

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/77/19 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/68/19 Community Events > King Ramps – Prices had been obtained from this company and details forwarded to NCV for information.

GP/48/19 & GP/61/19 Dog Fouling > Signs – Tewkesbury Borough Council had asked the Council to consider paying £1 per additional dog fouling sticker, if required. Cllr Terry **PROPOSED** that this should be put on the next General Purposes Agenda for consideration.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/78/19 **Local Community Initiative**

Following correspondence received at the previous General Purposes Meeting (Min Ref: GP/62/19 refers), Mr Yardy had been invited to address the Committee with his proposal.

Mr Yardy explained that he had been a resident of Northway on-and-off for twenty-five years and a lot had changed in that time. He appreciated that maintaining the area was costly but he was wanting to start a community project whereby people could get together and undertake small jobs such as tidying, gardening and general volunteering. This would also have the benefit of getting people outside and exercising.

If the Council was willing to support this, Mr Yardy confirmed that he could look into the finer details and research things further.

The project, he suggested, should be social media based and a launch event could possibly be held (ideally at the Hub) to promote it to the community.

Members were keen to support this idea and informed Mr Yardy of Northway Community Volunteers (NCV) who he might want to link up with on some projects. Cllr Ward, however, suggested that it might be better keeping the two groups separate.

Mr Yardy was keen to meet up again once he had done more research and so it was **AGREED** that he should arrange a date to visit the office and talk to the Clerk and her Assistant about moving things further forward.

Cllr Roberts **PROPOSED** that the Council should support Mr Yardy on this project and that he should be permitted free use of the Community Hub for a launch event, if required. Cllr Ward **SECONDED**.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward suggested that, if Mr Yardy put together some posters/flyers, the Council could advertise them in notice boards and perhaps include a small article in the newsletter, if there was enough space. It was felt it might also be beneficial to have a stall/stand at the upcoming NCV Fete to attract volunteers.

Cllr Terry thanked Mr Yardy for attending and for his enthusiasm.

7.40pm – Mr Yardy left the meeting.

GP/79/19 **Northway Playing Field**

- i. **Northway Play Park** – Inspection reports received from GAB Waste highlighted the presence of graffiti on the red play house and boundary walls.

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GP/79/19 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- ii. **Northway Skate Park** – Inspection reports highlighted the presence of graffiti on seating and equipment, including the half pipe, GAB Waste hoped to try and remove some of the graffiti with a light sander.
- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Inspection reports received from GAB Waste reiterated that the cross trainer pedals were seizing up.

The Clerk's Assistant tabled a quotation for a replacement piece of equipment (approx. £4,000) and said that further quotations were being awaited.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should obtain quotations for removing all of the gym equipment, for consideration. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **BMX Track** – Members received inspection reports relating to the BMX Track. No issues were raised.

v. **Security Measures**

- a. Photographs were shown of the combination barrier which had been installed earlier that day.

Cllr Roberts wondered about the strength of the palisade fencing either side of the barrier, he and Cllr Ward agreed to go and check that it was sufficient.

It was noted that, due to the positioning of the barrier, a small gap was present between the post and the palisade fencing which could allow motorised vehicles to gain entry to the field. Members considered installation of a bollard, but Cllr Roberts suggested that palisade would be more consistent.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should investigate costs for extending the palisade to the barrier to remove the gap. Cllr Bailey SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. The gate that had been removed from the entrance to the Playing Field had not been suitable to replace the inner gate, as such, contractors had taken it away.
- c. Cllr Ward reported that the concrete barrier had been moved onto the Field, by the MUGA. Cllr MacTiernan asked how much this had cost, the Clerk confirmed it had been approximately £120.00 which Members felt was reasonable considering it had included hire of a load-all.

The Clerk passed on a suggestion from a resident that the concrete barrier be painted yellow.

On a separate note, it was reported that legal fees relating to encampment of traveller had amounted to £155.80.

- vi. **Pedestrian Access** – Members were reminded of the discussion that took place at the previous meeting regarding limited disabled access onto the Playing Field (Min Ref: GP/63/19 refers).

Cllr Godwin confirmed that a small mobility scooter was able to fit through the Oak Drive access (where motorbike inhibitors were installed) but a larger one probably would not.

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GP/79/19 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Roberts felt that the Council had an obligation to ensure that disabled people were able to access the Field. Cllr Terry pointed out that GAB Waste would be unlocking and locking the barrier each day now that it was installed.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED no further action.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vii. **Emptying of Litter Bins on Playing Field** – GAB Waste had quoted £16 per week to empty the bins on the Playing Field. This meant that the Council could limit the amount of Playing Field keys it was giving out as Ubico would not require access (which would improve security).

Cllr Terry raised concern this meant leaving bags of litter and dog poo at the entrance to the Playing Field which could cause issues.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that GAB Waste should be instructed to undertake emptying of the bins on the Playing Field for a trial period of three months on the basis that it did not want to run the risk of giving Ubico a key and them losing it. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- viii. **Other Issues**

Complaints had been received that a dog walker (thought to be commercial) visiting the Playing Field most mornings did not pick allowed the dogs to roam off the lead and did not pick up after them. They were also reportedly aggressive to other dogs.

It was suggested that this be mentioned to Tewkesbury Borough Council Environmental Health Officers so that they could possibly visit on their patrols.

Cllr Mackenzie offered to visit the Playing Field over the next few days and look out for dog walkers not picking up after their animals and/or being aggressive.

A request had been received from Tewkesbury Town Football Club for permission to purchase and install a sign at the junction of Kingston Road and the old Northway Lane (road to the Playing Field). Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this should be permitted, provided the Football Club covered all costs involved. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Ward
	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Porter
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Sollis
	Cllr Terry	Cllr Woodward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Bailey

Cllr Ward had suggested that a sign be installed, also at the Kingston Road/old Northway Lane junction, alerting people to the fact that access was height-restricted due to installation of the combination barrier. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that a sign should be purchased, up to a cost of £150.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/80/19 **School Holiday Play Event**

Following concerns raised at Full Council (Min Ref: C/135/19 refers), the Clerk had asked World Jungle to clarify the ages that their sessions were aimed at and also what the 'small charges' referred to on their poster. World Jungle had since provided a new poster which was aimed more towards older children/teenagers and removed mention of the 'small charges'.

A poster had also been provided by Play Gloucestershire advertising their Play Ranger sessions at the Playing Field over the school holidays, one of the dates did clash with World Jungle's sessions but this could not be avoided and Play Gloucestershire did not see it being an issue.

GP/81/19 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- i. **Update** – The Clerk mentioned that Police had spoken to local schools as well as the youth club relating to the latest spate of graffiti (Min Ref: C/145/19 refers). They had asked the teachers/leaders to look out for any doodles or drawings similar to the 'Budz' tag that had been sprayed on various surfaces in the parish. A Neighbourhood Alert had also been sent out by Gloucestershire Constabulary via email and social media appealing for information.

Also, a confession had been received from one of the young boys that had been on the roof of the Village Hall/Changing Room Facility and the Police intended to speak to his parents.

- ii. **Reward** – Members considered the possibility of offering a reward to try and establish who was responsible for the graffiti. Members did not want to progress this option.
- iii. **Quotation** – A quotation for removal of graffiti around the parish was still being awaited.
- iv. **Policy** – Members considered whether a policy should be put in place allowing the Clerk to arrange removal of graffiti as soon as it was reported. Opinions on this varied as some felt that the graffiti should be left and others felt that it should be cleared away. One argument that had been raised in the past was that, if the graffiti was removed more might re-appear soon after, however it was pointed out that this was no different to litter that the Council paid to have picked up on a daily basis, knowing that it would be dropped again.

Currently graffiti was being removed by either Cllr Ward or GAB Waste at no additional cost to the Council, although some graffiti (on brick or certain paints, etc.) was too hard to remove.

Cllr Roberts felt that he would want to see Northway maintained as much as possible but worried about the costs it might incur. Cllr Ward felt that if graffiti was not dealt with at the time it would only get worse.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council continued to, ideally, remove individual instances of graffiti but determine further action once quotations had been received. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/82/19 **Replacement Skate Park**

It had previously been agreed that, following installation of the Play Park and extension of the Ray Shill Building (Parish Offices) the next large project should be upgrading of the Skate Park. Members considered whether it was the right time to start progression of this and if a Working Party should be started to review other skate parks, seek input from the youth and look at funding, etc.

Cllr Terry pointed out that the Council had recently advertised that it would use funds from the last Community Event towards funding an activity trail for Northway, she felt this was what residents would be expecting to see as the next project.

It was noted that upgrading of the Skate Park would be a huge project (Cllr MacTiernan anticipated costs to start at £180,000) and the youth would need to be involved.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should defer progression of this for a year and see what the situation was then. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/83/19 **The Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the teenage shelter raised no issues for concern.
- ii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.
- iii. **Ash Path** – Photographs of the Ash path running up to the teenage shelter were shown to Members and it was noted that it had become overgrown. The Clerk explained that this path had been paid for with Section 106 funds.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should obtain quotes for maintaining this path. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/84/19 **Giant Hogweed**

Cllr Roberts confirmed that a local resident, Mr Dunn, had inspected several areas in the parish for Giant Hogweed and found some patches of it along the Carrant brook. He did raise concerns that there was some down the path at the other side of the motorway bridge where people were known to fish and children often played.

No signs of Giant Hogweed had been found in Joan's Field.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that a letter of thanks was sent to Mr Dunn for undertaking these inspections.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/85/19 **Newsletter**

Members received a draft copy of the newsletter. Several minor amendments were suggested.

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GP/85/19 **Newsletter** (continued)

Cllr Terry PROPOSED approval of the newsletter and thanked Cllr Ward for all the work he had put into it.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Members considered whether the Council should include a youth provision survey, as previously agreed, inside the next newsletter. Cllr MacTiernan had offered to assist with this but felt that, due to time restraints, it would be better to defer.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should put together a survey ready to send out with the November issue of Northway Voice.

FOR: Cllr Terry Cllr Barnes
Cllr Mackenzie Cllr MacTiernan
Cllr Porter Cllr Roberts
Cllr Sollis Cllr Woodward

AGAINST: Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Bailey Cllr Godwin

GP/86/19 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

i. **Grass Cutting**

- a. **Reports** – It was noted that the Office was regularly receiving complaints about Ubico’s grass cutting, this had overtaken the previous main complaint of dog fouling.

It was reported that more dog walkers were failing to pick up after their pets as they could not find the poo amongst the long grass, also one dog had needed veterinary treatment as a result of the long grass.

Cllr MacTiernan said that she had spoken to Peter Tonge, Head of Community Services at Tewkesbury Borough Council, about the possibility of the Borough paying Northway Parish Council to take over cutting its grass areas. He had said that this may be acceptable but they would still only pay for three-weekly cuts and Gloucestershire County Council only paid for their sections to be cut two times a year.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should explore this option and approach Countrywide once it was in an informed position. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that Cllr MacTiernan was authorised to put this request forward to Peter Tonge, in writing, on behalf of the Council. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Grange Court** – Members considered including verge in Grange Court, which was not currently being maintained, in its grass cutting contract. It was noted that complaints had been received as the patch of grass was untidy looking.

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GP/86/19 **Parish Maintenance Contract** (continued)

Neither Tewkesbury Borough Council nor Gloucestershire County Council owned the land (Guinness Homes had been suggested as possible owners).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should ask Countrywide to include this piece of land when grass cutting. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Bus Shelter Cleaning** – Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should get quotations for once again steam cleaning its bus shelter (as done in the past). Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Tree Management Strategy** – The Clerk’s Assistant had put together a draft map highlighting areas with trees that were believed to be the responsibility of Northway Parish Council (Min Ref: GP/70/19 refers). It was AGREED that this should be sent to Members in the hope that they might volunteer to assess whether, out of these trees, there were any that looked dangerous or might pose a risk.

Complaints had been received that trees in one of the central verges along Northway Lane had become overgrown. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should obtain a quotation for cutting back of the overgrowth.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie gave a report following his attendance at a flood warden training event.

- v. **Area Outside Lee Road Shops** – It was noted that litter was an ongoing issue outside the Lee Road shops (due to the bins not having lids and personal rubbish being disposed of in the bins and making them too full).

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should write to the landlord, sensitively, and see if this could be addressed. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vi. **Other Issues** – In response to the Council’s enquiry to Gloucestershire County Council about part funding weed killing in the area (Min Ref: GP/70/19 refers), County Cllr Smith had confirmed that he would be happy to support and directed the Council to discuss this further with Craig Freeman, Local Highways Manager.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should progress this. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

A letter had been received from a resident who, alongside her son, was interested in getting involved in the work and maintenance in Joan’s Field and helping to support the wildlife there.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this resident should be informed of Mr Yardy’s initiative (Min Ref: GP/78/19 refers) and also informed about the work NCV currently undertook in Joan’s Field. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/87/19 Signs in Community Hub

It was noted that the bark area at the front of Northway Community Hub was popular with cats and, as such there was a lot of cat poo in there. The Council had purchased a product that contained lion manure in a bid to keep the cats away but Members considered whether signs, warning hirers about the presence of cat poo, should also be purchased.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council waited until the trial of the lion manure was finished before considering this further. Cllr Bailey SECONDED.

Before a vote was taken Cllr Roberts expressed that he was against this proposal due to there being a risk to hirers from the presence of cat poo there – regardless of whether or not the trial proved successful.

FOR:	Cllr MacTiernan	Cllr Bailey
	Cllr Godwin	Cllr Porter
	Cllr Sollis	Cllr Woodward
AGAINST:	Cllr Barnes	Cllr Mackenzie
	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Terry
	Cllr Ward	

GP/88/19 Dog Waste Bin

It was noted that the dog waste bin along Hardwick Bank Road (opposite Joan's Field) was leaning and surrounded by long grass. Cllr Mackenzie offered to assess whether the bin was safe.

Cllr Terry reported that the dog bin opposite the Sycamore Road junction was very rusty at the bottom. She suggested that it be replaced with a nearby dog bin in Hardwick Bank Road which was close to a litter bin (as dog waste could now be disposed of in litter bins). It was AGREED that this should be included on the next General Purposes Committee Agenda for approval.

GP/89/19 'Report It'

Children climbing onto the roof of the Changing Room Facility and Village Hall had been reported to Gloucestershire Police as well as incidents of further graffiti.

Flytipping in Hardwick Bank Road had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Dangling solar panel in Saxon Park bus shelter had been reported to Gloucestershire County Council as well as overgrowth on the cycle path over the M5 overbridge.

It had been reported to the Clerk that there was a hole in the roof of the bus shelter along The Park (by Long Eights). A contractor had investigated this but found no hole, although the guttering was broken and tiles missing. This had been repaired and a hole drilled in corner at the base to help water drain away.

GP/90/19 Correspondence for Information

- i. **Groundwork News** – Newsletter
- ii. **Glasdon** – Booklets.
- iii. **Rural Services Network** – Bulletin.

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GP/90/19 **Correspondence for Information** (continued)

iv. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Assoc.** – The Playing Field newsletter.

GP/91/19 **Correspondence received after 20th June 2019**

i. **Quality Hardwood Bus Shelters** – Booklet.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 9.05pm.