

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northleach with Eastington Town Council held in the Westwoods Centre on 9 July 2025, 7pm

Present: Cllrs Terry Morley-Blackwell (Chairman), Gina Blackwell, Byron Hadley, Brian Hulcup, Caroline Saunders, Michael Seath, and Andrew Wellman

In Attendance: Pauline Rigby (Town Clerk)

97. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Matt Jackson, Laura Kirkby, and Jules Russell.

98. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

There were none.

99. County and District Council reports

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson had sent a short report and the Clerk was asked to read it out:

1. He met Tony [Dale] this week and it's his intention to get back into council work from next week, including resuming his role as your CDC point of contact.
2. 20mph limits - you will have seen my email on this where I have asked you to formally reconfirm your interest in a 20mph limit in response to the letter sent through from GCC. This is just being belt and braces as you are already well down the track on this.

100. Public Participation

A member of the public asked about the traffic light sign past the Old Prison. It was noted that rumble strips had appeared on the road to the roundabout.

101. Confirmation of Minutes

Cllr Seath noted that he had given apologies, and it was agreed to make this amend.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes as amended of the ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 18 June 2025 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

102. Planning Matters:

102.1 Application Ref: 25/01935/FUL and 25/01936/LBC

Address: Abdale House High Street Northleach Cheltenham GL54 3EU

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to rear

It was RESOLVED to submit a comment of NO OBJECTION to both planning and listed building consent applications.

103. 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.

Cllr Hadley introduced the motion, expressing concern about the growing number of holiday lets, second homes and empty houses in Northleach, noting the contrast between only two properties currently available to rent and around 20 holiday lets.

The impact on affordability and availability for local people, especially younger residents, was stressed, with rising prices and limited rental options making it difficult to remain in the

community. While recognising that holiday accommodation brings trade to the local area, members noted the loss of family housing, school pupils and local engagement.

It was RESOLVED that the Council is concerned about the increasing number of second homes and holiday lets and would consider what steps could be taken to address this.

The discussion then focused on how to address the issue. Proposals included consulting residents to gauge concern, then contacting neighbouring parishes to see how they are addressing issues with holiday lets and second homes. It was agreed that businesses' views must also be considered. Members felt the initial step should be to approach the district council to establish what action is already being taken, before potentially raising the matter with the local MP.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter to Cotswold District Council noting concerns about second homes and holiday lets in Northleach and asking if they have any policies to help limit the numbers in the local area, and if they do is there anything the Town Council can do to help them with enforcing those policies.

104. Notice of Motion (Cllr Wellman): The Council acknowledges concerns regarding the long term parking of multiple inactive vehicles in the Market Place and Green.

In response, the Council resolves to:

- a. Consider potential implications within the context of the ongoing Parking Strategy; and**
- b. Make informal enquiries, where appropriate, to encourage more considerate and responsible parking behaviour by vehicle owners.**

Cllr Wellman had introduced the motion following a request from a member of the public concerning households with multiple vehicles which are left on the road for long periods rather than being kept on driveways, limiting parking space for others.

Discussion considered possible options, including the issuing of advisory notices or investigating old parking byelaws, but it was noted that vehicles are parked legally and enforcement would be difficult. The most practical step would be to draft a polite notice to all households in the area, reminding residents that parking is at a premium, asking them to use their driveways wherever possible, and to park considerately. The notice could also be shared via email and social media to reach the wider community.

It was RESOLVED to communicate the need for considerate parking on the Green and Market Place to maximise the number of spaces, encouraging owners to park on their own land where possible. Message to be circulated on Facebook, email only in the first instance.

105. Notice of Motion (Cllr Morley-Blackwell): To consider establishing a Library of Things.

Cllr Morley-Blackwell introduced this item, proposing to search through the Westwoods Centre and make a list of items that could be borrowed.

The Town Clerk had circulated a report giving examples of equipment lending schemes. She raised concerns about the lack of staff resource to deal with collection, returns and checking of loan equipment, and requested the lending system was considered first.

It was RESOLVED to allow Cllr Morley-Blackwell to make an inventory of items for lending.

106. Correspondence: To receive letters from the children of Northleach Primary School suggesting ways to improve the Town and consider actions that could be taken as a result.

The bundle of letters from the school children had been circulated.

It was agreed to write back to the school confirming that the pupils' suggestions had been listened to. The response would highlight the existing wildflower meadow and fruit trees on

the playing field, and note that Gloucestershire County Council has been contacted regarding the traffic lights. Other ideas included additional benches in the playground and on Ward Road, and the potential installation of a seesaw using the playground fund. It was confirmed that a youth shelter was being investigated.

Members acknowledged the number of requests for a dirt bike track, but this was not practical on council-owned land; however, an area in Fortey Woods could be considered once the site has been transferred.

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman would draft a response to the school, incorporating the points raised, and circulate it to councillors for comment before sending.

107. Finance:

92.1. To receive the bank reconciliation to 30 June 2025.

The document had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

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

The report was received.

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

A new invoice had been received from Battledown Heating of £636 for plumbing work.

It was RESOLVED to add this invoice to the payment list and payments be approved.

108. To receive reports from.

Parish & Town Council Summit on Devolution on 4 June: The Clerk had attended this meeting. Presentations from officers in parishes where unitary authorities had already been created emphasized the importance of early engagement with the local authorities about the potential transfer of local assets and responsibilities to parishes.

River pollution meeting on 27 June: Cllr Morley-Blackwell had attended, met with the Thames Water site manager for the area, and spoke with the Flood Risk Officer about responsibility for the culvert through the centre of Town. Thames Water is upgrading the sewage treatment works with screening, and would confirm the capacity of system. The difference in water quality downstream of the sewage works was pointed out.

109. To receive item for future meetings

To be added: Town sign on Repair Shop TV series, 'Walking the Bounds' (Refer to PPMC).

110. Next Meeting

Thursday 10 July 2025, then Wednesday 10 September 2025,
both 7pm in the Westwoods Centre.

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

Signature of the Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

Payment schedule of 9 July 2025

Date	Supplier	Service	Amount
15-May	Central Trees	Crail view tree work	£ 984.00
16-Jun	Everflow	Water rates	£ 15.18
21-Jun	Tesco Stores	Bar stock	£ 12.90
21-Jun	Zen Internet	Broadband & Voice	£ 40.80
22-Jun	BrightHR	HR support	£ 24.30
23-Jun	Staff costs	Payroll June	£ 4,030.18
24-Jun	Pauline Rigby	SLCC Membership	£ 355.00
25-Jun	NABMA	Membership	£ 363.00
26-Jun	Amazon	Hot water stickers	£ 9.68
26-Jun	Screwfix	Cable ties/key safe	£ 33.98
26-Jun	Tesco Stores	Bar stock	£ 15.75
30-Jun	Grundon	Waste collection	£ 149.53
30-Jun	McCracken & Son	Ground maintenance	£ 1,527.30
01-Jul	Pauline Rigby	Expenses claim (mileage)	£ 11.70
02-Jul	Smarty	Mobile phone	£ 6.00
02-Jul	EDF Energy	Westwoods electricity	£ 184.97
02-Jul	Cellar Supplies	Bar stock	£ 193.39
02-Jul	Central Trees	Emergency tree work	£ 696.00
08-Jul	Battledown Heating	Install TMVs etc.	£ 636.00
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 9,289.66