

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

Members Present: Cllrs Terry Morley-Blackwell (Chair), Gina Blackwell, Valerie Glynn, Sara Gorst, Byron Hadley, Laura Kirkby, Adam Tattersall, and Andrew Wellman

In Attendance: Ms Pauline Rigby (Town Clerk), County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Ward Cllr Tony Dale and 3 members of the public at the start of the meeting

Before the meeting formally opened, the editor of the Benefice Magazine presented a certificate to the Mayor in recognition of her contribution towards the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

75. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Brian Hulcup and Caroline Saunders.

76. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

77. County and District Council Reports

County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson reported as follows:

- A reminder that all those over 50 can get the covid and flu jabs.
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust rating has been downgraded, there are lots of remedial actions, and ambulance response times have gone even further over target. There is no doubt that the NHS is under a lot of strain.
- The County Council is setting up a support hub for the Cost of Living crisis. All libraries will become warm spaces, creating spaces for people to be warm with hot drinks.
- A417 missing link, the Government has announced that it was still on track. Providing there is a green light on funding then construction will start in 2023.
- Regarding the wider pavement in the Market Place, he would be putting in £5,000 from the Highways Local budget, and he gathers the district council and Town Council are also contributing so hopefully the work can be done in the current financial year.

Ward Cllr Tony Dale reported as follows:

- Cotswold District Council is facing a really tough budget next year. He encouraged people to respond to the budget consultation when it goes out next month.
- He was disappointed to hear that Curious Wine Cellar has had its pavement licence refused and asked if the Town Councillor(s) who objected would like to explain. It was noted that the licence had been refused due to the Highways objection.

78. Public Questions

There were no questions from the public.

79. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Blackwell raised a query about minute 64.2, to confirm that the resolution on the pavement widening was subject to further details on the design and costing of the scheme.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 28 September 2022 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

80. Action Point Update

Matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda: The Town Clerk reported that the contractor would investigate the timer switch on the Market Place toilet block lights.

81. Casual Vacancies

81.1 The application for the vacancy on the council had been withdrawn.

81.2 Appointment to committees was not covered.

82. Planning Matters

There were no planning applications out for consultation.

83. Highways issues

83.1 Council discussed the creation of a Steering Group to oversee the preparation and delivery of a parking strategy for the town using the Northleach Neighbourhood Plan policies as the starting point. A draft Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Chris Hancock, former Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, had volunteered to lead the group and commended the draft Terms to the Council for adoption.

Group membership was discussed. Mr Hancock said the group would draw on a cross section of the community to represent views from across the town. Views would be sought more widely via consultations and workshops. Representatives from county and district councils would be part of the discussions, as the design will be influenced and directed by their input. It was noted that voting group members would be expected to be local electors of the parish. County Cllr Hodgkinson said he would like to be involved where possible.

It was RESOLVED that the Steering Group Terms of Reference be adopted.

83.2 It was RESOLVED that the initial members of the group would be Cllrs Byron Hadley and Brian Hulcup, Andrew Wellman, and Mr Chris Hancock.

83.3 To receive further information on design and costings of scheme to widen the pavement on the Market Place. This item was deferred as the information had not been received.

84. Fortey Woods

Minute 203 of 23 February 2022 refers.

Cotswold District Council had increased its financial settlement offer for future maintenance of the woodland to £10,000. The Chairman provided background information and it was explained that transfer of the land would enable the Town Council to undertake restoration works. The Clerk was asked to investigate access for machinery from adjacent land.

It was RESOLVED that the financial settlement of £10,000 be accepted and transfer progressed, subject to access arrangements and the findings of the condition report.

85. Remembrance Wreath

85.1 Cllr Kirkby explained that an eco-friendly wreath would be made with a reusable base, then leaves and knitted or crocheted poppies attached. After the remembrance period the base is returned to the florist and the poppies removed, dried, and stored for next year. The base would cost £35 from Oops A Daisy florist in Cirencester and Cllr Kirkby would collect it.

It was RESOLVED that an eco-friendly wreath be purchased, subject to also giving a donation to the Royal British Legion.

85.2 It was RESOLVED that a donation of £110 be made to the Royal British Legion.

86. Community Café

It was proposed and RESOLVED that public and press be excluded under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that the business about to be transacted would likely involve the disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the community rescue plan for the Black Cat Café and the Council-funded questionnaire. About 450 responses had been received to date, and a majority (96%) of online respondents said they feel it is important or very important to have a community café in Northleach. Members discussed how the Town Council could support the community plan. The Town Clerk had previously circulated information about assets of community value and the powers available to the Council.

A member of the public arrived at this juncture. The meeting was adjourned for a few minutes while the Town Clerk left the room to deal with the enquiry. The meeting resumed.

It was RESOLVED to nominate the Black Cat Café Northleach as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011.

Action: Clerk to submit the nomination to Cotswold District Council.

Members discussed whether the Town Council could support the café financially, whether by acquisition, grant, loan or purchasing membership of the community company. The Town Clerk advised that any motion to support the café financially would need to be brought back to a future meeting so as to allow time for the financial implications to be evaluated.

The Clerk was asked to include the topic on the agenda on a future agenda.

The meeting was re-opened to press and public.

87. Finance

87.1 The bank reconciliation was received, showing combined balance of £145,004.19 on 30 September 2022.

87.3 Council received the payments schedule, which is appended to these minutes.

It was RESOLVED that payments in the sum of £7,977.67 be approved.

The Clerk reported that an invoice for the seated exercise class had been omitted from the list and was due to be paid before the next meeting.

88. Future Agenda Items

Already noted: Fortey Woods, Market Place bus shelter/toilet block, community survey (Nov), land at Westwoods (subject to resident survey). Business forum, pavement extension, lack of pavement outside Cotswold Stores was noted.

89. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16 November 2022, 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Signature of the Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

Payment schedule

Date	Supplier	Description	Amount	Authority
22-Sep	Alfram	Adjusting entrance doors	£ 204.00	LGA 1972 s133
22-Sep	Garry Evans	Window cleaning	£ 20.00	LGA 1972 s133
27-Sep	Amanda King	Westwoods cleaning	£ 128.00	LGA 1972 s133
28-Sep	TT Pumps	Pump service and parts	£ 751.20	LGA 1972 s133
30-Sep	McCracken and Son	Mowing September	£ 1,345.20	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
30-Jan	Grundon	Waste collection	£ 101.48	Litter Act 1983 s5
03-Oct	Community HeartBeat Trust	Defib pads	£ 63.60	PHA 1936 s234
03-Oct	Spot On Supplies	Cleaning supplies	£ 160.64	LGA 1972 s133
04-Oct	MH Goals	Spring retaining clips	£ 17.90	LG(MP)A 1976 s19
05-Oct	Spot On Supplies	Cleaning supplies	£ 29.74	LGA 1972 s133
05-Oct	Cellar Supplies	Bar stock	£ 500.06	LGA 1972 s145
06-Oct	DM Payroll	Payroll H1 2022-23	£ 66.00	LGA 1972 s111
07-Oct	Busy Fingers Printing	Questionnaires	£ 108.00	LGA 1972 s137
10-Oct	Budgens	Bar supplies	£ 7.84	LGA 1972 s145
25-Oct	Staff costs	Oct salaries, pension	£ 4,474.01	LGA 1972 s112
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 7,977.67	