

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 18th September 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 J Beadle (Committee Vice Chairman)
Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr M Midwinter
Cllr J Roberts Cllr G Shelton
Cllr S Terry (until/from GP/117/24)

In attendance: PC C Matthews, Gloucestershire Constabulary (from C/110/24 until C/111/24)
PCSO J Diamond, Gloucestershire Constabulary (from C/110/24 until C/111/24)
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

GP/106/24 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Fancourt and Poole.

GP/107/24 **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/108/24 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 17th July 2024 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Barnes Cllr P Godwin
Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle Cllr Mackenzie
Cllr Midwinter Cllr Roberts

GP/109/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/61/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – Painting of the gate, boundary walls, roundabout and part of the Tripod swing had taken place.

GP/97/24 Northway Playing Field > Bin – The bin at the top of the Playing Field had been moved further from residential properties.

GP/97/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Skatepark – The liner in the bin by the skatepark had been replaced.

GP/97/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Skatepark – Skanska's offer of assistance was declined.

GP/97/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – The loose bolt on the Tripod swing had been tightened.

FIN/56/24 Changing Room Facility > S106 – SmartCut had been contracted to undertake pitch maintenance at Northway Playing Field

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/109/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

GP/100/24 Newsletter – The latest issue of Northway Voice had been delivered.

GP/110/24 **Northway Playing Field (Part 1)**

i. **Northway Play Park** – Members received the inspection reports relating to Northway Play Park. It was noted that –

- The bollards near to the Play Park had been repainted by the Litter Picker.
- Blue spray paint on the bench and picnic table could not be removed with graffiti wipes.
- Tiger mulch was still loose around the roundabout.
- Grass matting was visible and raised by the Red House. This had previously been reported but could not be rectified without moving part of the House.
- The Red House was very scratched.
- The trampoline pit was full of water.
- A panel of the Train had been chipped.
- The Natter Tubes were very dirty and required cleaning.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council considered what could be done about the trampoline pit at the General Purposes Committee in March, including, if possible, drilling a hole in the bottom. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

a. **Inspection Reports** – No reports were available due work that was taking place at the Skatepark.

b. **Skatepark Project**

Members were informed that the Deed of Dedication relating to the skatepark, as required by The National Lottery Community Fund, had now been signed and completed. As such, Maverick had been given permission to start work on the site. The Council's solicitors had invoiced for their work on the Deed which amounted to £2,517.68.

The Funding Officer had arranged a further meeting with the Clerk to discuss how payment claims should be submitted.

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association had advised that they usually issued payment of grants following completion of the project. It had been confirmed that this would not be a problem.

7.10pm – PC Matthews and PCSO Diamond joined the meeting.

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that item 11 on the agenda (Hawthorn Way) was brought forward following the arrival of Gloucestershire Constabulary representatives.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/111/24 **Hawthorn Way**

PCSO Diamond referred to a letter that had been sent to Hawthorn Way residents regarding ball games and goal posts on the green (Min Ref: C/189/24 refers).

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/111/24 **Hawthorn Way** (continued)

She explained that she and PCSO Owen had spent a lot of time talking to residents and trying to resolve issues. The letter had requested that ball games were not played on the green (although badminton/similar would be permitted), however, residents that had attended the Full Council Meeting on 11th September 2024 were claiming that the Parish Council had given permission for the goal posts to be re-instated on the green. The police felt that this was giving mixed signals and undoing the work that they had done.

PCSO Diamond made the Council aware of an incident where a child ran out in front of the police vehicle in pursuit of a ball, which raised a safety issue.

The Council clarified that the residents attending the Full Council meeting had been listened to but no decision had been made as it was not included on the agenda. The Council had explained, again, that it would be liable for goal posts situated on its land meaning it would need to undertake inspections and maintenance, which is why residents were asked to remove them.

Members referred to reports of racist remarks which the residents raised at the meeting. PCSO Diamond explained that the police had received no 'official' reports of racism, they had only heard things from third parties and the people in question had been reluctant to open up to the police. The Council had encouraged residents to report incidents and request an incident number to make it formal.

PCSO Diamond felt that there needed to be a clear and concise response from the Parish Council regarding what was/was not allowed in Hawthorn Way.

Cllr Beadle recalled that residents had said that the children were of a young age – not teenagers – and he would hate to discourage them from playing outside.

Cllr Barnes PROPOSED that the Council wrote to residents of Hawthorn Way to clarify the Council's position with regard to placement of goal posts on the green and also request use of soft balls when playing football and encourage playing of other games such as badminton.

Cllr MacTiernan requested that the letter should also ask that parents supervise their children – and refer to the incident where a child ran out in front of the police vehicle. Cllr Barnes accepted this addition to his proposal.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

7.35pm – PC Matthews and PCSO Diamond left the meeting.

Members wondered whether installation of play equipment on the green in Hawthorn Way might be something to consider in the future.

GP/112/24 **Northway Playing Field (Part 2)**

ii. **Northway Skatepark** (continued)

- b. **Skatepark Project** – The Clerk mentioned that the Funding Officer would be happy to have photos taken using the bunting, flags, giant cheque that the Lottery had supplied. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this was arranged. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/112/24 **Northway Playing Field (Part 2)**

- iii. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received, no issues were raised.
- iv. **Overhanging Trees** – Members were shown photographs of overgrowth and overhanging trees encroaching into the storage area at the back of the Village Hall and Changing Rooms. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that a quotation should be sought for cutting this back. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- v. **Overgrowth** – Members were reminded of a previous agreement to cut back overgrowth at the back of two Oak Drive properties (Min Ref: GP/80/24 refers). It was noted that a quotation of £300 had been received for cutting back of the whole of this section.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that, due to a conflict of interest (in that Councillors lived in these houses) and the fact that winter would cause some of the overgrowth to die back, no action should be taken. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vi. **Joe's Day** – A risk assessment and copy of PLI information had been received in relation to Joe's Day which took place at Northway Playing Field on 1st September 2024.
- vii. **Other Issues** – It was confirmed that money had now been received in relation to vandalism of the Play Park (Min Ref: C/177/24 refers).

GP/113/24 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Stile** – Cllr Terry PROPOSED that cost for repair of the stile in Joan's Field should be ratified. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Footpath** – A quotation of £300 had been received for recompacting the path in Joan's Field. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the quotation should be accepted. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Fancourt had emailed about overgrowth in Joan's Field as well as an elder that was growing up next to another tree. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that no action was taken. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Shelton had reported a dead tree in Joan's Field. Cllr Godwin offered to find out what variety of tree it was. Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the tree should be replaced when the variety was known. No further votes were received.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED removal of the dead tree. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/114/24 **Platinum Park**

i. **Teenage Shelter** – The weekly inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No issues were raised.

ii. **Platinum Park Trees**

a. The Parish Council had not yet received a response regarding its application to the Coronation Community Orchard Grant Scheme (Min Ref: GP/99/24 refers).

b. Gloucestershire County Council had provided suggestions of trees that might do well planted in a wet area, these included Holly, Silver Birch, Hawthorn and Crab Apple. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council requested two of each to replace the dead trees on Platinum Park. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

c. It was confirmed that one of the Coronation Oak trees had been broken and needed replacing (Min Ref: GP/99/24 refers). A branch had been snapped off of the second tree but it still had leaves.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the broken/dead tree should be replaced with one of the Council's spare Oak trees, either by a councillor (if the guard could be easily unbolted) or a contractor, if necessary. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

iii. **Bollards** – Members had previously requested a price for replacing the wooden bollards with galvanised, concrete-filled bollards as/when they needed replacing. NB Hartell had made enquiries but considered the galvanised option to be unaffordable. Several other options were tabled.

Councillors considered whether the bollards should keep being replaced with like-for-like wooden posts, which were more aesthetically pleasing, or concrete filled ones.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should obtain a quotation for replacing all of the bollards (approximately ninety in total) with concrete filled posts so that it could have a more informed debate regarding best value for money and whether the Council would break even over a number of years. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

iv. **Goal Post** – It was noted that a goal post had been placed on Platinum Park. Cllr Mackenzie pointed out that the children using it had not caused any problems and appeared to have a lot of fun playing football there. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that nothing should be done unless an issue or problem arose.

Before voting, Members considered whether the Council could justify allowing the playing of football with a goal post here, when it had asked for removal of the posts in Hawthorn Way (Min Ref: GP/111/24 refers).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that a letter should be written to the residents believed to have placed the goal post on the green asking them to remove it and explaining the reason why (insurance purposes).

Cllr Roberts asked whether it was worth the Council considering putting permanent goal posts on Platinum Park, however, Cllr MacTiernan argued that the land was not intended to be used for playing of football, especially as it was close to a busy road.

Cllr Terry SECONDED Cllr MacTiernan's proposal.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/114/24 **Platinum Park** (continued)

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Midwinter
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle

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

GP/115/24 **Newsletter**

Members considered items for inclusion in the next issue of Northway Voice, suggestions included: Council Christmas event, Skatepark progress and opening event, new councillor, update on Community Speedwatch camera, Northway Village Hall and Boxing Clever update (including news of grant for new windows and doors), information on ball games/goal posts and liability and give opportunity for PCSO's to write an article. It was AGREED that this list should be forwarded to Members.

GP/116/24 **Trees**

- i. **Oak Drive Trees** – It was noted that the Borough Council had still not confirmed planting of the trees in Oak Drive, despite numerous emails being sent to them. It was AGREED that the Community and Place Development Officer should be asked to try and chase this up.
- ii. **Free Trees** – Members received an offer of two free trees, a Hazel and a Rowan. Cllr Terry PROPOSED acceptance, and that the dead tree on Joan's Field should be replaced with the Rowan. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk mentioned that 3 or 4 small Horse Chestnut trees had been donated to the Council in memory of Brian Trenfield (who had found the conkers which were then planted).

- iii. **Ash Dieback Project** – Correspondence had been received regarding the Ash Dieback Project. No action was agreed.

GP/117/24 **Flower Barrels**

It was noted that there had been no response to the Council's article asking for volunteers to look after the flower barrels. Cllrs Fancourt and Barnes had done some planting in the barrels on Joan's Field and Platinum Park.

Cllr Mackenzie reported that the metal banding was coming off one of the barrels on Platinum Park and he felt this was dangerous.

8.45pm – Cllr Terry left the meeting.

Members considered whether the Council should take on responsibility of the barrels, which had been put in place by Northway Community Volunteers (NCV). Cllr Godwin was asked whether NCV could maintain or remove the barrels, however, she explained that they no longer had the funds for this.

8.47pm – Cllr Terry rejoined the meeting.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/117/24 **Flower Barrels** (continued)

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council obtained quotations for removal of all the barrels versus one at a time. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/118/24 **Safe Avon**

- i. **Water Testing** – It was noted that Cllr Shelton had been undertaking the SafeAvon water tests for a number of weeks (Min Ref: GP/95/24 refers). Cllrs Mackenzie and Cllr Fancourt, as well as the Clerk's Assistant and the Litter Picker/Caretaker, had also been trained in the water testing so that there would always be someone available.
- ii. **Local Talk** – Members received an offer of a local talk on river pollution. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this offer was declined. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members wondered whether a more condensed version of this talk could be incorporated into the Parish Assembly.

GP/119/24 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **TBC Grass Cutting** – Members considered whether the Council would like to renew the grass cutting contract with Tewkesbury Borough Council, if it was happy to continue with the existing arrangement.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council wrote to Tewkesbury Borough Council saying that it assumed the contract would continue/renew on the same basis, unless it heard different. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Bus Shelter / Phone Box Cleaning** – Members went through quotations previously received for bus shelter cleaning (Min Ref: GP/102/24 refers). Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council contacted CW Cleaning and accept their quotation, if it still stood. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Fairway Footpath** – Members considered adding the footpath between Fairway and Northway Lane to the regular maintenance list. It was noted that Severn Vale had planted the plants along the footpath when the Gwen Davies Row and Styles Close houses were developed, however Bromford denied responsibility for the alleyway.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council sought a quotation for maintenance of the alleyway, to be considered at the budget setting meeting. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/120/24 **Winter Maintenance**

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this item was deferred to a future meeting. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/121/24 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No reports were received.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie passed on the concerns of a resident regarding flooding in Oak Drive. He had reported the issue on Fix My Street and requested drain clearance.

GP/122/24 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authorities since the previous Committee meeting:

Condition of The Park road.
Broken tree branch on the area opposite the Northway Centre.
Tree between Northway Community Hub and Styles Close.
Fly tipping by brook, Old Farm Lane.
Path from A46 railway bridge to station very overgrown.
Fly tipping Hardwick Bank Road.
Leaning telegraph pole Virginia Road.
Overhanging bushes on The Park.
Parking issues in Grange Court.
Nettles at The Northway Centre.
Saxon Park antisocial behaviour (the Council was copied in to correspondence).

GP/123/24 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Ashchurch Graveyard** – A letter had been received relating to maintenance of the graveyard at St Nicholas Church. Cllr Terry reported that the issues had now been resolved and the area was well kept.
- ii. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council**
 - a. MET Office community resilience online training. Cllrs Beadle and Barnes requested further information.
 - b. Community Consultation Information Session – 14th October 2024.
 - c. Dates of Flood Warden induction sessions for new and existing volunteers. Cllr Mackenzie asked for a copy of this correspondence.

GP/124/24 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Skanska** – Confirmation that Skanska had cleared up the area around the Iron Bridge.
- ii. **Go Volunteer Glos** – Details of this group.
- ii. **SafeAvon** – August 2024 update.
- iii.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/124/24 **Correspondence for Information** (continued)

- iv. **Make Space for Girls** – Newsletter 32.
- v. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council** – Flood Warden Meeting minutes (June).
- vi. **Gloucestershire County Council and NHS Gloucestershire** – Information on the Care Advice Line (TCAL).
- vii. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association** – The Playing Field newsletter (Summer 2024) with mention of the grant towards Northway skatepark.
- viii. **Rural Services Network** – Bulletin.
- ix. **Groundwork UK** – Summer 2024 newsletter.

GP/125/24 **Correspondence Received After 11th July 2024**

- i. **Thriving Communities** – Details of Grant fund for 2025. Cllr Terry asked for more information regarding this.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.20pm.