

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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

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

In Attendance: Lauren Woods, GRCC (until Min Ref: C/244/24)  
County Councillor Vernon Smith (until Min Ref: C/243/24)  
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council  
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

**C/240/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Beadle. No further apologies for absence had been received.

**C/241/24 Public Participation**

No issues were raised.

**C/242/24 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made, as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Minute Ref C/85/23).

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that item 8 (County Councillors Report) should be brought forward on the agenda.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**C/243/24 County Councillors Report**

A county councillors report had been forwarded to Members ahead of the meeting.

County Cllr Smith thanked the Clerk for her email regarding the Northway Lane motorway bridge, followed by a further email following the tragic death of a young man on 1<sup>st</sup> November. He had spoken to the local MP who agreed to have a meeting with Local Highways, a date was still being awaited but he assured that he would keep the Parish Council informed.

The A46 consultation event at Northway Community Hub (on 23<sup>rd</sup> October) had been well attended, with over 150 members of the public showing up throughout the day. A further event was due to take place at Ashchurch Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 1pm – 5pm.

County Cllr Smith announced that he had £5,000 Build Back Better funding available for Northway so asked the Council to discuss ideas and get back to him by January.

7.05pm – County Cllr Smith left the meeting.

## NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

### C/244/24 Digital & Technology Navigator (GRCC)

Lauren Woods introduced herself as the Digital and Technology Navigator for the borough of Tewkesbury. She had been in post for six or seven months now and ran local drop-ins as well as one-to-one support for people who were housebound and needed help with things like online banking, getting out of contracts, loss of landline phones and social tariffs. She also worked with local councils, care homes and stakeholders (i.e. the NHS).

Lauren explained about DAISI (Digital, Accessibility, Inclusion, Support and Innovation) with which twelve Parish Council's had become partners. This was free to join and would allow access to their tech bank for laptops (for use with job support) and SIMs with unlimited data and calls for six months which could be distributed to people in need.

Members felt that this was something that the Council should partnership with. It was AGREED that this should be put on the next Full Council agenda for further discussion.

7.30pm – Lauren Woods left the meeting.

### C/245/24 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Cllr Poole PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Poole	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Fancourt	Cllr P Godwin
	Cllr R Godwin	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr Midwinter	Cllr Roberts

ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Barnes	Cllr MacTiernan
	Cllr Shelton	

### C/246/24 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

**C/222/24 Roads & Road Safety** – A solar boost option had been ordered for the Community Speedwatch camera.

**C/226/24 Bleed Kit & Cabinet** – A bleed kit and cabinet had been ordered for installation at Northway Playing Field.

**C/235/24 Correspondence for Action > Lithium Ion Battery Safety Bill** – A letter has been sent to Minister Baroness Jones seeking support for this Bill.

### C/247/24 Roads & Road Safety

- a. **Issues of Concern** – The Clerk showed Members a map of the proposed locations for installation of speed camera warning signs along Northway Lane.

The Clerk also passed on feedback from residents following the newsletter article about speeds of up to 69mph being logged by the Community Speedwatch Camera on Northway Lane.

- b. **Northway Lane M5 Overbridge** – The Clerk confirmed that she had re-written to County Councillor Smith, Max Kelly (Local Highways Manager), Cameron Thomas (MP) and National Highways about the safety fencing on Northway Lane motorway bridge following the death of a young man on 1 November 2024 and a further suicide attempt several days before. Max Kelly had been the only one to reply, advising that he was trying to reach National Highways about the issue.

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### C/247/24 Roads & Road Safety (continued)

- c. **M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme** – The Clerk had not received any feedback following this event, other than the estimated number of attendees.

### C/248/24 General Purposes Committee

- a. **Previous Minutes** – Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- b. **Skatepark** – The Clerk announced that completion of the skate park was anticipated for the end of the week and RoSPA were scheduled to undertake their inspection on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Skateboarders had broken through the fencing to use the facility over the previous weekend. Two payment claims had now been submitted to the National Lottery and one to Enovert.

The Parish Council's insurance company (Zurich) had quoted an additional £20.41 for public liability cover of the skatepark and an additional £541.68 for damage/loss cover. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED acceptance of both premiums. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### C/249/24 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### C/250/24 Finance Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### C/251/24 Emergency Plan

Members received the Minutes of the Emergency Plan Working Party Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### C/252/24 Garden Communities

Cllr Barnes provided an update following his attendance at recent Garden Communities meetings.

The Clerk read an email from the Communications and Engagement Officer (Place) at Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding disposal / change of use of the small, triangular parcel of land at the junction of The Park and Hardwick Bank Road.

It read - *"This parcel of land has the current status of public open space, and to support the proposed development to the east of the site, a disposal/change of use is required to facilitate the most suitable new junction for access to this proposed development."*

*"The development proposal is for a substantial amount of housing and amenities, including a new secondary school, are currently being promoted by the various developers. The land disposal/change of use would not pre-judge any future planning application."*

The Parish Council was invited to give views on this. Members considered that a roundabout at this location would be much safer than previous access proposals, however, the Council did not want to imply that it approved of the proposed development.

It was pointed out that this land only related to the infrastructure and not the development of housing. Also, the Council had previously stated that it would like to see a roundabout this specific location.

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### C/252/24 Garden Communities (continued)

It was AGREED that the Council should respond that, since this proposal would facilitate installation of a roundabout at the location, which the Council would be in support of, it had no objections.

The Clerk reported that several residents had contacted the Parish Council following installation of ANPR cameras around Northway. She had since discovered that Newland Homes had arranged for a traffic survey to be undertaken to assist with measuring of traffic and vehicle movements, as well as cycling and walking. Residents had been informed.

### C/253/24 Meeting Schedule

Members had been circulated a meeting schedule for the period of January – June 2025. Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of the dates. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### C/254/24 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin announced that Newland Homes were holding a public exhibition at Northway Community Hub on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Leaflets were in the process of being sent to all residents.

She also reported that electrical charging points were being installed in Spring Gardens in the new year, with other car parks to follow.

### C/255/24 Council Accounts

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £139,267.39 should be approved. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### C/256/24 Youth Work

The Clerk had not yet received a report following the Play Ranger session that took place at Northway Playing Field on 31 October 2024, however, it was noted that there had been 54 attendees.

### C/257/24 Christmas

Cllr Roberts confirmed that plans for the Christmas event were progressing. Volunteers would be welcome at both the event and the sleigh runs.

Members had previously discussed having a meal out instead of a Christmas social event at, as in previous years. The Clerk had spoken to The Gupshill Manor about availability, but they needed definite numbers

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that it would be better to wait until January to have a meal out. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

All Members in attendance hoped to attend, depending on availability closer to the time.

The Clerk mentioned that the Gate Keeper was unable to lock the Playing Field gate on two upcoming dates. Cllr Poole offered to lock the gate on these evenings.

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### C/258/24 Warm Space

The Clerk informed Members that a Warm Space Working Party Meeting had been held earlier that evening to consider Warm Space ideas and whether it was something worth running again.

Lauren Woods had said that she would be willing to attend sessions to provide digital support. It was felt that food should remain simple with Cup-A-Soups, rolls and some fresh fruit.

The Clerk had applied for a Warm Space grant, however, the Council's Safeguarding policy required amending and resubmitting. The Warm Space Working Party had recommended approval of the amended policy. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members were asked who would be willing to help run the Warm Space, if it went ahead. Cllrs Barnes, P Godwin, Midwinter, Fancourt, R Godwin and Poole offered to help, at some level, if they were able. The Clerk was also asked to advertise for volunteers from the community.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should hold Warm Space on one day a week (Monday) and, depending on attendee and volunteer numbers, review as necessary. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### C/259/24 Crime & Disorder

- a. **Crime Figures** – Exclusion of the Public and Press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960 s. 1 ss. 2 Viz:

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that, in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and were instructed to withdraw.

Under exclusion, Members received a list of recent crimes that had taken place in the community.

- b. **Crime & Disorder** – No issues were raised.

### C/260/25 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Invitation to Town and Parish Council Seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Cllr Barnes hoped to attend this event.
- b. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils** – The Clerk offered to forward details of upcoming Nuts and Bolts training courses to Cllrs R Godwin and Midwinter.

### C/261/24 Correspondence for Information

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Releases: -
- Remembrance ceremony at Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices.
  - Capital grant funding available for rural business in Tewkesbury Borough.
  - Email from Cllr Stanley advising of name change to North Gloucestershire Borough Council.
- b. **Clerks and Council's Direct** – Magazine – November 2024; Issue 156.
- c. **Syvretmedia (PR to Comms for Robert Hitchens)** – Update relating to Cotswold Designer Outlet.

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### C/262/24 Correspondence Received After 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

- i. **Mentor Link** – Appeal for volunteers for this children’s charity.
- ii. **Aspire Foundation** – The Clerk had met with the Community Partnership Team Manager from Aspire Foundation about what was being provided locally in Northway. A copy of the Noah’s Ark Children and Family Centre’s timetable had been forwarded to the Council office for information.
- iii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Release – Tewkesbury Borough blazes with autumn colour.
- iv. **Gloucestershire County Council (Adult Education)** – Details of free ‘Wealth for Health’ course.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.