

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 9 August 2011

Present	*	Cllr N I Kay (chairman) Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr MM Rahman Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting		Ian Crawley
non attendance		Cllr Mrs SM Reed
	*	denotes absence from part of the meeting

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES RE MR CRAWLEY'S COMMENTS ON MUGA PROJECT

Cllr Kay elaborated on Mr Crawley's written clarification that his views had been misunderstood and incorrectly recorded in the minutes of the committee's last meeting on 14 June, and it was agreed to attach this as an addendum to those minutes. (Also attached for reference to these minutes)

KGV playing field

Half pipe skate ramp – the concrete base had been laid to the extended dimensions as noted at the last meeting, and Maverick would install the new ramp in September. Cllr Kay had noted that rubbish tended to collect under some of the ramps and wondered if the gaps should be blocked with a suitable piece of welded metal or arrange to have it cleared more often. It was agreed to ask Maverick's advice on what would be suitable and, if appropriate, include the requisite sum in the next budget wish list.

The Mayor had been approached by young people at his last market surgery about renewing the antislip paint on the ramps; they had investigated the cost and were willing to raise the money and paint the ramps themselves. Members thought that the job should probably be done professionally, although they did not want to discourage the involvement of the young people. The Mayor would ask firm who installed the ramps for advice. Cllr Mrs Elliott had a contact in the protective surfaces business who might be able to help.

The Clerk reported that another rivet had come out of one of the ramps which was likely to require a steel plate behind it, as Mr Meletiou had fitted when repairing previous ones. The Clerk would ask him if he could deal with this.

The Clerk was asked to organise a replacement for the defaced sign spotted at the last inspection. The Mayor added that a piece of metal to protect the wall of the new surface would be needed once the grind rails were removed. Maverick had agreed to remove the grind rails and would be asked for advice on suitable protection for the wall.

Town groundsman Mr Mansell had requested the purchase of a chain saw type machine for cutting back hedges and overhanging branches, at a cost of approx £300 (ex.vat), which was approved.

FGR-FC use of pitch by girls under 16's team - Rob Gaffney had responded to the request for further information on days and times required. He had provided a schedule of games but advised that the four conflicting fixtures could be arranged to fit around KGV's existing bookings. The Club was not concerned about the lack of privacy in the changing rooms. It was agreed that bookings for this team could be taken on the understanding that the decision about pitch playability rested with Mr Mansell.

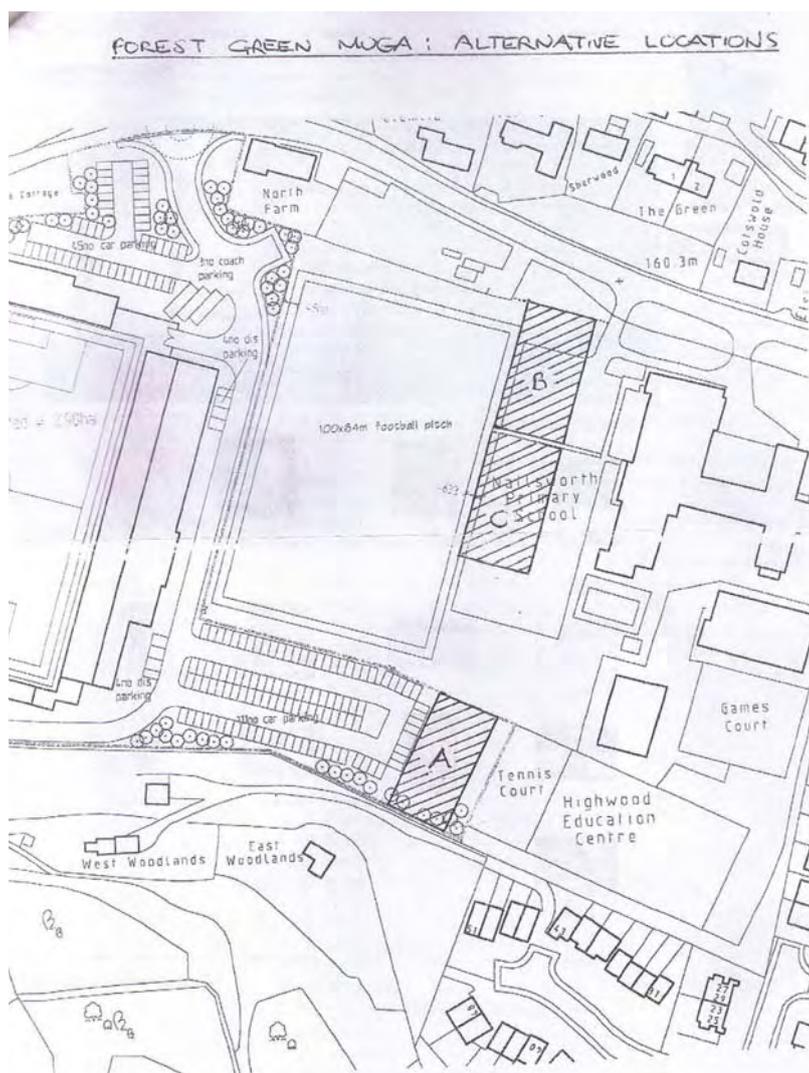
Mortimer Gardens & Town Gardening

There had been no further difficulties with the abusive drinkers in MG. Members agreed that ASBOs would be a better solution if the problem was repeated, rather than making the area an alcohol free zone, which would affect the town's legitimate activities. The Mayor had engaged with the couple and would do so again when appropriate.

The Clerk had been approached by Liz Child (Go Grow) asking to hold an apple pressing event in MG on 23 October, perhaps with a second event if the first was successful. The group would bring all their own equipment, including protective ground covering. The request was approved.

Debbie Powell, Stroud Sea Cadets sought permission to run a 'Christmas Santa' around the town in December and take a collection for the Sea Cadets. This was also approved.

MUGA



Members received a copy of the draft report Mr Crawley had prepared of the meeting on 2 August with Robert Stephens representing the Diocese of Gloucester, which owned the school buildings, land beneath & tarmaced areas, and Gareth Vine GCC, which owned the grassed areas including the Nymphsfield Road frontage. The Mayor, Clerk and Cllr Kay attended on behalf of NTC. It had become clear that there was still no consensus between the School, Diocese and NTC on the choice of a site for the MUGA. Mr Vine had agreed to investigate with SDC planners the potential for developing part of the land on the Nymphsfield Road frontage and to discuss with Mr Stephens the feasibility of a land swap between them within the site to enable the MUGA to be built on GCC owned land. Cllr Kay agreed to arrange an early meeting with School Governors and Mr Crawley to keep Ray Figg SDC informed of developments.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe suggested it might be time to consider re-siting the MUGA, perhaps to Miles Marling field, but this could not be a secure location, nor add to the benefits of the Recreation Centre and the School. KGV field was also mentioned as a possible location, but members were reminded that

the MUGA funding had been secured on the basis of providing the facility in Forest Green.

Mr Crawley explained that matching funding was available through the Premier League for upgrading existing/providing new sports facilities including MUGAs. With the support of FGRFC and the Primary School Mr Crawley was working on a draft expression of interest for a package of measures to be submitted to the Premier League covering – a pitch improvement scheme for school pitch (FGR was commissioning an improvement survey at its own expense), updating of school changing rooms to separate school/Recreation Centre use, storage for sports equipment incl. MUGA equipment and new MUGA. The cost of this package excluding the MUGA was estimated to be approx £80k. The section 106 money for the MUGA could form the basis of the match funding for the whole package of pitch and school improvements.

Members agreed that Mr Crawley should, with the FGR and School, continue to progress a potential application for match funding for the total package, but making no commitment until planning consents had been secured for all elements in the package.

Market Street Garden

The clerk confirmed that Five Valleys had been asked to proceed with the project and had indicated a provisional start date of second week in September. A meeting had been arranged for 22 August at 10am at town hall with all parties involved – Martin Portus, Tony Dowie, David John, SP Electrical & cllrs. Power and lights could be fitted later and Mr Portus had sourced some cheaper light fittings. It was suggested if necessary NTC's solicitor could be asked to look at the JCLI 2008 standard contract being proposed.

The final costs were estimated as follows, with a budget of £30k

Five Valleys Construction	£20715.50
electricity supply	£1656.52 (updated quote)
electricity connections & lighting	£2000
CDM fees	£700
planting costs	

There was no water supply on site, so Five Valleys would need to make their own arrangements.

MILES MARLING FIELD

The ROSPA report on play areas suggested that a tarmac or concrete surface should be considered under the youth shelter, whereas NTC had always thought this would be dangerous to climbing youngsters. The Clerk would seek clarification from the inspector. The Rotary Club had offered to install this some time ago, and might still.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe raised the issue of dogs running free and messing where children played and suggested the play area should be fenced off. Mr Paterson, FG-RA had also raised this at the last meeting. The Clerk advised that the field had a right of way across it, and the bottom half belonged to SDC so fencing was not an option. The Neighbourhood Warden had recently put up additional dog notices and there was a poop scoop bin there. Cllr Mrs Thorpe felt strongly that NTC should investigate ways of dealing with the problem and would discuss potential solutions with Angela Endacott who carried out clearance of rubbish and dog mess on a regular basis. A similar problem existed in KGV where dogs were free to foul the sports pitches and it was agreed to put the topic on the agenda for the next meeting. In Cirencester, dogs were banned from all parks with play areas.

The Mayor had recommended to Mrs Endacott that FG-RA should explore with residents suggestions to improve facilities in MM field, and bring back a proposal to NTC.

Children's Play Areas

The Clerk read out the list of improvements identified in the ROSPA report as being required on the play equipment in KGV and on Shortwood Green, which she would arrange to have carried out in order of priority. Cllr Kay borrowed the report.

Youth provision

The Mayor advised that he had heard today that of the £50k SDC grant, £15k was being allocated for activities (max individual grant of £1000) and £35k for start ups and ongoing projects. The application form was 23 pages long! The Mayor would remonstrate about this to ward Cllrs. There would be two dates for submission of bids - 1st September and 1st December.

Nailsworth Games 2012

The exact route for the Olympic torch bearers on 22/23 May was as yet unknown, but if this did not pass through Nailsworth, the games would take place towards the end of the summer school term. Cllr Kay circulated a list of clubs which participated in the last event and was preparing a letter to go out

about this one. The first meeting of the Games Committee would take place at 6pm on Monday 12 September at the Youth Club.

Following talks with the PSALMS worker, the Mayor suggested it would be a good idea to hold some events on the School field to involve Forest Green youngsters. It was noted that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was on the weekend of 2 June, in case it could coincide with the Games.

Reduction in notice period for holding motocross events

Following noise complaints in 2009 at the Tinkley Lane circuit, an abatement notice had been served restricting use of the site for motocross to four days a year, with 28 days notice in writing. The organisers had asked to reduce this notice period to 14 days, in line with another operator in the District, and SDC sought NTC's opinion to this request by 31 August. Following discussion, members felt that 28 days notice was reasonable to allow neighbouring residents to make alternative arrangements, and presumably the organisers needed at least that amount of time to advertise and prepare a motocross event. The Clerk was asked to respond that NTC felt 28 days notice was appropriate and should not be reduced.

Holiday activities for children

The Mayor mentioned that he had visited a Play Rangers session at which he observed 30+ youngsters taking part in a range of arts and crafts. He was very impressed with the event.

He had also visited the Sports Academy, which was again providing excellent activities for some very challenging young people.

Use of Banner Posts

Home Start had asked to put up a banner advertising a volunteers' training course in September. Following discussion members agreed that, although a very worthwhile organisation, this was not a Nailsworth organisation, the course would not be taking place in Nailsworth, similar types of organisations had been turned down and this did not comply with the Council's policy for use of the banner posts for Nailsworth (and Horsley) organisations only. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly and suggest that the Church or Egypt Mill might be prepared to allow a banner to be erected on their railings.

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Date

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Chairman

ADDENDUM submitted by Ian Crawley – 9 August 2011

The minutes of the R&A meeting of 14 June were ratified at the next meeting of full council on 21 June. I did not attend the committee meeting, therefore Cllrs received no comments from me other than information in a joint report with Cllr Kay regarding the delivery of the MUGA at Forest Green. I was not aware of the views incorrectly attributed to me at that meeting by the chair of R&A, Cllr Kay, before the full council meeting; and could not therefore have them corrected.

I am particularly unhappy that the committee chair read into the formal record his own erroneous belief that *"I was keen to commit at least some of the Section 106 monies destined for the MUGA to the School/FC's scheme to upgrade the school playing field to create an Astro turf pitch . . ."*

We had met informally a few days before. However I cannot recall anything I said or have written in respect of the Astro turf idea that would lead Cllr Kay to think his statement fairly represented what I have been seeking to achieve.

The actual position is as follows

- I am not, and have never been, keen to commit Section 106 funds to delivering an Astro turf pitch at the primary school. I have however always considered that utilising the MUGA money to bring in further funding to upgrade the Recreation Centre was sensible, and remains so.
- I have never suggested, and I am not aware anyone else has, that the Astro turf idea is the School/FC's scheme. The idea originated from FGR-FC. When the chair of the primary school governing body and the headteacher considered it worthy of exploration, I agreed to undertake that exploration.
- I have always stated that I have been involved in no more than an exploration of an idea. Any commitment of the MUGA monies to the MUGA project as currently proposed and to any other option(s) would still need to be formally agreed by all the responsible authorities including the town council.

Additionally, Cllr Kay amended the draft report I initially authored. We then agreed both our names should go on it as authors. This is not reflected in the committee minute.