

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:15 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 MacTiernan
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr G Shelton

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

GP/148/22 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence had been received.

GP/149/22 **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/150/22 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Shelton	Cllr Barnes
	Cllr Beadle	Cllr Blackmore
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Terry

GP/151/22 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

**GP/135/22 Trees > Kingston Road Tree** – M. Hale had been asked to cut back the tree in Kingston Road.

**GP/136/22 Scarecrow Event** – A letter of thanks was sent to Sycamore Chapel for organising the scarecrow event.

**GP/138/22 Newsletter** – The newsletter had been printed and was in the process of being delivered.

**GP/142/22 Winter Maintenance** – Cllr Shelton had checked the grit bin on Northway Lane and confirmed that it was full. Cllr Roberts had offered to check the bin by Saxon Park bus shelter.

**GP/128/22 Northway Playing Field > Main Entrance** – The Play Equipment Inspector had agreed to add quarterly inspections of the main gate to her programme. The first inspection had taken place and no issues were raised.

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GP/152/22 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. Two dog bins had become rusty and rubber matting was starting to lift up by the City Shuffle Bar. It was AGREED that the matting should be pegged down and the bins monitored.
- b. **Bird Spikes** – Tracey Skinner, from the Environmental Health department at Tewkesbury Borough Council had advised that she would not recommend installation of spikes on top of the swings as this may, in turn, become a hazard. With regard to the birds, there was nothing Environmental Health could do.

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that no further action was taken. No seconder vote was received.

Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the Council sought advice from a pest control agency. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Wheelchair Swing** – It was noted that the cabinet that Blueberry had installed on site had been badly damaged. CCTV footage indicated that older children had been using it to climb over the fencing. The top of the cabinet had caved under the weight and would no longer be secure for storage of the pull rope and restraints. Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that a budget of £500 should be allocated towards either reinforcing the existing cabinet or purchase of something stronger. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Shelton
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Blackmore	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Ward	

AGAINST: Cllr MacTiernan

Blueberry were going to give a demonstration on use of the wheelchair swing on 21<sup>st</sup> November when they would be attending the site to resolve the issues raised in the RoSPA report (Min Ref: GP/128/22 refers).

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised. It was noted that metal on one of the ramps had now been welded (Min Ref: GP128/22 refers).
- b. **Sign** – Members considered removal of a damaged Covid-10 sign at the skatepark. It was AGREED that, since it was damaged, and no longer relevant, the sign should be taken down. Cllr Mackenzie offered to remove the sign.

Cllr Blackmore asked that the Covid-19 risk assessment be amended accordingly. There was then a discussion as to whether a C-19 risk assessment for Northway Playing Field was still necessary.

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GP/152/22 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Covid-19 risk assessment for the Playing Field be revoked and archived for future reference. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Roberts Cllr Barnes Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Shelton	Cllr Godwin Cllr Beadle Cllr Mackenzie Cllr Ward
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ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Blackmore	Cllr Terry
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- c. **Skatepark Project** – Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the cost of the skatepark planning application, totalling £263.20 (incl. VAT) be ratified (Min Ref: GP/128/22 refers).

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
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- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received. No new issues were raised.
- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. No new issues were raised.
- v. **The Public Sector Equality Duty and Open Spaces** – Members had been circulated information on the Public Sector Equality Duty, specifically relating to girls. It explained the duty on Council's to make their open spaces welcoming to teenage girls so they could feel safe. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that no action was taken. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Barnes Cllr Godwin	Cllr Shelton Cllr Beadle Cllr Ward
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ABSTENTIONS:	Cllr Blackmore Cllr Roberts	Cllr Mackenzie Cllr Terry
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The Clerk reminded Members that there had previously been a request for more lighting at the Playing Field due to young women feeling vulnerable there.

- vi. **Main Entrance** – It was noted that overgrowth had started to block the view of the sign at the entrance to the Playing Field. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that this was cut back.

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
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- vii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/153/22 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Bridge/Access** – It was confirmed that the contractor hoped to start bridge work at the end of November.
- ii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/154/22 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.

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### GP/154/22 **Platinum Park** (continued)

- ii. **Wild Area** – A quotation for flailing of the wild area was still being awaited (Min Ref: GP/130/22 refers). It was AGREED that this item be deferred.
- iii. **New Trees** – Gloucestershire County Council had advised that the the garden centre would be in touch once trees were ready for delivery (Min Ref: GP/135/22 refers).
- iv. **Other Issues** – Quotations had been received for weed killing or scraping the surface of the ash path on Platinum Park. It was felt that overgrown brambles were more of an issue and a quotation should be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Mackenzie asked whether anything could be done to stop cars parking on the verge of Platinum Park. This had been discussed at the previous meeting (Min Ref: GP/130/22 refers) and it was felt that, even though obstacles were not allowed too close to the road, putting something on the verge would only move the problem further along.

James Richards Circus had been in touch about coming back to Northway on 31<sup>st</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the circus should be permitted to come on these dates. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was suggested that, going forward, it might be more suitable for the circus to visit alternating years.

### GP/155/22 **Iron Bridge**

It was noted that Community Payback had met with Cllrs Blackmore, Ward and Godwin about painting and clearing of the iron bridge. The meeting had been positive and they would be in touch again to progress.

County Cllr Smith had offered to provide funding towards paint. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that a request for funding to cover the cost of 60L of paint was passed to County Cllr Smith. Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk's Assistant was trying to get a response from Network Rail regarding them providing someone to oversee the painting.

### GP/156/22 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Grass Cutting** – A meeting with had been requested with Peter Tonge (Tewkesbury Borough Council) to discuss ongoing grass cutting arrangements.
- ii. **Area Opposite the Northway Centre** – The Clerk and Clerk's Assistant had met with Mr Noble and Mr Clark from Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding ongoing maintenance at this site. Because it had again become overgrown, Tewkesbury Borough Council had agreed to clear the area and replant whips – making it obvious where they were with mulch, stakes or even some fencing. They had also mentioned possibly planting some more established trees. The meeting had been very productive and they would put a plan together for the Council and SmartCut.
- iii. **Other Items** – No other items were raised.

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### GP/157/22 **Tree Maintenance Schedule**

There was some confusion as to when the last tree inspection had taken place, the Clerk's Assistant would double check and confirm whether or not another one was due.

### GP/158/22 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – Cllr Ward reported recent flooding on the road by Apple Tree Court. It was felt that the road sweeper / jetter had not been in Northway for in a long time and so the Council should try and arrange for this to be done.

It was further noted that drains on the Shannon Way and Hardwick Bank Road motorway bridges were blocked on both sides.

- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that there was nothing further to report.
- iii. **Annual Report** – Cllr Mackenzie reported that he had attended a couple of GAPTC's flood warden meetings.

### GP/159/22 **'Report It'**

The Clerk's Assistant listed issues that had been reported to local authorities over the past month. This included: faulty street lights, tree issues behind Well Close, racist graffiti on the Iron Bridge, missing bollard on motorway bridge, wonky Steward Road sign and obscured street light.

### GP/160/22 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **War Memorials Trust** – Bulletin.
- ii. **Glasdon** – Booklet.

### GP/161/22 **Correspondence received after 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

- i. **Christmas** – An enquiry had been received as to sale of Northway Community Volunteers' sleigh to the Tewkesbury Boys Brigade. The resident felt sad that this was no longer in Northway, especially since funds had been raised by Northway people for its creation.
- ii. **Gateways** – Cllr Mackenzie queried what was happening regarding gateway entrances into the parish. It was believed that this had been deferred by Full Council, although the Clerk agreed to double check.

There being no further business, the meeting 8.00 pm