

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th January 2023

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

Present: Cllr J Roberts (Chairman) Cllr S Ward (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr M Barnes Cllr J Beadle
Cllr P Godwin Cllr E MacTiernan
Cllr E Phennah Cllr S Terry

In Attendance: County Cllr V Smith, Gloucestershire County Council (until Min Ref: C/07/22 refers)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/01/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Shelton, Blackmore and Mackenzie. No further apologies for absence were received.

C/02/23 Public Participation

a. **Invitation for Members of the Public to Address the Council** – Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the meeting should adjourn to allow for any public participation.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

b. **Reconvening of Meeting** – Cllr Roberts PROPOSED re-convening of the meeting.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/03/23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 11th July 2012 (Minute Ref C/159/12), including paragraph 12(2).

C/04/23 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9th November 2022 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Ward SECONDED

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

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle Cllr Phennah

Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th December 2022 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Godwin Cllr Terry
Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle
Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Roberts
Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Phennah

C/05/23

Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/252/22 Roads & Road Safety – Community Speedwatch Fund – Written confirmation had been received confirming that the Parish Council was being awarded a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). This would be arriving the following week, there would be an opportunity for photos to be taken and training on how to use the VAS. It was noted that, due to the time (11am), most Members would be unable to attend. County Cllr Smith offered to ask the Local Highways Manager to facilitate another date for training at the Parish Council's convenience.

County Cllr Smith recalled that a previous Local Highways Manager had agreed a number of years before to put up posts for a portable speeding device, as such, the current Local Highways would be asked to facilitate through Highways Local/County Council funds.

C/261/22 Warm Hub/Space – Cllr MacTiernan reported that she been the volunteer on duty during the first afternoon of the Warm Space, one person turned up, however there were some people from Age UK, AA and Barchester who had drinks and hot soup whilst in the building. It was noted that the Warm Space had been advertised in the local noticeboards and on social media/the Council's website. A banner had also been ordered. Grants awarded from Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Gloucestershire Community Foundation had been used to purchase board games, puzzle books, magazines, biscuits, a soup urn and ladle. Hot soup and rolls were being served during lunch time. Four people had attended the second day which indicated that interest was growing. The Clerk mentioned that Lesa West (Community and Place Development Officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council) had suggested that Councils potentially needed to be looking now at what they would do next winter.

GP/262/22 Crime & Disorder – The Clerk reminded Members that motorbikes had caused damage to parts of Northway Playing Field on 4th December whilst filming a music video in memory of a local resident who died in 2021. The incident was reported to the police and several numberplates had been obtained. The police had asked the Council what it would like to see done, however, after assessing footage in the music video, although it was not sensible to ride motorbikes on the field, they had felt that it was a positive way of expressing their grief following the death of their friend. As a result, the police hoped to speak to the organisers and encourage them to approach the Parish Council to ask permission to use motorised vehicles on the field in the future. They were also going to put them in touch with a local music bus that worked in deprived areas and provided music/recording sessions encouraging young people to channel their creativity.

Cllr MacTiernan pointed out that the main concern was the fact that vehicles were doing wheelies and driving dangerously in the car park. The Clerk confirmed that the numberplates that had been recorded were now logged in the police system.

C/263/22 Correspondence for Action/Barchester Homes – Cllr Shelton had arranged a visit to Barchester Homes for afternoon tea on Wednesday 25th January 2023.

C/06/23

Roads & Road Safety

Cllr Roberts mentioned that he had reported flooding on the bend by Apple Tree Court to County Cllr Smith directly.

Cllr Beadle mentioned a large pothole that had appeared along The Park by Harriers Walk. The Clerk encouraged Members to report any potholes online. Potholes by The Sandfield had also been reported.

County Cllr Smith clarified that a pothole needed to be more than 50mm deep and 250mm wide before the County Council would repair it, however, once reported it would then be in the system and regularly checked so that the County could arrange repair when it met the criteria.

The Clerk passed on emails from a local resident regarding:

1. Streetlights that were still not working along Northway Lane - This was in the hands of Western Power.
2. Resurfacing of Northway Lane motorway bridge and request for 'investigation and consultation for a redesign and significant improvement to the current road layout'. County Cllr Smith suggested that this was passed on to the Local Highways Manager.

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C/06/23 Roads & Road Safety (continued)

3. Various potholes in the parish, including Mill Road (off Hardwick Bank Road) which was passed on to Gloucestershire County Council. Regarding Mill Road, it was noted that it was a Public Right of Way (not Highways) so not subject to the same standards of maintenance as the road.

It was AGREED that the correspondence should be forwarded to the Local Highways Manager.

C/07/23 County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Smith wished Members a happy new year. A report had been sent via email and circulated to Members ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Smith mentioned resurfacing of the Northway Lane motorway bridge which was imminent, he also had an upcoming meeting with the Local Highways Manager at which he planned to mention the Council's concerns about the height of railings on the bridge. He would also pass on concerns about the Alexandra Way junction (where drivers had been spotted pulling out into the wrong lane since the layout had changed) and flooding by Apple Tree Court.

Cllr Smith referred to the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) which the Council was due to receive the following week (Min Ref: C/04/22 refers). He re-iterated that he would arrange further training and work with the Council on installation of the posts, which the County Council would fund ('within reason').

Cllr Phennah asked for an update on proposed upgrade of Junction 9. County Cllr explained that there would be a consultation (with two or three options) in June or July 2023.

7.35pm – County Cllr Smith left the meeting.

C/08/23 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting's held on 16th November 2022 and 21st December 2022.

C/09/23 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting's held on 16th November 2022 and 21st December 2022.

C/10/23 Staffing Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 19th October 2022.

C/11/23 Finance Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 9th January 2023.

C/12/23 Financial Requirements for the year 2023/24

The Clerk reminded Members that the various Committees had put together their anticipated financial budget requirements for 2023/24 which were reviewed by the Finance Committee and DCK Accounting (Min Ref: FIN/03/23 refers).

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C/12/23 Financial Requirements for the year 2023/24 (continued)

The Finance Committee had recommended approval of a figure of £211,430 for the budget. Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/13/23 Precept Requirement for the year 2023/24

The Clerk explained the options that had been considered by the Finance Committee (Min Ref: FIN/03/23 refers). The Committee was recommending that Full Council accepted Option 1: a precept of £211,430 which allowed for retaining the reduced Capital Expenditure Provision of £10,000. This would equate to a 7.35% increase (showing on council tax bills as 7.50%). Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED approval of this. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was noted that some Members had, in the past, reported residents fraudulently claiming single occupancy (and/or other benefits), however Tewkesbury Borough Council did not appear to look into any benefit fraud. Cllr MacTiernan said that she would make enquiries at the Borough regarding this.

C/14/23 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr MacTiernan reported that an appeal had been made against refusal of a planning application relating to 1 Long Eights.

The Borough Council's legal department had also had two successful prosecutions, one relating to a resident burning wood which contained toxic chemicals and another for fraudulent puppy selling in Bishops Cleeve.

C/15/23 Council Accounts

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £26,935.20, should be approved. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/16/23 Food Pantry

- a. **Notes of Meeting** – Members received the Notes of the volunteer meeting that had taken place on 2nd November 2022.
- b. **Food Pantry Visits** – The Clerk reported that a visit to Priors Park Neighbourhood Project was in the process of being arranged. Cllr Blackmore had been unwell which had caused some delays as she was interested in taking the lead on this project and so her attendance was necessary.

Expressions of interest were being accepted towards Tewkesbury Borough Council's Community Food Project Fund however the deadline was 3rd February 2023. It was felt that the Council could possibly apply on behalf of the group which would eventually run the project, however the application form was also quite complicated.

It was AGREED that Cllr Blackmore should be sent the application form and asked to complete it, perhaps with help from CCP, then return to the Parish Council for submission.

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C/17/23 Events Working Party

It was suggested that an Events Working Party Meeting should be scheduled to further consider the possibility of organising an event to honour the Coronation of King Charles III. Members AGREED that this should take place on Monday 16th January 2023.

C/18/23 Crime & Disorder

PCSO Magovern had forwarded crime statistics for the area. A total of 72 incidents had occurred between 1st December – 12th January 2023, 18 of these had been recorded as crimes. Cllr MacTiernan asked for these statistics to be emailed to Members.

C/19/23 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Council's (GAPTC)** – The Clerk listed upcoming training events.
- b. **Sleigh Appeal** – The Clerk reported that a total of £515.04 had been collected from the Santa Sleigh appeal and £308.37 from the Northway Christmas Event.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that £100 was donated to the Boys Brigade, who had kindly allowed the Parish Council free use of the sleigh. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Phennah
	Cllr Roberts	

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Ward

- c. **Hire of Hub** – The Clerk mentioned that an ex-councillor, who had recently passed away, was unfortunately not going to be given a public funeral. Some people who had known him hoped to hold a memorial service at the Community Hub. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED free use of the Community Hub should be permitted to allow for a memorial service to take place. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk announced that AA would no longer be hiring the Community Hub on a Monday, January 16th would be their last meeting there.

'Seren's Wish', a local charity, had requested free use of the Hub for a fundraiser. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED permission was granted. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

A new ADHD charity had been set up in the area, in association with Barnwood Trust, they were interested in using the Hub once a month. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this was permitted but the situation reviewed in six months.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

A group that regularly hired the Hub wished to donate £50 to the Council, the Clerk explained that the Council could not accept the donation, unless it was towards a specific project. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that the group was made aware of ongoing projects, including the skatepark upgrade. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/19/23 **Correspondence for Action** (continued)

Cllr MacTiernan asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the group offering the donation of £50.

- d) **Safer Streets Funding** – Details of funding that was available towards improving public open spaces and making them feel safer. Members were unsure what this fund could be used towards. It was AGREED that the Clerk should respond informing of outreach being provided by Young Gloucestershire and Sycamore Chapel to see if there was any possibility they might meet the criteria for funding.
- e) **Age UK** – Ida Poschel, from Age UK, had put together a schedule of everything taking place locally for older people. It was noted that this was a very informative and useful document which should be put on the local noticeboards and shared on social media, if possible.

Cllr Phennah mentioned that he and Ida had been discussing a new walking group project for Northway, he suggested she be invited to the next Full Council meeting and this was AGREED.

C/20/23 **Correspondence received after 5th January 2023**

None received

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.29pm.