

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting Of Northleach with Eastington held at the Westwoods Centre on 30 April 2025, 7pm

Chairman Terry Morley-Blackwell presiding and approx. 30 electors in attendance.

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the councillors and speakers present.

2. **Change in order of business**

The approval of minutes took place at the end of the meeting.

3. **Annual Police Report**

PCSO John Allen of the Cotswold Policing Team had provided an annual Police report for the parish (appended). PCSO Kim Graham has now retired from Gloucestershire Police and is not due to be replaced. In addition to regular policing work, their community activities over the past year included crime prevention talks with Northleach Evergreens and supporting the Charter Fair.

4. **Gloucestershire County Council**

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson gave an update on county council and highways issues including the proposed 20mph speed limit across the town.

5. **Annual Report from The Town Council**

The Chair invited councillors to present various projects.

Pavilion Roof: Councillor Flam Wellman gave an update on work to replace the leaking Pavilion Roof which had reached the end of its life. Construction took place in October 2024 with a total project cost to date of £57,864. All that remains is to fix the internal decoration; volunteers are sought to help with painting and decorating.

Garden of Remembrance: Cllr Byron Hadley spoke about the council's plans to expand and enhance the garden of remembrance. A Stage 1 design for the site had been commissioned and would form the basis of the project going forwards.

Northleach Parking: Cllr Laura Kirkby gave a summary of the week-long traffic survey on the Market Place organised by Gloucestershire Highways. The data showed that most vehicles stayed for short periods, reflecting Northleach's role as a service centre, with 42% of cars staying less than five minutes. However, a significant minority of cars parked for longer with one not moving for the duration of the survey. Now that data is in, the council would discuss the next steps with Gloucestershire Highways and has engaged a transport design consultancy.

Grants: The Chair outlined the Council's community grant scheme and encouraged groups to apply. She then invited recent grant recipients to give an update.

Friends of Northleach Swimming Pool acknowledged the grant of £250 towards a new sand filter. They also received grants to replace the boiler house roof. Fundraising is essential to their continuing operation, and they are in need of more volunteers including lifeguards for the pool.

Northleach Teen Space is a space where teens age 11 to 17 years can socialise and hang out. It's completely free to access and they have a pool table, games consoles and other games for the teens to play. The group had outgrown their previous venue at the Black Cat and were able to meet at Westwoods thanks to a grant of £500 from the Town Council. They thanked the council for the support and storage space.

It was noted that a grant of £500 was given to **Friends of Northleach Church** for rainwater goods on church, but they had been unable to send a representative.

Finally, a representative of the **Royal British Legion** spoke about their work and the Poppy Appeal – to which the council gave a donation.

The report ended with a reminder to residents of the events being held to mark VE Day 80. On Thurs 8 May, the Town Crier would read a proclamation and the beacon on the playing field would be lit in the evening. A lamp light of peace would be lit from the beacon and carried to the War Memorial, where it would remain illuminated all through the night in memoriam. A VE Day Fete is also planned on 10 May at the King George V Playing Field.

6. Northleach Playgroup

Committee members from Northleach Playgroup had been invited to explain why they were fundraising and their plans to ensure the future of the playgroup.

7. Public Question Time

There was an opportunity to ask any questions.

8. Signing of the Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 17 April 2024 were taken as read and approved.

9. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited residents to contact the council about any issues of concern.

Signature of Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____