

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 13 March 2012

Present	Cllr Mrs SM Reed (chairman) Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr S Robinson
Apologies	Cllr P Carter Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Grit bins

Cllr Duckworth had forwarded to the Mayor an email sent to the website asking if the grit bin at the Ridings was for the general use of all residents in Park Road. The Mayor reminded members that this bin had been installed expressly for the use of the elderly in The Ridings and he had passed this response back via Cllr Duckworth who was currently managing the website.

Energy neighbourhood competition

Cllr Mrs Reed believed the competition had now finished, although some teams had yet to complete their surveys. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was commended for encouraging participation in this initiative.

Problems in Shortwood

Cllr Mrs Reed had taken photos during the walk around the area with resident Clive Webb, during which key areas for improving the walking route had been identified, along with another possible poop scoop bin site near Newmarket. The Clerk reminded her that any new bin had to be near a collection route approved by SDC so that it would empty it. The notice board at Shortwood Green was now very dilapidated and would need replacing at some point. Cllr Mrs Reed would work on an article in Nailsworth News with the editor.

Trees above Gethsemane

Tree Maintenance had inspected the trees along the boundary of this property where the new house was being built right up against it. A quotation had been submitted for £1440 for removal of some of the trees, though not an immediate danger but before they got too big to cause a problem. Should branches fall onto the house, NTC would be liable for any damage caused. The owner had previously stated that he would contribute and the Clerk was asked to write to him suggesting a 50/50 split, so that the work could be done as soon as appropriate.

Fortunately this situation did not happen very often, but the Clerk suggested that, on another occasion, a list of approved tree surgeons could be given to the property owner to have the job costed himself, for final agreement with NTC before any work was carried out.

Parking on the pavement at Cossack Square

Ashley Nicholson and the Traffic Wardens were aware of the problem, and for the moment it seemed to have abated.

Bench at Watledge

A quote for repairing the bench was awaited.

NORTON WOOD - FUTURE PLANNING

Cllr Mrs Reed had walked the locality with potential contractor Simon Gardiner, who looked after Rodborough Woods. The Clerk had prepared a draft outline brief for a 10 year plan, which was approved with the addition of: request for details of qualifications, insurance and policy on

apprenticeships. It was pointed out that the contract could not be costed out in advance, as work was done according to what was required at the time; regular assessments were carried out and works recommended in order of urgency, from which NTC could decide which to complete depending on funds available. The Clerk was asked to seek tenders from Charlton Abbotts, Simon Gardiner and Tree Maintenance.

Orchard Project

Marilyn Miles had emailed asking if help could be provided to tackle the goat willows near the Jovial Foresters car park. Will Wilkinson had recommended that only one large tree needed to be removed at a cost of approx £350-500 and it was agreed that the Clerk should ask him to do this when appropriate.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE

Mrs de Lacroix reported that the water heater for the WC basin had failed again due to a build up of limescale. It had last been replaced in 2007 and the plumber had advised that a replacement would now cost around £50 and recommended a limescale filter at a further cost of about £80. The shop was also badly in need of painting and the unsatisfactory heaters had never been resolved. It was agreed to hold on any decision until there was news on whether a move to the former police station was going to happen. The annual staff meeting would similarly be held over for another month so that a clearer picture of the future could be given to the volunteers.

Meanwhile negotiations proceeded for renewal of the lease on 4 The Old George, coming up in August. The Clerk explained that a goodwill low rent of £5700 had been maintained over the past years, but the going rate was now £8-10k. An special incremental phase over 5 years had been proposed by the surveyor to help NTC's predicament –

Year 1	£6250 p.a.
Year 2	£7000
Year 3	£8000
Year 4	£8250
Year 5	£8250, by which time of course these rates would be out of date again.

Following discussion on the best way forward, it was agreed that the Clerk should ring the surveyor and explain the situation, asking if a short term lease extension of six months could be agreed, if a move to the police station was to be the future of the TIC.

MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD AT SHORTWOOD

Both Cllr Mrs Reed and the Mayor had been in the area recently and had not detected any signs of recent work on diverting the spring. The Clerk would check what was happening. It was noted that the decommissioned Church was now for sale for community and commercial use ie not residential.

NAILSWORTH ACCESS GROUP MEETING

Cllr Kelly reported on the first meeting of the group, with various officials from SDC, GCC and representation from Ruskin Mill. The group had chosen to rename itself 'Access' group in line with the Stroud organisation, rather than 'Disability' group as original thought. Its remit was to improve access to transport, services and anything else, which would benefit all users. Chris Riley GCC had advised certain measures being considered: signs and lines down Old Bristol Road; tactile pavement near Ruskin Mill (there was no funding for a pedestrian crossing there); traffic calming on Spring Hill/Nymphsfield Road (the speed survey had shown that vehicles tended to increase their speed by 6mph on this road)

A permanent 20mph sign had been erected near Whitcroft, where the temporary '20 is plenty' scheme had been undertaken, but this speed restriction was not well respected. Mr Riley explained the 'Portsmouth experiment', where some parts of the town had been limited to 30mph and others 20 which had proved ineffective, so a blanket 20mph was imposed throughout the town which appeared to be working, and might be appropriate for Nailsworth.

The group had walked around the town centre identifying areas where there was conflict between vehicles and pedestrians and certain solutions were discussed, such as bollards to prevent parking on pavements. The pedestrianisation of Market Street was mooted again, plans for this street having come to nothing in the past following a lack of consensus amongst traders. However there was now a new group in the Street which was getting together to discuss solutions.

Cllr Kelly would email a résumé of all the suggestions and ideas from the meeting, and had done a piece in Nailsworth News. The Access Group planned to meet informally every 2-3 months and might consider creating a leaflet for traders on communicating with people with various disabilities. Cllr Mrs Reed was pleased to see the inclusion of Ruskin Mill and thought students there could assist with designing the leaflet.

Cllr Mrs Elliott advised that discussions continued for a CAB presence at the Arkell Centre.

SDC CAR PARKING PROPOSALS

A training session was held on 22 February with District Cllr Nigel Cooper and SDC officer Alison Fisk at which time limits in the town's car parks was discussed. 4h parking was difficult to police and SDC wished to reduce all time limits to 2h, keeping long term parking at the Newmarket Road car park, but transferring the long term parking behind the library to the TH car park, to be used in conjunction with £50 p.a. parking permits. Signs had been erected to seek public opinion on the proposals by end of March.

The Clerk pointed out the regular evening visitors to the TH and Comrades Club, who would be totally squeezed out under SDC's proposal, and suggested that the TH car park be left unchanged. The Mayor added that he had received objections from residents to any form of permit, which would set a precedent and end up with paid parking throughout the town which everyone was set against. Another suggestion was introducing a disk parking system.

RECOMMENDATION **it was agreed unanimously to recommend to full council that its response to the SDC parking consultation should be to accept the proposal of maximum 2hr parking in the CoOp car park, but that time limits at the TH and behind the library should remain unchanged, with no introduction of permits.**

REQUEST TO RE-ROUTE ZNA10 PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT INDS FARM NYMPFIELD

An email had been circulated advising that the landowner wished to re-route the footpath crossing his field to go around the perimeter. It was pointed out that this was a historic walking route and had been well used over many years. The proposed diversion would greatly increase the distance and members saw no valid reason why this should be approved. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly. The Clerk understood that a public footpath could not be diverted if there were objections.

Report on Action Plan update meeting

Notes from the training session held on 28 February from Ian Crawley were awaited.

Transport matters

The Mayor reported complaints from residents to GCC and SDC re the continuous stream of **Smith lorries** taking soil from the Brimscombe area up to Mr Smith's land on Tinkley Lane. Unfortunately Chris Riley had responded that nothing could be done.

He had also had complaints about a row of cars now **parking** apparently permanently **near Barnfield Approach** which caused serious obstruction on Nympsfield Road. The Clerk was asked to report residents' complaints and lodge a comment with Chris Riley on both the above situations.

The Mayor had also had complaints about the **traffic calming scheme on Jubilee Road** which was considered useless. Again, there was not much that could be done.

Residents had reported problems with cars **parking on the pavement in Churchill Road**, and on the wide corners into Spring Hill, which caused problems for pushchairs. Cllr Kelly would raise this with the PCSOs at the next meeting to see if the matter could be policed.

Comments from residents disputed the need to spend money on **changing the bus station** which had never caused any problems nor led to accidents. The Clerk believed GCC was being pushed by the Health & Safety Executive to redesign this type of bus station but NTC would have to await a formal proposal before passing comment.

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Date

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Chairman