

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 15 September 2015

Present	Cllr MP Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr EF Bonner * Cllr JL Dennis Cllr A Elliott * Cllr NI Kay Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell Cllr SM Reed Cllr S Robinson Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	1 member of the public County Cllr DLM Binns
Apologies	Cllr JL Duckworth District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

2015/106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

Cllr M Robinson declared an interest in planning application S.15/2063/COU. There were no requests for councillors' dispensations.

2015/107 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a	S.15/2063/COU Former HSBC Bank, Waterloo House, George Street Change of use from retail and café to wine bar and delicatessen No observations
b	S.15/2013/HHOLD Appletree Cottage, Harley Wood Retrospective application for the construction of wooden deck to rear and erection of a verandah covering 14.m2 of the decking No observations
c	S.15/2054/TCA Egypt Mill, Stroud Road Tree works on 5x sycamore trees and 2x maple trees No observations

2015/108 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

2015/109 CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM CLLR M ROBINSON TO WITHDRAW CURRENT APPLICATION FOR MUGA

It was agreed to take agenda item 20 at this point in the meeting.

Cllr M Robinson reported on a meeting of the MUGA Working Party held on 14 September with Mr Mike Davis, GCC Project Manager for the MUGA and his superior, at which issues relating to NTC's planning application for a MUGA at Forest Green were discussed. The Working Party was of the view that information about the application should have been delivered to a wider range of households than was statutory for planning applications. Cllr M Robinson read out a draft information letter about the application to be hand-delivered to all residents of Highwood Drive and Nymphsfield Road between the Arkell Community Centre and the roundabout at Forest Green Rovers FC. The letter and its distribution were **approved**.

Whilst acknowledging that there was no indication that the current application for the MUGA would not comply with Sport England's Code of Practice for noise and light levels, Cllr M Robinson proposed that the application be withdrawn to enable an improved design and operational statement to be produced, to include lighting and acoustic reports. He understood that the lighting report would be free of charge and that the cost of the acoustic report, to be commissioned by Mr Mike Davis GCC, was £1,400. Cllr Thorpe agreed to draft a design and operational statement.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to instruct Mr Davis GCC to withdraw the current application S.15/1738 for the MUGA. It was **agreed** that the MUGA Working Party would endeavour to bring a revised planning application to the October general Council meeting for approval and that a sum of £1,400 be taken from the Designated Fund to cover the cost of the acoustic report.

2015/110 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of Council meetings held on 21 July, 4 August and 1 September 2015 were approved, subject to the amendment to minute 2015/97 to read 'Cllr Thorpe, as chairman of the **Recreation and Amenities** Committee...' and the addition of Cllr Elliott's name to the list of apologies for the meeting of 1 September.

2015/111 Removal of redundant dog kennel behind the TIC (minute 2015/74)

Cllr S Robinson had received reports that the removal of the kennel appeared to have solved the problem of youths climbing on the library roof. The Clerk confirmed that the site had been cleared.

2015/112 Possible access to Forest Green Rovers FC facilities for local youth

The Mayor reported that he had spoken briefly to a representative of the football club about possible provision for youth. Members confirmed their previous view that this remained a priority, despite the Club's aspiration to move to another location, and the Mayor agreed to liaise with Cllr Duckworth to pursue the matter further with the club.

2015/113 Training for Councillors (minute 2015/87)

The Clerk confirmed that all members had informed her of their preferred dates to attend the GAPTC 'Being a Better Councillor' course and would now proceed with the bookings.

2015/114 Proposed memorial to Jinny-Mae Cook and her brother in Cossack Square (minute 2015/93)

County Cllr Binns confirmed that she was happy to give her full support to the proposed memorial as long as it was well grounded and with a base approved by GCC.

2015/115 Planning application S.15/1298/FUL – Barn at Wood Farm (minute 2015/104)

The Mayor reported that he had attended SDC's Development Control Sub-Committee meeting on behalf of NTC and put the Council's view that the driveway should be relocated nearer the hedge. This suggestion had been accepted by the Sub-Committee and the planning application had been permitted subject to negotiation between officers and the applicant over the re-alignment of the road and reinstatement of the field. A S106 agreement of around £3,400 had been included in the permission.

** Cllr Kay joined the meeting at this point.*

2015/116 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Binns stated that she shared NTC's frustration that GCC had yet to carry out the agreed improvements to the pavement in Old Market and the erection of new bollards outside Tesco and confirmed that she was continuing to push hard for this work to be completed.

Cllr Binns reported that she had allocated £3,000 of her £5,000 divisional Children and Young People's grant fund to the Tynings Residents' Association and a further £1,000 to Nailsworth Youth Club.

Cllr Binns reported that she was a member of the local group working towards the introduction of a 20 mph zone in Nailsworth and outlined plans to install a 'reduce speed' flashing indicator in Springhill to alert vehicles coming down the hill.

Cllr Binns reported that, in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, GCC had set up a group working with Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) and District Councils to plan for the countywide resettlement of a number of refugees (probably around 200 initially) from the camps. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) would inform GCC when the refugees would be arriving for dispersal in Gloucestershire. In the meantime GCC would be working with support services such as hospitals and police to plan for their arrival. The aim would be to place the refugees in public housing rather than in private homes. Cllr Binns indicated that she would keep NTC informed of developments.

Cllr Binns reported on her attendance earlier in the day at the Appeal Hearing for the proposed development at Pike Lane and opined that some aspects had gone well but that the highways case had seemed somewhat weak.

In response to a question, Cllr Binns stated that it was unclear when the work to repair the landslip along the Nailsworth to Horsley road would be completed and that it was her understanding that the traffic controls there may become a permanent feature.

Cllr Thorpe reported that there were plans to hold basic English and Maths classes for local residents at the Arkell Community Centre and wondered if Cllr Binns might be able to find funding from her divisional allocation to support a crèche to allow parents of young children to attend the classes. Cllr Thorpe agreed to send Cllr Binns further details.

In response to a question, Cllr Binns outlined various GCC plans to cope with the proposed £35m cut in Central Government funding and indicated that GCC would be proposing a 1.99% rise in its precept for the next financial year.

Cllr Binns confirmed her intention to be present at the Nailsworth Climate Change Event on 24 October. Cllr Thorpe suggested the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park would contribute to the problem of climate change but Cllr Binns stated that she felt unable to comment on the extent of its likely contribution.

District Cllr S Robinson reported that SDC had undertaken a review of all its sheltered housing as part of a general review of assets and that Ringfield Close had been identified as requiring considerable work to bring it up to current standards when funding became available.

2015/117 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor explained that it would be necessary to arrange a series of budget planning meetings and it was agreed that the first of these, focusing on the out-turn for the current year, would take place on **Tuesday 27 October** at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

The Mayor reported that he had been invited to attend the official opening of the new Emmaus shop in Market Street and to an event organised by the Friends of Glendower to celebrate the life and work of WH Davies.

The Mayor announced that he would be having an operation on 1 October and would therefore have to curtail some of his duties for a few weeks after this. He had been invited to a Wessex Forces Engagement meeting, which the Deputy Mayor would be attending in his place.

The Mayor read out an email from Sue Nicholson, assistant to the Town Clerk, requesting two weeks' unpaid leave in 2016 to follow her regular fortnight's leave, allowing her to take four consecutive weeks' holiday in May/June 2016. Mrs Carole de Lacroix had agreed in principle to cover some of Mrs Nicholson's duties during this period if required. The request was approved.

2015/118 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Duckworth had provided a written report which was noted. Cllr Duckworth had attended a recent Open Day event at the Arkell Community Centre and, with other members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party had paid a fact-finding visit to Cirencester Town Council which was in the process of undertaking its own Community Plan. This did not appear to be a clear alternative to a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he understood Cirencester Town Council had an arrangement with Cotswold District Council whereby development applications were sent first to the Town Council for consideration. He planned to discuss this type of arrangement with SDC and also to explore the reasons behind the rejection of Eastington's Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Kay added that the Working Party was minded to pursue the idea of a Community Plan and would be bringing its ideas to Council in due course.

2015/119 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported on the external auditor's report for 2014/15. No problems had been identified with the figures and the report had noted that the Council was working on the Financial Regulations.

2015/120 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Duckworth had reported that the Nailsworth Youth and Community Enterprise (NYCE) had been formally constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Cllr Duckworth had suggested advice be sought from SDC as to whether this development would affect the status of NTC representation on this body. Members extended their congratulations to NYCE on its achievement and agreed to await confirmation from this body regarding the continuation of NTC representation.

Cllr Bonner reported on her attendance, together with Cllrs Elliott and Millett, at a Police Liaison meeting. This included an informative presentation by Martin Surl, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner which had focused on strategies for coping with a £16m cut in police funding for the county. Cllr Bonner agreed to produce a written report of the meeting to be circulated to councillors.

Cllr Millett reported that Forest Green Residents' Association's planned Curry and Quiz Night at the Arkell Centre had unfortunately had to be cancelled owing to low ticket sales.

The Mayor reported on his attendance, together with Cllr Millett, at a recent meeting of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) which had focused on the theme of interaction between public and voluntary services. Among other things, they had learned that there were over 63,000 carers in the county and that there appeared to be a limited provision for bereavement counselling, with the main charity CRUSE reporting a long waiting list. Cllr Millett added that local charity Cotswold Care (now Longfield) did provide some bereavement counselling.

** Cllr Dennis joined the meeting at this point.*

2015/121 COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS

There was nothing to report at this time.

2015/122 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 1 September 2015 were approved.

The Clerk had received an email from Ros John of the Bunting Hill Group indicating that the group was willing to work up a **scheme for conservation work at Bunting Hill** which hopefully would qualify for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust funding. She agreed to forward the email to Cllrs Millett and Powell for their information.

Cllr Reed reported that the **walkabouts to view land and property** under the control of the Committee were in progress.

RESOLVED that up to £500 be allocated from the Environmental Enhancement budget to fund incidental expenses for the Climate Change Awareness event on 24 October and that any use of NTC buildings for the event be offered free of charge. It was confirmed that the literature advertising this event would refer to NTC funding and the support of NTC councillors.

RESOLVED that quotations be sought from three suitable contractors to a) build up the bank in the section of the green at Forest Green where the lime tree had been removed and b) install an appropriate barrier to prevent vehicles from parking on the triangle of grass at Moffatt Road.

2015/123 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 4 August 2015 were approved subject to an amendment to the list of those present to indicate that Cllr Reed had been present for part of the meeting only.

Cllrs Thorpe, S Robinson, M Robinson and the Clerk had undertaken further work with the architect and the contractor on the plans to **refurbish the ground floor gents' and disabled toilets** in the Town Hall, following which a revised quotation of £26,796 had been received. The original budget for the project had been £22,000 but Cllr Thorpe reported that the architect had advised that the Council was unlikely to receive a lower quote for the specified work.

In discussion, members acknowledged that the toilets were in a very poor state and Cllr Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr M Robinson and it was agreed, to accept the quotation of £26,796 from Turnkey for the refurbishment of the gents' and disabled toilets and to use £4,000 underspend from the Recreation and Amenities budget for 2013/14 to help fund the work.

Cllr Thorpe updated members on work currently being undertaken to prepare **Hazelwood Bungalow** for its new occupant following the retirement of the previous Town Groundsman. Quotations had been received for electrical work, (£1,839) redecoration where required (£3,296) and the replacement of the defunct shower unit (£230). It had also been agreed to purchase two sheds from the former groundsman for £200. Work was also necessary to repair guttering and fascia boards.

After discussion it was **agreed** to allocate up to £5,665 for work to the Hazelwood Bungalow, to be financed from underspends on other budgets and from free reserves if required. The Clerk advised that it might be necessary to spend more if issues arose as the work progressed. It appeared that the flat roof had been leaking into the main bedroom and the Clerk agreed to inspect this with Mr Peter Merrett. She confirmed that the Council's practice was to meet annually with the incumbent to discuss repairs and maintenance and that minor repairs had previously been the incumbent's responsibility.

Cllr Thorpe reported that she and the Clerk had researched costings for a 'frost-free' heating system as an alternative to ambient heaters for **the KGV changing rooms**. It appeared that, whilst the 'frost-free' heaters were cheaper, wiring costs would be similar. The Clerk had received a

quotation of £2,587 for Dimplex heaters which provided heat plus frost protection. She confirmed that the changing rooms were only heated on match days.

In discussion, Cllr Dennis suggested that a low-power system of insulating pipes, known as trace heating, could be more energy-efficient than a 'frost-free' system. Cllr S Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Dennis and to unanimous support that the Council allocate a budget of up to £2,587 for heating/frost protection for the changing rooms and the Clerk was asked to request the contractor to quote for a trace heating system.

The Clerk reported that the **Paul Carter memorial picnic table** had been ordered and that this and the accompanying litter bin would be delivered to Cllr Rowland Blackwell who would organise its installation.

2015/124 GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS TO EXTEND RIGHT TO BUY REGULATIONS TO HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

A GRCC briefing on the above proposals had been circulated to all councillors. Councillors expressed strong concerns about the possible impact of the proposals on the availability of social housing in Nailsworth. Cllr Millett reported that the Chair of Nailsworth Community Land Trust was planning to raise the matter with the local MP. After discussion, it was **agreed** that Cllrs Dennis and Kay would arrange to visit the MP at his surgery to express NTC's concerns and to invite him to attend a Council meeting to discuss the proposals.

2015/125 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK REPLACEMENT WORKING PARTY

The Mayor reported that the post had been advertised in the local press and on relevant websites with a closing date of 21 September. The Working Party would subsequently meet to draw up a short-list for the interviews, which would be held on 7th and 8th October. In the interests of achieving gender balance in the event of a member of the interview panel having to withdraw, it was agreed that the panel would consist of 4 councillors from a pool of 5, namely Cllrs Kay, Millett, Elliott, Dennis and Duckworth.

The Clerk reported that one applicant had indicated an inability to attend for interview on the stated days owing to holiday commitments and it was agreed that, if short-listed, the candidate would be offered an alternative interview date.

2015/126 APPROVAL OF LEASE WITH SCOUTS FOR USE OF KGV PAVILION

The lease documents, previously circulated to all councillors, was approved unanimously and signed by the Mayor.

2015/127 'CITIES OF SANCTUARY' NETWORK - PROPOSAL FROM CLLR KAY

Cllr Kay introduced his proposal for NTC to investigate the possibility of Nailsworth joining the growing 'Cities of Sanctuary' movement which had been developed in response to the current refugee crisis. He announced that a meeting had been arranged at Christ Church on 21 September at 7pm to discuss local responses to the refugee crisis and that local churches and community associations would be sending representatives to this meeting.

After discussion, the following motion was proposed by Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Reed and adopted with unanimous support:

"Council notes the flourishing network of 'Cities of Sanctuary' in Britain, such as Bristol and Malvern. 'City of Sanctuary' is a national network, a movement of local groups made up by businesses, community organisations and individuals, all with one thing in common: their belief that sanctuary seekers should be welcomed, and that their contribution to society should be celebrated. Council resolves to investigate the possibility of joining people and organisations in forming a Town of Sanctuary after consulting with the people and organisations in town."

2015/128 PROPOSAL FROM CLLR THORPE TO CHANGE DATES OF PLANNING MEETINGS

Cllr Thorpe explained the background to her proposal to change the dates of Council planning meetings so they no longer preceded Committee meetings, pointing out that, as planning meetings frequently over-ran their scheduled time of 30 minutes (sometimes by as many as 45 minutes), Committee meetings often started late, leading to a late finish. Cllr Thorpe felt that this was to the detriment of the effective execution of Committee business and that the imprecise start time could be especially problematic when invited speakers attended Committee meetings. She added that, given the workload of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, which she chaired, she felt she might be unable to attend planning meetings in future unless they were rescheduled.

In discussion, Cllr Reed, as chair of the Environment Committee, expressed support for Cllr Thorpe's views, suggesting that the late start to many Committee meetings stifled democratic debate and could potentially lead to rushed decision-making. Other councillors, whilst acknowledging the problem of late starts for Committee meetings, felt that the solution lay not in changing the dates of planning meetings but in attempting to ensure that the latter did not over-run. It was suggested that the business of planning meetings might be conducted more efficiently if all members made a practice of looking at the relevant planning applications online before the meetings. The Mayor reminded Council that it was necessary for planning applications to be considered on a fortnightly basis in order to meet SDC deadlines for comments. In response to a suggestion from Cllr Thorpe that the Council should revert to its previous system of having a standing committee to consider planning applications, he stated that he felt unable support this idea as he recalled that meetings of the former planning committee been inquorate on several occasions.

After further discussion, Cllr Thorpe, seconded by Cllr Reed, proposed that Council change the date of planning meetings so they did not clash with Committee meetings. On being put to the vote, the motion was **rejected** with 2 votes in favour and 8 against.

2015/129 CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

Details of grant requests from Christ Church for the maintenance and upkeep of Shortwood Cemetery and from the recently formed Forest Green Cemetery charity for the restoration and conservation of the Forest Green Cemetery (formerly owned by Christ Church) had been previously circulated to all councillors.

The Clerk explained that the Council had previously allocated a grant of £900 for the previous year to Christ Church towards the maintenance of both cemeteries and that, following the transfer of the Forest Green Cemetery to the charity, the church was now requesting half that amount.

It was **agreed** to allocate a grant of £450 to Christ Church and £450 the Forest Green Cemetery charity for the maintenance of Shortwood and Forest Green cemeteries respectively.

2015/130 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the lists of accounts for 18 August 2015 amounting to £12,931.69 and 15 September 2015 amounting to £14,412.17 be approved for payment.

In response to a question on Item 151, the Clerk confirmed that NTC would not be required to pay an additional planning fee for the re-submission of the MUGA application.

2015/131 Mr Alex Bomberg - letter requesting information relating to Forest Green Rovers FC and site

The letter was noted and the Clerk was asked to respond directing Mr Bomberg to SDC for the information he sought and to the NTC website for past Council minutes.

2015/132 SDC – request for NTC’s view in principle on the possible transfer of freehold interest of Nailsworth sites

An email had been received from SDC explaining that, as part its ongoing property review, SDC was seeking NTC’s view in principle on the possible transfer to NTC of its freehold interest in the bottom half of Miles Marling Field, the Nailsworth Fountain and a section of land at the bottom of Springhill. The Clerk was asked to respond stating that NTC was in principle happy to take on this property in full working order and at no cost to the Council.

2015/133 GCC - notice of temporary traffic order - Nailsworth Hill 10-13 October 2015

The order was noted.

2015/134 GCC – notice of temporary road closure – Pensile Road 25-27 November 2015

The road closure was noted.

2015/135 SDC – changes in arrangements for bulky and domestic waste collection

SDC had written to inform the Council of the introduction of a £15 charge for the collection of bulky items as from 14 September 2015 and of changes to the collection of domestic waste in 2016, which included the collection of food waste for recycling. The changes were noted.

2015/136 Stroud and District Motor Club - notice of Mechanics Classic Trial event 18 October 2015

The information was noted.

2015/137 Save Nailsworth Valley - letter of thanks

The Clerk read out a letter from the Save Nailsworth Valley Group thanking the Council for its efforts in opposing the application for development at Pike Lane, Shortwood. The letter was noted.

2015/138 Stroud and District CAB - results of earlier consultation about role of council representatives on Trustee Board

It was noted that the CAB wished to continue with the current system of council representation.

2015/139 Great Western Air Ambulance - request for information on potential sites for fund-raising clothing banks

The request was referred to the Environment Committee for consideration.

2015/140 SDC - information re consultation on further post submission proposed changes to Local Plan

The information was noted.

2015/141 GCC - notice of confirmation of order to prohibit driving in Wood Lane

The order was noted.

2015/142 GCC – amendment to Land Register ref. Jacaranda, Seven Acres Road, Newmarket

The Clerk explained that the owners of the property were taking the opportunity under new legislation to apply to correct a mistake whereby a section of their land had been incorrectly registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965. The Clerk reported that she had seen the relevant documentation. The application was noted.

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Town Mayor

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Date