

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 12 October 2010

Present: Cllr N I Kay (chairman)
Cllr Mrs D L M Binns
Cllr J A Byrne
Cllr J R Nicholson
Cllr S Robinson
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Apologies: Cllr Mrs G E Smith

Election of chairman

The mayor opened the meeting and thanked retiring chairman Cllr Byrne for his hard work in progressing a number of projects. Cllr Kay was unanimously elected chairman for the remainder of the year.

Land at Nympsfield Road

As registration of this piece of land (together with a piece at Walkley Wood) was likely to be contentious it was agreed that in advance of the main registration project the clerk should **start the registration process** for both without delay to safeguard the council's position.

Mortimer Gardens - electrical works

In September Central Networks had dug up the border by the steps to repair a fault in the electricity supply to adjacent properties. The clerk reported that when replacing the fence behind the hair salon the contractors had driven a stake into the council's property and attached the corner of the fencing to the council's trellis. In addition she considered some compensation was due for the destruction of the shrubs. It was agreed that the clerk should write to Central Networks **seeking compensation and requesting that the fence fixings be removed from council** property. The groundsman was investigating what plants might be available from the FGCC site.

Mortimer Gardens - replacement windows for the Old Warehouse

David Austin had written seeking permission to **enter the gardens with a cherry picker** in order to replace the windows on first and second floors and re-plant the window boxes. This was **approved** with the proviso that the surface of paths and cobbles was not disturbed and that public access through the gardens was maintained.

Market Street garden

Tenders received for this project had come in way over budget and Cllr Byrne had asked the architect for ideas for reducing the cost of the scheme and a schedule of suggested options was circulated. The cuts represented a saving of £15000 but not all the proposed cuts were acceptable to members. It was agreed that the steps, tegula cobbles and paving and some lighting should be retained in the scheme. It was agreed that **Cllrs Byrne and Nicholson would consider the matter in detail** and report their findings to a later meeting.

Miles Marling Field

Considerable discussion ensued about visibility issues at the road entrance. Mr Mansell had **cut back the hedges** to both sides of the gates and it was agreed that **members would visit and then decide whether further measures were required.**

Since Jo Millett had started regular litter picking there had been a significant improvement to the appearance of the area.

The **FGRA** had expressed interest in involving itself in **providing a skate ramp** on the field. It was noted that a ramp could only be sited on the council's portion of the field i.e. top half and the sloping and uneven nature of the terrain might make it an expensive project. It was agreed that Cllrs Robinson and Mrs Thorpe would, **without prejudice, explore the idea** further with members of FGRA.

King George V playing field and extension field

The clerk reported that she had contacted the chairman David Drew and the financial director of FGRFC again about the outstanding invoice. Both had assured her that the matter would be **raised at a board meeting** arranged for later this week.

Mr Mansell had confirmed that it was a lengthy process to move the secondary goal posts and he had therefore levelled out the dipped areas with some additional soil.

The gate hinge had been chained and padlocked pending a more permanent solution.

A small group had met with Andy Wilkins to discuss skateboard requirements. He had since reported that young people were more interested in the provision of a mini half pipe than upgrading the existing equipment. Mr Wilkins had obtained some quotes for equipment (name of suppliers unclear) and was awaiting others for the tarmac surface. The clerk had arranged to meet the Record representative on site on Thursday morning.

Children's play areas

Cllr Mrs Thorpe considered the KGV play area required some updating but in general members thought the area was well used and the equipment liked. In the past the council had proposed replacing the elderly climbing frames but due to popular request had decided not to proceed. It was agreed that **members individually** would **visit** the area and **conduct market research** for discussion at a later meeting.

Multi use games area (MUGA)

Several cllrs had been involved in trying to progress this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. Before moving to the next stage – submission of a planning application – written agreement to the proposed land swap was required from all partners. An unhelpful response had been received from SDC and Cllrs Crawley and Robinson were due to meet with Colin Peake FGRFC next Monday. Cllr Robinson reported that he had received a letter of support from the Primary School which sadly was rather short on substance. He intimated that the school now favoured a location in the centre of the school land rather than the location with road frontage. Members considered this a retrograde step and did not see how this new location would be more beneficial for the school. The advantage of the road side site was that the MUGA could be accessed by the public without having to enter school property thus retaining the school's security and privacy. With the new location access would be over school land and this was no improvement over the limitations of the current site. **Security of public access at all times was a prime consideration.** It was agreed that Cllr Robinson would write back to the School and seek confirmation that both GCC and the Diocese supported the land swap and for an outline plan of the location now being proposed.

Youth Provision

All members were agreed that it would be a **retrograde step if GCC reduced** or discontinued its support for youth work in the town. However until GCC published its proposals it was difficult to plan how to mitigate the consequences of any reduction in services.

Nailsworth Recreation Centre

The chairman rehearsed the recent history. SDC Cabinet had voted to cease involvement with the Centre and return it to the Primary School. A grant of £10,000 was to be paid in one lump sum or over two years to ease changeover and some funding possibly for equipment might be available also. Discussions at the Primary School were ongoing on how to reduce running costs and increase income to ensure the viability of the Centre into the future.

The initiative to set up a **Nailsworth Sports Partnership was proceeding** and a survey would appear in the November Nailsworth News (fee of around £100 to be taken from the Nailsworth Games budget) and could also be accessed online.

Items for budget 2011/12

Revenue	Youth support for under 13's	£ 1,800
Designated funds	Tennis court refurbishment	£ 1,000
	Play equipment	£25,000

Gloucestershire Link

The chairman had attended a meeting of this new organisation set up under the auspices of GRCC to allow people to help, influence, improve or change the way local health and social care services are delivered. He asked members to **consider if NTC should join this body to represent residents' interests and concerns.**

Provision of lifebelt adjacent to open water on land at Newmarket

Although members agreed that a lifebelt at this location would be valuable as the area was privately owned the council had no jurisdiction or responsibility. The chairman agreed to contact the Environment Agency to investigate whether it had any safety regulations and also to contact the landowner to enquire whether he appreciated the potential danger to the public of this unfenced deep water.

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 Chairman Date