

**TWIGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
OF MEETING HELD AT 2.15PM ON 18th August 2026
IN THE DOWN HATHERLEY VILLAGE HALL**

<https://twigworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

1.	Welcome by Chair of Council
2.	Attendance recorded as Parish Councillors Rick Harris, George Sharpley, Graham Bocking & Mike Davies 3 Members of the public
3.	There were no apologies received to be recorded from Parish Councillors Council noted the legal process regarding apologies from Parish Councillors to be APPROVED where a dispensation request has been made prior to the meeting and the Council agree the reasons for the dispensation request are appropriate to LGA 1972 s85
4.	Council invited Declaration of Interest regarding matters on the agenda. Councillors were asked to note that any Councillor declaring an interest in matters on the agenda should not take part in the decision-making process for that item (further advice available from the monitoring officer at TBC) Councillor Sharpley in the Church (item 8)
5.	Members of the Public and Councillors who have declared an interest were invited to speak to the Council and then members of the public were invited to observe the remainder of the meeting noting that the period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting -public session closed at Member of the public raised the speed watch item from previous minutes – Councillor Sharpley gave feedback on the actions that the PC have been taken Feedback from Cllr Harris - Speed watch volunteer groups from Longford/Twigworth currently waiting to complete training. DHPC already have volunteer groups operating Historic speed camera on A38 was raised by member of the public Item to be uploaded on the website from the submission on flooding/sewage group Members of the public spoke on the Church item from a very personal perspective and concerns over the lack of transparency of the “utility land” Possibility of TPO for church yard was discussed and it was reported that the Officer at TBC is aware of the situation Cllr Sharpley spoke as a member of the public of the recent history of the building and gave out a map of the local area. It was reported that there are several residents expressing concerns regarding the parking, and concerns that the church commissioners are disregarding graves and the feelings of the bereaved families. The availability of the NDP was raised. The traffic on the A38 was also felt to be relevant during any construction stage Public session closed at 15.00
6.	Council noted that following resignation of John Redfern, the legal requirements for a by-election have been met. The election date has been set as 24 th September 2026. The PC are responsible for costs of a by-election The PC have been given a provisional cost summary for a contested election Election costs with polling cards £3567 (without polling cards less £1100) Portacabin costs with generator £4099 (without generator less £1041) Site fee TBA- Therefore, the Parish Council are potentially exposed to costs in the region £8k Council considered financial reports attached Council agreed it wishes to using polling cards Council agreed to vire the “premises” fund to election costs Council considered the list of potential places that may be available – PC would prefer a location in the parish, suggesting Twigworth Business Centre which may have an empty unit with parking.

7.	Minutes of previous meeting held on 2 nd July 2026 as attached were agreed for accuracy-amended on Manor Farm planning application response bullet point 5
8.	Cllr Sharpley left the meeting at this point Council considered its response to the Church Commissioners consultation on selling part of the churchyard and the church building (deadline 24/8/26) https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/parish-reorganisation-and-church-property/consultation-parish-reorganisation-and-closed-church-proposals/proposal-affecting-closed-church Council agreed the attached draft response and agreed to add a point regarding TP0's and to attach a map of parking available Council discussed if there were different groups who may be affected and may wish to submit comments. Council agreed the position of Council is to submit comments Cllr Harris to liaise with the TPO officer on behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Harris /Cllr Bocking delegated to attend any Planning Committee meeting on this matter
9.	Date of next meeting confirmed as Thursday 3rd September 2026 Council noted that the proposed meeting on May 6th 2027 cannot take place due to statutory Parish Council elections (all Parish Councillors will be re-elected). There is a legal requirement for Council to agree alternative date between 10th to 24th May 2027. Council agreed to delegate to clerk to book the meeting room within these dates.
10.	Close of meeting 15.25

Financial reports August 8th 2026 meeting for information

		<u>Year to date receipt/ spend</u>	<u>BALANCE AVAILABLE TO SPEND</u>
budget to date	budget		
PRECEPT	36000	18000	
grants		0	
CIL		4099	
INCOME	36000	22099	17000
EMPLOYMENT COSTS	17000	0	625
ADMIN	625	0	400
INSURANCE	400	0	0
previous HMRC underpayment		0	
WEBSITE & emails	115	0	115
SUBSCRIPTIONS	500	0	500
repairs and replacements	500	0	500
EQUIPMENT (CAPITAL)	1200	0	1200
VENUE HIRE	350	0	350
AUDIT	500	0	500
TRAINING	200	0	200
PAYROLL COSTS	175	0	175
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	630	0	630
LCA	0		0
VAS	400		400
VILLAGE GATEWAYS	2500		2500
ENVIRONMENT POLICY	0		0
NEWSLETTERS	0		0
WASTE BINS	500		500
TRO FOR 20MPH			
property	10000		
Expenditure	35595	0	
contingency/balance	405	22099	
expenditure	36000	22099	25595

<u>reserves</u>	Mar-22	Mar-23	Aug-23	Mar-24	Mar-25	Mar-26
defib	3145	871	3277	2500	1000	1000
SWAG			575	575	575	575
PRECEPT		1500	1500	2500	2500	5000
EQUIPMENT			200	200	1000	2700
VAS					400	800
BUS SHELTERS			3000	300	300	300
NDP	585	585	585	585	585	585
contingency				500	500	500
building						
general	-846	4639	9386	59	735	4063
waste bins						500
village gateways						2500
bank balance at Y/E	2884	7595	18523	7219	7595	18523

It was agreed that Council will vire £10k from Premises budget to election costs

Response from Twigworth Parish Council to the document provided by the Church of England Church Commissioners titled

EXPLANATORY NOTE
MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011
DRAFT PASTORAL CHURCH BUILDINGS SCHEME
TWIGWORTH ST MATTHEW
DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

Background

The fabric of the building that is St Matthew's Church was left largely untended for several years prior to its closure in 2020. Whilst the closure of the church as an active place of worship was understandable given the attendances at the time, it did not seem to have taken into account the major increase in the population of the village from 2020 and ongoing (fivefold and more). It was also the parish church of Longford, which has also seen a significant rise in its population.

In the years leading up to the closure, there was minimal consultation with local people, or contact with Twigworth Parish Council, and it is a major regret that opportunities to secure Section 106 monies from the developments to restore the building and develop a village amenity were missed: it is understood that discussions took place between the Church and Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding Section 106 monies, to which the local Parish Council and residents were not party.

Two points of fact in response to remarks under 'Background' on page 1:

"There is development in this area and it was hoped that this would help swell the church attendance but unfortunately for Twigworth the main focus of the development lies away from this linear village and correspondingly most people look to Longlevens rather than Twigworth."

1. St Matthew's Church closed before the new housing sites were built.
2. "The main focus of the development lies away from this linear village and correspondingly most people look to Longlevens rather than Twigworth": With regard to what? We do not understand what is meant by this statement.

Response to the Current proposals

The prospect of restoration and a use for the building is broadly welcomed.

However, there are significant caveats which we believe the Church Commissioners should act upon, and where appropriate formally include in any transfer.

1. The building is one of precious few that reflect the history of the village. While it is very much welcomed that the purchaser has expressed an intention to preserve the character and charm of the original building, we feel that this should be formally stipulated in a covenant by the seller so that it remains in place for future owners.
2. The purchaser intends the building to be occupied as a single dwelling for one family. That too is welcomed, but again it is critical that this is formalized by covenant by the seller. The reasons for this:
 - i. The churchyard is still active. Relatives regularly visit the churchyard, not only of the recently deceased but also those who died longer ago. Multiple occupancy or an increase in dwellings (e.g. several apartments) would without doubt impact upon the churchyard in an unacceptably negative way.
 - ii. The narrow private road running alongside the churchyard, sometimes referred to as 'Church Lane', whose entrance/exit is on a bend of the A38, cannot take a substantial increase in traffic without its use becoming significantly more dangerous.

Parking/garden

We report local people's shock and deep concern about the proposed space for parking/garden. It includes four burial sites from the last ten years, which are regularly visited by relatives, including one visited frequently by the deceased's parents. Very close to the space outlined in the proposal are several other very recent graves.

As the intention of the purchaser is to build a single dwelling, we believe that such space does not have to be anything like as large. We respectfully remind the Church Commissioners that the churchyard is a much-cherished area for both the villages of Twigworth and Longford.

We note that The Rectory, which is close by and under the supervision of the Church Commissioners, is now vacant, and has a plentifully large area for parking.

We ask that the Church Commissioners support any requests for TPO's with regard to trees in the Church Yard

We attach a map of alternative parking available in the area

Construction traffic

We ask the Church Commissioners that the vacant Rectory car park be made available to the purchaser during construction for construction support, such as building supplies, skips, vehicles, and other machinery, and such items are not stored in the churchyard (unless it is within the footprint of the church building itself), or in the lane or in front of the church by the A38.

The lane is used by residents of the adjacent properties, and their rights to come and go should not be impeded.

Ancillary buildings

We note that the footprint of the church building is very large and so question the need for ancillary buildings. We ask what these buildings are intended for.

In sum

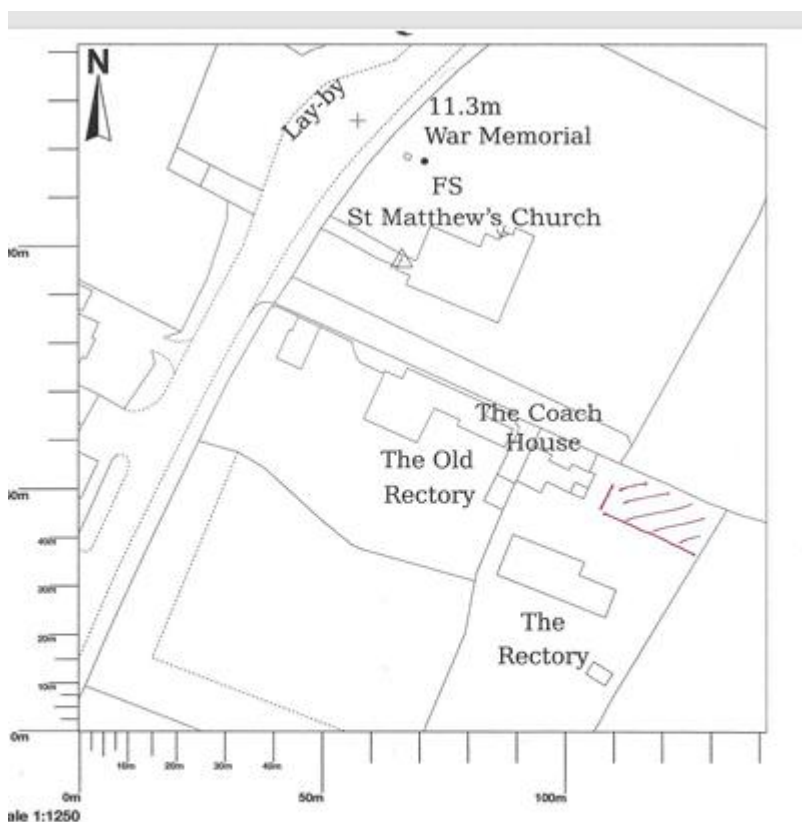
We ask the Church Commissioners to respect local feelings and sensitivity for the churchyard and take steps to ensure a minimum of interruption or negative impact; and to address concerns listed above formally and properly.

Two covenants are needed, as already mentioned, one to protect the character of the building, and the other to ensure the dwelling is a single one for one family's occupation. It is much welcomed that both are the intention of the current purchaser, but it needs to be formalized for ongoing occupiers.

Twigworth Parish Council

August 2026

Proposed parking for St Matthew's Church



/// Parking for St Matthew's