

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 18 September 2012

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MM Rahman Cllr SM Reed Cllr MP Robinson Cllr SE Thorpe
Apologies	Cllr MJ Kelly District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims County Cllr JS Waddington

2012/81 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Parsons from 4 Old Bristol Road asked when the Council would next be discussing its policy for parking in the Town Hall car park. The Mayor explained that the Council was awaiting the results of the recent review by SDC of car parking regulations in the town, and that NTC policy was to maintain the status quo for the section of the car park under its ownership.

2012/82 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July were approved and signed.

2012/83 Anti Social Behaviour in the Town: Minute 2012/30

The Mayor reported that one of the adults who had been causing concern by excess daytime drinking had been arrested and held on remand and was likely to remain so for a month. This appeared to have reduced the problem.

2012/84 Report of Recreation and Amenities Committee: Minute 2012/60

The Mayor reported that the new half-pipe at KGV field had now been painted.

2012/85 Developments with Nailsworth Library: Minute 2012/62

In reply to a question by Cllr Thorpe, the Mayor confirmed that GCC had responded to NTC's submission to the consultation process on library opening hours, but that this response had merely re-affirmed GCC's existing policy.

2012/86 Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies: Minute 2012/69

Cllr Elliott advised that the start date for the new weekly CAB advice sessions at the Arkell Community Centre was 2 October 2012. Sessions would run between 1.00 – 3.30 pm.

2012/87 Report of Environment Committee: Minute 2012/70

The Mayor announced that the proposed training evening for the new committee structure would take place on Thursday 18 October at 7pm in the Council Chamber and he urged all councillors to do their best to attend.

2012/88 Report of Planning Committee: Minute 2012/71

Cllr M Robinson advised that that the planning application for change of use of the former Police Station had not yet been determined. Once approval had been granted the various legal issues relating to access could be pursued. In response to a question from Cllr Reed, Cllr M Robinson confirmed that no detailed business plan for the development of the building had been produced. However, a basic financial report had been circulated at the full Council meeting on 17 July. Cllrs Thorpe and Reed expressed the view that it would be helpful to have a written summary of the various decisions made by the Council relating to the acquisition and proposed use of the building. Cllr Reed agreed to produce an appropriate document and suggested that this be presented to a future Property Management Committee meeting.

2012/89 REPORT of COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington had sent his apologies and emailed a brief report to the Clerk. GCC officers had arranged to visit Beechwood Close in Forest Green to discuss with residents issues relating to the access to this road from the Lawnside footpath, where it was alleged that anti-social behaviour had been taking place. Gloucestershire county council's cabinet had approved the signing of the contract with Urbaser Balfour Beatty to develop an energy-from-waste incinerator at Javelin Park, just outside Gloucester.

Apologies had been received from District Cllrs Sims and Blackwell. Cllr Carter reported that SDC would shortly be debating policy on dog fouling in the District. The District Council had decided to replace its Standards Committee with a new Standards Panel which would investigate alleged breaches of Councillors' Code of Conduct. It was proposed that this panel would comprise the Monitoring Officer, one district and one parish councillor and two independents. If a breach had occurred, the Panel would recommend appropriate action to the relevant town or parish council, but that council would not be bound by the recommendation. Cllr Carter explained that this was in line with the principles of the Localism Act.

Cllr Carter reported that new government regulations had meant that business rates would no longer be distributed by central government, but would be administered locally by district councils. It had been estimated that this could lead to a possible 10% shortfall in SDC income. He explained that SDC had no plans to deal with any shortfall by removing or reducing benefits to its business ratepayers. Cllr Carter felt that, though the new system had its risks, it did at least provide incentives to district councils for increasing the number of businesses in its area. In response to a question from Cllr Kay, Cllr Carter confirmed that though it was understood to be legally possible for district councils to withhold town and parish council precepts to make up for any shortfall in revenue, it was not SDC policy to do this.

2012/90 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that the celebratory visit to Nailsworth by local Olympic Gold Medallist Pete Reed on Saturday 15 September had been a great success, and that feedback from the community had been extremely positive. He extended his thanks to all those who had helped in any way to make the event such an excellent community day.

The Mayor explained that he had been particularly busy over the summer, especially during August. This was in part due to the fact that so many of his fellow councillors had been away. Whilst he recognised that August was traditionally a major month for holidays, he reminded councillors that the work of the council had of necessity to continue throughout this month.

2012/91 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

There was nothing to report.

2012/92 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk informed councillors that a number of publications from the CPRE and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust had been received in the office.

2012/93 REPORTS from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Elliott was pleased to report that the recent Launch Meeting for the CAB advice sessions at the Arkell Centre had gone very well, and she thanked all those involved. The weekly sessions were due to start on 2 October and would be trialled for six months. Cllr Duckworth pointed out that usage was likely to take some time to build, and that it was important to encourage people to use the service.

Cllr Thorpe reported on a meeting of the Children's Centre Partnership Board which she had attended the previous week. She felt that Children's Centres, with their multi-agency approach, did excellent work in preparing children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, for school. In her view Nailsworth was very fortunate in having this type of service available. She explained that the Children's Centre service was going through a county-wide re-tendering process. This meant that in the Stroud area the service, currently being provided by Dr Barnados, would be up for tender for the second time in 18 months.

Cllr Reed reported on a recent meeting of the Nailsworth/Vumilia Link Organisation. She explained that this body was set up two years previously to forge a link with a village in Tanzania, along the lines of the long-established Minchinhampton/Nkokoto arrangement. The Vumilia Link Group's current aim was to raise the sum of around £7000 for a borehole to improve access to clean water, and it had already raised nearly three quarters of that sum. Cllr Reed suggested that the aims of the Group were strongly linked with NTC's vision and values, as expressed through the Council's commitment to supporting the Fairtrade Town initiative. The Vumilia Group now had charitable status and she hoped that NTC would consider endorsing the aims of the group, as she felt that such recognition could be helpful when the group applied to various bodies for funding for its projects.

Cllr Duckworth reported on a recent meeting of the Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce. It appeared that its finances were healthy, as the Farmers' Market helped to generate income. However, membership had dropped off and consequently the Chamber had decided to launch a new membership drive which would include a reduction of the annual membership fee from £45 to £10. The Membership Secretary had agreed to try to visit all the town's traders to promote the Chamber prior to its next meeting, which would take place on 27 September. Cllr Duckworth reported that there would be no Christingle Evening this year owing to the retirement or resignation of key personnel. However, at its next meeting, the Chamber would be discussing the possibility of holding some kind of Christmas fair on Saturday 22 December. He understood that this would not involve any applications for road closures.

2012/94 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of 1 and 21 August 2012 were approved and signed. Cllr Carter reported that the height of the fence at Yewdales had now been reduced to comply with planning regulation. Cllr M Robinson explained that, though the Committee had made no observations on the change of use from agricultural to equestrian at land to rear of Plumbers Lane, Shortwood, there had been some general discussion of the desirability of retaining the agricultural nature of the Newmarket valley.

2012/95 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 24 July 2012 were approved and signed. The Mayor, who had chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr M Robinson, presented the minutes. He reported that **the scaffolding to enable the work to the Town Hall windows** had now been erected and would remain in position until the repair work took place during the October half-term week. The Mayor reported that a **dedication ceremony** for the Mark Chandler memorial plaque at the War Memorial would take place on 4 November.

2012/96 REPORT OF RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2012 were approved, subject to the removal of the highlighted phrase from the following sentence 'There was some discussion of possible sites for a MUGA elsewhere in the town, **but it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for the Miles Marling or the KGV fields.**'

Cllr Duckworth reported on his ongoing discussions with Peter Wilson, Neighbourhood Warden, regarding the possible **spray painting of dog waste**. It appeared that it might be necessary to gain permission from GCC Highways for any spraying which took place on its land.

The Mayor advised that a public meeting had been arranged on 1 October 2012 to discuss issues relating to the **policing of street drinking and anti-social behaviour in the town**. Chief Inspector Martina Lamden of Gloucestershire Police and Philip Sullivan of SDC had agreed to attend. The meeting would take place at Nailsworth Town Hall. It was agreed that the meeting should be advertised on the Town Hall noticeboard and the Town Council website.

Cllr Thorpe explained that the **increase in hire charges** for the KGV Field and tennis courts had been kept as low as possible in order to make sporting activities accessible to all. She reported that a **special meeting of Council** had been arranged for 30 October 2012 at 7pm in the Council Chamber to discuss issues relating to the MUGA. Cllr Kay agreed to distribute a paper giving an overview on the history and development of the MUGA project to all councillors in advance of the meeting. Representatives of Nailsworth Primary School and SDC would be invited to the meeting and Cllr Kay hoped that all NTC councillors would try to attend.

Cllr Kay expressed his hope that the Council would accept the Committee's recommendation to **amend the Clock Tower banner posts policy** to extend the use to include Horsley and Woodchester as well as Nailsworth, to be reviewed in six months' time. Some councillors felt that it would not be appropriate to exclude other parishes adjoining Nailsworth. Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr Kay, proposed that the wording of point 1 of the policy be amended to read '*Use of the banner posts is restricted to organisations and events within the parish of Nailsworth and to events in adjoining parishes relevant to the town*'. On being put to the vote, the amendment was **lost**, with 4 councillors in support and 6 against.

Cllr Duckworth, seconded by Cllr Thorpe, proposed the following:

'Point 1 of the banner post policy will continue to read '*Use of the banner posts is restricted to organisations and events within the parish of Nailsworth*', to be reviewed in six months' time. On being put to the vote, this was **resolved**, with 5 councillors in support, 4 against, and 1 abstention. It was agreed that existing bookings should be honoured.

2012/97 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 11 September 2012 were approved and signed.

In response to a question from Cllr Kay, the Clerk confirmed that it was her understanding that the area in front of Nos 1 and 2 The Green, Nympsfield Rd was common land and that the issue raised by the resident of No 2 required his response to the Council's request for details of his access rights.

Two proposals, with costings, for the **ongoing maintenance of Norton Wood** were circulated to Environment Committee members. Cllr Reed explained that these would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee. Cllr Reed reported that she would shortly be meeting with the Clerk to agree locations for additional LED motifs for the **town Christmas lights**.

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Stan Waddington had informed her that he had sent another email to GCC Highways in which he had expressed support for NTC's request for consideration of lowering of pavements along Bath Rd and cross-hatching at the junction of Tabram's Pitch and Avening Rd as part of **the A46 Inchbrook to Tiltups resurfacing scheme**. Councillors expressed their disappointment that the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the A46 at Dunkirk Mill had been dropped from the GCC Highways Scheme.

Cllr Carter reported that he had written to the Lawnside resident asking her to clarify the details of the issue she had raised regarding 'broadband towers'.

2012/98 Adoption of New Code of Conduct

Cllr Carter proposed, seconded by Cllr M Robinson to unanimous support, that the SDC Draft Code of Conduce for Town and Parish Councils be adopted. The Clerk reported that she had received some completed Declaration of Interest forms from councillors. She issued further copies to councillors who had not yet returned theirs. She advised councillors that they would need to sign and return a new Declaration of Office form which she would have available for the next Council meeting.

2012/99 Proposed Alcohol Ban in Nailsworth Town Centre

The Mayor reported that the police had expressed support for the principle of an alcohol ban Throughout the Nailsworth parish. In their view it would enable them to deal more effectively with some of the anti-social behaviour which had been occurring in the town. He had been advised by the Chief Inspector that it might be possible for exemptions to be made to cover events such as the Christingle Evening. Discussion ensued, with some councillors expressing support for the principle of a ban, whilst some felt that existing laws, if fully enforced, were sufficient to deal with problems of anti-social behaviour. Councillors were agreed that an alcohol ban was a serious step and that it was important that local residents were made aware of all the implications of such a ban and that there should be extensive consultation. The Mayor explained that it was his understanding that the process of implementing a ban would take around 12 months, and that the costs would be borne by SDC.

It was agreed that a **training session** could be arranged if required to consider all aspects of a possible ban, to which the Chief Inspector and representatives of SDC Community Safety Team would be invited. The Mayor advised that Dursley had an alcohol ban in place and he agreed to contact Dursley Town Clerk to discuss its implementation, and its effectiveness for that community.

2012/100 Motion on NHS Re-organisation

Cllr Thorpe proposed the following motion, seconded by Cllr Rahman:

'This Council wants to keep community services within the NHS by these services going into a stand- alone NHS Trust'.

Cllr Thorpe explained that it was her understanding that over 90% of NHS staff had

expressed a wish to stay as employees of the NHS, and that this could be achieved by the establishment of a stand-alone trust. She had already responded as an individual to the current consultation document on the future of health provision in the area, and she was now hoping that NTC would respond as a body by supporting the motion. Cllr Thorpe explained that Stroud Town Council had recently passed a similar motion. The consultation process was due to end in early October. Cllr Kay commended the motion to fellow councillors, expressing the view that many people in the area supported the creation of a stand-alone trust, and his hope that their preference would prevail. He felt that NTC support for the motion could help to ensure that this was the case. He reminded councillors that NTC had previously supported the legal challenge to the original NHS proposals for Gloucestershire, which had led to the current consultation process.

However, other councillors felt that, whilst they might support the motion in principle, they would need to study the consultation document in detail before supporting it.

When put to the vote, the motion was **carried**, with 6 votes in favour and 4 abstentions. Cllr Thorpe agreed to draft an appropriate letter for the Clerk to forward to the relevant body.

2012/101 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk presented accounts for August and September 2012. The Clerk provided explanations in response to queries on Items 137, 154 and 160.

RESOLVED that the lists of accounts for 12 August and 18 September 2012 amounting to £14,012.27 and £16,000.38 respectively be approved for payment.

2012/102 Audit Commission – appointment of external auditor from 2012/13

The Clerk explained that there had been a change of contractor, but the costs to councils of external auditing would remain unchanged.

2012/103 Moore Stephens – annual audit for year ended 31/03/12

Some queries had been raised by the auditor regarding internal record-keeping. The Clerk would liaise with other Town and Parish Clerks to resolve the issues.

2012/104 GMTF AGM

This would take place at Cinderford on 27 September 2012.

2012/105 CAB AGM

This would take place at Ebley Mill on 19 September 2012.

2012/106 GCC Third Local Transport Plan – Updated guidance documents

The information was noted.

2012/107 Arkell Community Centre Charitable Trust Fund – First AGM

The Mayor reminded councillors that this meeting would take place at the Arkell Community Centre on 24 September at 7pm.

..... Chair

..... Date