

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th April 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 C Blackmore Cllr P Godwin (until/from C/97/23)
Cllr P Mackenzie until/from (C/97/23) Cllr E MacTiernan (until/from (C/97/23)
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry

In Attendance: PCSO Tracey Magovern (until Min Ref: C/76/23)
PCSO Farah Devji-Large (until Min Ref: (C/76/23)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/73/23 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been received.

C/74/23 Public Participation

Cllr Barnes passed on complaints from his neighbour relating to speeding and heavy vehicles travelling through Northway. Cllr Roberts felt it might be worth waiting until the VAS was being used to see if this made a difference to speeding.

The Clerk reminded Members of the Lorry Watch Scheme which the Council had previously advertised but not enough residents had signed up to partake. Cllr Ward suggested that reports of heavy vehicles be directed to the Police and local County Councillor.

Cllr Blackmore asked whether Parish Councillors could respond to social media posts in their role. The Clerk explained that it was usual for this to be handled by the office, however, if someone was responding as a Councillor, they should only respond the corporate view and not a personal opinion.

C/75/23 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/76/23 Crime & Disorder

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this item was brought forward on the agenda due to the presence of the PCSO's at the meeting.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

PCSO Magovern went through the crime figures relating to Northway. Over the last month the police had seen a lot of violence with ten cases of assault with injury (arrests had been made). A residential burglary had taken place, two incidents of shoplifting (at the Co-Op), criminal damage in The Sandfield and two incidents of blackmail. Members asked about a helicopter that had been seen circling the local area, PCSO Magovern believed this related to a missing person.

PCSO Magovern reported that the lorry driver/toilet situation in Shannon Way and Alexandra Way had improved (Min Ref: GP/137/22 refers) this was after regular patrolling and speaking with drivers.

PCSO Magovern asked the Council to consider allowing the Community Hub to be registered as a 'Safe Space'

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C/76/23 **Crime & Disorder** (continued)

for people to come to or stop at if feeling unsafe or intimidated. She also planned to approach the Co-Op and several places in Tewkesbury Town about signing up to this. Once they had a number of suitable places, there would be a launch event (possibly at the Community Hub). Cllr Roberts asked this to be included on the next agenda for consideration.

7.17pm – PCSO Magovern and PCSO Devji-Large left the meeting.

C/77/23 **Minutes of Previous Council Meeting**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8th March 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/78/23 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

C/60/23 Zoom – *The Zoom subscription had been cancelled.*

C/63/23 Boxing – *The Youth Club Management Committee had been informed of the Council's offer to match fund boxing sessions for a further year and they had agreed to continue this arrangement. The Clerk also passed on an email of support for Boxing Clever from a local parent.*

C/66/23 Hub Hiring – *A family that wished to hire the Community Hub on Christmas day were informed that the Council was agreeable to this.*

C/79/23 **Roads & Road Safety**

Cllr Mackenzie asked whether there were any updates on the proposed installation of VAS posts and the Council's application for an ANPR Camera (Min Ref: C/26/23 refers). The Clerk had not received any updates.

Cllr Ward suggested that the person posting should be encouraged to report the issue to 101. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that, once Purdah was over, the Parish Council should share a post on social media encouraging residents to report issues to the relevant authority.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/80/23 **County Councillor's Report**

No County Council report was available due to Purdah.

C/81/23 **Planning Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2023.

C/82/23 **General Purposes Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2023.

C/83/23 **Staffing Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 5th April 2023.

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C/84/23 Finance Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 13th March 2023.

C/85/23 Code of Conduct

Members received a recommendation from the Staffing Committee that the Council adopted the latest version of the Code of Conduct (2021) (Min Ref: S/09/23 refers)(copy circulated to Members). Cllr Ward PROPOSED approval of this. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/86/23 Borough Councillor's Report

No Borough Council report was available due to Purdah.

C/87/23 Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED renewal of the Parish Council's subscription to Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) at a cost of £1,241.69. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/88/23 Council Accounts

It was noted that the Council had set up a Public Sector Deposit Fund (PDSA) (Min Ref: FIN/04/23 refers) and an initial deposit of £100,000 had been made.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £113,410.50, should be approved. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/89/23 Food Pantry / Community Fridge

a. **Food Pantry**

- i. Following Cllr Mackenzie's offer to approach local businesses, it was confirmed that an offer of £500 had been received from Neo Consortium. The Clerk had also approached Cotteswold Dairy who had offered a further £500.00. This meant there was a total of £8,000 which could be used towards provision of a building (not including the £5,000 grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council which could only be used towards shelving, fridges, etc.).

Cllr Blackmore mentioned that she had approached a local garden building company, Johnsons, who had agreed to reduce the price of a building. A brochure had been provided and Members looked at the various designs, the one which appeared to be most suitable was £9,000 (with discount included), however a smaller one could be afforded.

Cllr Shelton referred to a grant of £1,000 being offered by Tewkesbury Borough Council towards new and existing projects.

Cllr Beadle PROPOSED that the Council should commit a further £1,000 towards the Food Pantry project as a contingency, to be used only if needed, whilst still attempting to apply for funding and

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C/89/23 Food Pantry / Community Fridge (continued)

seeking pledges from local businesses. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Community Fridge** – Due to progression of the Food Pantry project, discussion of a Community Fridge was not considered necessary.

C/90/23 Events Working Party

- i. Members received the Notes of the Working Party Meeting that took place on 8th March 2023.
- ii. Members received the Notes of the Working Party Meeting that took place on 27th March 2023.
- iii. Cllr Roberts provided an update on progress of the Coronation Trail and Cream Tea Event. He encouraged Councillors that were not on the Working Party to let the Clerk know whether or not they could volunteer at some point over the weekend.

C/91/23 Warm Space

- i. The Clerk explained that, although the Warm Space had only been intended to run until the end of March, residents had expressed disappointment over it ending. Due to the fact that there were still plenty of supplies and volunteers willing to help, the Clerk had emailed Members and an informal decision had been to keep the Warm Space running for an additional two weeks. Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that this decision was ratified. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that letters were sent to Woody's Farm Shop and Cotteswold Dairy thanking them for their support (in provision of fruit and milk).

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. The Clerk reported that the Warm Space volunteers had served a total of 311 people over three months (most of these were re-occurring visits). Residents had commented how much they enjoyed attending the Warm Space and how sad they were that it was coming to an end. It was commented that people had attended for the social aspect more than the 'warm' aspect.

Cllrs MacTiernan and Blackmore felt that this showed that there was a need for a community café. Cllr Ward pointed out that people had attended the Warm Space because it was free, a local restaurant had offered a coffee shop but there had been very little uptake. Cllr Blackmore suggested a 'pay what you can' café, although it was AGREED that further discussion would be required.

Cllr Roberts reminded Members that there was £138 remaining in the Warm Space fund. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Warm Space continued for a further month, for one or two days a week dependent on volunteers, and, during this time, talks should be had with attendees to establish what they wanted and whether they could help in any way themselves. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

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

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Shelton

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C/91/23 Warm Space (continued)

Cllr Blackmore suggested that the Council should consider setting up a Working Party to further discuss the possibility of a community café at a future meeting.

C/92/23 Youth Work

- i. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council ratified the cost of hiring the Village Hall for Young Gloucestershire to use for a club over four days of the Easter Holidays (£80 total). Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. Play Rangers –

- a. The Clerk reported that over 150 people had attended the first session of Play Rangers on 4th April they were also booked to attend the Playing Field on 13th April and a report would likely follow.
- b. It was noted that Play Rangers were already booked up for the summer holidays, however there was some availability in October, and they were taking bookings for February half term. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Clerk should book what she could in October and February and also try and book sessions for the following summer once they became available. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/93/23 Crime & Disorder

This had been covered under Min Ref: C/76/23.

C/94/23 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Council's (GAPTC)** - The Clerk listed upcoming training events.

C/95/23 Correspondence for Information

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Council's (GAPTC)** – March 2023 newsletter.
- b. **National Association of Local Councils** – Chief Executive's Bulletin 24th March and 31st March 2023.

C/96/23 Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office

- a. **Gloucestershire VCS Alliance** – Details of a Trustee Refresher Programme being provided free of charge.
- b. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Details of free wellbeing, yoga and first aid course available to certain groups of people.
- c. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**
 - i. Details of grant of up to £1,000 to encourage community groups to develop new or existing groups to improve health and wellbeing. Cllrs MacTiernan and Blackmore offered to make submit an application.
 - ii. Press Release – Successful prosecution for unauthorised greenbelt development.

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C/97/23 Tewkesbury Garden Town Meeting with Ashchurch Rural Parish and Northway Parish Sub-Group

Cllr Barnes provided a report following his attendance at a workshop for Members of the Tewkesbury Garden Town Sub-Group.

Exclusion Items – Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that, in view of the special/confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, i.e. determining actions relating to legal procedures, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

8.20pm – Cllrs MacTiernan, Godwin and Mackenzie left the meeting.

Under exclusion, an update was provided following the legal action that had been taken against Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding the Ashchurch Bridge Over Rail and the distribution of funding between the relevant parishes.

8.25pm – Cllr Mackenzie re-joined the meeting.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that Northway Parish Council should respond that it agreed with Bredon Parish Council's comments. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Ward	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Blackmore
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Roberts
	Cllr Shelton	

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle

C/98/23 Correspondence received after 4th April 2023

- i. **Barchester** – Invitation to Open Day on 15th April 2023.
- ii. **National Association of Local Council's** – Chief Executive's Bulletin / newsletters.
- iii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Release
- iv. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Road Closure details relating to Grange Road.
- v. Cllr Terry mentioned that she had received information about an Energy Support programme available for football clubs and offered to forward to the Clerk.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.