

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th April 2024 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Barnes (Committee Chairman) Cllr J Beadle
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/42/24 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fancourt.

GP/43/24 **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/44/24 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20th March 2024 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/45/24 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/36/24 Joan's Field – A crab apple tree has been planted in Joan's Field to honour a resident who was acknowledged at the 2022 Parish Assembly.

GP/41/24 Correspondence Received After 14th March 2024 – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust were informed that there would not be a Northway Fete in 2024.

GP/163/23 & GP/173/23 Bench – It was confirmed that the NHS rainbow bench by The Northway Centre had been repainted. Mr Ward had passed on his thanks to the Council for approving this work.

GP/46/24 **Northway Playing Field**

- i. **Northway Play Park** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the play park were received. No new issues had been raised.
- ii. **Northway Skatepark**
 - a. **Inspection Reports** - Weekly inspection reports relating to the skatepark were received, no new issues had been raised.
 - b. **Funding Application** – It was confirmed that the Council's application for funding from The National Lottery was being considered by the panel that month. Several

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/46/24 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

questions had been raised, including whether the Council would consider agreeing to extent to a two-year project period. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval of this. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the MUGA/Outdoor Gym were received. No new issues had been raised.
- iv. **BMX Humps** – Weekly inspection reports relating to the BMX Humps had been received. It was reported that a mattress (removed from a resident’s driveway) had been taken on to Northway Playing Field and left there.

The Clerk updated that, since the report, this mattress had been dragged to the centre of the BMX Humps and set on fire. The fire service had attended the scene on this night (15th April 2024) and also the night before following an incident at the Playing Field. The Litter Picker/Play Inspector had taken the remnants of the mattress to the entrance of the Playing Field, they were then collected by Ubico. Cllr Terry asked that the Litter Picker/Play Inspector be thanked for doing this.

- v. **Other Issues** – Cllr Roberts wondered whether it was worth arranging a meeting with the local PCSO’s following recent incidents at the Playing Field. The Clerk confirmed that conversations had been taking place with the Community Safety Partnership.

GP/47/24 **Joan’s Field**

- i. **Giant Hogweed Inspection** – Cllr Roberts confirmed that he had found no sign of Giant Hogweed in Joan’s Field.
- ii. **Other Issues** – SmartCut had quoted £797.87 to plant hedgerow whips along the existing fence line in Joan’s Field (Min Ref: GP/36/24 refers), this price would reduce by approximately £150 if the work was done later in the year as the whips used would be bare rooted rather than potted. There would also be less chance of having to water the whips later in the year. Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the whips should be planted later in the year. Cllr Beadle SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/48/24 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – Inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Trees**
 - a. **Damaged Tree** – Members reconsidered replacement of a damaged tree on Platinum Park (Min Ref: GP/07/24 refers). Cllr Fancourt had emailed to suggest that the damaged tree probably needed removal and, if it did recover, it would not look the same as the other trees. Cllr Mackenzie PROPOSED that the tree was replaced like-for-like in the autumn. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Straps/Ties** – Cllr Fancourt had emailed to advise that he had loosened the ties on the new trees in Platinum Park, he had also removed the yellow tags.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/48/24 **Platinum Park** (continued)

- iii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Mackenzie asked whether the Council's contractors had been instructed to continue leaving the wild area on Platinum Park unmown, this was confirmed by the Clerk's Assistant. Cllr Mackenzie mentioned that the north end of Platinum Park was very wet and it would be good to have some trees planted there. Cllr Shelton suggested that some of the oak trees that the Council had in pots (in various Members' gardens) could be planted there. Cllr Roberts wondered if this would be suitable with the other two oak trees which were already in place, especially if the Council wanted the circus to return to Northway. Cllr Mackenzie offered to ask a tree surgeon for advice on this.

Cllr Beadle thought it would look nice to line the eastern side of Platinum Park with trees that would blossom (i.e. cherry). Cllr Godwin pointed out that the ground was very stoney. Cllr Mackenzie offered to ask the tree surgeon for advice on this also.

GP/49/24 **Policies**

Members reviewed the Council's policies on – bus shelter lighting, community events, memorials, Joan's Field, safeguarding and travellers.

Cllr Godwin advised that NCV no longer did any maintenance in Joan's Field other than in relation to the flower barrels. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that all references to NCV should be removed from the Joan's Field policy as well as reference to the moveable goal post. Cllr MacTiernan SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Safeguarding policy should remain as it was. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr MacTiernan PROPOSED that the Traveller policy should remain as it was. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was AGREED that the bus shelter lighting, community events and memorials policies, should remain as they were.

GP/50/24 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

It was reported that the box hedge at the back of Northway Community Hub (by the car park) had become overrun with caterpillars and was looking very unhealthy. The Clerk had arranged for the plants to be sprayed as an emergency action.

GP/51/24 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – Cllr Roberts reported that a barrel had been thrown into the stream at the back of Apple Tree Court.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that there were no flooding issues to report.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/52/24 **'Report It'**

A broken tree at the Northway Centre had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

GP/53/24 **Correspondence Received After 11th April 2024**

- i. **Make Space for Girls** – Newsletter.
- ii. **Glasdon** – Leaflet.
- iii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Coronation Living Heritage Fund – Details of community orchard funding. It was AGREED that this should be put on a future General Purposes Committee Agenda for further consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.