

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at Northway Community Hub, Ray Shill Room, Northway Lane, commencing at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Committee Chairman) Cllr Mrs P Godwin (Vice Chairman)
Cllr D Birch Cllr E Phennah (from Min Ref: GP/16/18)
Cllr C Porter Cllr R Roberts
Cllr Mrs S Terry

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

GP/13/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Castle, Bailey, MacTiernan and Webber. Cllr Phennah had advised that he would be late.

GP/14/18 **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/15/18 **Previous Minutes**

Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 31st January 2018 should be approved as a true and accurate record. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/16/18 **Matters Arising From the Previous Minutes**

GP/07/18 – Joan's Field – NCV had been informed that the Council had no objections to the planting of Buddleiah shrubs in Joan's Field.

GP/09/18 – Grass Cutting – Ubico were set to start maintaining the extra verges for which Tewkesbury Borough Council were responsible from April 2018.

C/39/18 – Northway Community Volunteers (NCV) Fete – Tewkesbury Town FC had indicated that they would not be happy for Go Karting to take place on the football pitches. NCV would, therefore, arrange for the Go-Karts to be sited elsewhere on the field.

GP/145/17 – Parish Maintenance Contract – From April 2018, GAP Waste would be contracted for an extra hour per week and on Wednesdays litter picking would take place from Carrant Brook through the Spine and finish by the Teenage Shelter.

GP/08/18 – Parish Maintenance Contract – The Clerk's Assistant read a response from a resident regarding the state of the playing field car park and the amount of litter on the green next to Grange Court. He was requesting that the Council arrange for a litter picking party to cover the green and post photos of the rubbish on Facebook.

7:10 p.m. – Cllr Phennah joined the meeting.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/16/18 **Matters Arising From the Previous Minutes** (continued)

It was pointed out that this piece of land belonged to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the litter on the green should be reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council and a response sent to the resident thanking him for his email, inviting him to come and address the Council at any time, mentioning also that the Borough Council had been informed of the litter problem.

GP/17/18 Northway Playing Field

- i. **Northway Play Park** – Weekly Inspections – No new issues raised.

It was noted that Mr Davies had found a small bag of cannabis in the train pipe.

Cllr Ward reported a trip hazard at the side entrance to the Play Park, where the soil had washed away. He then PROPOSED that the Council should take action to get this dealt with, either by concreting or putting down slabs.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- ii. **Northway Skate Park** – Weekly Inspections – No new issues raised.

It was noted that the paint was coming off of some of the equipment already.

- iii. **M.U.G.A / Outdoor Gym** – Weekly Inspections – No new issues raised.

- iv. **Tennis Facilities** – Members considered the idea of trying to apply for funding towards installation of a tennis court on the Playing Field. Most Members thought that this was an excellent idea, provided funding could be found. The Clerk's Assistant had downloaded information on the criteria for funding from the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) website but it was not easy to establish, without further investigation, whether the Parish Council would qualify.

It was AGREED that, because Cllr MacTiernan had raised this idea (Min Ref: C/43/18 refers), she should be invited to bring further information to the next General Purposes Committee meeting.

- v. **Repairs to Car Park** – Members received three quotations for repairs to be made to the Playing Field car park. It was noted that, although it would be ‘best value’ to resurface the whole of the car park instead of doing a temporary fix, the Council would have to budget over several years to cover that cost. Due to the urgent need for repairs to be made in the meantime, Cllr Ward **PROPOSED** that the lowest quotation (from SPA Paving) be accepted, with a view to putting a solution in place for the longer-term eventually.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/18/18 **The Park**

Quarterly Inspection Report not received.

GP/19/18 Joan's Field

Members received a request from NCV for permission to place a metal flower planter in the

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/19/18 Joan's Field (continued)

field, preferably underneath the sign by the entrance. Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council should allow this.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was also noted that Cllr Ward had offered to mark out the Council's preferred location for the picnic bench being provided by NCV (GP/118/17 refers) prior to its installation.

GP/20/18 Restoring the Record

Members had been concerned at a post that had been circulating Facebook warning that unrecorded footpaths and bridleways would cease to exist at the end of January 2026 (Min Ref: GP/11/18 refers) .

Cllr Ward confirmed that the footpaths in the parish matched up with Rights of Way map on Gloucestershire County Council's web page. Cllr Roberts, therefore, PROPOSED that no further action was required. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/21/18 Bus Shelter at Ashchurch Station

Members were reminded of Gloucestershire County Council's offer to install a display case, with Parish Council logo, on the new bus shelter allocated for Ashchurch Station. This was agreed under Minute Reference C/43/18 but, due to it not being an agenda item, Cllr Terry PROPOSED ratification of the decision. Cllr Roberts SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllr Roberts confirmed that he would be willing to put up posters in the display case as/ when required once the shelter was in place. Members thanked Cllr Roberts for this offer.

GP/22/18 Dog Bin Request

Members received a request for installation of a dog bin at the entrance to the footpath off Sinderberry Drive as there was a lot of dog mess being left in the nearby field. Members considered the request, bearing in mind that there were some dog bins not too far away from this location. Cllr Terry PROPOSED that the Council should reconsider this request when agreeing budgets for the next financial year. Cllr Phennah SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/23/18 Emergency Planning Working Party

Members considered purchase of hi visibility jackets for this Working Party. Cllr Ward pointed out that there was £200.00 in the Emergency Planning budget to cover the cost. He had suggested ordering of twenty jackets with 'VOLUNTEER' written on the back. These were at a cost of between £4.99 - £5.99 each.

Cllr Roberts PROPOSED approval of this expenditure. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/24/18 Winter Plan Working Party

- i. **Notes** – Members received the notes of the Winter Plan Working Party Meeting that took place on 21st February 2018.
- ii. **Gritting in Northway** – Chris Riley, Local Highways Manager at Gloucestershire County Council, had confirmed that Northway Lane was a key route and received the highest level of treatment when it came to winter maintenance.
- iii. **Grit Bins** – Members received a recommendation from the Winter Plan Working Party that the Council considered installation of a grit bin on the Northway Lane motorway bridge, the Hardwick Bank Road motorway bridge and two on the Northway Lane hump back bridge. It was noted that Chris Riley, Local Highways Manager at Gloucestershire County Council, had explained that grit bins were not normally permitted on key routes but he felt that there was some merit in having some in place for the footways.
- iv. **Grit Bin Prices** – Members received prices of grit bins costing between £99 - £352.
- v. **Purchase of Grit Bins** – The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed County Cllr Smith regarding provision of grit bins but he had not replied. Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Council should wait for a response from County Cllr Smith before agreeing any action. Cllr Godwin SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- vi. **Next Meeting** – The Clerk confirmed that she would circulate a selection of possible dates for the next Winter Plan Working Party meeting.
- vii. **Winter Update** – A 'Winter Update' had been forwarded by Gloucestershire County Council. It was AGREED that this should be circulated to Members on email.

GP/25/18 Parish Maintenance Contract

- i. **Actions or Alterations** – No issues were raised.
- ii. **Problem Tree in Northway** – The Clerk alerted Members to a complaint regarding an overhanging tree in Virginia Close. Although the tree had a TPO on it, Lesa West was looking into whether any reduction could take place.

GP/26/18 Newsletter

Members received the final copy of Northway Voice: Issue 16. Cllr Roberts wondered whether it was worth mentioning the Garden Waste Club scheme that the Borough Council had introduced. It was pointed out that there was little space left in the newsletter and the Borough Council had already sent letters to all of the residents so an article on this was not necessary.

Cllr Terry PROPOSED acceptance of the final copy of Northway Voice: Issue 16 and thanked Cllr Ward for his hard work in putting it together. Cllr Porter SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

GP/27/18 Correspondence for Information

- i. **RoSPA** – It was noted that the play area inspections were due to take place in April/May.

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

GP/27/18 Correspondence for Information (continued)

- ii. **GPFA** – Details of low cost regional FA 'Pitch Conference' event.
- iii. **Woodberry** – 2018 catalogue.
- iv. **JACS** – Village Gateways brochure.
- v. **Fields in Trust** – Newsletter.
- vi. **HAGS** – Play equipment brochure.

GP/28/18 Correspondence received after 22nd February 2018

- i. **Keep Britain Tidy** – GB Spring Clean information.
- ii. **Tewkesbury Borough Council** – Details of the Garden Waste Club scheme.
- iii. **Glasdon** – Brochure.
- iv. **Local Resident Concerns** – Members were informed of one resident's concerns that a man was cutting down trees in Northway (most recently on The Park) and claiming that he had Council permission to do so. The contact details of this man were known, therefore, Members were asked whether they would like to issue a letter to him. It was felt that the Council could not allow the gentleman to continue cutting down trees belonging to the Council and so Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that a letter was constructed kindly asking the man to stop. Cllr Terry SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

It was noted that the Council did not know what other trees had been affected or even whether they were on Parish Council land, therefore, mention could only be made to the one that was known about – on The Park. It was felt that the Council should also point out in the letter that permission should be sought from the relevant authority or land owner before cutting trees elsewhere.

Cllr Terry mentioned a dead/dying tree that had been cut down on the corner of Northway Lane and Hardwick Bank Road and left in brambles along by Farm Close.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 8.09 p.m.