

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held on 26th March 2025 at Northway Community Hub, Northway, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Council Chairman) Cllr J Roberts (Vice Chair)
Cllr J Beadle Cllr P Godwin
Cllr R Godwin Cllr J Llewellyn
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry

Charlotte Woodward, Council Employee
Cathy Blackmore, Northway Pantry Volunteer
Joyce, Northway Pantry Volunteer
Marlene Cole, Northway Pantry Volunteer
Kim Caswell, St Nicholas Church
Leon Else, M5Nine Church
Petra Else, M5Nine Church
Terry Treacy, Member of the Public
Fiona Barnes, Member of the Public
Kathleen McGillycuddy, Principal of Tewkesbury Academy
Christine Brown, Member of the Public
Sue Pollard, Member of the Public
Dawn Woodward, Member of the Public
Scott Eastwood, Member of the Public
Debbie Eastwood, Member of the Public
Mary Barr, Member of the Public
Ray Barr, Member of the Public
Marion Davis, Member of the Public
Keith Davis, Member of the Public
Annette Beadle, Member of the Public
Geoff Sallis, SafeAvon
Danielle Morley, Head of Northway Infant School
Boxing Clever Students and Parents x 10 (until PA/04/25)
Molly Harper, Member of the Public (until PA/04/25)
Danielle Morley, Head of Northway Infant School (from Min Ref: PA/03/25 refers)
Adam Harper, Boxing Clever (from Min Ref: PA/03/25 until PA/04/25)
Silas Fox, Student at Boxing Clever (from Min Ref: PA/03/25 until PA/04/25)
Boxing Clever Students x 2 (from Min Ref: PA/03/25 until PA/04/25)
Member of the Public (from Min Ref: PA/04/25)

In attendance: Mrs Christine Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs Laura Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

PA/01/25 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs MacTiernan Fancourt and Poole, Maria Budd and Tris Evans (Co-Headteachers at Carrant Brook School), Lesa West (Community and Place Development Officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council), Clare Steel (Headteacher at Alderman Knight School), Claire English (Young Gloucestershire), James Baker (CCP Gloucestershire), County Cllr Vernon Smith (Gloucestershire County Council), Joyce Sprason (Northway Preschool and Playgroup) and Dan Browne (Sycamore Chapel).

PA/01/25 **Apologies for Absence** (continued)

Adam Harper was due to present a demonstration from some of how his Boxing Clever students, however he was running late, therefore, it was AGREED that item 2 on the agenda (Presentation) should be postponed until after his arrival.

PA/02/25 **Approval of Minutes from Last Parish Assembly**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 27th March 2024 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED. APPROVED.

PA/03/25 **Chairman's Address & Presentation – Part 1**

Appendix 1

7.35pm – Danielle Morley joined the meeting.

7.40pm – Adam Harper and Silas Fox joined the meeting.

PA/04/25 **Presentation**

Adam Harper was welcomed to the meeting. He thanked the Council for its support and introduced some of his students who gave a boxing demonstration.

Adam thanked the Council again, thanks to its funding of free boxing lessons in Northway, antisocial behaviour had reduced by 73%. He also expressed gratitude to the Youth Club trustees who had helped get the lessons up and running and to his wife for her support.

Cllr Barnes asked how many children attended the boxing lessons, Adam said that this averaged at between 43 – 55 each night over three sessions.

Adam explained that he wanted to try and raise money to provide free school uniforms to children in low-income families, if anyone could assist with this venture, he asked them to let him know.

7.55pm – Adam Harper, Molly Harper, Boxing Clever Students and Parents left the meeting

Geoff Sallis from SafeAvon was introduced to those in attendance. He provided a report on the UK's water, which was now considered to be the worst in the world – **Appendix 2**.

8.02pm – A member of the public joined the meeting.

PA/05/25 **Chairman's Address & Presentation – Part 2**

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to:
Brian Trenfield (Posthumous) – **Appendix 3**
Cathy Blackmore – **Appendix 4**.

PA/06/25 **Reports from the Various Committees and Working Parties of the Council**

- i. **General Purposes Committee** – Cllr Barnes, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 5**
- ii. **Finance Committee** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 6**
- iii. **Planning Committee** – Cllr Shelton, Chairman of the Planning Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 7**
- iv. **Staffing Committee** – Cllr Roberts, Chairman of the Staffing Committee, provided a report – **Appendix 8**
- v. **Road Safety Committee** – Cllr Barnes provided a report on the Road Safety Committee – **Appendix 9**
- vi. **GP Projects Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the GP Projects Working Party, provided a report – **Appendix 10.**
- vii. **Emergency Plan Working Party** – Cllr Terry, Chairman of the Emergency Plan Working Party, provided a report – **Appendix 11**

PA/07/25 **Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish**

- i. **Northway Pantry** – Cathy Blackmore provided a report on behalf of the Pantry – **Appendix 12.**
- ii. **Tewkesbury Academy** – Kathleen McGillycuddy introduced herself as the Principal of Tewkesbury Academy and provided an update on recent developments at the school, including how both staff and students had recovered from the critical incident that occurred the previous year. She also mentioned new curriculum in place for KS3, and different SEND/SENCo provision, which families had been crying out for.

An early reading programme was now in place for Year 7 students whose reading skills were below expected levels upon entry. The Academy was also adopting new approaches to assessment and attainment, particularly for children facing disadvantages or who were working at different levels to their peers, with the aim of narrowing the gap.

A strong emphasis was being placed on safeguarding and pastoral care, in response to the current mental health crisis. Tewkesbury Academy was now a 'Young Minds Matter' school, which provided access to additional support from external agencies such as CAMHS.

During the current year, the school was prioritising parent and community engagement, including parent forums and increased involvement with the wider community.

Kathleen McGillycuddy encouraged everyone to follow Tewkesbury Academy on social media to stay informed about the wide range of events taking place. Recent highlights

PA/07/25 **Reports from Various Organisations in the Parish** (continued)

included a science event, student singing at the Abbey, and a school-wide poetry competition involving every year group. Additionally, Paul Hanniford, a former gang member, recently visited the Academy to speak about the dangers of knife crime and to offer guidance.

She also addressed some of the ongoing challenges, particularly the issue of tight national funding - especially for children with additional needs or disabilities. Attendance remained a concern for students in crisis, with 88% of those with low attendance qualifying for free school meals, compared to 93% of regular attendees who do not. She explained that this often linked to housing insecurity and mental health challenges.

Mrs McGillicuddy expressed how good it was to see Northway Parish Council's investment in local youth initiatives.

- iii. **Northway Infant School** – Danielle Morley, Head Teacher of Northway Infant School read a report – **Appendix 13**.
- iv. **M5Nine** – Pastor Leon Else expressed gratitude to the Parish Council for allowing the church to use the Northway Community Hub. He shared that the space offered a valuable opportunity to connect with members of the community facing challenging circumstances. Pastor Else expressed that the church was invested in supporting local young people and, therefore, had recently donated £1,000 for the Parish Council to use towards youth work.
- v. **St Nicholas Church** – Kim Caswell, Churchwarden, read a report – **Appendix 14**.
- vi. **Northway Book Exchange, Bingo & Sing-A-Long Groups** – Sandra Terry read reports relating to these three groups – **Appendix 15**.
- vii. **Northway Pre-School Playgroup** – **Appendix 16**.
- viii. **Carrant Brook Junior School** – **Appendix 17**.

The meeting concluded at 9.45pm.