

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th July 2019 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Cllr Mrs S Terry (Committee Chair) Cllr M Barnes
Cllr Mrs P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr Mrs E MacTiernan Cllr E Phennah
Cllr C Porter Cllr J Roberts
Cllr K Sollis Cllr C Woodward

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

GP/92/19 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ward and Bailey.

GP/93/19 **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/94/19 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th June 2019 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Mackenzie Cllr Roberts
Cllr Barnes Cllr Godwin
Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Porter
Cllr Sollis Cllr Terry
Cllr Woodward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Phennah

GP/95/19 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/49/19 & GP/61/19 Notice Board – The notice board for Saxon Park had been delivered but could not be installed until a licence had been issued by Tewkesbury Borough Council.

GP/63/19 Northway Playing Field > Skate Park – Cllr Ward filled small holes in the wave ramp (as raised in RoSPA report).

GP/79/19 Northway Playing Field > Bin Emptying – GAB Waste had been instructed to empty bins on the Playing Field for a trial period of three months. It was also reported that one of the dog bins was not being shut properly.

GP/79/19 Northway Playing Field > Other Issues – Cllr Mackenzie had visited the field on numerous occasions to look for incident relating to dog walking (aggressive/roaming dogs, owners not picking up mess) but encountered none.

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GP/95/19 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

It was, however, reported that further complaints had been received about two dog walkers regularly seen at the field with up to seven dogs – all being allowed to roam off the lead and going quite a distance from them. Concerns were raised again that this would not give opportunity to pick up after the dogs because of the distance. A further resident had stated that he no longer let his grandson on the playing field because of dog faeces.

The Clerk had spoken to Tewkesbury Borough Council's Antisocial Behaviour Officer who was going to try and arrange undercover checks at the Playing Field during relevant times.

GP/79/19 Northway Playing Field > Other Issues – Tewkesbury Town FC had been given permission to install a sign at the junction of Kingston Road and old Northway Lane.

GP/84/19 Giant Hogweed – A letter of thanks was sent to Mr Dunn for his help with inspecting for Giant Hogweed.

GP/85/19 Newsletter – The latest issue of Northway Voice was in the process of being delivered.

GP/86/19 Parish Maintenance > Area Outside Lee Road Shops – A letter had been sent to shop owner regarding litter outside the Lee Road shops.

GP/86/19 Parish Maintenance > Other Issues – A response was sent to the resident wanting to help in Joan's Field.

GP/88/19 Dog Waste Bin – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that the bin opposite Joan's Field was firmly fixed and accessible (also, the grass had since been cut).

GP/96/19 **Local Community Initiative**

It was noted that the Clerk and Clerk's Assistant had met with Mr Yardy before the meeting to discuss any further details relating to this initiative.

Mr Yardy had provisionally booked the Hub for 3rd August 2019 to hold a launch meeting for the 'Northway Guardians' (Min Ref: GP/78/19 refers). He hoped to create a logo and poster to try and bring in volunteers.

Councillors noted that the launch was scheduled for the morning of the day that the NCV Fete was due to take place. It was AGREED that this should be mentioned in case Mr Yardy would prefer to reschedule.

GP/97/19 **Northway Playing Field**

- i. **Play Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports received from GAB Waste highlighted the presence of graffiti on the sit on spinner and the half pipe. Permission had been sought for GAB Waste to try a light sanding tool on the spinner to see if this would remove the markings. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Graffiti had also been present on the concrete seats although Cllr Ward had since repainted these.

In the Outdoor Gym Area, the cross trainer pedals were also still slightly loose but still useable.

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GP/97/19 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

ii. **Security Barrier**

- a. It was reported that the new security barrier had been damaged by a large vehicle gaining access. The Clerk had contacted Tewkesbury Borough Council to ask that Ubico operatives were instructed not to enter the field in their vehicles and that alternative arrangements had been made for emptying of bins there.
- b. Quotations for installation of palisade fencing or bollards had been sought. Cllr Porter PROPOSED that the Council should accept the quotation for installation of a stainless steel bollard. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

iii. **Other Issues**

It was noted that the grit bin on the embankment to the motorway bridge along Northway Lane had been tipped over at the weekend and, as a result, a local resident had taken it upon himself to reinstate the bin and pick up the salt. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a letter of thanks should be written to this resident.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/98/19 **NCV Fete**

- i. **Risk Assessment/PLI** – A copy of NCV's risk assessment and PLI information had been received.
- ii. **Council Table** – Members considered whether the Council should request a table at the upcoming Fete. Due to the fact that a number of councillors had already volunteered to help with stalls at the Fete, Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council did not request a stall. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was suggested that other Members interested in helping run stalls at the Fete should contact NCV directly.

GP/99/19 **Dog Fouling**

- i. **Waste Bin** – Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, as per Cllr Terry's suggestion (under Minute Reference GP/88/19), the Council should replace the dog bin opposite Sycamore Road with one from Hardwick Bank Road bus shelter (as there was a litter bin close by). Cllr Terry suggested that the proposal be amended to allow for this to be done when necessary (as the bin was rusting and on the verge of falling apart but still functional), it was also suggested that the same post could possibly be used. Cllr MacTiernan accepted this amendment. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Stickers** – Members received a request from Tewkesbury Borough Council for donation of £1 towards any further dog fouling stickers it provided the Parish with. The Clerk said that she had queried how much it cost the Borough to purchase the stickers. Members did not feel it would be an issue if the donation was 'at cost'.

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GP/99/19 **Dog Fouling** (continued)

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should await further information before agreeing to this. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/100/19 **Anti-social Behaviour**

- i. **Reports/Updates** – It was noted that two girls (around 14-16 years old) had been found sleeping in the Play Park at 6.45am on Sunday morning. Upon being woken they appeared to have consumed alcohol. This incident had been mentioned to the Anti-social Behaviour Officer, as well as the Police, who were very concerned. As a result of this, some outreach work would be taking place in the area.

The Clerk also mentioned broken glass, litter and drug taking at Sycamore Chapel. The Police had been informed of this also, and the fact that there were security cameras on site, but they had not asked to view the footage.

- ii. **Graffiti Removal** – Prices had been sought for removal of graffiti around the parish, as follows:

£365 for removal of graffiti from Skate Park, £175 for removal of graffiti from each bin, £175 for removal of graffiti with the word 'Budz', £705 for removal of graffiti from bus shelter along The Park. These prices had also been mentioned in the newsletter.

Cllr Roberts suggested that Northway Guardians might consider trying to remove graffiti, if the Council supplied the necessary materials.

It was noted that the bus shelter looked particularly bad. Cllr Mackenzie offered to paint the bus shelter with masonry paint to cover the graffiti. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that Cllr Mackenzies offer should be accepted, and she thanked him on behalf of the rest of the Members. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was suggested that the Council possibly still had some anti graffiti paint left over from the Skate Park and, if so, this could be used on top of the paint.

GP/101/19 **The Park**

- i. **Ash Path** – It was noted that the Clerk and Clerk's Assistant were due to meet with Countrywide the following day and would mention the Ash Path then.
- ii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/102/19 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Grass Cutting**
- a. **Borough Council Grass Cutting** –

Cllr MacTiernan reminded Members that she had spoken to Peter Tonge, Head of Community Services at Tewkesbury Borough Council, about the possibility of the Borough paying Northway Parish Council to take over cutting its grass areas

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GP/102/19 **Parish Maintenance Contract** (continued)

(Min Ref: GP/86/19 refers). She had followed up the discussion with an email confirming what had been said and Mr Tonge had then explained that the amount the Borough would fund for the Parish to take this on would be 'miniscule'. Also, looking at it logically, the same crews and machinery would still be in place to do the work from the Borough. Cllr MacTiernan had pointed out that if the crews and machinery were no longer needed in Northway they could be used elsewhere in the Borough.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Parish Council should seek quotations for maintenance of Borough, County and Parish grass areas on a two-weekly basis. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Other Grass Cutting Issues** – The Clerk's Assistant passed on complaints relating to weeds growing at the back of houses behind the Playing Field.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should ask Countrywide to cut to the edges of the field (which they were already supposed to do) and remove any weeds growing up the fences.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Trees**

- a. **Quotations** – Following on from the previous meeting, the Borough Council had sent amended maps which showed the verges along Northway Lane to be under County Council ownership (Min Ref: GP86/19 refers), as a result, the overgrowth had been reported to GCC.

- b. **Other Reports Relating to Trees/Overgrowth** – Overgrowth opposite The Northway Pub (next to the road) was mentioned and it was AGREED that this should be reported to Gloucestershire County Council.

- iii. **Weed Killing** – The Clerk informed that, although Craig Freeman, Local Highways Manager GCC, had advised that there was no money towards weed killing – and it was not something that they did at the County anymore (they used sweeper vehicles), County Cllr Smith had said that he was able to fund the Parish Council contracting a firm to address weed in Northway.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should ask County Cllr Smith to confirm this offer in writing (as the Clerk had been informed that there was no money to support it), after which it would be happy to accept. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should also seek a quotation for weedkilling from a firm that had been recommended by Wheatpieces Parish Council. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/103/19 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – None received.

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GP/103/19 **Drainage and Flooding** (continued)

- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie reported a blocked/overgrown culvert along The Park. It was confirmed that this had been passed on to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

GP/104/19 **'Report It'**

Overgrowth along the Northway Lane M5 overbridge had been reported to Gloucestershire County Council twice, as well as a knocked lamp post.

Grass on the Cedar/Virginia Road junction had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council as well as damage to the barrier at the Playing Field (suspected Ubico).

Cllr MacTiernan asked what works were taking place along Kingston Road by Wales and West and, since no one knew, requested that they were asked.

GP/105/19 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Creative Play** – Booklet.

GP/106/19 **Correspondence received after 11th July 2019**

- i. **Speed Gun** – Cllr Mackenzie had arranged with PCSO Simpson use of a speed gun along The Park on 29th July 2019, but two further volunteers were required. Cllrs Barnes and Porter confirmed that they were willing to assist with this.
- ii. **Warm and Well** – Details of drop in event aimed at home energy advice being offered at Tewkesbury Foodbank between 16 – 18 July 2019.
- iii. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Details of Teddington Hands roadworks conversion.
- iv. **St Nicholas Church** – Cllr Terry advised that, following a survey on the rectory, it was being vacated whilst necessary works were being undertaken. In addition, the Reverent was on sick leave so there would be no resident vicar for the next three months.

She also gave an update on discussions relating to burial capacity in Ashchurch.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 8.07pm.