

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northleach with Eastington Town Council held in the Westwoods Centre on 21 July 2021 at 7pm

Members Present: Cllrs Rob Platts (Chairman), Gina Blackwell, Terry Morley-Blackwell, Mark Ogden, Alan Wellman and Andrew Wellman

In Attendance: Ms Pauline Rigby (Clerk)

53. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sara Gorst and Brian Hulcup.

54. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Blackwell declared an interest in item 65, councillor training, on the basis she would be expecting to undertake training as a new councillor.

55. County and District Council Reports

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson was not in attendance but sent a written report:

- Covid: The rate of positive cases in the Cotswolds has gone up significantly recently to their highest level since January. However, hospitalisations and deaths from covid are still low in Gloucestershire, so this is something to watch over the next few weeks. If the link between infections and serious illness can be kept at bay we will be in a much better place than previously.
- Vaccinations: over 90% of adults in Gloucestershire have received at least one dose of the covid vaccine. Another very good statistic is that 73% of the 18-24 year-old group have already had the first jab.
- Roads: he has spoken again to the Local Highways Manager about the desire to extend the speed limit at the east side of the town. He is looking to combine this with a number of other speed limit changes in the area to see if he can fund them collectively.
- Vegetation covering the line of sight to the traffic lights on the A429 has been reported - someone had a near miss the other day when a lorry hurtled through the lights.

District Cllr Tony Dale was not in attendance and had sent his apologies.

56. Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

57. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council on 23 June 2021 be confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to amendments to add the place of the meeting and a correction in item 33, the County Councillors report, which should read 'the request could be combined with other speed limit changes in the area'.

58. Action Point Update

The Town Clerk provided a summary and actions were agreed as follows:

- Welcome Back Fund: No further details had been received from District Councillor Tony Dale about the application to the fund to create a pedestrian area in the Market Place. Members were concerned that the Town had not been more widely consulted and said they would like to work together on possible projects. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Councillor to request his presence at the September meeting.
- Ward Road playground: The revised quotation was more than 10% higher than the original so the purchase could not go ahead. Suggestions to reduce the price were to change the safety surface, and to ask other suppliers to quote on installation of the same equipment, if it could be obtained on a supply-only basis.
- Community Resilience: It was proposed to set up a working party, comprised of Cllrs Terry Morely-Blackwell, Mark Ogden and Andrew Wellman, to investigate the most appropriate way to manage emergencies, and report back.
- Green Ring Working Party: Cllr Platts to forward the list of members to the Clerk.

59. Councillor Co-option

There were no applications to join the council.

The council will continue to advertise the remaining three (3) vacancies.

60. Planning Matters

60.1 Application Ref: 21/02423/LBC

Address: The Old Prison Fosseway Northleach Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 3JH

Details: Replacement of partly stolen lead roof coverings in zinc including adjustments to roof profiles to suit and rearrangement of rainwater goods

Comment: no objection

60.2 Application Ref: 21/02752/LBC

Address: Lane House West End Northleach Cheltenham GL54 3HG

Details: Internal alterations to create bathroom on second floor and external roof vent

Comment: no objection

60.3 Enforcement Appeal: APP/F1610/F/21/3273201

Address: Dover House

Details: The removal of a historic fireplace from the building without the benefit of Listed Building Consent.

It was RESOLVED to make no representation.

60.4 Decisions at variance with the views of the Town Council:

The following decisions by the local planning authority were noted:

Application Ref.: 20/04647/FUL has been refused: 'Demolition of existing storage building and erection of a new storage building' at Bob Houghton Ltd Midwinter Road Northleach Cheltenham GL54 3JD.

Application Ref. 21/02020/FUL has been refused: 'Conversion of a Dutch barn to create a single dwelling' at Crickley Barrow Farm, Crickley Barrow Northleach Cheltenham GL54 3QA.

61. Green Infrastructure Strategy

This item had been held over from June.

It was RESOLVED that the proposed green infrastructure objectives for the parish be confirmed, and well-being objectives expanded to include improved access for cycling and walking, provision of physical exercise equipment, and accessible access to green spaces.

62. Traffic and Highways

62.1 A notice had been received under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 – Notice Of Application Proposed Stopping Up Of Unclassified Highway Number 3/144 (Farmington Road) Adjacent To The Property “Dover House”, High Street, Northleach, in the Parish Of Northleach with Eastington.

It was RESOLVED that council has no objection and a response is not necessary.

62.2 It was RESOLVED to progress an application to the district council for a temporary road closure for the Market Place on Remembrance Sunday.

63. Public Space Protection Order

It was RESOLVED to support the renewal of the existing dog control orders in the district. It was observed that it would help if our district council supported the installation of additional dog waste bins. The following general comments were agreed: ‘The lack of dog waste bins is not encouraging the correct disposal of dog waste in the parish. If the district council is committed to make our district cleaner and greener overall, then we would hope they would support the installation and maintenance of new bins, in particular the dog waste bin that the council requested two years ago in a spot where the waste is often overflowing. The Town Council would also like to see more effective enforcement.’

64. CPRE Membership

It was RESOLVED to subscribe to Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) at a cost of £36 per year.

65. Councillor Training

It was RESOLVED that authority be granted to the Town Clerk to book councillors onto appropriate training courses within the councillor training budget. This would include the ‘Better Councillor’ and ‘Finance for Councillors’ training courses in the first instance.

66. Westwoods Centre

66.1 Following the lifting of legal covid restrictions on 19 July, the covid risk assessment had been updated by the Clerk. This recommended new capacity limits for rooms in the centre which would still provide some degree of social distancing depending on the activity.

It was RESOLVED that maximum room capacities be increased back to pre-covid levels and risk assessment be amended accordingly by removing reference to the lower capacities.

66.2 It was RESOLVED not to progress the building-wide replacement of lights at the present time, and as and when lights fail then they should be replaced with LEDs.

66.3 Councillors took the opportunity to inspect the buckled flooring in the main hall. The Council does not have the tools to trim the mosaic wooden tiles so they can be re-laid. It was agreed to accept the kind offer of assistance from Men in Sheds who have a circular saw.

66.4 It was RESOLVED that a new projector screen be purchased at a cost of approx. £150 ex VAT and made available to all hirers.

67. Flag Flying Protocol

It was RESOLVED that hand-sewn Union and St George's flags be purchased at a cost of approx. £55 ex VAT per flag and flown on appropriate days.

68. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr Morely-Blackwell requested and the Chairman agreed to move this item up the agenda.

The Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th June 2022. It was agreed that it was the right time to start planning, as it would allow costs to be included in the next year's budget. One suggestion was a street party on Sunday 5th June.

Cllr Morely-Blackwell excused herself from the meeting.

69. Finance

69.1 Council received the bank reconciliation summary, which showed a balance of £173,177.30 on 30 June 2021.

69.2 It was RESOLVED that £24,000 be transferred to the Nationwide savings account.

69.3 As there is only one councillor signatory on the Nationwide savings account, it was RESOLVED that two more named councillors be added as signatories.

69.4 The Clerk provided updated figures for the Grundon invoice and salaries payment.

It was RESOLVED that payments be approved in the sum of £10,843.65, as per the schedule appended to these minutes.

70. Correspondence

70.1 Gloucestershire County Council Ash Dieback replanting scheme: It was difficult to think of locations that would support large numbers of new trees. Suggestions to put forward to the county council were: replacements for the missing whitebeam along East End; additional screening around the sewage works, and a few trees at the Westwoods Centre.

70.2 Request to support a resident's parking scheme on Farmington Road: Members agreed that the request could not be progressed because it was unlikely to meet the requirements of the county council's Parking Permit Policy.

71. Future Agenda Items

These items were noted: TRO, Men in Sheds lease, a workshop on strategic priorities.

72. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 September 2021, 7pm. Although no meeting is scheduled in August, a meeting will be called if there is any urgent business.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Signature of the Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

| Date | Supplier | Service | Method | Amount | Authority |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 21-Jun | EDF Energy | WW electricity | DD | £ 91.33 | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 21-Jun | BrightHR Ltd | HR support | DD | £ - | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 21-Jun | Zen Internet | Broadband | DD | £ 32.40 | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 22-Jun | Microsoft UK | Business Standard (monthly) | Card | £ 9.40 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 22-Jun | Microsoft UK | Exchange Kiosk (monthly) | Card | £ 10.57 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 24-Jun | Cathedral Hygiene | Sanitary bin quarterly charge | DD | £ 38.99 | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 30-Jun | Grundon * | Commercial waste | DD | £ 76.43 | Litter Act 1983 s5 |
| 30-Jun | Google Ireland * | Gsuite final bill (NAS backup) | DD | £ 1.68 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 02-Jun | Thames Water | Westwoods water charges | n/a | £ - | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 06-Jul | Microsoft | Business Basic (11M) | Card | £ 41.80 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 08-Jul | Microsoft | Business Basic (1M) | Card | £ 3.80 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 25-Jul | Staff costs | July salaries, pension | SO | £ 4,383.15 | LGA 1972 s112 |
| | Subtotal | | | £ 4,689.55 | |

| Date | Supplier | Service | Method | Amount | Authority |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|
| 01-Jun | Wickes (via R Platts) | Bullnose skirting | | £ 24.30 | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 22-Jun | Amazon UK | Stationery supplies | | £ 11.83 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 22-Jun | Amazon UK | Barrier tape | | £ 6.88 | OSA 1906 s 9,10 |
| 29-Jun | RJ Dorey Limited | Westwoods hall LED lights | | £ 4,371.62 | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 30-Jun | Amanda King | Westwoods cleaning June | FP | £ 160.00 | LGA 1972 s133 |
| 30-Jun | McCracken & Son Ltd | Grounds Maintenance June | | £ 1,345.20 | LG(MP)A 1976 s19 |
| 02-Jul | Amazon UK | Stationery supplies | | £ 20.53 | LGA 1972 s111 |
| 06-Jul | Alby Belcher | Allotment fuel | | £ 7.88 | SHAA 1908 s29 |
| 06-Jul | Wordfence | Website firewall | | £ 73.86 | LGA 1972 s142 |
| 15-Jul | Eastwood Pest Control | Mole trapping at playground | | £ 132.00 | LG(MP)A 1976 s19 |
| | Subtotal | | | £ 6,154.10 | |

TOTAL PAYMENTS

£ 10,843.65