

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th February 2022
at Northway Community Hub, Northway, commencing at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr S Ward (Vice-Chairman) Cllr M Barnes
Cllr C Blackmore (until Min Ref: C/33/22) Cllr P Godwin (until Min Ref: C/52/22)
Cllr E MacTiernan (until Min Ref: C/ 52/22) Cllr E Phennah
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry

In Attendance: County Cllr Smith, Gloucestershire County Council (until Min Ref: C/39/22).
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/32/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Roberts, Treacy and Mackenzie.

C/33/22 **Public Participation**

- i. **Invitation for Members of the Public to Address the Council** – Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the meeting should adjourn to allow for any public participation.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Blackmore mentioned that areas in the parish had been sprayed with pink spray and small wooden signs stuck in the ground – one of which she had tripped over. It was clarified that Cllr Shelton had put the signs in the ground and sprayed areas where daffodil bulbs had been planted. Cllr Blackmore suggested that a post on Facebook, explaining this, might be useful to keep residents informed.

There was some confusion and misunderstanding relating to the wooden signs following which Cllr Blackmore left the meeting.

7:02pm – Cllr Blackmore left the meeting.

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

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/34/22 **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/35/22 **Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the Council Meeting that took place on 12th January 2022 - Cllr Terry pointed out an error on page three when she was thanked for putting together terms of reference for the Jubilee Working Party instead of Cllr Treacy. With this amendment made, Cllr Terry PROPOSED the Minutes should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/35/22 **Previous Minutes** (Continued)

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting that took place on 19th January 2022 - Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Barnes
Cllr Shelton Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Godwin Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Phennah

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting that took place on 26th January 2022 - Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/36/22 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

C/13/22 Precept Requirement for the Year 2022/23 – The precept request had been forwarded to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

C/17/22 Remote Meetings – A letter had been sent to Laurence Robertson, MP, to ask for his support on the issue of remote meetings. The following response had been received:

‘The Government recognises that councils have delivered above and beyond throughout the pandemic. To support the reopening of local authority buildings and the return to face-to-face meetings, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) advise use of the ‘Working Safely During Coronavirus’ guidance available on gov.uk which provides advice on precautions to manage risk.

‘Meetings where councils deem in-person attendance is not required can continue virtually. This would include non-statutory or other informal meetings.’

C/310/21 Defibrillator Training – Positive comments had been received following the defibrillator training course on 29th January 2022, these were passed on to Members.

C/20/22 Correspondence Available – Age UK – A letter of good wishes had been forwarded to Rob Fountain who was stepping down as CEO of Age UK.

C/37/22 **Roads & Road Safety**

- a. **Issues of Concern** – The Clerk mentioned that Cllr Treacy had emailed a photo of the path between Bevan Gardens and Sinderberry Drive after it was cut back by the maintenance gang (Min Ref: C/06/22 refers).

A letter had been received from a local resident who had safety concerns about the height of the Northway Lane motorway bridge barriers, this was read to Members. The Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded the correspondence to County Cllr Vernon Smith and the Local Highways Manager and a response was being awaited.

Cllr Ward added that he had been told, unofficially, that the bridge barriers were non-compliant with current regulations and his wife would not ride her bike over the bridge due to the barriers being so low.

County Cllr Smith confirmed that he had received the copy of this correspondence and sent it on to National Highways, who were responsible for the bridge. He suggested it might help if the Council put its concerns in writing to the local MP.

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C/37/22 **Roads & Road Safety** (Continued)

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should email Laurence Robertson with its concerns regarding the barriers, especially because hundreds of school children crossed the bridge most days.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Village Gateways** – The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Local Highways Manager who explained that Gloucestershire County Council did not purchase or install village gateways, however, it could allocate funding, if available. Unfortunately, he did not feel that there were any funds available to cover this expenditure other than, perhaps, some of County Cllr Smith's Highways Local fund, a lot of which was already used up. He suggested again that the Council sought costings.

County Cllr Smith re-confirmed that he would be happy to support the Council financially if he could, however he might only be able to contribute part of the overall cost.

Cllr Ward wondered whether it might be worth creating a Working Group to consider whether it was worth progressing this until it was clear where the new road would be placed along Hardwick Bank Road (linking to the proposed bridge).

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that further consideration of village gateways for the parish was deferred for twelve months. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Survey** – A total of 136 responses had been received to the speed humps survey (Min Ref: C/06/22 refers), 71.11% voted in support of wider speed humps along The Park, 22.89% voted against. Members had been forwarded a copy of the results and ninety additional comments which had been received relating to road safety; these included suggestions for a pedestrian crossing, speed cameras, 20mph limit, filtered lanes, a VAS, footpath alongside amenity land, village gates, chicanes, etc.

Members felt that a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Northway Lane with The Park was a suggestion that would be worth further consideration in the future.

It was AGREED that the survey results should be forwarded to the Local Highways Manager along with a request for the humps to be extended.

Cllr Ward asked the Clerk to also forward the results to the local MP.

- d. **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)**
- i. Notice of Northway Lane Road Closure to allow for repointing and brickwork repair of railway bridge parapet. Details had been forwarded to Members.
- ii. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should pass a motion supporting a widespread 20mph limit for residential areas (Min Ref: GP/06/22 refers). Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- e. **Northway Lane Motorway Bridge** – This had already been covered under item a.

C/38/22 **County Councillor Report**

County Cllr Smith had emailed a written report which was forwarded to Members prior to the meeting. He went on to explain that there was an upcoming meeting relating to Junction 9 and an option that was being pushed through was for a link straight to Junction 10 which would negate the requirement for J9a. It was looking likely that a consultation would be going out on this in the summer.

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C/38/22 County Councillor Report (continued)

Major resurfacing of the Northway Lane bridge was upcoming, he believed this was in the schedule for March.

A number of cycle routes were upcoming, four for the Tewkesbury area alone. He explained that there was also a lot of money in the Highways resurfacing budget and toward pothole patching.

Cllr Ward mentioned the recent roadworks at the Shannon Way/Northway Lane junction which had caused chaos. County Cllr Smith agreed that this had been frustrating and the County Council had been issuing £2,000 fines daily.

Cllr Barnes mentioned that a vehicle had smashed through the barrier at this same junction, and it was still in disarray six months on, with glass on the road. County Cllr Smith explained that as there was an ongoing insurance claim relating to this the County had to go through police and legislation before being able to put it right.

Cllr Phennah asked if there was a completion date for the additional lane for Junction 9 (to the new garden centre). County Cllr Smith confirmed he would try and find out.

C/39/22 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting that took place on 19th January 2022.

7:40pm – County Cllr Smith left the meeting.

C/40/22 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19th January 2022.

C/41/22 Finance Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 26th January 2022.

C/42/22 Risk Assessment

Members received the recommendation from the Finance Committee that the Risk Assessment was approved by Council (Min Ref FIN/11/22 refers). Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of the Council's Risk Assessment (Min Ref: FIN/11/22 refers). Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/43/22 Northway Village Hall

A quotation of approximately £606.50 had been received for installation of an internal door at the Village Hall (provided by the Trustees of Northway Youth Club). This would allow access to the toilets for events, etc. while keeping the main building secure. Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Ward
Cllr Barnes Cllr Phennah
Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Godwin Cllr MacTiernan

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C/44/22 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Party

- a. Members received the Notes of the meeting that took place on 14th January 2022 and 28th January 2022.
- b. Cllr Terry felt that the Jubilee picnic event should be being advertised already as a lot of people were already making plans.

It was noted that a member of the Working Party had approached Joedan about sponsorship, although the agreement had been for any contact with local businesses to be made via the office.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should start advertising the picnic event. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward recalled that the Working Group had agreed to look at what other events were taking place locally on the Jubilee weekend, he had heard talk of road closures for street parties around Northway.

C/45/22 Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Godwin had nothing to report.

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned that the Borough Council were introducing the option for paperless Council tax billing which was available upon request. Also, Tewkesbury Borough Council had approved its 2022/23 budget and had the 6th lowest Council tax rate in the country.

Following serious hacking at Gloucestershire City Council in recent months, Cllr MacTiernan assured members that Tewkesbury Borough Council had super secure measures in place to protect their systems.

It had been reported in the news that the government was no longer giving funding to local authorities (where they used to provide a five year plan) now they were just giving out one off 1-year maximum grants. This could cause worry to businesses as they would not be able to plan ahead and know where their money was coming from.

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned that Tewkesbury Borough Council had, several years before, made the decision to purchase commercial properties, those investments were now bringing in £3million a year.

Garden waste bins had previously been in deficit, but take-up had increased and the service was working very well.

C/46/22 Council Accounts

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £15,998.26. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/47/22 Parish Assembly

- a. **Agenda** – Cllr Shelton PROPOSED approval of the Parish Assembly, which would be as standard but include an item for the fraud presentation. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED. The Clerk added that the meeting, and presentation, would also be advertised in the upcoming newsletter.
- b. **Community Awards** – Members considered nominations for community awards.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that residents, Jo and Tara Fowler should be nominated for an award due

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C/47/22 Parish Assembly (continued)

to the excellent planning of the community fete and assistance she is giving the Parish Council with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event (Tara) and afternoon teas that are being put of free of charge for Northway residents (Jo). Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that Mr Ricketts, who helped at the Council's community event (and other events in the past) should be nominated for an award.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that a special recognition award should be presented to 'Hope' for her efforts to fight development of the bridge (Min Ref: C/02/22 refers). Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/48/22 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Release relating to hospitality and leisure sector grant. It was noted that the Parish Council was not eligible to apply for this.

C/49/22 Crime & Disorder

- a. **Crime and Disorder** – Cllr Ward mentioned that the property in Saxon Park which had been given a closure order had now been handed back to Bromford.
- b. **Commissioners Fund 2022/23** – It was suggested that the Council should apply to this fund towards the cost of outreach work, including boxing sessions, to cut down on antisocial behaviour and destruction of property in the area. It was noted that the Council also had £3,000 budgeted towards youth work. Cllr Terry offered to assist the Clerk with this application, the deadline for which was 16th February 2022.
- c. Cllr MacTiernan gave a report following a meeting she had attended with the police. Concerns had been raised about the spike in antisocial behaviour locally and the police wanted to step in and help address this as much as they could. They talked about what could be done to reduce antisocial behaviour, particularly in relation to teenagers, and it was felt that a further meeting, with the Youth Club Trustees, Sycamore Chapel, Bromford and the Council, might be beneficial.

Cllr MacTiernan said that the police had been very positive and keen to act. There was also the suggestion of funding being available, although this was not guaranteed.

C/50/22 Correspondence for Information

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** –
 - i. Government update on plans to bring in new measures to restore natural habitats and approach to funding for farmers.
 - ii. Bulletin 94 – Covid-19 response.
- b. **The Clerk Magazine** – January 2022.
- c. **National Association of Local Council (NALC)** – Chief Executive's Bulletin 21.02.22.
- d. **Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)** – News Bulletin 21.02.22.

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C/51/22 **Property Matters / Youth Club / Trustees**

a. **Boxing Sessions**

- i. The Clerk confirmed that the Youth Club Trustees had been happy to match the Council's contribution towards boxing sessions (Min Ref: C/21/22 refers), this would now provide free boxing sessions until May 2022 (based on one night a week).
- ii. The Clerk read a message that had been sent to the Council regarding the positive effect of the boxing sessions on local children in the community and request that the Council continued to support this.

b. **Proposed Meeting** – The Clerk confirmed that PCSO Simpson would initially like to meet with the Parish Council and the Youth Club Trustees and a date of 16th February 2022 had been suggested (Min Ref: C/21/22 refers). Cllrs Terry and Ward would be attending this (Cllr Roberts was unavailable). Cllr MacTiernan added that she would also like to attend if this was deemed appropriate, which was AGREED.

c. **Funding** – The Clerk reminded Members that there was a total of £3,000 in the Council's youth budget heading for the current year and Members considered what this could be used towards.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should use the remaining funds to provide some boxing and some mentoring sessions, provided Adam Harper (boxing) agreed to continue with this, also the Youth Club Trustees should again be approached to match fun and subject to the outcome of the meeting to be held with Police. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Phennah
	Shelton	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Godwin

C/52/22 **Tewkesbury Garden Town Meeting with Ashchurch Rural Parish and Northway Parish Sub Group**

Cllr Barnes gave a short report following his attendance at the last meeting of the Sub Group regarding Tewkesbury Garden Town (on 21st January 2022).

The Clerk read a further letter from 10-year-old 'Hope' directed at Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding proposals for the bridge, she had also created a map of locations she had spotted rare birds in the fields. It was AGREED that this should be forwarded on to Tewkesbury Borough Council and uploaded to Northway Parish Council's facebook page.

8.33pm – Cllrs MacTiernan and Godwin left the meeting.

C/53/22 **Judicial Review / ABoR**

Exclusion Items – Cllr Ward PROPOSED that, in view of the special/confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, i.e. determining/approving actions relating to possible legal procedures and expenditure, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Under exclusion, an update was provided on further actions relating to the Judicial Review / ABoR.

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C/54/22 **Correspondence received after 3rd February 2022**

- a. **National Association of Local Councils** – Newsletters.
- b. **Laurence Robertson, MP** – Circular.
- c. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Notice that Louise Gifford, Funding Officer, was leaving her post.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.