

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th December 2022

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 P Mackenzie
Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr G Shelton
Cllr S Terry

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

C/247/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Phennah, Blackmore, Fowler and County Cllr Smith. No further apologies for absence were received.

C/248/22 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 Terry thanked Cllrs Ward, Roberts and Shelton for organising such a successful Christmas event.

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

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/249/22 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/250/22 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Due to postal strikes, Members had not yet received Minutes of the previous meeting. It was AGREED that this item should be deferred.

C/251/22 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/223/22 Youth Club/Youth Work – Following approval to continue funding free boxing sessions, it was confirmed that Northway Youth Club had agreed to match the Parish Council's donation.

C/246/22 Correspondence Received After – GAPTC – Cllr Roberts was interviewed about being a councillor as part of GAPTC's toolkit on elections to help with recruitment.

C/252/22 Roads & Road Safety

- a. **Concerns** – Cllr Ward mentioned that Gloucestershire Constabulary had introduced Operation Snap which allowed people to submit video evidence of driving offences to an online platform.

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C/252/22 Roads & Road Safety (continued)

Cllr Roberts reported that the Steward Road sign was completely out of the ground (this had already been reported to Gloucestershire County Council).

- b. **Damaged Bollards** – A further report had been made regarding the damaged bollards on Northway Lane M5 overbridge with a request to secure temporary signage to stop it blowing away.
- c. **Gloucestershire County Council Road Closures** –
 - Northway Lane overbridge resurfacing scheme.
 - M5 Junction 9 resurfacing scheme.
 - Grange Road/Northway Lane road closure.
- d. **Community Speedwatch Fund** – The Council had been provided with a copy of speed survey results for along The Park and two sections of Northway Lane. Although the Clerk had received verbal approval that Northway would be getting a VAS (vehicle activated sign), she was still awaiting written confirmation.

C/253/22 County Councillor's Report

None received.

C/254/22 Planning Committee

Due to postal strikes, Members had not yet received Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16th November 2022. It was AGREED that this item should be deferred.

C/255/22 General Purposes Committee

Due to postal strikes, Members had not yet received Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16th November 2022. It was AGREED that this item should be deferred.

C/256/22 Staffing Committee

Due to postal strikes, Members had not yet received Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 19th October 2022. It was AGREED that this item should be deferred.

C/257/22 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Godwin reported that waste collections had been deferred due to the icy weather.

Also, Tewkesbury Borough Council had prosecuted a dog breeder due to animal welfare offences.

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned that she had met with Tom Sheppard, Sales Director at Newland Homes. He had offered to meet with the Parish Council in order to provide some information on the company. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that an informal meeting should be arranged, preferably during evening or afternoon.

Cllr MacTiernan also referred to the Ashchurch Bridge over Rail appeal which had been streamed live over YouTube. A verdict on this was due to be handed down in the new year.

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C/258/22 Society of Local Council Clerks

Cllr Terry PROPOSED renewal of the Council's subscription to SLCC in the sum of |£279.00. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/259/22 Council Accounts

a. **Schedule of Bills** - Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £14,217.33, should be approved. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

b. **Petty Cash** – It was confirmed that Cllr Ward had checked the petty cash prior to the meeting (as was required to be done periodically).

C/260/22 Food Pantry

a. **Notes of Meeting** - Due to postal strikes, Members had not yet received Notes of the volunteer meeting that had taken place on 2nd November 2022. It was AGREED that receipt of these should be deferred.

b. **Food Pantry Visits** – Cllr Roberts reported that he, Cllr Blackmore, Cllr Shelton and a local resident had visited the CCP food pantry in Cheltenham. They had all been really impressed with the set up and Cllr Blackmore had since returned to volunteer during a session there. CCP had a great system and a wealth of knowledge which they were willing to share to help Northway set up a similar scheme. Cllr Blackmore was keen to take the lead on this now that she had seen the Cheltenham Pantry in action.

c. **Location & Funding** – The Clerk reminded Members that Cllr Mackenzie had rediverted his VAS towards the Food Pantry project instead. In addition, an offer of £2,000 had been received from Tewkesbury ILP towards start up costs.

The Council had not yet applied for grants but it was hopeful that Tewkesbury Borough Council would also be able to provide some funding towards the project.

Previously, the Council had considered trying to get funding for a container which could be sited at Northway Playing Field, however, after visiting CCP it was felt that a pantry would be better located in the Community Hub grounds. This would allow easy access to toilet facilities, seating and the kitchen, if required. The site was more secure, there was already an electricity supply and it meant that people attending the pantry would be less conspicuous as the Hub was already used regularly by a number of people and groups. Volunteers would also feel safer knowing that there would always be people nearby.

The Clerk was asked to make enquiries with Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Department as to the possibility of a garden building/cabin in the Hub grounds and whether permission would be required.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should allocate £5,000 towards the cost of starting up a food pantry in Northway.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/261/22 Warm Hub

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had been successful in securing two grants for running of a Warm Hub, £1,000 from Tewkesbury Borough Council and £500 from Gloucestershire Community Foundation. This would be starting on 9th January 2022 between 10am – 3pm on a Monday and Tuesday, there would be free

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C/261/22 **Warm Hub** (Continued)

refreshments, soup/rolls, games and magazines provided for anyone struggling with heating their homes and the cost of living crisis.

Cllrs Blackmore, MacTiernan, Godwin, Shelton and Terry volunteered to assist with running of the Warm Hub. The Clerk was asked to put together a rota and also make enquiries as to whether there was a requirement for volunteers to be DBS checked.

C/262/22 **Crime & Disorder**

The Clerk mentioned that there had been instances of egg throwing by youths wearing balaclavas.

A number of motorbikes had caused damage to the surface of the Playing Field. CCTV had been assessed and several registration numbers were passed on to the police.

C/263/22 **Correspondence for Action**

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Council's (GAPTC)** – The Clerk listed upcoming training events. Cllr Beadle asked for further information relating to the Being a Better Councillor courses.
- b. **Barchester Homes** – Cllr Shelton had met with a representative of Barchester Homes and an invitation had been extended for councillors to visit the Bushley care home for tea and cakes. Cllrs Shelton, Terry and Godwin wished to attend and it was AGREED that the date for this should be circulated once known.
- c. **DCK Accounting Solutions** – Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of the Year End Closedown and Financial Statement Preparation for 2022/23. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/264/22 **Correspondence for Information**

- a. **Young Gloucestershire** – Poster regarding outreach work in Northway.
- b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**
 - i. Press Release – 'Dog Breeders successfully prosecuted under Animal Welfare Act'.
Press Release – 'Community support event offers advice on managing rising costs'.
Press Release – 'Support grants for community warm spaces'.
 - ii. **Register of Electors** – A copy for the office has been ordered.
 - iii. **Tewkesbury Borough News** (as distributed to homes in the district).
 - iv. **Licensing Requirements for Events.**
- c. **National Association of Local Councils**
 - i. Chief Executive's Bulletins 11.11.22, 25.11.22, 02.12.22.
 - ii. An update on the Energy Bull Relief Scheme.
- d. **Wychavon District Council** – Copy of the Appeal Decision for Land East of Bredon Road and Tewkesbury Road, Mitton – the appeal has been dismissed.

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C/264/22 Correspondence for Information (Continued)

- e. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils** – Newsletters 02.11.22 & 08.12.22.
- f. **The Clerk Magazine** – November 2022.

C/265/22 Tewkesbury Garden Town Parish Sub Group

Cllr Barnes had attended the Tewkesbury Garden Town Parish Sub Group Meeting on 21st September 2022, he confirmed there was nothing to report.

C/266/22 Appeal Review relating to Ashchurch Bridge Over Rail (ABoR)

It was noted that the Appeal relating to Ashchurch Bridge Over Rail was still available to watch on YouTube.

C/267/22 Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office

- a. **Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme** – Details of volunteer recruitment initiative.

C/268/22 Correspondence received after 8th December 2022

- a. **National Association of Local Councils** – Chief Executive's Bulletin 09.12.2022.
- b. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils** – December newsletter.
- c. **National Highways** – Update on M5 junction 8 lane closures.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.05pm.