

Nailsworth Town Council

Environment Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 6 September 2010

Present: Cllr Mrs J M Way (Chairman)
Cllr I D Crawley
Cllr S Robinson

Apologies: Cllr J R Nicholson
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe

Mr B Oosthuysen Item 6

Marilyn Miles Item 7
Katherine Kearns

Land at Walkley Wood

A draft licence was awaited but progress depended on clarification of land ownership.

Grit Bins

A request had been received for a bin at The Ridings which was noted and added to the list of other requests received. GCC had declined to discuss the grit bin programme until the current review of spending/budgets etc had been completed.

Norton Wood – aerals in trees

The draft licence was considered and pronounced satisfactory with the amendment to para. 1.1 Designated Space to read:-

“The Designated Space” means that area of Norton Wood bounded as follows – continuation of boundary fences of 86 Norton Wood into wood no further than 20 metres and not to exceed in height, the height of the roof ridge.“

The clerk was asked to **send this new wording** to the solicitor for comment and ask that he invite the resident to sign the agreement enclosing an estimate of his costs which NTC would expect the resident to pay.

Norton Wood - tree works

The clerk confirmed that the debris from fallen branches had been removed from Mr Grant's garden and the removal of the three trees in the wood was in hand.

Revised meeting dates

Because of clashes with public holidays the meetings arranged for 3 January and 3 May were rearranged for 10 January and 18 April, the latter provisional.

Presentation by Mr Oosthuysen – a founding director of Five Valleys Energy (FiVE)

Mr Oosthuysen explained the background to setting up FiVE and its organisation as a co-operative company promoting and producing renewable energy. A number of exciting possibilities were currently being pursued e.g. siting photovoltaic cells on the

roofs of all stores in Gloucestershire of a large supermarket chain and the location of 2 or 3 wind turbines as a community venture on private land. The long term objective was to achieve energy security and independence in the Stroud Valleys but it was unknown how successfully this might be achieved. In discussion **the roof of the town hall was mentioned as a possible candidate for a photovoltaic cells** project in the future. It was agreed that Mr Oosthuysen would maintain his liaison with Cllr Nicholson and revisit this idea in a few months time. The chairman thanked Mr Oosthuysen for attending.

Norton Wood Project Management

The chairman introduced the joint **note on the management** of the orchard area as attached to these minutes and members unanimously agreed to **recommend its adoption by full council.**

The clerk reported that having been alerted by Marilyn Miles to **broken branches** in some of the old fruit trees she had asked Will Wilkinson of Charlton Abbots to inspect and make a report. She read out his report which listed some **options for future work** but was unspecific about exactly which trees were involved. It was agreed that the options should be discussed on site and the clerk was asked to **arrange a meeting** with Will Wilkinson, representatives from Go Grow and cllrs Crawley and Mrs Way sometime between 20 and 30 September.

Tree works in Newmarket

The clerk reported that the beech tree behind the boundary of **Gethsemane** had been inspected by Tree maintenance and **no defects had been found.** In view of the state of the tree re-inspection was recommended in four years.

Tree Maintenance had also inspected trees along the **boundary with Fairview** following a request from the owner who had reported that whilst none of the work was an emergency considerable remedial work would need to be undertaken. Tree Maintenance recommended a **planned programme** over a couple of years and it was agreed the clerk should **arrange a meeting** with Tree Maintenance, the resident and Cllrs to clarify how the work should be scheduled.

Larch copse at Shortwood

The clerk reported that she had obtained a **quotation of £675** from Mr Brookes for the **clearance of the larch copse** which was approved. The clerk would contact the Forestry Commission to discuss what NTC should be doing to identify any sign of Phytophthora ramorum in the larch trees.

Maintenance closed churchyard

The clerk read out a letter from the **PCC accepting that it would pay** for the remedial works up to a cost of £11,280 (incl vat) providing that the council confirmed in writing that this would resolve all outstanding issues with the Memorandum of Understanding drawn up in July 2005. In principle members were pleased with this outcome. Before taking any formal decision the clerk was asked to obtain a **revised quotation** from Cristom Construction.

Proposed cattle grids for Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons

Members inspected the letter and plans received from the Minchinhampton Committee of Commoners and asked the clerk to respond with **positive support** for the proposed cattle grids.

Bunting Hill regeneration project

The chairman explained that following the adoption of the management proposals the next step was to draw up a **detailed plan of action**. She reported that a professional in this field, Karen Colebourne, had offered a pro bono evening session to guide and help the council to draw up a five year plan prioritising work into a manageable schedule. It was agreed that the committee would **arrange a training evening in October**, inviting all councillors and members of Nature in Nailsworth. A large scale OS map would be required for the meeting which the chairman agreed to pursue.

Ruskin Mill safe crossing point

Members studied the letter and plan illustrating proposals to install a crossing point near Ruskin Mill. The purpose of the crossing point was to narrow the road to make the crossing distance shorter to help pedestrians cross the road and to slow vehicles entering the 30mph limit. Considerable discussion ensued about the proposals. Members did not consider the proposals would achieve a safe crossing point for pedestrians – the only way to achieve this was to install a **dedicated pedestrian crossing** and therefore this is what **should be built**. The clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

GCC – aspirations for future transport – consultation

The chairman agreed to attend the meeting arranged for 9 September in the Stroud Subscription Rooms. The key issue must be the fundamental importance of maintaining an efficient, economic and integrated bus service.

Improvement of access by Lloyds Bank

District Cllr Fi Macmillan had asked for the council's views on the installation of a disabled bay in front of the bank. Members were **not convinced that real need had been demonstrated and doubt was expressed about the practicality of a disabled bay in that difficult location**. Unless cars were reversed into the space it would be dangerous for wheelchair users who would be vulnerable to the constant traffic passing along the A46. Lloyds Bank would need to be totally convinced that the provision of a disabled bay would bring positive advantage to its customers.

GCC George Street closure

Cllr Robinson had met a representative from Morrisons Construction to discuss a revised date of early January for the gas main replacement. The work could be undertaken using traffic lights and confirmation of cancellation of the temporary closure order announced for 20/9 to 22/10/10 was awaited. **Notice of cancellation received on 8 September 2010.**

Parking of Smiths refuse lorries in bus station

Cllr Robinson had been notified that two Smiths lorries regularly parked in the bus station for the duration of their drivers' coffee break and the smell emanating from the lorries was offensive for people waiting for buses. The clerk was asked to draw this to the attention of SDC Environmental Health.

Cars parking in Cossack Square

Cllr Robinson reported that cars were regularly parking on the pavement area in front of the seats in Cossack Square and the clerk was asked to request that the Neighbourhood warden follow up.

GCC Highways and Transport Seminar – 28 September 2010 – 6pm

Cllr Crawley agreed to attend.

Sign boards in town centre

The chairman reported that she was meeting Cllr Nicholson the following day to discuss from information received from SDC. The clerk had asked Malcolm Lane to deliver the boards to Nailsworth and there was a small invoice of £285.53 (incl vat) outstanding with them which it was agreed should be paid at the next council meeting.

Town Information Centre

No developments to report.

Christmas Lights

The chairman and Cllr Nicholson were meeting a representative from the Festive Lighting Company the following day to discuss options for renovating the existing motifs to reduce power consumption.

Registration of common land

The project was ongoing and progress was hampered by the absence of a full set of deeds for any of the council's property.

GAPTC – guidance on assessing land for designation as an AONB or National Park

Cllr Crawley had studied the consultation documents and advised that the proposals were acceptable. The chairman thanked Cllr Crawley for undertaking this task.

Focus on the Crocus

An approach had been received from the Rotary Club for permission to plant crocuses in a prominent location publicising the message “**end polio now**” as part of a national campaign to eradicate polio and asking the council to identify a suitable site. Members could not identify any suitable site within NTC ownership but asked the clerk to pass on the suggestion of the bank by St Georges Church or the grass area at the bottom of Springhill owned by SDC together with contact numbers.

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Date Chairman

Appendix 1 – revised proposals for the “nature reserve” area and the “orchard” area.

