

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on Wednesday 31st March 2021

Following the passing of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (c.7), Councils were unable to meet in person during the COVID emergency. This meeting was therefore held via a Zoom link, with Councillors and representatives connecting remotely. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Council Chairman) Cllr J Roberts (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr M Barnes Cllr C Blackmore
Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr E Phennah
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry
Cllr T Treacy

Rev Suzanne Grindrod, St Nicholas Church
Tara Fowler, Youth Club Representative
Maria Budd, Carrant Brook School
Andrew Oakley, Local Resident/Nominee for Parish Award
Deborah Hannam, Home Start

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

PA/01/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Ashchurch Brownies, Ashchurch Guides, the Craft Group, Gloucestershire Police, Tewkesbury School, Northway Infant School and County Cllr Vernon Smith.

PA/02/21 **Approval of Minutes from Last Parish Assembly**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 25th March 2019 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Roberts
Cllr Godwin Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Phennah Cllr Shelton
Cllr Ward Rev Grindrod

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Barnes Cllr Blackmore
Cllr Mackenzie Cllr Treacy
Maria Budd Tara Fowler
Deborah Hannam Andrew Oakley

PA/03/21 **Chairman's Address & Presentation**

Appendix 1

Cllr Ward announced that the Parish Council had, the previous year, nominated two local residents for a national Covid-19 award for their stoic efforts during the pandemic: Amanda Prout who took the lead in the Northway Community Response and Freda Smith who ran the Northway/Ashchurch WRVS Luncheon Club. It had not yet been

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PA/03/21 Chairman's Address & Presentation (continued)

announced whether either of the nominees had made it through to the final as this was still ongoing.

Certificates of Appreciation were being awarded by the Council to:

Andrew Oakley – **Appendix 2**
Gillian and Gordon Morss – **Appendix 3**
John Danter – **Appendix 4**
Rubianne Leng – **Appendix 5**
Bev Turner – **Appendix 6**

PA/04/21 Reports from the Various Committees and Working Parties of the Council

- i. **Road Safety Committee** – Cllr Ward, Chairman of the Road Safety Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 7**
- ii. **Finance Committee** – Cllr Roberts, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 8**
- iii. **Staffing Committee** – Cllr Roberts, Chairman of the Staffing Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 9**
- iv. **General Purposes Committee** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 10**
- v. **Planning Committee** – Cllr Godwin, Chairman of the Planning Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 11**
- vi. **CCTV Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the CCTV Working Party, provided a report – **Appendix 12**
- vii. **GP Projects Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the GP Projects Working Party, provided a report – **Appendix 13**
- viii. **Emergency Plan Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the Emergency Plan Working Party, provided a report – **Appendix 14**
- ix. **Carbon Neutral Working Party** – Cllr Barnes, Chairman of the Carbon Neutral Working Party, provided a report – **Appendix 15**

PA/05/21 Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish

- i. **Book Club & Bingo Club** – **Appendix 16**
- ii. **Tewkesbury School** – **Appendix 17**
- iii. **Gloucestershire County Council** – **Appendix 18**
- iv. **Carrant Brook Junior School** – Mrs Budd introduced herself as the Head Teacher of Carrant Brook School. She explained that the last twelve months had been very challenging. Like many other schools they had learnt how to adapt their teaching and, following the most recent lockdown, they had been able to switch to remote learning within 24 hours.

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PA/05/21 **Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish** (continued)

The main issues that they had found over the past year had been around supporting parents in providing remote learning at home as well as the wellbeing of staff who struggled with the setup and not being able to stand in front of a class full of children.

The children had been incredibly resilient at both Carrant Brook and Northway School and they had come back to ready to learn and pleased to be there. The community had really pulled together over this period, and they had seen various people contribute in many different ways to the school settings which helped keep things going. Mrs Budd added that she had a request that she wanted to put to the Council at the end of the meeting regarding something they would like to propose.

The School was keen to keep moving forward and hoped there would be no more lockdowns.

- v. **Veterans Coffee Group – Appendix 19**
- vi. **St Nicholas Church – Appendix 20**
- vii. **Ashchurch Brownies – Appendix 21**
- viii. **Ashchurch Guides – Appendix 22**
- ix. **Gloucestershire Police – Appendix 23**

Cllr Ward also read an email from PCSO Simpson –

“I have had a few people mention the horses to me whilst I’ve been on foot in Northway recently, they are normally a talking point. They were requested by myself due to anti-social behaviour in the Northway area that appeared to be escalating. They were used as an engagement tool and for high visibility patrol purposes to try and deter further ASB. I could have spent three days solid in the area and it wouldn’t have been mentioned but using the horses for a small amount of time seem to set facebook users alive talking about them.”

“We have had a few very good proactive stops in the Northway area resulting in some good results and are hoping to build on this as we progress through the year. A number of vehicles have been seized in the last month from Northway for being used without insurance / driving licence or not being taxed.”

“Members of the special constabulary came to Northway on Saturday at my request to carry out some speed checks on The Park on the whole the feedback was most were driving sensibly with a handful of individuals spoken to about their speed. Further visits will take place and will move more towards enforcement rather than engagement in the future.”

“There are numerous ongoing pieces of work going on that will hopefully bring about some good result and I hope to be able to come back to the council and report on these in the future in more detail but for obvious reasons I can’t at the moment.”

It was added that the Parish Council had written a letter of thanks to Gloucestershire Constabulary for sending the mounted police to Northway and, as a result of this they had paid a second visit.

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PA/05/21 Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish (continued)

- x. **Northway Youth Club** – Tara Fowler explained that she had started as leader of the youth club in April 2020 and, as a result of lockdowns, it only been able to operate for two months out of the past year (Sept/Oct). Government restrictions had also meant that they had needed to change how the youth club ran, operating more of a workshop with the children grouped into 'bubbles' and requiring them to pre-book instead of just drop in.

They were hoping to re-open on 19th April 2021, running workshops until government guideline allowed it to run as a drop-in centre again. They had tried to run online sessions, however not all children could get on with this, they were also trying to show support to the children who had been involved with the club previously by putting stuff out on social media. However, for the time being they could only progress with the workshops and hoped things would get better from there.

- xi. **Home Start – Appendix 24**

PA/06/21 Other Matters Raised by Electors

Mrs Budd explained that on 22nd October the various schools (Northway, Carrant Brook and Northway Playgroup) had a mental wellbeing inset day to come up with ideas to encourage teamwork or ideas on how to improve mental or physical wellbeing. They discussed that it would love to do something for the community and wanted, if possible, to plant bulbs at the entrances into Northway in the hope that they would provide an array of colours to those coming into the parish. It was also thought this would provide something visual to signify this experience that the community had been through together over the past year.

They would also be open to ideas or suggestions that the Parish Council might have on what would be appropriate.

Cllr Ward felt that this was a great idea, he pointed out that permission would first need to be sought from the relevant landowners (most likely Borough and/or County Council).

Mrs Budd added that the schools would organise the planting and make the necessary arrangements, they would also ask for donations from the community, parents and would fundraise. She asked the Council to come back to her with confirmation on whether or not permission could be granted. Cllr Ward confirmed that this would go to a Council meeting for further consideration.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:16 p.m.