

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th July 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 P Godwin
Cllr O Kareem Cllr J Llewellyn
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry
Cllr S Ward

In Attendance: Cllr G Bocking, Tewkesbury Borough Councillor (until Min Ref: C/189/26)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/162/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fancourt, R Godwin and Poole as well as County Cllr K. Usmar.

C/163/26 Public Participation

Cllr Shelton asked if anyone could provide an update on where the Tewkesbury MP, Cameron Thomas, was following his recent arrest. It was reported that he was now back working on constituency business, no longer as a Liberal Democrat candidate but as an Independent. It was also noted that, although arrested, Members should consider Mr Thomas innocent until proven guilty.

C/164/26 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/165/26 Minutes of Previous Council Meetings

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting which took place on 10th June 2026 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Llewellyn SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Shelton	Cllr Llewellyn
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr P Godwin
	Cllr Kareem	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Ward	

ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Beadle	Cllr Roberts
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C/166/26 Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report

C/109/26 Tewkesbury Half Marathon – Future Events had agreed to a meeting with Northway Parish Council in February 2027 to discuss plans for the marathon.

C/141/26 Roads and Road Safety – An email was forwarded to the MP agreeing to co-sign a letter to the Department of Transport relating to the M5 Northway Lane Overbridge.

Cllr Barnes advised that he had seen a copy of the proposed letter and raised objections to some of its content. The Clerk requested that a copy of the letter be forwarded to the Council office for Members to review.

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C/166/26 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report** (continued)

C/147/26 Annual Governance and Accounting Return – This had been forwarded to the External Auditors and the Public Rights Notices were displayed.

C/140/26 Matters Arising C/88/26 & C/108/26 Refer – Thanks were passed on to Central Cladding Systems for the professionalism shown while worked on the Northway Community Hub roof over several weeks.

C/152/26 Notice of Vacancy – No election had been called so the vacancy was being advertised for co-option.

C/155/26 Community Governance Review – The agreed response was forwarded to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

C/157/26 Correspondence for Action – Updated and redacted Register of Interest forms had been returned by Tewkesbury Borough Council and were now uploaded to the Parish Council webpage.

C/167/26 **Roads & Road Safety**

- a. **Issues of Concern** – The Clerk had reported a number of issues, including overgrowth on the Northway Lane M5 Overbridge, at the entrance to the Playing Field and on the hump back bridge.

The Parish Council had also been copied into correspondence from a resident to County Cllr Usmar regarding the condition of the Spine footpath. The resident expressed concern that, despite being resurfaced in 2025, cracks were already beginning to appear in the surface.

The Clerk mentioned that proposed line marking outside Northway Infant School had been put back to March 2027.

- b. **Meeting with Cabinet Members for Highways** – The Clerk reported that County Cllr Usmar had contacted the Council with an offer from Cllr Mark Harris, Cabinet Member for Highways, to visit Northway and inspect the potholes, meet residents, hear about local issues and answer questions. The Clerk had discussed the availability of the Community Hub for a meeting afterwards and advised that she would confirm arrangements following the Full Council meeting. However, prior to the meeting, County Cllr Usmar had published a video confirming that the visit would take place on 22nd July at 7pm. Members noted that this timing would clash with the scheduled Finance Committee meeting unless it was rescheduled.

It was further noted that County Cllr Usmar had clarified by email that the invitation had come from herself and Cllr Mark Harris, rather than Gloucestershire County Council, meaning the visit could potentially be viewed as a political event. Members felt that, regardless of the motivation, they were keen to take the opportunity to highlight the pothole issues.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the site meeting take place at 5pm on 22nd July, followed by a meeting with residents in the Ray Shill Room at 6pm, lasting no longer than one hour to allow the Finance Committee meeting to proceed afterwards. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members agreed that The Park was the main area of concern to be visited. The Clerk advised that the Local Highways Manager, Max Kelly, had inspected the potholes there the previous week and that new markings had since appeared on the road.

Cllrs Roberts, Beadle, Barnes, Llewellyn, P. Godwin, Shelton and Ward expressed an interest in attending.

Cllr Ward suggested that the opportunity also be taken to discuss the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in the area.

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C/167/26 Roads & Road Safety (continued)

The Clerk also reported correspondence from a local resident expressing concerns about the traffic-calming measures on either side of the Northway Lane M5 overbridge.

- c. **Cedar Road** – Members received details of an upcoming road closure in Cedar Road on 2nd September 2026.

C/168/26 County Councillor's Report

Members had been provided with a copy of County Cllr Usmar's report. It was noted that Cllr Usmar had kindly revised the report to make it politically neutral, as the original version had been circulated as a Gloucestershire Liberal Democrats Update rather than a County Council update.

C/169/26 General Purposes Committee

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 17th June 2026.

C/170/26 Planning Committee

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting that took place on 17th June 2026.

C/171/26 Event Working Party (Picnic In The Park)

- a. **Previous Meeting** – Members received the Notes of the Working Party meeting that took place on 17th June 2026.
- b. **Format of Event** – Cllr Barnes updated Members following the Working Party meeting and who would be in attendance – Disco DJ, Play on Wheels, Tewkesbury Nature Reserve's Cabinet of Curiosities, Police bike marking, GSTG Static Display Corps of Drums, Harpers Boxing demonstration, Fox Red Sports, fair rides, drinks and sweets van, Mr Whippy Gloucester and Tewkesbury Spud Hub. Cllr Llewellyn PROPOSED that the plans agreed by the Working Party to date be approved. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Expenditure** – The Clerk gave an update on funds spent, to date, which amounted to £867. The Working Party had also recommended paying for 3 marquees and a face painter. Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval. Cllr Llewellyn SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- d. **Delegated Powers** – Cllr Llewellyn PROPOSED that the Clerk be approved delegated powers for any additional spending (within the Events budget) under the direction of the Events Working Party. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts asked Members who might be available to help on the day. Cllrs Roberts, Barnes, P Godwin, Llewellyn, Shelon and Beadle hoped to be able to attend. Borough Cllr Bocking also offered to help, id required.

- e. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting had been scheduled for 22nd July 2026, after the Finance Committee meeting.

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C/172/26 Carbon Neutral Working Party

- a. **Previous Meeting** – Members received the Notes of the Carbon Neutral Working Party meeting that took place on 17th June 2026.
- b. **Cycle Stands** – Cllr Ward PROPOSED approval of the Working Party's recommendation for purchase of two Glasdon Bi-Stander Sheffield Hoop Cycle Stands for Northway Village Hall at a cost of £42.00 each. Cllr Llewellyn SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/173/26 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Bocking had forwarded a report in advance of the meeting, which had been circulated to Members.

Cllr Bocking also advised of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study to support the Strategic and Local Plan. Parish and Town Councils had been invited to attend a briefing on 14 July 2026 to share local knowledge of flooding, drainage and other water-related issues. The information gathered would contribute to the evidence base and help inform future planning and development.

Cllr Bocking further reported that Severn Trent was seeking to become a statutory consultee on planning applications. He had been looking into the legal implications of this, which were complex.

C/174/26 Council Accounts

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £20,807.12 should be approved. Cllr P Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/175/26 Warm Space

The Clerk informed Members that Cllr Fancourt had suggested changing the name of the Warm Space initiative to something more reflective of its community focus, such as a community day or soup and roll event. A list of suggested names was also considered. Following discussion, the general consensus was that there was no need to change the existing name. Cllr Kareem PROPOSED that the initiative continue to be known as Warm Space. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/176/26 Community Hub During Periods of Prolonged Hot Weather

The Clerk advised Members that Tewkesbury Borough Council had requested details of any venues that could be made available as cool spaces during periods of extremely hot weather, offering facilities such as air conditioning and refreshments. The Clerk reported that the Community Hub had recently been advertised as an available space to come and cool down.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Community Hub be made available for this purpose at the Clerk's discretion, subject to existing bookings and hirers. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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C/177/26 Building Security

The Clerk had obtained a quotation for installation of a door alert system, at a cost of £450.00. Cllr Terry PROPOSED acceptance. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/178/26 Committees & Working Parties 2026/27 Outside Bodies

Although committee members and representatives on outside bodies had been approved in May (Min Ref: C/96/26 refers), Members were given the opportunity to provide any updates.

Cllr Terry advised that the School Community Committee had been renamed the Local Academy Board. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the list of outside bodies be updated accordingly. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Barnes referred to a meeting he had attended but clarified that it had been a one-off relating to devolution and did not require any amendment to the list.

C/179/26 This Is Tewkesbury Event

The Clerk passed on a request for feedback from the organisers of the This Is Tewkesbury event and Members considered and responded to the questions raised. Cllr Ward thanked all Councillors who had volunteered at the event, as well as the Council staff for organising the Parish Council's display table.

C/180/26 Devolution

It was noted that an update regarding the Local Government Reorganisation was expected by 17 July. Until further information was available, there was little the Parish Council could do to progress or prepare for devolution.

C/181/26 Sunflowers Suicide Support Bespoke Training – 29th July 2026

The Clerk advised that she had informed Sunflowers Suicide Support of the local issues relating to the Northway Lane M5 Overbridge (Min Ref: C/153/26 refers). Sunflowers Suicide Support had confirmed that the training would be "thoughtfully tailored" with this in mind. Members AGREED that this was sufficient to ensure the bridge was appropriately incorporated into the session.

C/182/26 Meeting Attendance Policy

Members received a draft Meeting Attendance Policy for consideration. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval of the policy, subject to an amendment requiring Members to submit apologies at the earliest opportunity and, wherever possible, no later than 6.00 pm on the day of the meeting. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/183/26 Garden Communities/Stewardship

- a. **Garden Communities** – Cllr Barnes informed the Council that the previous week's meeting had been cancelled. He also reported on the proposed legal action against several major UK housebuilders, alleging anti-competitive practices which may have resulted in inflated prices for new-build homes.
- b. **Stewardship** – Cllr Roberts confirmed that there were no updates relating to Stewardship.

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C/184/26 Correspondence for Action

- a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC)**
 - i. **Training** – Upcoming GAPTC training sessions.
 - ii. **AGM** – Call for Motions for the meeting taking place on 26th September 2026.
- b. **Gloucestershire Cricket Club** – Details of new programme being delivered. It was AGREED that this should be passed on to the relevant groups that met at the Hub and to Magnolia House.

C/185/26 Crime & Disorder

- a. **Crime Figures** – None available.
- b. **Other Information** – The Clerk raised ongoing issues relating to ball games being played in Hawthorn Way (Min Ref: GP/93/26 refers). Following a site visit, the local PCSO had recommended that the Council, again, considered installing a No Ball Games sign and had drafted a letter to residents advising that the matter would be considered by the General Purposes Committee on 15th July 2026. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the matter be referred to the Committee for consideration, but that the PCSO be asked to delay issuing the letter until after the Committee had agreed how it wished to proceed.

C/186/26 Youth Work

- a. **Information** – Cllr Ward mentioned that he would like to see reports from the Youth Club. Cllr P Godwin offered to ask that these be forwarded to the Council.

Sportily had confirmed that they would be running a pop up sports session at Northway Playing Field on 10th August from 10am – 12pm (Min Ref: C/161/26 refers).
- b. **World Jungle** – World Jungle had requested use of Northway Playing Field on 23rd July 2026, from 3pm – 5.30pm, as part of the HAF programme. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval. Cllr Ward SECONDED.
- c. **Play Gloucestershire** – It was confirmed that Play Rangers would be running sessions at Northway Playing Field on 24th July and 21st August between 10am – 4pm on both days.

C/187/26 Correspondence for Information

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press Releases:
 - Council commits to ‘positive legacy’ as new 2026-28 plan approve.
 - Community Governance Review – Resident’s views sought.
- b. **Tewkesbury Town Council** – Details of a showing of ‘The People’s Emergency Briefing’ at Wheatpieces Community Centre on 15th July 2026.

C/188/26 Correspondence Available in the Clerk’s Office

- a. **GRCC / DAISI** – Details of upcoming digital skills sessions.

C/189/26 Lease/License Working Party

- a. **Previous Meeting** – Members received the Notes of the Lease / Licence Working Party meeting that took place on 17th June 2026.

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C/189/26 **Lease/Licence Working Party** (continued)

- b. **Exclusion of the Public and Press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960 s. 1 ss. 2 Viz: -**

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that, in view of the special / confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and were instructed to withdraw.

8.20pm – Cllr Graham Bocking left the meeting.

Under confidential cover, Members discussed how to progress the leasing of the Changing Room Facility. Cllr Llewellyn PROPOSED acceptance of the Lease/Licence Working Party's recommendations, namely:

- a five-year lease with an annual rental charge of £1,000 between the Council and Tewkesbury Town Colts;
- no use of the showers, with the boiler to be drained;
- use of the line marker;
- use of the mower, subject to agreed conditions; and
- a transitional period for the adult team, if required, although without use of the showers once they had been drained.

Cllr Llewellyn also PROPOSED approval of the expenditure required for the legal work associated with the lease and for advertising the opportunity to lease the facility. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/190/26 **Correspondence Received After 2nd July 2026**

- a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Press release: Tewkesbury Garden Communities: A new company to help shape high-quality, environment-led growth.
- b. **Northway Infant and Carrant Brook Junior Schools** – Invitation for Cllr Terry to attend end-of-year play. Cllr Terry had confirmed that she would attend the afternoon show.
- c. **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study** – Details of briefing event on 14th July 2026, 6pm. Cllrs Barnes and Beadle confirmed that they would attend.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 8:30 pm.