

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 16 April 2013

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| Present | Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MP Robinson |
| Present for part of meeting | Cllr SE Thorpe* |
| Apologies | Cllr MM Rahman Cllr SM Reed District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims |
| In attendance | Mr Armitage, local resident |

2012/249 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A local resident, Mr Armitage, commented that the two bus shelters currently provided in Nailsworth Bus Station were badly positioned and too small. He asked if a larger and more functional bus shelter could be provided. The Mayor explained that SDC had proposed to redesign the bus station and that the current plan incorporated a new, more effective bus shelter. Though councillors were not in favour of a major redesign of the bus station, NTC had supported the plan for an improved bus shelter, as it recognised the limitations of the existing ones.

Mr Armitage identified a possible problem of duplication of Stagecoach and Cotswold Green bus services from Nailsworth to Stroud and suggested that it could be beneficial for Nailsworth if the Cotswold Green service 40 between Wotton, Nailsworth and Stroud could be re-routed to also serve Avening and Tetbury. The Mayor agreed to refer this matter to the Environment Committee for discussion.

* Cllr Thorpe joined the meeting at this point.

2012/250 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 19 MARCH 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March and the Special Council Meeting held on 18 March were approved and signed.

2012/251 – Traders’ advertising boards (minute 2012/226)

The Clerk reported that she understood that Yakub Mulla GCC had investigated the problem of a local trader who was routinely displaying items for sale on the pavement outside the shop. However, it appeared that this practice was continuing. The Mayor reported that he had noticed items being displayed on the road.

2012/252 – Footpath at Newmarket (minute 2012/227)

Sue Nicholson reported that Mrs Sarah Macaulay-Lowe GCC had spoken to the owner of the land in question, who had promised to reinstate the footpath when the ground had dried out. Mrs Macaulay-Lowe had been attempting to contact him to ascertain whether any progress had been made and would report the outcome to NTC. Cllr Carter observed that Mrs Macaulay-Lowe had liaised with the

Cotswold Wardens regarding a boggy footpath near Crystal Fountain at Inchbrook . The Wardens had successfully re-instated this path and were to be congratulated on an excellent job.

2012/253 – GCC grants for road improvements (minute 2012/228)

The Mayor reported that he had not received a reply to his letter to County Cllr Stan Waddington requesting an update on how he planned to distribute the £10,000 grant which was available for local road improvements. The Mayor expressed his disappointment at Cllr Waddington's failure to reply, and his lack of consultation with NTC on how the money might be allocated.

2012/254 – New laptop (minute 2012/229)

It was agreed that the Council's old laptop computer would be transferred to the Arkell Centre and placed at the disposal of approved users of the Centre.

2012/255 – Neighbourhood Plan (minute 2012/239)

Cllr Carter reported that he had discussed the potential usefulness of a Neighbourhood Plan for Nailsworth with Mr Ian Crawley, who had previously suggested that such a plan might be helpful in enabling affordable housing in the town. However, they had agreed that, since no major development was proposed for Nailsworth, there was currently no need for a Neighbourhood Plan for Nailsworth and Cllr Carter recommended that this should not be pursued at the present time. This was agreed.

2012/256 – Discussion and approval of tenders for renovation of new TIC building (minute 2012/243)

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 1 (subsection 2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following proceedings because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllr M Robinson reported that two of the four contractors approached had responded and provided tenders for the renovation of the building. He commented on the tenders in relation to the estimated budget costs for the project, which had been circulated to members. The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation for the removal of the gas supply of £225.50 + VAT. Cllr M Robinson explained that Option B, which involved roof insulation, was not feasible on grounds of cost and recommended Option A. He considered it would be prudent to terminate the lease on the existing TIC building in September rather than August in order to allow sufficient time for a smooth transfer to the new building.

After a short discussion, the following was agreed, to unanimous support:

- RESOLVED**
1. That the tender from Turnkey Construction be accepted at a cost of £19,373.90 based on Option A
 2. That the current lease on the existing TIC building be terminated on 12 September 2013.

2012/257 Curry and Film Night at the Arkell Centre (minute 2012/248)

Cllr Thorpe reported that approximately 60 tickets had been sold for the forthcoming curry and film event which would take place on 19 April.

2012/258 Reports from County and District Councillors

The Mayor thanked County Cllr Stan Waddington, in his absence, for his attendance at previous NTC meetings during his term of office, but expressed disappointment on what he viewed as Cllr

Waddington's lack of support for some local matters, such as the Council's campaign against cuts in the library service in the town.

Cllr Carter stated that he had nothing to report on behalf of SDC. In response to a question from Cllr S Robinson relating to SDC enforcement action at Tinkley Farm, Cllr Carter reported that this was ongoing. Cllr Kay reported that the noise problems which had been experienced from works at this location appeared to have ceased.

2012/259 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that the £1000 grant that the Council had previously agreed in contribution to the costs of the Town Criers' event in June was intended to cover food and accommodation costs for those attending. The Clerk was authorised to organise payment of the grant. She confirmed that the organiser had been offered the use of the Mortimer Room for the event at no charge.

The Mayor reported that he had given permission for the Town Flag to be flown at half-mast in the Mortimer Gardens during Lady Thatcher's funeral on Wednesday 17 April.

The Mayor reported that over 30 people had helped with the Town Spring Clean on Saturday 13 April, and he offered his thanks for their efforts on behalf of the town.

The Mayor reported that the Play Rangers would be making a return visit to Forest Green for three weeks in August, and in the Easter 2014 holidays. He would liaise with the Clerk regarding the administration of the scheme, as it would no longer be organised by Forest Green Residents' Association.

2012/260 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

A variety of newsletters had been received in the office.

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from the Cotswold Care Hospice to use the banner posts to advertise a fund-raising Solstice Walk. The route would take in part of Theescombe. Councillors agreed that the request was in accordance with the banner posts policy as the hospice had a shop in Nailsworth and provided a service to local residents.

2012/260 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

There was nothing to report.

2012/261 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 9 April were approved and signed, subject to the addition of the word 'bookings' to the penultimate sentence, which would now read 'A general discussion was held regarding the future running of Nailsworth Recreation Centre **bookings**'.

The Committee's recommendations regarding the proposed rental of the KGV Pavilion to Mrs Nicola Ellis for use as an Early Years facility were proposed by Cllr Thorpe and seconded by Cllr M Robinson to unanimous approval.

RESOLVED:

- NTC to repair the guttering and downpipes on the building, which would solve the existing problem of water leakage, as per quote obtained by NTC (£287.00)
- NTC to supply and fit new vinyl flooring to the kitchen and toilets (to be costed)
- NTC to remove existing sensor-operated external light on the pavilion and replace with a switch operated alternative, with time-delay
- NTC to pay for electricity used during evenings, weekends if used by the community and in holiday periods.
- NTC to retain existing fridge and microwave oven in kitchen and purchase kettle for community use
- NTC to store approx. 20 chairs and stack of 9 tables on trolley for community use

- The pavilion would continue to be unavailable for community use between October and March, as per the present arrangement
- NTC to pay business rates, water rates and insurance for fabric of building
- Mrs Ellis to repaint the external walls at her own expense, subject to NTC approval of the materials, finish and colour
- Mrs Ellis to pay for electricity used during term time excluding any periods of community use and holidays
- Mrs Ellis to pay costs of refurbishment to set up the nursery as per builder's quote to cover – extension of path, stud partition, work to doors and skirting boards, outdoor fencing, internal decoration, floor treatment in hallway and main room
- Mrs Ellis to pay solicitor's fees for the drawing up if an agreement
- Mrs Ellis to provide details of public liability insurance for her business
- Mrs Ellis to pay rent of £50 per week for the first year, £75 for second year and £100 for third year, during school terms
- Agreement to run for 3 years with provision for cancellation by either party after a minimum of 1 academic year, subject to 3 months' notice. Notice could be given after 9 months of the first year.

Cllr Thorpe reported that the recent Town Spring Clean had revealed instances of dog waste being bagged and thrown in the hedge in the Miles Marling Field, despite the fact that a dog waste bin was provided. She suggested that NTC should monitor this and consider the possible implementation of a dog control byelaw for the Miles Marling and KGV Fields. Cllr S Robinson reported that a meeting was being arranged urgently with Alex Davies, SDC Animal Welfare officer to clarify the position regarding the control of dogs in NTC's unfenced areas. Cllr Carter reported that he felt that SDC's enforcement of its dogs on leads regulation on the pedestrian/cycle trail was counter-productive as it appeared to be encouraging dog walkers to gravitate to areas where dogs roaming free could cause even greater problems. He had discussed these concerns with Mike Weaver SDC and District Cllr Dennis Andrewartha. Cllr Carter understood that if NTC did implement a byelaw to control dogs in its unfenced areas, this could only be enforced by SDC officers and not by other personnel such as the Neighbourhood Warden.

Cllr Carter reported that up to 3 A Boards were routinely being displayed in Leves Corner by local traders, along with the bicycle racks which had been obstructing the proper use of this location as a sitting area. He recommended that all the traders concerned should receive a letter from NTC requesting the removal of their property. In answer to a question, the Clerk confirmed that Leves Corner was SDC property, though maintained by NTC, and Cllr Carter agreed to take the matter up with SDC and report back before sending out letters. Cllr Kay suggested that if SDC was unwilling to take action NTC should seek to have the area transferred to its ownership. Cllr Duckworth confirmed that the issue of A Boards on pavements had been raised at a recent meeting of the Chamber of Trade.

Cllr Kay reminded councillors of the recent documents circulated by Mr Crawley requesting that NTC approve a drawdown of matched funding from the MUGA designated fund to enable professional costed feasibility studies to be undertaken on related sport and recreational projects. Mr Crawley was hopeful that GRCC and GCC would also contribute matched funding for the feasibility studies. In discussion, some doubt was expressed about the need for improvements to the KGV pitch and changing rooms. Clearly, feasibility studies were required to support the proposed funding application to the Football Foundation, but before proceeding with the studies it was essential to get confirmation from the FF that the proposed lease arrangements for the MUGA on the school site met its funding criteria. Mr Crawley was actively seeking this confirmation.

After discussion, it was **agreed** that NTC would match fund feasibility studies, to a maximum of £5000, to explore possible improvements to sporting and recreational facilities in the town associated with the provision of a MUGA at Forest Green, dependent upon receipt of a positive response from the Football Foundation about its funding criteria. In order not to delay the undertaking of the

feasibility studies it was agreed to delegate authority to assess the FF response to the Mayor, Cllr Thorpe and the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that confirmation would be needed as to who would be responsible for organising the feasibility studies and appropriate arrangements for the release of funds against invoice. In response to a question, Cllr M Robinson confirmed that he had requested that the public be excluded during the discussion of the item relating to the Nailsworth Recreation Centre, as the Clerk had explained that it was unclear whether information which had been circulated at the meeting was in the public domain.

*Cllr Thorpe left the meeting at this point.

2012/262 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Kay reported on a recent meeting with SDC officers and District Cllrs Mattie Ross and Paul Carter, which he had attended with Mr Ian Crawley, regarding the possible creation of a Community Land Trust for Nailsworth. It appeared that SDC was keen to be an active partner in such an initiative and a further meeting would be arranged. At present rent from the SDC garages brought in £1700 p.a. Mr Crawley would be circulating notes from the meeting to NTC councillors.

Cllr Duckworth reported on a recent meeting of the A46 action group. A local petition for a safe crossing point at Dunkirk Mill had obtained the 770 signatures required for the issue to be raised at a GCC Scrutiny Committee Meeting, but 5000 signatures would be necessary for it to be placed on the agenda of the relevant committee. A small sub-group had been formed from the A46 group to progress the campaign, to be chaired by Mr Les Haines, with Cllr Duckworth providing IT support. The Mayor reported that he was arranging a meeting with representatives from Rodborough and Woodchester Parish Councils to explore the possibility of linking together to campaign on local road safety issues.

2012/263 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

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| <p>RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings of 20 March and 3 April be approved.</p> |
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Cllr Carter proposed the Committee's recommendation that the Clerk be asked to attend Planning Committee meetings to provide legal advice. The Clerk clarified that she was not legally trained and therefore not qualified to provide legal advice, so her role would be limited to advising on matters of Council regulations. She was unsure what advice she would be able to give in this context, as issues relating to planning applications would need to be taken up with SDC as the planning authority. After a short discussion, it was agreed to defer any decision until after the Special Council meeting on 15 May, which Ms Bedford GAPTC had would be attending. The Mayor pointed out that there would be a cost implication for the Clerk's attendance at additional evening meetings.

Cllr Carter reported that he had been advised by SDC Environmental Health officers that, as the excessive lighting at New Mills, Newmarket did not constitute a statutory nuisance, no enforcement action could be taken by their department.

2012/264 REPORT FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 26 March were approved and signed.

Cllr M Robinson reported that Mr Alan Vaughan of Eye Witness Productions had inspected the archive films stored in the Town Hall and had supplied a quotation of £515.00 for the transference of the reel-to-reel films to DVD. This was accepted. Cllr Duckworth agreed to liaise with Mr Vaughan to ensure that a suitable format for future editing of the films would be used. The Clerk confirmed that

NTC held the copyright for the films. It was agreed that the original films should be offered first to Gloucestershire Archives and secondly to the National Film Archive.

New hire charges for Council buildings were confirmed as follows:

| | 2012/13 | 2013/14 +3% |
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| Mortimer Room | | |
| ½ day session | 17.00 | 17.50 |
| Day rate | 32.00 | 33.00 |
| Weekly rate | 144.00 | 148.00 |
| Town Hall, main hall – casual users | | |
| Dances, receptions | 84.00 | 86.50 |
| Meetings, fairs, bazaars, rummage sales | 34.00 | 35.00 |
| Additional sessions | 20.00 | 20.50 |
| Lower room | 20.00 | 20.50 |
| Special rate for regular users | | |
| – Main Hall: adult groups e.g. Dog Club, Flower Arrangers, Ruskin Mill | 24.00 | 25.00 |
| Guides & Brownies – LR | 5.70 | 5.90 |
| Nursery school – day rate – LR | 17.00 | 17.50 |
| Dancing classes – MH | 24.00 | 25.00 |
| NDS play week (evenings only) MH | 84.00 | 86.50 |
| NDS Set building weekend MH | 29.00 | 30.00 |
| NDS lower room | 17.00 | 17.50 |

2012/265 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 16 April 2013 amounting to £14,897.77 be approved for payment.

2012/266 Western Power Distribution - response to NTC letter regarding power cuts in Nailsworth

The Clerk read out a letter from Western Power Distribution summarising issues surrounding power outages in the area over the previous months and detailing specific actions taken to deal with these. The letter requested information regarding specific addresses which had been affected by power cuts. The Mayor agreed to mention the issue in his next report to Nailsworth News and Cllr Duckworth offered to place a questionnaire on the NTC website to enable residents to give details of power cuts which had affected their properties. The Clerk reported that WPD had a newsletter relevant to local councils which could be accessed from its website.

2012/267 Emergency Closure of Horsley Hill

The Clerk reported that she had been informed that Horsley Hill had been closed for emergency repairs to the carriageway and would remain so until 21 April.

2012/268 Council Photograph

The Clerk reported that the new Council photograph was available to councillors for individual purchase if required. Cllr Duckworth agreed to place the photograph on the Councillors' Page of the NTC website.

As this would be the last monthly meeting chaired by Cllr S Robinson as Mayor, Cllr Kay extended his thanks to Cllr Robinson for his efficient chairing over the previous three years.

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Town Mayor

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Date