NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th September 2026

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

Present:
Cllr M Barnes (Chair)
Cllr J Beadle (from Min Ref: C/192/26)
Cllr P Godwin
Cllr O Kareem
Cllr G Shelton
Cllr S Ward
Cllr J Roberts (Vice Chair)
Cllr G Fancourt
Cllr R Godwin (until Min Ref: C/223/26)
Cllr J Llewellyn
Cllr S Terry

In Attendance:
Cllr G Bocking, Tewkesbury Borough Councillor
Cathy Blackmore, Northway Pantry (until Min Ref:
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/191/26 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Poole.

C/192/26 **Public Participation**

Cllr Ward thanked Borough Cllr Bocking for his outstanding work in fighting the planning application for a pet crematorium in Northway. He also expressed thanks to County Cllr Harris for meeting with the Parish Council about road safety issues.

7:02pm – Cllr Beadle joined the meeting.

C/193/26 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Roberts and Godwin declared an interest in discussions relating to Northway Pantry (Min Ref: C/201/26 refers). No further 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/194/26 **Minutes of Previous Council Meetings**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the Full Council meeting which took place on 8th July 2026 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

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

C/195/26 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report**

C/172/26 Carbon Neutral Working Party *– Cycle stands had been purchased for the Village Hall.*

C/177/26 Building Security *– A door alert system had been installed at the Community Hub.*

C/195/26 **Matters Arising from Council Minutes/Clerks Report** (continued)

C/181/26 Sunflower Suicide Support Bespoke Training *– The Clerk relayed positive feedback from one of the attendees, who had found the training valuable and had since put what they had learned into practice.*

C/179/26 This Is Tewkesbury Event *– The feedback form had been submitted to the organisers of this event.*

C/196/26 **Roads & Road Safety**

a. **Issues of Concern** – The Clerk reported that temporary road closures would be taking place throughout most of Northway to allow for micro-surfacing works.

She had also received an update from the Local Highways Manager regarding The Park. The condition of the road had reached the level required for core samples to be taken, so things were being progressed.

Cllr Roberts referred to abuse that County Cllr Usmar had received in response to her social media post about the road mender being in Northway. He wanted it made clear that the Parish Council did not tolerate this unacceptable behaviour.

b. **Public Meeting** – Members expressed how beneficial they had found the meeting with Cllr Mark Harris on 22nd July at which road safety issues had been discussed.

c. **Parking Bay** – The Clerk passed on correspondence from Gloucestershire County Council's Parking Team with a plan for the disabled bay outside Northway Chemist. It was noted that there had previously been a second disabled bay further along on the other side of the chicane. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that Council approved the plan for the first disabled bay and request that the Parking Team reinstated the second disabled bay also. Cllr Llewellyn SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/197/26 **County Councillor's Report**

Members had been forwarded copies of County Cllr Usmar's reports for July and August.

C/198/26 **General Purposes Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting that took place on 15th July 2026.

C/199/26 **Planning Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings that took place on 15th July and 19th August 2026

C/200/26 **Finance Committee**

Members received the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting that took place on 22nd July 2026.

C/201/26 **Northway Pantry**

Cathy Blackmore introduced herself to Members who did not already know her. She explained that she had been involved in running The Northway Pantry since it was established in 2023.

Due to the growth of the project, the Pantry had been looking for a suitable partner or umbrella organisation to

C/201/26 **Northway Pantry** (continued)

provide ongoing support. This had recently been found through One Church, specifically One Community (a branch of One Church), who would take over the running of the Pantry. Cathy explained that this was an ideal match, as One Community already operated two community cafés and had support houses in Gloucester, giving them a lot of experience.

The Pantry was now working alongside one Community, and hopefully everything would be transferred over by November. They would not be making a public announcement until October, but since the Parish Council had partnered with the Pantry with the lease agreement, paying electricity and being generous with time and donations Cathy felt it was important to inform Members first. She noted that there were also several matters for the Council to consider, including a possible change to the licence, insurance arrangements and any associated questions.

Cathy explained that the Pantry's Steering Group would no longer include members of the community or Parish Council. The only existing member who would remain was Rev Chris Gaynor from St Nicholas Church.

The Parish Council currently charged a peppercorn rent for the garden building from which the Pantry operated. Cathy felt that if the Council were to increase the rent or make significant changes to the lease, there was a possibility that one Community might withdraw from the agreement.

Cllr Llewellyn asked what One Community's motivation was for taking on the project. Cathy explained that One Community already had a number of projects in Gloucester and a church in Tewkesbury. Members of the Tewkesbury church had been looking for a project that would help them become more integrated into the local community. Cathy said that their main motivation was that they believed this was God's calling for their church.

Cllr Barnes asked whether the money currently held by Northway Pantry would remain with the project. Cathy explained that most of the funds were restricted and therefore had to be spent on staffing costs. There was only a small amount of unrestricted funding, which was currently being used to operate the Pantry and was reducing quickly.

Cllr Llewellyn thanked Cathy for all she had done to establish and keep the Pantry running over the previous three years. He asked what she would like the Parish Council to do. Cathy said that the hope was for One Community to continue running the Pantry in the same way, although there could be changes over time. She encouraged the Council to support One Community in taking the project forward, whilst exercising appropriate caution.

Cathy also pointed out that the garden building and equipment belonged to the Parish Council. She encouraged Members to consider whether they wished to retain ownership and responsibility for the equipment or transfer the liability to the Pantry.

Cllr Fancourt PROPOSED that the Council arrange for ownership of the fridge and freezer to be transferred to the Pantry. No seconder was received and therefore no vote was taken.

Members continued to discuss the three-year licence which had been signed the previous year, together with ownership of the fridge and freezer.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council did not increase the peppercorn rent but reviewed the lease in twelve months, in addition to transferring ownership of the fridge and freezer to the Pantry. Cllr Fancourt SECONDED. No vote was taken.

Cllr Beadle asked whether the change in the running of the Pantry would make the licence null and void. Cathy felt that, as the Northway Pantry would remain as an entity, the lease would still be valid. She noted, however, that the Council could seek legal advice if required, although this would incur a cost.

In relation to the licence, Cathy also pointed out that having a short-term lease affected the Pantry's ability to secure funding, as funding organisations were reluctant to invest in a project where there was no clear long-term commitment in place.

C/201/26 **Northway Pantry** (continued)

Cllr Ward asked what would happen if One Community withdrew from the agreement. Cathy confirmed that, if the proposed takeover did not proceed, the Pantry would close in November.

The Clerk asked whether the Pantry would continue to receive support from Rethink and other organisations. Cathy said that this support was expected to be strengthened under One Community, as they already had established links with the relevant services. Pantry members would therefore benefit.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should continue to charge a peppercorn rent for the garden building, with the licence to be reviewed shortly before its break clause. She further proposed that ownership of the fridge, freezer and shelving be transferred to the Pantry in November, with the proviso that they remain solely for Northway Pantry use. The Council would continue to insure the equipment until One Community took over at the end of November. Cllr Fancourt SECONDED.

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

Cathy was thanked for all she had done for the community in establishing the Pantry.

C/202/26 **Lease/Licence Working Party**

Members received the notes of the Lease/Licence Working Party meeting that took place on 8th July 2026 and the informal Lease/Licence Working Party meeting that took place on 29th July 2026.

Cllr Roberts provided an update on use of the Changing Rooms. As the facility at Walton Cardiff was not yet ready for use, Tewkesbury Town men's team continued to play its matches at Northway, with charges applied on a pro-rata basis.

The Council would inspect the facility once it was no longer required by the men's team, to ensure that it had been left ready for use by the Colts.

C/203/26 **Emergency Planning Working Party**

Members received the notes of the Emergency Planning WP meeting that took place on 19th August 2026.

C/204/26 **Events Working Party**

Members received the notes of the Events WP meeting that took place on 8th July 2026.

Cllr Barnes felt that the event had been hugely successful and enjoyed by the community.

Cllr Terry passed on some negative comments she had received, specifically relating to the lack of activities for older people. Cllr Ward pointed out that it was a community picnic and had never been billed as anything more. When asked what older people might like to see at the next event, Cllr Terry suggested that tea and cake be provided.

Cllr Fancourt agreed with Cllr Barnes that the event had been a success. Unfortunately, the fair rides had never arrived, however, he felt that they may not have added much to the event anyway, as there had been less

C/204/26 **Events Working Party** (continued)

pressure on parents to spend money. The Council had also supported several small local businesses, which had done well on the day.

Cllr Roberts agreed that he did not think fair rides should be included in future years, given how successful the event had been without them. The best approach appeared to be keeping the event simple. He also felt that having no selling stalls had worked well. The marquees had been an excellent addition, and the firm used had provided an excellent service. For future years, he suggested hiring more marquees and spreading them out over a wider area.

Cllr Ward had heard from one person who was upset that the fair had not been present, but most people understood that this had been outside the Council's control. Overall, everyone he had spoken to had reported having an excellent time.

The Clerk reported comments received via a local PCSO that the volume of the music had made it difficult for PCSOs undertaking bike-marking activities to speak with residents. A resident had also raised concerns about the noise and the temporary closure of an entrance to the play park. Members noted that the entrance had been closed to prevent a trip hazard from electrical cables. Cllr Ward was disappointed that these concerns had not been raised directly with councillors during the event.

Cllr Llewellyn asked that thanks be passed on to whoever had purchased the trays of drinks on the day of the event. These had been made available to attendees in return for a donation, and the Council had raised £260. The cost of the drinks had been £68, and the proceeds had been banked.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should plan another, similar event for 2027. Cllr R Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/205/26 **GP Event Working Party**

It was confirmed that the fruit press and equipment had been delivered. Members considered whether or not a community fruit pressing event should be held during that year. It was felt that the recent dry weather had resulted in apples being small and less juicy.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should hold a community juicing event in 2027 but Members of the Council should hold a trial of the equipment this year (AGREED to take place on 23rd September 2026).

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/206/26 **Borough Councillor's Report**

Cllr Bocking had forwarded a report in advance of the meeting, which had been circulated to Members. In addition, he touched on recent news relating to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the planning application for a pet cemetery in Northway which had been refused.

C/207/26 **Council Accounts**

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the accounts for payment, totalling £52,155.01 should be approved. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/208/26 **Warm Space**

The Clerk advised that the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund funding had not yet been received towards the running of Warm Space and Members considered whether to proceed based on the application being approved in principle.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Warm Space should recommence in October, as planned, with the Council covering initial costs pending receipt of the grant funding. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/209/26 **Devolution**

It was noted that the government had placed its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme on hold, it was not known how long this might be for.

C/210/26 **Garden Communities/Stewardship**

a. **Garden Communities** – Cllr Barnes provided an update following discussions and meetings relating to the Garden Communities.

b. **Stewardship** – Cllrs Roberts and Barnes provided an update on Stewardship following a meeting held on 19th August 2026. It was noted that Cllr Barnes would be visiting Cranbrook on 13th October 2026 to meet with Town Councillors and view their stewardship arrangements and there was space for another representative to attend, however, no one else was able.

c. **Northway Mill Farm** – Members had been forwarded details of Northway Mill Farm which was up for sale. Cllr Roberts recalled that the previous owners had wanted the building to be used for a community purpose, it was a beautiful building and part of Northway's heritage. Cllr Terry felt that, if funding were available, it would make a wonderful heritage or art and crafts centre.

   Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Clerk should arrange a viewing for councillors and staff prior to the next Full Council meeting. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

   FOR: UNANIMOUS

d. **Freedom of Information** – Cllr Roberts PROPOSED ratification of support for a Freedom of Information request, submitted jointly with Bredon and Ashchurch Rural Parish Councils to Gloucestershire County Council regarding the GCC Transport Model (GC3M). Cllr Ward SECONDED.

   FOR: UNANIMOUS

e. **Newland Homes** – Newland Homes had offered to come and update the Council on 21st October 2026 at 6pm (before Planning Committee meeting).

   It was felt that the Council needed to continue to be cautious with how it conducted itself in discussions with developers so that it did not appear to be in support of a planning application it may well object to.

f. **Workshop at Ashchurch Village Hall** – Cllrs Barnes and Kareem attended a workshop run by Atkins Realis on 28th July to help shape proposals for Tewkesbury Garden Communities.

C/211/26 **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

Cllrs Barnes and Beadle had attended an online session on 14th July 2026 regarding the preparation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (WCS). Cllr Barnes reported that the session had been interesting and had provided an opportunity to highlight local flood risk and water management issues.

C/212/26 **Ashchurch Station Car Park**

Cllr Terry provided a report following an online meeting with Andy Burford, Gloucestershire Council Parking Manager, on 25th August 2026 to discuss relating to developments and improvements at the station. It was noted that they hoped to tidy and improve signage, expand the car park and make it more accessible for 'bendy buses', improve lighting and implement a pay and display system (£3 per day). In the future they also hoped to extend one of the platforms. Cllr Fancourt mentioned that there had been a discussion as to whether the parking charge would cause issues in Saxon Park. It was noted that a consultation would follow.

C/213/26 **Political Neutrality Policy**

Members had been circulated a draft Political Neutrality Policy which reflected how the Council dealt with political neutrality. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that this document was adopted by the Parish Council. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/214/26 **Pearl Of Northway**

Members considered how to acknowledge the long-standing service of Mr and Mrs Pardale, owners of the Pearl of Northway following an announcement on social media that they were retiring. Cllr Ward said that he did not believe they had fully retired and, therefore, PROPOSED that a letter of thanks was sent, without reference to retirement. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/215/26 **Art Shape**

The Clerk informed Members of a Knife Amnesty bin project being organised by the Serious Violence Project & Evaluation Lead for the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service. They were hoping to introduce some bins in the area allowing people to privately and anonymously drop off knives without any interaction with police. The metal would then be melted down and the profits used towards local community initiatives. Members felt that this was a good idea and Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a representative was invited to the next meeting to provide more information. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/216/26 **Christmas 2026**

- It was AGREED that Cllrs Roberts and Ward should oversee organising of the annual Christmas event, as in previous years, and communicate back to the Council if any action was required.
- Cllr Roberts confirmed that the sleigh had been booked for the event on 28th November, it was AGREED that the Council should ask about the possibility of keeping it until 4th December to give flexibility for the sleigh runs.
- Cllr Ward PROPOSED that bouncy castles were not permitted in the main hall throughout December. Cllr P Godwin SECONDED.

  FOR: UNANIMOUS

- It was AGREED that the Council would again install the Santa postbox and pass on letters to Santa for a reply.
- It was AGREED that a meal out for councillors and staff should be arranged for after Christmas.

C/217/26 **Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council made a donation of £60 towards its wreath for Remembrance Sunday and liaised with the Brownies to organise their wreath as usual. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/218/26 **Tewkesbury Borough Council Directors Visit to Northway**

The Clerk provided an update following a meeting with representatives from Tewkesbury Borough Council; Clare Skivington (Community and Place Development Officer), Rachel North (Director of Communities) and Artemis Ansell (Director of Planning) had visited the Playing Field and the Community Hub and were impressed to hear about what Northway Parish Council had done and was doing in the community.

C/219/26 **Community Governance Review of Parish Arrangements**

The draft recommendations relating to the Community Governance Review had been agreed by the Borough Council's Executive Committee, it had been recommended that no changes were made to the current arrangements for Northway.

C/220/26 **Correspondence for Action**

a. **Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils (GAPTC)**

i. **Training** – Upcoming GAPTC training sessions were listed.

ii. **Newsletter** – The August 2026 newsletter had been forwarded to Members.

b. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**

i. **Parish Matters** – Issue 30 of this newsletter had been forwarded to Members. The Council considered items for inclusion in the next edition.

ii. **Parish and Town Council Seminar** – Cllr Fancourt had confirmed that he would attend the Parish and Town Council Seminar on 17th September 2026. Cllr Barnes said he would advise the office if he was also able to attend.

C/221/26 **Crime & Disorder**

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

b. **Other Information** – Cllr Llewellyn mentioned that he thought the VAS (vehicle activated sign) battery was failing. It was AGREED that this should be put to the Road Safety Committee.

Cllr Barnes reported a police-related incident in Long Eights.

The Clerk provided an update regarding the young people involved in the damage to the concrete pad and graffitiing at the skatepark last year. One individual had been sentenced by the court, while another had pleaded guilty and been referred to Children First.

C/222/26 **Youth Work**

a. **General** – The Clerk confirmed that the Youth Club hoped to book the Village Hall for a second night per week from October 2026.

C/222/26 **Youth Work** (continued)

b. **Summer Holidays** – The Clerk reported on activities that took place during the summer holidays, this included sessions from Play Gloucestershire, World Jungle, Sportily and the Roses Theatre.

c. **CC Youth and Community Worker** – The Clerk reported that she had been contacted in July by a Gloucestershire County Council Youth and Community Worker covering the Tewkesbury Borough area. She and a colleague planned to attend Northway Playing Field on Thursdays during the summer holidays to engage with young people on topics including antisocial behaviour, personal safety and emotional wellbeing.

C/223/26 **Correspondence for Information**

a. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**

i. **Press Release's;**

- Homelands welcome Move More
- Don't lose your vote – residents in Tewkesbury Borough urged to check voter registration details.
- Six weeks of unforgettable summer fun found in Tewkesbury Borough.
- Tewkesbury retail market returns closer to its historic home.
- Councils approve release of funding for M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme.
- Live Longer Better community sessions set to bring support closer to rural residents.

ii. **Elections** – Information relating to the Annual Electoral Register canvass.

iii. **UKSPF Grant Monitoring Form 2025-2026** – The Clerk had completed and returned a monitoring form relating to the grant received for the new windows and doors at Northway Village Hall.

iv. **Proposed Sports Dome at Cleeve Sport Centre** – Details of an online survey.

v. **Tewkesbury Borough News** – Free community magazine – Summer 2026.

b. **The Clerk Magazine** – July 2026

c. **Clerks & Councils Direct** – July 2026 Issue 165

d. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC**) – Safeguarding Training for Trustees of Community Buildings.

e. **Aspire Foundation Trust** – This group had launched the C & YP 0-11 years Commission Pot for 2026-2027 and were inviting applications.

f. **CCP (Caring for Communities and People)** – Minutes from the Tewkesbury Network Meeting 24th July 2026

8:57pm – Cllr R Godwin left the meeting.

C/224/26 **Correspondence Available in the Clerk's Office**

a. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Crisis and resilience fund information.

C/225/26 **Co-Option Vacancies**

The Council received an application for the position of Councillor from Vicki Hawker. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Vicki Hawker was co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Kareem SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

C/226/26 **Correspondence Received After 14th October 2026**

a. **Clerk's & Council's Direct** – September 2026, Issue 167

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.