

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 21st June 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 P Godwin Cllr E MacTiernan
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry

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

GP/86/23 **Apologies for Absence**

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

GP/87/23 **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/88/23 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 17th May 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr Shelton Cllr Beadle
Cllr Blackmore

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Godwin Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Terry

GP/89/23 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/92/22 & GP/75/23 Northway Playing Field > Wheelchair Swing – *The wheelchair swing had been advertised as ready for use on social media, a key form had been created and a sign with a QR code directing people to the Parish Council website was ready for installation.*

GP/75/23 Northway Playing Field > Damaged Sign – *A replacement sign had been purchased and was ready for installation.*

GP/63/19 Northway Playing Field > Right of Access – *The usual 'right of access' reminder letter had been sent to residents whose houses backed onto the Playing Field. Cllr Godwin was thanked for delivering these.*

GP/90/23 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. It was noted that the tiger mulch was coming loose around the roundabout, the cover on the aerial runway seat was damaged and some of the rubber on the surface of the 'runaround' had been pulled away.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/90/23

Northway Playing Field (continued)

The Clerk's Assistant reported that the blue wall had been subjected to a significant amount of graffiti. Due to the offensive nature of some of the graffiti a contractor had been instructed to repaint the wall. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this emergency action was ratified. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Following repainting of main gate into the Play Park (as recommended by RoSPA (Min Ref: GP/58/23 refers)), the contractor had offered to paint the second gate at a cost of £104.00, as there was paint left over. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the leftover paint was used for patching up the main gate as/when required and the second gate should be left as it was. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

A contractor had been asked to treat/paint a corroded area on the roundabout (as recommended by RoSPA (Min Ref: GP/58/23 refers)), however, upon inspection he had noted that there were several corroded areas and so had provided a quotation for painting all of it (£151.00)

The Clerk's Assistant reminded Members that RoSPA suspected that the roundabout required a new bearing (Min Ref: GP/58/23) and so the suppliers had been asked to provide a quotation for this.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the whole of the roundabout should be repainted but not until other necessary works had taken place, i.e. installation of a new bearing, a quote for which should be put to the next General Purposes Committee Meeting. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised.
- b. **Skatepark Project** – It was confirmed that a poster advertising the community consultation event due to take place at the skatepark on 1st July had been put in the notice boards and shared on social media. A good number of questionnaires had already been completed.
- c. **Pallets** – A number of pallets and boards had been taken from one of the factories neighbouring the Playing Field and youths had been using them to make ramps at the skatepark and BMX humps. Due to concern that someone might get injured on the makeshift ramps, the office staff had arranged for their removal. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that this emergency action was ratified. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received. It was noted that one of the pieces of gym equipment had started to rust where the paint had come away and rubber was coming off of the base. Cllr Blackmore PROPOSED that photographs of the issues were sent to the gym manufacturers.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/93/23 **Circus** (Continued)

Playing Field car park, as was done the previous year. Cllr Beadle **SECONDED**.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/94/23 **Newsletter**

Members received the first draft of Northway Voice, issue 31. Several amendments and additions were suggested.

GP/95/23 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

Complaints had been received following the recent weedkilling that was undertaken in Northway. Two neighbouring residents believed that the outer edge of their front lawn had died off as a result of the spray of weed killer along the verge and had asked how they might make a claim.

The Clerk had contacted the contractors that undertook the weedkilling who had since undertaken a site visit and assessed that most of the grass edges on the estate were struggling with soil shrinkage away from the pin kerbs due to the extremely hot weather. They also assured that they never spray up against properties that are not lined with a fence or wall.

The Council's insurance company had advised that any claims would need to be made via the contractors directly and they would likely require evidence of negligence and measure of financial loss resulting from said negligence.

Cllr MacTiernan **PROPOSED** that the Council wrote to the two residents informing them of comments received from both the contractor's and the Council's insurance provider's and adding that, should they have evidence the damage was caused by weed killing, they should forward it to the Council. Cllr Terry **SECONDED**.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) had passed on a complaint that contractors did not remove a resident's refuse bin from the verge before mowing, instead, they had mown around it. The Clerk's Assistant had asked whether TBC's contractors moved bins when grass cutting and it was confirmed that they would not. The Parish Council agreed that it would not expect its contractors to move all bins off of the verge before mowing as it would delay them significantly. It was suggested that, if there was room in the newsletter, residents should be asked to ensure their bins were returned to their properties before the grass cutters arrived.

A resident had emailed the Council to ask that it cut the embankment in Sinderberry Drive as they considered it to be a possible fire risk. It was noted that this had come up the previous year, TBC had recalled that their contractors never cut this area as it was too steep an embankment and, although the Parish Council's contractors had used a 'roboflail' to cut the grass the year before, they also refused to use a normal mower on it. It was **AGREED** that the resident should be informed of the Borough Council's claim that they never used to cut this piece of land.

GP/96/23 **Drainage and Flooding**

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

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/97/23 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Road conditions in Grange Road.

Various potholes.

Sinkholes in footpath on the M5 overbridge and along Northway Lane.

Rusted green metal post box on corner of Kingston/Warren Road.

Damaged surround on drain cover in Northway Lane.

Wooden pallets flytipped on the Playing Field.

Wire sticking out of the cycleway on west side of Northway Lane.

Cllr Terry reported that briars were overhanging the walkway near Farm Close. It was AGREED that, if this turned out to be the responsibility of a resident, the Council should write a letter requesting maintenance of the overgrowth.

GP/98/23 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association** – Details of free groundskeeper workshop. Details of this were forwarded to the Football Club.
- ii. **Dog Attack** – Copy of correspondence relating to a dog attack that took place in Northway.
- iii. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Water your trees poster and tree care advice.

GP/99/23 **Correspondence Received After 15th June 2023**

- i. **Glasdon** – Product booklet.

There being no further business, the meeting 8.04 pm