

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
 Minutes of a meeting held on 3 November 2015

Present	Cllr SM Reed (Chair) Cllr EF Bonner Cllr JL Dennis Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell Cllr MP Robinson
In attendance for part of the meeting	Mr Will Wilkinson, Charlton Abbots Forestry

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

There were no matters arising.

### **WINTER GRITTING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Clerk explained that GCC's policy was to fill each of its grit bins in the parish once per season. Whilst NTC had no responsibilities for gritting, the Council undertook to refill bins and to grit its own land where appropriate and as long as supplies permitted. The Clerk confirmed that a supply of loose grit was stored at Mr Blackwell's farm to be used by Nigel Cook, Nailsworth's Snow Warden as required. Bagged grit was stored at the KGV and TIC.

### **INSPECTION TOURS OF COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Cllr Reed reported that Committee members had completed their tours of Council property under the Committee's remit in the town centre and had also inspected the Miles Marling field and Norton Wood. A tour of the remaining areas, namely Shortwood and Bunting Hill, would be organised in due course.

Cllr Reed reported that two pine trees in the Mortimer Gardens appeared to be absorbing moisture from nearby herbaceous borders and that one of them provided heavy shade to the detriment of plants in the borders. The Clerk advised that the soil in the borders concerned was rather poor. After discussion, it was agreed to **recommend to Council** that the two pine trees be removed.

Cllr Powell reported that the Twinning Committee was considering having the railings at Leves Corner sanded down and refurbished and would be writing to the Council with proposals in due course.

### **REPORT ON NAILSWORTH CLIMATE AWARENESS DAY**

Cllr Reed reported that the Climate Awareness event held in the town on 24 October had been very successful, with considerable interest being shown in the various stalls in the town centre and good attendance for the film and talk at the Arkell Community Centre. A questionnaire survey seeking views on how to take forward ideas generated on the day was available locally. Cllr Reed circulated a summary of responses received on the day and indicated that she would circulate a full analysis after the closing date of 20 November, following which a meeting would be arranged for all those who had expressed an interest in pursuing the matter.

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements for the town Christmas lighting were in hand and that the aim was for the lights to be in place by the end of November.

### **PROPOSAL FROM FOREST GREEN ROVERS FC TO MOVE FROM NAILSWORTH**

A letter from Eastington Parish Council seeking NTC's view on plans for a proposed eco-park near Junction 13 of the M5 to incorporate a new ground for FGRFC had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

Cllr M Robinson reported that he had used his Nailsworth News column to canvass local opinion on the move and had received a few responses. The general consensus appeared to be of acceptance of the club's reasons for wishing to move, together with interest in what might happen to the site once vacated. Cllr M Robinson added that he had established a dialogue with FGRFC's chairman Mr Dale Vince and vice-chairman Mr David Drew.

After discussion it was agreed to **recommend to Council** that the Clerk be asked to respond to Eastington Parish Council stating that NTC was unable to support any objection to the proposed eco-park, since members accepted FGRFC's wishes to move from Nailsworth to pursue its own interests and felt that the Council's primary concern was for the future of the site to be vacated.

### **PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR NORTON WOOD**

Cllr Reed welcomed Mr Will Wilkinson of Charlton Abbots Forestry to the meeting. Mr Wilkinson updated members on the progress of the current 5 year management plan for Norton Wood, which would enter its third year in 2016/17.

Mr Wilkinson reported that this year's strategy for squirrel control involving 5 traps rather than 3 and over a shorter period than in the previous year had proved more efficient as it had involved fewer person-hours. He suggested that the same number of traps be employed for a similar time-period in May 2016.

Mr Wilkinson outlined the annual safety inspection process of trees on the rides and edges of the wood and confirmed that the scheduled work to remove three hazel trees and a walnut from the lower section of the wood would take place over the next couple of months. Two benches would be made from a felled oak tree and would be installed in the wood in due course. The Clerk reported that she had received some complaints from residents of Star Hill about trees encroaching their land on the boundary of Compartment 1 and Mr Wilkinson agreed to inspect. He reported that he had visited one local resident to discuss the latter's concerns about three sycamore trees on the boundary which were leaning towards his house. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had already agreed that these trees be removed and Mr Wilkinson agreed to forward her the relevant quotation.

Mr Wilkinson handed the Clerk a letter/form for completion to authorise him to undertake the usual annual tree inspection of trees in Norton Wood and along Avening Road.

In response to a question, Mr Wilkinson confirmed there was no evidence of ash dieback in the wood, though it had occurred in other parts of the county.

Members felt that following the building work in the former Jovial Foresters' car park it was not at all clear that the footpath alongside the new build accessed the wood and Cllr Millett offered to investigate costings for a hand-painted sign stating 'Access to Norton Wood'. Cllrs Reed and Millett undertook to inspect the site and design a suitable sign.

### **LAND AT MOFFATT ROAD AND FOREST GREEN GREEN**

The Clerk reported that a resident of Moffatt Road had written to express concern about the Council's decision to install a barrier to prevent parking on the triangle of grass in Moffatt Road adjacent to Forest Green green as she felt this would exacerbate the problem of restricted parking in the area. However, members were mindful of the need to preserve the green from

damage and to ensure access for the grass maintenance team to this area and saw no need to reconsider Council's decision.

The Clerk reported that the Trustees of the Forest Green cemetery had written to request a physical restriction to prevent parking at the cemetery entrance at the top end of the green. Members were keen that the green be retained as open amenity space and therefore felt it inappropriate to install a barrier at this location. However it was agreed to consider erecting a sign requesting that people respect this open space and refrain from parking there. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

The Clerk had received various suggestions from other residents regarding the placement of trees on the green. The Clerk was asked to respond explaining that the Council was not inclined to plant or move any trees on the green.

#### **FENCING OF LAND IN WALKLEY LANE.**

This was in hand and the Clerk had been in contact with the contractor.

#### **CONCERNS REGARDING DECLINING FOOTFALL IN THE TOWN**

Some members of the Committee reported on various discussions they had had with members of the public regarding perceived decline in footfall in the town, possibly linked to the 2 hour parking restriction, and the effect of this on commercial viability. It was agreed to **recommend** that these matters be discussed by full Council.

#### **TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE**

The Clerk reported that the 6-month agreement for the siting of a pizza van in the TIC car park on Wednesday evenings had expired. No complaints had been received, and no problems identified with the operation, and the Clerk was asked to write to the proprietor reminding him that he would need to apply to SDC to renew his licence if he wished to continue and that NTC would support his application. The Clerk reported that the proprietor had asked permission to park in the TIC car park on Sundays to advertise his Wednesday operation. Members felt this was inappropriate and the Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

The Clerk reported that it had been reported that a problem was developing with the double glazed front window of the TIC. She had contacted the contractors regarding this matter several times but as she had received no response she had been in touch with the architect who had agreed to investigate.

#### **BUNTING HILL GRANT APPLICATION**

Cllr Millett reported that Ros John of the Bunting Hill group had agreed to include the conservation area behind the MUGA at Lawnside in her application for grant aid from the 'My Wild Spaces' fund for conservation work at Bunting Hill.

#### **BUDGET ITEMS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17**

It was noted that there was a sum for refurbishing road signs in the Committee's budget for the current year and it was agreed to **recommend** that a similar amount be included in the 2016/17 budget.

#### **TRANSPORT ISSUES**

Details of consultations on local bus services and the GCC's transport plan had been circulated. Cllrs Reed reported that she and Cllr Thorpe planned to attend the bus service consultation meeting to be held in Stroud Subscription Rooms on 1 December.

#### **STORAGE OF BUILDING WASTE ADJACENT TO ENTRANCE TO PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE TRAIL**

Cllr Reed reported that, following complaints from trail users, she had written in a personal capacity to SDC Environmental Health department to express concern about the health and

safety implications of the storage of a large amount of decaying builders' waste close to the Nailsworth entrance to the trail. Members were also concerned about possible health and safety implications of the long-term storage of builders' waste at Barristers Cottage in Old Bristol Road. It was agreed to **recommend** that NTC write to SDC to request that an enforcement officer meet with NTC representatives to inspect the two sites.

**LETTER FROM LOCAL RESIDENT ABOUT SITING OF PLAQUE INSCRIBED WITH WH DAVIES POEM 'LEISURE'**

Consideration of the letter was deferred pending further information from the resident.

**GRCC CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL AND RURAL ISOLATION**

Cllr Millett advised that this matter was being addressed by the Patient Participation Group at Price's Mills Surgery, Nailsworth. It was agreed that under the circumstances no response to the consultation from NTC was necessary.

**ENQUIRY FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE ABOUT POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR CLOTHING BANK**

Members noted that there was already a clothing bank in the SDC recycling area in Old Market and could think of no suitable place to site another.

.....  
Chair

.....  
Date

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>RECOMMENDED</b> | that quotations be sought for the removal of two pine trees in the Mortimer Gardens which were compromising plants in the herbaceous border.   |
| <b>RECOMMENDED</b> | that the Clerk be asked to respond to Eastington Parish Council stating that NTC was unable to support any objection to the proposed eco-park, explaining that members accepted FGRFC's wishes to move from Nailsworth to pursue its own interests and felt that the Council's primary concern was for the future of the site to be vacated. |
| <b>RECOMMENDED</b> | that the Council discuss the perceived decline in footfall in the town and the implications of the existing 2 hour parking restrictions in the town centre   |
| <b>RECOMMENDED</b> | that an amount for refurbishment of road signs similar to that allocated for the current year be included in the 2016/17 budget  |
| <b>RECOMMENDED</b> | that NTC write to SDC to request that an enforcement officer meet with NTC representatives to inspect building waste stored adjacent to the entrance to the pedestrian/cycle trail and at Barristers Cottage in Horsley Road.  |