

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
on Tuesday 19 December 2006

Present	Cllr Mrs S M Reed (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr M K Akhtar Cllr J D Bratby * Cllr J Byrne Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr N I Kay Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs A J Smith Cllr Mrs L J Williams-Allen
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Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr J T Jeffreys
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Apologies accepted	Cllr E A McLean
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\* denotes absence from part of the meeting

**2006/181 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mrs Makemson pointed out that double yellow lines painted in Horsley Road did not reach the level of Barn Close, which she understood had been the intention. The Clerk was asked to clarify this with GCC Highways.

**2006/182 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 17 October and 21 November 2006 were confirmed and signed, with the following amendment –

**Minutes of 21 November, item 2006/143 to read**

"The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 October . . ."

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 11 December 2006 were approved and signed.

**2006/183 NEW CHIEF INSPECTOR, STONEHOUSE CONSTABULARY (minute 2006/176)**

The Clerk had written to welcome Chief Inspector Eric Moore, who had responded with the suggestion he attend the January meeting of the Council.

**2006/184 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Waddington** reported that the draft 2007/08 budget had gone out for consultation. The lowest ever council tax increase of 3.4% was proposed and the budget would be finalised in February. A Waste Management Strategy had been agreed with District Councils with the aim of increasing recycling and reducing landfill. It was hoped to introduce a kitchen waste collection service within three years.

In response to questions from Cllrs, Cllr Waddington advised that government funding was in line with expectation but insufficient to top up pension funds and cover salary increases. However the Council's reserves had only been tapped into in order to maintain the level of police service (which accounted for 6% of the overall budget). Further reductions in central funding were expected next year.

The Gloucester Charter, signed by Nailsworth, was now running Charter Test Group Meetings in Gloucester at 4.30pm – Cllr Waddington would advise the date of the next meeting and hoped NTC would send a representative.

Cllr Mrs Smith understood that a government-funded Sure Start nursery was planned for Nailsworth. The Mayor believed the grant was being redirected for a Sure Start manager to be based at Nailsworth Library and advised that Nailsworth Primary School was pursuing the matter.

**District Cllr Jeffreys** advised that Stroud was also working through the budget cycle and 07/08 would be the seventh year that the council tax increase had been held at or below inflation, with an increase of 2.5% proposed. SDC received a lower level of government funding than surrounding districts. Council rents would regrettably have to rise by an average of 5%. Consultation with businesses on the new rates would take place on 11 January at Stroud Cinema for finalisation of the budget at the SDC meeting on 25 January.

Cllr Nicholson explained that Gloucestershire suffered from low government support because the original assessment formula had been incorrect for the county, and all efforts to have the situation rectified had been resisted, as government was afraid of setting a precedent.

Cllr Kay was concerned that, as business rate payers, NTC should be invited to the consultation meeting on 11 January, and Cllr Jeffreys promised to check on this and report back.

Cllr Mrs Smith advised that SDC's current budget of £15,000 a year covered servicing of its 30 play areas within the District (some thought the number of play areas was nearer 42). Cllr Jeffreys agreed this was probably only sufficient to fund very basic maintenance such as grass cutting, but advised that other budgets covered replacement of play equipment on a rotational basis. It was anticipated that it must be Nailsworth's turn to get some much needed new equipment into its SDC-run play areas.

## **2006/185 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

24 November	The Chamber of Trade and organisers were to be congratulated on an excellently-run and well-attended Christkindl evening
29 November	Attended meeting of Nailsworth Primary School Governors
30 November	Met with SDC regeneration group to discuss Roger Evans Associates submission and more work was required before submitting as Supplementary Planning Advice
1 December	Attended a showing of the Nailsworth Film Club
2 December	Attended the Ruskin Mill Christmas Fair at which £442 was raised for NYCE
6 December	Attended meeting of Nailsworth Primary School Governors
9 December	Attended FGR-FC as a guest of the Stroud & Swindon Building Society Performed in the Ruskin Mill Panto . . . as the back end of Esmeralda the Cow!
10 December	Attended the Philip Sawyer Memorial Concert performed by Nailsworth Silver Band
14 December	Attended meeting of NYCE Committee
16 December	Attended the Town Carol Service at St George's Church
17 December	Attended the Nailsworth Primary School Christingle Service

## **2006/186 NAILSWORTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

The Mayor advised that the first meeting of the new committee would be held on Monday 22 January at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Meetings would take place perhaps twice a year to progress and update the Action Plan.

**2006/187 MAYORS FOR PEACE**

The Mayor had received an invitation from Stroud Town Council to enrol in this network, operating in 120 countries. Cllrs queried the purpose of the network, and felt joining should be the personal choice of the reigning mayor, rather than committing mayors to membership in perpetuity. The Mayor would investigate further and report back.

**2006/188 DESIGN STATEMENT for NAILSWORTH**

The Mayor confirmed that GMTF had agreed to contribute £2500 to preparation of the Design Statement and that she proposed therefore to invite Ms Helen Bojaniwska to the Planning Committee meeting on 1 February.

**2006/189 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Kay had been contacted by Gloucestershire Community Council for support in its campaign to save rural post offices; he would pass the information to the Property Management Committee. He would email GMTF's mini bulletin to other Cllrs. Cllr Affleck added that the government paper on post offices was also available on the internet.

\* Cllr Byrne joined the meeting during the above report

**2006/190 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk reported a call from Mr Colin Peake in his role as Community Safety Officer, asking NTC to send a representative to the INA (Inspector Neighbourhood Area) meetings held at Stonehouse, which provided an opportunity to speak with police officers and PCSOs. The next meeting would take place at 2pm on 18 January. Cllrs were confused as to the difference between the INA and PCC meetings and found it difficult to attend so many – perhaps duplicating – sessions.

**2006/191 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 December and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Kay would circulate Cllr Mrs Smith's report of her meeting with SDC Ms Jane Bullows regarding **SDC-run play areas** in the town. Cllr Mrs Smith had kindly agreed to attend the next meeting of the R&A Committee. Cllr Jeffreys would also be sent copy of Cllr Mrs Smith's report, and would provide information on SDC's funding for play areas.

The Clerk reported a conversation with a Norton Wood resident regarding the repeatedly **vandalised wall at Miles Marling field**. He felt the problem might be that the current stile was not easy to use. It was suggested the Cotswold Wardens could be asked to install a kissing gate alongside the stile.

Prior to preparing the planning application for the **Mortimer Gardens Bridge**, the Clerk had established with the Environment Agency that no special permission was required. It now appeared the stream had been classified as a 'main river' (!), so that full flood risk assessment and other checks were required. SDC Planning Department had advised withdrawal of the application which had to be decided by 4 January, although NTC had a year to re-submit at no extra cost.

Mr Tony Burton was proposed as a suitable person to undertake the risk assessment and the officer at the Environment Agency had offered to supervise the application. The Clerk was asked to establish the cost of undertaking the required assessments.

Cllr Affleck commented that the **KGV field extension** had been fenced and was currently being grazed by a flock of sheep.

**2006/192 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bratby presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 28 November and

the minutes were approved with the following amendment to the final item:

#### **Possible closure of Post Offices**

Cllr Eddyshaw reported that he had received a response from the Customer Care Centre at Barnsley confirming that there were no proposals to close either post office.

The various refurbishment proposals for **Hazelwood Bungalow** were approved, to include removing the chimney below roof level. The total cost of the work proposed would therefore amount to £950.

Further lengthy discussion ensued as to the criteria for using the Town Clock **banner posts** and finally, the guidelines proposed by the committee were amended to read as follows –

- No advertising of commercial events or individuals
- Banners will only be accepted from Nailsworth based organisations for events of local interest
- Bookings to be accepted on a first come first served basis
- Banners will be displayed for a maximum of one week
- Events taking place monthly (with the exception of the monthly country market) not to be accepted after a three month lead in. Therefore St George's Church banner for the monthly service at FGR-FC to cease after December 06.

It was agreed to operate the banner posts under these guidelines for the time being.

#### **Town Hall Bookings**

The Clerk reported that Nailsworth Festival had requested use of the TH main hall on Friday 27 April, and the meeting agreed unanimously that this booking should take precedence over the regular Friday hirer, the Dog Training Club.

#### **Stone Fountain**

Mr Norrie Curtis SDC had provided a plan for the base to be installed for the Stone Fountain in its new position. The Mayor and Cllr Bratby would meet with Mr Curtis at 2.30pm on Wednesday 20 December, to clarify the plan. Cllr Kay added that it was his understanding that SDC was now ready to put the restoration/removal contract out to tender.

#### **2006/193 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 November 2006 were approved.

#### **2006/194 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 23 November and 5 December.

On behalf of the Chamber of Trade, Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen thanked Cllrs Kay and Mrs Smith for their efforts against **Stroud Market's** new monopoly. Stallholders and traders would be asked to carefully monitor the situation in Nailsworth over the coming months to assess the real effects of Stroud's weekly market and the Mayor would join Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen at a meeting to be held at the Civic Centre Wotton under Edge on 16 January.

Further to the committee's comment on **empty & derelict buildings** at its meeting of 5 December, Cllrs felt that an informal discussion with the current owner of problem properties in Market Street and Bath Road might be useful, and he could be apprised of NTC's views. The Planning Committee would consider this suggestion at its next meeting.

The committee was notified that Ms Sinead Barker GRCC would attend its meeting on 18 January.

**RESOLVED** that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings held on 23 November and 5 December 2006 be approved.

**2006/195 ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 19 December 2006 amounting to £13171.21 be approved for payment.

**2006/196 SDC – Mandatory Code of Conduct – councillor training**

The training session to take place on 16 January, clashed with NTC's full council meeting, but Cllr Nicholson indicated he might attend anyway.

**2006/197 GCC – new online Parish Bulletin & Discussion Forum**

The site under glos.gov was new this month as a discussion base for parish and town councils. A link to nailsworthtown.co.uk was already included.

**2006/198 GCC – Waste Management Strategy questionnaire**

The Mayor offered to complete the questionnaire on behalf of NTC.

**2006/199 GCC – Bus timetables**

These would now be updated online rather than in paper form and the information was passed on to the TIC.

**2006/200 GCC – Confirmation of waiting restrictions traffic order**

The order covered yellow lines for Old Bristol Road, Newmarket Road up to Concord, Horsley Road, and 30 minute waiting outside the library in Old Market. Yellow lines for Chestnut Hill had been omitted for the time being owing to objections from residents.

**2006/201 GCC – road closures: footpath ZNA7 and Shortwood Road**

The footpath at Forest Green would be closed from 4 December for six weeks for building of a retaining wall at 15 Barnfield Road. Shortwood Road would be closed on 22 and 23 January for installation of power cables.

**2006/202 GCC – road closure at Windsoredge**

The road would close on 15 January for two weeks for essential carriage work.

**2006/203 Mr David Miller – Save Stroud Hospital Taskforce**

The chairman of the committee asked for a letter to be sent to Mrs Patricia Hewitt in support of saving Weavers Croft. Residents were asked to write to the Secretary of State. Cllr Mrs Smith had spoken with Mr Miller and would help to draft a letter as requested and provide copy for Nailsworth News to publicise the campaign.

**2006/204 Federation of Small Businesses – Avening Road**

The Chamber of Trade had received an email asking to join forces in protest at the ongoing road restrictions along Avening Road. A new weight limit sign for lorries had recently been installed. The Clerk offered to provide Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen with previous correspondence.

**2006/205 Road collapse at Pensile Road**

Following a query from Cllr Eddyshaw, it was confirmed that work on this road had been scheduled for completion by end November.

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Chairman

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Date