

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
**RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of a meeting held on 7 October 2014

Present	Cllr S Robinson (chair) Cllr N Dart Cllr MM Rahman
In attendance	Cllr NI Kay Cllr SM Reed
Apologies	Cllr MP Robinson Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	Cllr P Carter Cllr JL Duckworth

In the absence of Cllr Thorpe, the meeting was chaired by Cllr S Robinson .  
It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Cllrs Kay and Reed onto the Committee for the meeting.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **REQUEST FOR PETANQUE AREA IN KGV FIELD**

Cllr Duckworth circulated a suggested design and location for a potential petanque court in the KGV field which he had received from local resident Mr Mike Harvey. Cllr Carter reported, however, that the members of the Twinning Association had recently been investigating alternative sites in the Town Centre as they favoured a more central location and he understood that WSP Solicitors had offered the use of its car park in Cossack Square. In the light of this information, the Clerk was asked to check with Mr Allan Beale whether the Association still wished to pursue the KGV as a possible site and Cllr Duckworth agreed to liaise with Mr Harvey.

*Cllrs Carter and Duckworth left the meeting at this point.*

#### **TOWN HALL - UPDATE ON REPAIRS**

Cllr S Robinson reported that the flat roof to the kitchen, which was currently being repaired by Mr Peter Merrett to solve a long-term damp problem, had developed a further leak which had unfortunately flooded the kitchen and cause the power to the wall sockets to fail. On investigation, it had appeared that the problem had been caused by a combination of recent heavy rainfall and a faulty overflow pipe which had broken off flush to the outside wall, causing water to flow back into the building. This problem had been compounded by a faulty ball valve in the tank supplying the lower ground floor toilets.

Sue Nicholson reported that Mr Merrett had been working to resolve the problem and had informed her that he was confident that the kitchen was now watertight, as he had extended the overflow pipe, repaired the ball valve and would soon have completed the scheduled repairs to the roof parapet. He had installed a humidifier in the kitchen and would repair the damaged ceiling once the room had dried out sufficiently. She had placed a notice in the kitchen instructing hirers not to attempt to use the kitchen sockets or cooker and had asked SP Electrical to inspect them.

Cllr Robinson stated that the kitchen ceiling would need repainting once repairs had been completed and asked Sue Nicholson to check that this was programmed.

#### **MORTIMER ROOM – UPDATE ON REPAIRS**

There was nothing to report at the current time.

#### **HAZELWOOD BUNGALOW – REPLACEMENT OF HEATING SYSTEM**

Cllr S Robinson reported that a controller pump in the hot water and heating system of the Hazelwood Bungalow had failed and could not be replaced owing to the age of the system. Quotes had been obtained from each of three potential contractors for two

possible options, one to update the current system to a fully pumped system and the other to replace the current system with a new COMBI boiler.

After discussion, it was **agreed in principle** to accept the lowest suitable quote for the option to replace the system with a new COMBI boiler, subject to clarification of some of the details of the three quotations, and Cllr S Robinson undertook to investigate further and report back.

## **KGV FIELD**

### **Changing rooms**

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had attended the signing off of the **roof repairs** to the changing rooms with the architect and a company representative. The scaffolding had now been removed and the **new windows** for the changing rooms and Hazelwood Bungalow would be installed on 22 October after which volunteers from the Forest Green ladies' football club would paint the outside of the building.

### **Pavilion**

Cllr S Robinson reported that the Mayor had shown a potential hirer around the pavilion who was interested in running a health and fitness club.

### **Provision of shade for play area**

Cllr S Robinson reported that Cllr Thorpe had been investigating various means of providing shade for the play area and would be reporting back to the Committee in due course.

## **TOWN GARDENING**

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had met with the relevant tutor from Ruskin Mill College to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the Clock Tower Garden. The tutor had confirmed that the College was keen to continue with this activity. A lady living in Market Street had kindly volunteered to look after the flower bed at Leves Corner.

Cllr S Robinson agreed to ask the Mayor to send a letter thanking the local Rotary Club for its efforts in maintaining flower troughs in the town.

## **MILES MARLING FIELD**

### **Essential boundary clearance**

Cllr S Robinson reported that three potential contractors had been approached to provide quotations for flailing the boundaries of the MM field and removing lower branches of trees near the roadside entrance up to a height of around 15 feet. He explained that the proposed work would have the benefit of opening up the field to enable the new fitness equipment to be clearly visible once installed and could also help discourage anti-social behaviour. Thick hedges at the roadside entrance were restricting pedestrians' view of the road which could compromise their safety when exiting the field. Cllr S Robinson had visited the field with one contractor who had submitted a quote for the work specified and included provision for cutting back the hedges at each side of the gate to improve visibility for pedestrians and traffic. During the visit it had been noted that large limbs from two trees were jutting out into the road and provision for removal of the limbs had been included in the quote. Cllr S Robinson would be visiting the field in the near future with each of two further potential contractors and each would be asked to quote for the same work.

After discussion it was **agreed in principle** to accept the lowest suitable quote and that authority be delegated to the Cllr Thorpe, in conjunction with the Clerk, to make the final decision.

### **Quote for removal of BMX ramps**

Cllr Dart advised that removal of the redundant BMX ramps in the field could be done with a JCB and small skip and it was agreed that Cllr Dart would submit a quotation for the work, including making good and re-seeding the ground. Additional quotes would also be sought.

**Proposal to seek longer term lease on Miles Marling field**

Cllr S Robinson reported that during a meeting with the Leader and Deputy Leader of SDC he and Cllr Thorpe had raised the suggestion that SDC consider selling the lower half of the MM field to NTC and had been advised that SDC would be likely to prefer the idea of a long term lease to that of a sale.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential advantages to the community which could result from NTC’s ownership of the whole field, with councillors suggesting that this would give the Council greater freedom to develop the field as a ‘community park’ style leisure facility.

After further discussion, it was agreed to recommend that the Clerk be asked to write to SDC requesting that it consider selling the lower half of the Miles Marling Field to NTC on the basis that NTC would wish to develop the field solely for community leisure purposes.

**UPDATE ON MUGA PROJECT**

Cllr S Robinson reported that details of the Council’s surveyor had been passed on to the Diocese at its request.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he understood that Forest Green Residents’ Association (FGRA) which had representatives on the MUGA Working Party, had independently approached SDC to voice objections to the proposal that the proposed MUGA be sited on land at the Primary School. He felt that this was regrettable.

Discussion ensued, during which Cllr Kay stated that he felt it was important to emphasise that SDC had specified that the relevant Section 106 monies to be spent in Forest Green were for the benefit of the people of the whole of Nailsworth. Cllr Reed commented that the MUGA initiative had originally emerged as one of several proposed projects from a community consultation exercise carried out by Nailsworth Action Group in 2002. This had involved a variety of local groups and key individuals living in Forest Green. Forest Green Residents’ Association was constituted in 2004.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT YEAR’S BUDGET**

After discussion, it was agreed to put forward the following budget items to Council:

Second phase of refurbishment of ground floor gents’ toilets: £10,000

Repairs to kitchen stairs in Town Hall: £2,000

Town Hall decoration: £5,000

Replacement vehicle for Town Groundsman: £10,000

Employment of part time gardener (8 months): £4,000

Miles Marling Field improvements: £20,000

Troughs x 3 and flowers for town centre: £1,000

Replacement of entrance doors to Town Hall with glass doors: £10,000

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Clerk be asked to write to SDC requesting that it consider selling the lower half of the Miles Marling Field to NTC on the basis that NTC would wish to develop the field solely for community leisure purposes.

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Chair

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Date