

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 16th June 2021 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Committee Chairman) Cllr S Terry (Committee Vice Chairman)
 Cllr M Barnes Cllr C Blackmore
 Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
 Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr G Shelton
 Cllr T Treacy

In attendance: Ms T Fowler, Northway Youth Club/Passion Dance (from: GP/95/21 until: GP/97/21)
 Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
 Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

GP/86/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Roberts due to work commitments.

GP/87/21 **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/88/21 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Terry highlighted two inaccuracies in the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting that took place on 19th May 2021 (Cllr Treacy rather than Cllr Terry had attended an event and the Chairman was marked up incorrectly on page 1). Following these amendments, Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Terry	Cllr Shelton
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr MacTiernan
	Cllr Treacy	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Blackmore

GP/89/21 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/63/21 Parish Maintenance > Weed Spraying – Following confirmation that Gloucestershire County Council would contribute towards the cost of weed spraying, SmartCut had been contracted to undertake the work.

GP/82/21 Report It – An email had been sent to PCSO Simpson thanking him for his help in tackling antisocial behaviour in Saxon Park.

GP/82/21 Report It – Tewkesbury Borough Council had confirmed that it would be planting like-for-like replacement trees on the green opposite The Park during winter planting season.

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GP/90/21 **GP Projects Working Party**

- i. **Meeting on 22nd June 2021** – Notes from the meeting of the GP Projects Working Party meeting held on 22nd June 2021 had been circulated to Members.
- ii. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Working Party had been scheduled for 18th August 2021.
- iii. **Section 106 Funds (Outdoor Gym/Fit Zone)** – Official correspondence had not been received following submission of an Expression of Interest in S106 funds, however, Cllr MacTiernan had confirmed at the Full Council meeting on 9th June 2021 that this had been approved (GP/173/21 refers).

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the General Purposes Committee Chairman and office staff should be given delegated powers to progress the project. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) Services** – A quotation had been received from GRCC outlining all services available towards designing, distributing and analysing a survey. Members felt that the cost was high, and that the Council could save money by doing this itself.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council did not take advantage of GRCC's services at this time. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- v. **Other Action** – Cllr Terry advised that, at its next meeting, the Working Party would be looking at progressing the Skatepark project.

Cllr MacTiernan suggested that the Council might look at removing the BMX Track to allow the Skatepark to be extended as this was not used very often and cost the Council money to maintain.

Cllr Ward reminded the Council that the BMX Track had been funded by a number of benefactors and it would be inappropriate to remove this asset. He suggested that the picnic tables could be moved to allow the skatepark area to be extended to the north and up to the MUGA, with soil from the project possibly being used to improve the BMX track. Cllr MacTiernan added that the Skatepark could also run along the back of the MUGA if the graffiti boards were moved elsewhere.

It was agreed that the various options would be looked at in more detail further along in the process.

GP/91/21 **Northway Playing Field**

- i. **Northway Play Park**
 - a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the Play Park had been received, no new issues were raised.
 - b. **Boundary Walls** - It was noted that a blue resin-type liquid appeared to have been poured on one of the concrete walls, it had not yet been established whether this had been done as part of the contracted repair work (Min Ref: GP/58/21 refers) or if it had been an act of vandalism. The contractor due to repair the walls had advised that he would be doing the work on 21st June 2021.

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GP/91/21 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that, if this turned out to be vandalism, it should be reported to the police.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should approve purchase of brushes and paint for when the walls had been repaired (red, blue and yellow), provided the resin being used could be painted.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllrs Blackmore, Terry, Shelton, Barnes, Godwin, Treacy, Mackenzie and Ward were all willing to help paint the walls and it was AGREED that a date should be established once repairs were complete.

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

Members considered what should be done with the old gym equipment, Cllr MacTiernan suggested that they should be advertised on Facebook - free to collector.

- iv. **BMX Track** – Inspection reports relating to the BMX Track had been received and no issues were raised.
- v. **Security** – Members received two quotations for fabrication of a gate, only one of which could be provided with an enclosed lock. A further quotation, for the existing gate to be modified with a lock box and the hinges welded, was being awaited.

Members were also reminded of the previous quotations that had been received for barriers (Min Ref: GP/58/21 refers).

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should accept a quotation from Theoc Fabrications for creating of a gate with enclosed lock and which could not be lifted from its hinges (at a cost of £1,347.60).

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was further AGREED that the gate should be powder coated green.

- vi. **Fete** – It was AGREED that this discussion should be deferred until later in the meeting when Ms Fowler was in attendance to provide relevant information (Min Ref: GP/97/21 refers).
- vii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Mackenzie advised that the south west access into Northway Playing Field from Alexandra Way was very overgrown, and he PROPOSED that Smart Cut were contracted to cut it back. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk's Assistant read an email from Young Gloucestershire asking the Council for permission to run youth provision in Northway during the four weeks of August summer holidays. They had also asked whether it might be possible to ask the Football Club for use of the toilets again.

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GP/91/21 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that use of the field was permitted. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was further AGREED that the Council should approach the Football Club regarding use of the Changing Room Facility toilets.

It was noted that the Playing Field gate keeper was on holiday from 19th – 23rd June and so would be unable to lock / unlock the gate. Cllr Mackenzie offered to open and close the gate during these days. Cllr Ward PROPOSED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/92/21 **Joan's Field**

Cllr Mackenzie reported that the slope at the western side of Joan's Field (from the footpath that ran behind Kestrel Way) was very overgrown and he PROPOSED that Smart Cut were contracted to cut it back. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk pointed out that this was not a public right of way.

GP/93/21 **The Park Amenity Land**

- i. **Inspection Report** – No issues were raised following inspections of the Teenage Shelter.
- ii. **Grass Cutting** – Following agreement to leave an area of The Park uncut (Min Ref: GP/78/21 refers), Members considered whether it should be flailed/cut. No action was agreed.

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned a tree planting initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. She felt it would be nice to plant enough trees to create a small, wooded area on The Park in honour of this. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this should be investigated further, and information brought to the July meeting of the General Purposes Committee (along with map to establish best location for trees). Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Terry mentioned that a couple of residents had expressed their disappointment at the standard of grass cutting so far that year. The Clerk was aware that the most recent cut had not been up to standard and so confirmed that the contractors would be contacted if there was no improvement following their next visit. Members AGREED to forward photographs to the office, if necessary.

Cllr Mackenzie mentioned that someone with a caravan (seeming to be a traveller) had pulled up was checking the stability of the bollards on The Park, when asked what he was doing he answered that he would be coming back later on with some friends for a BBQ. The police had been called and came out quite quickly and checked the bollards remained secure.

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GP/97/21 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

students who also used the Village Hall – although she was not expecting to raise enough for all of this.

Ms Fowler explained that, due to the short amount of time before the proposed date of the fete (7th August 2021) she would be outsourcing a lot of the work, for example, she had arranged for a mobile bar with licence already in place. In addition, she hoped to have football, fairground rides, food stalls, emergency services, entertainment, local dance schools, Britain's Got Talent finalists and more at the event. Cllr MacTiernen recommended a local Thai pop up restaurant that had recently approached the Council.

Ms Towler assured the Council that she had organised events similar to this in the past, although not on such a large scale. She also had a lot of help and support from family and friends.

Cllr Ward asked whether Ms Fowler hoped to run the fete annually and she confirmed that she hoped to.

Members asked questions and offered advice on seeking funding from the local community (i.e. local businesses, the Youth Club Trustees, buckets at the event). Ms Fowler said that, once she had been given permission to run the fete she would take all advice and recommendations on board but she explained that she wanted to run the fete and any money raised would be a bonus.

Cllr Ward asked whether any new tables and chairs would belong to Ms Fowler's business or the Youth Club. Ms Fowler assured that, if for any reason she left the employment of Northway Youth Club the tables would remain.

Ms Fowler mentioned that she wanted to approach the Council for permission to plant some trees by the Village Hall to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. The Clerk asked that she put a request in writing so that it could be considered at a future meeting.

Cllr MacTiernen advised that the Council was hoping to plant trees for the Jubilee on The Park (Min Ref: GP/93/21 refers) which the Youth Club could get involved with if it wished.

8:37pm – Ms Fowler left the meeting.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should permit Ms Fowler to run the Fete at Northway Playing Field on 7th August 2021.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernen PROPOSED that the Council should consider making a contribution towards new tables, chairs and trolley at a future meeting. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members considered ways in which the Council could support the Fete and AGREED that those who could attend should do so and the Council should also have a stall.

GP/98/21 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Tree Maintenance Schedule** – Cllrs Treacy, Barnes, Mackenzie and Shelton offered to undertake visual tree inspections and confirm whether or not the trees appeared to be safe.
- ii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Ward raised concern about overgrowth next to a tree on the boundary of Virginia Close and the entry into the back of the Co-op. This overgrowth made it difficult to drive through the traffic calming as it obscured the view of oncoming traffic. In the past the Council had paid a contractor to remove it the vegetation when, after investigations, no other agency would take responsibility for it (i.e. Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Severn Vale Housing Association). Since then, a resident had replanted some plants to try to stop people from cutting across the grass to access the shopping centre.

Furthermore, concerns had been raised some years before regarding the tree, which had a TPO, and the vine growing up it which could be damaging. It was AGREED to contact Tewkesbury Borough Council about the tree and the overgrowth around it.

GP/99/21 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No reports were made in relation to drainage and flooding.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that there were no issues to report.

GP/100/21 **'Report It'**

It was noted that the following issues had been reported to the relevant authorities.

- Pothole on Northway Lane motorway bridge (reported to GCC).
- Overgrowth on Northway Lane motorway bridge (reported to GCC).
- Two trees along the Spine (reported to TBC).
- Litter and flytipping on Iron Bridge (reported to Network Rail). Laurence Robertson, MP, had promised to look into this matter.

GP/101/21 **Correspondence for Action**

None.

GP/102/21 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Woodland Trust** – Working for wildlife.
- ii. **geViews** – Product information.
- iii. **Parish Online** – Newsletter.
- iv. **Met Office** – Emergency Responder newsletter.
- v. **Ash Dieback Replanting Scheme** – Information.
- vi. **Overgrown Hedge** – Copy of letter sent to residents.
- vii. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association** – The Playing Field – Spring 2021.

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GP/103/21 **Correspondence received after 13th May 2021**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.55pm