

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 17th June 2026 in the Ray Shill Room at Northway Community Hub, Lee Walk, Northway, commencing at 7.05 p.m.

Present: Cllr J Roberts (Chair) Cllr J Beadle (Vice-Chair)
Cllr M Barnes Cllr G Fancourt
Cllr P Godwin Cllr S Terry
Cllr Ward

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

GP/84/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Llewellyn, Shelton and Kareem had tendered their apologies.

GP/85/26 **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/86/26 Previous Minutes

Cllr P Godwin PROPOSED that the Minutes of the meeting that took place on 20th May 2026 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/87/26 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

GP/79/26 Parish Maintenance Contract > Trees – The quotation for tree maintenance in Ash Road and Sycamore Road was accepted.

GP/151/25 Parish Maintenance Contract > Weed Killing – Weed killing has been undertaken throughout the parish.

GP/88/26 Northway Playing Field

- i. **Northway Play Park** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the Play Park, and no new issues were identified.
- ii. **Northway Skatepark**
 - a. **Inspection Reports** – Members received the inspection reports relating to the skatepark. No new issues were raised.
 - b. **Skatepark Jam** – Members were shown photographs taken at the Skate Jam held on 23rd May and noted that the event had been successful and well organised. Members expressed that they would like to make the Skate Jam an annual event.

Cllr Fancourt PROPOSED that the Council explored grant funding opportunities to support a Skate Jam in 2027, as well as additional skateboarding and scooter coaching sessions, which were well received by young people. Cllr Ward SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- c. **Antisocial Behaviour/Graffiti** – Members received a further quotation for a sign encouraging people to report any incidents taking place at the skatepark (Min Ref: GP/73/26 refers). Cllr Roberts PROPOSED acceptance of the cheaper price from Sign Link Graphics.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED purchase of stickers with QR codes, up to a cost of £150, to be affixed to picnic tables and benches near the skatepark. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- d. **Sealing of Skatepark** – Members AGREED to provisionally schedule an action day to undertake sealing of the skatepark on the afternoon of Friday 4th September. Cllr R Godwin suggested that the facility was washed down the day before and offered to measure the distance to the outside tap as he may have a hosepipe which was long enough to reach.
- e. **Graffiti Mural/Workshop** – The street art mural at the skatepark had now been completed and photos were shared with Members.

Cllr Fancourt had spoken to one of the teachers on site about how much the students had enjoyed the project. He had since been considering whether any other areas could be painted. Cllr Ward suggested it might be something the school could organise and fund itself in the future, perhaps applying for grants towards the cost of the artist.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this was put back to the General Purposes Committee in four months' time.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a letter of thanks was sent to Tewkesbury Academy

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that SmartCut be asked to weedkill the grass in front of the new mural instead of strimming to avoid damaging the paintwork. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- f. **Other Action** – Cllr Fancourt raised the patchiness of the grass on the skatepark embankment, however, since it would be costly to get something done he suggested this was left to improve on its own.
- iii. **MUGA/Outdoor Gym** – The weekly inspection reports had been received. It was noted that one of the benches near the MUGA was rusted, the Play Inspector had offered to would re-paint.

Caloo had re-adjusted the rower and resolved the issue of it not resetting to starting position after use (Min Ref: GP/56/26 refers). They had also referred to the issue of cracks in the tarmac which they felt was down to ground movement.

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GP/88/26 **Northway Playing Field** (continued)

- iv. **BMX Humps** - The weekly inspection reports had been received, no new issues had been identified.

Cllr P Godwin mentioned that contractors had not cut all of the BMX humps.

- v. **Other Issues** – Cllr Ward asked the office to arrange for areas in the Play Park which required topsoil to be marked (Min Ref: GP/73/26 refers) and he would fill them.

GP/89/26 Joan's Field

- i. **Giant Hogweed** – Cllr Roberts reported that he had completed a partial inspection of Joan's Field for Giant Hogweed and would inspect the remaining areas as soon as possible.

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

GP/90/26 **Platinum Park**

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

- ii. **Trees** – Members again considered whether preparations should be made for tree watering during the dry weather. Cllr R Godwin felt that the trees did not currently need water, however, he and Cllr Barnes offered to go and check on them.

- iii. **Other Issues** – Cllr Beadle suggested that the teenage shelter be considered as a potential location for street art when the matter was reviewed in four months' time (Min Ref: GP/88/26).

GP/91/26 **Hub Grounds**

Members received a quotation of £40.00 to remove the top of the dead Silver Birch tree (Min Ref: GP/76/26 refers). Cllr Ward PROPOSED that, instead, the Council waited until the end of the bird nesting season, or until it had been confirmed that there were no birds nesting in the bird box, and then arrange for the entire tree to be removed. Cllr R Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/92/26 **Newsletter**

A draft copy of the newsletter was tabled. Members made a number of minor amendments and suggested that the Northway Chemist be asked to provide a version of their advertisement with less text, as the current content was too small to read within the available space.

Cllr Fancourt mentioned that he wanted to see Warm Space renamed. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that this was considered at Full Council.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/93/26 Hawthorn Way

- i. **Ball Games** – A letter had been drafted in relation to the playing of ball games on the green in Hawthorn Way (Minute Ref: GP/61/26 & GP/78/26 refer). Cllr Fancourt offered to hand

GP/93/26 **Hawthorn Way** (continued)

deliver these to residents. Further correspondence had been received from residents which was relayed to Members.

Cllr Ward suggested that any further correspondence relating to this matter be responded to with, "Thank you for your email. Your comments have been noted."

- ii. **Wall** – Cllr R Godwin confirmed that he had met with a local company to discuss recommendations for repair of the Wall in Hawthorn Way (Min Ref: GP/78/26 refers). The company had suggested taking down the existing piers to the level of the wall height, removing the damaged red engineering bricks and replacing with new on the top of the wall, as well as pointing up the cracks. A quotation for the work was still awaited.

Members noted that a small section of the wall belonged to one of the properties as it bordered their car parking space.

GP/94/26 **Bee Hives**

Members received an enquiry regarding a potential site for the placement of beehives within the parish. Joan's Field was identified as a possible location, although it was noted that fencing may be required to separate the beehives from users of the field.

Members raised a number of questions, including whether the enquirer was a Northway resident or whether it was a commercial venture, and whether they were a member of a recognised beekeeping association.

Members were supportive in principle but agreed that further information was required before a decision could be made. It was suggested that a face-to-face meeting be arranged with the enquirer, and advice would also need to be sought from the Council's insurers.

GP/95/26 **Parish Maintenance Contract**

- i. **Grange Road** – Members noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council had confirmed that Ubico would undertake a one-off maintenance visit in Grange Road, after which the Council could instruct SmartCut to maintain the area to the same standard going forward (Min Ref: GP/79/26 refers).
- ii. **Other Issues** – Overgrowth on the footpath alongside the Humpback Bridge was raised as an issue. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to Gloucestershire Highways.

The condition of the pavement along Northway Lane was also raised and Cllr Ward offered to forward photographs to the Clerk.

GP/96/26 **Drainage and Flooding**

- i. **Reports** – No flooding issues were raised.
- ii. **Flood Warden** – Cllr Beadle had nothing to report.

GP/97/26 **'Report It'**

Details of issues reported were shared with Members.

The Clerk had reported overgrowth near the entrance to Northway Playing Field,

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GP/97/26 **'Report It'** (continued)

Gloucestershire County Council had asked for clarification on how much needed cutting back, and where. It was AGREED that growth should be kept high by the motorway but cut back everywhere else.

GP/98/26 **Correspondence for Information**

- i. **Joe's Day** – Notice of this event taking place at Northway Playing Field on 27th June 2026.
- ii. **Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA)** – Cllr Barnes would be attending the Centenary Reception on 26th June 2026.
- iii. **SafeAvon** – Correspondence.

GP/99/26 **Correspondence Received After 11th June 2026**

- i. **SafeAvon**
 - a. Analysis of Q1 2026 Sewage Discharge Summaries.
 - b. News release.
- ii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Members considered the Health and Wellbeing Grant Fund. It was AGREED that the Council should apply for funding towards a future Skate Jam if eligible. *Note: It was subsequently established that the Council was not eligible to apply to this fund, having previously received funding from it.*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.