

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 15 March 2016**

Present	Cllr MP Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr JL Dennis Cllr NI Kay Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell Cllr SM Reed Cllr S Robinson * Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr E Sims
Apologies	Cllr EF Bonner Cllr A Elliott
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

**2015/288 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest or requests for councillors' dispensations.

**2015/289 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

a	S.14/2396/FUL Goldwater Springs Land adjacent to Egypt Mill, Stroud Road 12 residential units and associated parking - revised consultation The Mayor had circulated a copy of a Land Registry document dated 26 February 1987 requiring the purchaser (and therefore subsequent owners) to make up to adoptable standards and have adopted Station Approach Road. The Clerk was asked to write to SDC and GCC enclosing a copy of the document and requesting that its conditions be implemented.
b	S.16/0201/HHOLD 18 Goldwater Springs, Station Road Creation of a subterranean extension for the existing property with parking to the front and garden area above <b>COMMENT</b> We would like SDC to have sight of a geo-technical report to confirm land stability for neighbouring properties before any decision is made on this application.
c	S.16/0181/HHOLD Floral Villa, Harley Wood, Nailsworth Removing existing flat roof over west wing with a pitched roof with former window, raising the chimney, creating a small room above the kitchen bathroom area. This space will be accessed externally. No observations
d	S.16/0345/HHOLD Brightside, Newmarket, Nailsworth Proposed single storey extension attached to the main building, replacing existing shed No observations
e	S.16/0364/HHOLD 11 Barnfield Avenue, Nailsworth Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension No observations
f	S.16/0406/TCA Damery House, Spring Hill T1 and T2 - Scots Pine - Thin out and remove major deadwood and strip ivy. T2 - Remove two low branches over next door's garden Noted
g	S.16/0212/TCA Land Adjacent To Sesame House, Watledge Road Inspection carried out by GCC on a group of 3 Sycamore trees with extensive bark wounds – wounds are too large for the trees to make any significant recovery -

	recommendation is to remove the stems Noted
h	S.16/0382/TCA Barn Close House, Barn Close Various works to trees as per description received by email on 2 March 2016 Noted
i	S.16/0405/TCA 6 Fairview Close Watledge Sycamore – Fell Noted

### **2015/290 Newland Homes development in Nailsworth Valley**

Cllr Kay explained that a meeting at Ebley Mill with a Newland Homes representative would take place on 24 March. This would be attended by planning officers, NTC councillors and ward district councillors. Cllr Kay circulated and presented a report setting out various possible issues for discussion with Newland Homes at this meeting and suggested that as the outline planning permission stipulated 5 'affordable' dwellings NTC should invite a representative of Nailsworth Community Land Trust to the meeting. He also suggested that architect Mr Chris Davies, a member of the Save Nailsworth Valley group (SNV) could be invited to attend as an advisor to NTC.

After discussion it was agreed that the Council, whilst adopting a critical approach to the application, and noting that NTC would be consulted on the detailed planning application when submitted, should work with Newland Homes to obtain the best outcome possible for the town in relation to the design and layout of the proposed development and potential Section 106 benefits. After further discussion it was agreed that the Mayor and Cllr Kay would represent NTC at the meeting on 24 March, with the Mayor leading on behalf of the Council, and that a representative of Nailsworth CLT would be invited to accompany them. Cllr S Robinson reported that he would attend in his capacity as Ward District Cllr, together with District Cllr Sims. A training session to prepare for the meeting had been arranged for Tuesday 22 March in the Council Chamber and it was agreed that a representative of the CLT and Mr Chris Davies of SNV would be invited to attend this session.

### **2015/291 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

### **2015/292 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 16 February and 1 March 2016 were approved and signed.

### **2015/293 Projects suitable for S.106 finance (minute 2015/268)**

Cllr S Robinson reported that the S.106 Working Party had held one meeting and would be meeting again on 18 March. A report would be submitted to the April General Council meeting.

### **2015/294 Planning application S.15/2970/HHOLD – Daisy Bank, Horsley Road (minute 2015/269)**

Cllr S Robinson reported that the application had been refused by SDC.

### **2015/295 Reports from County and District Cllrs (minute 2015/270)**

The Clerk reported that she had been approached by two owner-occupiers of properties in Ringfield Close who were concerned about the implications of SDC proposals to redevelop the sheltered housing accommodation in that location. Cllr S Robinson reported that he and Cllr Sims were continuing to liaise with the residents of Ringfield Close.

**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 transacted.*

The Clerk read out a letter from SDC's Project Manager for the redevelopment of Ringfield Close. The Clerk was asked to respond inviting the officer to address a training session for NTC councillors.

*Open session was resumed at this point.*

#### **2015/296 MUGA at Nailsworth Primary School (minute 2015/286)**

The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitor was pursuing the solicitor to the Diocese to finalise the lease for the proposed MUGA. She understood that 4 contractors had expressed a willingness to quote for the building of the MUGA. The Clerk confirmed that she would negotiate with SDC regarding the release of S.106 funding for the facility in staged phases.

Cllr Duckworth reported that he understood from school governor Mr Ian Crawley that the planning consent for the MUGA stipulated a closing time of 10pm every evening as that was the time the Recreation Centre closed. Cllr Duckworth had stressed to Mr Crawley that NTC's firm decision that the MUGA would close at 9pm Monday-Saturday and 7pm on Sundays would be written into the Management Agreement.

#### **2015/297 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS**

There were no reports from County or District councillors.

#### **2015/298 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor reported that he had received a letter from local resident Mr Bill Affleck counselling against the pursuit of a Neighbourhood Plan for Nailsworth. It was agreed that the letter be passed to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party for consideration.

The Mayor advised members that nomination forms for the forthcoming Town Council election were available in the Council Chamber.

The Mayor reported that the Clerk owned a quantity of bunting which she was happy to loan to the Council to decorate the town during the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in April.

#### **2015/299 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Duckworth reported on his attendance, together with the Mayor, at a recent interactive training session on planning which they had found both interesting and illuminating. Key points from the session included the need for town and parish councils to adopt a pro-active and businesslike approach when negotiating with potential developers and to have a clear list of possible S.106 community projects.

Cllr Duckworth noted with concern that Painswick Fire Station would be closing, partly because it was defined as a low-activity facility. He understood that one of the reasons for a low number of 'shouts' (where the vehicles from the local station actually went out) was the lack of availability of local part-time retained fire-fighters. This also appeared to be an issue in Nailsworth. Cllr Duckworth suggested that the Council should seek to show that it valued Nailsworth's retained fire-fighters and consider ways in which recruitment could be encouraged, e.g. by an article in Nailsworth News emphasising the flexibility of the role and its financial benefits, and by seeking to discuss the matter with local employers.

Members were supportive of these suggestions and it was **agreed** to invite representatives of the local fire service to a future Council meeting to discuss possible ways forward.

Cllr Duckworth reported that members of the Nailsworth Road Safety campaign group had run an information/consultation stall at the February Farmers' Market on its proposal for a parish-wide 20mph speed limit. The stall had attracted considerable interest, with 64 responses being received on the day and a further 20 on the website, with 85% overall in favour of the proposals.

Members thanked Cllrs Duckworth and S Robinson for pursuing the 20mph scheme.

### **2015/300 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk reported that the Council's contractor appeared to have placed the ridge tiles on the roof at the back of the Town Hall upside down. It was agreed to defer payment of the contractor's invoice pending confirmation by the tile manufacturers that the tiles were correctly placed. The Clerk was asked to pursue the matter and authority was delegated to the Clerk and the Mayor to approve payment of the invoice if all proved satisfactory.

The Clerk was sad to announce that the Town Gardener, Mr Peter Tessloff, was currently in hospital and was unlikely to be able to return to his post. The excellent work he had done in the town had been much appreciated and the Clerk undertook to investigate ways in which this work could be continued.

The Clerk reported that Forest Green Residents' Association was willing to plant up and maintain a planter on the mini-roundabout outside the Arkell Centre if the Council was able to provide one. A design for an octagonal planter had been circulated to all cllrs and it was agreed to purchase one at a cost of £374.50 +VAT to place on the roundabout, subject to GCC permission, which was awaited.

The Clerk reported that she had received a quote of £1,123.00 from the Council's lift maintenance contractors to replace a worn-out cable in the lift. This was **approved**. The Clerk reported that the company's response to requests to send an engineer to inspect the lift, which had been out of order since late December, had been less than satisfactory. She suggested that a new contractor be sought once the lift had been repaired.

The Clerk reported that she had emailed the Council's contractors to complain at the slow progress of work on refurbishing the Town Hall ground floor gents' toilets and would shortly be meeting on site with management staff to discuss the matter and agree a realistic timetable for completion. In the meantime, she had authorised a contractor to install a temporary screening arrangement to enable one of the downstairs toilets to be used by the public during the forthcoming production by Nailsworth Dramatic Society and she would attempt to negotiate a discount with the contractors to cover the cost of this.

The Clerk reported that she had been looking into the possibility of outsourcing the Council's payroll and had obtained three quotations for the service, which would administer salaries for NTC's 5 employees together with on-costs and BACS payments. This was **agreed** in principle, and as it was obviously desirable for the arrangement to be set up from the beginning of the new financial year on 1 April, authority to approve the quotation was delegated to the Clerk and the Chair of the Personnel Committee.

The Clerk reported that she had obtained a quotation for upgrading the Council's ageing photocopier. This was referred to Recreation and Amenities Committee for consideration.

### **2015/301 NTC RESPONSE TO GCC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF NAILSWORTH'S CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

A response to the consultation had been drafted to by Cllr Thorpe and circulated to all councillors. Cllr Dennis had suggested some minor amendments and Cllr Thorpe undertook to produce a final draft taking these into consideration. This was **approved** and the Clerk

was asked to send copies to relevant County Cllrs and officers, together with a covering letter signed by the Mayor. A local petition to retain the Children's Centre drop-in provision at the Arkell Community Centre had attracted 566 signatures, and the Mayor agreed to liaise with County Cllr Binns to arrange to hand her the petition outside Shire Hall before the GCC meeting at 10 a.m. on 23 March, and to ask her to present it to Cllr McLain, Cabinet Member for Children's Services at the meeting itself. The Mayor and Cllrs Thorpe, Kay, Millett and Powell indicated that they would attend the meeting. Cllr Thorpe undertook to liaise with the local media to ensure maximum publicity.

### **2015/302 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Powell read out a report on the activities of Forest Green Residents' Association on behalf of Cllr Elliott. The proposed AGM and craft session had been postponed and it was hoped to reschedule the AGM for 1 April and the craft session for the spring half-term. Cllr Millett hoped to meet with SDC tenants' participation officer to discuss ways to tackle vandalism to the Lawnside MUGA. A planting session in the wildlife conservation area behind the MUGA had been arranged for 14 April.

Cllr Duckworth reported that Nailsworth CLT had chosen a planning inspector to inspect its planning application for affordable homes in Lawnside prior to submission to SDC. The required local referendum would take place on 11 August and a series of information articles on the project would appear in Nailsworth News in May, June and July.

### **2015/303 COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The Clerk had received a report from the Council's electrical contractors detailing a range of recommended repairs to emergency lighting and fire alarms in Council buildings and including quotations. The report was referred to Recreation and Amenities Committee for discussion and recommendation.

### **2015/304 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 1 March 2016 were approved and signed.

After discussion, it was agreed not to accept the Committee's recommendation to write to SDC requesting the provision of extra bus shelters in Nailsworth bus station, but instead to add the provision of additional bus shelters to the Council's 'wish-list' of S.106 projects.

### **RESOLVED**

that NTC does not seek to register the field opposite Northfields Road with SDC as a community asset at the present time, and that in the absence of any feasible suggestions for community use, NTC would have strong reservations about taking on ownership of the land, whilst remaining willing to have further discussions with Mr Marne and residents concerning any suggestions they might have for appropriate community use.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that she was regularly monitoring the situation regarding car parking on Forest Green.

### **2015/305 REPORT OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 11 February 2016 were approved and signed. Cllr Duckworth reported that there had been 18 applicants for the post of Town Grounds man from which a short-list of 6 had been selected and interviewed. From a strong field of candidates, Richard Blackwell had been selected and would commence

employment on 11 April. Mr Blackwell would move into Hazelwood Bungalow on successful completion of his 3 month probationary period.

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Council's selection process had been questioned by one applicant who had failed to be short-listed for the post. However, the Committee was completely confident that the selection process was robust and professional.

### **2015/306 PROPOSED PROVISION OF SHARED CALENDAR FOR COUNCILLORS**

The Clerk suggested that the provision of a shared calendar on the NTC website, accessible only to councillors, could be helpful in co-ordinating dates of various meetings, training sessions etc. Members considered this to be a good idea and the Clerk were asked to pursue the matter.

In response to a request, Cllr Duckworth agreed to circulate an information sheet on how to set up an 'out of office' automatic message on the Council's email system.

### **2015/307 REPORT FROM CIVIC CENTRE WORKING PARTY**

Notes from a meeting of the Civic Centre Working Party meeting held on 23 February had been previously circulated. It was noted that architect Keith Angus was assisting the Working Party in the process of assessing the space potentially available in the town centre for a new Civic Centre and that that discussions with Library staff and Library and TIC volunteers were planned to take place at the appropriate time.

### **2015/308 ACCOUNTS**

<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the list of accounts for 15 March 2016 amounting to <b>£18,043.67</b> is approved for payment.</p>
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Town Mayor

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Date