

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 September 2011

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr N Dart Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr N I Kay Cllr M M Rahman Cllr M P Robinson * Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr RT Blackwell
Apologies	Cllr P Carter Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr Mrs SM Reed County Cllr WS Waddington
	* absence from part of the meeting

Cllr Duckworth was welcomed to the council and to his first meeting. He was delighted to be joining NTC and outlined some of the key areas he hoped to help with, in particular methods of communication with residents. In support of the council's environmental policy, Cllr Duckworth intended to come to meetings either by bike or on foot.

2011/81 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Gail Smith asked if the £100k borrowed from NTC to aid cashflow for the Arkell project had been repaid. The Clerk explained that whilst NTC had agreed to loan up to £100k if necessary to aid cash flow, in the event only £25k had been borrowed for 2 weeks to cover a shortfall caused by a delayed grant payment.. She confirmed that the £25k had been returned to NTC.

John Burfitt advised that a residents' action group had been formed in order to fight SDC's parking charges proposals and respond as a body to the consultation document. A website www.nprag.org.uk had been launched which had already received over 3500 hits, and 70 members had joined the action group. Mr Burfitt outlined the common concerns about the effects of introducing parking charges in the town and the action group's first report was circulated to the meeting.

2011/82 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July, and of the special meeting held on 16 August 2011 were approved and signed.

2011/83 ABUSIVE DRINKERS in MORTIMER GARDENS (minute 2011/58)

Cllr Kay was pleased to report that there had been no further incidents and the Mayor confirmed that the matter was under control with the cooperation of the police. Further details on the discussion were recorded in the minutes of the Recreation & Amenities committee meeting.

2011/84 CHANGES to POLICE SERVICE (minute 2011/59)

The Mayor reported that the new police desk was now set up in the Library, but the Clerk updated the meeting with information that all the police equipment had apparently been removed last weekend as it had been set up too early and was not yet allowed to be there (!)

2011/85 SDC £50k YOUTH GRANT (minute 2011/60)

The Mayor advised that a bid presentation had been made to Stroud Youth Council for a grant of £5k towards Nailsworth Youth Forum. £882 had been awarded from another grant source towards activities and would be used to run dance sessions and football training at FGR-FC.

2011/86 REPLACEMENT of COUNCIL CHAMBER WINDOWS (minute 2011/63)

Cllr M Robinson advised that SDC Planning was still demanding more changes to the design and colour of the new windows.

2011/87 SDC PARKING CHARGES PROPOSALS (minute 2011/79)

The Clerk had circulated the minute from the UDC meeting in 1938 regarding the parking area on Old Market (opposite Passage to India):

Extract from minutes of meeting of Nailsworth Urban District Council held on **6 December 1938** – original deposited in Gloucester Record Office.

Present:	Cllr G Clissold (chair)	Cllr F Grant
	Cllr G A Brinkworth	Cllr A H Partridge
	Cllr A W Newman	Cllr Mrs A Nicholls
	Cllr F Freshwater	Cllr J W Webb

Car Parking

It was unanimously resolved to place on record the acceptance from Mr G A Pavey-Smith of the offer of the lower and Eastern portion of the Old Market Place in Spring Hill as now fenced off from that portion of the Old Market Place retained by him on the following conditions:-

1. to take over and maintain the existing roadway in the Old Market Place as a 30 feet public highway and as shown in the Town Planning Scheme and as eventually to be continued as a new 30 feet highway leading to Britannia Square.
2. to take over and maintain the lower portion abutting the said 30 foot highway as a free car park with the proviso nevertheless that the Council may set aside and reserve such part as is necessary for maintaining (with or without payment) a bus station for public service vehicles.
3. to lay a public sewer along the upper and Western boundary of the 30 foot highway.
4. to remove the memorial fountain from Fountain Street and re-erect the same at some convenient site on the car park.

The above minute was approved at the next NUDC held on 3 January 1939.

p.516 Special meeting minutes of 16 August 2011. Action points – the relevant information had been requested from SDC and the Clerk was asked to send an email chaser.

Cllr Kay added that at the meeting with SDC, when Mr Hagg was presented with research indicating that paid parking had a negative effect on local economy, his replied: 'the jury is out'. Cllr Kay responded that SDC should not be considering the action at this difficult time if there was any question that it might be detrimental to the town. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that SDC had not undertaken any economic impact assessment on any of the locations under threat, and that SDC should be concerned about the economic wellbeing of all the towns in the District. Nailsworth had the most to lose as it had the largest retail centre, and there was strong evidence that footfall would fall by 30%.

2011/88 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Blackwell was pleased that discussion continued over the parking issue and felt there was still a chance to change SDC's mind with a final vote not taking place until November.

Cllr Blackwell expressed extreme concern about the future of the Police, and felt the force was being severely undermined by staff cuts, extended working years and lower pensions.

Cllr Blackwell mentioned one or two items regarding the surrounding area, noting that SDC estimated 9000 new homes would be required by 2026.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe drew attention to an article by Cllr Mrs Roden in a recent SNJ where it was announced that SDC was several million underspent - £1m on Revenue, £4m on Capital. Cllr Blackwell was not aware of this and would investigate.

2011/89 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

Much of the Mayor's time had been spent on parking issues, working alongside town trader Gordon Pearce. A petition with well over 3000 signatures had been handed in to Cllr Mrs Roden and the Mayor thanked all those who had helped with the campaign.

Ann Riley, new Library area manager and her line manager responsible for volunteers would attend the volunteers' meeting on Thursday 28 September. The Mayor was very disappointed that it would not be possible to bring the volunteers into play until 2 or 3 weeks after library opening was reduced to 12 hours on 3 October, as the County staff would all be new and had to familiarise themselves with the facility.

The Judicial Review, it transpired, only applied to community libraries, so that Nailsworth Link Library was therefore excluded from the process.

In agreement with Cllr Mrs Reed, the next Environment Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 8 November would take place on Monday 7th, as it clashed with Phil Sullivan's fund raising event for the Youth Club at Passage to India.

2011/90 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Mrs Thorpe supporting the parking campaign. She had been unable to attend last Friday's GCC meeting to discuss the future of Children's Centres but hoped to be able to report on this at the next meeting.

2011/91 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

2011/92 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Elliott advised that she awaited contact from the new manager at the CAB.

2011/93 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayor, acting chairman, gave the report of the meeting held on 13 September and the minutes were approved.

- The eight **Christmas light motifs** had been ordered.
- The Mayor and Cllr Mrs Reed had identified five suitable locations for the **'20 is plenty' signs**.
- Cllr Mrs Thorpe advised that the **Energy Neighbourhoods Competition** started on December 1st.
- Regarding the **cost of the bus up to Forest Green**, Cllr Mrs Elliott had checked the bus fare to Inchbrook and confirmed that this also cost £1.40/£2.40. Cllrs presumed then that this must be the minimum fare.

2011/94 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 26 July and the minutes were approved.

- He had had an informal chat with Allan Beale about the eventual viability of **relocating the Archives** to the old police station, so that the current TH space could be rented out.
- The **external TH decoration** awaited final agreement from SDC on the council chamber window colour.
- Cllr M Robinson advised that he had a quote for **replacement of the Hazelwood Bungalow window**, which he would bring to the next meeting of the committee.
- The Mayor asked that the next agenda include the **War Memorial**, following comments from Mrs Chandler and local residents.

2011/95 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Mayor and Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the meetings held on 21 July, 2 and 18 August, and 6 September. Cllr M Robinson gave additional explanation on some of the applications.

The meeting of 18 August had been held at the Arkell CC to trial use of a **projector and screen** in preparation for the new paperless process. NTC would however have to hire the room if meetings were to be held at that location, which would also interfere with the ACC's other rentals. Cllr M Robinson had arranged a meeting with Audio Visual (who provided the ACC system) on 27 September at 11am to discuss installation of a system in the council chamber; Cllr Duckworth would also attend. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that NTC already owned a laptop which could be used for this purpose.

With regard to pending **106 funds** which had to be used within a limited period, some councils had lodged this money in a special fund to help first time buyers. Another option was to investigate pockets of SDC land across the parish and lobby for new social housing with the intention of ensuring that Nailsworth 106 money remained in the town. Discussions continued with SDC.

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 21 July, 2 and 18 August and 6 September 2011 be approved.
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2011/96 REPORT of RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 9 August and the minutes were approved.

The new **skateboard ramp at KGV** would now be installed in the latter part of October.

Following discussion with the Diocese about location of the **MUGA**, members had met with the head teacher and chairman of school governors, who were unaware of the land swop suggestion. They then became quite enthusiastic at the idea of having the MUGA mid way between sites B and C, as they hoped to get planning permission to build houses on the Nymphsfield Road frontage. Former cllr Ian Crawley was happy to continue negotiating this project. It was noted however that he had been appointed school governor and was also advising FGR-FC, both of whom had their own agendas, so Cllrs would have to ensure the community priority of the MUGA was kept to the fore.

Work on the **Market Street garden** would start on Monday and sample bricks for the paving had been provided. It was estimated the costs would come well within the £30k revised budget.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe corrected the comment in the minutes about **dog bans in Cirencester** in that the ban was in place in play areas, on sports pitches and in *some* parks.

The **Nailsworth Games** meeting had been deferred from 12 September to next Monday at 6pm at the Youth Club. Cllrs were invited to attend and participate in coordinating the Games, the actual events being essentially run by the individual clubs. The school field could be used for key events,

and Cllr Kay confirmed that the Olympic torch bearers would be travelling from Bath to Cheltenham on Wednesday 23 May.

Andy Wilkins, skateboard supremo had agreed to do the **antislip ramp painting** at KGV, using the product recommended by Maverick, the work to be done this month and for which the ramps would be closed over a weekend. A possible donation of £70 might be forthcoming from the young people.

14 volunteers met with the Mayor and Cllr Mrs Elliott to discuss a celebration of the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**, and Karen Robbins was elected as coordinator to take forward the proposal to hold a luncheon, light a beacon and have a torchlight procession down the W, all on Sunday 3 June. It was noted that the Monday and Tuesday would be bank holidays.

2011/97 NTC RESPONSE to SDC CAR PARKING REVIEW

Cllr Kay had drafted responses to the questionnaire, following the structure of the Dursley response, as a starting point for discussion. Some amendments were suggested and Cllr Kay and Cllr Duckworth would make appropriate corrections and circulate the final version prior to submission.

2011/98 STROUD AGAINST the CUTS DEMONSTRATION

Cllr Mrs Thorpe gave some explanation of the proposal to remove a wide range of services from the NHS as soon as 1st October after minimal consultation with the public and those affected, and no scrutiny by GCC. Cllr M Robinson felt he had insufficient knowledge to make an informed decision.

RESOLVED	Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay that NTC agree to lend its support to the 'Stroud against the Cuts' demonstration on 24 September.
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The motion was carried with one abstention.

2011/99 ACCOUNTS

Item 131

The Clerk explained that the higher than usual cost was because the fee was based on the size of the account, which had been temporarily boosted by the Bequest money.

Item 141

This payment was cancelled; it referred to the creation of the Arkell CC website and had been included in error.

The Clerk reported that the Audit for 2010/11 had been successfully completed although a couple of observations had been made which could be looked at by the FE&GP in due course.

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 16 August 2011 amounting to £13,047.11 and the list for 20 September amounting to £22,725.92 be approved for payment.
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2011/100 Ecotricity – change of road name at FGR-FC

Cllrs were happy to support the renaming of 'Smith Way' to 'Another Way'. SDC had recommended that NTC be consulted, but apparently the sign had already been changed anyway.

2011/101 NYCE – invitation for NTC representative to join committee

Cllr Mrs Reed had indicated that she would be prepared to be NTC's representative on the committee as a non-voting co-optee which Cllrs were happy to approve.

2011/102 Mr I Selkirk (internal auditor) – changes to local council audit arrangements

Mr Selkirk, who had undertaken the council's internal audits for many years, wrote to advise that the Audit Commission had been disbanded and P&TCs were likely to be advised to seek audits from local companies. However, this was a specialist area and Mr Selkirk asked if NTC would, with no obligation,

support his application to undertake Audits for local councils. Cllrs were happy to approve the Clerk's recommendation that Mr Selkirk's application be supported.

2011/103 Sue Nicholson – renewal of Nailsworth's Fairtrade Town status

Cllrs were happy to support the renewal of the town's status and were confident that it continued to fulfil the appropriate criteria. Cllr Rahman would be replaced by Cllr Kay as NTC representative, but it was noted there had been no contact nor invitation to meetings for some time.

2011/104 GAPTC – motions for AGM

Cllr Kay would attend the AGM on 13 October at 6pm at Shire Hall. The Clerk advised that there were five nominations from Stroud for the committee. A list of motions had been put forward by other councils, and it was normal practice to delegate authority to NTC's attending representative to listen to the arguments and vote accordingly. Cllr Kay reiterated his intention to raise the matter of the inadequate action taken in following up one of the previous year's motions.

2011/105 GCC – Glos Waste Core Strategy; submission to Secretary of State

The document was available to view on the website or at the SDC offices.

2011/106 GMTF – Network meeting and AGM

Cllrs were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished to attend the meeting on 29 September at 5pm at Tewkesbury. Members could nominate a board director if so wished. Cllr Kay added that the funding opportunities had been reduced and charges were now being made for certain services.

2011/107 GCC – Highways Information Evening

The Mayor offered to attend the meeting on 10 October at 6pm at Shire Hall, at which winter preparations and highway contract news would be discussed.

2011/108 GCC – Summary of responses to Bus Review

The document was noted.

2011/109 GCC – road closure Old Market and Newmarket Road

Road closures were announced on 16, 23, 30 October and 6 November for carriageway repairs.

2011/110 SDC – Polling District & Polling Place Review

Details about the review had been circulated in early August and the Clerk had completed a questionnaire about the MR polling station. Cllr M Robinson wondered if it would now be more appropriate to have the FG polling station in the Arkell Centre rather than the school, but the Clerk pointed out that this would incur the loss of a day's revenue at the ACC and it did not disturb the school to have the polling station on its premises.

2011/111 Chief Constable – meeting re-scheduled for 12 October

Cllr M Robinson had attended last year and was happy to go again to the meeting on 12 October at 2pm at Highnam Village Hall. Any questions had to be put forward in advance.

2011/112 MEMBERSHIP of COMMITTEES

Cllr Duckworth would sit on Property Management, Recreation & Amenities, Communications (for which he was elected chairman) and FE&GP, and the updated committee list is attached.

..... Chairman

..... Date