



Minute 2009/158 – the motion re budget proposals was put by Cllr Mrs Way and seconded by Cllr Carter.

### **2010/183 COMPLIANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS (minute 2009/162)**

Cllr Carter had consulted GAPTC which had supported his belief that NTC was in breach of Standing Orders and had advised him that steps should be taken to comply with, or alter council policy. The Mayor reiterated that he was following the opinion of NTC's financial officer and did not agree that there was any contravention. Council would require a formal written objection supported by the view of an appropriate qualified body to consider the matter further.

### **2010/184 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Waddington** reported on the exciting weeks of snow and hoped the threat of more would not lead to greater problems. The thaw had revealed the greatly worsened condition of the **roads and multiple potholes**, which would need restoring at great expense and would likely take over 6 months. GCC was currently prioritising the most dangerous defects and a full inspection by the end of February would show the full extent of the damage. Funds would have to be taken from the structural maintenance programme, meaning that the capital programme would need to be re-prioritised and that new schemes would be put on hold. The Council would also be undertaking a debrief on the handling of the emergency situation.

Cllr Waddington was delighted that the **Youth Club** had been awarded a **grant** from GCC for the provision of central heating, and the official opening would take place on Monday at 4.30pm. Cllr Robinson added his thanks to Cllr Waddington for this grant.

GCC cabinet had been considering its **budget for next year** and anticipated a rise of 2.3% (which was a reduction on the increase from last year). Great pressure had been put on the children's services budget with increased expenditure required. The Police precept had been discussed today and was likely to be a little over 2.3%, with confirmation of the final figure to be announced mid February. The new chief constable Inspector Tony Mellville had started in post at the beginning of the year and was making a good impression.

Cllr Carter asked if the snow-resultant works would affect the scheduled **flood prevention scheme in Bridge Street**, which Cllr Waddington thought not as this project was being funded from a separate budget. Cllr Robinson supported this project as there had been more flooding problems and Cllr Waddington suggested the Bridge Street shop owners write letters in support of the scheme.

The Mayor mentioned the previous discussions on creating **shared space in George Street**. Cllr Waddington had hoped to combine this with a flood alleviation scheme, but as the flood works were no longer planned for George Street, the whole project would have to go back into the queue.

### **2010/185 CCTV CAMERAS IN NAILSWORTH – presentation by Phil Sullivan SDC Crime & Disorder**

Mr Sullivan advised that an opportunity had arisen to make a bid for funding, and since residents in Forest Green had indicated they would like some sort of CCTV system, it had seemed logical to put his bid together in relation to Nailsworth. Stroud's and Dursley's CCTV systems operated back to the police stations, and Berkeley, Wotton and Minchinhampton had their own systems. CCTV was not just for crime prevention, but was useful for monitoring emergency situations. The bid for £15k had been submitted and, if successful, could be used in Nailsworth or elsewhere.

The record only system meant film could be reviewed after an event to reveal any pertinent evidence, which in Nailsworth's case as a low crime area, would mainly relate to disorderly conduct. A survey would be needed to establish the optimum locations for the cameras and Mr Sullivan suggested the opinion of the public be sought through Nailsworth News and the Fountain, to ensure it really was what the people wanted. Of course one could not measure what crime had been prevented, nor directly associate crime reduction with one preventative action, but this was an opportunity to give

CCTV a go, bearing in mind the council's obligation to take steps to reduce crime and undertake crime prevention measures.

In response to the question from Cllr Nicholson, Mr Sullivan confirmed that the grant opportunity was for capital funds from central government as part of the Local Area Agreement. Mr Sullivan confirmed to Cllr Mrs Binns that portable CCTV cameras were available in addition to fixed ones.

The Mayor clarified that Mr Sullivan was seeking partnership with NTC and asked about the implications. Mr Sullivan confirmed that GCC, the Police, SDC, T&PCs were already partners in the Crime & Disorder Partnership, but he felt NTC should in particular be part of this process. There might be cost implications in the future which might be covered by other partners, but might require a contribution from NTC.

Discussion ensued as to the merits of monitored as opposed to record only systems. Mr Sullivan felt good street lighting and visible cameras were sufficient to deter casual crime, and a monitored facility was unlikely to be proposed. With regard to the cost of replacing equipment, Mr Sullivan suggested a joint sinking fund be started, but he anticipated the equipment purchased would carry a five year guarantee. He confirmed that other parishes funded their own systems.

In response to a question from Cllr Crawley, Mr Sullivan advised that dome cameras were now used, so that the actual arc of vision could not be identified. Rules would be in place about who could move the arc, monitor the film etc, and a facility required to pixilate out other characters if film was to be used in court.

Cllr Nicholson raised the matter of camera sites; the number of cameras required and best positions would be identified by a full survey. Cllr Mrs Way asked about mobile cameras; fixed ones were cheaper : 6-8 fixed cameras could be bought for the same money as two mobiles.

Cllr Nicholson reminded the meeting that NTC had considered the installation of CCTV in the past and felt that the same objections raised then still applied. He queried the value of non monitored film, as this would not allow problems to be dealt with as they arose. He pointed out the risk of encouraging the fear of crime amongst residents, and Mr Sullivan stressed that residents would need to be fully informed and in agreement before any cameras were installed. Cllr Nicholson was concerned that CCTV would substitute for the physical presence of police officers and queried that the clarity of film was insufficient to help in prosecution. It was suggested mobile cameras that could be moved around might be more appropriate

Mr Sullivan responded that most of the CCTV around the country was non monitored, but monitoring could be done if the need arose. Cameras produced these days were very small and discreet, and it was the signs notifying their presence which tended to act as the main deterrent. He agreed that cllrs should delay making a decision until the outcome of the bid was known.

**RESOLVED** Cllr Carter proposed, seconded by Cllr Robinson to unanimous agreement that NTC continue to consult with Mr Sullivan over the offer to install CCTV in Nailsworth pending the outcome of the bid, but defer any decision until the matter had been carefully considered and all options explored.

## 2010/186 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor advised that he and Cllr Crawley had been following developments re the **future of Nailsworth Recreation Centre**, following the press release received without warning advising SDC was to take a decision at its December meeting to transfer back responsibility for the recreation centres of Nailsworth and two other towns back to the host towns. Following challenges to the decision and the way it had been announced, the proposal to SDC cabinet had been withdrawn and a

special meeting would take place on 28 January to consider the report which was available on the SDC website.

Cllr Crawley's deposition outlined how the needs of a town should be analysed, a decision made as to whether these were catered for, and if not, consider how the needs could be met in order to make a rational decision. It was clear from the report that this process had not been properly followed, eg. The School had not been consulted, despite a claim in the report of a formal agreement.

The Mayor had spotted a CSPAN action plan on the SDC website showing a three year project plan to March 2010 for SDC leisure and recreation officers assisted by outside reps, in which Project 1 was to assess the need for sporting facilities and see where gaps lay; this had obviously not been done. Cllrs were urged to look at the report, which did present some options: continue with the current system, close the leisure centre altogether, let the School take over its management, or set up a trust run by the local community with a possible service level agreement with 5 Valleys Leisure (ie. FGR-FC).

The Mayor, with Cllrs Crawley, Nicholson and Robinson had arranged to meet on Friday at 2pm with Cllr Keith Pearson SDC cabinet officer and SDC officers Ms Karen Toole, Mr Ray Figg to discuss the matter. Cllr Pearson had stressed that this would be an 'information sharing meeting' and not a 'consultation'. SDC should be urged to adopt a proper consultation policy with P&TCs.

#### **2010/187 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Robinson had been very pleased to host the **handover of the WH Davies clock** to the mayor of Newport at a pleasant occasion organised by Tony Burton who had written to thank the Clerk and the council for their assistance.

#### **2010/188 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had received the Glos Playing Fields Association newsletter; a communication from GRCC suggesting all P&TCs should consider introducing emergency planning to cope with disasters; minutes of the Stonehouse Cluster Meeting held on 20 August (the next meeting would take place on 27 February at Ebley Mill).

#### **2010/189 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports.

#### **2010/190 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 4 January and the minutes were approved with the following amendment -  
Bunting Hill Regeneration Project on page 3 : BICV (British Trust for Community Volunteers)

#### **Draft Environmental Policy**

Cllr Mrs Binns was concerned that the promotion of **car sharing** would encourage the participating non drivers to leave their cars in the town centre all day. The wording was altered to read "encourage those using council premises to walk . . ."

Cllr Carter questioned whether NTC had the expertise/competence to actually **manage carbon emissions**. Cllr Nicholson advised it was only an outline plan at this stage, but NTC would need to consider how to implement its proposals later on. Cllr Crawley added that there were systems available online for individuals to do this. The next stage would be to consider the practical implications, prioritise and allocate tasks. Cllr Robinson added that he and Cllr Mrs Way had already addressed some of the points in the Property Management committee, and which would be covered in his report.

The Clerk queried whether NTC could categorically claim to be able to **reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions** by a minimum of 10% and the wording was changed to read "NTC has committed to reducing its CO<sup>2</sup> emissions . . ."

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>it was unanimously agreed that NTC adopt the draft Environmental Policy with the amendments proposed as appended to these minutes.</b>
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**2010/191 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting held on 12 January and the minutes were approved. The meeting had been called specifically to consider the new draft policies which had been circulated to all cllrs, with the exception of the Charging Policy which would be considered at the meeting of Property Management Committee next week and presented to council for approval at the February meeting.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>with unanimous agreement that the Procurement, Equal Opportunities and Vulnerable Users Policies, put forward at the FE&amp;GP meeting on 12 January 2010, be adopted without amendment.</b>
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**2010/192 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Crawley reported that specifications for the tender process had been sent out to contractors and council would be invited to decide on a contractor at a meeting in February. SWRDA had received a copy of the draft grant application. Members of the Working Party had met with Cllrs Mrs Binns and Carter to discuss their concerns over the project, and notes of that meeting would be circulated in due course.

**2010/193 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Crawley presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 17 December.

It was clarified that only Cllr Wheeler had resigned at that meeting, as confirmed by his letter of resignation read out by the Clerk. Cllr Crawley had unsuccessfully sought advice from Cllrs Mrs Binns and Carter on the wording of the minutes, but these two now confirmed that they had neither resigned from the council nor the Planning Committee. The paragraph in the minutes was amended to read ". . . Cllr Bratby and Cllr Wheeler briefly listing their concerns."

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of 7 January which had also been inquorate, since some cllrs were unable to gain access as the front door had inadvertently been locked. Since the meeting, Cllrs Mrs Binns, Carter and Crawley had reviewed the comments and endorsed them.

Cllr Nicholson drew cllrs' attention to a report on the SDC website regarding locations for potential housing development, although he had been unable to open the file. Members were asked to try and view this report before the next meeting of the committee on Thursday; there appeared to be a very short four week consultation period.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 17 December 2009 and 7 January 2010 be approved.</b>
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**2010/194 COUNCIL VACANCY**

Cllr Wheeler had sent in a formal letter dated 23 December announcing his resignation as of 17<sup>th</sup>. NTC was required to publish the vacancy and give 14 days for a minimum of 10 residents to call an election (which would be managed by SDC but could cost NTC circa £2k). A co-option timetable would be agreed at the February meeting in the event that no election was requested.

**2010/195 ACCOUNTS**

<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>that the list of accounts for 19 January 2010 amounting to £18423.42 be approved for payment.</b>
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**2010/196 SDC – town & parish council meeting 4 February**

The meeting at Ebley Mill would start at 7pm, but there was an opportunity during the afternoon for cllrs to meet with planning officers. The Clerk was asked to respond that the Mayor hoped to attend.

**2010/197 Glos Diocese – consultation re closure of All Saints Shortwood for regular worship**

The Diocese was considering making a recommendation to the Bishop that regular worship cease at the church, and comments were invited by 22 February. Care and maintenance would be considered later and separately pending a decision on the future of building.

**2010/198 Stroud & District Motor Club – Mechanics Trial 13 March**

The annual event would take place across the district including up the Ladder.

**2010/199 SDC – vandalism in public toilets**

SDC had emailed a photograph of the latest incidence of antisocial behaviour in one of the toilets and sought NTC’s agreement to the proposal to bring forward the locking of the toilets from 8.30pm to 6pm. Cllrs were disappointed at the ongoing vandalism but felt this had perhaps to be accepted as a general problem with public toilets. They were intrigued that SDC seemed to feel that closing the toilets earlier would solve the problem. CCTV in this location might identify groups entering the toilets, though not of course what happened inside.

The Clerk was asked to respond that NTC did not agree with the earlier closing time and urge SDC to equip the facility with more hardwearing fixtures, the deficiency of which had been flagged up at the time the toilet block was refurbished. She should take the opportunity to ask again for a key to the notice board.

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Date

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Chairman