

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Committee Chairman) Cllr C Blackmore (Committee Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Beadle Cllr E Phennah
Cllr J Roberts Cllr G Shelton

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

GP/69/23 Election of Committee Chairman for the Municipal Year

Cllr Barnes indicated that he would be willing to stand as Committee Chairman. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Cllr Barnes was elected as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Municipal year. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

No further nominations were proposed.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/70/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Terry, Mackenzie, Godwin and MacTiernan.

GP/71/23 Election of Committee Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year

Cllr Blackmore indicated that she would be willing to stand as Committee Vice-Chairman. Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that Cllr Blackmore was elected as Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the Municipal year. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

No further nominations were proposed.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/72/23 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12th April 2023 (Min Ref C/85/23).

GP/73/23 Previous Minutes

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19th April 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Shelton Cllr Blackmore
Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Phennah Cllr Roberts

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GP/74/23 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/59/23 Joan's Field > Bulb Planting – Northway Community Volunteers' offer of bulb planting had been accepted.

GP/40/23 Joan's Field > Signage – Ex-councillor, Mr Ward, had kindly installed the new sign on the bridge into Joan's Field. Cllr Roberts asked that the Council's thanks was passed on to Mr Ward.

GP/75/23 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received.

The 'Dear Dog' sign near the entrance to the Play Park had been damaged with the bottom corner ripped off. This was itemised on the agenda for action later in the meeting. The red concrete wall which was recently painted had a large chip in it. It was AGREED that the Council should try and get this painted at the same time as the Play Park gate (Min Ref: GP/58/23 refers).

- b. It was confirmed that Cllr Blackmore had created a risk assessment for use of the wheelchair swing, she had also (with her son) filmed a video on how to safely operate the swing, this was shown to Members. Cllr Barnes thanked Cllr Blackmore for doing this.

It was AGREED that a disclaimer/key form should be created for people to sign when collecting their keys. This should make reference to there being a possible charge if keys are lost, details of how to watch the instruction video and mention of the rope which could be used.

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that a sign with a QR code linking people to the instruction video, risk assessment and more information on the wheelchair swing should be purchased and installed, up to a cost of £50. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised.

- b. **Skatepark Project** – Cllr Roberts confirmed that he, along with the Clerk and Clerk's Assistant, had met with a funding officer from the National Lottery regarding the Council's application. The meeting had been encouraging; however, further questions had been raised. It was suggested that a Skatepark Working Party be created to consider these questions and how best to engage with the community to show that Northway wanted a skatepark. Ideally this Working Party would only need to consist of a small number of councillors, however, most of the Members present wished to be involved. It was, instead, AGREED that the GP Projects Working Party should continue to take things forward with this project and a Meeting should be scheduled for as soon as possible.

It was confirmed that a 'Support for Northway Skatepark' Facebook and Instagram account had been created.

7.45pm – Cllr Roberts and Cllr Phennah left the meeting.

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GP/75/23 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- 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.

7.46pm – Cllr Phennah rejoined the meeting.

- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received, it was noted that there were some large holes in the surface. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that a contractor should be asked to fill these in up to a cost of £200. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- v. **Damaged Sign** – Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that removal of a damaged dog sign should be ratified. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that the sign should be replaced.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vi. **Other Issues** – No further issues were raised.

GP/76/23 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts had confirmed that he had not come across any signs of Giant Hogweed whilst inspecting Joan's Field.
- ii. **Other Issues** – It was confirmed that the crab apple tree had been ordered (Min Ref: GP/59/23 refers).

GP/77/23 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Bollards**
 - a. It was reported that a bollard on Platinum Park had become rotten and fallen over. A new bollard had been installed in its place to keep the area secure. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that this action was ratified. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.
 - b. Cllrs Beadle and Blackmore offered to do a visual inspection of the other bollards on Platinum Park.
- iii. **Bulb Planting** – Members were reminded of Cllr Shelton's offer to plant bulbs around the trees and benches on Platinum Park. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that this should be permitted and that a budget of £50 should be set towards purchase of the bulbs.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Other Issues** – Cllr Shelton confirmed that the two small oak trees on Platinum Park now had green leaves on them.

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GP/78/23 Make Space for Girls

Feedback relating to the list of 'Make Space for Girls' suggestions was shared with Members. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that all of the ideas worth progressing should be put to the GP Projects Working Party for further consideration. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/79/23 Newsletter

Members considered what articles could be included in the next issue of Northway Voice. Suggestions included: Food Pantry update, Warm Welcome update, NCV barrel adoption, Coronation Trail photos, skatepark update, possible scroll award and, perhaps, a feature on the Community Hub and details of events taking place there.

GP/80/23 Bench by The Northway Centre

A local resident had requested permission to give the rainbow bench by The Northway Centre a top up of paint. Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that this offer should be gratefully accepted and the resident should be permitted to do this as a volunteer.

FOR: Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle
Cllr Blackmore Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Phennah

GP/81/23 Parish Maintenance Contract

Tewkesbury Borough Council had passed on a complaint regarding the standard of grass cutting, however, it was noted that the first couple of cuts in the year were generally a bit messier than normal.

Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that no action was taken, however, Members should monitor the next couple of cuts and feedback any comments to the Clerk. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members considered ongoing maintenance of the recently cleared area on top of the embankment on Platinum Park. To have it flailed twice a year would be £1,000, however, this had not been budgeted for. It was AGREED that the Council should consider how to deal with this in October when the budgets were being set.

A complaint had been received about the overgrowth that was starting to come back on the 'island' along Northway Lane. It was AGREED that this should be passed on to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

GP/82/23 Drainage and Flooding

- i. **Reports** – No issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie (Flood Warden) was not present to give a report.

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GP/83/23 **'Report It'**

Overgrowth at the chicanes by Virginia Close and overgrowth blocking the humpback bridge traffic lights had been reported to Gloucestershire County Council.

GP/84/23 **Correspondence for Information**

None.

GP/85/23 **Correspondence Received After 11th May 2023**

- i. **RPM Bike Trails Display Team** – It was suggested these details be retained as they might be able to do a display at future events or at the new skatepark once in place.

There being no further business, the meeting 8.26 pm