

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northleach with Eastington Town Council held in the Westwoods Centre on 18 June 2025, 7pm

Present: Cllrs Terry Morley-Blackwell (Chairman), Gina Blackwell, Matt Jackson, Laura Kirkby, Caroline Saunders, and Andrew Wellman

In Attendance: Pauline Rigby (Town Clerk), County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

84. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Byron Hadley, Brian Hulcup, Jules Russell, and Michael Seath.

It was noted that Guy Woolley had resigned as a councillor.

The Chairman gave a public vote of thanks to Guy for his contributions.

85. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

There were none.

86. County and District Council reports

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson reported that his new role is Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Fire. The first cabinet meeting was held today. Roads and civic pride are top of the agenda. Broken road signage is an ongoing issue; he is meeting the local highways manager tomorrow and will raise it again. They are trialling average speed cameras on A436 from the Kilkenny Inn onwards. This is the first time using these cameras on a road that isn't a dual carriageway and if it is a success then others may be rolled out.

Big changes are taking place at Cotswold District Council with the CEO stepping down. Whereas the council previously had a strong five-year housing land supply, Government has doubled the housing target and changed the calculation, so now they only have a two-year housing land supply, leaving the district vulnerable to speculative development – which is a source of huge frustration. Finally, he invited nominations for the Unsung Heroes Award to acknowledge people who provide special service to their communities.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson then excused himself as he had another meeting to attend.

87. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

88. Confirmation of Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 May 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

89. Matters arising: To consider joining National Assoc. of British Market Authorities (NABMA)

The Clerk reported that NABMA would not agree to half-price membership without a tie-in but had offered 75% fee with no ongoing commitment as the year was part way through.

It was RESOLVED to join NABMA for one year.

90. Planning Matters:

90.1 To appoint a council lead/representative on planning matters.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Jackson be the council lead on planning.

To agree council's response to planning applications.

90.2 **Application Ref:** 25/01600/FUL

Address: 4 Jessop Drive Northleach Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 3JG

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of permission 23/00316/FUL - Two-storey extension to side of dwelling

It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of 'NO OBJECTION'.

90.3 **Application Ref:** 25/01591/LBC

Address: Church Farm Cottage Market Place Northleach Cheltenham GL54 3EE

Proposal: Demolition and re-building of boundary wall between Church Farm Cottage and The Black Cat Cafe building due to collapsing section [...]

It was RESOLVED that the Council SUPPORTS the proposal, on the grounds that it enables the resumption of essential works required to bring the community café back into use.

90.4 **Application Ref:** 25/01681/FUL

Address: 17 Nostle Road Northleach Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 3PF

Proposal: Erection of first floor side and single storey front extensions. Installation of 1no rear dormer. Garage conversion. Installation of PV panels to front elevation.

It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of 'NO OBJECTION'.

91. **Notice of Motion (Cllr Hadley): To discuss the impact of second homes and holiday lets in the town and consider what steps, if any, council may wish to take in response.**

A report had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED to defer the motion as the proposer was not present.

92. **Finance:**

92.1. To receive the bank reconciliation to 31 May 2025.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had verified the reconciliation against the bank statements.

92.2 To receive the budget monitoring report for the year to date.

No questions or concerns were raised.

92.3 To authorise the payment of accounts as per the schedule.

New invoices had been received from Gallagher for insurance and Cellar Supplies.

It was RESOLVED to add these invoices to the payment list and payments be approved.

It was further RESOLVED to purchase the banqueting chairs using CIL earmarked reserves.

93. **To consider a grant application of £5,000 from Northleach Playgroup.**

Cllr Jackson presented this item. The forecast showed a considerable deficit between money coming in from Government and the Playgroup's expenditure. While members supported the Playgroup in principle and the importance of local provision especially for low-income families, they questioned the pessimistic forecasting, and whether grant funding would simply delay an inevitable closure. Following a lengthy debate:

It was RESOLVED that the decision is deferred, to arrange an extraordinary meeting, and ask the Playgroup Committee to come along and represent themselves. Councillors would put questions in advance so that they have a chance to prepare.

94. To receive minutes from the last committee meetings:

The following committee minutes were received:

- (a) Property & Premises Management Committee on 19 May 2025.
- (b) Westwoods Committee on 9 June 2025.

95. To receive item for future meetings

Lending library for equipment (Library of Things).

96. Next Meeting

Wednesday 09 July 2025, 7pm in the Westwoods Centre.

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

Signature of the Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

Payment schedule of 18 June 2025

Date	Supplier	Service	Amount
16-May	Everflow	Water rates	£ 38.94
19-May	Amazon	Various	£ 26.89
21-May	Zen Internet	Broadband & Voice	£ 40.80
22-May	BrightHR	HR support	£ 24.30
22-May	Microsoft	Exchange Online	£ 37.20
22-May	Microsoft	<i>Credit note</i>	-£ 10.83
22-May	Glasdon	Litter bin	£ 293.16
23-May	Staff costs	Payroll May	£ 4,016.27
26-May	Tesco Stores	Bar stock	£ 15.50
28-May	Stephen Chilton	Handyman	£ 190.00
28-May	Rappor	Parking study	£ 2,400.00
31-May	Grundon	Waste collection	£ 193.28
31-May	McCracken & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£ 1,527.30
02-Jun	Smarty	Mobile phone	£ 6.00
02-Jun	EDF Energy	Westwoods electricity	£ 186.33
02-Jun	Murrel Trading	Pigeon spikes	£ 24.83
04-Jun	Garry Evans	Window cleaning	£ 30.00
05-Jun	Screwfix	Grease gun	£ 19.99
05-Jun	Northleach Post Office	Stamps	£ 13.92
08-Jun	Amazon	Various (Westwoods)	£ 26.70
10-Jun	ETI Thermometer Probe	Thermometer probe	£ 75.60
10-Jun	All Green (South West)	2x kitchen caddys	£ 20.38
11-Jun	Mogo Direct	30x Banqueting chairs	£ 973.50
12-Jun	The Cotswold Stores	Milk	£ 3.30
12-Jun	Inta Audio	Replacement microphone	£ 34.98
13-Jun	Gallagher	Insurance	£ 5,148.30
17-Jun	Cellar Supplies	Bar stock	£ 278.57
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 15,477.91