

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 15 September 2009
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J D Bratby * Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter * Cllr I D Crawley * Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr R Blackwell Cllr Miss F Macmillan
	* Denotes absence from part of the meeting
Apologies	Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe District Cllr J Jeffreys

2009/78 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2009/79 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2009 were approved and signed.

2009/80 ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR on STAR HILL GREEN (minute 2009/57)

Following the visit of Mr Clark from Star Hill to the last meeting, the Mayor and Neighbourhood Warden had visited Mr and Mrs Clark. Further detail on the outcome was given in the report of the Recreation & Amenities Committee.

2009/81 INTITIATIVES TO AID LOCAL BUSINESS (minute 2009/63)

The Mayor had had no response to his suggestion that NTC should take specific action to encourage business in the town and proposed to drop the idea.

2009/82 NAILSWORTH SCOUT GROUP FIREWORKS EVENT (minute 2009/64)

Mr Golding had apparently written in July for permission to hold the event in 2009, but the letter had not been seen. Following discussion and considering the shortness of time, Mrs de Lacroix was asked to confirm to Mr Golding that NTC would permit the event to take place on KGV field in November and accepted that an entrance charge would be made. A copy of Mr Golding's letter would be obtained for the file.

PROPOSED	Cllr Byrne proposed, seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the Nailsworth Scout Group be authorised to invite voluntary donations to the 2009 Firework Event. An amendment was proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Mrs Binns to unanimous agreement, that the Scouts be allowed to make an entrance charge
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2009/83

REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington following up on points from the last meeting, advised that the footpath at the back of the primary school been sorted out with the construction of new steps.

The recycling rate at Pike Quarry for May-August was over 76% compared to 67% a year ago.

Budget problems were currently GCC's major issue, the council having run into overspend on children's services and adult care. Cllr Waddington was pleased to celebrate last Saturday with Stagecoach the arrival of new gold standard double decker buses for the 94 route, the first in the country. A review of subsidised services in the Cheltenham area had led to some cuts.



Work on improving the classified road network was completed under the previous administration, and unclassified roads, such as country lanes were now being addressed, with much work to be done. Cllr Waddington hoped to continue the capital investment in road maintenance with improved working efficiency. The road inspection regime was being changed to bring it into line with national standards so that 80% of the work would be planned and only 20% reactive, instead of the current 50/50 split.

Cllr Waddington clarified the processes mentioned in his report at the last meeting:

PQQ = pre qualification questionnaire

ISOS = invitation to submit outline solution

ISDS = invitation to submit detailed outline solution

District Cllr Miss Macmillan reported on progress with Glendower, and advised that a proposal for a full repairs notice would go forward to SDC for approval next month. If this was not complied with, a compulsory purchase order would be made. Mr Norman Phillips was being kept informed.

Two planning applications were attracting particular interest – The Railway Hotel, and land adjoining the Dulkan at Windsoredge. These would be going before the committee in October.

Much energy at SDC was also being devoted to housing, addressing the overspend and planning solutions. Tenant representation was to be improved up from 40%.

Cllr Crawley referred to the Audit Commission Report which had criticised SDC about ongoing financial failures. Cllr Miss Macmillan had asked SDC chief executive about this and agreed that reports from the Audit Commission conflicted with later assessments of the situation. SDC acknowledged that errors had been made and was making every effort to rectify the situation.

District Cllr Blackwell advised that SDC had accepted responsibility for the rough patch of ground by Green Spirit and would make it tidy.

Cllr Blackwell was in the process of undertaking a survey amongst Nailsworth businesses to ascertain how many cars were parked all day, and where. Some traders moved their cars around every two hours having received parking tickets. Cllr Blackwell's findings were proving most interesting and he was considering solutions before making a full report to NTC.

The Mayor was keen to arrange a meeting with SDC, the police and NTC Cllrs to untangle the confusion over the enforcement of parking infringements by the police and SDC.

2009/84 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had only just gathered that there would be no Christkindl Evening this year and was sorry that he did not know soon enough to try and coordinate an alternative event. It was confirmed that the organisers were only planning to have one year off, and the Mayor urged that NTC make sure next year's event was fully supported. Cllr Bratby thought there might be a Christian festival on 13th December which could replace Christkindl this year.

The Mayor had been asked to chair one of the consultation sessions on changes to the constitution organised by Mr David Drew MP, and had found the occasion stimulating with a packed attendance in the Mortimer Room and a sparkling level of discussion. Cllr Mrs Way had also attended and was impressed with the level of knowledge of the audience. Mr Drew had had a 17% response to the questionnaires sent to every household.

The Mayor reminded Cllrs that each committee at its next meeting should consider a wish list for the 2010/11 budget for recommendation to the FE&GP committee.

2009/85 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson was pleased to inform Cllrs that a new youth worker had been appointed last Friday. Ms Danica Emes from Mangotsfield by Yate had recently qualified at Bath University in Youth Work and had had some experience in the Bristol area. This would be her first full time job to start in the first week of November.

Cllr Robinson was proud to announce that on 25 September Princess Anne would be visiting the Youth Club (arrival 5.20pm) and a programme of events had been planned for her entertainment.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had met with new Nailsworth Sergeant Kirk Harrison today (at the Youth Club as Acting Inspector Harrison had been unable to gain access to the police station!) Sgt Harrison was enthusiastic and planned to spend part of the week in Nailsworth. A second PCSO would henceforth start his day at Nailsworth and had been issued with a car. Sgt Harrison was very keen on community policing and intended to open Nailsworth police station more often, with an A board outside to indicate it was open. The Mayor was concerned that internal police communications did not yet appear to be fully established.

* Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting during the above discussions

2009/86 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

In the absence of the Clerk, Mrs de Lacroix had circulated a written list of additional items received in the office, along with a chart listing meetings to which Cllrs had been invited. Cllrs indicated which events they wished to attend and the list is attached to the end of these minutes.

2009/87 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Way had attended her first meeting of the Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee at the end of July. The meeting was attended by 20 people + 5 National Trust staff and the committee met six times a year. Several topics were covered.

2009/88 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 28 July and the minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Preservation of ancient hedgerows – Ms Jinny Marshall to replace references to Mrs J Barnet.

Bunting Hill Regeneration Project – last sentence to read "an approach had been made to GoGrow . . ."

Norton Wood Orchard Project - Cllr Nicholson reported that there had been several meetings with GoGrow and other interested parties concerned with maintaining the orchard wildlife. He was confident a compromise had been reached to suit both groups. The proposition and business plan from GoGrow was recommended for approval. There were no legal implications, and no payments were being made,

although a licence would probably be required. The division of the orchard into two sectors happily coincided with existing paths and no fencing would be required, although the boundary fence between the orchard and the car park might need restoring at a later date.

RESOLVED	Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Way, to unanimous agreement that GoGrow's proposition and business plan for Norton Wood orchard be approved
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2009/89 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 28 July and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Robinson was pleased to report that he had observed roofing work being undertaken at Hazelwood Bungalow today.

2009/90 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 11 August and the minutes were approved with the addition of Cllr Crawley as attending.

Market Street triangle – a meeting had taken place with Ms Katie Fretwell of landscape architects to discuss her fee letter outlining the charges for preparing a 10 page detailed specification for going out to tender. It was agreed to press ahead.

Mr Chris Gregory had telephoned Cllr Byrne to outline his **2010 3-day Nailstock** plans but still nothing had been submitted in writing. Mr Gregory had been given clear instructions in June as to what NTC expected from him before 30 September. Cllr Byrne would notify him that if this latest deadline was exceeded, the project would be refused. Should he come up with an acceptable written proposal in time, this would be circulated to Cllrs and a special meeting arranged to consider and decide on the proposal.

Cllr Nicholson urged that NTC be fully involved in any plans SDC might have for **redesigning the bus station/Town Square** which would have an impact on Mortimer Gardens. Any design plans should be coordinated, and possibly also tie in with Days Mill. Cllr Mrs Binns understood that SDC was obliged to redesign the bus station for health & safety reasons and an allowance existed within its budget, but this was very small and there was no idea when any work might actually be done.

Cllr Byrne had been in touch with Mr Peter Rushton regarding removal of the **earthworks in Miles Marling Field**, and learnt that the ramps were being rebuilt as soon as they had been removed. Mr Rushton had filled them in several times but felt it was rather pointless. The suggestion was made that turf rather than reseeding might be more durable but perhaps NTC should consider leaving the earthworks or installing proper ramps in due course.

The Mayor reported that initial discussions for **Nailsworth Games 2010** were promising and he hoped to bring a proposal to the next Recreation & Amenities meeting.

Cllr Carter was concerned that the committee's reluctance to having a **no drinking ban** in the town centre being noted in the minutes might preclude further discussion on this topic, but the Mayor advised that the committee was not making a recommendation so the matter could be revisited at any time. The Mayor added that Acting Inspector Harrison did not feel that a drinking ban was appropriate at the moment since the problem was covered by the police having the power to ban individuals from a specific area for a period of 48 hours.

Cllr Mrs Way added that last Saturday at 9.30/10pm two police cars had responded within an impressive 15 minutes to a call about drunken youths misbehaving near her home.

* Cllr Byrne left the meeting

2009/91 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 4 August (deleting Cllr Crawley from the attendees), 20 August and 1 September.

Meeting of 4 August

An email from Ms Rachel Small had been circulated to cllrs recently advising that GCC now had to meet with the bus company to agree changes to the bus station, which meeting Cllr Crawley would hopefully attend. Any project needed to be coordinated with Mortimer Gardens and Days Mill. Cllr Mrs Binns advised that there was only about £10k in the SDC fund for the bus station redesign.

Cllr Nicholson had noted in the letter from Mr Ian Austin MP that local councils were not automatically consulted on planning matters unless they had specifically registered to do so. Cllr Wheeler would write to SDC and clarify that NTC wished to be consulted on each and every planning application for Nailsworth. Cllr Crawley was of the opinion that SDC was obliged to ensure that all relevant consultees were consulted.

Meeting of 20 August

District Cllrs Miss Macmillan and Blackwell had been asked to make a case at the SDC October meeting for the Railway Hotel.

2009/92 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED

that the list of accounts for 18 August amounting to £16,823.70 be retrospectively approved, and the list of accounts for 15 September 2009 amounting to £25,904.24 be approved for payment.

2009/93 GMTF – nominations invited for members and directors

Cllr Kay did not wish to continue as temporary director of GMTF and no other cllr currently felt able to take his place.

2009/94 GMTF – AGM 24 September

Cllr Kay would attend.

2009/95 CAB – AGM 24 September

Cllr Bratby would attend.

2009/96 Sustainable Communities Act – further lobbying requested

Cllr Nicholson would write a further letter of support.

2009/97 Mr Chris Blick – invitation to attend Adens Veterans Association standard dedication 18 October

Cllr Mrs Binns would be attending as one of her children was taking part.

2009/98 GCC – road closure Brewery Lane 25 September

The Lane would be closed for one day for renewal of the water service pipe

2009/99 SDC – forthcoming vacancies on Standards Committee

Three vacancies were coming up for independent members, for which cllrs were not eligible.

2009/100 SDC – community planning grant scheme 2009/10

Cllrs Mrs Thorpe and Crawley were preparing a bid for FGCH and Cllr Carter suggested a shared space scheme for Market Street could be put forward, which would qualify if it was already included in the Action Plan/Design Statement. Mrs de Lacroix was asked to resend the information to Cllr Crawley.

2009/101 SDC – Glos Homeseeker scheme demonstration 18 September

Cllr Nicholson advised that he would probably attend one of the three sessions.

2009/102 SDC – possibility of loss of further telephone kiosks

Ms Rachel Small SDC had forwarded a letter from BT advising that a new round of the 'Adopt a Kiosk' initiative would be commencing shortly, with the expectation that further telephone boxes would be decommissioned.

2009/103 Mr Alan Guy – invitation to participate in radio programme to highlight the apparent success of Nailsworth and Wotton compared with Dursley. Saturday 17 October

No Cllrs were available to take part in the programme.

2009/104 Anthony Burton – handover of WH Davies clock to Newport City Council

Mr Norman Phillips wished to donate and return this clock (currently under repair) to Newport where WH Davies had formerly lived, and the Mayor and Mayoress wished to come to Nailsworth for an official handover by the Mayor of Nailsworth. Cllr Kay took the correspondence to follow up on the invitation.

2009/105 Village & Community Halls Network – invitation to network event 7 October

Cllrs were asked to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend.

2009/106 Moore Stephens – Annual Audit Return to 31 March 2009

The Audit Return had been stamped and approved.

2009/107 AES Winterbothams – draft licence for David Austin Associates

The draft had been sent to Mr Austin and would be passed to the Recreation & Amenities Committee for consideration.

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Date

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Chairman