

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held on Wednesday 25th March 2019 at Northway Community Hub, Northway, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Council Chairman) Cllr Mrs S Terry (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs D Bailey Cllr D Birch
Cllr Mrs P Godwin Cllr Mrs E MacTiernan
Cllr E Phennah (from Min Ref: PA/02/19) Cllr J Roberts
Cllr G Shelton

Mrs Eleanor Billingham, Local Resident
Mr John Peachey, Local Resident
Mr Dann Tipp, CMAS/Youth Provider
Mr Simon Bailey, Neighbourhood Watch (until Min Ref: PA/02/19)
Mr Bob Lloyd, Neighbourhood Watch (until Min Ref: PA/02/19)
Mr Bob Nicholls, Local Resident (until/from Min Ref: PA/06/19)
Ms Lindsey Kane, Alderman Knight School
Mr Len Reid, Local Resident
Rev Suzanne Grindrod, St Nicholas Church
Pastor Leon Else, M5Nine
Ms Amanda Pratt, Northway Community Volunteers
Mr Dean Raggatt, Northway Community Volunteers
Mr Richard Dunn, Local Resident
County Cllr Vernon Smith, Gloucestershire CC (from Min Ref: PA/06/19)

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

PA/01/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Freda Smith (WRVS Luncheon Club), Maria Budd (Northway Infant School), Roger Hare (Glos Carers) and Jamie Beadle (Northway Community Volunteers).

PA/02/19 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Ward introduced Bob Lloyd and Simon Bailey from Neighbourhood Watch. Bob reported that Neighbourhood Watch was operating in some extent in four areas of the Parish – Howard Close, Oak Drive, Bowler Road and Thistle Downs.

7:34 – Cllr Phennah joined the meeting.

Bob explained that he and Simon were employed by the Crime Commissioner, both were retired police officers and fairly new to Neighbourhood Watch. Bob's main area was Gloucester, Simon's was Cheltenham and they shared Tewkesbury between them.

In the Tewkesbury district 5,836 houses were covered by the scheme (approximately 15%). Someone wishing to start the scheme in their area became the co-ordinator and organised the signing up of any neighbours, they would also be one to communicate directly with the police.

Bob told everyone about the Neighbourhood Alerts that Gloucestershire Constabulary sent out and handed out application forms for anyone interested in signing up. These alerts provided regular information from PCSO's and constables and he encouraged people to sign up and keep informed of what was going on. It was noted that co-

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PA/02/19 **Neighbourhood Watch** (continued)

ordinators got more detailed alerts relating to thefts and burglaries, they were then able to feed information and pass it to others in the scheme however they felt best.

National statistics showed that areas belonging to a neighbourhood Watch scheme were 25% less likely to be affected by crimes. The Co-Operative also offered discounts to people associated with the scheme.

Bob said that it was important for residents to report anything unusual via 101 or on the Gloucestershire Constabulary website, they could also phone Simon or himself directly (and they would leave contact details for anyone who wanted to take them after the meeting). If a crime was happening or had happened you could also phone 999 although you could not guarantee blue lights response.

Cllr MacTiernan asked how long a Neighbourhood Watch scheme had been running in Oak Drive as she had never been made aware of it. Bob said that, as far as he was aware, the scheme had been running there for quite a while, however, it was noted that some co-ordinators were less proactive than others. Bob added that if any signs were missing or broken, Neighbourhood Watch would replace them.

Mr Reid suggested that, if police still patrolled at night (as they used to) there would be less problems in the area. He had noted in the latest issue of Northway Voice that drug problems had arisen at The Park, if police still patrolled then normal people would not have to put their lives at risk. Bob clarified that no one was being asked to put their lives at risks, only to report problems and incidents. It may be that the police knew about the problem(s) but maybe not, either way residents needed to pick up the phone and tell them.

Cllr MacTiernan explained that Northway was mostly suffering from vandalism, graffiti and damage to its Play Park. She encouraged everyone to report incidents of crim to the police otherwise they would not have the statistics to back up what was going on. She did, however, add that lack of action and long waits on the phone often meant it was not very inspiring to report things to the police.

Cllr Ward added that residents could report incidents even a week later, it was worth doing as it meant that the crimes were recorded and the police did respond just sometimes not straight away.

Cllr Terry asked whether co-ordinators could cover more than one street. Bob confirmed that there was no limit to the amount of streets a co-ordinator could cover.

Before leaving, Bob and Simon left leaflets for anyone to take home - (**Appendix 1**).

8.50pm – Bob Lloyd and Simon Bailey left the meeting.

PA/03/19 **Approval of Minutes from Last Parish Assembly**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 28th March 2018 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Terry	Cllr MacTiernan
	Cllr Bailey	Cllr Birch
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Phennah
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Ward
	Rev S Grindrod	Mr R Dunn

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PA/03/19 Approval of Minutes from Last Parish Assembly (continued)

ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Shelton	Mrs E Billingham
	Mr J Peachey	Mr D Tipp
	Mr B Nicholls	Ms Lindsey Kane
	Mr L Reid	Pastor L Else
	Ms A Pratt	Mr D Raggatt

PA/04/19 Chairman's Address

Appendix 2

Cllr Ward also reported that new 'Parish of Northway' signs had been installed earlier that day at various entrances into Northway. In addition, the defibrillator for installation in the Hardwick Bank Road phone box had been delivered that day.

Cllr Ward announced that a Certificate of Appreciation was being awarded to Mrs Eleanor Billingham in acknowledgement of her contribution to the parish of Northway (**Appendix 3**). Mrs Billingham had, for many months, taken it upon herself to address the problem of dog fouling near her home. Mrs Billingham accepted her award, along with an arrangement of flowers as a thank you from the Council.

PA/05/19 Reports from the Various Committees and Working Parties of the Council

- i. **General Purposes Committee** – Cllr Ward, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, provided a report (**Appendix 4**). It was also noted that a section of grass cutting along Northway Lane was due to be maintained by Tewkesbury Borough Council following a review of ownership.
- ii. **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the GDPR Working party, provided a report (**Appendix 5**).
- iii. **IT Working Party** – Cllr Ward, Chairman of the IT Working Party, provided a report (**Appendix 6**).
- iv. **Finance Committee** – Cllr Roberts, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided a report (**Appendix 7**).
- v. **Community Facility Committee** – Cllr Roberts, Chairman of the Community Facility Committee, provided a report (**Appendix 8**).
- vi. **Staffing Committee** – Cllr Roberts, Chairman of the Staffing Committee, provided a report (**Appendix 9**).
- vii. **Emergency Plan Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the Emergency Plan Working Party, provided a report (**Appendix 10**).
- viii. **Planning Committee** – Cllr Shelton, Chairman of the Planning Committee, provided a report (**Appendix 11**).
- ix. **Road Safety Committee** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the Road Safety Committee, provided a report (**Appendix 12**).

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PA/06/19 Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish

- i. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Cllr MacTiernan gave a report on the Northway/Ashchurch Concept Masterplan and Garden Town Status which had been awarded to the Borough. This meant more than 10,000 new homes being proposed for Ashchurch and Northway. So far, the plans were only a concept and she intended to fight the proposals.

Cllr MacTiernan went on to explain proposals for construction of a bridge over the railway line and a new road into Northway, however plans did not show anything that would alleviate the already present problems with traffic on the A46.

7.45pm – County Cllr Smith joined the meeting.

The Borough Council had won a government approved bid for funding (£750,000) to take the proposals for this development forward. She said that everyone would probably agree that more affordable housing was required but there was also a need for infrastructure to be in place and working before then.

- ii. **Gloucestershire County Council – Appendix 13** – Cllr Smith added to his report, mentioning that the maintenance side would, once again, become Gloucestershire Highways with Gloucestershire County Council contractors and equipment supplied by Ringway.

He explained the County's £150m investment programme and how they were in the second year of a five year programme which would see them doubling resurfacing programmes, the next one scheduled for Northway would be Shannon Way and due to take place in April, with Ash Road, hopefully, in the spring. He also advised of upcoming works due to take place along the A38.

County Cllr Smith thanked Cllrs Ward and Terry for their support which had meant that he had been able to help fund Play Ranger sessions throughout the year.

Community Maintenance Gangs would continue much the same – carrying out minor works in the area. County Cllr Smith thanked the Parish Council for working with Craig Freeman to get new signs installed at the entrances into Northway.

One thing that had been disappointing was that the Borough Council was going to run a meeting with the A46 Partnership to look at the Midlands Report but there had been a real lack of consultation and transparency. County Cllr Smith said that he had made Mike Dawson (Chief Executive, Tewkesbury Borough Council) aware of his disappointment.

Missing Link was going ahead. The County Council was designing a four-way junction for J10, so J9 had been bumped back on the system.

With regard to the Northway/Ashchurch Masterplan, County Cllr Smith said that he would work with the district councillors for Northway in objecting strongly to these proposals.

Cllr Bailey mentioned that the road was wearing at the junction of Hardwick Bank Road and Northway Lane. County Cllr Smith agreed to look at this.

Mr Reid said that he had been asking for improvements in Ash Road for the past six months. He also complained that the The Park road was breaking up terribly and in need of repair. In his opinion, the County Council were focussing their attention on

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PA/06/19 Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish (continued)

roads that did not need work and neglecting others. County Cllr Smith apologised and explained that work to Ash Road had been held up due to delays in Northway Lane works. Regarding the safety scheme work that had taken place at The Park junction, there had been a bit of confusion with this as the County Council had thought that the Parish Council had requested the work when it had not even been aware of it.

Richard Dunn reported a pothole along the Bredon Road. County Councillor Smith said that he would get this done.

County Councillor Smith listed some of the upcoming resurfacing works as well as plans for a cycling strategy that the Council was putting together (providing a link between Tewkesbury and Bishops Cleeve).

iii. **Northway Luncheon Club – Appendix 14**

iv. **Northway Community Volunteers (NCV) – Appendix 15**

v. **St Nicholas Church – Appendix 16**

vi. **Ashchurch Brownies – Appendix 17**

vii. **Sycamore Chapel – Appendix 18**

8.45pm – Bob Nicholls left the meeting.

viii. **Northway Youth Club – Appendix 19** – Mr Dan Tipp pointed out that CMAS had maintained the same team at the Village Hall for almost five years, not four as stated in the report.

He added that he hoped the reduction in sessions was only temporary as they had been very popular. The needs of the young people were much the same and having open doors and allowing access to these services was very valuable to the community.

ix. **Tewkesbury Foodbank – Appendix 20**

x. **Alderman Knight School – Appendix 21** – Ms Lindsey Kane mentioned that the school had been under threat of closure 12-13 years previously so to see it in its current glory was amazing. She also added that if anyone felt able to help or support the school it would be lovely.

PA/07/19 Other Matters Raised by Electors

No other reports were received.

Thanks was expressed to everyone who had attended and they were invited to stay behind for refreshments.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:50 p.m.