

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 19 January 2016

Present	Cllr MP Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr JL Duckworth 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	District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims Mr Dominic Everiss SDC (Item 5)
Apologies	Cllr EF Bonner Cllr JL Dennis
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

2015/236 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Millett and Powell declared interests in Item19. There were no requests for councillors' dispensations.

2015/237 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a	S.15/2902/HHOLD Newstones, Park Road, Nailsworth Single storey extension and associated works No observations
b	S.15/2934/FUL Nailsworth Primary School, Nymphsfield Road Proposed Multi Use Games Area (resubmission following withdrawn application S/15/1738/FUL) No observations Cllr S Robinson stated that he had received feedback from a resident indicating appreciation of the NTC's efforts to listen to the concerns of local people regarding the above application and amending the proposed hours of operation accordingly.
c	S.15/2913/HHOLD Churchside, Inchbrook Hill Single storey front extension No observations
d	S.15/2798/FUL Inchbrook Court, Inchbrook Way, Inchbrook Erection of a car park for staff No observations
e	S.15/2924/TPO High Wood, Nymphsfield Road, Forest Green 1 Beech, T3 Oak, T4 Beech, T15 Oak, T22 Ash and T27 Ash - Section fell to ground level. T18 Ash - Reduce crown height by approximately 2-3m. All trees risk assessed are in line with Western Power Distribution 'Storm Resilience' protocol. Noted

2015/238 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

2015/239 PRESENTATION BY THE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN FOR NAILSWORTH

The Mayor welcomed Mr Dominic Everiss to the meeting. Mr Everiss explained that following SDC's restructuring of its Neighbourhood Warden service he had moved from his previous area of Stroud and Chalford to take on the role of Neighbourhood Warden for Nailsworth as from 4 January. Mr Everiss's new area also included Horsley, Box, Woodchester, Nympsfield and Owlpen. Whilst this was a somewhat large area to cover, a new 'buddy' scheme meant that wardens would be doubling up to ensure that the warden service would be accessible outside Mr Everiss's shift times.

Mr Everiss summarised and gave examples of the wide range of activities undertaken by the Neighbourhood Warden service such as supporting vulnerable individuals in the community, dealing with anti-social behaviour and working with local groups on environmental improvement projects.

In response to questions, Mr Everiss confirmed that he planned to continue with the previous warden's practice of sending monthly reports on his work to the Council, and agreed to forward details of his rota to the Clerk for circulation to councillors. He explained that the number of days per week he spent in Nailsworth was not fixed but dependent on need and requests from the community. Mr Everiss felt that Nailsworth benefited from an involved and proactive community and consequently he anticipated that he would be spending a significant amount of his time on local matters.

Mr Everiss was thanked for his informative presentation and he left the meeting.

** Cllr Thorpe joined the meeting during the above item.*

2015/240 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 15 December 2015 and 5 January 2016 were approved and signed.

2015/241 Potential devolution of council services (minute 2015/223)

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had been assured by SDC leader Cllr Geoff Wheeler that the 'We are Gloucestershire' group had sought feedback from GAPTC, GMTF and GRCC on the possible implications of devolution for town and parish councils. Cllr Kay confirmed that the group would be holding a further meeting with the above organisations, which he planned to attend.

Cllr Thorpe expressed a hope that, in the light of GCC cuts, devolution might help protect frontline services.

2015/242 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS

District Cllr Blackwell reported that SDC would meet the following week to set its budget for the forthcoming financial year. Noting that the Town Clerk would be retiring at the end of the month, Cllr Blackwell took the opportunity to pay tribute to her for the kindness and support she had shown him over many years and commended her on her extensive knowledge of local affairs and local government procedures.

District Cllr Sims was pleased to report that the SDC Dog Warden had had successfully imposed a £75 on-the-spot fine on a dog owner who had allowed a dog to foul a public area in the Tynings. Cllr Sims hoped that this would act as an example to irresponsible dog owners.

In response to a question, Cllr Sims confirmed that she planned to discuss with County Cllr Binns the implications of GCC funding cuts for Children's Centre services in Nailsworth.

District Cllr S Robinson reported that SDC was proposing to increase its precept by 2%, using funds from its reserves. In response to a question regarding ward councillors' views on SDC's proposal to withhold Local Council Tax Supplement (LTCS) funding from town and parish councils in the coming financial year, he stated that it was his understanding that as a town councillor he would be barred from participating in and voting on any discussion of this matter at District Council level. Cllrs Sims

and Blackwell indicated that felt they would need to research the matter further in order to form a considered view.

Cllr Elliott referred to a letter which had been circulated from Wotton-Under Edge Town Council seeking support for its campaign to persuade SDC to release Local Council Tax Supplement (LTCS) funding to town and parish councils. After discussion, the Mayor proposed, seconded by Cllr Elliott, that the Mayor and Clerk should liaise to write a letter to David Hagg, Chief Executive SDC, requesting that SDC release LCTS funding to NTC, with copies to the Nailsworth Ward Cllrs and to Wotton-Under-Edge Town Council.

On being put to the vote, the motion was **passed**, with 6 councillors voting in support, one against and two abstentions.

2015/243 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported on his attendance at a party for Nailsworth News volunteers held on 11 January. He looked forward to the continuation of the paper as a stimulating and active resource for the community under its new editor.

The Mayor reported that refurbishment of the Town Hall gents' toilets was currently in progress. He had met with the Town Clerk Designate and the builder to resolve some technical issues which had emerged. He anticipated that the work would be completed within the agreed budget but indicated that there might be an increased cost for changed insulation.

In response to a question, the Mayor and Cllr Duckworth confirmed that the Civic Centre Working Party proposed to update the Council on its deliberations at the next general full Council meeting.

2015/244 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Duckworth reported that he had been contacted by local media asking for information and comments on the unfortunate deaths of an elderly couple at their home in Forest Green. He offered to field any further media enquiries on this matter if his fellow councillors wished to refer them to him.

Cllr Duckworth reported that he had been in touch with SDC's Dog Warden over dog fouling in the town and had been impressed with her rapid response in spraying anti-fouling messages in the areas concerned.

Cllr Duckworth suggested that local historical information collected by the World War 1 Centenary Commemoration group, which was available in hard copy to view in the Town Archives office, should be placed on the NTC website. This was **agreed**. The Clerk reported that confirmation of the dispensation for the extension of grant money until 31 March had been received.

2015/245 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk Designate reported that the Town Archives volunteers had requested an upgrade to their computer and would be providing the Council with quotations to consider in due course.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk Designate should attend the following events:

- a training day on accounting packages organised by Edge Systems
- the AGM of the Society of Local Council Clerks on 17 March
- a mentoring session for the SLCC Clerks' Certificate training course.

The Clerk circulated an updated list of Council committees and Working Parties. She suggested that it would be useful Working Parties to provide lists of attendees and reports of their discussions. It was **agreed** that Cllr Kay would take over from Cllr Duckworth as the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party.

2015/246 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Elliott reported that Forest Green Residents' Association's Christmas party at the Arkell Centre had been a great success and that the Association was now working on the development of a conservation area behind the MUGA at Lawnside.

Cllr Kay reported that the Save Nailsworth Valley Group had been highly disappointed that the Newland Homes had been granted permission for the Pike Lane development on appeal. The group was now winding down but would continue to exercise vigilance over any further plans to build on neighbouring green space. Cllr Kay hoped to arrange a meeting between representatives of NTC, Mr Chris Davies of Save Nailsworth Valley and Newland Homes to discuss ways of working together for the best outcome for Nailsworth. It was **agreed** that Cllr Kay and the Mayor would represent NTC this meeting, with Cllr Duckworth as reserve.

2015/247 COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS

There was nothing to report.

2015/248 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 5 January 2016 were approved and signed.

RESOLVED that NTC write to SDC to express support in principle for Community R4C to build a to build a Resource, Recovery, Recycling and Refining Centre (R4C) in Gloucestershire which would provide an alternative to Gloucestershire County Council has proposed incinerator at Javelin Park.

RESOLVED that NTC seek to organise a non-competitive front garden celebration event, open to all town residents, to take place in July 2016, with certificates being awarded to all residents judged by the Council to have made an appropriate effort.

RESOLVED That Council formally expresses its support for the five Fairtrade Town goals, as follows:

GOAL 1: *The local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings and in its offices and canteens)*

GOAL 2: *A range of Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés/catering establishments*

GOAL 3: *Local work places and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.*

GOAL 4: *Events and media coverage raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.*

GOAL 5: *A local Fairtrade steering group representing a range of local organisations and sectors meets regularly to ensure the Fairtrade Town continues to develop and gain support.*

RESOLVED that the information on electronic signage systems be referred to the Communications Working Party for discussion and recommendation to Council.

Cllr S Robinson reported that owing to other commitments Nailsworth Rotary had informed him that fewer of the organisation's volunteers would be available in future to maintain its adopted flower tubs in the town, though the organisation would continue to fund the plants for these. Cllr S Robinson

had arranged a meeting in the Council Chamber on 17 February at 7pm. for potential new volunteers to help maintain the tubs.

Cllr S Robinson noted that the Committee planned to seek a quotation for the replacement of two benches on the 'W' and advised that it would be necessary to seek the approval of the National Trust for this. He understood that a bench at the top of the 'W' was due to be replaced by the National Trust and that another was being refurbished in memory of the late Cllr Paul Carter.

2015/249 RESPONSE TO GCC CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Details of the GCC consultation had previously been circulated to all cllrs and Cllr Thorpe had produced and circulated a press release to Nailsworth News publicising the consultation. She outlined the history of the Children's Centre's presence in Nailsworth, highlighting the excellent work the organisation was doing at the Arkell Centre in supporting vulnerable families, and expressed grave concern about the potential loss of this service in 2017/18 as a result of GCC funding cuts. Cllr Thorpe referred to an academic study on the positive impact of Children's Centre services and agreed to circulate a summary of this to all councillors. She felt that NTC should produce a detailed response to the GCC consultation drawing on research evidence from sources such as the above study.

The Clerk Designate confirmed that Cllr Paul McLain, GCC lead member for children's services, had yet to confirm the exact date of his proposed visit to the Children's Centre at the Arkell Centre. She agreed to pursue this and to recommend 2 March as a preferred date.

It was noted that GCC would be holding a general public consultation on its proposed budget at the Town Hall on Tuesday 16 February between from 2-4 pm. It was suggested that it would be helpful if transport to and from the meeting could be organised and Cllrs Millett, Thorpe and Reed agreed to liaise to provide this if required.

After discussion, the following was agreed:

- Any future press releases regarding the future of children's services in the county would be done through the NTC office
- The Council would, if appropriate, seek to organise a local petition and other suitable campaigning activities in support of the retention of the existing Children's Centre service at the Arkell Centre
- Cllr Binns would be invited to the next Council meeting to receive the NTC's concerns over the potential closure of the Children's Centre at the Arkell Centre.

2015/250 ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN GROUNDSPERSON

A draft advertisement for the post, together with draft terms of employment and person specification had been previously circulated. These were approved and the interview panel was confirmed as the Clerk and Cllr Duckworth, plus one further member of the Personnel Committee to be determined in due course. The closing date for applications was 10 February and interviews were scheduled for 18 and 23 February.

After discussion, it was agreed that in order to assist the interview panel Cllr Thorpe, as Chair of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, would meet with the Clerk prior to the interviews to discuss the details of the groundsperson's role.

2015/251 PROJECTS SUITABLE FOR SECTION 106 FINANCE

Cllrs were mindful of the potential benefits of Section 106 money to the town and agreed that a proactive approach would be desirable, particularly in the light of the proposed relocation of Forest Green Rovers FC to another part of the district. Cllr S Robinson suggested that NTC representatives should meet with SDC planning staff to discuss the formation of a list of suitable projects for S106 funding.

After discussion it was **agreed to set up a Section 106 Working Party** to work up a list of possible projects, to be chaired by Cllr S Robinson and consisting of the Clerk and Cllrs Duckworth, Elliott, Millett, Powell and Reed. It was further **agreed** that consideration of potential S106 projects would be agenda items for future meetings of the Environment and Recreation and Amenities Committees.

2015/252 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 19 January 2016 amounting to £22,446.86 be approved for payment.

2015/253 CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications for NTC grant funding had been received from Forest Green Residents' Association (FGRA), Rockness Trust and the Stroudwater Textile Trust.

**Cllrs Millett and Powell had declared an interest in the FRGA grant application and withdrew from the room during its consideration.*

After discussion, the following grant allocations were awarded:

FGRA – to fund community development events and to develop a conservation area at Lawnside	£1,000.00
Rockness Trust: to fund public liability insurance for community orchard volunteers	£113.00
Stroudwater Textile Trust: for repairs to water wheel at Dunkirk museum	£264.00

2015/254 Environment Agency – understanding 'threshold' surveys at properties at risk of flooding

The communication was noted and the Clerk was asked to request a copy of the survey results for Nailsworth when available.

2015/255 GCC – confirmation of public path creation and Definitive Map and statement modification ref. Valley Road, Inchbrook

The information was noted.

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Town Mayor

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Date