

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 6 October 2015

Present	Cllr SE Thorpe (chair) Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay
Present for part of the meeting	Tracy Young, Youth Worker, Nailsworth Youth Club
Apologies	Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson

DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

NAILSWORTH YOUTH CLUB – REPORT FROM YOUTH WORKER

Cllr Thorpe welcomed Tracy Young, Nailsworth Youth and Community Worker, to the meeting.

Tracy reported that the youth club continued to be a popular place for young people to socialise, participate in a range of activities and access advice, support and information. Drop-in sessions for young people aged 8-18 were held on 3 different evenings of the week and activities on offer included art, fitness sessions and advice sessions from Stroud Youth Support Team. Some senior volunteers worked with the juniors, providing positive role models, and the club had set up a volunteering award scheme.

The Youth Club had taken over the delivery of the highly successful SDC Junior Warden Project, with SDC funding the staffing costs. The annual summer residential at South Cerney had been greatly enjoyed and had proved to be an excellent learning experience, with young people participating in water- and land-based activities and planning and preparing their own meals. Youth club members had worked with Gloucestershire Constabulary on a restorative engagement project focusing on ways to improve relationships between young people and the police, and the club had also participated in a county-wide review of young people's needs commissioned by Young Gloucestershire. Tracy agreed to pass on the review report to NTC when available.

Tracy reported that the Youth Club continued to work in partnership with other agencies, such as the social and health services, to deliver a relevant service to local youth. The club had started monthly sexual health drop in advice sessions at the Arkell Community Centre.

As part of her community development role, Tracy continued to help out with some of the community activities at the Arkell Centre, and was active in publicising the centre locally by producing and distributing quarterly newsletters and setting up and managing the ACC's Twitter account (@ArkellCtr).

Looking to the future, Tracy reported on plans to expand the reach of the youth club over the next year to help meet the needs of those young people who were reluctant to engage with traditional youth work provision. Plans were being developed to consult young people in the town on what could potentially be offered outside the generic youth work setting.

Tracy thanked the Council for its support for the staffing costs of the youth club and was pleased to report that the work of the club continued received a high level of support from the community, including unsolicited offers of funding from Shortwood FC and the Co-op Community Partnership scheme, augmenting the club's own ongoing fundraising activities.

In response to a question on the impact of cuts in funding for local policing on youth work, Tracy reported that she understood that SDC planned to recruit more Neighbourhood Wardens, which should result in improved coverage for Nailsworth in the future. Tracy confirmed that the youth club had been in discussions in the past with Forest Green Rovers FC regarding the provision of facilities for youth but that this had proved unfruitful.

Cllr Thorpe thanked Tracy on behalf of the Council for her excellent work in the community and for the youth of the town.

MATTERS ARISING from MINUTES of MEETING HELD ON 4 AUGUST 2015

Hip tiles on Town Hall roof – the Clerk reported that the dry-fix rib system originally suggested by Mr P Merrett had proved unsuitable. He had therefore provided a sample of an alternative 'wet' tile which members inspected and approved.

KGV directional signs – Cllr M Robinson had obtained sample designs for various signs for the KGV field, which were circulated. It was agreed however that these were no longer required. GCC had approved a design for the A46 directional sign to the KGV files and this was currently being made at a cost of £130. The replacement of the defaced sign by the skate park was in hand.

Refurbishment of ground floor gents' toilets – the Clerk reported that the contractors would be commencing work in late November. It was noted that building regulations approval was required for work to the sewer, which would incur an additional cost.

Mortimer Room – Cllr Thorpe reported that GCC planned to install cavity wall insulation to the Library and had suggested that NTC might like to consider having the walls of the Mortimer Room and the TIC done at the same time, at a cost of £1,100. Discussion ensued on possible sources of funding for this work as it would exceed the remaining budget for the Mortimer Rooms by £700. Mindful of the benefits of insulation, members were keen that the work be done and it was **agreed to proceed** with cavity wall insulation for the Mortimer Room and TIC with the cost of £1,100 with the costs to be shared between Recreation and Environment Committee budgets, as the TIC came under the latter's remit.

Paul Carter memorial picnic table – the Clerk reported that the table and accompanying litterbin had been purchased and were being stored by Cllr Rowland Blackwell who was organising their installation.

HAZELWOOD BUNGALOW – PROGRESS WITH REFURBISHMENT

Cllr Thorpe updated members on the progress of the refurbishment of Hazelwood Bungalow. Inspections had revealed no major problems. The roof and windows were sound and no damp problems had been found. A new shower had been installed and a shower screen or curtain would be obtained. Work was in progress to repair guttering and decorate where necessary. The kitchen units would be cleaned and repainted. The kitchen door would be replaced with one of more robust and secure construction. New flooring was required in two rooms and the bathroom and possibly in the kitchen. Cllr Thorpe confirmed that the kitchen and bathroom did not have extractor fans and suggested that these could be considered at a later stage. The existing budget for the bungalow was just under £4,000 and a further £4,000 would be required to cover the work which had been identified as necessary. It was **agreed** that the balance be taken from the current year's Town Hall main hall redecoration budget which should be replaced next year.

The Clerk was thanked for her efforts in organising and monitoring the refurbishment work.

MILES MARLING FIELD

Cllrs Thorpe and S Robinson had met with the contractor to discuss maintenance work on the Miles Marling field boundary, which had been of an unsatisfactory standard of late. The contractor had undertaken to improve on the standard and the Town Groundsman had been asked to monitor the situation.

Cllr Thorpe reported that the first meeting of the Friends of the Miles Marling Field had been arranged for the following evening. Katherine Kearns, a volunteer, had produced a rough sketch-map, to be considered at the Friends' meeting, indicating possible improvements to the field based on the results of the Council's consultation undertaken earlier in the year. The map was circulated and discussed. Cllr Thorpe reported that Tracy Young had undertaken further consultation on the development of the MM field at a Youth Forum meeting the previous evening.

In discussion, Cllr Kay noted that NTC had put aside funds for a kickabout area and suggested that this would best be located at the top end of the field.

MUGA UPDATE

Cllr Thorpe reported that she was in the process of drafting a design and operational statement for NTC's planning application for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) following the withdrawal of the application for improvement and resubmission. Cllr Kay suggested that it would be useful for NTC representatives to meet with SDC planning officers to iron out any potential issues prior to its resubmission.

Cllr Kay stated that he understood that the lighting report to accompany the application had been completed and that the acoustic report would shortly be with Mr Mike Davies GCC. Cllr Kay added that he had recently spoken to Minchinhampton Parish Council's clerk who had stated that she had received no complaints of noise from the Minchinhampton MUGA. The MUGA Working Party was planning to visit the Minchinhampton MUGA.

A draft letter of information about the planning application for distribution to residents living in the vicinity of the MUGA site had been approved by Council. After discussion it was agreed to change the wording in the first paragraph from 'resubmit in late October' to 'resubmit **later this year**' and to include Cllr Kay's contact details. Cllr S Robinson had undertaken to co-ordinate hand delivery. It was agreed that a record be kept of who had delivered the letters and date of delivery.

KGV PLAYING FIELD

Tennis Courts

Three quotations had been received for the resurfacing and colour coating and fencing of the tennis courts in the KGV field and details of these had been circulated. As only one contractor had quoted separately for the resurfacing and the colour coating some members felt unable make a decision at this stage and the Clerk was requested to ask the other two contractors to quote similarly to enable a decision to be taken at the Council meeting on 20 October.

Cllr Thorpe had received information about potential grant funding from Fields in Trust towards the refurbishment of the tennis courts. The deadline for applications was 19 November and it was agreed that Cllr Thorpe would make an application.

Football pitch bookings

The Clerk reported that Minchinhampton Youth Club football team did not require the KGV pitch for the current season. The two teams currently using the pitch were the Taverners B team and the Forest Green FC Ladies' Reserves.

Update on new groundsman

Cllr Thorpe reported that she and the Clerk had met with the new groundsman, Josh Ireland, at the end of September for the first of his monthly appraisal sessions, which would continue throughout his probationary period. She confirmed that notes were kept of these sessions. Some training needs had been identified.

It was suggested that it would be helpful for the groundsman to wear a name-badge whilst carrying out his duties and the Clerk was asked to organise this.

TOWN GARDENING

A letter from Peter Tessloff, the town gardener, containing suggestions and ideas for improving the Market Street Garden had been previously circulated. Mr Tessloff felt his original idea of clearing the area and replanting to create more colour would be ineffective as the soil was thin and weeds were a problem. He had therefore suggested two alternative options: 1. gradual removal of weeds together with replanting of robust plant varieties that hopefully would thrive better than the existing planting, or 2. clearing and grassing over the lower section with a few small beds for colour. He had also suggested that troughs could be fixed to the railings to add colour.

It was noted that £3,000 for replanting the Market Street garden had been included in the Committee's draft budget wish-list for 2015/16. After discussion, the Clerk was requested to ask Mr Tessloff to seek costings for both options.

Members were pleased to note that the Mortimer Gardens were looking much better as a result of the gardener's efforts. However, it was suggested that these too would benefit from more colour.

BUDGET ITEMS FOR NEXT YEAR

A draft wish-list of items for inclusion in the Council's budget for 2015/16 was circulated and considered.

After discussion it was agreed to submit the following wish-list to Council for consideration:

New garage/store for groundsman	£20,000
Replacement vehicle for groundsman	£3,000
Replanting of Market Street corner	£3,000
Miles Marling field development	£10,000
Netting and surface colouring - KGV tennis courts	£12,000
Resurfacing of tarmac in KGV field	£2,000
Town Hall main hall redecoration (replacement)	£5,000
Training for town groundsman	£1,000
Hazelwood Bungalow – fencing and painting	£5,000
Insulation of Council properties (to be split between committees as needed)	£5,000
Replacement of Town Hall front doors with glazed alternatives	£10,000

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Chair

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Date