

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Terry (Vice Chair) Cllr J Beadle  
Cllr M Barnes Cllr P Godwin  
Cllr P Mackenzie Cllr E MacTiernan

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

### GP/36/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ward, Roberts, Blackmore, Shelton and Treacy.

### GP/37/22 **Declarations of Interest**

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

### GP/38/22 **Previous Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 had been circulated to Members. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Godwin  
Cllr Barnes Cllr Mackenzie  
Cllr MacTiernan

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle

### GP/39/22 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

***GP/21/22 Northway Playing Field*** – MJ's Gym had supplied a risk assessment in relation to the event they wanted to hold at the Playing Field in July. They had also confirmed that Tewkesbury Town FC's insurance would cover the event, a copy of the insurance information had been requested.

***GP/06/22 Joan's Field*** – No motorised vehicles signs had been installed at two entrances into Joan's Field. The third sign would be installed when the new entrance was in place.

***GP/182/21 Northway Playing Field > Other Issues*** – The bench that was removed to allow installation of the outdoor gym equipment has been reinstalled.

***GP/128/21 Northway Playing Field > Seesaw*** – The seesaw in the Play Park had been repaired.

***GP/29/22 Bins > Bin Liner*** – Cllr Mackenzie fitted a new liner in the bin by Carrant Brook School. Cllr Terry passed on the Council's thanks to Cllr Mackenzie for doing this.

***GP/29/22 Bins*** – Tewkesbury Borough Council had been contacted about installation of a bin in Gould Drive and whether or not Ubico would take on emptying of it. Cllr MacTiernan pointed out that Northway had more bins than any other parish in the borough.

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GP/39/22 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

**GP/31/22 Parish Maintenance Contract – TBC/GCC Grass Cutting** – The Parish Council had confirmed that it wanted to continue with the TBC GCC grass cutting arrangement and was agreeable to a £500 increase in contribution towards this from TBC.

**GP/26/22 Newsletter** – Issue 27 of the newsletter had been delivered.

**GP/137/21 Parish Maintenance Contract – Area Opposite the Northway Centre** – Ubico had cleared overgrowth from the area opposite the Northway Centre and planted approximately 40 hedge whips to reinstate the hedge.

GP/40/22 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the play park were received. It was noted that the exterior of the red house had been scratched. Cllr PROPOSED that the scratches on the red house should be monitored. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was also reported that a bolt was missing from the Play Park fencing, the play inspector was trying to source a replacement bolt.

- b. **Wheelchair Swing** – Contractors had started to install the wheelchair swing earlier in the week. Concerns had been raised about the site not being left safe and secure and so an email had been sent to the suppliers. It was AGREED that the Council should await a response before agreeing any action.

Cllr Mackenzie mentioned that there had been a lot of positive feeling regarding the wheelchair swing on social media.

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received. It was noted that there were some holes in the concrete surface of the serpent runway. It was AGREED that the upcoming RoSPA report should be awaited before any action was considered.
- b. **Tender Notice** – An agreement had been made by the Full Council that a tender from Maverick Industries should be accepted. The companies would be informed the following day whether or not they had been successful.
- c. **Skatepark User** – An email had been received from a local skatepark user wishing to be involved in the designing process. He had been assured that the Council would keep him informed as things started to progress.

iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received, surfacing beneath the rower had been noted, again, as it was still concrete not tarmac, there was also a paint chip on the cross rider.
- b. **Update on Installation of Gym Equipment (Min Ref: GP/147/21)** – Cllr Terry reported that she, along with Cllr Roberts and the Clerk's Assistant, had met with a Caloo representative at the Outdoor Gym to discuss the Council's complaints.

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GP/40/22 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** (continued)

With regard to the stability of the rower, the Caloo representative had explained that to tarmac such a small area they would use macadam which would likely break up as soon as warm weather arrived – this was why concrete had been used. He assured that the surfacing would be covered by Caloo's guarantee so if the rower started to become loose again they would make it right.

Areas where paint chips had been sprayed messily or in the wrong shade were highlighted. The Caloo representative agreed to come back and respray the areas and replace a base cover which had paint on it.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should withhold payment until the repainting had taken place. No seconder or vote.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that payment should be deferred until the following meeting. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

iv. **BMX Humps**

a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports had been received. It was noted that the BMX Humps sign had been damaged, although it was not considered dangerous. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED no action. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

b. **Improvements** – Two firms had provided quotations for improvements to the BMX humps. One quote was for more substantial work which would see redesign of the track and laying of asphalt surfacing, this would cost between £22,000 – £37,000. Another firm had quoted for regrading the track and overlaying the surface with 6mm of dust material for £2,808.

Members recalled that a local BMXer had suggested that the humps required maintenance to make them more usable, Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the BMXer should be asked to confirm whether regrading and overlaying of the track would be sufficient and, if so, the lesser quote should be accepted. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

v. **Sign** – Members considered wording for a dog sign to be installed outside the Play Park (Min Ref: GP/21/22 refers). Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED a dark sign with white writing and the following wording: *'Dear Dog: Please make certain your owner is always attached with a lead and is properly trained to pick up after you, Thank You.'*  
Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

vi. **Bollards** – Cllr Mackenzie offered to inspect the bollards at the Playing Field, as well as on The Park, to ensure that they were safe.

vii. **Other Issues** – The Clerk advised that remote viewing of the CCTV at the Playing Field was still in the process of being set up. A fixed IP address had been required and so BT had put one in place, the additional £6 per month for this would be going to Full Council for approval.

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### GP/41/22 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts was not present to confirm whether or not the Giant Hogweed inspection had taken place.
- ii. **Memorial** – Members received a request from a local resident for permission to plant a tree in Joan's Field in memory of her husband who had previously been very involved in youth work in the community. An application had been circulated with General Purposes Committee Agenda's which gave details of plaque wording.

Cllr Beadle PROPOSED that the resident was permitted to plant a tree and asked to provide confirmation of where in the field it would be sited. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan asked that the Council's sympathies were conveyed to the resident.

- iii. **Other Issues** – It was reported that, despite the new signage (Min Ref: GP/39/22 refers), a motorised vehicle had, again, been taken into Joan's Field and the grass had been badly churned up. The Clerk recalled that PCSO Simpson had confiscated a mini moto from the site several years before and he had offered to knock on doors in Sallis Close and talk to residents. He was also willing to look at the access and offer advice on making it less accessible. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that this offer should be gratefully accepted.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### GP/42/22 **The Park Amenity Land**

- i. **Inspection Report** – No issues were raised following inspections of the Teenage Shelter.
- ii. **Overgrowth** – A quotation for cutting back of overgrowth was still being awaited.
- iii. **Jubilee Celebrations** –
  - a. **Guardianship of the English Oak Trees** – The Clerk's Assistant read an email from the Headteacher of Northway School which confirmed the schools' interest in taking on guardianship of the trees (Min Ref: GP/24/22 refers). They had also requested the involvement of the preschool. With regard to the renaming event and time capsule planting, they had put forward a suggestion for 9<sup>th</sup> June as a potential date as this would work for all settings.

It was confirmed that some councillors were scheduled to meet with Northway School, Carrant Brook School and Northway Pre-School/Playgroup on 29<sup>th</sup> March to continue discussions.

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED the Council's approval of 9<sup>th</sup> June for the event and the involvement of the Pre-School/Playgroup. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Time Capsules** – It was AGREED that this should be deferred until after the meeting with schools on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- c. **Renaming Event** - It was AGREED that this should be deferred until after the meeting with schools on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

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### GP/42/22 **The Park Amenity Land** (continued)

- d. **Plaque/Stone** - It was AGREED that this should be deferred until after the meeting with schools on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- e. **Platinum Park Signage** – Members received a design and quotation for Platinum Park signage. It was suggested that the Jubilee emblem should be closer to the centre with font size reduced to allow this, if necessary. Additionally, a design with the emblem at the top and Parish Council logo at the bottom should also be considered.

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that new designs should be put to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- f. **Jubilee Bench** – It was AGREED that further quotations should be obtained for Jubilee benches and put to the next General Purposes Committee Meeting for consideration.
  - g. **Other Issues** – Cllr Terry provided an update on plans for the Jubilee picnic event on the Playing Field.
- iv. **Bollards** – Cllr Mackenzie had offered to undertake an inspection of the bollards on The Park (Min Ref: GP/40/22 refers).
  - v. **Other Issues** – Cllr Mackenzie asked if it was possible to get the teenage shelter repainted. It was suggested that it could be painted purple in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that quotations were obtained. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### GP/43/22 **Circus**

PCSO Simpson had agreed to look into the possibility of having cones along The Park to help prevent inconsiderate parking on the days that the Circus was going to be in Northway.

The Clerk's Assistant was asked to enquire whether portable toilets would be provided on site by the Circus.

### GP/44/22 **Litter Picking Event**

Ubico had been approached regarding use of equipment for the litter picking event due to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Suggestions were made regarding food and/or cakes for the event. It was also AGREED that it should be advertised as soon as possible.

Members considered where people should be asked to leave their bags of litter, it was felt that by a bin or at the Playing Field entrance would be best.

### GP/45/22 **ParishOnline**

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED renewal of the Council's subscription to ParishOnline at a cost of £300 for the year. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/46/22 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Overgrowth** – Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that cutting back of overgrowth at the Playing Field car park should be ratified (cost £66.83). Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Iron Bridge** – It was noted that the Iron Bridge was in a terrible mess with litter and dog poo. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should try and contact the local MP, as well as Tewkesbury Borough Council, to see if anything could be done – reminding of the fact that this was a historical monument.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Issues** – None.

GP/47/22 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No drainage/flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that there were no issues to report.

GP/48/22 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Damaged Tug Wilson Close sign along Hardwick Bank Road.  
Northway Lane humpback traffic lights not working.

GP/49/22 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Keep Britain Tidy** – One Bag Difference.

GP/50/22 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council** – Details of Flood Warden meeting – Cllr Mackenzie had confirmed attendance.

GP/51/22 **Correspondence received after 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.28 p.m.