

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 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 G Fancourt    Cllr P Godwin  
                         Cllr P Mackenzie                                        Cllr E MacTiernan  
                         Cllr K Poole    Cllr J Roberts  
                         Cllr G Shelton    Cllr S Terry

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

GP/145/24    **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence had been received.

GP/146/24    **Declarations of Interest**

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

GP/147/24    **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR:                            Cllr Mackenzie    Cllr Beadle  
   Cllr Fancourt    Cllr P Godwin  
   Cllr MacTiernan                                        Cllr Roberts  
   Cllr Terry

ABSTENTIONS:            Cllr Barnes    Cllr Poole  
   Cllr Shelton

GP/148/24    **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

***GP/97/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – The Aerial runway cable had been tightened.***

***GP/130/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – A replacement swing seat had been ordered and the frog bin liner had been replaced.***

***GP/130/24 Northway Playing Field > Northway Playing Field > Back of Changing Rooms – The quotation for maintenance was accepted and SmartCut have been asked to do this on an annual basis, going forward.***

***GP/132/24 Platinum Park Trees – Cllrs Mackenzie and Shelton replaced the dead Jubilee Oak tree.***

***GP/133/24 Newsletter – The newsletter had been delivered to residential properties in Northway.***

***GP/137/24 Parish Maintenance Contract > Fairway Footpath – Bromford had been advised that the hedge along this alleyway was too high and Sycamore trees needed removing. They***

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GP/148/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

*had since responded that this was not their responsibility. SmartCut were asked to maintain this regularly from April 2025.*

**GP/138/24 Winter Maintenance** – Cllr Mackenzie had topped-up the Saxon Park grit bin and the Clerk had ordered more bags of grit to store at the Community Hub.

**GP/142/24 Correspondence for Action** – Thanks was passed on to Skanska following clearance work by the iron bridge. Unfortunately, an article was not able to be published in the newsletter as it would have required clearance by Skanska’s comms team, for which there was not enough time.

*Members received an email from a local resident who was pleased with how much better the area around the bridge was looking since Skanska’s work.*

GP/149/24 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the inspection reports relating to Northway Play Park. No new issues were reported.
- b. **Self-Closing Gates** – It was noted that neither of the self-closing gates were now working. Previously, wooden stakes had been put in the ground to stop them being opened beyond where they should be. These had been removed at some point which is likely why the mechanisms had failed. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the mechanisms were replaced, and concrete posts installed, with a budget of up to £1,000.00. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Aerial Runway** – It was noted that a replacement bush was required for the Aerial Runway to eliminate the finger trap raised in RoSPA’s previous report. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED purchase and installation. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Construction of the skatepark had completed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. An inspection of the skatepark had been carried out by RoSPA on the same morning and their report confirmed that there were no issues.

The Council’s Play Inspector had undertaken a report three days after the facility had been open for use and this highlighted the issue of soil being walked, ridden or thrown onto the concrete surface making it muddy and unsafe. Several comments had also been made on social media about the mud.

Maverick had advised that there was little that could be done about the mud, other than encouraging skaters to ‘bring a broom’. Alternatively, the Council could leave a broom on site, hidden or locked in a cabinet, for responsible people to use. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the Council provided brooms for people who were willing to act as ‘Skate-keepers’ of the facility and give it a sweep from time to time. This should be advertised on social media. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/149/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Members considered planting more grass seed but felt this should be deferred until spring.

- b. **Construction** – Members were shown aerial photographs of the completed skatepark. An 'As Built' file had also been provided by Maverick.
- c. **Funding** – It was noted that the completed grant agreement had been received from Enovert and they were in the process of putting together a press release.

The hard copy of the Deed of Dedication, signed and sealed by the National Lottery, had been received.

Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association had been forwarded invoices and photographs relating to the skatepark ahead of payment of their grant.

The Clerk mentioned that M5Nine church had mentioned that they would like to make a contribution to the skatepark.

- d. **School Visits** – Out of the schools who had been contacted, Northway Infant School and Carrant Brook School had accepted the offer for a site visit with Maverick at the skatepark. These had been very successful, and photographs were tabled.
- e. **Street Furniture** – Photographs were shown of the bin, bench and picnic table locations around the skatepark.

Members felt that it would be beneficial to have a wheelchair-accessible picnic bench installed close to the skatepark. Cllr Fancourt PROPOSED that the Council should investigate costing, location (taking into account proximity to pitch), and potential funding (perhaps from the Lottery's contingency fund or M5Nine). Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- f. **Opening Event** – The Dogs had confirmed that they would be attending the event with a burger van and ice cream van.

St Johns Ambulance had quoted £148.50 to provide first aid cover at the event. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members considered whether any extra bins would be required for the event. It was AGREED that the Council could bring black bin bags or 'skip bags' for disposal of litter on the day.

- g. **Lessons** – Quotations for full or half day skateboarding/scootering workshops had been received from Camp Rubicon. A full day of lessons for various ages and abilities, and including girls only lessons, would cost £360. The Clerk's Assistant had applied for £1,440 from Tewkesbury Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Grant. Cllr Terry PROPOSED ratification of this application. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Camp Rubicon had said that they would be available to run full-day workshops at the skatepark on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May, ahead of the opening event. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that these dates were booked. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/149/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that, since the Council had previously committed to having four sessions in the first year of the skatepark being open, two further days should be booked during the easter holidays, if there was availability. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- h. **Publicity** – It was noted that the next issue of Tewkesbury Borough News was not until March, if the Council wanted to submit an article regarding the new skatepark and the opening event.

Tewkesbury Direct had confirmed that they would be willing to print an article if one was submitted. Cllr Poole offered to write this. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED approval. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- i. **Lighting** – It was noted that several requests had been received for installation of lighting at the skatepark. A quotation for LED floodlights had been requested from a company recommended by Maverick, however, this had not yet been received. The company providing the quotation had advised that solar lighting would not be an option as it would not provide enough light and if someone were to be injured the Council could be liable.

Members considered whether this was something the Council should progress, considering the impact on nearby houses, concern was also raised that antisocial problems that could increase if lighting was installed.

The Clerk reminded Members that County Councillor Smith had offered £5,000 funding for something in Northway. She also reported that Bishops Cleeve had installed 3 LED floodlights at their new skatepark for approx. £20,000. They had informed that the lights were very directional and set with timers and motion detectors.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that further investigation should be made into cost, and potential funding, before bringing this back to the Committee. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- j. **Other Action** – No other issues relating to the skatepark were raised.

iii. **MUGA/Outdoor Gym**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports had been received. No new issues were raised.

Cllr P Godwin mentioned that a black rubber piece was missing from one of the items. It was hoped that Caloo would address this during their upcoming inspection.

- b. **Operational Inspection** – It was noted that Caloo were due to undertake an operational inspection of the outdoor gym equipment.

- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. No new issues were raised.

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GP/149/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- v. **Paint** – It was noted that the Play Inspector / Litter Picker intended to paint the bollards and yellow wall at the Playing Field when the weather got warmer. There was paint already in the storeroom for this. It was noted that there was blue graffiti paint present on a bench and picnic table at the Playing Field which the graffiti wipes had not worked on. Cllr Barnes suggested that the Council should consider removal of this in the spring.
- vi. **Bin** – Due to the amount of litter being dropped outside Northway Village Hall the Litter Picker had enquired whether it was possible to have a bin at this location. It was felt that, since installation of a new litter bin next to the skatepark, there were too many bins in this area so it would be possible to move one. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that one of the old bins was relocated near to the entrance of the Village Hall. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vii. **Other Action** – No other issues were raised.

GP/150/24 **Joan's Field**

Members were reminded that two trees (Hazel and Rowan) had been donated to the Council. It was previously agreed that the Rowan should replace the dead tree on Joan's Field (Min Ref: GP/116/24 refers). Members considered who should plant this tree and where the Hazel should be planted.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that a contractor was asked to plant both the trees, choosing a location that they felt was best for the Hazel. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/151/24 **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 Council's application to the Coronation Community Orchard Grant Scheme had been successful (Min Ref: GP/99/24 refers). A grant agreement had been signed and returned and the money had since been transferred to the Council's account.

An order had been placed for four apples (Ashmead's Kernel, Christmas Pippin, Herefordshire Russet and Pitmaston Pine) and two plums (Purple Pershore and Queen's Crown).

Members considered what plaque(s) should be ordered for the trees. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED a large plaque mentioning the Coronation Orchard, date, who funded, etc. and smaller plaques for each guard indicating the type of each tree. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a contractor should be asked to plant the trees, once delivered. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/151/24 **Platinum Park**

- b. It was noted that the replacement trees for the ones which had died had been ordered by Gloucestershire County Council. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a contractor should also be asked to plant these, once delivered.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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

GP/152/24 **Flower Barrels**

Cllr Roberts declared an interested as he is associated with the Railway Gardens. Following the Council's previous agreement to get the flower barrels removed for £300.00 (Min Ref: GP/135/24 refers), the Clerk advised that a local resident had offered to do this for the same price, but with the proceeds being donated to the Railway gardens. The Council's insurance company had confirmed that, if this was being done on the Council's behalf as volunteers, it would be covered by the policy. Members felt this would be a very worthwhile cause so Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED approval of this offer. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Terry SECONDED
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Fancourt	Cllr P Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr K Poole
	Cllr G Shelton	

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Roberts

GP/153/24 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

No issues were raised.

GP/154/24 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No drainage or flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie advised that he was monitoring the watercourses following the recent snow which would be starting to melt.

GP/155/24 **'Report It'**

The Clerk's Assistant listed issues that had been reported to various authorities over the past month.

GP/156/24 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Northway Voice and Local Schools** – The Council received a request from the Pupil Premium Champion for Northway Infant and Carrant Brook Schools for the opportunity to have a regular space in the Council's newsletter. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this should be permitted, subject to space being available. Cllr Poole SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/157/24 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Tewkesbury Borough Council**
  - a. **Litter Bin Installation Policy** – Copy circulated to Members.
  - b. **Tree Preservation Order** – No. 435, Hardwick Bank Road, The Park, Northway).
- ii. **SafeAvon** – Nitrate/phosphate readings from June 2023 – August 2024.
- iii. **War Memorials Trust** – Bulletin 103, November 2024.

GP/158/24 **Correspondence Received After 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

- i. **Sovereign Play** – Playground information.
- ii. **Grassroots Giving** – Newsletter.
- iii. **GRCC** – Flood Wardens: Alerts Issued.
- iv. **Broxap** – Product catalogue.
- v. **Camp Rubicon** – Easter skate camp.
- vi. **Skanska** – Appeal for organisations to contact to spread the word of the community work Skanska had been doing.
- vii. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association** – AGM Agenda 2024.
- viii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Seminar – The Clerk asked Members to let her know if they wanted to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.