

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7.05 p.m.

Present: Cllr J Roberts (Chairman) Cllr M Barnes
Cllr J Beadle Cllr P Godwin
Cllr J Llewellyn Cllr K Poole
Cllr G Shelton Cllr S Terry
Cllr S Ward

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

GP/52/26 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Fancourt, R Godwin and Phennah.

GP/53/26 **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/54/26 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr P Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes of the meeting that took place on 18th March 2026 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Barnes SECONDED.

FOR: Cllr P Godwin Cllr Barnes
Cllr Llewellyn Cllr Roberts
Cllr Shelton Cllr Terry
Cllr Ward

ABSTENTIONS: Cllr Beadle Cllr Poole

GP/55/26 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

GP/146/25 Swap Box – *The Swap Box/Sharing Cabinet had been constructed and was now installed in the Hub grounds, thanks to local resident Richard Dunn. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a letter of thanks was issued.*

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/43/26 Active Week – *It was reported that the events organised as part of Active Week had now taken place, and photographs of several activities were shared with Members. It was noted that attendance at some sessions had been low; however, the outdoor activities had proved more popular. Cllr Terry thanked the Clerk's Assistant for her hard work in organising this.*

GP/45/26 Platinum Park > James Richards Circus – *The offer of a visit from the circus in 2027 had been accepted.*

GP/45/26 Platinum Park > Bollards – *Three loose bollards had now been either secured or replaced.*

GP/56/26 **Northway Playing Field**

i. **Northway Play Park**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the play park, this included the annual report from RoSPA.

Cllr Ward pointed out that the cracks in the footpath had not improved with the wet weather, so asked that the matter be included for consideration on the next General Purposes Committee meeting agenda.

Issues highlighted in the reports were all low or very low risk, except relating to the wheelchair swing which was medium risk due to it being 'non-compliant with relevant standards' but there was 'no reasonably practicable action' available. There was also glass present in the enclosed wheelchair swing area which posed a medium risk.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that, in view of the low risk ratings, the Council continue to monitor all identified issues, arrange for the removal of the glass, apply Hammerite paint to the top of the MUGA swing and recheck its height, and investigate the use of cable ties on the toddler and junior swings to prevent birds from sitting on the top reducing the issue of bird mess.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Tiger Mulch** – Members reconsidered the quotation for repairs to the tiger mulch surfacing in the play park, which had first been considered in June 2025 (Min Ref: GP/90/25 refers). It was noted that the quotation had now expired. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that Members inspect the tiger mulch themselves ahead of the next meeting, at which time it should be reconsidered whether the works were necessary.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

ii. **Northway Skatepark**

- a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the skatepark, including the annual report from RoSPA. No new issues were raised.

Members were shown photographs of graffiti on the skatepark, which the Play Inspector had made efforts to remove. It was considered that painting over the graffiti would be a more effective solution. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the wall be repainted using masonry paint and treated with anti-graffiti paint. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b. **Skatepark Jam** – The Clerk's Assistant mentioned that she had been investigating options for provision of ice creams at the event.

- c. **Antisocial Behaviour/Graffiti** – Members were informed of antisocial behaviour that had been taking place at the skatepark, including incidents of graffiti, intimidation and bullying which been reported to the police along with CCTV footage.

Members considered installing signage to remind users that there was CCTV, and encourage reporting incidents (including bullying) to the Council and/or the police, providing details timing to assist with the monitoring and review of footage.

It was AGREED that Members should consider wording of signage and bring suggestions back to the next meeting.

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GP/56/26 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- d. **Graffiti Mural/Workshop** – Members received a response from Tewkesbury Academy confirming their agreement with the Council's suggestions and terms for the painting of the mural at the skatepark (Min Ref: GP/43/26 refers). The school had requested more precise measurements of the wall, which Cllr Ward offered to obtain. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Academy be authorised to book the artist and agree a date.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- e. **First Aid Sessions** – A local first aider had contacted the Council offering to provide first aid training sessions for users of the skatepark, at a cost. Cllr Poole commented that injuries at the skatepark were most likely to consist of broken bones, cuts, and grazes, which most people would be able to manage. She also felt that there would be low uptake and children would prefer more skateboard and scooter lessons instead.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this should be left for now and reconsidered if funding became available.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Poole suggested that the Council consider ordering first aid pamphlets for distribution at events to promote basic first aid awareness.

- f. **Other Action** – No other issues were raised.

- iii. **MUGA/Outdoor Gym** – The weekly inspection reports had been received, as well as the annual RoSPA report. Most of the issues raised were low or very low risk and so it was agreed that these should be monitored.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should contact Caloo for advice as to why the equipment did not automatically adjust when at rest'.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **BMX Humps** - The weekly inspection reports had been received, as well as the annual RoSPA report. Most of the issues raised were low or very low risk and so it was agreed that these should be monitored.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the issues relating to the BMX Humps, primarily the condition of the surface (high risk), should be put on the next agenda for consideration.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- v. **Car Park Lighting** – A quotation of £285 had been received for installation of a new, LED, light with PIR motion sensor on the side of the Changing Rooms (Min Ref: GP/43/26 refers). Cllr Terry PROPOSED acceptance. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was AGREED that the light should be set to stay on for ten minutes after being motion activated.

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

GP/57/26 **Joan's Field**

- i. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts had found no signs of Giant Hogweed in Joan's Field.

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GP/57/26 **Joan's Field** (continued)

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

GP/58/26 **Platinum Park**

- i. **Teenage Shelter** – The weekly inspection reports relating to the Teenage Shelter had been received. No new issues were raised.
- ii. **Other Issues** – No other issues were raised.

GP/59/26 **Northway Community Hub Grounds**

The Caretaker had been removing weeds from the area at the front of the Community Hub, which was now looking much better, but the bark required topping up. A quotation of £695 had been received for this. Cllr Poole PROPOSED approval of this work. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/60/26 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Damage to Grassed Areas** – It was previously reported that grassed areas in Fairway, Lee Road and Kingston Road had been damaged following utility works undertaken by Doocey Group (Min Ref: GP/47/26 refers). Some areas had since been scattered with grass seed. No further updates were available.
- ii. **Trees** – Members were reminded of trees in Ash Road and Sycamore Road which had become entangled in overhead telephone wires. The matter had been reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Openreach, none of whom accepted responsibility for cutting back the trees. As a result, it was considered that responsibility may fall to the Parish Council.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council authorise the trees to be cut back from the wires, subject to quotations being under £750. No seconder was received for this proposal. It was therefore AGREED that the office should seek further advice on whether the trees could be cut back more extensively to prevent the issue recurring for quite a while, and report back to the next meeting.

- iii. **Grange Road** – Members were brought up to speed on correspondence relating to maintenance of grass in Grange Road and opposite The Northway Centre (Min Ref: GP/47/26 refers) following the initial contact made by Tewkesbury Borough Council's Climate Change Officer.

Since the last General Purposes Committee meeting, SmartCut (the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor) had contacted the office to advise that they had received a call from Tewkesbury Borough Council requesting that they do not maintain the 'habitat area' at Grange Court. SmartCut operatives also reported an incident in which a resident behaved aggressively towards them while they were carrying out maintenance works. The resident referred to a square area behind the war memorial, where it appeared there used to be a tree, and insisted that this area should not be cut.

SmartCut had requested specific instruction from the Parish Council as to what should be maintained in this area going forward and had, in the meantime, ceased grass cutting there.

Members were shown photographs of the area, which had already become considerably overgrown. Cllr Roberts recalled that the Parish Council, along with SmartCut and Ubico,

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GP/60/26 **Parish Maintenance Contract** (continued)

had previously worked to tidy the area around the memorial/obelisk and to establish a maintained path to and around it. Cllr Ward had also recalled that the area had initially been cut back to help reduce incidents of antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that a letter was sent to Tewkesbury Borough Council requesting clarification as to what they wanted done. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- iv. **Other Issues** – SmartCut had written regarding a piece of land in Willis Walk which appeared to be the responsibility of Tewkesbury Borough Council. As the area had become overgrown, a resident had arranged and paid for it to be cut back and had subsequently asked SmartCut to maintain it going forward. However, a significant amount of rubbish was now left on site, including bricks, wood and what appeared to be guttering. An email had been sent to Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding the matter.

GP/61/26 **Hawthorn Way**

- i. **Ball Games** – Members received a letter from a resident regarding ball games being played on the green at Hawthorn Way, which had resulted in balls being kicked into their garden. This had also been an issue the previous year, at which time the Council had written to surrounding households requesting that consideration be shown and that only soft balls be used on the green.

Members agreed that ball games on the green were not, in themselves, an issue unless accompanied by antisocial behaviour. It was therefore AGREED that the matter be referred to the local PCSOs.

- ii. **Wall** – Following previous discussions regarding the condition of the wall in Hawthorn Way (Min Ref: GP/46/26), the Clerk's Assistant had not yet arranged for Cllr Godwin to liaise with a contractor on potential options, as she was awaiting confirmation of ownership, or formal handover documentation, from Robert Hitchins Ltd. At present, the Council held no documentation to confirm that it owned the wall.

GP/62/26 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Beadle had nothing to report. Cllr Terry queried whether he had undertaken the necessary flood warden training. Cllr Beadle advised that he had been unable to attend previous sessions and was awaiting a suitable date from GRCC.

GP/63/26 **'Report It'**

Details of issues reported were shared with Members.

GP/64/26 **Correspondence for Action**

- i. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Invitation to Funding Fair taking place on 29th April 2026.

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GP/65/26 **Correspondence for Information**

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

GP/66/26 **Correspondence Received After 9th April 2026**

- i. **RPM Display** – Details of the RPM Bicycle Stunt Show and The Slackline School.
- ii. **SafeAvon** – Various correspondence.
- iii. **Wyevale Nurseries** – 50% off transplants 2026
- iv. **GRCC** – National Lottery funding for councils.
- v. **GC Biodiversity Solutions** – Introduction and details of what is on offer.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.