

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Northleach with Eastington Town Council held in the Westwoods Centre on 11 March 2026, 7pm

Present: Cllrs Terry Morley-Blackwell (Chairman), Valerie Glynn, Brian Hulcup, Caroline Saunders, Michael Seath, and Flam Wellman

In Attendance: Pauline Rigby (Town Clerk), and one member of the public

33. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Gina Blackwell, Byron Hadley, Matt Jackson, Laura Kirkby, and Jules Russell.

34. To consider granting a dispensation to Cllr Laura Kirkby under S85(1) of LGA 1972.

It was RESOLVED that a dispensation be granted to Cllr Laura Kirkby to waive S85(1) of LGA 1972 by accepting reasons for absence (maternity).

35. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

There were no interests declared.

36. County and District Council reports

County Cllr Paul Hodgkinson had sent his apologies.

District Cllr Tony Dale sent his apologies and a short report: noting that Cabinet had approved the new biodiversity net gain report along with the natural environment report and further updates to Home Seeker Plus and the CIL levy assessments. Car parking machines will also be going out to tender in March.

37. Public Participation

A resident spoke about improving the decoration of the Westwoods Centre.

38. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 11 February 2026.

It was RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed for signing.

39. Planning & Licensing: To comment on applications as listed in the schedule.

39.1 Application Ref: 26/00702/TCONR

Address: Annexe Manor House High Street Northleach GL54 3ES

Proposal: 2 x Lime Trees - remove new growth back to old pollard points [...]

Comment: NO OBJECTION

39.2 App Ref: 26/00621/TCONR

Lyon Cottage West End Northleach GL54 3HG

Proposal: Remove 3x Lawson Cypress trees and 1x Elder to approx ground level [...]

Comment: NO OBJECTION

Any additional applications notified after publication of the agenda.

39.3 App Ref: 26/00676/TPO Walton House Court:

Address: Walton House Court West End Northleach Gloucestershire

Proposal: T1-Pine - remove x1 tertiary branch, hanging low over car park and the closest branch to Old Bank House, to its junction with secondary branch (please see photo). Remove deadwood greater than 10cm diameter. T2 - Pine - Tip reduce lowest branch overhanging garden back to a suitable growth point near to boundary. Remove x1 small branch, just above branch to be tip reduced, that overhangs garden(again please look at photo). [...]

Comment: NO OBJECTION

39.4 Licensing App Ref: C/26/00162/PRMA

Address: Roots And Seeds Ltd, 1 The Hayloft Far Peak Northleach GL54 3AP

Proposal: New Premises Licence

The Clerk explained that a response was not necessary unless the council wished to object based on one of the licensing objectives. No objections were raised.

40. To agree response or further actions to the Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire, closing date 26 March.

Three proposals had been submitted to Government: a single unitary, an east-west split or the Greater Gloucester model. The view in room was divided. Members felt there was no obvious advantage at a local level of any of the models.

It was RESOLVED that a response matrix covering the 24 questions would be completed by each councillor, with the final submission based on the average of those responses. Cllr Wellman will develop a method for collecting the responses.

Councillors were asked to return their response by 20 March.

41. Finance:

22.1 To receive the bank reconciliation to 28 February 2026.

The report was received.

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

The report was received.

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

It was agreed to add payments to Cloud Next, Tesco Stores, and Cotswold Carpets to the schedule (appended). It was noted that payment to Water Plus should be £49.01.

It was RESOLVED that the payments schedule, as amended, be approved.

42. Annual Town Meeting

42.1 To agree an alternative date for the Annual Town Meeting due to venue availability.

It was RESOLVED to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Weds 27 May, 6pm.

42.2 To receive an update on plans for the evening and agree any actions arising.

Cllr Russell was absent but had shared an update by email.

42.3 To discuss and agree the administration of the new Community Awards scheme, including categories, eligibility criteria, nomination process, terms, and lead councillor.

It was RESOLVED to produce a simple application form and terms based on the approach used in Cricklade. The Clerk to action.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Morley-Blackwell be appointed as lead councillor.

It was further RESOLVED to create an awards panel of three members and to invite the vicar, a school governor, and a community volunteer to participate.

43. Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan

To review and update the Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan.

Cllr Wellman had updated the Action Plan.

It was RESOLVED that the policy and updated action plan be approved.

44. To consider an invitation for councillors to appear on Cotswold Radio.

Cotswold Radio were keen to interview councillors. Some councillors had already been on the show; but others said they were unavailable due to work commitments.

45. To receive an update on the transfer of the Public Conveniences.

The Clerk had circulated a brief update, noting that there had been no further information from the district council on the legal transfer.

46. To receive minutes of Property & Premises Management Committee on 16 February 2026.

The minutes had been published on the council website.

47. To report the transfer of HMS Starwort papers and Westwoods Grammar School photographs to Gloucestershire Archives.

This was noted.

48. To receive item for future meetings

Already noted: tourist levy (Cllr Glynn), Fortey Woods, Market Place toilets.

To be added: Highways meeting re Market Place.

49. Date of Next Meeting

Annual Town Meeting on **Wednesday 20 May 2026**, 7pm in the Westwoods Centre

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:50 pm.

Signature of the Chairman on approval of the minutes: _____

Payment Schedule March 2026

| Date | Supplier | Service | Amount |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 11-Feb | Cotswold Stores | Milk | £ 3.30 |
| 13-Feb | Amazon * | Copier paper | £ 9.50 |
| 17-Feb | Lloyds | Service charge | £ 4.25 |
| 18-Feb | Cotswold Carpets | Deposit for ladies loo floor | £ 758.00 |
| 20-Feb | Aston Safety Signs | Safety signs | £ 9.30 |
| 21-Feb | Zen Internet | Broadband and phone | £ 40.80 |
| 22-Jan | BrightHR | HR support | £ 24.30 |
| 22-Feb | Microsoft | 365 Business Standard | £ 230.40 |
| 25-Feb | A&E Fire * | Fire alarm service, em lights | £ 384.30 |
| 25-Feb | Staff costs | Payroll February | £ 4,180.27 |
| 27-Feb | Central Tree Services * | Tree work | £ 960.00 |
| 28-Feb | Tesco Stores | Biscuits etc. | £ 30.69 |
| 28-Feb | McCracken & Son * | Grounds maintenance | £ 1,527.30 |
| 28-Feb | Grundon | Waste collection | £ 153.53 |
| 01-Mar | WaterPlus | Water charges | £ 49.01 |
| 01-Mar | Claire Langford * | Carpet cleaning | £ 150.00 |
| 02-Mar | EDF Energy | Westwoods electricity | £ 244.51 |
| 02-Mar | Smarty | Mobile phone | £ 6.00 |
| 05-Mar | Cotswold Stores | Milk | £ 3.30 |
| 05-Mar | Garry Evans * | Window cleaning | £ 30.00 |
| 06-Mar | Cartridge Save * | 4-pack toner cartridge | £ 279.53 |
| 06-Mar | Cloud Next * | Domain renewal | £ 60.00 |
| 09-Mar | Tesco Stores | Sugar | £ 6.08 |
| 09-Mar | Spot On Supplies * | Cleaning supplies | £ 83.52 |
| 11-Mar | Cotswold Carpets * | Balance for ladies loo floor | £ 1,517.00 |
| | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | £ 10,744.89 |

* Payments to be approved.