

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Chair) Cllr J Roberts (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr J Beadle Cllr G Fancourt  
Cllr P Godwin Cllr R Godwin  
Cllr O Kareem Cllr J Llewellyn  
Cllr E Phennah Cllr G Shelton  
Cllr S Terry Cllr S Ward

In Attendance: Cllr G Bocking, Tewkesbury Borough Councillor for Northway Ward (until Min Ref: C/10/26)  
Cllr Dr K Usmar, Gloucestershire County Councillor for Tewkesbury East Division  
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council  
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/01/26 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

C/02/26 **Public Participation**

No issues were raised.

C/03/26 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made, as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Minute Ref C/85/23).

C/04/26 **Minutes of Previous Council Meetings**

Cllr P Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr P Godwin Cllr Terry  
Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle  
Cllr Fancourt Cllr R Godwin  
Cllr Llewellyn Cllr Phennah  
Cllr Roberts Cllr Shelton  
Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Kareem

C/05/26 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

**C/268/25 Financial Requirements** – DCK Accounting Solutions had been contracted to undertake Year End Close and Financial Reports.

**C/270/25 Christmas** – A letter of thanks was forwarded to the PCSO's, the baker, the Ricketts family and the St Nicholas Church Wardens.

## NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

### C/06/26 Roads & Road Safety

- a. **Issues of Concern** – Cllr Roberts reported the high levels of water pooling adjacent to Apple Tree Court again, it was noted that social media reported a pedestrian with a young child had been left drenched by a car driving through the water. Members were encouraged to send any photos they had of the road when flooded to the Clerk to add weight to her correspondence with the Local Highways Manager.
- b. **M5 Overbridge, Northway Lane** – The Clerk reminded Members that, as noted in previous minutes, Cameron Thomas MP had not responded to emails sent by the Council regarding the Northway Lane motorway bridge (Min Ref: C/258/25 refers). Following his meeting with the Council, Max Kelly, Local Highways Manager, wrote to the MP on the Council's behalf. Mr Kelly subsequently forwarded a response from the MP's caseworker, which confirmed that Mr Thomas was aware of similar concerns and of the situation at the bridge, and that he would be requesting a meeting with National Highways to discuss how the matter could be progressed for the better.

7:05pm – Cllr Dr Kate Usmar joined the meeting.

Cllr Fancourt suggested wording for the proposed petition relating to the bridge (Min Ref: C/258/25 refers). It was suggested that the wording should be amended slightly

It was suggested that the wording should be amended slightly but used as a template for the petition.

### C/07/26 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Dr Usmar provided a report, which she had also forwarded to the Office by email. This included updates on the government's Fair Funding settlement, local government reorganisation, social care developments, the Twenty's Plenty initiative, junctions 9 and 10, highways maintenance, and her Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund.

Cllr Dr Usmar added that she had been persistently contacting Highways regarding the condition of the roads in Northway, although no improvements were currently planned.

### C/08/26 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### C/09/26 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting that took place on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

### C/10/26 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Bocking had forwarded a report ahead of the meeting and this had been circulated to Members.

7:16pm – Cllr Bocking left the meeting.

### C/11/26 Council Accounts

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £19,570.92 should be approved. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **C/12/26 Financial Requirements for the Year 2026/2027**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Council should ratify a budget of £240,060.00 for the 2025/26 period, as recommended by the Finance Committee (Min Ref: FIN/03/26 refers). Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### **C/13/26 Precept Requirements for the Year 2026/2027**

The Clerk explained that the Finance Committee was recommending that Full Council approved a precept of £240,060.00 (Min Ref: FIN/03/26 refers). This would equate to a 5.18% increase but, with the tax base accounted for, should show on resident's bills as a 5.68% increase (an additional £9.27 per year on a Band D property). Cllr Shelton PROPOSED approval of this. Cllr Terry SECONDED ([copy circulated to Members](#)).

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### **C/14/26 Warm Space**

The Clerk confirmed that the Warm Space was again running at the Community Hub on Mondays. During the first session, Cllrs Barnes and P Godwin were interviewed and filmed by Tewkesbury Borough Council to help publicise the project in Northway and across the wider Borough. There had also been a total of six attendees on the day.

### **C/15/26 Christmas 2026**

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the next Christmas Event should be scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### **C/16/26 Garden Communities/Stewardship**

- a. Cllr Barnes gave a report following his attendance at the Parish and Community Liaison Group meeting held on 7 January 2026, at which Geoff Sallis provided an introduction to SafeAvon. He also highlighted concerns that local sewage filtering infrastructure was not fit for purpose.

Cllr Barnes added that the next Oversight Committee meeting would take place in March.

- b. Members had been circulated with a copy of the draft Ashchurch Traffic Survey Report. Cllr Roberts drew attention to section 5.8, which stated the following in relation to Hardwick Bank Road and The Park:

*"The 2025 recorded flows were found to be significantly lower than those recorded in 2024 ... Since the 24 Railton Hardwick Bank Road survey was repeated and still showed the same discrepancy it appears likely that the surveys undertaken in 2024 may have been affected by some untypical circumstances".*

Members expressed disappointment that the results did not support the Council's concerns regarding this route into Northway.

Also noted in the report was section 5.10 which read:

*"A comparison of the 2025 surveys and the Base Year Paramics model flows used to assess the impact of the proposed TGT development generally reveals reasonable correlation. However, it appears that the model may be over-estimating the capacity of the A46 during peak periods".*

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### C/16/26 Garden Communities/Stewardship (continued)

The Clerk mentioned that Borough Cllr Bocking had requested a copy of the report. County Cllr Dr Usmar also expressed an interest in having a copy. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED no objections to this and Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### C/17/26 Standing Orders

Under schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the legal authority allowing amendments to Standing Orders) Cllr Terry PROPOSED that wording on the Standing Orders (5e) should be amended to read '*it is recommended that a Councillor can only be elected as Chair if they have served on the Council for a minimum of three years and attended a 'Nuts and Bolts' Training course (or its equivalent) and have attained an attendance of at least 70% of all Council and Committee meetings.*' Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### C/18/26 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC)** – The Clerk listed upcoming GAPTC training sessions. She also highlighted that the councillors would be required to undertake training associated with Assertion 10 legislation, which she was looking into.

Cllr Dr Usmar encouraged the Council to look into Safeguarding training for its members.

- b. **Tewkesbury Academy** – Cllr Barnes had been invited to attend a production of 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'.
- c. **Great Western Railway** – Members considered whether there were any suitable projects for which the Council could apply to the Customer and Community Improvement Fund. Suggestions discussed included raising the railings on the motorway bridge (although it was noted that National Highways had advised the cost would be approximately £1 million), improvements to the footbridge over the railway, cleaning of lights near the station, clearance of the path leading up to the A46, provision of live bus timetable information at the station shelter, installation of a community noticeboard at the station, production of a leaflet promoting local walks, and the installation of vending facilities at the station.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that there were no projects meeting the fund's criteria for which the Council could make an application. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts suggested it still might be worth pursuing a live bus times sign with Stagecoach.

- d. **Damp in Houses and Overgrown Trees** – Cllr Fancourt reported that he had spoken with a resident in Fairway whose property was located adjacent to a watercourse and a number of trees, which they believed were contributing to mould issues within the home. He acknowledged that the Parish Council was unable to take action as the property was owned by Bromford, and he had therefore advised the resident to contact Environmental Health. He also noted that Bromford may be taking further action.

Cllr Ward suggested that the flooding on Northway Lane near Apple Tree Court may be linked to the watercourse in Fairway and expressed the view that the Council should request that the watercourse be cleared.

- e. **Health and Wellbeing Partnership** – Members received a copy of the notes from the meeting held on 27 November 2026. The Clerk gave an overview of the discussions and outlined developments since the meeting. The Hub had now been booked for a programming course run by Ella at GRCC, aimed at men with mental health issues. In addition, a SEND session had also been booked.

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### C/18/26 Correspondence for Action (continued)

- f. **Maritime Volunteer Service** – The Clerk confirmed that the Maritime Volunteer Service had donated £50.00 to the Parish Council. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the donation should be used towards the community event that the Council hoped to put on over the summer. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Dr Usmar mentioned that her Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund would also be able to provide funds towards the event (£250 min - £5,000 max).

### C/19/26 Crime & Disorder

- a. Crime Figures – None available.
- b. Cllr Terry referred to social media posts that had warned residents about individuals offering gutter clearance services who had then failed to carry out the work properly.

### C/20/26 Correspondence for Information

#### a) **Tewkesbury Borough Council**

##### i. **Press Releases:**

- Everything you need to know about council services this festive season.
- Funding boost to help prevent homelessness in Tewkesbury Borough.
- Treecycle – Christmas tree recycling.

##### ii. **Tewkesbury Borough News**

- b) **Society of Local Council Clerks** – The Clerk Magazine.

### C/21/26 Correspondence Received After 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### a. **GRCC/DAISI**

- i. Details of 'AI for Communities' event.
- ii. Community Climate Action Plan Toolkit.

- b. **GAPTC** – Presentation on Assertion 10.

- c. **Clerks and Councils Direct** – January 2026.

- d. **Tewkesbury Borough Council – Coronation Living Heritage Fund** - It was reported that the General Purposes Committee had discussed applying to one of the Coronation Living Heritage funds towards the purchase of a community fruit press. Further information had been requested in advance of the next Committee meeting; however, the application deadline did not allow sufficient time to proceed.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council applied for funding from the Orchard Development and Maintenance Fund towards the purchase of a fruit press and associated items. Cllr Fancourt SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was noted that there was also a Community Growing Projects Fund available which could potentially be applied for in relation to another project, such as planters for Joan's Field, where the Council had previously discussed the possibility of creating a sensory garden. Members discussed this option,

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C/21/26 **Correspondence Received After 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026** (continued)

however, concerns were raised regarding access to water for ongoing maintenance. It was therefore agreed that further consideration was required. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council did not apply to this fund. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8:20 pm.