NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th January 2025

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

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

In Attendance: Cathy Blackmore, Northway Pantry (until Min Ref: C/07/25)
County Cllr V Smith, Gloucestershire County Council (until Min Ref: C/09/25)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/01/25 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr MacTiernan. No further apologies for absence had been received.

C/02/25 **Public Participation**

No issues were raised.

C/03/25 **Declarations of Interest**

No 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/04/25 **Minutes of Previous Council Meeting**

It was noted that Cllrs Beadle and Mackenzie were not listed among the attendees in the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting, although they had been present.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that, with amendments to the attendees, the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 11th December 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/05/25 **Notes of Informal Meeting**

Members received the Notes of a Meeting that took place with Newland Homes on 11th December 2024.

C/06/25 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

C/280/24 Warm Space *– Cllr Fancourt and Cllr Godwin's interest had been passed on to the TBC Community Funding Officer regarding a potential meet-up with other warm space providers.*
It was noted that the first Warm Space session had taken place at the Hub on Monday 6th January. Twelve people had attended, and a local resident had helped throughout the day, along with Cllrs Fancourt and Shelton. Several other residents had offered to help during sessions and the Clerk was in the process of adding them to the rota, alongside councillors. It was hoped that there would be digital support available at future sessions and possibly some massage treatments.

C/06/25 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report** (continued)

C/282/24 Maverick Industries *– Maverick Industries had requested a reference following construction of the skatepark. This had been provided.*

C/285/24 Parish Assembly *– A Safe Avon representative had been invited to give a talk at the Parish Assembly.*

C/285/24 Christmas *– A thank you letter had been received from a child following receipt of their letter from Santa. Cllr Terry thanked the Clerk's Assistant, on behalf of the Council, for her assistance with the letters.*

C/285/24 Christmas *– The Parish Council had sent letters of thanks to Santa, following his assistance over Christmas, as well as the baker who donated cakes and biscuits for the Christmas event.*

C/287/24 Digital Accessibility, Inclusion Support and Innovation (DAISI) *– An email advising that the Parish Council wanted to partner with DAISI had been forwarded.*

C/290/24 Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting *– A letter was forwarded to the local MP expressing the Council's support for remote and hybrid attendance but expressing concerns regarding proxy voting.*

C/07/25 **Northway Pantry**

Cathy Blackmore introduced herself to some of the newer members of the Council and explained that, just over a year before, she had opened the Northway Pantry and so wanted to give an update on what had been achieved during that time. Overall, she felt that the Pantry had been a success, it had become embedded into the community, and they received a lot of local support. The recent closing of Priors Park Neighbourhood Project (PPNP), due to lack of funding, had encouraged them to try and have a buffer and they finished the year with a £3,000 contingency fund.

Cathy compared the Pantry's numbers with that of the local Food Bank, who supported people in crisis. The previous year, Tewkesbury Food Bank had supported 160 adults and 75 children, the Northway Pantry had supported 119 adults and 96 children, they felt this was a good testimony of work being done by the Pantry.

The Pantry had been awarded National Lottery funding in 2024, this had allowed them to look more at the root cause of needs locally. They had started to have drop-ins which provided mental health, housing and benefits support. They had also hosted a lightbulb swap event. Something that started out being just about food had evolved and they could now support and see families through other issues.

Cathy wanted to thank the Parish Council for all of its support and for taking the chance and being brave enough to invest in this project. The Council also paid all the Pantry's electrical costs, allowed free use of the Hub for meetings and donated funds raised from recent Christmas Events.

Cllr Shelton asked how many families would be affected by the closing of PPNP. Cathy believed it to be roughly 12-16 families per week but they were looking to relocate the Priors Park Pantry to another location.

Cathy explained that the Pantry charged a weekly membership of £4 but they took back £25 worth of food. Their accounts did show a discrepancy of approximately £500, which they believed was due to membership.

In 2025 they would be registering with the Charities Commission so that they could seek more funding. They had been awarded a grant from Poverty Hurts Fund to go towards provision of food parcels. It could also be used to cover member subscriptions for three months in cases where benefits had been sanctioned or people were unable to work.

Cathy mentioned that she was the Premium Pupil Champion for Carrant Brook and Northway Infant schools which provided a greater link there.

Cllr Terry congratulated Cathy on doing such a great job with the Northway Pantry, adding that the Council was very impressed.

C/07/25 **Northway Pantry** (continued)

Before leaving, Cathy encouraged people to support in any way they could, either by donating or even liking and sharing social media posts to spread the word. It all helped.

7.22pm – Cathy Blackmore left the meeting.

C/08/25 **Roads & Road Safety**

a. **Issues of Concern** – Cllr Mackenzie mentioned that he had been approached by a resident who had major concerns about vehicles parking on corners and verges, as well as speeding along The Park.

Cllr Mackenzie referred to an email that he, as a resident, had sent to the local MP, Gloucestershire Constabulary, Gloucestershire County Council, County Cllr Vernon Smith and Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding the issue of speeding along The Park (Min Ref: C/269/24 refers). The local MP's case worker had responded that she would try to link everyone together so that the issue could be discussed further. Max Kelly, Local Highways Manager, had also been in touch to try and arrange a meeting. He pointed out that he had not yet heard back from County Cllr Smith.

County Cllr Smith explained that he had forwarded Mr Mackenzie's email to Max Kelly and they had discussed the issue. He reminded the Council that there was Highways Local funding available, however, road safety measures could not be put in place unless there was evidence to support its need. Cllr Smith suggested that the Council put together proposals for a scheme which he could then support and work with Max Kelly to price up, they could then try and get support from the Police. Support from the local MP would also add weight. He reminded Members that these things did take time and, although it was frustrating, he urged the Council to keep pushing for road safety issues.

Cllr Fancourt referred to 20's Plenty which he thought would work well in Northway. County Cllr Smith advised that a TRO, which was needed to enforce 20's Plenty, would cost £15,000. The Council would also need to show that there was at least 80% support for the scheme from local residents.

Cllr Mackenzie expressed frustration that the Police did not take speeding in the area more seriously.

County Cllr Smith suggested that the Highways Local funding could be used towards 20mph signs along the road, red tarmac which indicated a 20mph limit or Village Gateways. Cllr P Godwin mentioned that the red tarmac had not been reinstated on the motorway bridge after it was resurfaced – County Cllr Smith suggested that she emailed Max Kelly (copying himself into the email) about this.

Cllr Beadle asked whether there was any reason why a roundabout could not be installed at The Park / Northway Lane / Kingston Road junction. It was recalled that suggestions for this had previously been turned down due to the volumes of traffic. Cllr Roberts felt that it was important that the Council took the opportunity to try and influence any road design associated with the upcoming developments.

The Clerk pointed out that the police had previously admitted that there was an issue with speeding in Northway, however the data did not evidence a high enough amount to warrant action.

b. **20's Plenty** – Cllr Mackenzie advised that he was in the process of obtaining more information on 20's Plenty. It was AGREED that this should be brought back to the next Full Council meeting.

C/09/25 **County Councillors Report**

County Cllr Smith had forwarded a report ahead of the meeting, this had been circulated to Members.

County Cllr Smith went on to explain the government's plan to move to a unitary authority by 2027 and what this would involve. He felt that this would result in more responsibilities for parish and town Council's and there had been talks of an allowance for parish councillors.

8.08pm – County Cllr Smith left the meeting.

C/10/25 **Build Back Better**

Members were reminded of County Councillor Smith's offer to support the Council with up to £5,000 Build Back Better funds. Previous projects suggested had included –
Skatepark lighting
Play Rangers sessions
Purchase of a further VAS (vehicle activated sign)
Installation compacted pathway in Joan's Field
Loft insulation at Northway Village Hall
Installation of Village Gateways

The Clerk mentioned that Boxing Clever had wished to apply for some funding from the Build Back Better scheme towards a new boxing ring, however, County Cllr Smith had advised that the application would need to come from the Parish Council.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should apply for funding towards Play Ranger sessions and Village Gateways and request £1,000 towards a new boxing ring for Boxing Clever. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/11/25 **General Purposes Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 18th December 2024.

C/12/25 **Planning Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 18th December 2024.

C/13/25 **Borough Councillor's Report**

Cllr Godwin reported that the Borough Council name change had been rescheduled for March 2025, however, now the White Paper had been received, and it was confirmed that they would be moving to a unitary authority, this might change again. They had also been informed that the County Council elections for the upcoming year had been cancelled.

C/14/25 **Council Accounts**

a) **Accounts** – Cllr Fancourt highlighted an error in the Council accounts figure relating to the planting of trees.

Terry PROPOSED that, with the above figure amended, the accounts for payment, totalling £17,541.07 should be approved. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

b) **Petty Cash** – The petty cash had been counted by Cllr Terry which she confirmed balanced.

C/15/25 **Donation**

The Clerk informed Members that one of the groups that regularly hired the Community Hub had made a donation of £50.00 to the Council. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that this should be passed on to Northway Pantry. Cllr R Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/16/25 **Financial Requirements for the year 2025/2026**

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the Council should ratify a budget of £228,224.00 for the 2024/25 period, as recommended by the Finance Committee (Min Ref: FIN/03/25 refers). Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/17/24 **Precept Requirements for the Year 2025/2026**

The Clerk explained that the Finance Committee was recommending that Full Council approved a precept of £228,224.00 (Min Ref: FIN/03/25 refers). This would equate to a 5.62% increase but, with the tax base accounted for, should show on resident's bills as a 5.05% increase (an additional £7.85 per year on a Band D property). Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval of this. Cllr Shelton SECONDED. (Copy circulated to Members).

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/18/25 **Co-Option**

Members received an application for John Llewellyn to be co-opted onto Northway Parish Council. Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of this application. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/19/25 **Brockworth Link**

Further information regarding Brockworth Link was being awaited (Min Ref: C/288/24 refers).

C/20/25 **Crime & Disorder**

a) **Crime Figures** – None available.

b) **Crime & Disorder** – No issues relating to crime were raised.

C/221/25 **Correspondence for Action**

a) **Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body** – Strategic Transport Plan 2024-2050. The Clerk asked Members to let her know if they were interested in attending any engagement sessions.

C/22/25 **Correspondence for Information**

a) **Tewkesbury Borough Council**:

i. Press Statements

- 'Tewkesbury Borough Council Leader's statement on the English Devolution White Paper'
- 'Christmas 2024 and New Year opening time for Tewkesbury Borough Council'.
- 'Community Organisation Needed to Manage Homelands Community Centre'.

ii. **Tewkesbury Borough News** – Winter 2024.

b) **Age UK** – To receive Christmas card and thank you.

c) **National Association of Local Councils (NALC**) Chief Executive's Bulletins 12.12.24, 19.12.24

C/22/25 **Correspondence for Information** (continued)

d) **The Clerk** – Magazine December 2024.

C/23/25 **Correspondence received after 2nd January 2025**

a) **Resident Enquiry** – The Clerk passed on correspondence from a local resident whose neighbour wished to attend Warm Space but did not have transport to get there. Members considered whether a Councillor would be able to offer transportation, however, it was felt that they would not be insured for this purpose. It was AGREED that the Clerk should suggest use of the Robin service, or similar.

b) **Gloucestershire County Council**

i. **Road Closure – TTRO 644, Grange Road** – Details of road closure scheduled for 3rd and 4th March 2025.

ii. **Road Works Bulletin** – 2nd – 12th January 2025.

c) **NALC** – Events newsletter.

d) **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Precept submission reminder letter.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8.35pm.