

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Northleach with Eastington Town Council held in the Westwoods Centre on 19 January 2022, 7:15pm

Members Present: Cllrs Terry Morley-Blackwell (Chairman), Gina Blackwell, Valerie Glynn, Sara Gorst, Brian Hulcup, Mark Ogden, Caroline Saunders and Andrew Wellman.

In Attendance: Ms Pauline Rigby (Town Clerk, attending remotely)
County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson and one member of the public

177. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Byron Hadley and Alan Wellman.

178. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

179. County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson reported that:

- Legal covid restrictions are being lifted next week. Although cases are still high in Gloucestershire, they are coming down quickly. Booster vaccinations are available for 16-17-year olds and 74% of the population in the county has had 3 jabs.
- County Council will set its budget next month and has proposed a budget with council tax rise of 2.99% on their part, which is less than last year and less than inflation.
- Regarding the planters on the Market Place, he will raise this with the Local Highways Manager when they meet and understands the council is still waiting for a decision.

180. Public Questions

There were no questions.

181. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council held on 15 December 2021 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

It was agreed that the minutes would be signed after the meeting.

182. Action Point Update

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update. A response has just come in from Cotswold District Council regarding Fortey Woods. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

183. Councillor Co-option

There were no applications for co-option.

184. Planning Matters

184.1 Application Ref: 21/04153/FUL (new details received)

Address: 3 Nostle Road Northleach Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 3PF
Details: Erection of two storey rear extension and front porch extension

Comment: Members agree with residents' concerns and would encourage the planning officer to make an on-site visit to assess the impact of the development on neighbours.

185. Traffic and Highways

A meeting with the Local Highways Manager took place on 22 November. The main topics were pavement licences, and the frequency of gully cleaning because Highways have been called out for ad-hoc cleans several times during the year. Areas with poor drainage were pointed out during the walkabout. Another walkabout is already in the diary. Town Clerk to check the date.

186. Finance

186.1 Council received the bank reconciliation which showed balances of £157,129.39 on 31 December 2021.

186.2 It was RESOLVED that payments in the sum of £8,797.77 be approved as per the schedule appended to these minutes.

187. Children's Christmas Show

A report on the event finances had been circulated. Although only a handful of people had responded to the post-event survey, the feedback was very positive.

It was RESOLVED that the theatre company Chaplins Mini Pantos be booked again in 2022, subject to the price being similar to last year.

188. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The second round of grants from the Gloucestershire County Council Market Towns Fund had not been announced by the time of the meeting. There was a discussion about whether the street party event could still go ahead if it had to be funded completely by the Town Council. It was suggested that if the grant application is not successful, to investigate other sources of funding and cut back the project plan where it makes sense to do so.

It was RESOLVED that the event led by the Council goes ahead even if the grant from the Market Towns Fund is not forthcoming.

189. Budget and Precept

Committee Chairman Cllr Ogden presented the budget recommended by the Finance and General Resources Committee. Mindful that residents are facing increasing financial pressure, the committee was keen to limit the precept increase to no more than 2%.

It was RESOLVED that budget recommended by the Finance Committee be approved.

It was further RESOLVED that if no grant was received then funding for the Jubilee celebration be taken out of general reserves up to a maximum budget of £6,000.

It was RESOLVED that the precept for 2022-23 be set as £80,584 giving an increase on the parish element of council tax of 1.5%.

This is an increase in council tax of less than 3p per week for a Band D household.

190. Freedom of the Parish Policy

The Clerk presented an updated policy in which the award is conferred at an extraordinary meeting, specially convened for the purpose, and the decision does not need to be ratified.

It was RESOLVED that the amended policy be adopted.

191. Correspondence

- 191.1 Cotswold District Council correspondence on re-charging town and parish council for elections. Cllr Andrew Wellman had attended the online session to explain the charges and the charges have since been approved by Cabinet, although the introduction will be staged. Members wished to write to the Leader, and the Clerk advised they should agree the broad points to be made. Comments agreed were that the Town Council is disappointed by the decision, as they feel this will discourage local councils from exercising their democratic right to elect their representatives. It was agreed that Cllr Wellman draft a response based on these points, to be submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Council.
- 191.2 Response from Farmington Parish Council on proposed parish boundary change. The Clerk was asked to respond, explaining that there are no ulterior motives, the Council simply wishes to be able to take better care of this area and be able to manage issues like litter.
- 191.3 Email from youth worker about youth club provision in the town. It was noted that the youth club had closed through lack of use and it would be worth examining evidence of need. Community Builder Sue Pilling from Cotswold District Council volunteered the information that she is going to The Cotswold School next week to talk to Years 7 to 9 and Northleach Primary School to speak with Years 5 and 6, to gather feedback on what young people themselves would like. It was agreed that the Town Council is supportive of any attempt to form a youth provision, is interested hearing about further research, and open to more conversations.
- 191.4 County Council consultation on bus service provision, closing date 30 January. The consultation will be publicised online, everyone is encouraged to respond as an individual.

192. Committee Minutes

Council received the minutes of the Finance and General Resources Committee on 11 January 2022. The Clerk was asked to explain the option to tax on the Westwoods Centre.

193. Future Agenda Items

Already noted: TRO for speeds; Market Place toilet block.

Issues raised: the light in Eastington has been off for about a year, sign into Eastington from A40 regularly overgrows. Clerk send details to Cllr Sara Gorst for reporting highway issues.

194. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23 February 2022, 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Signature of the Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

Schedule of payments

Regular payments

Date	Supplier	Service	Method	Amount	Authority
21-Dec	EDF Energy	WW electricity	DD	£ 156.16	LGA 1972 s133
21-Dec	Zen Internet	Broadband	DD	£ 32.40	LGA 1972 s133
22-Dec	Microsoft UK	365 Business Standard	Card	£ 9.40	LGA 1972 s111
24-Dec	Cathedral Hygiene	Sanitary bin	DD	£ 38.99	LGA 1972 s133
31-Dec	Grundon	Commercial waste	DD	£ 94.78	Litter Act 1983 s5
25-Jan	Staff costs	Jan salaries, pension	SO	£ 4,416.61	LGA 1972 s112
	Subtotal			£ 4,748.34	

Invoices

Date	Supplier	Service	Method	Amount	Authority
17-Dec	Viking	Stationery etc		£ 148.78	LGA 1972 s111
16-Dec	Cotswold DC	Building insurance recharge		£ 16.90	LG(MP)A 1953 s4
17-Dec	McCracken and Son Ltd	Grounds maintenance		£ 1,345.20	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
21-Dec	Amanda King	WW cleaning		£ 96.00	LGA 1972 s133
31-Dec	Office Reality	Office furniture		£ 1,078.57	LGA 1972 s111
31-Dec	RJ Dorey	New foyer lights		£ 654.00	LGA 1972 s133
31-Dec	RJ Dorey	New kitchen lights		£ 216.00	LGA 1972 s133
31-Dec	RJ Dorey	New porch lights		£ 255.60	LGA 1972 s133
05-Jan	Bibury Landscaping	Christmas tree removal		£ 90.00	LGA 1972 s145
05-Jan	Pauline Rigby	Clerk expenses		£ 26.68	LGA 1972 s145
05-Jan	Viking	Stationary back order		£ 30.90	LGA 1972 s111
07-Jan	DM Payroll	Payroll service H2		£ 66.00	LGA 1972 s111
12-Jan	GRCC	Annual membership		£ 25.00	LGA 1972 s111
	Subtotal			£ 4,049.63	

	TOTAL			£ 8,797.97	
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