

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council**  
**held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth**  
**on Tuesday 17 July 2012**

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

The Mayor introduced Hayley Mortimer, the new Nailsworth correspondent for Stroud News and Journal, and welcomed her to the meeting.

**2012/56 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Anthony Burton, a local resident, asked if a 20 mile speed limit had ever been considered for Nailsworth town centre. He had noticed that such a limit had been imposed in Painswick, and in his view it had been successful in improving road safety. The Mayor responded that he was not aware of any such plan for Nailsworth, but he agreed that there were issues with speeding in the town and advised that GCC was proposing some speed reduction measures for the A46 between Dunkirk Mill and Bath Road, on which NTC would be asked to comment in due course. Some local residents were being trained by the police to operate hand-held speed cameras and the Mayor would report any developments to Mr Burton.

Referring to GCC's proposed reduction in library opening hours, Mr Burton asked whether the Library would continue to be open on Tuesdays once these were implemented, as this was something concerning people such as himself who were planning to volunteer as support staff. He added that the Library Club for senior and disabled residents currently took place on Tuesdays, and he hoped this service would continue. The Mayor explained that NTC had not yet been informed of the precise days and times of the new operation, and that, as far as he was aware, the Library Club would continue.

Mr Burton then asked how he could find more information about the Hilliers medals which he had read about in Nailsworth News, and the price at which they were being offered. The Clerk reported that they had been acquired at a cost of £480.00 and explained that this matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

**2012/57 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May were approved and signed, subject to the addition of Cllr MP Robinson to the list of those attending.

**2012/58 Proposed Revision of 5 Year Plan: Minute 2012/33**

The Mayor reported that Cllr Reed had received an offer from a local resident, Chris Harmer, who was keen to be involved in the process of developing the new Town Plan. She would be having further discussions with Mr Harmer to progress this.

**2012/59 Anti Social Behaviour in the Town: Minute 2012/3**

The Mayor reported that two of the adults who had been causing concern by their excess daytime drinking were due to appear in court for various offences and that the authorities would keep NTC informed of the outcome.

**2012/60 Report of Recreation and Amenities Committee: Minute 2012/43**

The Mayor reported that he was liaising with the Town Groundsman and with Peter Wilson, Neighbourhood Warden, who had agreed to supervise a party of young people to paint the new half-pipe.

**Siting of proposed MUGA at Forest Green**

**Cllr Kay reported that, with the Mayor, he had attended a productive meeting on 11 July** with Robert Stephens of the Diocese of Gloucester and representatives of GCC, SDC, Nailsworth Primary School and FGRFC, where possible terms for a lease agreement had been discussed. Further to this meeting, Mr Stephens had obtained estimated costs for the professional fees, amounting to around £2000 + VAT, for preparing a lease (whether completed or not) for which the Trustees of Nailsworth C of E Primary School would look to be reimbursed by NTC. Mr Stephens required written confirmation from NTC before proceeding. It was noted that £5000 had been set aside in designated funds for the MUGA project. It was agreed to defer discussion and decision to the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting on 14 August.

**Revised Policy on Banner Posts**

Cllr Kay had noted that a banner advertising an event in Woodchester Parish had recently been displayed on the Council's banner posts. He pointed out that this would appear to be in breach of the revised policy adopted at Council on 19 June 2012. The Clerk explained that the event organisers had made the booking well prior to the change of policy. Cllr Kay expressed the view that a degree of flexibility should be built into the policy and gave notice that he would be raising this matter at a future Recreation and Amenities meeting.

**2012/61 Renegotiation of PWLB Loan ref. Arkell Community Centre: Minute 2012/44**

The Clerk reported that the capital sum of £103,000 had been paid back to the PWLB on 11 July as agreed at the last Council meeting. The next interest payment, due in January, would be £347.00.

**2012/62 Developments with Nailsworth Library: Minute 2012/49:**

The Clerk read out GCC's reply to NTC's response to the consultation process. GCC had stated that revised library opening hours for the County would be confirmed once customer feedback had been fully analysed, but indicated that it was likely that Nailsworth Library would be open for 22 hours per week, based on 12 hours' attendance by paid Library staff, with the additional support of volunteers. Councillors were disappointed that the GCC letter appeared to have sidestepped NTC's point that Nailsworth's proposed hours appeared to be fewer than those allocated to other libraries with radically lower user numbers.

**2012/63 Proposed New Code of Conduct for Councillors: Minute 2012/50**

The Clerk confirmed that NTC's suggested amendments to the SDC draft had been forwarded to SDC. The Clerk had received a model contract from Peter Woodcock of SDC and she would circulate this to all councillors, together with a revised Declaration of Personal Interests document which he recommended that all councillors sign within 28 days in order to comply with the law. The Clerk stressed that **all** sections of the DPI form must be completed, including those which do not apply. Councillors agreed to print out, complete and sign their DPI forms as soon as possible and return them to the Clerk. The Clerk had explained to Peter Woodcock that the earliest opportunity for NTC to adopt the new Code would be at the September Council meeting, unless a special meeting was held sooner for this purpose, and Mr Woodcock had confirmed that, as far as he was aware, there were no legal penalties for delaying its adoption and that a special meeting was therefore, in his view, unnecessary.

**2012/63 SDC offer of Oak Tree to celebrate Diamond Jubilee: Minute 2012/53**

The Clerk reported that the tree had been received. SDC's Neighbourhood Warden would organise a photo to record the Mayor performing the official planting, date to be confirmed. All councillors would be invited.

**2012/64 Nailsworth News – Potential Purchase of Hilliers Medal: Minute 2012/54**

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr W Affleck stating that Nailsworth News had secured the medals for £480 using an interest free private loan and would launching a campaign to raise the money to pay for them via public subscription. The medals would then be passed to the Council for storage and display. Councillors were welcome to contribute to this scheme as individuals. In the event of over-subscription, any surplus monies would be passed on to NTC to defray any costs incurred for storage and display. In answer to a question from Cllr M Robinson, the Clerk confirmed that responsibility for insuring the medals would pass to the Council when it took possession of them.

**2012/65 REPORT of COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Waddington** had sent his apologies.

District Councillor Rowland Blackwell reported on the **new district waste recycling scheme** which had come into operation earlier in the month. There had been complaints from some residents regarding the suitability of the new wheelie bins for their properties and Cllr Blackwell felt that some aspects of the new system had not been properly thought out. He had offered to take up any complaints regarding the new service with the officers concerned. Cllr Kay commented that it was his understanding that the new system had originally been set up by the previous SDC administration. Whilst acknowledging that there appeared to be some teething problems with the new operation, Cllr Kay expressed his general support for it as, in his view, it would help to increase significantly the level of recycling in the District. Cllr Duckworth commented that it might be helpful for SDC to provide more detailed information on precisely what materials could and could not be recycled under the new system, to avoid confusion.

Cllr Blackwell expressed his disappointment that **funding for the canal restoration project** appeared to be less than originally anticipated, reducing the level of restoration which could be achieved. It was his hope that this situation would improve in the future.

Cllr Blackwell reported that he had been following up developments relating **to the planning application for tipping at Tinkley Farm**. The Mayor commented that there still appeared to be deliveries of soil to the site. It was his understanding that SDC planners had put a stop notice on this activity. Cllr Blackwell assured councillors that SDC was closely monitoring the situation.

**2012/66 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor commented that it was unfortunate that GCC had decided to do just one full cut of the **highway verges** in the town, as some of the pavements, including those adjacent to A roads, had become impassable. He hoped that next year GCC would revert to its previous practice of cutting the verges twice in the growing season.

The Mayor reported that he had learned that GCC Cabinet had decided to **remove all funding supporting severely autistic children in the county**. In his view, this was totally unacceptable, particularly as when the County Council made its decision in 2011 to cease its universal youth service provision GCC leader Mark Hawthorne stated that this was to enable GCC to allocate more funds to vulnerable and at-risk children. The Mayor would raise this matter with County Cllr Stan Waddington.

The Mayor reported on a meeting of the **SDC Community Safety Group** which he had attended earlier in the day. It appeared that the supply of hard drugs in the County had increased, judging by the 67% increase in arrests for such offences in the County since the previous year. GCC had gone out to tender for all **on-street parking controls** and SDC had failed to win the tender, so this operation would be carried out by a private company as from 1 April 2013. Cllr Duckworth expressed his hope that NTC would continue to be informed of the frequency of monitoring of on-street parking when the new operators took control.

#### **2012/67 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Deputy Mayor had been pleased to attend the Ruskin Mill College prize-giving ceremony on 13 July. He expressed his admiration for the excellent work the college was doing in providing added value for students who were likely to experience difficulties in coping with mainstream education.

#### **2012/68 REPORT of TOWN CLERK**

There was nothing to report.

#### **2012/69 REPORTS from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Elliott was pleased to report that planning for the **CAB's weekly sessions in the Arkell Centre** in the autumn was progressing and that an article publicising these would appear in the September edition of Nailsworth News. Some people had already volunteered to assist with reception duties, but more were needed. She would welcome suggestions for further volunteers and asked councillors to give this some thought. The Clerk reported that she had already received an invoice from the CAB for its costs in setting up and publicising the sessions, and Cllr Elliott explained that it was necessary for the CAB to purchase IT equipment in advance of the proposed start date in October. She had informed the CAB that no additional grant would be payable for the current financial year. Cllr M Robinson proposed, to unanimous agreement, that the **invoice should be paid in full immediately**.

#### **2012/70 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Cllr Reed, Cllr M Robinson presented the minutes of the Environment Committee of 10 July 2012, which were approved.

The Clerk reported that she understood that the **litter bin** near the bus stop in Nympsfield Road had now been installed.

The Mayor reported that he had inspected the aerial in the property adjoining Norton Wood. All seemed to be in order. The Clerk had visited Norton Wood and had inspected the area adjacent to the perimeter pathway where the dumping of garden waste had been creating a problem. She had taken the opportunity to highlight the issue with a local resident, who had questioned the need for the perimeter fence, and had explained to him that the fence was necessary to demarcate the boundary of the Council's land, and for the safety and protection of path users as the Council's land at some points fell away steeply.

Cllr Duckworth reported that Cllr Kelly had requested an electronic copy of the new Town Guide from the printer, and the Clerk confirmed that this had been received but unfortunately this was not in an appropriate format for Cllr Kelly's computer. Cllr Duckworth had offered to assist in resolving the matter and would then place an electronic version on the NTC website.

There was a brief discussion about the distribution of responsibilities between the Environment and the Recreation and Amenities Committees. The Mayor explained that he was planning to organise a **training evening on the committee structure** for all councillors in the autumn.

The Clerk reported that the documents relating to the extension lease for the TIC had been received and invited the Council to approve their signature. Proposed by Cllr Rahman, seconded by Cllr

Duckworth, to unanimous approval it was

**RESOLVED that the lease for the two year extension for the rental of 5 The Old George be signed for sum of £8000 p.a. to be excluded from the Landlord and Tenant Act, with the right to terminate at any time after 12 August 2013.**

It was confirmed that the **Jubilee Oak Tree** provided by SDC should be planted at the edge of the Miles Marling Field in the place where an oak tree previously stood.

### **2012/71 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**In the absence of Cllr Carter**, Cllr Dart presented the report of the meeting held on 4 July 2012. It was agreed that all councillors should be invited to **the planning procedure workshop** due to be organised by Cllr Carter with SDC planning department.

**RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meeting of 4 July 2012 be approved. The word 'Chair' was added after Cllr P Carter on the minutes.**

### **2012/72 REPORT FROM POLICE STATION WORKING PARTY**

Cllr M Robinson reported that a planning application had been made to SDC for change of use and the proposed external changes to the building. He explained that there was no obvious use for the garage and store without extensive renovation and in their present form they were only available for storage. Short term rental for this purpose was an option for future consideration.

Cllr M Robinson had been shown a copy of an **asbestos survey** which indicated a small occurrence in two small areas near two skylights. In his opinion this was of little significance, especially as there were no plans to undertake any building work the skylights.

Cllr M Robinson and the Clerk had met with the Council's solicitor to discuss a number of issues relating to the purchase of the building, particularly the **right of access** to the rear door of the library, which required further investigation.

Cllr Kay commented that he had observed that that the parking area outside the building was apparently being used informally. Cllr M Robinson confirmed that control of the parking would need to be addressed with some spaces being reserved for volunteers and visitors. Until NTC had control of the building, parking spaces were available for general use.

Cllr M Robinson, seconded by Cllr Duckworth, proposed that the **recommendations of the Police Station Working Party be accepted**, as follows:

- a) The existing TIC move into the former police station
- b) The garage and adjoining stores are kept empty, whilst further development is considered
- c) No decision of further use of the Police Station site will be made until we have carried out a review of all NTC properties and services.

This was **agreed** with unanimous support.

### **2012/73 ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk presented the previously circulated statement of accounts, pointing out that Item 107 should have been marked as DD (Direct Debit). The payment of £1431.16 was added to the list.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>that the list of accounts for 17 July 2012 amounting to £19,167.46 be approved for payment.</b>
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Cllr Duckworth reported that he had received positive feedback on the new Town Guide (Item 94 on list of accounts) and expressed his thanks to Carole Delacroix for her valuable work in proof reading and organising its circulation.

**2012/74 SDC – Meetings with Parish and Town Councils on 15 September 2012**

The Clerk informed councillors that the meeting would start at 7pm and would be preceded by a light supper from 6 pm. Cllrs S Robinson and N Kay indicated that they proposed to attend. the agenda would include discussion of ideas for a formal consultation process between SDC and town and parish councils. A **planning forum** would be held during the afternoon and the invitation to attend would be considered at the next Planning Committee meeting.

**2012/75 Arkell Community Centre – receipt of cheque towards repayment of loan**

This had been formally acknowledged by the Clerk.

**2012/76 Minchinhampton and Rodborough & Bownham Committees of Commoners – notice of intention to apply for permission to install 3 additional cattle grids**

The Clerk explained that this was a courtesy letter. There would be road closures to facilitate the work if permission was granted.

**2012/77 GCC – publication of the Gloucestershire Charter – Fifth edition**

This was available on the GCC website.

**2012/78 Gloucestershire Fire Service Integrated Risk Plan**

A copy of this document was available from the Clerk on request.

**21012/79 Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers**

Letters had been received from Mr Tony Evans, informing the Council that he was planning an event to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his inauguration as Nailsworth Town Crier. The proposed date would be Saturday 29 June 2013. Councillors agreed that the Mortimer Gardens could be used for the event, which would take the form of a Town Criers' competition. Cllr Elliott suggested that NTC should acknowledge the anniversary in some way, and it was agreed to keep the Mortimer Room free on that day to support the event. Mr Evans' request for funding would be considered at an appropriate Finance Committee meeting.

**2012/80 August Council Meeting.**

It was agreed that there would be no Council Meeting in August and that authority to deal with any urgent issues be delegated to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Chair of the relevant Committee.

..... Chair

..... Date