

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 29th January 2020 at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:50 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Vice Chairman) Cllr M Barnes
Cllr Mrs P Godwin Cllr Mrs E MacTiernan
Cllr E Phennah (until GP/21/20) Cllr J Roberts
Cllr K Sollis

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

GP/18/20 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mackenzie, Shelton, Porter, Terry and Bailey.

GP/19/20 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 11th July 2012 (Min Ref C/159/12), including paragraph 12(2), were made.

GP/20/20 **Northway Community Hub**

Members received further quotations for topping up the bark areas in the Hub grounds (Min Ref: GP/05/20 refers), as well as prices for provision of tonne bags of bark for Members/volunteers to spread. It was noted that the original quotation received for this work was still cheaper than quotations for supply of the bark alone.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance of the quotation from J W Contracting to supply and level bark (equivalent to approx. 15 one-tonne bags) in the Community Hub grounds at a cost of £495.00. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/21/20 **Tree Maintenance**

i. **Northway Playing Field** – A quotation of £950.00 had been received for the following works at Northway Playing Field:

- Cutting back limbs of Cypress by the gate back to the fence, chip and remove (Min Ref: GP/164/19 refers).
- Cutting back any dangerously overhanging trees/branches coming over the fence off the embankment the length of the Playing Field (GP/112/19 refers).
- Fell of any dead Elms that may fall and cutting back brambles away from fence.
- Chipping brash back over the fence.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance of this quotation, with funds coming from General Reserves. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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GP/21/20 **Tree Maintenance** (continued)

- ii. **The Park** – A quotation of £150.00 had been received for pruning and maintenance to fruit trees on The Park (Min Ref: GP/115/19 refers), the brash from this would then be put into habitat piles in the area beyond the trees.

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance of this quotation. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Joan's Field** – A quotation of £350.00 had been received for cutting back brambles in Joan's Field as well as tidying/pruning of newly planted trees and fruit trees (Min Ref: GP/113/19 refers) brash would then be put in habitat piles in trees near the road.

Cllr Ward, who had met on site with the tree surgeon, reported that although fruit trees had been damaged by a strimmer (Min Ref: GP/165/19 refers) there was nothing that could be done and some had self-repaired to an extent.

8.02 pm – Cllr Phennah left the meeting.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED acceptance of this quotation and that the Council should arrange with Smart Cut (new maintenance contractors) to keep brambles maintained to this standard from then on. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

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

GP/22/20 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Exclusion of the Public and Press** – Cllr Ward PROPOSED that, in view of the special/confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (i.e. contractual/staffing) it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

- ii. **EXCLUSION ITEMS – Councillors Only**

Under confidential cover Members AGREED to retract a previous decision to end a contract (Min Ref: GP/13/20 refers) and instead go out to tender on the various works.

A tender document was approved and it was further AGREED that anyone who had expressed interest in the gate opening tender be informed of the additional jobs available (litter picking, NPF bin emptying and undertaking of play inspections).

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

GP/23/20 **Correspondence received after 23rd January 2020**

None received.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 8.15pm.