

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 15th December 2021 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:08 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Committee Chairman) Cllr S Terry (Vice Chair)
 Cllr C Blackmore Cllr P Godwin
 Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr J Roberts
 Cllr G Shelton Cllr T Treacy

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

GP/178/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mackenzie, and Barnes

GP/179/21 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 11th July 2012 (Min Ref C/159/12), including paragraph 12(2).

GP/180/21 Previous Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 17th November 2021 had been circulated to Members. Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Treacy SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Godwin Cllr Treacy
 Cllr Blackmore Cllr MacTiernan
 Cllr Roberts Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Shelton Cllr Terry

GP/181/21 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

GP/172/21 Tree Preservation Order – The request for a tree preservation order to be placed on a tree near Ashchurch Station had been passed on to Ashchurch Rural Parish Council.

GP/173/21 Parish Maintenance Contract > Phone Box – The quotation for regular cleaning of the phone box in Hardwick Bank Road had been accepted.

GP/182/21 Northway Playing Field

i. **Northway Play Park** – Inspection reports relating to the play park were received. It was noted that part of the Covid-19 warning sign near the entrance to the Play Park had been broken off leaving a metal bar exposed.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should arrange for a contractor to look at the sign and either remove it or make it safe. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/182/21 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- ii. **Northway Skatepark** – Inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received. No new issues were raised.
- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received, no new issues were raised.
- b. **Update on Installation of Gym Equipment (Min Ref: GP/147/21)** – Members were informed that the installation of new gym equipment had commenced on 6th December 2021, however, the site had been subjected to vandalism over the weekend resulting in over £5,000 worth of damage. The digger and forklift had been left unusable and kerbing stones smashed up. A police report had been filed the following day and the Clerk and Clerk’s Assistant would be checking the CCTV footage to see if any of the vandals could be identified.

Cllr MacTiernan felt this was the worst case of vandalism that the Council had seen and so PROPOSED that the cost of lighting on the field should be investigated. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Blackmore recalled that the effectiveness of the CCTV at the playing field was due to be reviewed. The Clerk confirmed that this would be considered by the Finance Committee at its next meeting when an update on the installation of a phone line would also be available.

Cllr Roberts explained that the contractors had hoped to finish tarmacking of the site on Friday but due to their lorry getting stuck on the motorway it had been delayed.

The Clerk confirmed that she had informed Caloo that they would be liable for any issues up until when the work had been completed.

- iv. **BMX Track** – Inspection reports relating to the BMX Track had been received, no new issues had been raised.
- v. **Other Issues** – It was noted that the bench by the MUGA had been removed to allow installation of the new gym equipment. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should arrange for this to be reinstalled.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/183/21 **Joan’s Field**

- i. **Motorised Vehicles** – Advice was still being awaited on how best to stop motorised vehicles gaining access to Joan’s Field (Min Ref: GP/170/21 refers).
- ii. **Trees**
 - a. Following acceptance of a quotation for work to the apple trees in Joan’s Field (Min Ref: GP/170/21 refers), Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the funds should be vired from the Playing Field budget heading. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/183/21 **Joan's Field** (continued)

- b. Cllr Treacy had forwarded photographs of a damaged tree in Joan's Field. Cllr Ward believed this to be a tree that had been taped up a couple of years before.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the tree/stump was made safe. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts suggested that the tree should be replaced if/when the Council ordered any more saplings.

- iii. **New Access** – The Clerk had met with another contractor regarding creation of a new, bridge access into Joan's Field (Min Ref: GP/170/21 refers), however, he did not feel he would be able to provide a bridge such as had been quoted for before. He also did not want to take the work on unless the previous contractor specified that he no longer wanted the job.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council wrote to the original contractor asking him to indicate whether he would be able to do the work with an estimated start date of February. Cllr Terry added that the contractor should be given until the date of the next General Purposes Committee Meeting to reply otherwise the Council should consider the agreement with him null and void. Cllr MacTiernan accepted this addition to the proposal. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should obtain prices of the various bridge packs available from Gloucestershire County Council.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/184/21 **The Park Amenity Land**

- i. **Inspection Report** – No issues were raised following inspections of the Teenage Shelter.
- ii. **Circus** – Members received an email from the Circus manager regarding the Council's intention to plant Oak trees on The Park. He had suggested that, so long as they were not planted in or around the gate way, he did not see it being an issue. He hoped that they would site the big top close to Northway Lane for good visual impact, if weather was bad then they would be closer to the gate.

With regard to performances, he hoped to be in Northway from Friday 2nd September to Sunday 4th September 2022 with a total of five performances throughout those dates. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance of these dates and performance times. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward suggested that the Council considered allowing people to park on the Playing Field for a charge.

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GP/184/21 **The Park Amenity Land** (continued)

- iii. **English Oak Trees** – The Clerk’s Assistant confirmed that the English Oak Trees were still being awaited, however, tree guards had been ordered.
- iv. **The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – The Council’s application towards the Build Back Better Fund (Min Ref: GP/151/21 refers) had been resent to County Cllr Smith who had been unable to recall receiving the original.
- v. **Other Issues** – No further issues were raised relating to The Park.

GP/185/21 **Tree**

Tewkesbury Borough Council had forwarded a complaint regarding a tree which was interfering with residents’ phonelines and overhanging the footpath. Cllr Ward had taken photos of the tree which was only slightly touching the wire.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should ask a tree surgeon to quote for cutting the tree back.

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| FOR: | Cllr Ward | Cllr Blackmore |
| | Cllr Godwin | Cllr Roberts |
| | Cllr Shelton | Cllr Terry |
| | Cllr Treacy | |

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr MacTiernan

GP/186/21 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

A meeting had been scheduled with Pete Tonge, Tewkesbury Borough Council, in the new year to discuss the ongoing grass cutting arrangements for 2022/23 (Min Ref: GP/173/21 refers).

GP/187/21 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No drainage/flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Treacy confirmed that there were no drainage/flooding issues to report.
- iii. **Sandbags** – Cllr MacTiernan asked whether there were any sandbags being held at the Community Hub, the Clerk confirmed that there were not.

Members considered whether to agree to having a supply of sandbags which could be redistributed locally as/when required. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council did not take up this offer.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/188/21 **‘Report It’**

No new issues had been reported.

Cllr Ward mentioned local closure orders that had been placed on houses in Saxon Park and Gwen Davies Row.

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GP/188/21 **'Report It'** (continued)

Members recalled that County Cllr Smith had said that the Northway Lane motorway bridge would be resurfaced in the new year. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council reconfirmed to County Cllr Smith the importance of this work not being delayed any further. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/189/21 **Correspondence for Information**

i. **Zurich** – Advice on holding events.

GP/190/21 **Correspondence received after 9th December 2021**

None received.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.00pm.