

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:08 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Committee Chairman) (until/ from GP/11/22 & GP/12/22) Cllr S Terry (Vice Chair)  
Cllr P Godwin Cllr Barnes  
Cllr G Shelton Cllr J Roberts  
Cllr T Treacy

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

### GP/01/22 **Apologies for Absence**

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

### GP/02/22 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (Min Ref C/159/12), including paragraph 12(2).

### GP/03/22 **Previous Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 had been circulated to Members. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Treacy SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Terry	Cllr Treacy
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Roberts
	Cllr Shelton	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Barnes

### GP/04/22 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

**GP/182/21 Northway Playing Field** – *The damaged sign at the entrance to the Play Park had been removed.*

**GP/187/21 Drainage and Flooding** – *The Parish Council had informed Tewkesbury BC that it did not want a supply of sandbags.*

**GP/137/21 Parish Maintenance Contract > Weed Killing** – *SmartCut had been contracted to undertake weedkilling in the parish during April 2022.*

**GP/157/21 Parish Maintenance > Ongoing Contracts** – *The Council's contract with SmartCut had been renewed for the 2022/23 financial year.*

### GP/05/22 **Northway Playing Field**

#### i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the play park were received. It was noted that a section of the fencing had been bent and there was also a hole in the ground beneath the play train which could cause someone to fall.

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GP/05/22 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the hole should be filled with topsoil and offered to do this.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Wheelchair Swing** – It was noted that installation of the wheelchair swing had been delayed until mid February.

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – No issues were raised.
- b. **Tender Notice** – It was confirmed that a tender notice had been posted online (Min Ref: GP/127/21 refers) with a deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> February. Several firms had expressed an interest in tendering, one of which had attended a site meeting with the Clerk, Clerk's Assistant, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Terry. Local users of the facility had also been contacted by the firm and were in attendance at the meeting to give their views.

iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received, it was noted that the MUGA fencing and basketball hoops were very dirty. Also, the recently installed rower was loose in the ground.
- b. **Update on Installation of Gym Equipment (Min Ref: GP/147/21)** – It was confirmed that the outdoor gym area had, at last, been tarmacked. However it had been noted that there were numerous paint chips on the equipment, some of which were going rusty, the tarmac patching was untidy and the rower was loose in the ground.

Members felt that the rower was verging on dangerous as it had become looser in the days following installation and if used it could become unstable enough to topple.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that a 'do not use' notice was put on the rower.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was noted that concerns had been emailed to the installers the day after 'completion' although only an acknowledgement had been received a response to the issues was still being awaited.

Cllr Treacy PROPOSED that the firm were contacted again and given until the following week to advise when and how the issues would be resolved. If a response was not received, the Council should seek further advice and, if necessary, withhold payment. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **BMX Humps** – Inspection reports relating to the BMX humps had been received. No issues were raised. It was noted that a local BMXer had commented that the humps would be a lot better if maintained. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should get someone to have a look and offer advice and prices. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/05/22 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- v. **Lighting** – The Clerk had contacted Wheatpieces Parish Council to enquire about outdoor lighting at the MUGA there. Wheatpieces' Parish Clerk had explained that lighting had reduced antisocial behaviour but other steps had also been taken and Members were given details of these.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that no action was taken until it was established whether lighting would be included as part of the skatepark upgrade. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vi. **Other Issues** – None.

GP/06/22 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Motorised Vehicles** – Advice had been sought from two local contractors on how to stop people bringing small, motorised vehicles onto Joan's Field via the Sallis Close walkway. One had suggested installation of posts which would cost between £154.05 and £308.10 (depending on whether one post or two was required). The other contractor had suggested an A-Frame barrier and supply/installation of this would cost £974.00.

Cllr Treacy had met one of the contractors and pointed out that there seemed to be a bit of the stile missing, however, it was felt that this may have been removed to aid users of the field in climbing over.

It was noted that there were not enough funds in the Joan's Field budget heading to cover the work. It was suggested that perhaps the work could be postponed until the new access was being installed and then done at the same time.

Cllr Treacy PROPOSED that some councillors went to look at the site before the next General Purposes Meeting in order to establish how many bollards were needed and what height they should be. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **New Access** – The original contractor who had agreed to construct a bridge access into Joan's Field had confirmed that he would still be willing to undertake the work (Min Ref: GP183/21 refers). Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Clerk's Assistant should try and get an update on timescale before the next General Purposes Committee Meeting. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Issues** – None.

GP/07/22 **The Park Amenity Land**

- i. **Inspection Report** – No issues were raised following inspections of the Teenage Shelter.
- ii. **Circus** – Members had been circulated a rough plan of where the Circus manager hoped to site the tent and equipment in September (Min Ref: GP/183/21 refers), which was in the south-east corner of the field. It was noted that this was close to the public

access/walkway into the field and also the 'boggy' area – although this should not cause too much of a problem so long as the weather had been dry.

It was suggested that the Council consider allowing use of the Playing Field (not pitches) and car park for parking and having a volunteer to oversee pedestrians crossing Northway Lane. It was AGREED that this should be put on the next General Purposes for further discussion.

Cllr Roberts recalled that the Circus manager had mentioned that a donation would be made to the Parish Council, he asked that this was reconfirmed.

iii. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

a. **English Oak Trees**

1. The Clerk's Assistant had written to the local schools about the possibility of them being guardians or custodians of the trees (Min Ref: GP/171/21 refers). Both schools had expressed that they would love to be involved and would await further information on what this entailed.
2. It was confirmed that the Oak trees had been delivered and the guards were due to arrive the following week. Planting of the trees needed to take place quite urgently according to the instructions which had been sent along with the saplings and so it was suggested that the plaques could be installed at a later date (closer to the Jubilee).

Cllr Ward suggested that the trees were planted in the centre of the field (in line with the teenage shelter / Long Eights junction) and 50ft apart. Several councillors offered to assist with planting

With regard to the schools, it was queried what their roles would entail. Cllr Roberts suggested that each of the schools could 'adopt' a trees and keep a watchful eye over it as it grew. Due to the trees needing to be planted imminently it was felt that the schools might like to know about and/or be involved in the naming ceremony and plaque unveiling on The Park.

A further suggestion was made that the schools might like to plant a time capsule with the trees, although it was a bit late notice and perhaps the Council could also plant a 'roll of honours' list of councillors.

- a. **Build Back Better** – It was confirmed that County Cllr Smith had submitted the Council's application for funding (Min Ref: GP/151/21 refers).

It was AGREED that councillors should undertake a site visit to establish where more trees would be planted (if this funding application was successful) and whether any brambles would need to be removed beforehand.

- iv. **Other Issues** – It was suggested that a new 'Platinum Park' name sign should be installed on The Park in time for the Jubilee celebrations. It was AGREED that councillors should consider location of the sign when on site to plant the trees. Further discussions relating to wording, prices, funding, etc. should be held at the next General Purposes Committee Meeting.

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

### GP/08/22 **Tree**

A quotation of £100 had been received for cutting back a tree in Kingston Road (Min Ref: GP/185/21 refers). Cllr Ward PROPOSED acceptance of this quotation. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### GP/09/22 **Newsletter**

Members considered articles for inclusion in the next issue of Northway Voice. Suggestions included:

Circus coming to Northway  
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (possibly in form of loose flyer)  
Renaming of The Park  
Oak Tree planting  
Daffodil planting  
Details of the precept  
Update on the outdoor gym  
Update on the wheelchair swing  
Update on the skatepark  
Update on new access into Joan's Field  
Parish Assembly and details of fraud presentation  
Details of the proposed 20mph scheme  
Details of vacancies on the Council  
Q&A with the Chairman  
Covid-19 update

Cllr Ward asked that any councillors wishing to write an article should forward them by the end of February 2022.

### GP/10/22 **Phonebox Library**

Councillors considered a suggestion that the phonebox in Hardwick Bank Road, which housed a defibrillator, should be used as a library/book exchange. Concerns were raised that this might hinder access to the defibrillator or put it at risk. Cllr Terry mentioned that some parishes had installed shelves inside bus shelters to allow for books to be stored in them, she wondered if this might be a better idea.

It was noted that the initial suggestion had come from Cllr Phennah who was willing to oversee and check on the phonebox regularly if the Council agreed to the idea. Cllr Roberts felt that the concerns raised should be passed back to Cllr Phennah to see whether he was able to offer any reassurance or further information that could be brought back to the next General Purposes Meeting. AGREED.

### GP/11/22 **Birdbox**

8:40pm – Cllr Ward left the meeting.

It was reported that a bird box had been donated to the Council. Members considered where this might be installed. Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the tree warden should be asked if he might install this in the Kingston Road tree when cutting it back (Min Ref: GP/08/22 refers). Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/12/22 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **TBC/GCC Grass Cutting** – A meeting had had taken place between Cllrs Terry, Ward, the Clerk and Pete Tonge, Tewkesbury Borough Council, to discuss the ongoing grass cutting arrangements for 2022/23 (Min Ref: GP/173/21 refers).

Cllr Terry informed Members that Mr Tonge had agreed to increase the Borough Council's contribution towards the grass cutting by £500 (so this would now amount to £2500 contribution in total). Cllrs Terry and Ward were thanked for negotiating a better deal for the Council.

- ii. **Other Issues** – It was confirmed that SmartCut had sent a schedule of works for upcoming maintenance in 2022/23.

8:43pm – Cllr Ward rejoined the meeting.

GP/13/22 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No drainage/flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Treacy confirmed that there were no drainage/flooding issues to report.

GP/14/22 **'Report It'**

A broken road sign in Tug Wilson Close had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council for the third time.

GP/15/22 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association** – Annual Report.

GP/16/22 **Correspondence received after 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

None received.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.43pm.