

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7.10 p.m.

Present: Cllr J Roberts (Chairman) Cllr M Barnes
Cllr G Fancourt Cllr P Godwin
Cllr R Godwin Cllr J Llewellyn
Cllr S Terry Cllr S Ward

In attendance: Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

GP/01/26 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Beadle, Phennah and Shelton.

GP/02/26 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12th April 2023 (Min Ref C/85/23).

GP/03/26 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr P Godwin PROPOSED that the minutes of the meeting that took place on 17th December 2025 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Llewellyn SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/04/26 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/179/25 Table Tennis Table – The quotation from SmartCut was accepted and work had already taken place.

GP/182/25 Hawthorn Way – Further quotations were in the process of being sought for repair/demolition of the wall in Hawthorn Way.

GP/178/25 Northway Skatepark – The National Lottery had confirmed that the Monitoring Report had been received and the task closed.

GP/05/26 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the play park. Several ongoing issues were noted, along with a large chip in one of the concrete boundary walls. It was noted that none of the issues posed a safety hazard. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the issues continued to be monitored.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the skatepark. No new issues were raised.

b. **Maintenance** – Maverick had suggested that the Council allowed for the resealing of the skatepark later in the year, which, together with a remedials visit, would cost in the region of £2,000 for Maverick to undertake.

Northway Playing Field (continued)

It was noted that the resealing could be carried out by a local contractor, or another competent person, at a lower cost, and that Maverick would be happy to provide guidance on what was involved.

It was AGREED that further information be obtained on the requirements to establish whether councillors could carry out the work themselves.

- c. **Graffiti Mural/Workshops** – No updates were available regarding the proposed mural painting at the skatepark. Cllr Barnes confirmed that he would inform the school that the Council required an update before the next meeting.
- d. **Event** – Cllr Roberts reminded Members that the funds raised from the Christmas events had been ring-fenced for a future community event. Suggestions for the event had included a picnic in the park theme, incorporating a DJ or live music. Members discussed the possibility of linking this event with the skatepark event scheduled for 23 May 2026.

Cllr Fancourt expressed the view that it would be preferable to hold the community event later in the year, when the weather was likely to be nicer, which some other members agreed with. He also noted that the skatepark event was expected to attract a lot of attendees from outside the local community.

It was AGREED that an Events Working Party meeting be arranged to progress discussions relating to the proposed community picnic event. It was further AGREED that the meeting be scheduled for 23 February 2026.

Members discussed the possibility of having food vans at the skatepark event in May. It was AGREED that, provided they could operate using electricity from the Changing Rooms or a generator, the Pizza Girls should be invited to supply food, alongside Sweets and Treats.

It was confirmed that St Johns Ambulance had been approached about attendance at the event.

- e. **Picnic Tables** – Quotations had previously been received for concreting around the picnic tables by the skatepark (£3,152) (Min Ref: GP/179/25 refers). Another contractor had quoted £2,600 for concreting around the benches, including underneath them (with removal and reinstallation), both prices included a path/paths to the skatepark. A third quotation was still awaited.

Members were uncertain whether the quotations covered one path or two (i.e., from only one of the concrete pads or both). Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this should be clarified and reported back to the next meeting.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- f. **Other Action** – No other issues were raised.
- iii. **MUGA/Outdoor Gym** – The weekly inspection reports had been received, and it was noted that the air walker required a touch-up of paint. It was also observed that Caloo had painted over some parts of the equipment with a different shade of green, which appeared untidy.

Caloo's annual maintenance report was also received, noting that they had replaced or tightened damaged, loose, or missing fixings.

- iv. **BMX Humps** – The weekly inspection reports were received. No new issues were raised.
- v. **Other Issues** – No new issues were raised.

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GP/06/26 Joan's Field

It was noted that comments had appeared on social media expressing concern about the amount of dog fouling in Joan's Field.

It was AGREED that an article should be included in the newsletter, reminding dog owners using the field to be mindful and to pick up after their pets.

GP/07/26 Platinum Park

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – The weekly inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Coronation Orchard** – Due to insufficient time before the deadline, Full Council had agreed to submission of an application for funding from Coronation Living Heritage Fund towards a fruit press (Min Ref: C/21/26 refers). Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval. Cllr Llewellyn SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Ward asked whether the stability of the bollards on Platinum Park had been tested recently. Members agreed to check them when passing.

GP/08/26 Spruce Close

In response to the Council contacting Bromford regarding the request for a replacement bin in Spruce Close (Min Ref: GP/183/25 refers), Bromford had replied that they would not be providing a replacement bin.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council install a replacement bin.

Cllr Ward noted that there was no suitable location for a bin, as the post to which the original bin had been attached was no longer in place. Cllr Terry therefore retracted her proposal.

It was AGREED that any councillors passing the area should check whether a suitable location for a bin could be found and bring their feedback to the next meeting. It was further AGREED that a map showing the locations of existing bins should be made available at the next meeting.

GP/09/26 Community Survey

The results of the Community Survey (Min Ref: GP/142/25 refers) were shared:

189 responses had been received. Out of these, 165 (87%) lived in Northway.

73 votes were received in favour of extending the Village Hall.

52 votes were received in favour of a pump track.

21 votes were received in favour of improvements and path extended in Joan's Field.

18 votes were received in favour of a piece of play equipment for older children/teens.

18 votes were received for 'none of the above'.

7 votes were received in favour of a new path at the Playing Field, extending it to the BMX track.

Three people had contacted the office directly with regard to the survey. One respondent expressed a wish for efforts to be made to improve the Northway Centre, while also commenting that, as a resident of Sallis Close, they would like it to remain a natural area. Another Sallis Close resident had commented that they would not like to see a path going all the way around Joan's Field as it would 'become a racetrack'. Further feedback was that enough money had been spent on things for young people and the Council should look at providing a fenced-off area for dogs and maybe an agility track.

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GP/09/26 **Community Survey** (continued)

It was noted that the survey had been shared quite heavily on social media with encouragement to vote a certain way.

Cllr Fancourt agreed that improvements were needed at the Northway Centre and requested that this item be placed on a future agenda.

With regard to the request for a secure dog area, Cllr Roberts recalled that the Council had explored this option many years previously and quotations for fencing had been in excess of £11,000. Cllr Ward added that a community dog area would not be overseen and raised concerns regarding responsibility for clearing dog fouling. He also noted that there were several privately run secure dog spaces nearby. Cllr Llewellyn commented that every suburb in New Zealand had a dog park, which people generally looked after well, and that it was a fantastic community amenity. He felt this was something the Council should consider pursuing in the future.

Members noted that calls to vote for an extension to the Village Hall had been over-promoted on social media. However, it was unclear whether the facility could be extended sufficiently to make a significant difference to users. Cllr Ward felt it would be helpful to receive reports and attendance figures for the boxing club and youth club at the Village Hall to establish how many people this option would benefit. Cllr R Godwin commented that extending the Village Hall would primarily benefit the boxing club, which was a business, whereas a pump track would be free for all to use.

It was AGREED that the Council seek informal costings for the top three options (Village Hall, Pump Track and Joan's Field) and that these be discussed further at a meeting of the GP Projects Working Party.

Members considered whether the results should be shared in the newsletter, and it was AGREED that the Council should do so but also make clear that it was investigating costs and what was feasible.

GP/10/26 **Self-Defence Class for Girls**

It was reported that three people had signed up for the free self-defence classes due to take place on 31 January 2026 (Min Ref: GP/165/25 refers). It was AGREED that the Council should keep publicising and sharing the information as well as forwarding to local girls' football and rugby teams as well as the local Guides group.

GP/11/26 **Newsletter**

Cllr Terry reported that the local Infant School had asked to include an article in the newsletter. They also wished to include details of the opening event for the new family unit building currently under development, subject to the information being available in time for the next edition. Members raised no objections, provided there was sufficient space.

Further suggestions for content included:

- Advertising the skatepark event
- The Active Week being organised by the Council (funded by the Active Communities Grant)
- A summer community picnic in the park (details to be confirmed)
- The issue of dog fouling in Joan's Field
- Results of the Community Survey
- Encouraging residents to contact the County Councillor or use Fix My Street regarding flooding at Apple Tree Court
- Promotion of boxing
- Promotion of the Youth Club
- Details of the Parish Assembly

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GP/11/26 **Newsletter** (continued)

- A Northway Pantry update
- Precept information

It was AGREED that this list be emailed to Members, inviting them to volunteer to take responsibility for drafting articles.

GP/12/26 **Active Communities Grant**

It was confirmed that World Jungle were in the process of confirming availability for events to take place during the Easter holidays. Team Rubicon had confirmed availability on 31 March for street dance and skateboard/scooter lessons.

GP/13/26 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

No issues were raised.

GP/14/26 **Tree Maintenance Schedule**

Members who had not yet inspected trees were reminded that this needed to be done soon.

GP/15/26 **Drainage and Flooding**

- Reports** – The Clerk had been in correspondence with Max Kelly regarding flooding along Northway Lane (by Apple Tree Court), he had confirmed that old surveys had been found and they were planning work to improve drainage on this corner.
- Flood Warden** – Cllr Beadle was not present to provide a report.

GP/16/26 **'Report It'**

The Clerk's Assistant listed issues that had been reported to various authorities over the past month. These included concerns regarding the safety of the tree in front of The Northway Pub, poor road repairs along The Park, and flooding at Apple Tree Court.

It was noted that the PCSOs had held several drop-in sessions at the Community Hub; however, these had not been advertised in advance. It was suggested that the Council request dates of forthcoming sessions and publicise them in the newsletter to give residents as much opportunity as possible to attend.

GP/17/26 **Change of Date**

It was noted that the date of the next General Purposes Committee meeting had been changed to 25th February 2026 (previously scheduled for 18 February).

GP/18/26 **Correspondence for Information**

- SafeAvon**
 - Copy of questions raised in parliament.
 - OEP findings and postponement of the water Bill.
 - Data to be publicly accessible.

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GP/18/26 **Correspondence for Information** (continued)

- ii. **GPFA** – Annual Report.

GP/19/26 **Correspondence Received After 15th January 2026**

- i. **SafeAvon** - OEP findings and postponement of the water Bill update.
- ii. **Make Space for Girls** – Newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.37pm.