

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the Meeting of Nailsworth Town Council**  
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 21 September 2010**

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr N I Kay * Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs J M Way
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington
Apologies	Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe                      District Cllr Blackwell District Cllr J T Jeffreys District Cllr Miss F Macmillan
Non attendance	Cllr J A Byrne
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

**2010/81                      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

**2010/82                      MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 July 2010 were approved and signed, with the following amendments -

Minute 2010/67 paragraph 3 amended to read:

“Cllr Mrs Smith read out a personal statement alleging that misleading information had been involved in seeking funding for the project. She disputed the claim that . . . “

Minute 2010/78 amended to read:

“Cllr Mrs Smith, whose husband is a fire-fighter drew attention to the countywide rearrangement of the Fire Service, with proposed cuts meaning the loss of 12 fire-fighters and the special Rescue Appliance from Stroud. She feared that Nailsworth would eventually be under threat.”

**2010/83                      FUTURE of NAILSWORTH RECREATION CENTRE (minute 2010/59)**

Cllr Crawley reported that SDC’s current recommendation was to action a notice of intent to terminate the Joint Use Agreement and to return the Nailsworth Recreation Centre to Nailsworth Primary School on 31 March 2011. And to contribute £10,000 for 2011/12 only to the Nailsworth Sports Partnership, subject to an acceptable business plan that would lead to continued sports provision for the community at Nailsworth Recreation Centre. NTC Cllrs had met with the Chairman of Governors and Head of the Primary School this morning and were putting together a letter to SDC with their concerns and a series of questions.

**2010/84                      GAPTC presentation by Chief Constable Tony Melville (minute 2010/76)**

Cllr M Robinson had attended the meeting on 14 September and Chief Constable Melville had promised to do his best to ensure there was no reduction in police uniform presence. He hoped to make cuts on building projects and improve efficiency by synchronising divisions to match district council boundaries. At the meeting, two observations were made that the public, especially more elderly residents, was not happy with the non urgent 0845 police contact phone numbers and would prefer 01453 local numbers, even if they all went to the same switchboard.

The Mayor added that a second female police officer had been delegated to Nailsworth which now had two PCs and two PCSOs. Cllr Kay reminded Cllrs that it was useful to occasionally have a visit from a member of the force to update NTC and answer questions.

#### **2010/85 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 17 August were approved and signed.

#### **2010/86 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Waddington** advised that the objection to the Star Hill/Jubilee Road 20mph restrictions had now been resolved and the scheme should be going into operation around November.

He had attended a presentation on the investigations carried out on the **Avening Road landslip** and outlined the proposed repair programme, which was complicated and costly. This had had to be advertised in the European Journal and the work would start in spring 2011, take four months and involve closure of the road for the entire period. The Mayor referred to other land slips further along this road which Cllr Waddington recognised were historic and longstanding.

GCC's main focus was on 'meeting the challenge' to **reduce expenditure** by 30% over a four year period. Major cuts would be inevitable to save the £120million required. Road shows were going around the county to canvas public opinion, and would be in Cirencester this coming Thursday.

GCC was very pleased with the way the **road diversions at Wallbridge** were operating and might retain some of the temporary alterations to ease congestion after the work was finished. In particular, he mentioned the success of the two way flow on London Road.

Cllr Crawley felt the reply options on the **questionnaire** were not helpful and felt the 'reduce and stop' response should have been split, as people would tick 'protect' when they might have accepted 'reduce' but not 'stop'. He also queried why the form instructed respondees to 'aim for a balance of ticks and crosses'. Cllr Waddington suggested he raise these points at the Highways meeting next week. Cllr Nicholson added that he felt the presentation was poor and the information/statistics provided contradicted themselves in different parts of the form.

In response to a query from Cllr Kay about the poor state of the **Old Bristol Road**, Cllr Waddington confirmed that it was a B road subject to monthly inspections, and was due a complete refurbishment around November.

The Mayor raised again the proposed **flood prevention work on Bridge Street**, which Cllr Waddington reassured him was on the programme and he would notify the Clerk of the start date.

Apologies had been received from all three District Cllrs and **Cllr Blackwell** had submitted a written report advising that SDC would not provide a **lifebelt at the Lower Newmarket Lake** because of the risk of vandalism and cost of maintaining one. He continued to press for **removal of the storage containers** at this location, as well as torched motor homes/horse boxes which had been left on a turning area for over 12 months; he thought one had been removed.

He continued to be lobbied by Park Road residents to install a **mirror on the Park Road/A46 junction** and sought NTC's support. Cllr Waddington reminded the meeting that GCC had been asked repeatedly to look at the problem of this dangerous junction but that, given the road layout at this point, there was no solution. The Department of Transport no longer approved mirrors as they were thought to cause confusion, and GCC could therefore not allow one on the highway, even if privately installed. Cllr Nicholson added that the area of land at the end of Park Road, though maintained by NTC, was actually owned by GCC Highways, and there was no obvious alternative site to put a mirror.

Cllr Kay felt NTC could consider independently providing a lifebelt at Lower Newmarket Lake and installing a mirror at the end of Park Road, and the matters would be deferred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee for further consideration.

**2010/87 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS**

31 July	visited Dunkirk Mill and the launch of the water-drawn milling machine, lunch at Chalford and visit to St Mary's Mill. NTC was publically thanked for its support.
1 August	attended the Mayor of Tetbury's tea party and presentation of awards.
24 August	attended SDC meeting on the Neighbourhood Warden service. The areas had been changed again, and two wardens (Andy Murray and Pete Wilson) would now cover Nailsworth, Rodborough, Chalford, Minchinhampton through to Wotton and Kingswood (population 34,238). Only two wardens were on duty for three days in any seven day week. The mayor questioned why Stonehouse/the Stanleys with a population of 23,325 had the same cover.
28 August	held a surgery at the Farmers Market and received 12 enquiries, largely relating to highway matters. Many residents were happy to stop for a chat.
7 September	along with other Cllrs, distributed fliers inviting residents to a meeting at the FGCC on 14 September
14 September	a very constructive meeting with Andy Wilkins (skateboard supremo) and young people, the Clerk and Cllrs. Mr Wilkins volunteered to put forward proposals and costings for a new half pipe and resurfacing of the KGV skateboard park which was apparently made of the wrong material.
	met with other Cllrs, Margaret Marshall and a representative from Snape Constructions to inform residents about the forthcoming building works
15 September	helped to clear out the temporary FG community centre.
16 September	attended the Chartered Parishes meeting. Simon Harper Scrutiny Team Leader presented the new County Petitions Scheme, copy of which had been circulated to Cllrs. The Mayor had circulated copies of the 'meeting the challenge' questionnaire for Cllrs to complete. Alan Crickmore County Coroner reported on his duties and a new coroners' court about to be built in Gloucester.
18 September	attended the 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Sir William Romney's School with an evening of music and drama, including several students known to the Mayor through the Youth Club.

The Mayor drew attention to a highways seminar on 28 September in Shire Hall, which would also give an opportunity to speak to the leader of GCC on forthcoming cuts in the budget for all departments. Cllr Crawley offered to attend.

Having raised the idea in a recent Nailsworth News, the Mayor was exploring plans for a better floral display in the town for 2011 at a meeting on 7 November with several organisations which had responded to his article.

Many residents went outside the town for NHS dentistry and the Mayor was consulting the Health Partnership about the potential for an NHS dentist in the town.

Having raised the matter in the October Nailsworth News, the Mayor was looking into the possibility of setting up a small volunteer bureau.

**2010/88 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Mrs Thorpe was on holiday.

**2010/89 REPORT of TOWN CLERK**

A supplementary list had been circulated of additional publications, invitations to meetings and correspondence which had been received in the office since the agenda was circulated. Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk of the meetings they wished to attend so that reply slips could be returned where applicable.

Cllr Kay had drafted a letter, circulated to Cllrs by email, to be sent out to fellow parishes prior to the GAPTC AGM regarding Nailsworth's motion. He had spoken with the SDC policy officer who had said she would welcome advice from GAPTC in developing a suitable consultation policy.

**2010/90                    REPORTS from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Mayor had spoken to Mr Andrew Sparkle from the **Minchinhampton Educational Trust**, who had confirmed that the organisation was very small and an NTC representative was not required.

Cllr Mrs Way reported that the **Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee** had agreed to look into ways of clearing the trees on the W so the cattle could gain better access to graze the slopes, as the committee fully recognised the value of views. Cllr Mrs Way would monitor progress.

**2010/91                    REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 27 July and the minutes were approved

He had circulated Cllrs with a few minor amendments to the Hiring of Premises Agreement, which were approved. Cllr Crawley reminded the meeting that it had been intended to include a statement warning hirers about parking problems on football match days. The document would be amended accordingly.

SDC had given an informal response regarding replacement of the TH windows, that should remain in keeping with the style of the building in a conservation area. It was recommended not to replace the windows with wood because of the cost of upkeep and lack of longevity.

**2010/92                    REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs Way presented the report of the meeting held on 6 September and the minutes were approved.

Members were happy for Cllrs Mrs Way and Nicholson to consult various Christmas Lights catalogues and narrow the choices in order to compare quotes.

Cllr Carter sought clarification on the proposed cattle grids, and was advised that the Clerk had a map of the additional grids planned to better contain the cattle. Cllr Mrs Way was attending a further meeting this week and would notify Cllrs of the time of a public consultation meeting to take place on 6 October at the Bear at Rodborough.

Cllr Nicholson felt it important that NTC respond to the GCC five-year transport plan questionnaire, which he would do with Cllr Mrs Way.

The Mayor outlined the confusion over the proposed works in George Street, with an incorrect start date of 20 September advertised in the paper. The owner of the China Shop had reported an operative spraying the road today who thought the work was starting next week. Cllr Waddington advised that the original plan had been for end November, but the work was now scheduled for January, and would only involve short periods of road closure or use of traffic lights, and the intention was to focus work on Sundays.

Cllr Kay queried the map accompanying the order which seemed to indicate road diversion through Watledge, which was totally inappropriate. He had raised this with the officer concerned and suggested the diversion should go down through Amberley.

**2010/93                    REPORT of RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 10 August and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Byrne had today circulated by email a letter of resignation which was read out by the Mayor, who would seek clarification as to whether Cllr Byrne was retiring as chairman of the Recreation & Amenities Committee only or from the Council altogether.

The Sports Partnership meeting on 31 August had been very productive and a follow up meeting would be advertised in Nailsworth News.

A reduced cost for the Market Street Garden had been provided, but the quote would need examining in detail to see what had been lost and retained from the original design.

Cllr Carter was concerned that too many signs were being erected, with another proposed for the KGV gates, but it was thought this latest one might be a legal requirement.

Mr Bruce Burn had confirmed that he could put a questionnaire on the website.

#### **2010/94 REPORT of FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Crawley had circulated his sheet 'Progressing the Arkell Community Centre Charitable Trust Fund' and explained that the charity would be constructing the building with the benefits of grants. The build was scheduled for 7 November to 31 March, weather permitting.

**RESOLVED Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson that the Arkell Community Centre Charitable Trust Fund (the Charity):**

1. Appoints Nailsworth Town Clerk as the Secretary and Treasurer.
2. Notes that any contracts or agreements entered into on behalf of the Charity will be signed by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and the Clerk, after Town Council approval for the Charity, as for the Town Council generally.
3. Authorises Nailsworth Town Clerk, as Treasurer of the Charity, to sign the contract with the South West Regional Development Agency for the grant from the Rural Development Programme for England and subsequent claims on behalf of the Charity.

The motion was carried with one vote against and two abstentions.

\* Cllr Kay left the meeting

#### **2010/95 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Carter presented the reports of the meetings held on 15 July and 3 August. It was agreed to defer approval of the minutes from the meetings held on 19 August and 7 September as these were incomplete.

**RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 15 July and 3 August 2010 be approved.**

#### **2010/96 ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk reported that the Audit had been successfully completed with the following comment from Moore Stephens:

"Expenditure Decisions

The internal financial controls do not specifically include a check as to whether all payments made are legal and within the powers of the council. We recommend that this control be included in the internal controls document and incorporated as part of the procedures undertaken by the Financial Officer"

The Clerk disagreed with this comment and felt that Financial Regulations specifically covered this point. It would be discussed at the next FE&GP meeting.

**RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 17 August 2010 amounting to £12,112,06 be retrospectively approved, and the list for 21 September amounting to £21,663.95 be approved for payment.**

#### **2010/97 POSSIBLE CUTS IN FIRE SERVICE**

Cllr Mrs Smith advised that the plan was to remove the specialised RTA vehicle from Stroud Station, the nearest one then having to come from Gloucester or Cheltenham. 12 jobs were under threat, although the Fire Service claimed these would be saved by redeployment and changes to the shift systems. Nailsworth station, manned by retained fire-fighters was under threat as it was already short staffed, particularly in working hours, so vehicles could not be run. The problem lay with recruiting fire-fighters who either did not live close enough to respond quickly or were unavailable during the day.

Cllrs were pleased to accept the offer from Assistant Chief Fire Officer Geoff Sallis to attend the November NTC meeting to explain the Fire Service's plans, stressing that County Cllr Waddington should be present. It was essential to ensure an adequate provision for the safety of Nailsworth residents and not acceptable to allow an increased risk to life.

**2010/98 GCC Highways – proposed pedestrian crossing at Ruskin Mill**

Ms Sally Godwin, assistant programme engineer, had written explaining why GCC would be unable to provide a pedestrian crossing at Ruskin Mill because of the unsuitability of the site.

**2010/99 SDC – BT Kiosk Adoption Scheme**

Ms Rachel Small, regeneration manager had advised that BT was promoting another adoption scheme for telephone kiosks, although no specific targets had yet been announced.

**2010/100 Residents of Hanover – petition for addition to Town War Memorial**

Residents of Hanover had submitted a petition requesting that the name of Mark Chandler be added to the war memorial. This had been supported by an email from Mr Tim Godden, pending approval from the RBL and the family.

Much as cllrs wished to respect this request, the process was not straightforward. The monument commemorating WW1 & 2 was owned by NTC, but the land probably belonged to the church. The WW2 names had already been rewritten on bronze plaques as the poorer engravings on the monument itself were fading, but names could not be added to these plaques. Perhaps a new memorial was needed, which would have to be properly publicised so that other residents had the opportunity to put forward names of soldiers killed since 1945, and allowing for future additions. Property Management committee would be asked to explore possibilities.

**2010/101 Church Commissioners – closure of All Saints Church**

Copy of the official document declaring the church would be closed on 1 November 2010.

**2010/102 NALC – nominations for 2010-12 elections**

Nominations to fill four places on the committee were invited by 13 October.

**2010/103 Gemma Webb SDC – installation of cigarette bins**

Ms Webb advised that she was looking to site 'jointly purchased' cigarette bins and invited NTC to apply. It had already been decided at an earlier meeting that NTC did not wish to set a precedent by sharing the cost of SDC responsibilities and the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

**2010/104 CPRE – invitation to presentation ceremony 13 October**

It was thought Cllr Kay might like to attend the ceremony to collect NTC's certificate to recognise the CPRE award for relocation of the stone fountain.

**2010/105 Colin Spencer SDC – dispensation of Nailsworth Town Councillors**

The application for dispensation for NTC Cllrs with regard to the Arkell Centre Charity would go before the Standards Committee on 21 September.

**2010/106 Ruskin Mill – new Biodynamic Research & Study Centre**

Ruskin Mill sought planning support for a large new centre in the Horsley Valley, to which Cllr Nicholson advised Horsley Parish had already objected. Cllr Carter suggested that no response was required from NTC since the planning application was not in Nailsworth. Cllr Crawley took the letter and drawing.

**2010/107 GCC – 'Meeting the Challenge' questionnaire**

Another couple of questionnaires were provided.

**2010/108 GCC – electoral review consultation**

The Commission was initially seeking feedback from parish councils and other local stakeholders on how many County Cllrs should represent the electorate of Gloucestershire. Cllr Nicholson added that GCC was trying to ensure the equal representation of populations, with the rearrangement of

boundaries and the removal of double cllr wards. FE&GP committee would be asked to formalise a response.

**2010/109                    John Chaplin SDC – planning permission for replacement TH windows**

This was dealt with under 2010/91 above.

**2010/110                    Hannah Brown Bristol Ensemble – Great Nailsworth Bake-Off**

In order to raise the profile of classical music in Nailsworth, the orchestra wished to organise baking competitions at its concerts to be judged by the Mayor, and would contact local community action groups to gauge interest. Ms Brown sought comment from NTC as to whether Cllrs thought the initiative would be well received.

**2010/111                    Kim Bedford GAPTC – project manager recommendation**

Ms Bedford had put forward the name of a project manager. The Clerk was asked to thank her but advise that one was no longer required.

**2010/112                    Chris Franklin GCC – presentation on B4010 repairs**

Cllr Crawley took the paperwork and would follow up on this topic.

**2010/113                    Sue Arnold – confirmation of Christkindl Evening 26 November**

Cllrs were delighted to hear that the event would definitely take place this year.

**2010/114                    GAPTC – new nuclear power station at Oldbury – meeting 19 October**

The notice would be forwarded to Cllr M Robinson regarding a proposed new development adjacent to the Oldbury power station which was being decommissioned. Two representatives were invited to attend a meeting in Coleford on 19 October.

**2010/115                    Town Clock**

A letter had been sent to Mr Jim Eddyshaw regarding the dangerous access up the clock tower, and asking him not to climb it unaided. The Mayor had offered to attend with Mr Eddyshaw if he needed to go up the tower, whilst the Property Management Committee considered improvements to the ladder and/or a safety cage.

..... Chairman

..... Date