

**NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:03 p.m.

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

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

GP/01/24    **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs, Terry, Barnes, Mackenzie and Phennah. No further apologies for absence had been received.

GP/02/24    **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Min Ref C/85/23).

GP/03/24    **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR:    UNANIMOUS

GP/04/24    **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

***GP/145/23 Parish Maintenance Contract > Bus Shelter/Phone Box Cleaning*** – Prices were in the process of being sought for regular cleaning of the bus shelters and defib phone box.

***GP/147/23 Iron Bridge*** – Mr Tonge (Tewkesbury Borough Council) had advised that funding awarded towards clean up and repainting of the iron bridge had been returned to the Police and Crime Commissioner as the project was no longer viable within the budget envelope.

***GP/180/23 Parish Maintenance Contract > TBC Grass Cutting*** – The Parish Council had confirmed to Mr Tonge (Tewkesbury Borough Council) that it was agreeable to next year's grass cutting arrangements being on the same terms as the current year.

***GP/180/23 Parish Maintenance Contract > Parish Council Grass Cutting*** – Smart Cut's quotation for grass cutting/maintenance had been accepted.

***GP/140/23 Northway Community Hub Grounds > Bushes*** – It was reported that Cllr Fancourt had replaced dead bushes at the front of the Hub with some plants (Corex, Convolvulus Cream and Euonymus).

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GP/05/24 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. The following issues were raised:
- Rust damage to dog bin closest to the car park.
  - Sign on post in front of the Play Park facing the wrong way.
  - Tiger mulch loose and bits missing around edge of the roundabout (it was confirmed that the new bearing for the roundabout had been delivered (Min Ref: GP/157/23 refers).
  - Uneven grass matting by the red house.
  - Scratches on the red house.
  - Merga Tripod Swing posts dented and beginning to show rust.
  - Seating walls chipped.
  - Cracks in cradle swing seat (it was confirmed that this had since been replaced (Min Ref: GP/118/23 & GP/173/23 refer)).
  - Bird spikes broken.
  - Rip in rubber on top of Run Around.
  - Fence post not secure around Wheelchair Swing (it was confirmed that this had since been resolved (GP/157/23 refers)).
  - Play Train wood breaking/rotten (it was confirmed that the wood had now been replaced (Min Ref: GP/137/23 refers).
  - Graffiti present on top of Table Tennis Table.

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that, since the issues were all 'low risk', the Council should review the situation again in Spring. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUSS

- b. **Fencing** – It was confirmed that Blueberry had installed a bracket to secure the Wheelchair Swing fencing to the Play Park fencing (photographs were tabled). Although the Council had asked for a more permanent solution, it was felt that the fencing was suitably secure for the time being.

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 paperwork relating to the Council's application for funding from The National Lottery was nearly ready for submission. No further updates were available.
- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA/Outdoor Gym had been received. No new issues had been raised.
- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. No issues were raised.
- v. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/06/24 **Joan's Field**

No matters were raised relating to Joan's Field.

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GP/07/24 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Trees** - Cllr Mackenzie had emailed the office to confirm that he had checked straps on the trees in Platinum Park and felt they would require slackening in spring. He had also reported that one of the trees was broken and photographs were shown. It was AGREED that the Council should reassess the tree in Spring when it starting to come into leaf and, if necessary, arrange for it to be replaced.

Cllr Roberts mentioned a new tree and a mound had appeared opposite the Northway Centre. It was suggested that a second tree might have been stolen or just not yet planted and enquiries should be made with the Borough Council.

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

GP/08/24 **Newsletter**

Members considered what articles should be included in the next issue of Northway Voice. The following suggestions were made:

- The Coronation artwork unveiling event and plans to print postcards.
- Installation of the VAS
- Feedback following the Christmas event and sleigh run.
- Notice of new councillor.
- Dog fouling (following a request from resident and in accordance with biodiversity policy ('encouraging residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs')).
- Follow up from the Garden Town consultation.
- Details of Hub hiring.
- Parish Assembly details.
- Emergency Plan advice.
- Precept explained.

GP/09/24 **Biodiversity Policy**

Members received the amended biodiversity policy and action plan (Min Ref: GP/161/23 refers). Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that this policy should be adopted by the Parish Council. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/10/24 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

No issues were raised.

GP/11/24 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – Cllr Beadle mentioned that he had been keeping a close eye on the Carrant Brook. Cllr Blackmore added that the fields behind Sinderberry Drive were sodden.

Cllr Roberts wondered whether the drains by Apple Tree Court had started to become blocked again as water was taking a while to drain away.

- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie (Flood Warden) was not available to provide a report.

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GP/12/24 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Manhole cover not completely covering manhole in Steward Road.  
Tree overhanging property in Grange Road.

GP/13/24 **Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next General Purposes Meeting had been rescheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

GP/14/24 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Gloucestershire Rural Community Council** – Flood Warden update (including details of Flood Warden meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February (Cllr Mackenzie had confirmed he would attend).
- ii. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association** – Annual Report.
- iii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Correspondence relating to bin emptying and treecycle.
- iv. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – TPO relating to Open Space, Hardwick Bank Road.

GP/15/24 **Correspondence Received After 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

None received.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.45pm.