

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Cllr C Blackmore (Vice-Chair) Cllr J Beadle
 Cllr G Fancourt Cllr P Godwin
 Cllr E MacTiernan Cllr E Phennah
 Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry

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

GP/114/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Barnes, Mackenzie and Roberts.

GP/115/23 **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/116/23 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 19th July 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Shelton
 Cllr Blackmore Cllr Godwin
 Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Phennah

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle Cllr Fancourt

GP/117/23 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/104/23 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – Replacement shackles had been ordered for the merga tri swing, however, upon arrival these were found to be the wrong size. The suppliers had been informed and were looking into the matter.

GP/104/23 Northway Playing Field > Northway Play Park – Pigeon spikes had been ordered for installation on top of the swing frames.

GP/93/23 Circus - The circus visit was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

GP/176/23 GP Projects Working Party – A thermometer fundraising sign had been ordered for installation at the skatepark.

GP/118/23 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. It was again noted that the tiger mulch was coming loose around the roundabout, some of the rubber surface on the 'runaround' had been pulled away and the grass matting was uneven by the red playhouse.

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GP/118/23 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Additionally, the trampoline pit was full of stagnant water, there were splits in the cradle swing(s), wood was worn and breaking on the play train, bolts were missing on the roundabout and one of the panels on the playhouse was heavily scratched.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that replacement cradle swing seat(s) should be ordered.
Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was AGREED that costs for a replacement play train panel should be brought to the next meeting.

It was noted that, although a number of emails had been sent to Blueberry, they had still not been out to look at the bearing. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that Blueberry should be informed that, if they did not visit within the next two weeks, the Council would be forced to consider other options. If Blueberry did manage to visit and advised a new bearing was required, this should be ordered. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was AGREED that the matting by the red house should be pegged down. However the scratches on the house were considered to be low risk, as was the surface of the runaround and so these issues should be monitored.

- b. **Roundabout** – This item had already been covered.
- c. **Wheelchair Swing** – It was noted that there were only four cut keys remaining for the wheelchair swing cabinet.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that more of the keys should be cut as/when necessary. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

- d. **Footpath** – Members had previously discussed cracks in the footpath at Northway Playing Field (Min Ref: GP/128/22 refers). Recent photographs were shown to Members. It was AGREED that the Council should continue to monitor the cracks.

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised.
- b. **Skatepark Project** – The Council's application to The National Lottery (TNL) Community Fund had been considered by the panel and it had made it to the next stage (Min Ref: C/202/23 refers). TNL's Funding Officer had offered to meet with the Chairman, Clerk and Clerk's Assistant to go over the details of what additional information was now required by them.

An application for funding had also been submitted to Enover ahead of their panel meeting in October.

The Clerk's Assistant had been looking at further funding possibilities and had made enquiries with Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA) and Gloucestershire County Council regarding their Thriving Communities grant.

It was anticipated that a Safeguarding policy would be required by TNL and other potential funders.

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GP/118/23 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Blackmore offered to assist the Clerk's Assistant in putting together a policy for the Council. Cllr Godwin PROPOSED approval. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA/Outdoor Gym had been received, no new issues were raised.
 - b. **Caloo Maintenance** – It was confirmed that Caloo had attended the site to address the issues raised (Min Ref: GP/90/23 & GP/103/23 refer).
- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. No new issues were raised.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- v. **Circuit Sessions** - The personal trainer had not been seen holding circuit sessions at the Playing Field since before the summer holidays (Min Ref: GP/104/23 refers). It was AGREED that no further action was necessary.
- vi. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/119/23 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Overgrowth** – Members were shown photographs of overgrowth encroaching onto the wooden access bridge and the new footpath at Joan's Field. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the overgrowth should be cut back.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Motorised Vehicles** – The Clerk confirmed that PCSO Magovern had spoken to residents who had been seen using a motorised vehicle in Joan's Field.
- iii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/120/23 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Wild Area** – Members considered having the wild area on Platinum Park cut once a year. A quotation of £125 had been received. Cllr Terry PROPOSED acceptance. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members discussed planting of wildflower seeds after the area had been flailed and arranged to do this individually.

Cllr Shelton confirmed that he had planted bulbs around the trees and benches on Platinum Park.

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

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GP/121/23 **Dogs**

The Clerk passed on an email from Alistair Low, Head of Environmental Health Services at Tewkesbury Borough Council advising that there were no plans to revisit previous discussions relating to employment of a dog warden. He had offered to arrange for an officer to undertake patrols in Northway if the Council was aware of any particular problem areas. It was AGREED that the Spine, the alleyway between Northway Lane and Kingston Road and Northway Playing Field were the main 'problem areas' and this should be fed back to Alistair Low.

The Borough Council had also forwarded a copy of its PSPO dog exclusion sign for play areas. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the Council should use the template for purchase of two signs – one for each entrance to the play park at Northway Playing Field.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members considered scheduling a meeting of the Dog Working Party, however, it was felt that this was not necessary. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the Council did not progress with the Dog Working Party.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/122/23 **Trees**

Cllrs Shelton, Blackmore and MacTiernan had previously volunteered to look after some young oak trees, at least two of these were now ready for planting (Min Ref: GP/57/23 refers).

Cllr MacTiernan suggested seeking permission from Tewkesbury Borough Council to have some of the trees planted on the grass area at the Kingston Road/Oak Drive junction. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that enquiries should be made, and prices sought for planting with tree guards.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/123/23 **Flower Barrels**

Three residents had expressed their interest in taking on maintenance of Northway Community Volunteers' (NCV) flower barrels (Min Ref: GP/108/23 refers). Cllr Blackmore said that she also knew someone who was interested in taking on a barrel.

It was noted that this was not a Parish Council initiative but between NCV and the residents. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that the residents' details were passed on to NCV.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/124/23 **Bench**

Two quotations had been received for replacement wooden slats to be installed on the 'rainbow bench' by The Northway Centre, a third quotation was still being awaited.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that prices should be sought for composite recycled plastic slats for the bench. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The resident who had offered to repaint the bench, once repaired, had advised that this would be dependent on weather and the time of year (Min Ref: GP/109/23 refers).

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GP/125/23 **Iron Bridge**

It was noted that the height of vegetation along the footpath to the Iron Bridge had been cut back as part of a police initiative to reduce opportunities for antisocial behaviour.

Cllr MacTiernan offered to make enquiries regarding Tewkesbury Borough Council's plans to get the Iron Bridge painted (Min Ref: GP/26/23 refers).

GP/126/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

i. **Ongoing Contracts**

- a. **Bus Shelter/Phone Box Cleaning** – It was noted that Golden Valley Window Cleaning had been taken over by a different firm, Knight Window and Gutter Cleaning Ltd, as such, the Council's existing contract had been taken over by them.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the bus shelter and phone box cleaning should be monitored to ensure it was to an acceptable standard, additionally a quotation should be sought for cleaning the inside of the phone box. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **TBC Grass Cutting** – It was noted that the Borough Council had still not provided a contract in relation to the current year's grass cutting. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that Cllr MacTiernan should make enquiries at the Borough Council. Cllr Blackmore SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was recalled that Mr Tonge had stated that the Borough Council would no longer contribute towards the cost of the grass cutting if the arrangement was to continue (Min Ref: GP/08/23 refers). Cllr Terry PROPOSED that this should be reconfirmed before a decision was made on whether or not the Parish Council should continue to cut the Borough/County areas within Northway. Cllr Godwin SECONDED. Cllr MacTiernan offered to talk to Mr Tonge about this.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Parish Council Grass Cutting/Maintenance** – Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Parish Council should go out to tender on the grass cutting/grounds maintenance contract (as it had not tendered for more than three years) and include recent additional works on the contract. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **The Northway Centre** – A response was still being awaited following the Council's offer to organise cutting of Creed's section of land on their behalf (Min Ref: GP/109/23 refers).

Cllr MacTiernan mentioned that a tree root was causing a trip hazard. It was AGREED that Creed should be asked to look into this on the grounds of health and safety.

- iii. **Area Opposite The Northway Centre** – It was AGREED that Mr Noble, from Tewkesbury Borough Council, should be reminded about previous discussions regarding ongoing maintenance of this area and his plans to undertake further planting and provide the Parish Council with a map.

- iv. **Other Items** – A complaint had been made that, during grass cutting, soil was often dislodged onto the footpath opposite The Northway Centre. This was passed on to SmartCut.

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GP/126/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract** (continued)

A resident had complained that a Ubico van had driven along The Spine. After reporting this to the Borough, the Clerk had been informed that the resident had used 'colourful language' to the crew who were picking up dog mess from the path but refrain from doing this in the future.

The litter picker had taken photographs of items flytipped in the overgrowth at the entrance to Northway Playing Field. It was AGREED that Gloucestershire County Council should be asked to maintain this again.

GP/127/23 **Winter Maintenance**

Cllr Terry enquired whether there was enough grit in storage, the Clerk believed there still a few bags left.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that no action was taken. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/128/23 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie (Flood Warden) was not present to give a report.

GP/129/23 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Self planted Ash tree in Grange Road in need of removal.
Hedge at the end of Oak Drive requiring maintenance.

GP/130/23 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Hedgehog Highway Project** – After some discussion, Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council did not sign up to this project. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/131/23 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Tewkesbury Borough Council – Environmental Health** – Notice of PSPO (Dog Control) 2023.
- ii. **Overgrown Hedge** – Letter was sent to property regarding overgrown hedge.
- iii. **Greenways Grounds Maintenance** – Details of services.
- iv. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA)**
 - a. Confirmation of subscription renewal.
 - b. The Playing Field – Newsletter (Summer 2023).

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GP/131/23 **Correspondence for Information** (continued)

v. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council** – Flood Wardens News.

GP/132/23 **Correspondence Received After 14th September 2023**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting 8.16 pm