

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) Of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Twynning.

Councillors Present: Davies, Ellis, Hadley, Holden, Lockett (Chairman)

890	<p><u>Welcome and To Receive Apologies</u> (if anyone wishes to film or record the meeting they should make the Chairman aware please at the start of the meeting) Apologies received from the Clerk and Cllr Clayson. Cllr Davies took the minutes.</p>
891	<p><u>Consider applications for Co-option</u> No applications received</p>
892	<p><u>To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation</u> No declarations or requests</p>
893	<p><u>To agree the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 15th January 2024</u> Agreed as a true record</p>
894	<p><u>Receive and request reports from Borough/County Councillors</u> Borough Report for Twynning Parish Council 19th February 2024.</p> <p>Nominations for the BBC Make a Difference Awards is open and is a great opportunity to nominate community champions and volunteers. Categories are:- Volunteer, Community, Fund-raiser, Carer, Great Neighbour, Bravery, The Green Award, The Animal Award. Nominations close Sunday March 10th. www.bbc.co.uk/makeadifference?</p> <p>At its Full Council meeting on the 23rd January the Council signed up to the Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground. It is a high level agreements covering items like, Climate Change, Housing, Economic needs, Transport provision and the Natural environment.</p> <p>Following the recent floods the Council has received applications for well over 100 Community Recovery Grants and these are being administered as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The recommendation from the Executive Committee to the full Council on 27th February is that Band D Council Tax will increase to £144.36 per annum an increase of £5.00 from April 2024</p> <p>The recommendation from the Executive Committee to the same meeting is that from 1st April 2025 the council tax for all second and empty homes (empty between 1 and 5 years) will be increased by 100%.</p> <p>Cllrs Mike Sztymiak and Philip Workman</p> <p>Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Report: Cate Cody: Feb 2024 Robin bus service update. Currently out to tender for a provider and hoping to be up and running late spring / early summer. Cate will be covering the cost of a locally made share box from her County budget. This will be made suitable for outdoor use to house the new village swapping books project that residents would like to run. Cate is liaising with the Parish Council for a suitable place to have it installed. Free events at the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub. Various interesting free talks during Feb & March, some online, some in person. https://rb.gy/vz94gz New schools carbon calculator. Free Carbon Counting resource from Keep Britain Tidy https://rb.gy/5j8f1e This is the nation's first free full scope carbon emissions tool built for – and in collaboration with – nurseries, schools and colleges. Count Your Carbon allows local authorities to access the data for the nurseries, schools and colleges in their area. County council funding helping community groups to thrive. GCC has awarded over £400k to 65 community projects across Gloucestershire through its Thriving Communities Grant 2024. The programme invests to help local organisations and groups with projects that help people to stay well and support them to live independently for as long as possible, by connecting people to their communities, strengthening ties, reducing isolation and improving physical and mental wellbeing. Projects being funded</p>

	<p>this year include: £7,500 to Tewkesbury Nature Reserve’s ‘Out of The Box’ empowering women to learn to use woodworking power tools safely to make things like bird and bat boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog homes and compost bins. Full details of supported projects: http://tinyurl.com/33hm2bxh</p> <p>Top kitchen safety tips from Fire and Rescue: Keep tea towels and cloths away from cookers and hobs. Take care wearing loose clothing, these can easily catch fire. Never leave cooking unattended. Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe. Don’t cook after drinking alcohol. Take care with electrics - keep leads and appliances away from water and place grills and toasters away from curtains. Hot oil can catch fire easily - be careful that it doesn’t overheat. Never throw water on a chip pan fire. Double check the hob and oven are off when you’ve finished cooking. Make sure you have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and test them monthly. Don’t take risks by tackling a fire. Get out, stay out and call 999</p> <p>New Family Hubs to offer a wide range of family support services and other signposting. Family hubs aim to provide support for all families with children and young people aged 0 to 19, or up to age 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. GCC has appointed Aspire Foundation Trust to manage Tewkesbury’s hub. The new contract begins 1st April 2024. The centres will co-ordinate and facilitate family support available locally and ensure families have access to the right support, at the right time, in the right place. The centres will become part of a wider network of physical and virtual family support points across the county. Visit https://rb.gy/duciai</p> <p>GCC have appointed Rethink Mental Illness to support people with mental health issues. This is a leading charity provider which aims to improve the lives of people severely affected by mental illness through its network of local groups and services, expert information and successful campaigning. They will work with the council to bring together people who have lived experience of mental health conditions and mental health professionals to coproduce further elements of the new service. More info about mental health support services can be found at www.bewellglos.org.uk</p> <p>Repair Cafe Next session Sat 16th March, 2-5pm at the Baptist Church. Daytime Discos Free events, all are welcome – you can enjoy a cup of tea, a chat and some happy swing music, or even join in with some dancing if you like. Next events Monday 26th Feb & Thur 14th March, 1-4pm, Watson Hall, Barton Street, Tewkesbury.</p> <p>Tewkesbury Dementia Action Alliance Cate has set this up and the group have our first public event on Monday 18th March, at the Watson Hall, from 10am to 6pm. The event is free and open to those with dementia, their carers or anyone wishing to know more about the condition. There will be stalls with support signposting, activities, talks by experts and information, plus free tea and coffee. Participants will include the NHS, Age UK, Barchester, Guideposts, CCP, Information and Education Service, Tewkesbury Nature Reserve, Severn Wye, Tewkesbury Hospital, Gloucestershire Dementia Action Alliance</p> <p>Cllr Cody reported that TBC had recently appointed a Biodiversity Officer and suggested that as part of our Biodiversity planning it might be useful to invite them to our Annual Parish Meeting.</p>
895	<p><u>Receive reports from Parish Councillors/Working Groups</u> Village Green Group.</p> <p>Cllr Holden reported that the first phase of protection to the Village Green and verges had been implemented, Large, white painted rocks now placed along the verge on the shop side from the shop down to Green Farm.</p> <p>We will now monitor the effectiveness of these.</p> <p>No other reports.</p>
896	<p><u>Risk Assessments</u> Receive reports on the condition of council property Chair had carried out and circulated a Risk Assessment of the War Memorial.</p> <p>Village Green assessment in progress.</p> <p>London Plane to be discussed later in meeting.</p>

	Some confusion re other areas needing assessment, further discussion deferred to next meeting pending clarification of areas needing assessment.																																																				
897	<p><u>Public Participation (The public may raise questions or comments on any item on this agenda. Any other matter should be referred to the clerk clerk@twynningcouncil.co.uk)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident has proposed the idea of a community book swap cupboard and is looking for somewhere to put it – Cllr Cody reported that a “ Book Swap “ facility was in progress. Priors Park Project Group were making an outdoor proof cabinet similar to ones already in use in Priors Park. Potential sites for mounting were discussed, where easy access would be available. VHMC rep. indicated that the VHMC would discuss siting the book swap on the wall of the hall. A resident asked for details of the Council’s budget A resident reminded the meeting that Feb 24th was Ukraine Day. 																																																				
898	<p><u>Finance & Governance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Receive report of interim payments, the budget report and bank reconciliation to end of January Expenditure and Receipts noted and bank reconciliation agreed Receive list of payments for February - The following payments were agreed: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>February Payments</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Net</th> <th>VAT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fosse Contracts (Court cleaning)</td> <td>1656</td> <td>1380</td> <td>276</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GAPTC (Chairman training)</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Microsoft</td> <td>12.36</td> <td>10.3</td> <td>2.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Expenses</td> <td>69.4</td> <td>69.4</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall (meeting room hire - Jan)</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administration</td> <td>1005.74</td> <td>1005.74</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Expenses</td> <td>46</td> <td>46</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S Don Bramah - Bulletin Editor</td> <td>144</td> <td>144</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Chescoe - village green project</td> <td>460</td> <td>460</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B O'Dell - domain name</td> <td>33.82</td> <td>28.18</td> <td>5.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>3486.32</u></td> <td><u>3202.62</u></td> <td><u>283.7</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Receive quotes for tree work, advice on the extent of work and agree an action Chair briefly reminded everyone of the history of the problem and reiterated that “ doing nothing “ is not an option. The only viable options are either cut the tree back by 4m or fence the tree. Following quotes received and meetings with tree surgeons as agreed at the last PC meeting, the idea to reduce the tree to 2 mtrs was not recommended. Each councillor in turn then gave and explained their preferred choice. Councillors Hadley, Ellis. Holden voted to fence. Councillors Davies and Luckett voted to cut back. Agreed that a rope fence would not be acceptable, something more in keeping with the character of the green required. Chair suggested that we may need to advise the pasture holders of the decision. Clerk to advise. The legal acceptability of fence and warning signs were raised. Is this a legally viable way of dealing with the risk? Clerk to seek legal advice <p>Tree Work (other than Plane Tree) Deferred. So far only one quote received, work not required until autumn after nesting season.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint an independent internal auditor for 23/24 accounts DK Edwards £245 - Agreed Discuss offered speed camera and associated annual costs (say, £300) – more information required Receive draft Biodiversity Action Plan for consultation at the APM – the draft was agreed 	February Payments	Total	Net	VAT	Fosse Contracts (Court cleaning)	1656	1380	276	GAPTC (Chairman training)	35	35	0	Bank Charges	8	8	0	Microsoft	12.36	10.3	2.06	Office Expenses	69.4	69.4	0	Village Hall (meeting room hire - Jan)	16	16	0	Administration	1005.74	1005.74	0	Office Expenses	46	46	0	S Don Bramah - Bulletin Editor	144	144	0	R Chescoe - village green project	460	460	0	B O'Dell - domain name	33.82	28.18	5.64		<u>3486.32</u>	<u>3202.62</u>	<u>283.7</u>
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899	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> 18th March 2024</p>																																																				
900	The Council will adjourn the meeting to discuss a confidential legal matter Waiting for quotes from new legal counsel																																																				