

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 16th January 2019 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Committee Chairman) Cllr Mrs P Godwin (Committee Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs E MacTiernan Cllr E Phennah
Cllr C Porter Cllr J Roberts
Cllr Mrs S Terry

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

GP/01/19 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Bailey, Birch and Webber.

GP/02/19 **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), were made.

GP/03/19 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th December 2018 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Porter
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Phennah

GP/04/19 **Matters Arising From the Previous Minutes**

GP/144/18 Emergency Plan/Winter Plan – GRCC had confirmed that they would be progressing facilitating Northway's desktop exercise and would inform of the next steps in the week commencing 21st January 2019.

GP/05/19 **Dog Fouling**

- i. **Signs** – It was noted that Mr Buchanan (EH Manager at TBC) had been out of the office and so had been unable to let the Council know whether or not he would be able to attend the meeting and talk about the Borough's Environmental Order (Min Ref: GP/155/18 refers).
- ii. **Bins** – It was noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council had not responded to further emails regarding installation of a dog bin in Sinderberry Drive (Min Ref: GP/80/18 & GP/111/18 refer).

The resident who was known to hang a bin bag on the gate in Sinderberry Drive for

GP/05/19 **Dog Fouling** (continued)

dog walkers to put their dog poo in had visited the office to report that the latest bag had been torn apart and, due to her age and health, she was unable to pick up all of its contents. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council and the mess had been cleared. The resident had also advised that she felt she would be unable to physically carry on with this task after January 2019. Members were reminded that this was the same resident that they had nominated for a Community Award at the Parish Assembly (Min Ref: C/14/19 refers).

Members received an email from another resident of Sinderberry Drive, further supporting her neighbours' requests for installation of a dog bin.

GP/06/19 **The Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Members received the quarterly inspection report relating to the Teenage Shelter. No issues had been highlighted.

Cllr Ward reported that he had seen signs of drug use when walking past the teenage shelter (presence of bags and foil). It was suggested that this be reported to the local PCSO.

- ii. **Request for Lighting and Fencing** – Members received a further request from a resident for provision of fencing around The Park to allow exercising of dogs without a lead (Min Ref: GP/85/17 refers). She also asked the Council to consider providing lighting on The Park as she felt intimidated walking her dogs there on a dark night.

Members decided to consider these requests separately:

- a. **Fencing Request** – It was felt, by all Members, that installation of fencing around The Park would spoil the aesthetic of the area. It was also noted that only one request had been received for this and if the Council was to fence off The Park for dog use it would be taking away a piece of public open space that should be available to all residents of Northway, not just those with dogs.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that, due to the cost involved and the fact that it would spoil the aesthetic of The Park, this was not something the Council would agree to progressing in the foreseeable future. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Lighting Request** – It was felt that the cost of providing lighting on The Park would be astronomical. Members also wanted to consider the nearby houses that lighting would affect.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, since lighting for security was not recommended and the area was residential and surrounded by homes, the Council should not progress this request and the resident should be recommended to use a torch. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk's Assistant mentioned that the resident had expressed in her correspondence that she, as a dog owner, thought she was being discriminated against. Members wanted it pointed out that the Council did take dog-related issues very seriously (considering alone the fact that there were so many dog bins in Northway). Also, almost half of the Members that stood on the Council were dog owners themselves (6/13).

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/07/19 Northway Playing Field

i. Northway Play Park

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the weekly inspection reports relating to the Play Park. It was reported that four fence posts were still slightly loose in the ground. Drugs (cannabis and a bag of white powder) had been found on site.

It was noted that a replacement loose angle cleat had been installed on the fencing (Min Ref: GP/154/18 refers), bent fence panels had been straightened, a loose post secured in the ground and a replacement mechanism installed in the self closing gate (which was now unlocked).

- b. **Tiger Mulch** – Members were notified of damage (from burning) to the Tiger Mulch and the yellow wall seat in the Play Park and there was evidence that two aerosol cans had been set alight. Members considered whether the Council should make an insurance claim to repair the Tiger Mulch. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should take no action at this time. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Northway Skate Park** – Members received inspection reports relating to the Skate Park. No issues were raised.
- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the MUGA and outdoor gym area. No issues were raised.
- iv. **BMX Track** – Members received inspection reports relating to the BMX Track. No issues were raised.
- v. **Footpath** – Members reconsidered resurfacing of the footpath that ran from the car park to the Skate Park (Min Ref: GP/123/18 refers).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, if money was available towards this, the work should be scheduled to take place in spring 2019. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED an amendment to her initial proposal in that the Council should go out to tender on this work (with a separate price for provision of edging stones if these were not already in place). Cllr Roberts ACCEPTED this amendment.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/08/19 Newsletter

Members AGREED articles for inclusion in the next issue of Northway Voice, including:

- May elections
- Community alerts from Gloucestershire Constabulary
- Update on Poppy appeal at Co-Op
- Update on saplings at Joan's Field
- New entrance signs for Northway
- Carers 'Connection Café'
- VAS results
- General thanks to local shops

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/08/19 **Newsletter** (continued)

- Recent vandalism at the Play Park
- Increase in drug paraphernalia found in the parish
- What's on at the Community Hub
- Northway Community Volunteers upcoming Easter egg hunt (and possible update following Christmas events).
- Update following the Christmas event, Santa's visit and letters.
- Ashchurch Concept Masterplan
- Advert for the upcoming Community Event
- Article on the history of Northway

Cllr Phennah asked for inclusion of a small article about SAFRA's recruitment campaign, if there was room.

Cllr Terry wished to include dates for some events taking place at St Nicholas church, if space allowed.

Cllr Godwin also offered to enquire with the Youth Club Management Committee as to whether or not there was anything they wanted included in the newsletter.

Whilst talking about the upcoming Community Event, Cllr Ward mentioned that it might be a good idea to invite the Fire Brigade Cadets and the Aston Project.

There had also been a request from the local firm that paid to place an advert in the last issue of Northway Voice to advertise again.

It had previously been suggested that the Council include an article trying to dissuade residents from using public litter bins to dispose of their personal, household waste (Min Ref: GP/157/18 refers). Members did not feel that this would have any benefit and so AGREED that it should not be included in the newsletter.

GP/09/19 **Litter**

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should not consider installing signs on the litter bins to discourage disposal of residents' personal rubbish in them (Min Ref: GP/157/18 refers). Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/10/19 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Tree Liabilities** – It was noted that the Clerk's Assistant had appealed to Members to assist with putting together a plan of all the trees for which the Parish Council was responsible for. Cllr Birch had confirmed that he would be willing to assist with this when the weather had improved and he also had a tree-surgeon neighbour who would help with this. It was felt that the Council needed to be careful to ensure that Cllr Birch's neighbour was qualified to give advice – although Cllr Ward pointed out that if any trees were deemed to be high risk then the Council would instruct a contractor to deal with them.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/10/19 Parish Maintenance Contract (continued)

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned that the Borough Council used a GIS mapping system on a tablet device to log their trees, she suggested that the Parish Council could ask to borrow a tablet in order to map their trees.

Cllr Roberts felt that establishing a tree maintenance strategy was important as the Council would be liable if there was any negligence in maintenance of trees on its land.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should identify the general areas on which there were trees for which it was responsible and ask Cllr Birch if he would be willing to inspect these, alongside his neighbour (if willing) and report back to the Council their findings. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

Cllr Ward mentioned that he would also be happy to help with this if he was available.

- ii. **Other Issues** – The Clerk mentioned that Gloucestershire County Council had written to residents in Kingston Road who drove over the grass verges to access their driveways. This resulted in mud on the footpaths and the residents had been advised that they would be liable if anyone slipped over as a result of the mud. They had been instructed to repair the verges and look at extending their driveways.

Photographs were tabled of a car parked on the verge along Northway Lane. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that a letter should be written to the car owner requesting that they refrained from parking on the verges in future.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the office staff should be authorised to write to residents that parked on the verges without first bringing it to a meeting.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/11/19 'Report It'

The following issues had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council and/or Gloucestershire County Council via the report-it service –

Damage to the Play Park surfacing and yellow boundary wall.
Drugs found at Northway Playing Field
Dog mess/bags scattered in Sinderberry Drive

It was noted that the broken manhole cover at the entrance to Northway Trading Estate had been repaired (Min Ref: GP/158/18 refers).

GP/12/19 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee had been rescheduled for 27th February 2019.

GP/13/19 Correspondence for Information

- i. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA)** – Newsletter, Seminar and Annual Report.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/13/19 **Correspondence for Information** (continued)

- ii. **Rural Services Network** – Rural Funding Digest.
- iii. **Amey** – Correspondence relating to overgrowth from a Northway property.

GP/14/19 **Correspondence received after 10th January 2019**

No further correspondence had been received.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 7:55 p.m.