

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Committee Chairman) Cllr J Beadle
 Cllr G Fancourt Cllr P Godwin
 Cllr P Mackenzie Cllr E MacTiernan
 Cllr K Poole Cllr J Roberts
 Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry

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

GP/16/24 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

GP/17/24 **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/18/24 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Shelton PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2024 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

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

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Barnes Cllr Mackenzie
 Cllr Poole Cllr Terry

GP/19/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/165/23 Parish Maintenance Contract > Other Items – Fencing has been installed in the Hub grounds to eliminate a gap in the hedge being used as a cut through.

GP/07/23 Platinum Park > Trees – Tewkesbury Borough Council were informed of a young tree lying on the ground opposite The Northway Centre.

GP/20/24 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

a. **Inspection Reports** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park had been received. The following new issues were raised:

- Blue spray on picnic table and bench.
- Rust on the roundabout.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/20/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

It was also noted that matting by the playhouse was still lifted, the trampoline (although recently emptied) was again full of water and two dog bins were now very rusted. Members felt that the bins were verging on dangerous, as such, Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED urgent removal of them and costs for replacements should be brought to the next meeting. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED an amendment that, if there was a spare bin in storage it should be installed in place of the dog bin closest to the car park. Cllr MacTiernan accepted this amendment.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Northway Skatepark** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark had been received, no new issues were raised.
- 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** – It was noted that the annual RoSPA inspections were booked to take place in April.

GP/21/24 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Fencing** – It was noted that part of the wooden fencing in Joan's Field was loose. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that quotations should be obtained for either replacing the fencing or installing a couple of additional posts and refixing the existing ones (with the option of concrete posts). Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Motorised Vehicles** – Members were shown photographs of damage to the compacted stone footpath in Joan's Field after motorised bikes gained access. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that consideration of this should be deferred until the next General Purposes Committee Meeting. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Giant Hogweed** – It was noted that Giant Hogweed inspections were due to take place at the start of March and the end of May. Cllr Roberts offered to undertake the inspections as he had in previous years.
- iv. **Other Issues** – Cllr Fancourt offered to undertake a light pruning of the apple trees in Joan's Field and dispose of the waste amongst the brambles. Cllr MacTiernan suggested that, if Cllr Fancourt was happy to do this at no charge, the Council should accept his offer. AGREED.

It was AGREED that the Council should investigate further tree pruning in the future, and budget accordingly for the next financial year.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/22/24 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Jubilee Oak Trees** – Members reconsidered applying for TPO's (Tree Preservation Orders) on the two Oak trees which were planted for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee on Platinum Park (Min Ref: GP/163/23 refers).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Council should defer consideration of applying for TPO's on the trees for a year when they would be more established. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Fancourt requested permission to remove the yellow tags still attached to the new trees on Platinum Park as he felt they were starting to eat into the bark. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED this should be permitted. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/23/24 **Newsletter**

Members received a draft copy of the Northway Voice newsletter.

Cllr Poole had suggested inclusion of an image that Tewkesbury Borough Council had created to show which authority was responsible for different things. Cllr Roberts raised concerns that the graphic did not include enough of what Northway Parish Council was responsible for which made it look like the Council did not do much at all. Cllr Poole offered to create an infographic that was specific to Northway Parish for use instead. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that Cllr Poole should be permitted to create something for inclusion in the newsletter. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Household Emergency Plan should be photocopied as a separate attachment for inclusion in the newsletter which would create enough space for Cllr Poole's infographic. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/24/24 **Ball Games**

An update was received following a previous complaint of ball games being played on the green in Hawthorn Way (Min Ref: GP/162/23 refers). A resident had reported that the issue was increasing with the approach of lighter evenings and one child had taken it upon themselves to access her back garden (without permission) in order to retrieve a ball. The resident had asked for a contact number for the police.

PCSO's Diamond and Owen, who had recently been allocated to the area, had been forwarded details of the complaint. They had offered to call by when next in the area and speak to any children playing ball games, if necessary. They had also advised the resident to use the 101 number so that any messages were then passed on to whoever was on duty. Unfortunately, the resident did not feel that this was any help at all and so requested that the issue was referred back to the Parish Council.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/24/24 **Ball Games** (continued)

Cllr Poole PROPOSED that the Council responded to the resident advising that it had no legal powers, therefore, could do nothing further. It should advise them to report any issues by phoning 101 and also provide the web link to details of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/25/24 **Oak Trees**

- i. It was noted that, despite numerous emails from the Parish Office, a date for planting of the oak trees in Oak Drive had not yet been provided by Tewkesbury Borough Council (Min Ref: GP/163/23 refers). Cllr MacTiernan requested that a copy of the email chain was forwarded to her so she could chase this up.
- ii. Members considered where the remaining oak trees should be planted. Cllr MacTiernan suggested that the Council postponed planting of all the trees (including the ones for Oak Drive, mentioned above) and PROPOSED that, due to the time of year, further consideration should be deferred until September 2024. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/26/24 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Bus Shelter/Phone Box Cleaning** – Members considered quotations for cleaning of the bus shelters and the phone box in Hardwick Bank Road (housing a defibrillator).

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED acceptance of a quotation from Bonnard Group at a cost of £250 per visit. Cllr Mackenzie SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan further PROPOSED that the cleans were undertaken on a bi-monthly basis. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Other Issues** – No other issues, relating to Parish maintenance, were raised.

GP/27/24 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No new reports of flooding were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie reported that blocked road drains were an ongoing problem.

GP/28/24 **'Report It'**

The following issues had been reported to the relevant authority:

Northway drains becoming blocked.

White van parked on dropped kerb in the Sandfield (and restricting access to The Spine footpath).

Flooding on footpath opposite Apple Tree Court.

Raised iron work in Sinderberry Drive.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/28/24 **'Report It'** (continued)

Raised utilities cover in Redwood Court.
Damaged footpath in Sinderberry Drive.
Bin fire behind Apple Tree Court.

Cllr MacTiernan reported a van that regularly parked on the grass in Kingston Road. It was confirmed that Gloucestershire County Council had been informed and had reportedly written to residents about this. Cllr MacTiernan wondered whether a stronger letter could be sent.

GP/29/24 **Correspondence for Information**

i. **Chris Arnold Tree Surgery** – Details of services.

GP/30/24 **Correspondence Received After 22nd February 2024**

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

ii. **RPM Displays** – Details of services.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.07 pm.