

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
 held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 February 2012

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr N I Kay Cllr M J Kelly * Cllr M M Rahman Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr Miss Farrell
Apologies	Cllr Mrs SM Reed County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

2012/188 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2012/189 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January were approved and signed.

2012/190 TRAINING SESSION for NEW ACTION PLAN (minute 2012/174)

The Mayor reminded Cllrs of the meeting on Tuesday 28 February to start work on a new 5 year Action Plan, and hoped that all would attend.

2012/191 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington had reported to the Mayor that all **major road works** were taking place, with resurfacing of Old Market started last Sunday. The W was likely to be closed on/from 20 May while the lower section was done.

District Cllr Carter had attended a meeting at Horsley regarding the proposed **windpower generator on the A46**, where an officer from the Joint Radio Board had advised that there would be no problem with radio reception. The applicant had been asked to obtain proper advice regarding TV reception to support his application; if TV reception turned out to be a problem, the generator would have to be removed immediately.

The **SDC budget** was approved at the end of January with no increase to council tax; similarly for GCC and the police. SDC was going to be able to put money into some services, including £50k p.a. for youth services, and a fair system of allocation would be carefully monitored.

Cllr Kelly reported that the **speed survey on Spring Hill** had been undertaken and he awaited the results in a format he could read.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe questioned how the intended **improved recycling** would affect GCC's plans for an **incinerator**, which might then be considered less essential. Cllr Carter advised that the aim was to increase the current recycling rate of some 26% by a further 10%, which would not dramatically

change the volume of refuse currently going to land fill. SDC was making GCC aware of its plans and Cllr Waddington's input was needed to clarify GCC's position.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Carter for supporting SDC's **grant for youth services**, and hoped for a fair allocation of funds.

District Cllr Miss Farrell had nothing to add.

* Cllr Rahman joined the meeting during the above discussions.

2012/192 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

24 January	attended a meeting regarding activities at Tinkley Farm, with Horsley, Nympsfield, and an SDC Enforcement Officer
4 February	joined the walk around Shortwood with resident Clive Webb, an excursion deferred from the original date agreed
6 February	with Cllr Mrs Thorpe, met with Jenny Barnett and Don Luke to discuss volunteering in Nailsworth
7 February	joined the tour of projects supported by the Arkell Bequest, with Charles Arkell
9 February	took part in a photo call for Sports Relief with the Cotswold Allrunners
14 February	attended a meeting with Cllrs Mrs Reed and Mrs Thorpe, and Ian Crawley to prepare the Training Evening for the new Action Plan. The Mayor's draft letter seeking SDC's support for an application to the Mary Portas Grant Scheme was approved
16 February	met with the Library Group, including Cllrs Kay and Mrs Thorpe, Bill Affleck, Ian Crawley. Notes on the meeting were circulated and Cllr Mrs Elliott had held a meeting in the Library with all volunteers
18 February	with Bill Affleck, met with Robin Swaine, a keen supporter of Nailsworth Library, who asked many questions under the Freedom of Information Act

2012/193 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor's report had already covered several of Cllr Mrs Thorpe's activities. She added that Charles Arkell was delighted with his visit and felt his uncle would greatly approve what his bequest had done for Nailsworth.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported on her visit to the **Food Bank in Stroud** - a charity set up to assist people with emergency food. She was looking at options for a contact point in Nailsworth and had some documentary information for Cllrs wishing to know more about the scheme.

2012/194 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk needed a decision before the next meeting of the Property Management Committee regarding Ruskin Mill's request to use the TH for a weekend conference, which was proving too popular to be accommodated at the Mill. NTC did not usually have caretaker cover on Sundays, but the Ruskin Mill organiser was a caretaker herself and the Clerk was confident she could be trusted to ensure the building was secure at the end of the event. The booking was approved.

2012/195 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Elliott had met the new CAB manager and was trying to negotiate some time in Nailsworth.

2012/196 REPORT of COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Cllr Duckworth presented the report of the meeting held on 31 January and the minutes were approved.

He reported that

- SDC's policy on email addresses for changing Cllrs was awaited.

- There would be an opportunity to filter out emails with key words, and to ban individual correspondents
- The Volunteers Calendar and Library site had been set up. Cllr Mrs Elliott registered thanks to Cllr Duckworth for his efforts.
- As the version of the town crest received from Leopard Press was not adequate, Cllr Duckworth had had a digital, and a 3D, version made which could be used in all publications and on the website.

RESOLVED **Cllr Duckworth proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Elliott, to unanimous approval, that the new website and email addresses be activated on 1 March.**

In the short term, the former website address would redirect viewers to the new one with notification of the new address. Cllr Duckworth was happy to help if any cllr was having problems installing the new email. The Group address would also be activated on 1 March, but only for use by the addressees.

Cllrs had no objection to their **telephone numbers** being published on the website, as the full list of contact information was already in the public domain.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe questioned whether Cllrs should be **refunded their expenses**, such as for phone calls, and the Clerk reminded the meeting that NTC had previously voted not to claim expenses. She added that the policy had to be for all or none, though of course individual Cllrs would be free not to claim. Cllr Duckworth added that there were other aspects of a cllr's role, such as use of a car, which were even more onerous. It was agreed to discuss the policy again at the next FE&GP meeting.

Cllr Duckworth drew attention to the current situation where lady Cllrs were given **titles**, but not the men and felt one system should be used throughout. Cllr Carter added that SDC did not use titles at all, but some considered it useful to know whether to address a lady cllr as Mrs, Miss or Ms. Cllr Mrs Thorpe offered to discuss the issue with the other lady Cllrs and would get back to Cllr Duckworth, who reminded the meeting that the new website could be amended at any time.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe raised once again the inappropriateness of using the **term 'chairman'**, and it was agreed that committee chairmen would henceforth be 'chairs'.

Membership for a public sector mapping agreement would allow the use of **OS maps** under licence in print and online.

Committee chairs needed to provide an **introductory paragraph** for each committee page. The **cllr profiles** had been taken from the old site, and Cllr Duckworth suggested they should all give dates, rather than number of years, so that the information would not date with passing years. Cllrs were asked to review their profiles and pass on any changes to Cllr Duckworth.

Cllr Duckworth felt it would be useful to publish a **list of GCC and SDC responsibilities**, so that residents could know where to go for specific matters, and Cllr Mrs Elliott thought she had this information from a training session and would pass it on.

Cllr Duckworth wished to show the **minutes** in a **format** that Cllr Kelly could read, not pdfs as was the current system, and would discuss this with the Clerk.

He reminded the meeting that council **stationery and templates** would require altering in due course to show the new addresses. The calendar entries would show the location of meetings, which could be changed at will.

Cllr Carter drew attention to the fact that **new documents on the table** at the meeting could not be read by Cllr Kelly, who was therefore unable to fully participate in discussions, but it was accepted that these were not always available to send round in advance. Cllr Duckworth offered to convert any documents that Cllr Kelly was unable to access.

With regards to the **list of accounts**, the Clerk was keen to be able to include items up to the last minute, as cheques were only signed once a month. The Clerk sent Cllr Kelly a draft list on the day before the meeting. Cllrs decided that the Clerk should circulate a list of accounts, even if incomplete, the day before the council meeting to all councillors.

2012/197 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the report of the meetings held on 18 January and 7 February.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings held on 18 January and 7 February be approved.

Land opposite Wyvale Garden Centre – it was hoped that approval of this application would lead to additional parking provision for the town.

Cllrs Carter and Dart had attended an **SDC Core Strategy meeting** in Dursley, and confirmed that current plans did not affect Nailsworth, hence there were no briefing meetings planned in the town.

With regards to **affordable housing**, Cllr Kay advised that, despite the very long waiting list for social housing, there was little available land for new development. The committee remained vigilant to any opportunities.

2012/198 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 24 January and the minutes were approved, with the following correction to page 3, 2nd resolution:

“the final draft to be approved by the subcommittee, to include Cllrs Mrs Reed and Mrs Thorpe.”

Cllr M Robinson had been advised that NTC had to resubmit the planning application for steel **windows in the council chamber**, but believed there would be no charge. One advantage of the new design was that the pre-painted powder-coated windows were fitted without putty and should last 30 years. In response to Cllr Kelly’s question about secondary glazing, Cllr M Robinson advised that this was never a fully effective solution, and further complicated in this case by the middle opening section of the new windows.

It was agreed that the chair would consult with the Mayor and Cllr Mrs Thorpe in making a final decision over the **Sound & Vision system for the council chamber**, having received a second quotation of £800 for ceiling mounted projector and pull down screen, or £1000 with sound.

The Clerk advised that Ironcrafts reported the repair to the **War Memorial gate** was more complicated than originally thought and Cllrs M Robinson and Kay would meet him on site to discuss options.

2012/199 REPORT of RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay presented the meeting of the committee held on 15 February and the minutes were approved with the following addition to the resolution on page 3:

“ to recommend . . . banning dogs from parts of playing fields . . . ”

Cllrs agreed with Cllr Carter’s view that a **formal MUGA structure in MM field** was not appropriate, but the committee was considering more informal facilities. Cllr Mrs Thorpe urged that FG-RA and local residents be consulted and fully involved in any decisions for improving play facilities in the area.

Cllr Carter believed the increased budget for **Market Street Garden** had been overspent, and Cllr Kay advised that the budget had been increased from £30 to £35k, and that money for planting would be taken from other budgets.

SDC had put **£50k** into community initiatives to celebrate the **Queen's Jubilee** and the Mayor had completed the (9 page!) application form for a potential £100-£1000 grant.

Cllr M Robinson asked if NTC had ever obtained a quote to install **drainage** in the **KGV extension field**, to which Cllr Kay responded that the council had never wanted this space which had been poorly built on waste material, the land did not belong to the town and NTC did not wish to be involved in any costs relating to it.

Cllr Kelly was concerned that an outright **ban on dogs** in open spaces would conflict with permission for assistance dogs to go anywhere. Cllr Mrs Elliott offered to obtain a supply of guidance leaflets for the TIC and Mrs de Lacroix suggested a window display could be made around the problem of dog fouling.

The Clerk reported that the **lower wall along Market Street Garden** was almost finished and all agreed it looked very good.

As instructed by the committee, the Clerk had responded to SDC with an offer of £80 p.a. for renewal of the **lease on the lower MM field**, pointing out the considerable running costs borne by NTC, and the SDC officer had reverted with a counter proposal of £100 p.a. Cllr Carter suggested NTC could refuse to pay and offer the part field back to SDC, but it was expected it would just be left to deteriorate, along with other SDC owned spaces in the town. The £100 figure was accepted along with the committee's other recommendations.

2012/200 SALE of NAILSWORTH POLICE STATION

Cllrs had met last week to discuss the matter and the majority decision concluded that NTC should attempt to buy the building. Cllr M Robinson explained that the bid had to be submitted by noon on 20 February, hence the haste, and the offer was made subject to contract. The Vendor, the Glos Police Authority, was required to establish a realistic market price.

GMTF provided funds to obtain the help of an outside expert and Martin Davidson had been recommended to NTC. Cllr M Robinson had learnt today that GMTF paid for 15 hours of consultancy time and confirmed that this would cover help and advice for NTC to prepare -

- The submission to the Department for Communities & Local Government
- Application to the PWLB
- Negotiations with the selling agent and District Valuer
- An appraisal of all council owned properties
- Preparation of a Business Plan
- Advice on instruction of an architect, to obtain permissions, specs, etc.

The Mayor and Clerk had looked at the PWLB application for the Arkell Centre and advised that a decision had to be made tonight that a loan be applied for. The whole amount did not have to be used, but an application had to be lodged. Some concern was expressed that 15 hours consultancy time was insufficient, but this was to provide guidance, not for the consultant to actually do the work himself. Cllr M Robinson offered to manage the project if it went ahead.

Further debate ensued, with Cllrs Mrs Elliott and Mrs Thorpe concerned that NTC was rushing into something it could not handle nor afford. Cllr Carter reiterated that this purchase fitted with the long term vision for the town which included a civic centre on this site, and that no final decision was being made at this stage but preparatory work was required to assess whether the project was feasible. Cllr Mrs Thorpe requested a recorded vote.

RESOLVED that NTC endorse the action being taken in submitting a bid to purchase the former Police Station.

The motion was carried.

In favour: Cllrs Carter, Dart, Duckworth, Kay, Kelly, Rahman, M Robinson, S Robinson

Against: Cllrs Mrs Elliott, Mrs Thorpe

RESOLVED Cllr M Robinson proposed that if NTC's bid was successful, an application be made to the Department for Communities & Local Government, a PWLB loan be applied for, an architect be appointed to prepare costings, an appraisal be undertaken of council owned property, a draft business plan be prepared.

The motion was carried.

In favour: Cllrs Carter, Dart, Duckworth, Kay, Kelly, Rahman, M Robinson, S Robinson

Against: Cllr Mrs Elliott

Abstention: Cllr Mrs Thorpe

It was confirmed that, should NTC's offer be accepted, the ratification of full council would be sought before any final decision was taken.

2012/201 GCC consultation on the future of NAILSWORTH LIBRARY

The Mayor urged as many as possible to complete the new consultation document (which was being managed by an external research company) and to add additional comments as the questions were inevitably leading. The Mayor added that library regulations required every resident to be able to access a full library service within 30 minutes, even if walking or using public transport; it would be impossible for residents in Forest Green to get to Stroud Library within this time using public transport.

The Mayor suggested electing a subcommittee to fill in the consultation questionnaire on behalf of NTC and to write letters to GCC officers deploring the proposed 12 hours for Nailsworth, which seemed nonsensical just on the basis of footfall statistics, with other less popular libraries being allocated 21 paid hours. He confirmed that this proposal was no different to the last one, other than a change of name from Link Library to Partnership Library – partners could be volunteers to make up additional hours, not necessarily other organisations such as the police to share the space.

It was agreed that the subcommittee would comprise the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Thorpe, Cllr Kay, Bill Affleck and Ian Crawley

2012/202 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 21 February 2012 amounting to £16,918.49 be approved for payment.
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2012/203 SDC – road closure for Festival Saturday - 19 May

Old Market and the bus station would be closed from 8am to 4pm, as well as the parking spaces and road behind the Old Market shops. Cllr Carter pointed out that the parking spaces behind the shops were not usually part of the application and was concerned this would mean additional congestion and loss of public parking. The Clerk was asked to clarify the request for closure of this road.

2012/203 Golden Valley Classic MCC – Sunday 4 March

Courtesy notification was provided annually for this (non speed race) event which passed through the town.

2012/204 Iain Selkirk – appointment as internal auditor for 2012/13

Mr Selkirk offered his services again as internal auditor, his fee remaining at £235. The Clerk commented that he would have to use the council chamber this time, as the new assistant would be occupying the photocopying room.

**2012/205 GCC – road closures: Star Hill - 20-22 February;
Old Market/Newmarket - 26 February**

Star Hill would be closed for water mains repairs; Old Market/Newmarket for resurfacing.

2012/206 David Austin – bus station redesign

Mr Austin had read about the proposed redesign of the bus station and reiterated his past suggestion that a competition be launched amongst local architects, with a modest prize and good publicity. Cllrs supported the idea and would pass it on to SDC.

2012/207 PiYN (Pride in Your Neighbourhood)

Documentation and minutes from the meeting had been circulated by email.

2012/208 SDC Consultation Policy meeting – 29 February

Kingswood PC, NTC and GAPTC had invited neighbouring parishes to a meeting on Wednesday 29 February at Cam Parish Office to work on the principles for a consultation agreement between Parishes and SDC. Cllr Mrs Elliott offered to attend with Cllr Kay.

2012/209 Cotswold Allrunners – Sport Relief Sponsored Mile, 25 March

A representative had visited the Clerk and she would forward the detailed outline of the proposal and request to use the KGV field and pavilion. Cllrs had no objection and the organisers would be expected to pay the usual £15 charge for use of the pavilion.

..... Chairman

..... Date

The Mayor reminded Cllrs of forthcoming meeting dates:

Arkell Trustees	Monday 19 March	Arkell Centre
FE&GP – grants + Cllrs expenses	Tuesday 6 March	Town Hall
Full council	Tuesday 20 March	Arkell Centre