

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th January 2022
at Northway Community Hub, Northway, commencing at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr J Roberts (Chairman) Cllr S Ward (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr M Barnes Cllr P Godwin (until Min Ref: C/20/22)
Cllr P Mackenzie Cllr E MacTiernan (until Min Ref: C/21/22)
Cllr E Phennah Cllr G Shelton
Cllr S Terry Cllr T Treacy

In Attendance: County Cllr Smith, Gloucestershire County Council (until Min Ref: GP/08/22).
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/01/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Blackmore.

C/02/22 **Public Participation**

- i. **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

Cllr Ward informed Members that houses in Styles Close were being sold by Bromford Housing to raise capital, also, Bromford had moved tenants out of two houses in Apple Tree Court to allow repair of the pumping station behind.

The Clerk had circulated a letter that a 10-year-old resident of Northway had written regarding development of the bridge. Cllr MacTiernan suggested that this was forwarded to the Garden Town team at Tewkesbury Borough Council and SEC Northgate. As permission had been given to use the letter as the Council felt fit it was agreed that the letter should be forwarded to the Garden Town Team at Tewkesbury Borough Council as well as uploaded to the Parish Council's social media.

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

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/03/22 **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/04/22 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 8th December 2021 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

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

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Mackenzie Cllr Phennah

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/05/22 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/290/21 and C/302/21 Christmas Events in Northway – The Clerk confirmed that letters of thanks had been sent to those who were involved in or donated towards the Christmas Event. Over 136 letters had been posted in the Santa postbox and received a reply. Cllr Shelton thanked the Clerk's Assistant for the work involved in this.

C/312/21 Correspondence for Action - GRCC Survey – The Clerk confirmed that she and the Chairman had responded to this survey.

C/06/22 Roads & Road Safety

- a. **Issues of Concern** – The Clerk confirmed that a list of jobs for the Community Maintenance Gang had been forwarded to the Local Highways Manager who confirmed that most of them could be dealt with on the next visit.
- b. **Village Gateways** – Members were shown some examples of village gateways, County Cllr Smith had previously confirmed that he would be able to support the Council with the cost of these (Min Ref: C/203/21 refers) and asked that Members considered which design they would like.

Cllr MacTiernan felt that gateways would be 'over the top' in Northway as it was not a village. Cllr Ward explained that the gateways would be about enforcing Northway as a separate area and making drivers aware of the speed change.

Cllr MacTiernan asked County Cllr Smith whether there would be any cost to the Parish Council if it installed the gateways. County Cllr Smith reconfirmed that he would support the gateways in principle, but it depended on the cost whether contributions from the Parish Council would be required. The money would be coming from Highways Local so the Council needed to consider whether this was the project that it wanted to put that money towards.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should investigate further costings for three entrances into Northway: A46 junction, Hardwick Bank Road motorway bridge and Shannon Way motorway bridge. No vote was taken.

The Clerk pointed out that the Council needed to agree upon a design to progress things. Cllr Ward suggested that the Council should go back to the Local Highways Manager and ask what designs he could offer. County Cllr Smith said he had confirmed to the Local Highways Manager that he was happy for him to work directly with the Parish Council on this.

- c. **Speed Humps Consultation** – The Clerk confirmed that a consultation on the speed humps/cushions along The Park was live and a total of 99 responses had already been received – 67% had answered in favour of the humps being widened and 33% were against. The questions used in the survey had been suggested by the Local Highways Manager.
- d. **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)** – Members went through a survey from Gloucestershire County Council relating to new 20's Plenty proposals – County Cllr Smith explained that it would see proper signs used (instead of the previous cardboard ones' and proper 20mph zones being introduced.

Members went through the survey questions and AGREED upon responses for each. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should also pass a motion supporting a widespread 20mph limit for residential areas. No vote.

- e. **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)** – Members received a temporary road closure notice for works to the level crossing in Grange Road on 26th – 27th February 2022.
- f. **Highways England** – Notification of works to the M5 southbound junction 8 to junction 9 safety barrier taking place between 10th January – 18th March 2022.

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C/07/22 County Councillor Report

County Cllr Smith confirmed that the Community Maintenance Gang were coming to Northway later in the month and he was happy for the Local Highways Manager to get the issues raised by the Parish Council addressed.

As already mentioned under the previous heading, County Cllr Smith confirmed that he was happy to support the village gateways through Highways Local funds.

Northway was also in the programme for slurry sealing in March when the Spine, Willis Walk and Long Eights would be addressed. County Cllr Smith mentioned that there was also a possibility that some other areas of Northway could be included and so the Local Highways Manager would be in touch with the Clerk about this.

Both side of the Northway Lane/Shannon Way motorway bridge were due to be resurfaced in July. The County Council was currently checking with Highways England what maintenance required doing before then (storm gulleys) so that this could be sorted in time.

Cllr Mackenzie asked if reversal of the chicanes/traffic prioritisation would be addressed at the same time (as previously discussed with the Local Highways Manager (Min Ref: C/84/21 refers)). County Cllr Smith suggested that the Council asked the Local Highways Manager directly about this.

County Cllr Smith mentioned that a policy would be put to County Council in February which could potentially allow Northway to have a VAS (vehicle activated sign) (Min Ref: C/281/21 refers), he hoped to be able to update the Council again as soon as a decision had been made.

Regarding the Council's application for funding towards trees (Min Ref: GP/184/21 refers), County Cllr Smith explained that he had had difficulty getting through to the Build Back Better fund to see if it had been received. The Clerk's Assistant agreed to resend the application to allow him to resubmit it.

C/08/22 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting that took place on 15th December 2021.

7:32pm – County Cllr Smith left the meeting.

C/09/22 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15th December 2021.

C/10/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Party

- a. Members received the Notes of the meeting that took place on 14th December 2021.
- b. Members had been circulated a copy of the Working Party's Terms of Reference. Cllr Treacy was thanked for putting this together. No vote was taken for approval of the Terms.
- c. The following suggestions/requests had been made by the Working Party:
 - i. Permission for Working Party members to contact local schools and business to see if they would like to support any events - It was noted that the Clerk's Assistant had already made contact with local schools regarding the Oak Trees (Min Ref: GP/171/21 refers).

Cllr Ward suggested that the Council should try and establish whether or not anything else was due to take place in Northway to celebrate the Jubilee.

- ii. Approval of use of the official Royal emblem to use wherever possible on commemorative memorabilia – Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should approve use of the emblem, as required.

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C/10/22 **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Working Party** (continued)

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. Consideration of purchasing a commemorative flag – Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED purchase of a flag. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Phennah
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Shelton
	Cllr Treacy	

AGAINST: Cllr Ward

Cllr Ward explained that he was against this proposal as flying flags made a noise which neighbours had, in the past, complained about.

- iv. Consideration of purchasing gifts for children in local schools – Cllr Terry felt that the Council needed to establish what plans the local schools already had before making a decision.

Cllr MacTiernan expressed she would be against the Council purchasing gifts for the local school children.

Cllr Roberts put forward the idea of having an option for children to have trees to either plant in their garden or somewhere in the parish in their name.

- v. Approval of submission of grants by the Working Party (but via the Clerk) – Cllr Roberts PROPOSED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vi. Renaming of The Park – Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should rename The Park Amenity Land in honour of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Members were invited to suggest new names and the following were put forward and voted upon:

Platinum Park
Jubilee Park
Queen Elizabeth II Park

The majority vote was in favour of Platinum Park and so it was AGREED that this should be the new name for the field.

C/11/22 **Finance Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 19th January 2022.

C/12/22 **Financial Requirements for the year 2022/23**

The Clerk reminded Members that the various Committees had put together their anticipated financial budget requirements for 2022/23 which was reviewed by the Finance Committee along with some recommended amendments from DCK Accounting (Min Ref: FIN/03/22 refers). Members received a recommendation from the Finance Committee that they approve a figure of £196,946 for the budget. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/13/22 Precept Requirement for the year 2022/23

The Clerk explained the options that had been considered by the Finance Committee (Min Ref: FIN/03/22 refers). The Committee was recommending that Full Council accepted Option 2: a precept of £196,946 which allowed for £10,000 to be placed in the Rolling Capital Projects but would not affect the General Reserves. This would equate to a 4.93% increase and show on the council tax bill at 5.02%. Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of this. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/14/22 Borough Councillor Report

Cllr MacTiernan informed Members that Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) were informed before Christmas that the Mitchell Trust land had been acquired by Bellway Homes. SEC Northgate had recently given a presentation to the Member Reference Panel on how they would be moving forward with communicating the details of the Garden Town Strategy to the wider public. There had been a lot of questions about the Bellway land acquisition - whether or not planning permission would be granted and, if so, whether the Garden Town principles would be upheld - but there were very few answers available at this stage.

Complaints about the Garden Town branding and its lack of reference to anything relevant had been acknowledged and was being looked into. Also, they were looking at an engagement strategy with all the communities based on communication and co-operation. They wanted to assure all the various parties that they would get a say and be listened to. The next Subgroup meeting was due to take place the following Wednesday.

C/15/22 Council Accounts

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £11,276.31. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/16/22 Northway Community Hub

- a. **Caring for Communities & People (CCP)** – This group restarted drop-in sessions in November but had since suspended them again due to a rise in Covid-19 infections.
- b. **Covid Restrictions** – Members discussed the current restrictions at the Hub and Cllr Roberts explained that there was a degree of concern regarding the increase in infection rates and Cllr Ward reminded Members that they had a duty of care to staff to consider as well.

As the Government had brought mask wearing back into place this was being enforced while entering and walking around the Community Building and updated posters were on display, however, not everyone abided by this rule.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that no further rules were brought into place relating to the Hub at this time.

FOR: Cllr Roberts Cllr Barnes
Cllr Godwin Cllr Mackenzie
Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Phennah
Cllr Shelton Cllr Terry
Cllr Treacy

AGAINST: Cllr Ward

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/16/22 Northway Community Hub (continued)

- c. **Mobile Catering** – Members received a request from a mobile catering business for permission to sell pizzas from the Hub car park. Cllr MacTiernan felt that this would be an inconvenience for other users of the Hub and would take up spaces in the car park. Cllr Mackenzie suggested it might be better sited near the pub (although it was also noted that a pizza and kebab shop was due to open near the pub soon).

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the mobile catering business was not permitted use of the Hub car park. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/17/22 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC)** - Notice that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) were continuing to lobby for a change in legislation to allow remote meetings. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should write to Laurence Robertson, MP, to ask for his support of remote meetings.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Details relating to the Severn Trent Community Fund's grants for environmental projects. Members considered whether the Council should submit an application towards mature trees or wilding/creating a pond area in Joan's Field.

Cllr MacTiernan offered to fill out an application for funding.

- c. **Active Gloucestershire** – Details of a community connections piece of work. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED no action.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/18/22 Crime & Disorder

No issues were raised.

C/19/22 Correspondence for Information

- a. **National Association of Local Councils** – Chief Executive's Bulletin 10th December 2021 and 17th December 2021.
- b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Register of Electors 2021/22 request form. The Clerk had completed and returned this.
- c. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC)** – Details of Community Buildings Network events.

C/20/22 Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office

- a. **Age UK** – Members were informed that Rob Fountain was stepping down as CEO of Age UK at the end of March 2022. Cllr Phennah PROPOSED that the Council should write a letter thanking Mr Fountain and wishing him well in the future. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

8:25pm – Cllr Godwin left the meeting.

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C/21/22 **Property Matters / Youth Club / Trustees**

- a. The Clerk informed Members that the Chairman of the Trustees of the Youth Club had advised that boxing sessions were going to be held on a Friday as well as a Wednesday, free of charge (funded by sponsors) from the Village Hall. Due to this, the Trustees had felt that it would be better to postpone having a meeting with the Parish Council for several weeks (Min Ref: C/316/21 refers). It was AGREED that the Clerk should try and arrange a date to meet in February to meet with the Trustees.
- b. Tewkesbury Borough Council had confirmed to the Clerk that the remainder of the Covid-19 grant funds (approximately £630) could be used toward boxing sessions for the youth. Members considered whether this was something that the Council wanted to put the money towards.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should put the Covid-19 funds towards sponsorship of the boxing club on the proviso that the Youth Club Trustees match funded. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

As this proposal appear to concern some Members Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED an amendment to her initial proposal, that the Council should strongly request match funding from the Youth Club Trustees, but this was not a condition of the Council's donation.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Phennah
	Cllr Shelton	

AGAINST	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Treacy	Cllr Ward

8:45pm – Cllr MacTiernan left the meeting.

C/22/22 **Correspondence received after 6th January 2022**

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

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts provided an update on the Judicial Review (Min Ref: C/296/21 refers) and, as a result, it was AGREED that an Extraordinary Council Meeting should be scheduled in order to consider necessary actions.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m.