

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th October 2024

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

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

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

C/216/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs MacTiernan, Barnes and Shelton as well as Lauren Woods (GRCC). No further apologies for absence had been received.

C/217/24 Public Participation

No issues were raised.

C/218/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs P Godwin, Poole and Roberts declared their interest in items relating to the Northway Pantry. No further 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/219/24 Digital & Technology Navigator (GRCC)

Lauren Woods, who was due to give a report, had been unable to attend. It was AGREED that this item should be deferred until the next Full Council meeting.

C/220/24 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 11th September 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

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

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Midwinter

C/221/24 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/194/24 Roads & Road Safety – Following a request from a resident to get a group of volunteers to improve the condition of the Northway Lane train station roundabout, they were informed that the Council did not feel it was able to apply for a licence for this work due to health and safety concerns.

C/198/24 Chain of Office – Fattorini were approached about the purchase of for new links for the Chain of Office.

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C/221/24 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report** (continued)

C/205/24 Northway Community Hub / Age UK – A letter of thanks was forwarded to the Age Friendly Communities Lead from Age UK who was no longer able to offer a drop in at the Hub.

C/205/24 Northway Community Hub – The twelve-month rental of hygiene units for Northway Community Hub was renewed.

C/208/24 Remembrance Sunday – A wreath was ordered for the Parish Council.

C/222/24 **Roads & Road Safety**

- a. **Issues of Concern** – No new issues of concern were raised.
- b. **Northway Lane M5 Overbridge** – The Clerk confirmed that she had written to County Councillor Smith following his offer to meet with the local MP about road safety issues in Northway, specifically relating to the M5 motorway bridge (Northway Lane). He had responded saying that he fully supported the ‘need for improved safety fencing over the bridge’ and offered to talk to the Local Highways Manager and MP Cameron Thomas for advice and support in moving this forward with National Highways as a ‘matter of urgency’.

The Clerk had also emailed the Local Highways Manager who offered to support this in any way he could. In the first instance, he was going to share the Council’s concerns with the Infrastructure Manager to gain her opinion in the matter.

- c. **Speed Camera and Vehicle Activation Sign** – The Clerk confirmed that the new Speedwatch Camera was now installed and working effectively. A total of 667 verified speeders had been logged since 16th September 2024, some travelling in the region of 60mph. The fastest speeds logged were 69mph, however, some of the number plates could not be verified.

The Road Safety Committee had agreed raising the trigger speed of the camera to 40mph, to reduce the amount of time it took to verify the vehicles, however, it had been raised to 38mph to see if this made a difference.

No reports had been submitted for letters to be sent to speeders, it had been advised that this should be delayed until after speed camera signs had been in place for a couple of months.

Cllr Mackenzie suggested that speeding data was shared with Atkins to evidence that there was a speeding issue in the parish.

The Clerk was asked to investigate whether letters could be sent to the companies of business vehicles that had been logged speeding.

Cllr Poole offered to write an article on speeding for the next issue of Northway Voice.

It was noted that the camera was not as effective in winter months when it did not obtain enough solar energy to keep running. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED purchase of a solar boost option for the camera to increase power. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/223/24 **County Councillor Report**

No reports were available.

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C/224/24 General Purposes Committee

- a. **Minutes** – Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 18th September 2024.
- b. **Skatepark / Funding** – The Clerk confirmed that construction of the skatepark was progressing well. Photographs had been shared on the Parish Council's social media.

It was noted that Maverick had kept the site very tidy. The first invoice had been received and a claim submitted to The National Lottery to draw on the grant funding towards this. It was noted that the Council was not yet able to claim on its grant from Enover.

C/225/24 Road Safety Committee

- a. **Minutes** – Members received the Minutes of the Road Safety Committee Meeting held on 25th September 2024.
- b. **Village Gateways** – Following the Road Safety Committee's recommendation that the Council progressed with installation of Village Gateways in the parish, the Clerk had written to County Councillor Vernon Smith about support of these. A response had not been received.

Cllr Mackenzie listed the proposed locations in order of priority (Min Ref: RS/09/24) which were:

1. Hardwick Bank Road M5 bridge.
2. Northway Lane M5 bridge.
3. Northway Lane humpback bridge.
4. Grange Road (although it was noted that the future of the level crossing was uncertain).

Cllr Terry raised concern that the road structure might be changed with upcoming development. Cllr Mackenzie believed that the gateways would be relocated as part of any work to change the roads.

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the Council should progress installation of Village Gateways at the above locations. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Route Around Northway** – Cllr Mackenzie pointed out that the development of 1,000 beyond the motorway bridge could mean as many as 6,000 extra vehicles travelling through Northway. He believed that the Council really needed to push for a bypass road.

Cllr Roberts agreed with these concerns but felt that there would not be enough money to allow for a bypass road, however, perhaps they could push for some concessions to help alleviate the problem in the parish.

Cllr Poole mentioned that she had approached the local schools regarding the issue of speeding, the idea of a poster/sticker design competition and the suggestion that local PCSO's be invited to give a talk (Min Ref: RS/11/24 refers). Carrant Brook School had confirmed that they would like to get involved and the Mini Police there would soon be talking about the issue of speeding.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that there was the upcoming consultation, which the Council was advertising. It was also calling for meetings with different organisations, including the County Councillor and local MP, so he felt that the Council was already taking some action.

Members considered what more the Council could do to highlight concerns in the hope of getting the best outcome possible for Northway and its residents. The idea of a petition was suggested; however, it was felt that this would encourage residents to agree with the Council's views, not necessarily allowing them to express their own.

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C/225/24 Road Safety Committee (continued)

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council looked at putting out a survey, regarding the proposed development, asking residents what they would like to see.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was suggested that an insert could be included in the March issue of Northway Voice, which would allow more time for the Council to consider what questions it should raise.

Cllr Poole pointed out that Google Forms was a good tool for gathering information at no cost.

C/226/24 Bleed Kit and Cabinet

The Clerk reminded Members that the Council had previously approved purchase of a bleed control kit and cabinet for installation at Northway Playing Field (Min Ref: C/198/24 refers). She had since discovered that the South West Ambulance did not hold details of bleed control kits so would not be able to provide information should access be required.

After some further research, the Clerk had spoken to a different company who informed that bleed kits could be registered on a separate website. They also believed that most ambulance services would soon keep a record of all the bleed kit locations along with cabinet lock codes, however, there was also a standard code which was used on most bleed kit cabinets which the ambulance would, hopefully, suggest in an emergency.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that, following this new information, the Council should purchase a bleed control kit and cabinet from this company. Cllr P Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/227/24 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr MacTiernan was not present at the meeting; however, she had asked the Clerk to report that things were nearly back to normal following the cyber-attack on the Borough Council. They were due to hold their first Planning Meeting, since the attack, the following week.

C/228/24 Annual Governance & Accountability Review

The completed audit had been returned along with the Notice of Conclusion of Audit. No issues had been raised.

C/229/24 Council Accounts

It was noted that the previous issue, relating to the air conditioning system, had not been mentioned by SK Heating following their latest service of the equipment. It was, therefore, felt that the previously proposed work may no longer be required (Min Ref: FIN/55/24 refers).

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £50,545.63 should be approved. Cllr P Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/230/24 Youth Work

The Clerk passed on a report following two Play Ranger sessions that took place in the summer holidays.

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C/230/24 Youth Work (continued)

A letter had also been received a letter of recognition relating to Adam Harper (Boxing Clever) from the Fresh Start Care Group. Members were pleased to hear such a positive review of Adam and the work he was doing.

C/231/24 Coronation Artwork Post Cards

It was reported that there were approximately sixty post cards left after distributing copies to the local school children who were involved in the project. It was AGREED that these should be made available for purchase at the Community Christmas Event at a cost of 50p each.

C/232/24 Member of Parliament

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the local MP should be invited to attend a future Council meeting. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/233/24 Crime & Disorder

- a. **Crime Figures** – Crime figures were not available.
- b. **Crime & Disorder** – The Clerk informed Members that both payments relating to vandalism at the Play Park had now been received.

Cllr Terry mentioned that farm vehicles had dropped a significant amount of mud on the roads the previous week. The Clerk confirmed that she had reported this.

Cllr Poole mentioned that Gloucestershire Constabulary had issued a statement regarding a Police Constable who had been removed from his position.

C/234/24 Christmas

The Clerk had made enquiries into availability of the sleigh for the sleigh run around Northway. It was AGREED that the Council should keep the sleigh for several days following the Christmas Event and use it for sleigh runs on any of the evenings prior to 5th December 2024.

It was confirmed that the Christmas Event was now being advertised, although it had previously taken place between 1pm – 5pm, the timings had been reduced to 1pm- 4pm this year. Cllr Roberts, Cllr Shelton and local resident Mr Ward were organising the event, as in previous years, however, it was pointed out that councillors' support was required to make it a success.

Cllr Roberts mentioned that the cakes had been donated again and any donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated.

C/235/24 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Bill** – Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should write to the Minister Baroness Jones seeking her support for this bill. Cllr Poole SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/236/24 Lease / Licence Working Party

The Clerk explained that the Northway Pantry had received advice from a legal representative at Skanska who had suggested some minor amendments to the lease. The Clerk listed the proposed amendments. Cllr Terry PROPOSED acceptance of these changes. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

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

C/237/24 Northway Village Hall

- a. **Radiator Covers** – The Clerk advised that the radiators in the Village Hall got dangerously hot when the heating was on. Members considered ways to reduce the risk to users of the hall. Suggestions included installation of radiator covers, heat reflectors or a remote timer on the boiler.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that more information on the various options was brought back to the next meeting for consideration.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Beadle suggested that, in the meantime, a plumber was asked to turn the boiler down slightly to reduce the risk.

- b. **Energy Efficiency Grant** – The Clerk had been advised that the Council could not re-apply to this grant scheme for additional energy efficiency projects.
- c. **Hiring of Hall -**

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

Cllr Roberts 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 confidential cover, the Council agreed that Boxing Clever should not be charged for use of the Hall when free training was being offered. It also agreed to reduce the hourly rate being charged to Belong School.

C/238/24 Correspondence for Information

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Notice that the second half of the precept had been paid.
- b. **The Clerk Magazine** – July 2024 & September 2024
- c. **Society of Local Council Clerks** – News Bulletin – 12th September 2024.
- d. **Gloucestershire Age UK** – Updated ‘Tewkesbury Information Document’
- e. **Information by Design** – Survey on behalf of the OPCC gathering opinions about perceptions of crime in the location area.
- f. **Moog** – The opening event for Moog was cancelled due to damage to the building following heavy rain.

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C/238/24 Correspondence for Information

- g. **Parish and Town Council Seminar** – This was due to be attended by Cllr Fancourt but was cancelled following a cyber-attack at Tewkesbury Borough Council.

C/239/24 Correspondence Received After 3rd October 2024

- i. **NHS** – Offer to hold a ‘Hydration Project’ session at the Community Hub. The Clerk was authorised to arrange this at the most suitable time (i.e. on a day when Luncheon Club, Strength and Balance, or the Walking Group took place at the Hub).
- ii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – ‘Council Planning team focused on tackling backlog as systems come back online.’
- iii. **Warm Space Community Fund** – Details of grant available.
- iv. **St Nicholas Church** – Details of Remembrance Service. Cllr Barnes had previously confirmed he was able to attend. The Clerk asked any other Members to let her know if they would be representing the Council so that a seat could be saved.
- v. **Singing Group** – Cllr Terry provided an update on her singing group which met at the Hub every month.
- vi. **Mayor’s Charity Dinner** (29th November 2024) – The Chairman had been invited to this event and he had expressed a wish to attend. Although it was not on the agenda for approval, Members AGREED, in principle, that they had no objections to Cllr Barnes’ ticket being funded by the Council (although his wife’s ticket, should she attend, would not be covered).

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.25pm.