

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th October 2019

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

Present: Cllr S Ward (Chairman) Cllr M Barnes
Cllr Mrs P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr Mrs E MacTiernan Cllr C Porter
Cllr G Shelton Cllr K Sollis
Cllr Mrs S Terry

In Attendance: Mr M Woodward, Strategic Employment Support, Gloucestershire County Council (until C/202/19)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/199/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Roberts, Phennah, Woodward and Bailey. County Cllr Smith had also tendered his apologies.

C/200/19 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 Sollis mentioned an incident of antisocial behaviour involving a youth with a knife, the police were aware.

Cllr Barnes referred to a high pitch noise that was causing concern amongst residents. It was believed to be coming from one of the factories the other side of the motorway bridge (Shannon Way).

Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that most of army camp had been decontaminated.

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

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/201/19 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/202/19 Presentation

Mr Woodward introduced himself to Members. He explained his role at Gloucestershire County Council and as a volunteer Enterprise Advisor with Gloucestershire University - this saw him working with Alderman Knight School and Tewkesbury Comprehensive helping students make the connection between employment skills and the classroom.

Mr Woodward went on to ask whether the Council would consider taking a placement from Alderman Knight School's post-16 students. The reward for the Council would not just be a feel-good factor but a tie-in with the community in a bigger way. He went on to explain how a lot of disaffected people

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C/202/19 Presentation (continued)

were vulnerable and get talked into organised crime groups and/or became victims of cuckoo-ing. The Council, if it took a placement, would be playing an important part. A teacher would accompany the student to start with, he was proposing one day a week from 10am-3pm. If at any point the Council wanted to cease with this arrangement it could do, there was no need to justify any reasons, the school was understanding of this also. Mr Woodward asked Members whether they had any questions.

Cllr Shelton asked whether the student would be office based or go out and do other things? Mr Woodward suggested that the office staff would be offering a show rather than tell. Someone had previously said to him that they worried the jobs they had to offer would be too mundane, but it was all part of being in a place of employment and learning to work under instruction. The process would act to build up confidence for students to potentially seek work somewhere else.

Cllr MacTiernan asked what was required of the employer. Mr Woodward said that there might be a single page survey – similar to a performance review – to complete.

Cllr Barnes asked whether hustle and bustle in the office might cause problems for someone on the autism spectrum. Mr Woodward assured that the Council would receive a lot of support from the School.

7.25pm – Mr Woodward left the meeting.

Members considered the request that had been put forward and the Clerk reminded Members the Council's policy to consider requests for work experience.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should accept this placement and review on a monthly basis.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/203/19 Previous Minutes

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 11th September 2019 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Shelton
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Porter	Cllr Sollis
	Cllr Terry	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Mackenzie

C/204/19 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes/Clerks Report

C/178/19 Matters Arising / Defibrillator – To receive confirmation that the defibrillator at The Northway Centre went live on Monday 30th September 2019.

C/196/19 Correspondence for Action / Town and Parish Seminar – Cllr Ward gave a report following his attendance at the Town and Parish Seminar on Tuesday 24th September 2019 (copy of power point presentation was forwarded to Members).

C/205/19 Roads & Road Safety

- i. **Issues of Concern** – The Clerk confirmed that she had reported parking related issues at the entrance to Kestrel Court which had resulted in near misses and emergency stops.

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C/205/19 Roads & Road Safety (continued)

Cllr Barnes asked if anything could be done about motorbikes with loud exhausts. Cllr Mackenzie said that he believed there was a 86 decibel limit, but when testing the bike would not be revving, which meant there was not a lot that could be done.

Cllr Ward referred to recent speed test results, the fastest speed that was clocked in Northway was 55mph. He felt that the biggest problem was the drop from 60mph to 30mph when entering Northway from the Bredon Road (along Hardwick Bank Road), but hopefully the County Council would be acknowledging this was an issue, based on the speeding results. Cllr Ward added that there were further speed tests taking place but the results of these would not be known for several weeks.

Cllr Terry referred to the recent resurfacing work that had been done in Ash Road to a bad standard. Members considered whether the County Council should be contacted about this. It was noted that no complaints had been received from residents.

- ii. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Details of road closures throughout Tewkesbury Borough. It was noted that Shannon Way (Junction of A438 / Ashchurch Road and Junction 3/88 / Northway Lane) as well as Northway Lane (Junction with 4/0287 / Green Lane) were due to be closed on various nights for carriageway resurfacing.

Cllr MacTiernan thanked the Clerk for contacting Wychavon Council about the Hardwick Bank Road closure dates, she believed this was why they had changed them to later in the month (avoiding clash with mop fair nights).

C/206/19 Borough Councillors' Report

Cllr Godwin provided a report (copy attached for Members).

C/207/19 County Councillor Report

County Cllr Smith had forwarded a Highways Performance Update briefing which was read to Members.

He had also forwarded a leaflet explaining the County Council's plans to improve the cycle network around Gloucestershire, which he hoped to update Members on at the next Full Council meeting.

C/208/19 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings that took place on 18th September 2019.

C/209/19 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 18th September 2019.

C/210/19 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

Members received the External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2018/19. It was confirmed that a notice had been placed online and in the parish notice boards.

C/211/19 Council Accounts

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the schedule of bills paid and cheques for payment, totalling £9,981.79, should be approved. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/212/19 The Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications) (No2) Accessibility Regulations 2018

The Clerk confirmed that she and the Clerk's Assistant would be attending training on this new legislation at the end of October. It was AGREED that a meeting of the IT Working Group should be scheduled for after the training had taken place.

C/213/19 Neighbourhood Plan/Ashchurch Concept Masterplan

- i. **GRCC** – GRCC had been updated on the fact that an article relating to a possible Plan was being placed in the Council's next newsletter.
- ii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – The Clerk passed on correspondence from Tewkesbury Borough which confirmed that the parish of Northway should still be designated as an NDP area (as the designations do not expire).

Cllr MacTiernan tabled a copy of the Borough Council's update on proposals for a Garden Town. She had been pleased to note that there were plans to move the current access to Aston Fields Lane further along so that it came out by Aston on Carrant, this new road would then go across the fields and join up with The Park/Hardwick Bank Road. Cllr Mackenzie asked if there were plans for traffic lights, Cllr MacTiernan said that she had seen two different plans (both concept) one that showed traffic lights and the other with roundabouts, it was all still very much 'up in the air'.

- iii. **Atkins** – Members received a copy of a letter from Atkins informing of investigation work which would be taking place for a duration of 2-3 weeks in relation to development of a new bridge over the railway at Northway.
- iv. **Neighbourhood Plan Writing Specialist** – Details of complimentary planning services were tabled.

C/214/19 Activity Trail

Members considered how funding of an Activity Trail could be progressed. It was noted that £180 had been raised at the Community Event earlier that year.

It was suggested that the Council could apply for funding, however, Cllr Terry pointed out that Members needed to have an idea of they wanted and prices should be obtained before applying for any grants.

Cllr Godwin suggested that Northway Infant School could be asked how much they paid for their activity trail.

Cllr Ward also reminded Members that the Council needed to seek permission from Tewkesbury Borough Council to install a trail if it was to go on their land.

Cllr MacTiernan suggested that the Council could consider budgeting towards an activity trail when considering costs for 2020/21, she also wondered whether County Cllr Smith might be willing to contribute towards this project.

C/215/19 Voluntary Work in the Parish

- i. **Reports of Voluntary Work** – No reports of voluntary work in the parish were raised.
- ii. **Lunch Club** – Due to the news that the leader of the Luncheon Club was due to step down soon, Members considered ways in which the Council might be able to help/promote the need for people to volunteer and help keep the Club running.

Cllr MacTiernan explained how devastating it would be to community if this Club closed, it had been running for many years and was currently better attended than ever.

C/215/19 **Voluntary Work in the Parish** (continued)

The Clerk mentioned there was a suggestion that the Council employed someone to run a café at the Community Hub. After enquiring about what this would involve with GL3 Hub, who had opened a café at their building, she had been informed that they had been forced to close it due to being unable to meet overhead costs. They had suggested that the Council considered opening its kitchen as a tea/coffee shop initially and taking things from there, if successful.

Cllr Godwin highlighted the fact that the paperwork associated with running the lunch club could be off putting to potential volunteers. Cllr MacTier nan pointed out that the club did not have to come under the WRVS banner. She also suggested that, if no volunteer(s) came forward, perhaps the Council could look into the possibility of employing someone to run the club once-a-week, putting together a rota of helpers, menus, buying food and general preparation/cooking. Perhaps there might also be funding available that could help support this.

It was noted that an article explaining the seriousness of the situation would be going out in the next issue of Northway Voice and Cllr MacTiernan offered to write this.

C/216/19 **Groundworkers Meetings**

Cllr Terry gave a report from the latest Groundworkers Meeting. It was noted that:

- Gloucestershire Care Services and 2gether NHS Foundation Trust had merged on 1st October 2019 creating Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.
- Barnwood Trust had a programme of workshops. They were also holding a drop in event on 'Communication for Community Groups' at the Roses Theatre on 17th October. Cllr Terry confirmed that she planned to attend.
- A new draft Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been launched. It sets out how the county can become a place where everyone can live well, be healthy and thrive. This has been developed through extensive engagement with communities and wider stakeholders (the Groundworkers group were part of this engagement).
- Representatives were present from the Church Street practice (who hold Carers meetings). A recent survey had highlighted the need for community groups and so they were provided with details of groups already running locally.
- Some Groundworkers members were now able to give out Foodbank vouchers.
- Details of Memory Café, Contact the Elderly Tea Parties (which needed volunteers), Wildlife garden in Priors Park and 'Our Brighter Future' project were also given.

C/217/19 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils**
 - a. **Courses** – The Clerk reminded Members that a Being A Better Councillor course was scheduled to take place at the Hub on 21st November 2019, she asked that any Members interested in attending let her know.
 - b. **ANPR Cameras** – Information relating to installing ANPR cameras and the powers Parish Council's had to do so was tabled. Cllr Mackenzie asked whether the Council could look into buying its own a portable VAS for use in Northway and suggested that he knew of a company that would be interested in sponsoring such a purchase. It was AGREED that this should be included on a future agenda.

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C/217/19 Correspondence for Action (continued)

- c. **Executive Committee** – Following the elections in May and the Executive Committee meeting on 26th September, GAPTC are looking for representatives to sit on its Executive Committee. No Members expressed an interest in interest on sitting on this Committee.

C/218/19 Correspondence for Information

- i. **Hall Usage** – Letter of thanks for allowing use of the Community Hub for a Macmillan Coffee Morning fundraiser.
- ii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**
 - a. **Press Release** – Financial support with council tax – what do you think?
 - b. **Press Release** – Major boost for Tewkesbury High Street as borough council secures a share of 95m.
- iii. **National Association of Local Councils** – New Audit Code of Practise Part II consultation.
- iv. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Minutes from the Chartered Parish – 5th September 2019.
- v. **Gloucestershire Constabulary** – How to avoid becoming a victim of identity fraud.

C/219/19 Correspondence received after 3rd October 2019

- i. **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)** – Chief Executive's Bulletin x 2
- ii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**
 - a. **Press Release** – Tewkesbury Borough Council declares a climate emergency.
 - b. **Press Release** – Planning for the future.
 - c. **Tewkesbury Borough Plan** – Pre-Submission Consultation.
 - d. **Statement of Community Involvement for Gloucestershire** – Consultation Draft.
 - e. **Town and Parish Council Seminar** – Copy of power point presentation from Town and Parish Council Seminar on 24th September 2019.
- iii. **The Benefice of St Nicholas Church, Ashchurch and St Nicholas Church, Kemerton** – Invitation for Chairman to attend Service of Remembrance.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 8.40 p.m.