

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/57/23 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

S/10/23 Staff Training – The Council's play inspector had been booked on to a RoSPA training course as her license was due to expire in October.

GP/58/23 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. A small amount of graffiti had been noted on the red house, also there appeared to be a burn mark in the tiger mulch, the red concrete wall had been damaged and the plastic pipe had been removed from all of the swing frames. It was also noted that children had made a den of pallets behind the palisade fencing.

RoSPA had undertaken the annual play equipment inspection. Issues relating to the Play Park were as follows:

- Wheelchair Swing: Body trap present, failed test for heavy or rigid suspension parts (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: The usual ground clearance for a heavy suspended item would be 400mm. As this item is designed for wheelchair users this is not recommended. Monitor.

Wheelchair Swing: Rigid suspension mechanisms (total length) are not permitted (Risk level: Low).

Tasks: No reasonably practicable action is identified.

- Cableway: Chain links notched (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Replace the worn parts.
- Carousel – Flush (Roundabout): Bolt(s) missing (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Replace missing bolt(s).

Carousel – Flush (Roundabout): Bearings require service (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Service the bearings.

Carousel – Flush (Roundabout): Item has corrosion (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Treat and repair.

Carousel – Flush (Roundabout): The flush carousel has gaps exceeding the permitted 8mm. (Risk level: Medium). Note: Worn bearing is creating crush points at edge.

Tasks: Refer to manufacturer for comment.

- Carousel – Giant Disc: Item edges are worn (Risk level: Very low).
Tasks: Minor damage. Monitor.
- Play Train: Laminate damaged (Risk level: Very low).
Tasks: Rub down and treat damaged edges.
- Swing – Group: Bearings require service (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Service the bearings.
- Swing – Group: Item is cracked. Rectangular plate at top of universal joint is cracking in two areas (Risk level: High).
Tasks: Replace.

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GP/58/23 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- Trampoline: Surface has poor drainage. Item is full of water (Risk level: Low)
Tasks: Improve the drainage.
- Gates: Paintwork in poor condition (Risk level: Very low).
Tasks: De-scale back to good base material and coat with lead free paint, using appropriate precautions. Repairs may be necessary where corrosion is severe.
- Pathway: The surface is cracking (Risk level: Very low).
Tasks: No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the medium and high risk issues were dealt with as well as painting of the gate, roundabout corrosion and servicing of the swing (group) bearings.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the other low risk items should be deferred until receipt of the next RoSPA report. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Wheelchair Swing** – It was confirmed that a contractor had repaired the hasp on the gate of the wheelchair swing area, although it was noted that it was difficult to lock the radar padlock due to the angle. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that, if the padlock disappeared again, the gate should be left unlocked. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The contractor had also drilled a hole in the base of the cabinet to allow water to drain away. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the cost of repair to the hasp and drilling of a hole in the cabinet should be ratified. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

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

RoSPA had undertaken the annual play equipment inspection. Issues relating to the Skate Park were as follows:

- Overall site – The surface is cracking (Risk level: Low)
Tasks: Repair.
- Fun Box – The transition between ground and unit exceeds 5mm. Slight lip on transition out of ramps (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Modify.
- Grind Box – Bolt(s) missing (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Replace missing bolt(s).
- Half Pipe – Hole(s) found (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Repair.

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GP/58/23 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Half Pipe – Riding surface would benefit from repainting to make less slippery (Risk level: Low)
Tasks: Repair.

Half Pipe – Standard Compliance Finding: Barriers of minimum height 1200mm should be fitted (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Half Pipe – Standard Compliance Finding: The distance between the top of the platform and the lower edge of the barrier should not exceed 60mm (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: No reasonably practicable action is identified.

- Driveway (with Rail) – Standard Compliance Finding: The transition between ground and unit exceeds 5mm (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Modify.
- Wave Ramp – The concrete is not in good condition (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Repair.

b. **Skatepark Project** – It was confirmed that an application for funding (£120,000) had been submitted to the National Lottery Fund. Cllr Terry thanked the Clerk's Assistant for her work on this application.

iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received. It had been noted that some areas of paint had started to come off. It was hoped that Caloo would touch up these sections when they next undertook the annual maintenance/inspection of the equipment.

RoSPA had undertaken the annual play equipment inspection. Issues relating to the MUGA and outdoor gym area were as follows:

- Basketball Post (in car park) – Backboard is cracked (Risk level: Very low).
Tasks: No reasonably practicable action is identified.

Basketball Post (in car park) – Net is damaged (Risk level: Very low).
Tasks: Replace.

- MUGA – Bolt(s) missing (Risk level: Medium).
Tasks: Replace missing bolt(s). Cllr Ward PROPOSED that any missing bolts were replaced.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

MUGA – Panel is damaged (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Repair.

MUGA – Surface is crumbling/worn leaving an abrasive texture (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Replace.

iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received, however, no new issues were raised.

RoSPA, in their annual inspection report of the BMX Humps had raised the following issues:

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GP/58/23 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- Cycle/BMX Track – Surface is uneven (Risk level: Low).
Tasks: Make good

Cycle/BMX Track – No clear start/finish or indication of correct direction of travel (Risk level: Low).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED no action was taken relating to the BMX Track. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- v. **Lighting** – A quotation for electrical work to the external light at the Changing Rooms was still being awaited. It was AGREED that this should be deferred until the next meeting.
- vi. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/59/23 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts was not present to give a report following inspection of Joan's Field for Giant Hogweed (Min Ref: GP/40/23 refers).
- ii. **Bulb Planting** – Northway Community Volunteers were offering to plant bulbs alongside the path in Joan's Field or close to the new access. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should accept this offer but ask for confirmation of where the bulbs would be planted. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Crab Apple Tree** – Members noted that a 5-6 ft crab apple tree would cost £68.00 (Min Ref: GP/40/23 refers). Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that a tree should be purchased and planted in Joan's Field, as previously agreed, (Min Ref: GP/22/23 and GP/40/23 refer). Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that, once planted, a wooden tree guard should be installed around the crab apple tree at a cost of £100. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Other Issues** – Cllr Mackenzie had emailed photographs to the office of what appeared to be a natural defect in the new footbridge into Joan's Field where a knot had come out and left a hole in the wood. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that this should be monitored so that it did not become a trip hazard and he offered to take another look when he was back from travelling. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/60/23 **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/60/23 **Platinum Park** (continued)

- ii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Shelton offered to plant bulbs around the trees and benches later in the year if the Parish Council offered to cover the cost of the bulbs. It was AGREED that this should be put on the next General Purposes agenda.

It was noted that watering of the trees had not yet been organised due to recent heavy rainfall.

GP/61/23 **Make Space for Girls**

It was reported that a mother and daughter had taken the time to respond to the Council's 'Make Space for Girls' article in the Northway Voice and Members received their feedback and suggestions. These included: better lighting, more play equipment (i.e. climbing wall/frame), fire pit, graffiti paths, designated sitting/dance space for girls (fenced off), park warden, toilets, area for growing veg, big swing, space for running/dancing with no dogs allowed.

It was felt that some of the suggestions deserved further consideration. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the list should be forwarded to Members of the Committee so that they could ponder what might be achievable and possibly consider budget for in the future. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/62/23 **Flower Barrels**

Following the Parish Council's article in the Northway Voice inviting residents to 'adopt a barrel', Northway Community Volunteers (NCV) had approached the Council with the suggestion of offering residents the opportunity to adopt their existing barrels which they would repair/replace as necessary before handing them over.

It was noted that there had been no response to the initial article, however, Cllr Terry PROPOSED that it should be mentioned in the next issue of Northway Voice and interested residents should be directed to contact NCV. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/63/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **'No Mow' Sign** – The Clerk explained that there had been an agreement with Tewkesbury Borough Council and a resident that a small grassed area in Grange Court should be left to grow wild, unfortunately, the Parish Council's grass cutters had accidentally mown the area but assured that this would not happen again.

Tewkesbury Borough Council had approached the Parish Council to request consideration of a 'No Mow' sign (which could even be a laminated sign attached to a piece of wood).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, since the arrangement was between Tewkesbury Borough Council and the resident, they should pay for/arrange placement of a sign on the land. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/63/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract** (continued)

- ii. **Other Issues** – Following the Council’s agreement to contact Bromford Housing about the alleyway between Spruce Close and Virginia Road (Min Ref: GP/173/22 refers), a Bromford representative had confirmed their ownership. They had also sent a photograph of the alleyway which they felt did not require maintenance.

Cllr MacTiernan suggested that Bromford should be asked to include this in a regular maintenance schedule and do regular checks and deal with any issues as necessary. It was added that Northway Infants School should be copied into this correspondence.

GP/64/23 **Northway Community Hub**

SmartCut had been contacted for advice on how to deal with two gaps that had appeared in the hedge between Northway Community Hub and Lee Walk. They had provided a quotation for 10m of weld mesh fencing but had been asked to call and discuss options further as the Council had had in mind plants/bushes that could fill the gaps.

It was AGREED that this item should be deferred until more information was available.

Cllr Ward mentioned a neighbour of his had purchased an expanding hedge plant that, after planting, was opened up and filled a gap, although he was unsure what these were called.

GP/65/23 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – Cllr Terry reported that there had been a water leak at the roundabout by Ashchurch Station. Cllr Ward confirmed that this was in hand.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie (Flood Warden) reported that there were currently no flooding or drainage issues in the parish.

GP/66/23 **‘Report It’**

The Clerk’s Assistant confirmed that a pothole in Lee Road and overgrown leylandii trees in the alleyway between Kingston Road and Northway Lane had been reported to the relevant authorities.

GP/67/23 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Glasdon** – Product booklet.

GP/68/23 **Correspondence Received After 13th April 2023**

- i. **Make Space for Girls** – Newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting 8.02pm