted the Code of Conduct should cover any occurrence of mistreatment, but this pledge would add an extra layer of protection. By signing the pledge, the Council would be agreeing to the following: -

- Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role
- Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors

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C/175/24 Civility & Respect Pledge (Continued)

- Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and Dignity at Work Policy.
- Our council will commit to seeking professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.
- Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme.
- Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Parish Council signed the Civility & Respect pledge. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/176/24 Youth Work

A report had not yet been received following the Play Rangers session that took place at the end of May.

C/177/24 Crime & Disorder

- a. **Crime Figures** – Crime figures were not available.
- b. **Crime & Disorder** – The Clerk reported that, following recent damage to the roundabout in the Play Park (Min Ref: GP/80/24 refers), two youths had been identified on CCTV footage. As a result, the Police had spoken to the boys in question, both of whom confessed, as well as their parents. They had been asked to pay for the damages (£100 each) as well as litter pick in the Playing Field as part of restorative justice - overall, this was felt to be a positive outcome.

The Clerk reported that, earlier that week, children had used an office chair to spread dog poo (in bags taken from the nearby bin) across the half pipe. The chair, it was assumed, had been left on a nearby driveway 'free to collector', as was often done, the Clerk explained that a lot of these items were picked up by children and ended up on the Playing Field for the Litter Picker to dispose of. Following the incident, the Litter Picker (Charlotte) had cleaned the half pipe as much as she could, however, Gooch had to be contracted to undertake a deep clean of the surface. CCTV footage had been assessed and the incident could be seen but not clearly enough to identify any culprits.

It was AGREED that upgrade of the CCTV system should be put on a future Finance agenda.

Cllr Terry asked that an official letter of thanks was sent to Charlotte.

Cllr Roberts mentioned that there was a lot of graffiti, with the same tag, appearing around the area. He offered to take photos to forward to the local PCSO's.

C/178/24 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC)** – Cllr Barnes had previously expressed an interest in attending a Chairmanship course, the Clerk offered to send details of the next

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C/178/24 Correspondence for Action (Continued)

One, which was due to take place on 21st August 2024. Details of other upcoming courses were also tabled.

- b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – The Clerk provided details of the upcoming Parish and Town Council Seminar sessions taking place on 11th and 12th September and Members were asked to confirm whether or not they were able to attend.

C/179/24 Correspondence for Information

- a. **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)** - Chief Executive's Bulletin 13.06.24 & 20.06.24
- b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council: Press Releases:** 'Winchcombe supermarket fined over noise issues'.
- c. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council** – Free Information Session at Minsterworth Village Hall on 15th July 'Introduction to Community Consultation'.
- d. **Doocey (National Grid)** – Details of work to be carried out into Sinderberry Drive from a field in Grange Road (1st July 2023 for four weeks) (MoD 11kV Reinforcement Scheme).

C/180/24 Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office

- a. **Gloucestershire VCS Alliance** – News Bulletin – 15th May 2024.

C/181/24 Correspondence Received After 2nd July 2024

- a. **County Councillor Vernon Smith** – Report (forwarded to Members via email).
- b. **Clerk's and Council's Direct** – Magazine.
- c. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Business Update – Wednesday 10th July 2024.
- d. **Skanska** – Request that Skanska volunteers be able to use toilets at Northway Community Hub over a few days in September when they would be tidying up the area around the iron bridge. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- e. **MOOG** – Invitation to Open Day on 28th September 2024. The Clerk asked Members to let her know whether or not they were able to attend.
- f. **Lease/Licence Working Party** – Members considered dates for the next meeting of the Lease/Licence Working Party. It was AGREED that possible options (17th, 24th or 31st July 2024 should be emailed to Members for consideration but it was noted the 31st seemed to suit most).

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 7.40pm.