

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:05 p.m.

Present:	Cllr S Ward (Committee Chairman)	Cllr S Terry (Committee Vice Chairman)
	Cllr M Barnes	Cllr J Beadle
	Cllr C Blackmore	Cllr P Godwin
	Cllr P Mackenzie	Cllr E MacTiernan

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

GP/35/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Roberts and Cllr Shelton would be late. No further apologies for absence had been received.

GP/36/23 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/37/23 Previous Minutes

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15th February 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Terry	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Ward
ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Blackmore	Cllr Mackenzie

GP/38/23 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

GP/19/23 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – The split swing seat had been replaced.

GP/25/23 Newsletter – The latest issue of Northway Voice had been delivered.

GP/10/23 Trees – The offer of seven young Oak trees had been accepted. Cllrs Mackenzie and Ward said that they might be able to collect the trees. Cllrs MacTiernan, Blackmore, Shelton and Mackenzie confirmed that they would be willing to have a tree or two at their homes until they had grown to a suitable size for planting.

GP/22/23 Platinum Park > Trees – Approval had been given for planting of another memorial tree on Platinum Park.

GP/20/23 The Public Sector Equality Duty and Open Spaces (Make Space for Girls) – Some feedback had been received as a result of the Make Space for Girls article in Northway Voice, this would be put to the next meeting to give a little more time to allow for further responses.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/39/23 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. Condition of the concrete walls had been raised, however, it was noted that these were due to be repainted later in the month. A temporary padlock on the wheelchair swing gate had caused the lock hasp to move, it was noted that a new radar padlock was on ordered so it was AGREED to wait and see if this would fit better. A lump in the tiger mulch had been noted between the toddler swings.
- b. **Wheelchair Swing** – It was confirmed that the lock box had been installed along with the sign on use of the wheelchair swing. Cllr Blackmore confirmed that she planned to put together a risk assessment and film a demonstration video when the weather was suitable (Min Ref: GP/19/23 refers).

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised.
- b. **Skatepark Project** – Following approval at the last meeting that the office should start applying for grants towards the Skatepark project, an application to the National Lottery Community Fund was nearly ready for submission.

iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received.

7.10pm – Ashchurch resident joined the meeting.

- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. It was noted that there were some holes in the grass near to and/or on the humps. Cllr Ward offered to have a look at these and fill, if possible.
- v. **Lighting** – A quotation for electrical work to the external light at the Changing Rooms was still being awaited. It was AGREED that this should be deferred until the next meeting.
- vi. **Fete** – An enquiry had been received from the South West Wildlife Fundraising Gloucestershire as to whether a fete was being held at the Playing Field that year. It was AGREED that this organisation should be advised that there would not be a Fete. It was suggested that the Events Working Party might want to consider inviting the South West Wildlife Fundraising Gloucestershire to the Coronation Cream Tea event.
- v. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/40/23 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Signage** – Members received the design for a new sign to be installed at the bridge entrance into Joan's Field (Min Ref: GP/06/23 refers). Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED approval. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Motorised Bikes** – Members were informed that motorised bikes had been stood up and wheeled into Joan's Field, riders had then caused damage to the grass and path. This incident had been reported to the police.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/40/23 **Joan's Field** (continued)

- iii. **Planting** – Bromford Housing had confirmed that they would have no objections to the planting of bulbs on the verge approaching the bridge access into Joan's Field. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Parish Council should not pursue this but if a resident wanted to plant any bulb then they were permitted to do so, in communication with Bromford.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts had agreed to undertake an inspection of Joan's Field for Giant Hogweed.
- v. **New Entrance** – An email had been received from a resident suggesting that it would be nice to organise a community picnic on Joan's Field now that the new entrance was in place. Cllr MacTiernan thought this was a good idea and wondered if it could be incorporated into a community litter pick.

It was AGREED that residents should be invited to sign up to take part in a community litter pick, with possible picnic, at the Coronation Cream Tea event. Further discussion should then be had at the June General Purposes Meeting as to whether or not this should be progressed. If there was enough interest, a community litter pick and/or picnic could perhaps take place in August or September 2023.

- vi. **Other Issues** – Cllr Blackmore had confirmed that Hope had expressed that she would like her crab apple tree planted in Joan's Field (Min Ref: GP/22/23 refers). Cllr Terry PROPOSED that prices should be sought for purchase and planting of the tree. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was noted that a General Purposes Projects Working Party Meeting had been scheduled for 22nd March so that a plan for Joan's Field could be discussed. Several Members had expressed that they would be unable to attend this date, therefore, it was AGREED that the meeting should be re-arranged for after the elections and the new date circulated.

GP/41/23 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Trees** – Members further considered ongoing watering of the new trees on Platinum Park.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, if necessary, SmartCut should be contracted to water the trees throughout April and May and a local contractor (who worked for Tewkesbury In Bloom) should be asked to water them throughout June, July and August with the Council using the remainder of the Build Back Better grant towards this. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Path** – Quotations had been received from three contractors for re-establishing the ash path on Platinum Park (Min Ref: GP/22/23 refers). Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that consideration of repairing the path was deferred for one year. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Mackenzie
Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/41/23 **Platinum Park** (continued)

Cllr Godwin
Cllr Ward

Cllr Terry

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Blackmore

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

GP/42/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Area Opposite the Northway Centre** – It was confirmed that, although SmartCut did not take full responsibility for cutting of the whips on this land the previous year (Min Ref: GP/156/22 and GP/25/23 refer), they had purchased and planted replacement whips along either side of a knee rail that Tewkesbury Borough Council had installed.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should write and thank SmartCut for planting the whips. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Other Issues** – It was noted that the bus shelters did not appear to have been cleaned recently although an invoice had been received. Members suggested that this was monitored.

Cllr Mackenzie mentioned a rotten hydrant post near the Hardwick Bank Road/Merrett Close junction. Cllr Ward advised Cllr Mackenzie to report this on 'Fix My Street'.

GP/43/23 **Northway Community Hub**

It was noted that two gaps had appeared in the hedge at Northway Community Hub (bordering Lee Walk) and youths had been seen climbing through them. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the Council should ask SmartCut for advice on what to do about this. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/44/23 **Newsletter**

Members reviewed the charge for advertisements in the Northway Voice (GP/128/18 refers). Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the charge should remain at £20 per business card sized advertisement. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/45/23 **Iron Bridge**

It was confirmed that Community Payback had been advised that their services would no longer be required (Min Ref: GP/09/23 refers). No further updates were available.

GP/46/23 **Tree Maintenance Schedule**

It was confirmed that all of the trees in the tree schedule had now been checked.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/47/23 **Litter Picking Event**

This matter had already been discussed under Minute Reference: GP/40/23 (v.).

GP/48/23 **ParishOnline**

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council's subscription to ParishOnline was renewed, at a cost of £300. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/49/23 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie (Flood Warden) reported that there were currently no flooding or drainage issues in the parish. He confirmed that his email to West Midlands Environment Agency had been acknowledged and the 'enquiry' logged.

It was noted that Helen Richards, Community Flood Resilience, Environment Lead at GRCC, was leaving this role. Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that he had emailed his thanks and best wishes on behalf of Northway Parish Council.

GP/50/23 **'Report It'**

The Clerk's Assistant listed issues that had been reported to local authorities over the past month, which included - motorised bikes accessing Joan's Field.

GP/51/23 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **RoSPA** – Notification that inspection of play areas was due to take place during April.
- ii. **Make Space for Girls** – Newsletter.
- iii. **Rural Services Network** – Bulletin.

GP/52/23 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Keep Britain Tidy** – Details of the Great British Spring Clean.

GP/53/23 **Correspondence Received After 9th February 2023**

None available.

There being no further business, the meeting 7.49pm