

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 18th December 2024 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 G Fancourt
Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr K Poole
Cllr J Roberts Cllr S Terry

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

GP/159/24 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Beadle, Shelton and R Godwin. No further apologies for absence had been received.

GP/160/24 **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/161/24 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20th November 2024 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/162/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/130/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – A replacement swing seat was installed at the Play Park. It was noted that some of the other seats would soon need replacing and there was one spare seat in storage.

GP/130/24 Northway Playing Field > Back of Changing Rooms – The storage area behind Northway Village Hall and the Changing Rooms had been cleared of overgrowth.

GP/149/24 Northway Playing Field > Self Closing Gates – The mechanisms on both self-closing gates have been replaced and bollards installed to stop the gates being opened too far.

GP/149/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Skatepark – It was noted that brooms had not been purchased for use on the skatepark as mud had become less of an issue. The Litter Picker had also reported that some skaters brought their own brooms to sweep the facility before use. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that brooms were no longer purchased by the Council. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/149/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Skatepark – St Johns Ambulance's quotation for first aid cover at the Skatepark Opening Event on 31 May 2025 had been accepted.

GP/149/24 Northway Playing Field > Bin – One of the bins near to the skatepark had been relocated to outside Northway Village Hall.

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GP/162/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

GP/152/24 Flower Barrels – All of the flower barrels had been removed.

GP/156/24 Correspondence for Action > Northway Voice and Local Schools – The local infant and junior schools had been advised that they were able to have a regular slot in the newsletter, subject to space being available.

GP/163/24 **Northway Playing Field**

- i. **Northway Play Park** – Members received the inspection reports relating to Northway Play Park. No new issues were reported.
- ii. **Northway Skatepark**
 - a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the inspection reports relating to Northway Skatepark. No issues were raised; however, it was noted that the grass was growing back well.

Cllr Mackenzie reported some chips that had been made in the concrete surface of the Skatepark. It was suggested that photos of the damage should be forwarded to Maverick.
 - b. **Street Furniture** – A quotation for a wheelchair-accessible picnic bench had not yet been received.
 - c. **Lessons** – It was confirmed that the Council's application to Tewkesbury Borough Council's Community Health and Wellbeing grant had been successful and a grant of £1,000 had been approved towards 4 x full day skateboarding / scootering workshops. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance of the terms relating to this grant. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was confirmed that Team Rubicon had been booked to provide all-day workshops on 9th and 10th April as well as 29th and 30th May 2025. The Clerk's Assistant was asked to make enquiries as to whether there would be a booking system in place to allow people to sign up for the workshop.

Cllr Fancourt mentioned that he had spoken to some users of the Skatepark earlier in the week and they were very thankful for the new facility.

It was noted that some children writing letters to Santa had requested skateboards, bikes, roller-skates, and scooters, possibly as a result of the new facility.

Members considered whether to apply for more funding towards workshops, however it was suggested that the Council first waited to see how successful the upcoming sessions were.

- d. **Lighting** – A quotation of £24,84.00 had been received for installation of four light columns at Northway Skatepark. It was AGREED that this should be considered further under the next heading.
- e. **TNL Contingency** – The Clerk's Assistant had made enquiries with The National Lottery (TNL) Community Fund as to whether the contingency funds associated with the skatepark grant could be used towards any of the following:

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GP/163/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

1. The £5,000 (3rd party contribution) of Enover's £50,000 grant that the Council had to cover.
2. The solicitor funds that went over what was allocated towards this in the TNL Community Fund grant application.
3. A wheelchair-accessible picnic table.
4. Installation of lighting at the Skatepark.

TNL had indicated that there would be £20,960.08 remaining once the last payment (as well as retention) had been made. Because the project was planned to be for two years, with the Skatepark being the focus of further activity, TNL recommended that the Council *'identified an amount of the contingency to be taken into the project as revenue to ensure resources are in place to support activity and reporting'*. The Council was asked to indicate an amount that would cover this, then the remaining amount could be used for other matters, as listed above.

Members also felt strongly that there should be further skateboard/scooter workshops and events in the coming years. It was suggested that, if the upcoming workshops proved successful, the Council should start to look at potential funding for further activities.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the contingency fund should be used towards the above-mentioned options, in the priority of:

1. Debts (solicitor costs and Enover 3rd party contribution).
2. A wheelchair-accessible picnic bench.
3. Skatepark lighting (depending on how much is left).

Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- f. **Concrete Barrier** – Members considered whether the concrete barrier next to the skatepark should be relocated. It was AGREED that the barrier should be left where it was unless it became an issue at any in the future.
- g. **Other Action** – It was noted that all of the grant funding towards the skatepark had been received.

Enover had provided a copy of the press release that they had issued relating to their grant of £50,000. The Clerk had also completed a project questionnaire relating to the grant.

Cllr Poole had drafted an article for submission to Tewkesbury Direct and this had been forwarded, along with photographs of the skatepark.

- iii. **MUGA/Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports had been received. No new issues were raised. It was noted that Caloo were due to undertake an operational inspection of the outdoor gym equipment in January 2025.
- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. No new issues were raised.
- v. **Bush** – A request had been received for cutting back/removal of a bush at the back of Oak Drive houses as it was a hiding place for rats. Cllr MacTiernan felt that removal of the bush would not stop the issue of rats, therefore PROPOSED that no action was taken. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/163/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- vi. **Gate Opening** – It was noted that the Playing Field main gate would remain locked on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.
- vii. **Drainage** – It was confirmed that Gloucestershire County Council and County Cllr Vernon Smith were looking into the issue of drainage at Northway Playing Field.
- viii. **Other Action** – No other issues were raised.

GP/164/24 **Joan’s Field**

It was confirmed that two trees had been planted in Joan’s Field (Min Ref: GP/150/24 refers).

GP/165/24 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – The weekly inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Platinum Park Trees**
 - a. It was confirmed that the Coronation Orchard trees had been planted (Min Ref: GP/151/24 refers).
 - b. Delivery of trees to replace the ones that had died on Platinum Park was the week of Monday 13th January 2025.
- iii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/166/24 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

It was noted that, although the Clerk had tried to order more grit, this had not been possible due to low stock at the County Council.

It was noted that a bin along The Spine footpath (by Wheatstone Close) was rusted beyond repair. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this bin was replaced. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk mentioned a large tree between Styles Close and the palisade fencing at the Community Hub which was damaging the footpath and causing problems for neighbouring houses and which Bromford were refusing to accept responsibility for. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council contacted Gloucestershire County Council about the tree as it was causing damage to the pavement. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/167/24 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No drainage or flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie advised that there were no drainage and flooding issues locally.

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GP/168/24 **'Report It'**

The Clerk's Assistant listed issues that had been reported to various authorities over the past month, including flytipping along Hardwick Bank Road and drainage issues at Northway Playing Field.

GP/169/24 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **GRCC** – Details of courses for Volunteer Managers.

GP/170/24 **Correspondence Received After 12th December 2024**

- i. **Hedges Direct** – 'Make hedging a community effort in 2025'.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.02pm.