

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/55/22 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes** (continued)

We do carry out regular examinations on all our bridges, which we did pick up on the rust during our recent examination, however, we have no current plans to improve the condition at this current time but will continue to monitor this yearly.

GP/56/22 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the play park were received. It was noted that rubber on the ramp of the wheelchair swing had been pulled off and a sharp corner was sticking out of the surrounding fence.

Cllr Godwin reported that the bin in the Play Park had been set alight on the evening of Monday 25th April. It was noted that other bins around the parish had also been set alight.

Cllr MacTiernan reported an incident with some antisocial youths who had been banging/jumping on the wheelchair swing.

Bird poo on one of the swings caused Members to consider installation of spikes on top of the frame. It was AGREED that the swing should be cleaned.

Edging stones had been removed from around the path in the Play Park, a contractor had been instructed to replace these.

- b. **Surfacing** – Members reassessed fire damage to the surfacing which had occurred earlier in the year (Min Ref: GP/21/22 refers). Cllr Ward PROPOSED that no action was taken.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Wheelchair Swing** – The Clerk confirmed that she and the Chairman had met with the manufacturers of the wheelchair swing (Blueberry) following completion of work as there had been some issues with the installation. Following this, the Chairman and GP Chair had felt it would be beneficial to have a post installation inspection of the equipment. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that this expenditure of £240.00 was ratified. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

The Clerk confirmed that the post installation inspection had taken place earlier that day and the inspector had phoned to advise that the gate to the swing and the swing itself were padlocked as the equipment did not conform to regulations for a number of reasons, as such, the equipment would need to be taken out and reinstalled.

It was noted that the inspector had agreed to try and get his report sent to the Parish Office before Wednesday 4th May, which was when the Blueberry would be attending the site to put up signage and return the playing field keys.

The Clerk and Chairman recalled that a radar lock had been left on the swing, but this was no longer in place. Photos were shown of the gate to the wheelchair swing, and the swing itself which had been padlocked by the Parish Council's play inspector. Cllr Mackenzie said that he had a padlock that would stop the ramp being lifted and Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council accepted his offer to attach this.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/56/22 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Cllr Ward felt that the Council should speak to its insurance providers to establish how it stood with regard to liability.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the wheelchair swing was closed to the public. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Ward
	Cllr Beadle	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr MacTiernan

Cllr MacTiernan said that she would like to see the wheelchair swing taken out and not replaced. Cllr Ward pointed out that a lot of work had been put into securing funding towards the swing and the community had been very much in support of its installation. The issues needed to be rectified.

Although a cheque had been issued, the bank had suspected fraud and returned the money to the Council's account, therefore, a cheque would need to be reissued

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should:

1. Inform Blueberry of the wheelchair swing that RoSPA had advised immediate closure and would be providing a report as soon as possible.
2. Contact its insurers to confirm whether legal expenses would be covered should Blueberry choose not to cooperate.
3. Hold off re-issuing payment for the time being.

Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR:	Cllr Roberts	Cllr Ward
	Cllr Beadle	Cllr Godwin
	Cllr Mackenzie	Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr MacTiernan

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should forward a copy of RoSPA's report to Blueberry once it had been received. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the General Purposes Committee should authorise the Finance Committee to agree any necessary action required following the meeting with Blueberry on 4th May 2022. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received. It again was noted that there were holes in the concrete surface of the serpent runway (Min Ref: GP/40/22 refers).
- b. **Skatepark Project** – Members of the GP Projects Working Party had attended a Zoom meeting with Maverick to discuss the next steps of the skatepark project.

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GP/56/22 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

Maverick had since sent over a poster for display around the parish which directed people to a consultation page so that users (or potential users) of the facility could have their say on the design. A quotation had been sought for an A3 sign version of the poster which could then be attached to the half pipe. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED purchasing three A3 signs (for installation in the skatepark, on the wall of the Changing Rooms/Village Hall and in the Saxon Park play park). Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the consultation deadline should be extended to mid-June. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Donation** – A donation of £30 had been received towards the skatepark project which Members were informed of.

8.00pm – Cllrs MacTiernan and Mackenzie left the meeting.

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

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports relating to the MUGA and Outdoor Gym had been received, no issues were raised.
- b. **Approval of Payment** – Payment of the cheque to Caloo for installation of the outdoor gym equipment had been approved at Full Council. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this was ratified by the General Purposes Committee. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

iv. **BMX Humps**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Inspection reports had been received. No new issues were raised.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Improvements** – The quotation for regrading the BMX track and overlaying the surface with 6mm of dust material had been accepted after a local BMXer had confirmed this would be an improvement (Min Ref: GP/40/22 refers).

- v. **Bollards** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that the bollards at the Playing Field appeared to be stable.
- vi. **Golf** – There had been several witnesses to a man regularly playing golf on the Playing Field. The Clerk had approached the man and informed him that golf was not allowed (and there was a sign at the entrance stating as such) but he refused to stop. The police had been informed and hoped to speak to the man.
- vii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/57/22 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts confirmed that he would be undertaking the Giant Hogweed inspection in the coming weeks.

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GP/57/22 **Joan's Field** (continued)

8.06pm – Cllrs MacTiernan and Mackenzie re-joined the meeting.

- ii. **Motorised Vehicles** – Cllr Ward had met with PCSO Simpson on site to discuss the problem of motorised vehicles gaining access to Joan's Field. It was felt that a bollard would make little difference due to there being a storm drain to one side of the access. PCSO Simpson or PC James planned to do a letter drop in Sallis Close to raise awareness, it was AGREED that the Council should wait to see the outcome of this.
- iii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/58/22 **The Park Amenity Land**

i. **Teenage Shelter**

- a. **Inspection Report** – No issues were raised following inspections of the Teenage Shelter.
- b. **Painting** – A quotation of £245 had been received in relation to painting the Teenage Shelter. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED acceptance. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Overgrowth** – A quotation for cutting back of overgrowth had been received from SmartCut. Cllr Mackenzie suggested that the overgrowth was left until the Council wanted to plant more trees, it acted as a sound barrier and there were blackberry bushes amongst it. Cllr Ward explained that trees previously planted by the Council had become lost amongst the overgrowth.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that no action was taken but that the Council budgeted for maintenance of the brambles to take place the following year. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr MacTiernan Cllr Mackenzie
Cllr Beadle Cllr Godwin
Cllr Roberts Cllr Shelton

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Ward

iii. **Jubilee Celebrations** –

- a. **Meeting with Schools** – Members received the notes of the meeting between Cllrs Terry, Mackenzie, Godwin, Treacy and the local schools/preschool.

Quotations for engraved stones, plaques and signs had been obtained with wording as discussed at the meeting 'THIS OAK TREE WAS PLANTED IN CELEBRATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE. THE CHILDREN OF CARRANT BROOK SCHOOL HAVE BEEN GIVEN GUARDIANSHIP OF THIS TREE BY NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL. JUNE 2022'. Another stone/plaque would be required for the second tree of which Northway School and Northway Preschool would be guardians.

Cllr Godwin mentioned that she had already obtained quotations for two engraved stone slabs but she could not recall the price. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a budget of £250 should be allocated towards this. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/58/22 **The Park Amenity Land** (continued)

Members received the notes of the meeting between Cllrs Terry, Mackenzie, Godwin, Treacy and the local schools/preschool.

Confusion was expressed as to whether there would be one event or two (9th June as agreed at the previous General Purposes Committee Meeting and/or 24th June as mentioned at the meeting with the schools). It was AGREED that this should be clarified with the Jubilee Working Party.

Details of time capsules were still being awaited from the Jubilee Working Party. Due to there being some urgency to get these ordered, Cllr Ward offered to purchase two 50cm x 10cm time capsules from Amazon. Cllr Ward PROPOSED a budget of £200 was allocated towards this. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Signage** – Various quotations had been received for new signage (Min Ref: GP/42/22 refers) as well as various layouts. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED approval of a sign from Morelock with the Jubilee emblem at the top. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the sign was installed on the mound opposite Long Eights. If possible, this should be installed just before the renaming event and uncovered on the day. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Jubilee Bench** – Various designs and quotations had been received for supply of a jubilee bench, although it could not be guaranteed that any of these would arrive in time for the Jubilee week.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED purchase of the standard Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemoration bench from Ogilvie. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED the following wording for the plaque which would be installed on the bench: *Installed by Northway Parish Council in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. June 2022.* Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the new bench should be installed back-to-back with an existing bench on the mount at The Park – facing the road and Long Eights estate. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was AGREED that repainting of the existing bench should be considered at the next General Purposes Committee Meeting, if necessary.

- d. **Other Issues** – Details of beacon lighting had been received from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

It was noted that the schools had expressed a wish to plant bulbs around the base of the Oak trees when the time was right.

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GP/58/22 **The Park Amenity Land** (continued)

iv. **Bollards**

- a. **Replacement Bollard** – It was noted that one of the bollards on The Park had fallen over and so emergency action had been taken to get this replaced. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this expenditure should be ratified. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Inspection** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that the remaining bollards appeared to be stable.

- v. **Other Issues** – Cllr Mackenzie mentioned that the boggy area on The Park had been left uncut by the grass cutters and he suggested that an email was sent to remind SmartCut to leave this section uncut (Min Ref: GP/78/21 refers). Cllr Mackenzie offered to mark the area in pink line marker ahead of the next grass cut.

GP/59/22 **Circus**

- i. **Parking** – PCSO Simpson had agreed to look into the possibility of having cones along The Park to help prevent inconsiderate parking on the days that the Circus was going to be in Northway, however he had suggested contacting Gloucestershire County Council.

Gloucestershire County Council had directed the office to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC). Further advice was being awaited but TBC had suggested applying for a temporary traffic order (TPO) to restrict parking in the necessary roads. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should apply for a TPO.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

8.50pm – Cllr MacTiernan left the meeting.

- ii. **Circus Documents** – The James Town Circus documents file had been received and forwarded to Members. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/60/22 **SurveyMonkey**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Council's subscription to SurveyMonkey was not renewed. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/61/22 **Litter Picking Event**

It was noted that the Litter Picking event had been scheduled for a day on which the Hub was already hired out (Min Ref: GP/44/22 refers). It was, therefore, AGREED that the event should be rescheduled for 25th June 2022 and Ubico informed of this change.

Consideration of refreshments was deferred to the next General Purposes Committee Meeting.

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GP/62/22 **Gazebo**

Following approval of purchasing a gazebo for future community events (Min Ref: GP/148/21 refers), several quotations had been sought which were outside of the allocated budget.

Cllr Ward had provided details of a 6m event shelter, as an alternative. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should purchase an event shelter. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward offered to investigate what the Council could get with the £400 budget.

GP/63/22 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

i. **Grass Cutting (TBC/GCC)** – Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED approval of the grass cutting contract with Tewkesbury Borough Council (Min Ref: GP/31/22 refers). Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Grass Cutting (opposite The Northway Centre)** – It was noted that grass cutters had mown over the hedge whips planted by Tewkesbury Borough Council (Min Ref: GP/39/22 refers). It was not sure whether these might grow back again with watering (which a local resident had offered to do) but if not, SmartCut, the Parish Council and TBC would work together to replant in Autumn.

iii. **Other Issues** – None.

GP/64/22 **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/65/22 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Youths accessing the motorway down the side of the bridge was reported to the police.
Twisted school lights/sign on Hardwick Bank Road reported to Gloucestershire CC.
Flytipping at the entrance to Northway Playing Field reported to Gloucestershire CC.
Graffiti and drug items reported to the police.
Condition of iron bridge reported to Tewkesbury BC and Network Rail.
Hub sign pointing the wrong way reported to Gloucestershire CC.

GP/66/22 **Correspondence for Information**

i. **Keep Britain Tidy** – Great British Spring Clean.

ii. **Glasdon** – Product brochure.

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GP/67/22 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Gloucestershire County Council** – Information relating to Tree Planting Network. It was AGREED that the Council should make enquiries as to whether/how it could get involved.

GP/68/22 **Correspondence received after 21st April 2022**

- i. **Bins** – Cllr Mackenzie had reported damaged bins/missing liners. It was AGREED that if there was a spare liner it should be bolted into a bin along The Spine. Cllr Mackenzie offered to do this.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.10pm.