

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 5 August 2014

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| Present | Cllr S E Thorpe (chairman) Cllr N Dart Cllr N I Kay Cllr M M Rahman Cllr M P Robinson Cllr S Robinson |
| Present for part of the meeting | Mr Allan Beale and Mr John Nutting (Item 2) |

REQUEST FOR PENTANQUE PLAYING AREA ON KGV FIELD

The Mayor welcomed Mr Allan Beale and Mr John Nutting to the meeting and invited them to explain the background to their request for the provision of a pentanque piste on KGV field.

Mr Beale, a member of Nailsworth Twinning Association, explained that pentanque was a popular game played regularly in Leves, Nailsworth's twin town and that games had occasionally taken place on private land in Nailsworth during twinning visits. Mr Beale explained that he was requesting NTC's support in principle for the provision of a piste in the KGV field, measuring possibly 12 metres by 6 metres to enable two games to be played simultaneously. Mr Beale had not yet had the opportunity to research the costs of providing such a facility but he reported that he had been in touch with an organisation which could potentially give grants of up to £1000 for this purpose. He understood that Stonehouse Town Council had recently installed a piste on its playing field.

Mr Nutting explained that he had been playing pentanque with a local team for around 20 years and the team had competed with some success in regional tournaments. Until recently, they had used a piste in the garden of a private dwelling, but as this was no longer available they were currently using one in Prestbury, Cheltenham. It was possible that members of the team might visit Leves and play a local team there and he would like to be able to play a return match in Nailsworth at some point in the future. Mr Nutting stated that the game was accessible to all ages and he felt there could be a potential demand in the town for a facility. He envisaged that his team would wish to use the facility on a weekly basis and might be willing to provide coaching for local residents wishing to learn the game.

In discussion, councillors felt that it was an interesting idea but agreed that they were not in a position to reach a conclusion in the absence of detailed information on costings, materials and the level of local demand for the proposed facility. Cllr Thorpe stated that she understood that Egypt Mill, which had previously provided a piste, had now discontinued this owing to lack of demand, and she suggested that Mr Beale and Mr Nutting might wish to consult local residents to attempt to establish potential usage of a piste in the KGV field. It was suggested that there other locations in the town such as the Tynings play area or Miles Marling field which might be worth considering. Cllr M Robinson expressed an interest in visiting the Stonehouse piste and Cllr Thorpe suggested that it might be helpful for NTC to seek further details from Stonehouse Town Council.

After further discussion it was agreed that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting of the Committee in October.

TOWN HALL

Vandalism to windows

Three quotations had been obtained for the repair of the Town Hall windows. The insurance company had confirmed acceptance of the quotation from Stephen Peart, which was the lowest, and the work had been put in hand.

Renovation of main hall floor

The work would commence on the 11 August and last approximately 2 weeks.

Security gate at bottom of stairs

The Clerk had circulated photographs of the proposed automated security shutter. She reported that she had researched the cost of a replacement lock on the existing gate, which amounted to £250. In discussion, councillors felt that this option did not address the health and safety issues raised by the existence of the base rod which was a potential trip hazard and agreed to recommend that the automatic shutter with the keypad option and in the lightest colour available should therefore be purchased and installed.

Stage lighting

Cllr Thorpe reported that it appeared that some of the stage floodlights owned by NTC had been mislaid. The Clerk was liaising with Nailsworth Dramatic Society to track them down. It was suggested that NTC should mark its stage lighting (spots and floods) to identify its ownership and that an inventory of all NTC property in the Town Hall should be carried out in due course.

Electrical inspection

The Clerk reported that the three-yearly electrical inspection was due to be carried out in the near future.

Termination of Rowan Tree Kindergarten hire

Cllr Thorpe reported that the Rowan Tree Kindergarten had now closed and its rental agreement with NTC had ceased. However, the Play Circle Parent and Toddler group would be hiring the lower room from the start of the September term under the same terms and conditions but using less storage space than the kindergarten. The group would initially use the room 4 mornings per week but might also wish to increase to 5 in the future.

Ground floor gents' toilets

Cllr S Robinson reported that he and Cllr M Robinson planned to inspect the gents' toilets on 6 August in order to begin the process of making recommendations for refurbishment.

Action: Cllrs M and SR Robinson

KGV PLAYING FIELD

Extension field drainage

Cllr M Robinson reported that he had written to the landowner, Mr Smith, enclosing the report on the land drainage proposals in the extension field and suggesting a meeting to discuss possible solutions for mutual benefit.

Changing rooms repairs

Cllr S Robinson reported that repairs to the roof of the changing rooms were in progress. Some rotten beams had been discovered but there were sufficient funds in the budget for their replacement. Cllr Robinson had received three quotes for the replacement of the changing room windows. The costs could be accommodated within the £16,000 budget allocation for improvements to the changing rooms. Cllr S Robinson had also asked the contractors to quote for replacing a window in the Hazelwood Bungalow to match the existing. After discussion, it was agreed, under delegated powers agreed at the Council meeting on 15 July, to accept the quote of £1,475 from Barry Hunt Ltd to **replace the changing rooms windows** and £450.10+VAT to **replace a window in Hazelwood Bungalow**, with the latter being funded from the Hazelwood Bungalow repairs budget.

Cllr Thorpe reported that Forest Green Rovers FC Ladies' Team had volunteered to paint the outside of the changing rooms once the repairs had been completed. It was agreed to accept the offer and that NTC would fund the paint. The Clerk had asked the Town Groundsman to paint the floor.

Action: Clerk

KGV Pavilion

Cllrs Thorpe and M Robinson had inspected the pavilion and, in view of the improvements made to the building by the former tenant, approved her request to be released from her rent obligation and electricity charges for the month of August.

Discussion ensued on possible ways of publicising the availability of the pavilion for hire. Cllr S Robinson agreed to approach the local scouting organisation to see if it might be interested in renting the building, although it was acknowledged that this would restrict its availability for the casual user. Councillors were mindful that the building's floor was unsuitable for strenuous fitness activities and the Mayor agreed to publicise its availability for 'gentle activities' in his article for the September edition of Nailsworth News. In discussion, it was suggested that professional signage for the KGV pavilion and changing rooms/toilets incorporating the Nailsworth crest and NTC contact details be considered, and the Mayor and Cllr Thorpe undertook to investigate this possibility and report back to the Committee in due course.

Action: Cllr M Robinson; Cllr S Robinson; Cllr Thorpe

Provision of shade for play area

During the recent hot weather, Cllr Thorpe had noted that there was very limited shade adjacent to the play area which could make it uncomfortable for parents and carers supervising children. Cllr Thorpe had received information from Gloucester Playing Fields Association regarding suitable planting and sun-shelters, and she agreed to investigate further and report back to the Committee, bearing in mind that the planting of deciduous trees or shrubs in that location would create extra work for the Town Groundsman as the leaves would need to be swept each autumn. Cllr Kay agreed to forward details of a further potential supplier of trees and shrubs to Cllr Thorpe.

Action: Cllr Thorpe; Cllr Kay

Cllr S Robinson thanked Cllr Thorpe on behalf of the Committee for her hard work in submitting an excellent and professional application to County Cllr Binns for grant aid for fitness equipment in the KGV field.

MARKET STREET GARDEN

Cllr Thorpe expressed the view that Market Street Garden was looking somewhat drab at this point in the summer and suggested consideration be given to additional planting. The Clerk advised that the current planting was designed to be low-maintenance and cautioned that bedding plants were labour-intensive.

After discussion, the Clerk was requested to ask local gardener Mrs Kath Neilson for advice on suitable colourful low-maintenance plants for the garden and liaise with Cllr Thorpe.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Thorpe

TOWN GARDENING

Cllr Thorpe stated that as NTC had significantly increased its garden and planting areas in the town centre over the past few years considerable extra maintenance work had been created for the Town Groundsman, who was not, after all, primarily employed as a gardener. She suggested that the Council consider employing a professional gardener one day per week. After discussion, it was agreed to include an item for the **employment of a part time gardener** at a cost of approximately £4000 p.a. in the Committee's budget wish-list for next year.

MILES MARLING FIELD

The Clerk reported that the contractor was now cutting the grass area near the youth shelter.

Cllr Thorpe reported that consultation with the town's youth had confirmed that the BMX ramps in the Miles Marling field were no longer being used and it was agreed that they should be removed. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether it was feasible to offer them free to other councils via GAPTC.

Action: Clerk

REVIEW OF PLAY AREAS

Cllr Thorpe presented her notes on the review of NTC's major play areas in the town, the KGV and Miles Marling (MM) fields, which had been previously circulated to all cllrs. In this connection Cllrs Thorpe and Dart had visited the MM field with Mr Graham Ross of Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and Mr Vince Southcott, head of Nailsworth Primary School. The visit had yielded a number of ideas for developing the field in order to make it an attractive destination for families of all ages. Mr Ross had agreed to review NTC's provision against that of other playing fields to enable comparisons to be made.

It was agreed to recommend that the Working Party be disbanded and its functions absorbed into the Recreation and Amenities Committee, and that arrangements be made for Committee members to **tour the KGV and Miles Marling fields** with the Clerk and the Town Groundsman in order to firm up the ideas expressed in the review notes into clear recommendations.

PROPOSAL FOR RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE TO BE GIVEN DELEGATED POWERS ON SPENDING

Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr S Robinson and to unanimous approval, proposed that the Recreation and Amenities Committee be given delegated power to authorise expenditure on items included in the Committee and Committee designated fund budgets subject to a ceiling of £5000.

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that the security gate at the bottom of the Town Hall stairs be **replaced with a roller shutter**, in the lightest colour available, with keypad and a battery operated backup, at a cost of £1125 excluding VAT

RECOMMENDED that the **Open Spaces Working Party be disbanded** and its functions absorbed into the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

RECOMMENDED that the Recreation and Amenities Committee be given delegated power to **authorise expenditure on items included in the Committee and Committee designated fund budgets** subject to a ceiling of £5000.