

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th November 2022

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

Present: Cllr J Roberts (Chairman) Cllr S Ward
Cllr M Barnes Cllr C Blackmore
Cllr P Godwin (Until C/224/22) Cllr P Mackenzie (until C/224/22 8.05pm /from
C//224/22 8.07pm)
Cllr E MacTiernan (until C/224/22) Cllr S Terry
Cllr G Shelton

In Attendance: Mr W Luker, Gloucestershire Live (until C/224/22/from C/225/22)
Cllr V Smith, Gloucestershire County Council (from Min Ref: C/206/22 until C/211/22)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

Members acknowledged the death of ex-councillor Dave Nash.

C/205/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Phennah and Beadle. No further apologies for absence were received.

C/206/22 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 Ward mentioned that he had reported a number of streetlights which were not working.

7.02pm – County Cllr Smith joined the meeting.

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned a bollard that had been knocked down on the Northway Lane motorway bridge. The Clerk had reported this the day it had happened and, although signs had been put up, nothing had been done about replacing the bollard. County Cllr Smith asked the Clerk to forward the details of this and he would chase it up.

Cllr Godwin mentioned that black paint at the base of one of the outdoor gym items was starting to come off.

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

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/207/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Godwin declared an interest in any discussions relating to Northway Youth Club. Cllr Mackenzie declared his interest in agenda items 6b (Community Speedwatch) and 14b (Food Pantry), he explained that he was rescinding his offer on behalf of Infinity 6 to cover the cost of a VAS and, instead, offering to financially support the Food Pantry project. No further 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).

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C/208/22 Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th October 2022 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED

FOR:	Cllr Shelton	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Blackmore	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Roberts

ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Ward	

C/209/22 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/179/22 Roads & Road Safety – The Local Highways Manager had passed the Parish Council's request that the safety of the Northway Lane motorway bridge was assessed during peak times onto the Road Safety Team.

C/189/22 Food Pantry / Energy Crisis – A letter of thanks was written to a resident that donated funds towards the Community Hub energy costs.

C/189/22 Food Pantry / Energy Crisis – The Luncheon Club had been asked to consider lowering the age requirement from 60 to 55 for attendees to allow more people to benefit from it in upcoming months. A response was still being awaited.

C/190/22 Digital Hub – Further questions had been forwarded to the Priors Park Neighbourhood Project (PPNP) relating to the running of a digital hub and possible risks involved. A response was still being awaited.

C/192/22 Remembrance Sunday – A wreath had been obtained for the Council and one on behalf of the Brownies. Cllr Ward would be laying the Council's wreath at the Ashchurch Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

C/193/22 Crime & Disorder – A letter of thanks had been forwarded to PCSO Karl Simpson following his move to a different department. It was noted that the new PCSO for the area was Tracey Magovern.

C/202/22 Youth Work – Play Ranger had confirmed availability for a play session in Northway on 24th February 2022. This had been booked.

C/210/22 Roads & Road Safety

- a. **Issues of Concern** – It was noted that speed survey tubes had been put down in Wheal Road, Kestrel Way and other roads in Northway. County Cllr Smith confirmed that these were for obtaining data for the 'bridge to nowhere'.

Cllr Ward mentioned streetlights and traffic bollards that had stopped working after Virgin Media did work in Northway. These had been reported but the County Council was waiting on National Grid. County Cllr Smith suggested that the Clerk emailed Ken Pitt in the Street Lighting department at Gloucestershire Highways and copied him into the correspondence.

- b. i. **Community Speedwatch Fund** – The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council's application to the Community Speedwatch Fund had been unsuccessful (Min Ref: C/179/22 refers). Since the Full Council meeting that took place on 5th October 2022, Cllr Mackenzie had (as a resident) emailed several organisations and representatives about the decision – some had responded and some had not. An explanation as to why the application had been rejected had never been received.

County Cllr Smith said that he believed that, although the Assistant Road Safety Engineer had been supportive of the application and it had all been signed off by Gloucestershire County Council, the police had not been supportive.

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C/210/22 Roads & Road Safety (continued)

The Clerk confirmed that, since Cllr Mackenzie's email, the Local Highways Manager and Manager of the Road Safety Team had further discussed the application and had agreed to commission three speed surveys in Northway, if these proved a need then a VAS would be approved for the area. The speed tubes had been in place for over a week (one near The Park/Hardwick Bank Road junction, one along Northway Lane near Apple Tree Court and another near The Sandfield junction).

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should contact the Local Highways Manager and get a timeline for this.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. Confirmation had been received that the second Community Speedwatch Fund was open for applications.

C/211/22 County Councillor Report

County Cllr Smith had emailed a report to the office ahead of the meeting and this had been circulated to Members.

An update was also provided on the Junction 9 M5 consultation which had recently been put on hold. This would be coming out the following summer with two or three possible options. Previously, National Highways had been pushing for it to be two-way but he had now been assured that this would not happen and the possible options would all be based on a four-way junction.

Cllr Ward mentioned that an additional lane had been added to the approach to the Junction 9 roundabout but no signage or road markings had been provided, this meant that cars were constantly going in the wrong lane. County Cllr Smith said that this had been raised with National Highways but different areas were looking after different works and so it was difficult to get issues addressed.

7.32pm – Cllr Smith left the meeting.

C/212/22 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting's that took place on 12th October 2022

C/213/22 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 12th October 2022.

C/214/22 Finance Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting that took place on 26th October 2022.

C/215/22 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr MacTiernan confirmed that she had, again, spoken to Mr Tonge, Head of Community Services at Tewkesbury Borough Council, regarding the iron bridge (Min Ref: C/186/22 refers), he was awaiting more information from the M.O.D. regarding provision of paint and volunteers towards the project.

The Borough Council's Development Management Review was still ongoing. A new interim Development Manager was now in place and, as a result, things were moving along better (according to the latest report).

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C/215/22 Borough Councillor's Report (continued)

The Borough Council was still short-staffed, but they were putting out new advertisements and also undertaking a salary review.

C/216/22 Council Accounts

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned a damaged and outdated (Covid-19) sign at the skatepark that should be removed. It was AGREED that this should be put to the General Purposes Committee for consideration.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £21,311.46, should be approved. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/217/22 Meeting Schedule

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED the meeting schedule for the period of January to June 2023. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/218/22 Food Pantry/Energy Crisis

- a. The Clerk confirmed submission of a grant application for £1,000 towards provision of a 'warm space' at Northway Community Hub - half of this would cover energy costs and the other half provision of food, games, etc. An application had also been submitted to the Cost of Living Crisis Fund being provided by Gloucestershire Community Foundation.

Cllr Roberts mentioned a guide that Martin Lewis had publicised about setting up warm spaces in communities.

- b. Cllr Roberts gave a report following a meeting that took place on 2nd November 2022 with potential food pantry volunteers. Out of the ten people who had emailed expressing their interest in helping with the project, only two had managed to make the meeting as well as four councillors. The weather may have paid a part in this as it had been especially bad that night. A very good discussion had taken place and the members of the public in attendance had made strong contributions and ideas on taking things forward. The outcome had been that meetings would be arranged with Priors Park Neighbourhood Project and CCP to discuss how each of their food pantries were co-ordinated.

Cllr Shelton confirmed that the Co-Op had said they would look favourably on supporting a food pantry project in Northway.

C/219/22 Crime & Disorder

No issues relating to crime and disorder were raised.

C/220/22 Christmas

- a. Cllr Roberts confirmed that he was in the process of applying for a Build Back Better grant towards the Christmas event.

Members considered provision of hot chocolate, paper cups, etc. for the event. Cllr MacTiernan

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C/220/22 **Christmas** (continued)

PROPOSED that £100 from the Events Budget should be allocated towards this. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. Cllr Ward confirmed that three dates were available for the sleigh to be used in Northway – 8th, 12th and 19th December 2022. He felt that, due to the current living crisis, people should not be obligated to make donations, this also meant that less volunteers would be required as there would be no knocking on doors. Father Christmas usually handed out chocolates from the sleigh, Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the cost of the chocolates should be taken from the Events Budget..

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Terry asked what donations would go towards, if people did choose to donate. Cllr Ward felt that any funds raised should be put towards future community events.

It was noted that Northway Community Volunteers sleigh had been sold to the Tewkesbury Boys Brigade.

C/221/22 **Correspondence for Action**

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Council's (GAPTC)** -The Clerk listed upcoming training events (including Finance for Councillors and Chairmanship). The Clerk was still awaiting confirmation from Cllr Beadle as to whether or not he could attend a Being a Better Councillor course (Min Ref: C/200/22 refers).

C/222/22 **Correspondence for Information**

- a. **Dobbies Opening Event** – Cllr Roberts confirmed that he had attended the opening event for Dobbies Garden Centre on 3rd November 2022. The facility had looked nice and it was good to hear that 85% of its employees were from Tewkesbury or surrounding villages. A special, celebrity guest, Jo Wiley, officially opened the store.
- b. **National Association of Local Councils** – Chief Executive's Bulletin - 14.10.22 & 28.10.22.
- c. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils**
- i. Details of Councillor networking session.
 - ii. Details of Anti-Social Behaviour networking session.
- d. **St Nicholas Church, Ashchurch** – Cllr Shelton had agreed to attend the Rev'd Suzanne Grindrod's leaving event on 11th November 2022 (Cllr Terry would also be there). A farewell letter had been forwarded to Rev'd Grindrod.
- e. **Tewkesbury Library** – A letter of thanks had been received from the Library for use of the Community Hub while refurbishment work took place.

C/223/22 **Youth Club/Youth Work**

- a. Young Gloucestershire had requested use of the Village Hall for HAF activities from 19th December for four days. This request had been put to the Youth Club Trustees who had agreed to allow it but were charging £20 a day for use of the building (in the summer they had charged £10 per day). Cllr Godwin explained that the rise in price was to cover energy costs.

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C/223/22 Youth Club/Youth Work (continued)

Some councillors expressed disappointment that the Youth Club was not supportive of free youth work taking place in the parish, however, Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the Parish Council covered the cost (out of Youth Budget). Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Blackmore	Cllr Ward
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Roberts
	Cllr Terry	Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Godwin

- b. The Clerk confirmed that Play Gloucestershire had been booked to provide a Play Ranger session at Northway Playing Field on 24th February 2023 at a cost of £511.50 (Min Ref: C/202/22 refers). It was hoped that the Village Hall toilets could be used since the Parish Council had paid for installation of a lockable door to keep the main building secure, however this would need to be confirmed with the Trustees.

Due to the speed that Play Ranger sessions booked up, Cllr Ward suggested some dates were obtained for them to come to Northway in the 2023/24 financial year.

- c. The Clerk confirmed that Adam Harper (Boxing Clever) hoped to address and thank the Council after he had finished his sessions at the Village Hall that evening.
- d. The Clerk explained that the Council's joint funding towards boxing sessions had been due to run out in December, however, there had been a break in the summer which meant that sessions were paid for until January 2023. The cost of the sessions was £45 each (£90 a night) and there was sufficient funding in budget to continue match funding, if the Council wanted to do this.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, providing the Youth Club were still agreeable to match fund, the Council should continue to cover half the cost of boxing sessions until the end of the financial year. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/224/22 Appeal Review relating to Ashchurch Bridge Over Rail (ABoR)

Exclusion Items – Cllr Roberts 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

8.02pm – Will Luker, Cllr Godwin and Cllr MacTiernan left the meeting.

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

8.05pm – Cllr Mackenzie left the meeting.

8.07pm – Cllr Mackenzie re-joined the meeting.

8.09 pm – Will Luker re-joined the meeting.

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C/245/22 Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office

- a. **Clerk's & Council's Direct** – November 2022, issue 144.
- b. **Gloucestershire Carers Hub** – Invitation to Carer Rights Day.

C/246/22 Correspondence received after 3rd November 2022

- a. **Christmas Lights Committee** – Invitation for the Chairman to join the committee for tea and cake at the Town Hall followed by a procession down the high street to meet stallholders. Cllr Roberts had confirmed attendance.
- b. **Events Screening** – Details of screens available to hire for screening of the coronation.
- c. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC)** – Toolkit elections. Cllrs Roberts and Ward agreed to put their names forward to be interviewed on what it is like to be a councillor ahead of the elections.

8.20pm – Adam Harper joined the meeting with two of his students and thanked the Council for supporting the boxing sessions in Northway. He and his students then provided a boxing demonstration for members who were present.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.