

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20th December 2023 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Chairman) Cllr C Blackmore (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Beadle Cllr G Fancourt
Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr E MacTiernan 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/170/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Phennah. No further apologies for absence had been received.

GP/171/23 **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/172/23 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15th November 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/173/23 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/104/23 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – Pigeon spikes had been pulled off of the swing seats.

GP/118/23 Northway Playing Field > Play Park – Following receipt of a faulty cradle swing seat, a replacement had been provided.

GP/165/23 Parish Maintenance Contract > TBC Grass Cutting – The signed contract had now been returned for the Parish Council to retain.

GP/157/23 Northway Playing Field > Roundabout – An order had been placed for a replacement roundabout bearing.

GP/157/23 Northway Playing Field > MUGA/Outdoor Gym – Annual maintenance of the gym equipment has been undertaken by Caloo.

GP/157/23 Northway Playing Field > Northway Skatepark > Charity Car Wash – A local resident had been informed that he could run a charity car wash (with conditions).

GP/160/23/ Northway Community Hub Grounds – A cat deterrent device had been ordered for the Hub grounds.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/173/23 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

GP/163/23 Bench – The quotation from a local contractor for refurbishment of the NHS rainbow bench had been accepted.

GP/174/23 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. No new issues had been highlighted.
- b. **Fencing** – Blueberry had reconfirmed that they would resolve the issue with the fencing around the wheelchair swing when delivering the bearing for the roundabout (Min Ref: GP/157/23 refers).

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised.
- b. **Skatepark Project** – Members were informed that the Council's application for funding from Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA) had been successful and a grant of £2,000 had been awarded towards the skatepark project. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED acceptance of the grant offer. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA/Outdoor Gym had been received. No new issues had been raised.

A report had also been received following Caloo's annual maintenance of the outdoor gym equipment. Some of the equipment had been repaired, repainted and had bolts tightened during the visit (it was noted that the paint was a different shade of green to the existing).

iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. It was noted that pallets had been left on the field near to the humps. Cllr Mackenzie offered to put these back over the fencing onto the industrial estate where they had obviously come from.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

v. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/175/23 **Joan's Field**

No matters were raised relating to Joan's Field.

GP/176/23 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Fancourt queried whether ties on the Platinum Park trees needed to be slackened off. Cllr Mackenzie offered to take a look and report back to the next General Purposes Committee Meeting.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/177/23 **Newsletter**

A query had been received regarding the cost of an A5 advert in the Northway Voice. It was felt that the Council would have to stretch to an extra page if too much space was used for advertising, therefore, Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that unless a company was prepared to pay for inclusion of an additional page, the Council could only accommodate business-card sized advertisements. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/178/23 **The Northway Centre**

It was confirmed that a further email had been sent to Mr Creed regarding uneven slabs at the Northway Centre (Min Ref: GP/165/23 refers). A response had not yet been received.

GP/179/23 **Bus Shelters**

It was reported that two bus shelters in the parish had been graffitied. The litter picker had since painted over, and graffiti wiped the shelters. Cllr MacTiernan asked that the litter picker be thanked for going above and beyond in her role.

GP/180/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **TBC Grass Cutting** – Mr Tonge had confirmed that Tewkesbury Borough Council was willing to continue with the ongoing arrangements for grass cutting and would offer the same financial support towards this as it had for the current year (£2,000.00). Cllr Roberts PROPOSED acceptance of this offer. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Parish Council Grass Cutting/Maintenance** – The Council had enquired with two of the original three grounds maintenance firms regarding their policies on biodiversity. After consideration, Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that SmartCut's quotation for grounds maintenance and grass cutting for 2024/25, at a total cost of £16,741.35, should be accepted based on best value and the information included in their environmental policy. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Items** – It was noted that the Gate Keeper had advised that he would not be working on 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st December and 1st January 2023. It was AGREED that the gate to the Playing Field should remain closed on those days.

GP/181/23 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie (Flood Warden) advised that there were no flooding or drainage issues in the parish.

GP/182/23 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/182/23 **'Report It'** (continued)

Parking on grass along Kingston Road (GCC had advised that they would write to residents).

Pothole on Grange Road

It was also noted that uneven slabs on corner of Elm Road junction had been addressed.

Cllr Roberts mentioned that he had witnessed a HGV reversing into cars along Northway Lane (by the Northway Centre), this had been reported to the police.

GP/183/23 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Glasdon** – Booklet.
- ii. **Parish Online** – Newsletter.
- iii. **Snowball**

GP/184/23 **Correspondence Received After 14th December 2023**

None received.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.30pm.