

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 19 February 2013

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr SM Reed Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington
Apologies	Cllr MP Robinson District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims

2012/199 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 15 JANUARY

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January were approved and signed.

2012/200 - Traders' Advertising Boards: Minute 2012/186. Cllr Duckworth confirmed that he proposed to undertake further research on town and parish councils' licensing arrangements for traders' advertising boards in their parishes. Cllr Thorpe reported that she had observed that a business in Nailsworth Town Centre was routinely displaying several large objects on the pavement outside the shop. The Clerk agreed to ask Yakub Mulla of GCC to investigate the matter.

2012/201 – Housing Needs Survey: Minute 2012/193. The Clerk reported that Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum had awarded NTC a grant of £1000 towards the production costs of the Housing Needs Survey. Cllr Reed reported that two envelope-filling sessions had been held in the Council Chamber with good progress being made. A third and final session would be held on 20 February, ready for collection by Martin Hutchings GRCC on 21 February. Cllr Reed thanked councillors and other volunteers for their efforts.

It was agreed that 200 filled envelopes would be left blank so that Cllr Carter could organise their distribution to local businesses.

2012/202 – Footpath at Newmarket: Minute 2012/193. Sue Nicholson reported that Mrs Sarah Macaulay-Lowe GCC had inspected the site and would write to the landowner requesting that he re-instate the section of footpath running through his land.

2012/203 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 21 JANUARY

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January were approved and signed, subject to the following addition to the sentence relating to the salary of the assistant to the Clerk, which would now read: 'With effect from 1 April 2013 the salary of the assistant to the Clerk to be calculated on **20 hours per week**'.

2012/204 – Localisation of support for council tax: Minute 2012/198. The Clerk reported that SDC had informed her that it had decided to adopt a flexible system of grant payments to town and parish councils whereby it would respond to individual councils' preferences. As NTC's preference had been not to receive the grant, the Council's precept in respect of the financial year 2013/14 would therefore be £233,500, representing an increase of £14.21 p.a. to the average Band D council tax payer in the parish.

2012/205 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Carter reported that SDC had agreed its budget at the end of January with no increase to Council Tax.

County Cllr Waddington reported that GCC had withdrawn its support for changes to the Air Balloon roundabout on the A417 near Cheltenham. He explained that GCC would shortly be announcing its budget for 2013/14 and that it had decided to freeze its council tax for the coming financial year. He confirmed that it was GCC policy to ensure that funding for services for adult and vulnerable groups was protected.

Cllr Waddington reported there was likely to be a surplus of £2m on the current year's budget and that an announcement would shortly be made on how this would be spent. Cllr Thorpe expressed surprise at this surplus, as it was her understanding that GCC had been making cuts in services. She hoped that Nailsworth would benefit from some of this money. In response, Cllr Waddington commented that the surplus amount was small in the context of GCC's overall budget.

Cllr Kay reported that he had noted considerable deterioration in the condition of both major and minor roads in the locality. Hay Lane in Horsley was particularly bad in this respect. He hoped that some of the surplus money could be spent on the road infrastructure. Cllr Waddington noted Cllr Kay's concerns.

The Mayor asked Cllr Waddington to confirm whether any of the £10,000 grant which each county councillor had been allocated for road repairs and improvement in his or her ward would be available for safety improvements on the A46, for example the provision of a safe crossing point at Dunkirk Mill. Cllr Waddington reported that he was still considering what recommendation to make regarding this money. One possibility was the allocation of part of the sum for highway improvements in Barton Close, Nailsworth. In his view, it was unlikely that any grant money would be allocated for a crossing at Dunkirk.

2012/206 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported on a recent meeting which John Kay and Glen Dooley GCC had attended to discuss the GCC's traffic calming and road improvement proposals for the A46. The officers had explained that traffic calming work was due to start at the end of March 2013, with patching work on particular sections of the A46 commencing at the beginning of the new financial year in April 2013. The Mayor had been surprised to hear of the patching proposals as he had previously understood from Cllr Waddington that a complete resurfacing of the A46 between Inchbrook and Barton End had been proposed. Cllr Waddington confirmed it was his understanding that GCC's current plan was merely to undertake small patching jobs on the Bath Road section of the A46, and he agreed to make further enquiries. The Mayor reported that a further meeting would be organised to establish an 'A46 Group' which would aim to draw up a 'wish-list' for highway improvements.

The Mayor reported that ten local residents had now been trained in the use of the Speedar traffic speed monitoring device and that some of these had conducted a monitoring operation during the previous week, concentrating mainly on Nympsfield Road. The residents proposed to conduct further operations on a more frequent basis after to British Summertime commenced on 31 March.

2012/207 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

As he had been unable to attend the Council meeting, the Deputy Mayor had sent a report via the Clerk. He had reported that the recent 'drop in' councillors' surgery in the Mortimer Room had been well received, with around a dozen local residents attending. A second surgery would be held after the May County Council elections, this time at the Arkell Centre, date to be confirmed.

2012/208 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported that Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's 'Wild Events 2013' programme and the Annual Report of Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association had been received in the office and were available for councillors to view.

2012/209 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Reed reported on her role as a Community Governor of Nailsworth Primary School. She planned to work on developing community projects with the pupils and hoped to invite the Mayor and other NTC councillors to meet with the governors and possibly the pupils at some point in order to progress this. One of her ideas was to develop a storytelling space in Norton Wood.

2012/210 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the 23 January were approved and signed. Cllr Reed reported that Mr Brian McGough SDC, who had attended the meeting, had provided useful background details and clarification of SDC's proposed alterations to Nailsworth Bus Station. The following recommendation, proposed by Cllr Reed and seconded by Cllr S Robinson, was accepted with unanimous support:

- 1. NTC would prefer the retention of the existing layout of the bus station, including the car parking spaces, but would support appropriate steps to improve aesthetics and to manage any risk to pedestrians, such as improved signage, clearer pedestrian routes and ongoing monitoring.**
- 2. NTC would not support any scheme which resulted in the loss of the 24 free parking spaces in Old Market.**
- 3. If SDC was required to pursue one of its proposed schemes, NTC's preference would be for Plan 2307/11 with the proviso that it be adapted to incorporate 3 bus bays rather than 2, and that the bus shelters be re-sited and improved to enable passengers to face the buses when seated.**

The Clerk was asked to forward NTC's views to Mr McGough.

2012/211 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of 16 January and 6 February were confirmed and signed. Cllr Carter confirmed that the planning application relating to Setwell in Walkley Wood had been withdrawn. He reported that the Samsung laptop for the use of the Committee, as specified by Cllr Duckworth, was no longer available

for purchase. It was agreed that Cllr Carter would seek to purchase an equivalent model at the same price.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings of 16 January and 6 February be approved.

2012/212 REPORT FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January, presented by the Mayor in the absence of Cllr M Robinson were approved and signed. The Clerk reported that Cllr M Robinson had been researching potential commercial contractors in order to seek a **maintenance contract for the Town Clock**, owing to the imminent retirement of Mr Jim Eddyshaw. Cllr M Robinson had identified the company in Surrey which had originally supplied the clock, and Sue Nicholson agreed to seek a quotation from this company. Councillors acknowledged that it was unlikely that a non-local business would be prepared to take on the twice-yearly alteration of the clock to and from British Summer Time, and the Clerk agreed to ask Mr Eddyshaw if it might be possible to train a local person to undertake this task.

2012/213 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February were approved and signed, subject to the alteration of the phrase 'under 9 age group' to '**under 8** age group' with reference to the Committee's proposal to purchase new play equipment.

The Clerk reported that, as there had been no response from the applicant regarding the **proposed leased of the KGV pavilion for an early years facility**, she would send follow up letter.

Cllr Carter questioned the purpose of a specific **NTC dog fouling policy**, as he understood that all aspects of the NTC draft policy produced by Cllr Thorpe were already covered by the district wide policy already adopted by SDC. Whilst acknowledging that the NTC draft policy replicated the SDC one, Cllr Thorpe explained that the Committee had recommended the adoption of a specific Nailsworth policy in order both to reinforce the SDC regulations and to highlight specific areas of concern within the parish, such as the KGV and Miles Marling fields. After some discussion, the following proposal was made by Cllr Thorpe, seconded by Cllr Reed, and **approved**, with 9 councillors voting in favour and one abstention.

- 1. That the Council adopt the proposed Dog Fouling Policy for Nailsworth (attached)**
- 2. That two additional dog bins be purchased for the KGV Field area, one to be placed by the entrance to the extension field and the other in Wood Lane.**

Sue Nicholson agreed to send Cllr Kelly an electronic copy of the NTC Dog Fouling policy.

Discussion ensued about enforcement of the dog fouling policy. Cllr Elliott understood that it might be possible to train local volunteers to undertake enforcement. However, Cllr Thorpe felt that it would be advisable for SDC officers to take full responsibility for enforcement. It was noted that the leaflet on the district

wide policy gave details of how individuals could report fouling incidents. Copies of this leaflet had been placed in the TIC and in the Town Hall. The Mayor had also highlighted the issue in Nailsworth News.

It was agreed unanimously that NTC should underwrite the costs, totalling £86, of **showing the documentary film 'Trashed'** at the Arkell Centre on Friday 8 March, as part of the Council's contribution to raising awareness of environmental issues during Climate Change Week. Cllr Thorpe reported that invitations had been sent to Nailsworth's district and county councillors and the managers of local supermarkets. She hoped that as many NTC councillors as possible would attend.

2012/214 REPORT FROM TIC WORKING PARTY

In the absence of Cllr M Robinson, Cllr Carter presented the notes of the TIC Working Party meeting of 11 February, previously circulated to all councillors. The recommendations of the Working Party, as set out below, were proposed by Cllr Carter and seconded by Cllr Duckworth, to unanimous support.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Keith Angus be authorised to send out tenders as per plans/specifications submitted taking into account amendments/additions listed in notes of TIC Working Party of 11.02.13.**
- 2. That contractors be approached to supply tenders**
- 3. That the letter of agreement, as amended, for access arrangements with GCC be approved and signed.**

2012/215 REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH NAILSWORTH ACTION PLAN

Cllr Reed presented a document outlining the purpose and process of the new Town Action Plan, previously circulated to all councillors. She explained that Mr Chris Harmer, a local resident, had facilitated two small meetings with invited groups where a wide range of relevant issues had been discussed. Mr Ian Crawley had consolidated the outcomes of these discussions into a report for the March edition of Nailsworth News. It was proposed that an ongoing series of conversations with local residents would ensue, and volunteers from the community were being sought to visit specific small groups to progress this. Cllr Thorpe suggested that volunteers should be issued with NTC badges. The results of these conversations would be collated by Chris Harmer by the deadline date of early May. Cllr Reed explained that the results of the current Housing Needs Survey commissioned by NTC would feed into the Action Plan, together with ideas generated by the A46 Transport Group with which the Mayor had recently been working. She suggested that Cllr Kelly might wish to contribute material from the Access Group, and Cllr Thorpe from reactions to the 'Trashed' environmental documentary film. Tracy Young would be co-ordinating responses from her outreach work with local young people.

Cllr Reed agreed to draft a letter inviting feedback on a list of relevant topics from local groups and organisations, which would be sent out with the invitations for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 8 April.

2012/216 PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL ENERGY SUPPLY

Cllr Thorpe presented a report, previously circulated to all councillors, detailing evidence of what she viewed as an unacceptable level of interruptions to the electricity supply in parts of the town. A local resident had kept a record of power outages to his property during 2012 and had contacted Western Power Distribution,

the company responsible for the network serving Nailsworth, expressing his concern. Cllr Thorpe felt that this issue was of wider concern as power cuts impacted on local businesses and on those working from home using broadband. Councillors were unsure of how widespread the problem was in Nailsworth but some councillors understood that a significant level of power cuts had been reported in specific areas, notably Shortwood and Horsley, over the last few years. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to Western Power Distribution (South West) plc highlighting local concern and requesting details of the number of power disruptions in the parish over the past year.

2012/217 RESTRUCTURING COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Two alternative proposals for the restructuring of Council committees had been circulated. The Mayor reported that he had been contacted regarding these proposals by a local resident, Mrs Kate Kay, a solicitor who had previously been employed as Senior Monitoring Officer to Cardiff City Council. In her view, some aspects of the proposals did not meet statutory requirements and she had offered to meet with councillors to explain her concerns in detail. In the light of this, the Mayor announced his intention to propose that Mrs Kay be invited to a Council meeting for this purpose. Cllr Kay stated that he too had concerns about the lawfulness of some of the proposals in the light of Paragraph 22 of a GAPTC Advice Note which had been circulated by the Clerk. He expressed the view that training evenings, which were being used frequently, were secretive and could potentially lead to arrangements which were not legal. He gave notice that he would circulate details of his concerns to all councillors via email.

Cllr Elliott raised a query on the Clerk's statement that she had been excluded from recent discussions on committee restructuring.

Cllr Thorpe expressed the view that the possible restructuring of Council committees was too important an issue to be dealt with at a normal Council meeting. The Mayor clarified that it was his intention to propose a special meeting of Council to hear Mrs Kay's views, to be followed by another meeting for councillors to discuss the two alternative proposals.

After some discussion, it was **agreed** that a special meeting of Council be arranged, to which Mrs Kate Kay and Kim Bedford, Chief Officer of GAPTC would be invited, to facilitate discussion of the statutory requirements surrounding the various options for restructuring Council committees.

2012/218 ACCOUNTS

<p>RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 19 February 2013 amounting to £23,833.19 be approved for payment.</p>
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In response to a question from Cllr Carter, the Clerk confirmed that she would resume circulating electronic copies of the statement of accounts prior to each full Council meeting.

2012/219 SDC – Town and Parish Councils Meeting.

This would be held at Ebley Mill on 27 February at 7pm. Cllrs S Robinson, Kay and Thorpe planned to attend. The Clerk undertook to inform SDC.

2012/220 Neil Carmichael MP – offer to attend council meetings. Mr Carmichael had offered to attend the meetings of parish and town councils in the

constituency between 15-24 February and 1-12 April. The Clerk reported that she had informed the MP's office that these dates unfortunately did not coincide with scheduled NTC full Council meetings. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Carmichael inviting him to the Annual Town Meeting on 8 April, enclosing the current NTC schedule of meetings.

2012/221 Neil Carmichael MP – Invitation to Neighbourhood Planning Meeting.

This was to be held at the Imperial Hotel, Stroud on 28 February at 10.30 am. No NTC councillors were able to attend, but Cllr Carter would be attending in a personal capacity.

2012/222 GAPTC – Localism Act.

The Clerk reported that GAPTC had arranged a meeting on the impact of the Localism Act on town and parish councils, to be held at Churchdown on 7 March, 6.30-9.30 pm. Details had been circulated to all councillors. Cllrs Kelly and Carter planned to attend.

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Chair

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Date