

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 9 October 2012**

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Chair) Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr M P Robinson Cllr S M Reed
Apologies	Cllr N I Kay Cllr S E Thorpe

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr S Robinson had noticed that the drain cover to the previously **blocked drain in the Mortimer Gardens** had not yet been replaced with a more substantial one. He hoped that a suitable cover could be sourced as soon as practicable so the blockage would not recur.

A public meeting had been held on 1 October to discuss the possibility of a **street drinking ban in Nailsworth Parish**. Cllr S Robinson confirmed that a verbal report on the outcome of this meeting would be given at the next full Council meeting.

KGV Playing Field including Extension Field

Cllr S Robinson reported that, together with Cllr Thorpe and the Town Clerk, he had met with two members of 'Go-Grow' to discuss their interest in developing the KGV extension field as community allotment land. Sue Nicholson read out a letter from the two members of Go-Grow summarising their initial thoughts on the suitability of the land for this purpose. They had carried out some preliminary testing of soil structure and ph, and had concluded that the soil may be suitable for growing food. They had been advised that, as the site had no natural drainage, it would be necessary to explore the options and cost of draining surface water. They were willing to investigate this further, and also to survey the extent of local demand for allotments. They hoped to be able to report on both matters in more detail to the next Committee meeting on 11 December.

Councillors were, in principle, supportive of Go-Grow's aims, and happy for its members to pursue the initiative, whilst recognising that any proposed use of the land would have to be agreed with the owner. It was councillors' understanding that the terms of the lease precluded the erection of any structures without the landowner's permission. Cllr Duckworth expressed the view that, in the current and future economic climate, the provision of land for the growing of food was to be encouraged. Cllr S Robinson suggested that, should the extension field prove unsuitable for allotments, consideration could perhaps be given to an alternative piece of land at Carters Way which had originally been earmarked for a play area but had proved unsuitable for this purpose. This land was subject to a Section 106 agreement, which could possibly generate funding for its development as allotment land.

Provision of MUGA at Forest Green

Cllr S Robinson reported that he and Ian Crawley of Nailsworth Recreation Centre had met the previous week with the Chairman and General Manager of Forest Green Rovers FC in order to be updated on the Club's current position on the MUGA. The area originally earmarked for a MUGA was currently being used for match day parking, and FGR had been in negotiation with SDC concerning the possibility of relinquishing the S106 agreement so this arrangement could be formalised. Cllr S Robinson advised that, to allow for these ongoing negotiations, the Special Council Meeting to discuss the MUGA had been postponed from 30 October to 29 November, by which time a clearer picture would hopefully have emerged. It was hoped that representatives from FGR, Nailsworth Recreation Centre and the Primary School would be able to attend.

Mortimer Gardens and Town Gardening

Sue Nicholson reported that the local Guides and Brownies organisation had requested permission to have a portable climbing wall in Mortimer Gardens on a Saturday, date to be confirmed. The wall would be supplied, erected, supervised, taken down and insured by the providers and there would be no cost to NTC. Councillors were happy to support the request, subject to these considerations.

Cllr S Robinson proposed, to unanimous agreement, that two new planters be purchased and sited on the grassed area at the bottom of Spring Hill, near the existing ones. Councillors hoped that this would help to discourage the illegal parking of vehicles on this piece of land.

In answer to a question from Cllr M Robinson, Cllr S Robinson confirmed that the damaged seat in Hanover Gardens was due to be replaced with the 'Francis Howell' seat from outside the Library, once the latter had been refurbished by the Men's Shed project.

Cllr Duckworth reported that Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce was proposing to hold a 'Nailsworth Noel' event on 22 December. This would be an extended and enhanced version of the monthly Farmers' Market. The Chamber hoped to use Market Street as well as Mortimer Garden for this event, and was interested in using the Market Street Garden to accommodate stalls. Councillors agreed in principle to the Market Street Garden being used for this event and Cllr Duckworth agreed to ask the Chamber to write to the Council with more details of its proposals. Cllr S Robinson agreed to discuss with the Clerk whether the electricity supply which had been installed in the Market Street Garden could be used for this event.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he was planning to meet with Ruskin Mill tutors to discuss the Mill's ongoing arrangement to maintain the flowerbeds in the Clock Tower Gardens. Councillors had noted that the beds had been somewhat lacking in colour over the past summer, possibly owing to staff and student changes at Ruskin Mill.

Miles Marling Field

Cllr Reed reported that she had noticed that the Diamond Jubilee Oak tree supplied by SDC and planted in the Miles Marling Field appeared not to be thriving. It was hoped that it would pick up in the spring.

Sue Nicholson reported that the Clerk had received an initial response from a potential contractor for levelling off sections of the field which had been used for earth ramps. He would be meeting with the Clerk to discuss this further in the near future.

Youth Provision

Cllr S Robinson reported that Tracy Young, Youth and Community Worker, had been unable to be present at the meeting because she had been required to attend a networking meeting. She planned to attend the December Committee meeting to deliver her report.

Possible Section 106 Projects

The Clerk had previously circulated to all councillors an email and associated documentation from Krista Harris of SDC regarding S106 money from the developer of the former Hazelwood Factory in Newmarket Road. It appeared that SDC was shortly to receive £34,464 from the developer. This money was to be made available for 'off-site recreation facilities' in the locality of the site, and SDC had invited NTC to submit a proposal for suitable projects. The funds would have to be spent within 5 years of receipt. Cllr S Robinson reported that the Clerk had been informed by NTC's insurers of remedial work which needed to be done to the climbing frame and slide in the KGV play area. Councillors agreed that it would be appropriate for some of the S106 money to be spent on the upgrading of play equipment in this location. The Clerk was asked to liaise with SDC to investigate whether this would be viewed as an appropriate use of the money, and to seek advice as to the type of equipment which could be suitable, bearing in mind councillors' views that as wide an age range as possible should be catered for. This could then be discussed in more detail at the December meeting of the Committee.

The Clerk had received a written estimate from a contractor of £2,200.00 plus VAT for the repairs to the skateboard park surface. Councillors felt that this might also qualify as a suitable project for S106 funding. It was noted that skateboard park user Joe Davies had offered to assist with fund raising and councillors agreed that any contribution he was able to make in this respect would be very welcome.

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Date

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Chair