

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 16 February 2016

Present	* Cllr MP Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr JL Dennis Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell Cllr S Robinson * Cllr SE Thorpe Mr Mike Kelly (Item 14)
Present for part of the meeting	5 members of the public (Item 3) Mr Chris Marney (item 4)
Apologies	Cllr EF Bonner Cllr SM Reed District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

2015/262 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

Cllr S Robinson explained that, as a member of SDC Development Control Committee, he would be unable to express a view on application S.14/2396 in his role as a Town Cllr. There were no requests for councillors' dispensations.

2015/263 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a	S.14/2396 Goldwater Springs Land Adjacent to Egypt Mill, Stroud Road 12 residential apartments and associated parking (revised details) OBJECT 1. The proposed development is too big for the site. 2. We wish to see the access road (Station Road) brought up to adoptable standard and adopted, with pedestrian pavement for the full length of the road up to the start of the cycle/pedestrian trail. 3. We are concerned about the impact of the car park exit on cyclist and pedestrians accessing the cycle/pedestrian trail. 4. We would like to see provision for a hammerhead turning. 5. There should be S106 agreements to include contributions towards affordable homes in the parish, improvements to the cycle/pedestrian trail and additional parking for cycle/pedestrian trail users. 6. We wish to see the development used for permanent residential rather than hotel or holiday use. 7. We request that this application be considered by the Development Control Committee.
b	S.16/0256/TCA Old Railway Station, Station Road, Nailsworth, Stroud Sycamore - reduce to leave a crown spread of 3m and reduce height by 3m. Prunus – reduce to leave a crown spread of 2m and reduce height by up to 3m as needs stabilising Noted.

2015/264 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Chris Marney expressed concern at the possibility of applications to develop 13 acres of greenfield land next to Northfield Road as he understood that the land was currently on the market. He estimated that any such development could directly affect the amenity of some 300 properties on both sides of the A46. Mr Marney explained that a group of local residents were considering the possibility of community purchase of the land in question, which they would then seek to gift to the Council as community open space. He enquired whether NTC would be willing in principle to take on its management and upkeep and whether the Council had any suggestions for appropriate community use.

Cllr Kay wondered if it would be appropriate to apply to SDC to register the land as a community asset. It was noted that District Cllr Sims was currently exploring this possibility.

After discussion, it was agreed that the matter be **referred to the Environment Committee** for consideration and recommendation. Mr Marney was thanked for bringing the matter to the Council's attention.

2015/265 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 19 January, 25/26 January and 2 February 2016 were approved and signed. Cllr Elliott had provided background details from Stroud CAB of that organisation's activities and funding requirements which had been circulated with the minutes of the meeting held on 25/26 January. These were noted.

2015/266 Response to Children's Centre consultation document (minute 2015/249)

The Clerk confirmed that County Cllr Binns had explained that she had been unable to attend the Council meeting on 2 February owing to a prior engagement. Cllr Binns had duly been invited to attend the full council meeting on 16 February. Some cllrs expressed disappointment that Cllr Binns was not in attendance to hear members' concerns about the potential loss of Children's Centre drop-in provision in Nailsworth from 2017/18.

2015/267 Arrangements for recruitment of new Town Groundsperson (minute 2015/250)

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Personnel Committee had met to draw up a shortlist of candidates and questions for interviews. The Committee had agreed that the interview panel would consist of himself, Cllr Dennis and the Clerk and the interviews were scheduled for Thursday 18 and Tuesday 23 February.

2015/268 Projects suitable for S.106 finance (minute 2015/251)

Cllr S Robinson reported that the Section 106 Working Party would be reporting to a future Council meeting. It was noted that this topic would appear on the agenda of the Environment Committee's meeting on 1 March.

2015/269 Planning application S.15/2970/HHOLD – Daisy Bank, Horsley Road (minute 2015/261)

An email had been received from the applicant referring to the Council's objection to the application. After discussion, it was agreed that the Mayor and Cllrs Elliott, Millett and Duckworth would visit the site and report back to the next Council Planning meeting.

2015/270 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr S Robinson reported that the district ward cllrs were liaising with residents of Ringfield Close regarding SDC proposals to redevelop their accommodation and would be pushing for a substantial sheltered housing element to be included within the proposals. He understood that all the current residents would be rehoused and offered the opportunity to return if sheltered housing provision was included in the new scheme.

2015/271 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had received a request from a local group for block booking the tennis courts, which he would pass on to the Recreation and Amenities Committee for consideration.

The Mayor reported that Nailsworth Rotary had informed him it would be holding a town 'Street Clean' litter-picking day on 9 April and was seeking volunteers, who were requested to meet outside Tesco Express in Old Market. It was noted that the Nailsworth Warden and volunteers would be undertaking boundary clearance work in the Miles Marling Field on the same day.

The Mayor reported on the recent dinner and presentation at Egypt Mill to celebrate the retirement of the former Town Clerk, Linda Meletiou, and to thank her for her many years of service. This had been a hugely enjoyable event and well attended by current and former councillors and colleagues.

2015/272 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Duckworth thanked the Mayor on behalf of the Council for organising the Clerk's retirement dinner and presentation.

Cllr Duckworth reported that Nailsworth CLT was awaiting a ground survey report for its proposed social housing development site at Lawnside. It was likely that the required local referendum would take place in August.

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Nailsworth Road Safety Group would have a stall at the Farmers' Market on 27 February to publicise its proposals for a 20mph speed limit in the parish and obtain feedback from the community. Details of the proposals would also appear as a centre-spread in the March edition Nailsworth News.

2015/273 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a local resident expressing concerns about noise disruption from the Village Inn and objecting to its late licence. Cllr Duckworth reported that he had discussed the matter with the resident and with the manager of the Village Inn. The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident accordingly and to suggest that he take up the matter with the police and with SDC as the licensing authority.

The Clerk had received notice of a 'Cows on the Common' meeting organised by the National Trust to be held on 2 March at 10 am at the Bear at Rodborough. She agreed to forward details to Cllr Reed, NTC representative on the NT Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons and Advisory Committee.

The Clerk advised that she had received a quotation of £325.00 to upgrade the computer in the Town Archives Office. This was **approved**. Cllr Duckworth offered to advise Archives volunteers on operating the new IT equipment if required.

The Clerk had received a communication from the War Graves Commission proposing that it withdraw its annual financial contribution of £60 towards the maintenance of war graves in the parish. She was asked to respond requesting that the Commission continue to provide its existing level of funding.

The Clerk requested Council's approval to attend a series of training days, at a cost of £380.00, as part of the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) course for which she had registered. This was **agreed**.

2015/274 COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS

There was nothing to report at the present time.

2015/275 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 2 February 2016 were approved and signed, subject to an amendment to the final sentence of paragraph 1 to read: 'Cllr Kay advised that following planning consent the MUGA project would proceed to Stage **5**, and also the drawing up of a full legal agreement between NTC and the diocese and the detailed specification and tender process of the building work.'

Members were pleased to note that planning consent for the MUGA had been granted. The Clerk was liaising with the Council's solicitors on the development of the full legal agreement with the diocese and, in accordance with NTC's wishes, a new project manager had been appointed by GCC.

The Mayor reported that he and Cllr S Robinson had arranged to meet with architect Mr Keith Angus the following day to discuss possible designs for a new store for the Council's grounds maintenance equipment.

RESOLVED that the design brief for the Miles Marling field be accepted in principle and that Tracy Young, the Nailsworth youth worker, be asked to use this as a basis for further consultation with local young people.

RESOLVED that Council proceed with the quotations for work to the KGV facilities as specified in the Fields In Trust grant application and approve a timetable for the work.

2015/276 REPORT FROM MARKET STREET IMPROVEMENTS WORKING PARTY

The Mayor welcomed Mr Mike Kelly, chair of the Market Street Improvements Working Party, to the meeting. Mr Kelly updated members on the Working Party's activities and presented a report and recommendations, previously circulated. He indicated that these recommendations complied with those of the Nailsworth Urban Design Framework 2008 and the Town Action Plan 2015-2020.

Mr Kelly explained that the Working Party's main aim was to explore ways in which physical improvements could be made to Market Street to render it more accessible and safer for pedestrians, for example by making it a pedestrian priority area and restricting vehicle movements. To this end, informal consultations with County Highways, SDC and local traders had taken place and positive feedback had been received. The Working Party was recommending that in due course a phased feasibility study be commissioned. As an initial step, the Working Party was seeking Council support to carry out detailed consultation with various groups within the community to assess the potential popularity of a pedestrian priority scheme. This would involve a public consultation, publicity flyers, display boards and road closure orders to enable Market Street to be closed to traffic on certain weekends during the summer to help assess the effect of a traffic-free environment. An item in Nailsworth News was also planned.

Discussion ensued, during which various points were raised, including parking issues, the state of some buildings in Market Street and the desirability of improvements in other parts of the town centre, for which the enhancement of Market Street could potentially act as a catalyst. After further discussion, it was **agreed** that £1,000 be allocated to fund the consultation exercise, to be taken from the Environmental Enhancement budget. Cllr S Robinson undertook to check with SDC the costs of individual as opposed to several road closure orders.

2015/277 UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S CENTRE CAMPAIGN

Cllr Thorpe reported that the local petition for the retention of Children's Centre drop-in services in Nailsworth was under way. It was agreed that the petition would be handed in at Shire Hall once it had reached the necessary target of 500 signatures. Campaign fliers had been produced and distributed. Cllr Thorpe expressed the hope that as many councillors as possible would attend the parents' focus group meeting with Cllr Paul McLain, lead GCC member for Children's Services, to be held at the Arkell Community Centre at 10 am on 2 March.

Cllrs Millett and Elliott reported on their attendance at GCC's consultation meeting at the Town Hall earlier that day. It was unclear how much autonomy the successful tenderer for the Children's Centre contract in 2017/18 would have as to where it provided its services. Cllr Thorpe had circulated an updated version of NTC's draft submission to the consultation and it was agreed that the final submission would be determined at the Council meeting on 15 March.

2015/278 REPORT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY

Cllr Kay had circulated a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. The Working Party had recently met with Ms Andrea Pellegram, a planning consultant with expertise in Community Plans, an alternative to Neighbourhood Plans. Ms Pellegram would be presenting a training day on planning on behalf of GAPTC on 11 March, for which the fee was £85 per attendee. It was **agreed** that the Mayor and Cllr Duckworth would attend the event. It was further **agreed in principle** to allocate £1,000 to engage the services of Ms Pellegram to organise and present a public planning day in the parish on the theme of 'Where Next for Nailsworth'.

2015/279 REPORT OF CIVIC CENTRE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Duckworth presented a report from the Civic Centre Working Party, previously circulated, outlining its long-term proposal to move NTC activities to a mixed-use civic building in Old Market and recommending some initial actions.

After discussion, it was **agreed** to allocate £500 to engage an architect to complete the existing building plan and to develop a specification for NTC's requirements, buildings and equipment.

2015/280 PROPOSAL TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS TO REFLECT NTC'S UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

In accordance with Standing Orders, it was noted that the proposal would lie on the table to be considered at the next general full Council meeting.

2015/281 CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY ON 21 APRIL

The Clerk reported that she was in the process of researching what other parish and town councils were planning for this occasion. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Warden was planning to organise a 'Clean for the Queen' day at Lawnside.

After discussion, it was **agreed** that Nailsworth Town Crier would be asked to deliver an appropriate cry on the Queen's birthday and that a banner with the town crest and the words 'Nailsworth wishes Her Majesty a Happy 90th Birthday' be displayed on the banner posts between 16 and 21 April.

2015/282 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 16 February 2016 amounting to **£26,324.85** be approved for payment.

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Town Mayor

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Date