

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of a meeting held on 19 April 2010

Present	Cllr J R Nicholson (Chairman) * Cllr J A Byrne * Cllr I Crawley * Cllr N I Kay Cllr S Robinson * Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Apologies	Cllr Mrs G E Smith
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

**GCC – new GRIT BINS**

The Clerk had sent the wish list for additional bins to GCC, to which Mr Julian Wilson had responded that a total reorganisation of the system was underway and nothing should be expected in the immediate future.

**NORTON WOOD**

The Clerk had spoken with Ms Ann Donahue, the resident who felt too much work was being done in the new orchard, and she and Mr Terry Grant had between them managed to answer Ms Donahue's concerns. Ms Donahue expressed appreciation for the Clerk's out of hours call in order to speak to her. The Clerk suggested members visit the site to review the result of the work, with no more clearance to be done now until the autumn. The Clerk had obtained a quotation for repairing the broken fencing on the top edge of the Forester's car park at £170-£200 for 4' high chain link, or green plastic netting at £80-£100. It was agreed to go for the better option and the Clerk would arrange this in due course.

**SIGN BOARDS IN TOWN CENTRE**



Cllr Nicholson had been in contact with Imagemakers for the design and provision of a map to go in the signboard frames produced by Malcolm Lane. He circulated a copy of the Stroud map, which could be adapted in every way to suit Nailsworth. NTC to supply the text and surrounding drawings/photographs, and Imagemakers would produce the map and put it all together.

A quotation for supply of 3 glass reinforced plastic panels, design, production and delivery came to £2847.26 + vat, plus £120 for each of the surrounding graphics. A cheaper vinyl version was available but would be less vandal proof, although the Clerk thought that the frames included a lockable glass front – she would check – in which case the cheaper version would be fine. The matter of copyright was raised; the quote stated that no copyright fees were included, but Cllr Nicholson would seek clarification on this point.

Members were happy with the general style of the map and discussion ensued as to which town features and in what format should be used around the outside of the panel, perhaps black/white archive photos of the Fountain etc. Cllr Nicholson offered to work on a mock up Nailsworth version to put forward to the committee as a starting point. The Clerk drew attention to the fact, already mentioned previously, that some cost – perhaps £1000 – would be due to Malcolm Lane for work already undertaken on the map. She would advise the company to do no further work and request a final bill.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTY**

The Clerk had been unable to inspect work done at Walkley Wood as her path was blocked by aggressive dogs.

Cllr Nicholson had been contacted by residents opposite All Saints Church in Shortwood, seeking repair of potholes in their driveway which was understood to be a right of way over council land. At a site meeting, Mr Julian Wilson, GCC Highways had produced a map showing there was a strip of NTC owned land between the highway and the private properties. Mr Wilson had made it clear that the potholes were not bad enough to be repaired by GCC, but that it would in any case only do the job on the highway.

Members agreed that it was a surprise to be told NTC owned this strip of land and were not aware of any registered right of way over it. Confirmation of ownership might become clearer as the land registration work progressed. It was felt that the residents should make their own efforts to block up the holes if they so wished.

#### **TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE**

A constructive and pleasant meeting and party had taken place with volunteers on 14 April, and Cllrs Crawley, Robinson, Mrs Thorpe, Mrs Way and the Clerk were thanked for attending. The Clerk advised that Severn Trent would be replacing the water meter this week in the hope that this would resolve the overenthusiastic water usage records.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

The Clerk had met with a lady responsible for her father's grave, but it transpired his headstone was perfectly secure, and it was the headstone of another unconnected member of the Ind family which had been twice laid down. This appeared to be a very old headstone and the Clerk thought it might be impossible to locate someone responsible for it.

The leaking spring situation was particularly bad and the Clerk had been advised by Mr John Davis of the PCC that it was looking into the original deeds when the land opposite was sold for housing, in the hope that there might have been a covenant putting responsibility on the developer to maintain the water course.

#### **BUNTING HILL REGENERATION PROJECT**

Cllr Mrs Way's report of 12 April had been circulated with copy of a letter from Ms Sarah Ellis, Public Rights of Way officer regarding the footpath, and an extract from regulations relating to Risks Arising from Mineral Workings – ie. NTC's responsibility for the old quarry.

Lengthy discussion ensued about –

- a) Whether NTC wished to encourage public access to the Bunting Hill slope
- b) Whether and who should reinstate the lower footpath
- c) How to deal with the private property which had encroached on the footpath
- d) Whether and what additional protection/warning should be given to the old quarry beyond the existing impenetrable thicket
- e) What the real dangers of the site actually were, noting that the situation was unchanged and there had been no complaints nor accidents in the past

It was agreed that the options were many and that these should be considered within a framework of objectives for the area.

**PROPOSED that Cllrs Crawley, Kay and Mrs Way would prepare a policy framework for the future of Bunting Hill with options for the committee to explore. Cllr Nicholson would draft a response to Ms Sarah Ellis advising NTC's intentions and that the footpath issue would be revisited at a later date. Cllrs Nicholson and Robinson with the Clerk would visit the site in the meantime.**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Cllr Nicholson had not yet been able to visit the wholesaler.

**TRANSPORT ISSUES**

District Cllr Blackwell, having offered to pursue their case, continued to be opportuned by Ringfield Close residents wanting a crossing, mirror, elderly people crossing sign, on the A46 level with Park Road. The Clerk read out the latest reply from Mr Chris Riley, GCC Highways, clarifying the criteria for installing a mirror or sign (the crossing proposal having already been discounted) showing that this site clearly did not comply. The Clerk would pass the details to Cllr Blackwell.

Cllr Robinson had referred a resident to GCC on this question, but was interested to know if it had been considered before that the one way system in Market Street should be reversed. Cllr Nicholson responded that several different permutations for the road system in Market Street/Butcher Hill's Lane/Brewery Lane had been looked at before, but none was ideal and would result in pushing the traffic problem elsewhere. In addition, a consensus of opinion had never been obtained from Market Street shop owners.

Cllr Mrs Way reported that she had been approached by residents of Whipps Lane Watledge regarding a water leak which had been referred to Severn Trent, which advised it was merely ground water. The residents did not agree and Mr Mike Brinkworth was leading the campaign and further information was expected from Severn Trent.

Cllr Crawley had spotted a new community based cooperative energy company which had recently started up, and it was agreed to invite a representative of the company to come to a future meeting of the committee.

Following Cllr Crawley's offer to help with the attempt to have Redrow Homes complete the procedure for formal adoption of the new roads at Forest Green, Forest Rise Management Company had been advised to write in to NTC, which letter was awaited.

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Date

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Chairman