

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th March 2026

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

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Chair) Cllr J Beadle
Cllr G Fancourt Cllr P Godwin
Cllr R Godwin Cllr G Shelton
Cllr S Terry Cllr S Ward

In Attendance: Cllr G Bocking, Tewkesbury Borough Councillor for Northway Ward
Cllr Dr K Usmar, Gloucestershire County Councillor (from Min Ref: C/58/26 refers)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/43/26 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Roberts, Llewellyn and Kareem had tendered their apologies. No further apologies were received.

C/44/26 **Public Participation**

No issues were raised.

C/45/26 **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/46/26 **Minutes of Previous Council Meetings**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting that took place on 11th February 2026 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Shelton Cllr Terry
Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle
Cllr Fancourt Cllr P Godwin

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr R Godwin Cllr Ward

C/47/26 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

C/34/26 Warm Space – *The Tewkesbury Nature Reserve's 'Cabinet of Curiosities' will be attending the Warm Space on 20th March 2026.*

C/37/26 Correspondence for Action > This Is Tewkesbury – *An expression of interest has been forwarded to the organiser of this event, taking place on 13th June 2026, confirming that the Parish Council would like a table.*

C/37/27 Correspondence for Action > Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards – *The Council's nomination had been submitted.*

C/38/26 Youth Work – *A letter of thanks was forwarded to Boxing Clever for the donation made to the Parish Council.*

C/38/26 Youth Work – *Four Play Ranger sessions had been booked for the 2026/27 financial year.*

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C/48/26 Roads & Road Safety

Cllr Barnes reported that a car had knocked down a bollard on the island by the junction with Northway Lane and the Co-Operative car park. This had since been re-instated.

Cllr Ward raised ongoing concerns regarding potholes in Northway, which continued to be marked but not repaired. Numerous reports had been submitted via FixMyStreet, and correspondence had been sent to the County Councillor, but no action had been taken. He also highlighted a loose drain cover on Northway Lane causing noise disturbance, which had similarly been reported without response.

Cllr Ward asked whether a meeting could be arranged with the Local Highways Manager and County Cllr Usmar to discuss unresolved local highways issues. He noted increasing frustration among residents and suggested that, where works could not be carried out, this should be clearly communicated.

The Clerk read Cllr Usmar's recent report, which read - "Continuing to campaign for resurfacing of Northway Lane, Harwick Bank Road, and The Park, and for solution to subsidence on The Park. Northway's roads are not on the 26/27 schedule as they are not considered main routes, despite the amount of traffic they are now coping with as drivers struggle to avoid the congestion on the A46. I am working hard to change this and have asked the cabinet member to visit Northway to see our concerns for himself but while the heavy use of the roads is not acknowledged there is not currently sufficient data to support re-surfacing."

8:45pm - Cllr Dr Kate Usmar joined the meeting.

Cllr Usmar advised that evidence of heavy road usage would support the case for resurfacing. This could include the volume of complaints, FixMyStreet reports, and traffic surveys undertaken by the Council or other organisations.

The Council AGREED to forward any relevant traffic survey data to Cllr Usmar. Cllr Beadle noted that the most recent survey had indicated a reduced traffic count, likely due to the poor condition of the road.

Cllr Ward reiterated concerns that reporting issues via FixMyStreet appeared to be a pointless task, as cases were marked as resolved when they were not, and the temporary repairs failed quickly. Cllr Usmar requested that issues were also reported directly to her and advised that the road mender was expected to return soon, although she was not sure how many days they would have it.

C/49/26 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Dr Usmar had provided a report, this had been circulated to Members.

C/50/26 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 25th February 2026.

C/51/26 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting that took place on 25th February 2026.

C/52/26 Events Working Party

- i. **Notes** – Members received the Notes of the Events Working Party Meeting that took place on 23rd February 2026.
- ii. **Approval** – It was noted that the Working Party had recommend organising a community event to take place on 1st August 2026, 2pm – 6pm, with a picnic theme and disco.

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C/52/26 Events Working Party (continued)

Cllr Ward PROPOSED approval of the recommendations made by the Working Party. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/53/26 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Bocking had forwarded a report in advance of the meeting, which had been circulated to Members. A further report had been emailed to the office ahead of the meeting, Cllr Bocking gave a run-down of what had been included in this, which included details of the Borough Council's surplus from the last financial year and correspondence from Severn Trent to the Borough Council regarding potential future development.

Cllr Barnes reported that National Grid had raised concerns regarding future development, stating that there was no remaining power capacity. It was hoped that these concerns would be highlighted in responses to future planning applications.

C/54/26 Council Accounts

Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £29,897.09 should be approved. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/55/26 Parish Assembly

- a. **Community Awards** – Members received a nomination for Vicky Hawker to receive an award for all she did in the community. Cllr Beadle PROPOSED that she was presented with an award at the Parish Assembly. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that just one community award was presented this year. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Other Matters** – The Clerk confirmed that invitations had been sent out for the Parish Assembly and the committee Chairs had started forwarding their reports.

C/56/26 Warm Space

- a. **Afternoon Tea with the Mayor** – The Clerk passed on an invitation for the Warm Space Volunteers to attend an afternoon tea with the Tewkesbury Borough Mayor on 22nd April 2026, the Clerk was unsure whether there was a limit on numbers. It was AGREED that this offer should be forwarded to all of the volunteers.

- b. **Other Matters** – Cllr Fancourt queried whether any additional activities had been arranged for the Warm Space sessions. The Clerk advised that massages, nhs support and digital support were available at some sessions, but reminded that it was for members of the Working Party to suggest any further ideas for services or activities. Members were asked to forward any suggestions to the office.

It was also noted that Tewkesbury Nature Reserve had offered to attend the Warm Space session on 30th March, during the Easter holidays, bringing their Cabinet of Curiosities and providing family activities.

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C/56/26 Warm Space (continued)

County Cllr Usmar advised that another parish council had approached her for support to enable their Warm Space to continue operating over the summer. She indicated that she would be willing to offer similar support to Northway, should the Council wish to submit an application to the Grassroots Fund.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Warm Space Working Party meet to discuss this opportunity and be authorised to submit an application if appropriate. Cllr R Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/57/26 Garden Communities/Stewardship

- a. **Garden Communities** – Cllr Barnes had not attended any Garden Communities meeting and had no updates to provide.
- b. **Stewardship** – Cllr Roberts was not present to provide an update on Stewardship.

Cllr Fancourt mentioned 'pushback' following the letter which had been received at the last meeting from Tony Davies, which other Members of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council had not been aware of.

C/58/26 Annual Governance – Assertion 10

The Clerk reported that all but three members had undertaken Cyber Security training (which was required for the Council to be compliant with Assertion 10).

A 'data map' had been circulated to Members. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that this was approved and adopted by the Parish Council.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

7:55pm – County Cllr Usmar left the meeting.

C/59/26 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC)** – The Clerk listed upcoming GAPTC training sessions. It was felt that the Council should address the training required to be compliant with Assertion 10 before looking into further courses.
- b. **Local Government Reorganisation** – The Clerk had forwarded Members a link to this consultation. Cllr Fancourt PROPOSED that the Council voted in favour of a single unitary organisation.

It was noted that there were several questions to be answered. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that Members should respond individually, not as a Council.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Tewkesbury Borough Council Housing and Homeless Prevention Strategy Consultation** – This consultation had also been forwarded to Members. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that Members should respond individually.
- d. **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government** – This consultation regarding Housing Estate Management comprised of 156 questions. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that Members should respond individually, if they wished.

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C/59/26 Correspondence for Action (continued)

- e. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Connect to Work – The Clerk provided information about this initiative which offered free support to Gloucestershire residents with barriers or disabilities and may be interested in use of the Community Hub. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should support if it could. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/60/26 Crime & Disorder

- a. **Crime Figures** – None available.
- b. **Other Information** - The Clerk informed Members that a young person had written something offensive in the wet concrete at the skatepark (where the picnic tables were to be re-installed – Min Ref: GP/24/26). The area had been protected by heras fencing at the time, and the incident was captured on CCTV.

Additionally, on Saturday afternoon, CCTV recorded a group of young people - including the individual responsible for the concrete damage - throwing rocks, swearing, intimidating other users, and physically bullying another boy. The Clerk attended the site shortly afterward and spoke with a mother who had felt intimidated, as well as a couple of boys who provided the names of some offenders. All incidents had been reported to the police.

Cllr Ward asked whether the police could be contacted about doing extra patrols at the skatepark.

C/61/26 Correspondence for Information

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Releases:
- Council sets 2026/2027 budget to secure continuation of services.
 - Council's agree £6.6 million funding opportunities for infrastructure projects and approve £4million for M5 junction 10 improvements scheme.
- b. **Parish Matters** – 2026; Issue 1
- c. **Tewkesbury Fields Care Home** – An invitation to an informative session for recognising the early signs of dementia. The suggestion was made to have a dementia talk at a future Parish Assembly meeting.

C/62/26 Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office

- a. **Clerk's & Councils Direct** – Magazine March 2026; Issue 164.

C/63/26 Correspondence Received After 5th March 2026

- a. **Re-Enactors** – The Clerk reported that the Medieval re-enactors who hired the Village Hall had requested permission to use the Playing Field for re-enactments during the summer. The Clerk advised that confirmation was being sought from the Council's insurers to ensure they had no issues with this. The group had also requested use of the field to erect two tents for cleaning purposes.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that permission be granted, subject to confirmation from the Council's insurers. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/63/26 **Correspondence Received After 5th March 2026** (continued)

- b. **Tewkesbury Business Voice** – Details of Networking Breakfast focussed on Cyber Security taking place on 24th March.

- c. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Releases:
 - Tewkesbury Borough Business Voice announces cyber-security themed networking breakfast.
 - Moments to treasure: A memory-rich Mother’s Day in Tewkesbury Borough.

- d. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Offer of grant funding towards air quality monitors. It was noted that the deadline was 13th March which did not allow enough time to apply.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8:15 pm.