

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th March 2024

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

Present: Cllr M Barnes
Cllr P Godwin
Cllr K Poole
Cllr G Fancourt
Cllr E MacTiernan
Cllr G Shelton

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

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that Cllr Shelton was elected as a temporary Chairman. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/53/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Roberts, Terry, Beadle and Mackenzie. County Cllr Vernon Smith had also tendered his apologies.

C/54/24 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

C/55/24 Declarations of Interest

No 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/56/24 Resignation of Councillor

The Council received a letter of resignation from Cathy Blackmore and it was confirmed that a Notice of Vacancy was on display in the local notice boards and on social media. If an election had not been called by 14th March, the vacancy would be advertised for co-option.

C/57/24 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th February 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Godwin
Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Shelton
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Poole

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Fancourt

C/58/24 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/35/24 County Councillor Funding – The Clerk had forwarded the Council's footpath resurfacing suggestions to County Councillor Smith and the Area Traffic Manager.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/58/24 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report (continued)

C/43/24 Northway Community Hub Internal Noticeboard - A site visit had been arranged to progress installation of a digital noticeboard.

C/52/24 Correspondence Received After – Residents were informed that it was not appropriate for the Northway Hub car park to be used for a birds of prey display.

C/52/24 Correspondence Received After > Buckingham Palace Garden Party – Cllr Terry's name was put forward for this event.

C/59/24 Roads & Road Safety

Max Kelly had confirmed that he would support County Councillor Smith's offer of funding towards resurfacing of The Spine in Northway from the Highways Local Budget.

Drainage issues opposite Apple Tree Court had been reported to the County Council. A response had been received advising of their programme which deals with each gully on a risk-based approach. A community maintenance job would be raised in the new financial year and the drains would be dug out and rodded when and if resources allowed.

It had been reported that cars parked in the bay by the Chemist had recently been ticketed, despite only one of the bays previously being marked as disabled, a sign had also been erected on a lamp post suggesting that all three spaces were disabled bays. The Clerk had queried this with the Local Highways Manager who had forwarded it on to the Parking Team for clarification. County Cllr Smith had confirmed to the Clerk that he would be willing to fund remarking of the original disabled bays if the sign was removed.

C/60/24 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Smith had forwarded an email report to the Parish Office, this had been circulated to Members. It was noted that Cllr Smith had committed a large portion of his Highways Local funds toward repair of footpaths in Northway.

C/61/24 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 28th February 2024.

C/62/24 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 28th February 2024.

C/63/24 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr MacTiernan reported that the Borough Council's new Standards Committee had held its first meeting, this comprised of three or four Borough Councillors, three Parish Councillors and three independent members. New guidance was in the process of being put out which would make it easier for members of the public to make complaints. The monitoring officer would then first approach the independent members for their opinion. If the complaint was unfounded or not relevant it would stop there, otherwise it would go to the Sub-Committee and further up the ladder.

She added that she had also met with Tom Shepherd from Newland Homes. He had said that he would have liked to speak at Northway Parish Council's Parish Assembly, but it was just too soon considering that the transport plan was still in the process of being put together.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/64/24 Council Accounts

Cllr Godwin pointed out an error in the calculation for removal of bins from the Playing Field. With this figure amended, Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £21,478.77, should be approved. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/65/24 Parish Assembly

- a. It was confirmed that Chris Ashman, Executive Director of Place at Tewkesbury Borough Council, had agreed to provide a presentation on the Garden Communities Programme at the upcoming Parish Assembly.
- b. Members considered whether any other relevant matters, relating to the Parish Assembly, required consideration. None were raised.

C/66/24 Tewkesbury Garden Communities

- a. **Parish Liaison Group** - Cllr Barnes gave a short report following his attendance at meetings of the Parish Liaison Group.
- b. **Marrons** – The Clerk confirmed that Marrons had booked the Community Hub on a Saturday in April to provide a public meeting. They had also offered to provide the Parish Council with a presentation if Members would like. Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that this offer was accepted. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk added that Marrons had contacted the Parish Office following local distribution of an unauthorised leaflet which was sent to the community and included wrong information. The Clerk had confirmed that the Parish Council had no information on who might have done this.

- c. **Meeting Place UK (St Modwen Homes)**
 - i. Details of public consultations relating to the development of part of the brownfield site at MoD Ashchurch and invitation to attend a briefing for Members at Ashchurch Village Hall on 15th March from 2pm – 3pm were received.
 - ii. Details of public consultation. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that Members should respond individually if they wished to do so. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/67/24 Northway Pantry

The Clerk pointed out that she was awaiting further information regarding covers and canopies for the garden room. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that this item should be brought back to another meeting when more information was available. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/68/24 Hardwick Bank Road Noticeboard

Cllr Shelton offered to take on responsibility for affixing posters to the Hardwick Bank Road noticeboard (following the resignation of Cathy Blackmore). AGREED.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/69/24 Defibrillator

Cllr Shelton had offered to take on responsibility for undertaking weekly checks of the defibrillator located at the junction of Hardwick Bank Road and The Park (following the resignation of Cllr Phennah). Cllr Barnes PROPOSED approval. Cllr Fancourt SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/70/24 Youth Work in Northway

a. **Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)**

- i. It was noted that HAF would be running, county-wide, from 25th March until 5th April 2024.
- ii. Young Gloucestershire had requested use of the Village Hall on 3rd and 4th April for youth work. The Youth Club Management Committee had confirmed that this was acceptable. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that, in the event that Young Gloucestershire did not pay the daily charge (previously £25 p/d) the Council should cover the cost. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Barnes Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Fancourt Cllr Poole
Cllr Shelton

ABSTENSIONS: Cllr Godwin

b. **Play Gloucestershire**

- i. It was confirmed that Play Rangers would be holding their next session at Northway Playing Field on Thursday, 28th March. As previously agreed, (Min Ref: C/62/23 refers), they had also been booked for one day in May half term, two days during the summer holidays, one day in October half term and one day in February 2025 half term.
- ii. The Clerk read the report card relating to the previous Play Ranger sessions.

C/71/24 Christmas Event

Members considered if/when the next Christmas Event should take place. It was noted that the previous volunteers, Cllr Shelton, Cllr Roberts and Steve Ward had indicated that 30th November would be most suitable for them. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED acceptance of this date for the Christmas Event. Cllr Fancourt SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/72/24 Hire Request

Members received a request for hire of the hall for a 21st birthday party. Due to the special circumstances of this particular request, Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED approval. Cllr Poole SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/73/24 Lease / Licence

It was AGREED that a Working Party should be established to review the Village Hall Lease and Northway Pantry licence, as both are due for renewal later in the year. Cllrs Barnes and Shelton expressed an interest in standing on the Working Party and Cllr Fancourt expressed a provisional interest. It was AGREED that Members not at the meeting should also be asked whether they would like to stand on the Working Party.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/74/24 **Crime & Disorder**

- a. **Crime Figures** – No crime figures were available.
- b. **Crime & Disorder** – No matters relating to crime and disorder were raised.

C/75/24 **Correspondence for Action**

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC)** – The Clerk passed on details of upcoming training courses, Cllr Poole added that she had enjoyed a course she recently attended and would be interested in going on other courses.
- b. **ZeroHour** – The Clerk passed on a request that the Council consider supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill. Cllr Fancourt PROPOSED approval. Cllr Poole SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Fancourt Cllr Poole
 Cllr Barnes Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Godwin Cllr MacTiernan

- c. **Gloucestershire Heritage Hub** – Details of an event illustrating 135 years of change in Gloucestershire Local Government.
- d. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Details of two capital grant schemes being launched were tabled for consideration as to whether Northway Parish Council was eligible. Members considered whether it could apply for a grant to make any of its community buildings more energy efficient. Suggestions included – purchase of a battery to store energy from the solar panels at the Hub, insulation for the Village Hall. It was AGREED that these should be considered further by the Finance Committee.

C/76/24 **Correspondence for Information**

- a. **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)** - Chief Executive's Bulletins: 22.02.24, 29.02.24, 07.03.24
- b. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils:** Newsletter 05.03.24
- c. **Tewkesbury Borough Council:**
 - i. **Press Releases:**
 - ❖ Garden Communities Charter receives approval from councillors.
 - ❖ Council sets budget for 2024/25.
 - ❖ Tewkesbury Town to benefit for improved pedestrian signage and trail markers.
 - ❖ Advanced engineering and manufacturing firms to benefit from specialist business support from The Growth Hub Tewkesbury.
 - ❖ Over £23,000 funding for Coronation Community Orchards in Tewkesbury Borough.
- d. **Clerks & Councils Direct** – Issue 152 March 2024

C/77/24 **Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office**

- a. **Carer Aware** – Email updates of events taking place.
- b. **County Council Worcestershire** – Authority

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

C/78/24

Correspondence Received After 8th February 2023

- a. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC)** – Details of Community Buildings Network Meeting on 19th March 2024.
- b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Release: ‘Successful prosecution for damaging protected trees’.
- c. **Babcock** – This company had contacted the Parish Council as they were undertaking the ‘Great British Spring Clean’ and wanted to know if there were any areas they should focus on. The litter picker had made a few suggestions which had been passed on. Cllr Godwin added that down towards the motorway was always bad for litter.
- d. **Tewkesbury Town Council** – Invite to a Barn dance at the Watson Hall, Tewkesbury on Friday 10th May 2024
- e. **Warm Welcome** – Invitation to event Celebrating Warm Welcome at St Pauls Cathedral on 17th April 2024. They would also welcome photographs from Warm Welcome Spaces.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.03pm.