

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Main Hall at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Chairman) Cllr S Terry (Vice Chairman) (until/from GP/114/22)  
Cllr M Barnes Cllr J Beadle  
Cllr C Blackmore Cllr T Fowler  
Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie (until/from GP/111/22; until/from  
Cllr E MacTiernan (until/from GP/114/22) Cllr J Roberts GP/114/22)  
Cllr G Shelton

In attendance: P Gregory, Local Resident (until Min Ref: GP/107/22)  
L Davis, Local Resident (until Min Ref: GP/107/22)  
R Walmsley, Managing Director, Blueberry (from/until Min Ref: GP/111/22)  
R Walmsley, Junior Sales Executive, Blueberry (from/until Min Ref: GP/111/22)  
Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council  
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

**GP/107/22 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies had been received.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the meeting should be temporarily suspended to allow residents an opportunity to put across any comments.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Outside of the meeting, residents raised their concerns regarding the circus being sited on Platinum Park in September, their comments were noted. Cllr Ward confirmed that the issue would be discussed during the meeting (agenda item 8) to which they were welcome to stay for, following this, the Council would respond via email.

7.10pm – P Gregory and L Davis left the meeting.

**GP/108/22 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/109/22 Previous Minutes**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Godwin  
Cllr Blackmore Cllr MacTiernan  
Cllr Roberts Cllr Shelton  
Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS Cllr Barnes Cllr Beadle  
Cllr Fowler Cllr Mackenzie

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/110/22 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

**GP/92/22 Northway Playing Field > MUGA/Outdoor Gym** – Line marking had taken place on the MUGA court.

**GP/92/22 Northway Playing Field > Wheelchair Swing** – A statement was posted on social media explaining the delay in completion of the wheelchair swing.

**GP/63/22 Grass Cutting** – The grass cutting contract with Tewkesbury Borough Council had been signed and finalised.

GP/111/22 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. No new issues were raised, however, as reported at the previous meeting there was graffiti on various items, chips in concrete walls, bird faeces on swing seats and rubber matting was up by the play train.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the rubber matting was pegged back down, however, consideration of all the other issues should be deferred until after the summer holidays. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

7.15pm – Rob Walmsley and Reece Walmsley joined the meeting.

b. **Swings** –

Members received a request that one or both of the swing seats be raised higher as a local ten year old was too tall to swing on them at the height they were. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that a contractor was asked to raise one of the seats and a maximum budget of £100 be allocated towards this work. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Blackmore
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Fowler	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Shelton
	Cllr Terry	Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr MacTiernan

Following on from the previous General Purposes Committee meeting there had been further complaints of bird poo in the Play Park. Zurich (the Council's insurers, had been asked to advise on installation of spikes on the swing frames to reduce/eliminate the amount of bird fouling on seats (Min Ref: GP/92/22 refers).

Zurich had explained that the onus would be on the Council to consider potential issues (i.e. persons injuring themselves on the spikes versus the health risk of bird poo being present) and put in place a control measure it deemed justifiable. Providing that the Council could demonstrate that it performed the above before reaching a decision, any claims would be covered under Public Liability.

Cllr Blackmore offered to put together a risk assessment highlighting the potential risks associated with having (or not having) spikes installed on the swing frames.

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/111/22 **Northway Playing Field** (Continued)

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that further discussions were deferred until the next General Purposes Committee Meeting when a risk assessment and further information / prices on spikes would be available for consideration. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Wheelchair Swing** – Mr Rob Walmsley, Managing Director at Blueberry, introduced himself to Members and explained that it had been the company's first time both manufacturing and installing a piece of equipment, which had been a massive learning curve. Following RoSPA's report which indicated the Wheelchair Swing was not compliant with regulations, they had put forward proposals to extend the area and have safety surfacing installed (received at the General Purposes meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (Min Ref GP/75/22)). They now had a large-scale copy of the proposed plans and a schedule of works with definitive start/competition dates – these being 5<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – copies of which were provided. Mr Walmsley also supplied the Council with a copy of the warranty information that had been previously requested.

Cllr Ward asked whether the contractors being used were local to the area. Mr Walmsley confirmed that Blueberry would be doing the groundworks themselves but the firm putting down wet pour was from Solihull.

Cllr MacTiernan asked whether the Council had been told from the start that Blueberry was just starting out with installing its own pieces of equipment. It was confirmed that this had been mentioned.

Cllr MacTiernan pointed out that Blueberry had started installing the Wheelchair Swing in March and it would not be ready for use until September, after the summer holidays had ended. The Council had already received several complaints from residents who were disappointed at not being able to use the swing and the Council was also disappointed. She asked whether Blueberry would be willing to pay a penalty if the work not be completed by 19<sup>th</sup> September.

7.27pm – Cllr Mackenzie left the meeting.

Mr Walmsley confirmed that he would be happy to commit to this, he wanted to assure of their intention that the work would be done correctly and completed by the proposed date.

Cllr MacTiernan asked if the swing would be raised as part of the works. Mr Walmsley confirmed that the whole frame and cradle would be repositioned.

Mr Walmsley was asked about the lockbox, for which the Council had requested specifications. Mr Walmsley confirmed that Blueberry were now offering to provide this free of charge (previously quoted at £335).

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned that the attachments for the Wheelchair Swing were quite heavy and she worried that people might find them difficult to use. Mr Walmsley explained that these were the attachments used in mobility vehicles – they had used these as they were approved to industry standard, however he offered to investigate whether there was anything more lightweight available that would still adhere to regulations.

Mr Walmsley thanked Members for their time and apologised for the inconvenience. He asked the Council to send an email advising of the penalty figure once this had been agreed.

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/111/22 **Northway Playing Field** (Continued)

7.35pm – Cllr Mackenzie re-joined the meeting.

7.35pm – Mr Rob Walmsley and Mr Reece Walmsley left the meeting.

Members looked through the schedule of works and proposed plans that Mr Walmsley had left.

Cllr Terry reminded Members of the Committee’s previous agreement to pay a further 25% of the invoice once Blueberry had confirmed, in writing, details of start/completion dates and the warranty (Min Ref: GP/75/22 refers). Cllr MacTiernan said that she would be very against making any further payments and suggested the Council deferred this for 28 days or waited until Blueberry asked again.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council paid a further 25%, as previously agreed. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Terry	Cllr Ward
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Blackmore	Cllr Fowler
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Shelton

AGAINST: Cllr MacTiernan

Members considered what penalty charge should be requested of Blueberry if the work was not completed by the proposed date of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED a penalty of 20% of the original invoice. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Blackmore
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Beadle
	Cllr Fowler	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Shelton	

AGAINST: Cllr Mackenzie Cllr Roberts  
Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Terry

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, weeds had been noted around the serpent runway. Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that, due to not being dangerous, no action was taken. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

b. **Skatepark Project** – Members received a new design that had been put together by Maverick after meeting with local skatepark users.

A response was still being awaited from Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding whether planning permission was required. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should submit a planning application if, it turned out, one was required. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/111/22 **Northway Playing Field** (Continued)

Cllr Ward PROPOSED approval of the new skatepark design from Maverick.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Beadle suggested it would be worth the Council investigating organised graffiti at the new skatepark. Cllr MacTiernan recommended this was put on the agenda every six months so that it was considered at the most appropriate time in the process.

It was noted that the Funding Officer at Tewkesbury Borough Council had asked for more information relating to the proposed cost of the skatepark so that she could start looking at potential funding opportunities. It was AGREED that Maverick should be asked to provide a quotation for the new design so that this information could be forwarded to the Funding Officer.

- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received. No new issues were raised.
- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. No new issues were raised.
- v. **Other Issues** – A resident had emailed to request that the Council considered having a dog free area for people in the community who were anxious around dogs. She suggested that Platinum Park was fenced off for dog walkers to use and the Playing Field was made a dog free space. The Clerk's Assistant had advised that this had been investigated before but was not progressed due to the cost. It was AGREED that this should be put on the agenda for the next General Purposes Committee meeting in September.

GP/112/22 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Bridge/Access** – Photographs were shown of Joan's Field following clearance work that had taken place ready for the new access (Min Ref: GP/93/22 refers). Cllr Terry worried that there could be a safety issue if people walked through the cleared area to access Joan's Field as there was a lot of debris left there.

Cllr Roberts suggested that the Council came up with clear specifications of what it wanted contractors to quote for in relation to the new access. With regards to specifications for the bridge, it was AGREED that the Council should base these on the bridge packs supplied by Gloucestershire County Council.

Cllr MacTiernan felt that the Council should use something other than wood for construction of the bridge. Cllr Mackenzie mentioned a material called High Density Polyethylene (HDP) and offered to do more research into the cost and availability of this as an alternative.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council sought quotations based on GCC's bridge specifications in both wood and HDP and, in the meantime, installed a 'No Entry Due to Uneven Surface' sign. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

### GP/113/22 **The Park Amenity Land**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. It was noted that there was a small amount of graffiti or paint on the shelter. Also, the bin liner inside the bin was damaged. Cllr Mackenzie explained that the liner had been dented and thrown in the brambles, he had returned it to the bin but it was now wedged in place. It was AGREED that, as the bin was still serviceable, no action was required.
- ii. **Time Capsules/Burying Ceremony** – Photographs were shown of the ceremony that had taken place at Platinum Park with the local schools burying the time capsules and installation of the engraved stones. The Chairman had said a few words and awarded the schools with certificates and those who had been in attendance commented on how lovely the event had been.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the time capsules should be dug up in June 2072 (after fifty years) and something should be put up in the office to remind future councillors and staff off this agreement. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Godwin was thanked for her work in organising the engraved stones.

- iii. **Bench** – Several comments and an email had been received from residents questioning why the Jubilee bench had been installed facing the road instead of Platinum Park.

Cllr MacTiernan suggested that anyone querying this should be told Members voted for it to be placed that way and if they were interested enough to apply to stand on the Council, they could also have a say.

### GP/114/22 **Circus**

8.25pm – Cllr Terry left the meeting.

Members were read emails from residents whose houses overlooked Platinum Park and in which several concerns and questions were raised – mainly relating to noise and parking.

8.27pm – Cllr Terry re-joined the meeting.

Cllr Mackenzie felt that, if 75% of those attending the circus would be locals and, therefore, walking to the shows, there might only be 20-30 cars that required parking. Cllr Ward felt that it was too risky to try and guess numbers, he also pointed out that unless the Council provided parking at the Playing Field then people would leave their cars in Long Eights and The Park.

8.30pm – Cllr MacTiernan left the meeting.

Members acknowledged that there was nothing to stop people from parking in the Playing Field car park. The Football Club had already agreed to request away games on this weekend which meant that there would be more spaces available. Members also considered the option of opening up the field itself for parking, however, someone would be required to oversee this and so the idea was not progressed.

8.36pm – Cllr MacTiernan re-joined the meeting.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council advertised parking at the Playing Field car park.

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

GP/114/22 **Circus** (Continued)

Cllr Terry suggested adding to the proposal it was stated on social media that there would be limited parking available at Northway Playing Field but if local people were able to walk it would be of benefit to everyone. Cllr Ward suggested that James Richards Circus should be asked to mention this on their social media also.

Cllr Roberts accepted these additions to the proposal. Cllr Terry **SECONDED**.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members went through each of the questions raised by residents and **AGREED** upon the following responses:

1. The Council will be allowing limited parking over the road at Northway Playing Field car park. Local attendees will be encouraged to walk.
2. The circus visit was mentioned in the last two issues of Northway Voice newsletter and discussed at numerous Council meetings since last September.
3. It is hoped that the circus will comply with any noise regulations.
4. The circus showings are not believed to be taking place during rush hour/busy times.
5. Ultimately the ownness is on the drivers to park responsibly.
6. The Playing Field was looked at as a potential site, but access was an issue.
7. If a future event on Platinum Park would benefit the residents of Northway, it is something that the Council might consider – whilst also making sure to take into consideration residents that live in the surrounding houses.

GP/115/22 **Iron Bridge**

Cllrs MacTiernan, Mackenzie and Godwin had attended a meeting with Network Rail, County Cllr Smith, TBC representatives and an Ashchurch Rural Parish Councillor to discuss the Iron Bridge.

8.55pm – Cllr Mackenzie left the meeting.

Cllr MacTiernan reported that Network Rail had said they might be able to provide someone to oversee painting of, or organised graffiti on, the bridge but they would not put money towards anything.

County Cllr Smith had suggested he might be able to fund purchase of some paint if there were volunteers available to do the work. It was **AGREED** that the Council should ask how much funding would be available towards this.

8.57pm – Cllr Mackenzie re-joined the meeting.

Cllrs Ward, Roberts and Barnes indicated that they would be willing to volunteer to paint the bridge.

Cllr MacTiernan **PROPOSED** that the Council should investigate whether Community Payback could be used to do the clean up and/or painting. Cllr Terry **SECONDED**.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

## **NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

### GP/116/22 **Newsletter**

A draft copy of the issue 28 of Northway Voice was tabled. It was suggested that the new skatepark design should be included in the newsletter.

Cllr Mackenzie suggested that an article about the motorway bridge priorities was included. The Clerk explained that the Council had not formally agreed to try and get the priorities reversed.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of the newsletter. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members received an update on fields behind Sinderberry Drive which the farmer could not cut due to the amount of dog mess left by walkers. A resident had emailed to highlight the fire hazard this created, especially with the recent hot weather. Cllr Blackmore offered to talk to the farmer and raise the issue.

### GP/117/22 **Trees**

- i. **Complaint** – Members received a complaint from a local resident whose dog had been ill after eating twigs and berries from a tree at the Community Hub. Looking at photographs of the trees, it appeared that the only one overhanging into Lee Walk properties was from Styles Close.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should contact the resident again to establish which tree was causing the problem, if it was the Parish Council's tree then it should be cut back to the hedge line, otherwise they should be directed to contact Bromford. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **GCC Tree Warden Scheme** – A survey looking at the role volunteers could play in monitoring tree health had been received. Cllr Terry PROPOSED this was emailed to Members so they could respond individually. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

### GP/118/22 **Scarecrow Competition**

Sycamore Chapel had confirmed that Paddington Bear was still available for the Council to base its scarecrow on. Members AGREED to bring any items which could be used to the Office.

### GP/119/22 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Bin** – Ubico had agreed to emptying of an additional bin in Gould Drive (Min Ref: GP/29/22 refers). The Council already had a spare bin in storage, therefore, Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED it should be installed at the preferred location. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Area Opposite the Northway Centre** – A meeting had been arranged with Tewkesbury Borough Council to discuss ongoing maintenance of the area opposite the Northway Centre.



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### GP/119/22 **Parish Maintenance Contract** (Continued)

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

### GP/120/22 **Drainage and Flooding**

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

### GP/121/22 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Overgrowth along Hardwick Bank Road and condition of tarmac in Grange Road were reported to Gloucestershire County Council.

A bin fire on Northway Playing Field had been reported to the police.

### GP/122/22 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Glasdon** – Products leaflet.
- ii. **Snowball** – Details of new Community Disability App.
- iii. **Keep Britain Tidy** – Love Parks week 2022.
- iv. **Skateboard GB** – Press release. Cllr Terry asked that this be forwarded to her via email.

### GP/123/22 **Correspondence received after 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

- i. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Ash Dieback tree request form.

There being no further business, the meeting 9.30 pm