

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 18 April 2011

Present	Cllr Mrs J M Way (Chairman) Cllr J A Byrne Cllrs Mrs S E Thorpe
Apologies	Cllr I D Crawley Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson

SIGN BOARDS IN TOWN CENTRE

The map rough sketch provided by Imagemakers had been circulated, which it was felt covered too wide an area. The meeting thought the Town Hall (to be identified) should be included to the south, and Egypt Mill (not named) to the north. Members were concerned at changes pending for the police station, library etc but it was agreed not to wait any longer in finalising the design.

Mrs de Lacroix would tidy the map and put in road names and amend the key as discussed, before circulating a mock up to cllrs. £450 or so was left in the budget for peripheral images; and it was agreed that these should be the Quaker Meeting House, Fountain, Kettle and Clock, with the bits of historical text as shown in Mrs de Lacroix's draft. She was thanked for her preparatory work on this project.

GRIT BINS AND THE ROLE OF THE SNOW WARDEN

Cllr Mrs Way's notes of the meeting on 17 March with the Mayor, Clerk and Peter Starkiss were circulated and reviewed. Mr Starkiss did not intend to make any expense claims, although the notes allowed for the possibility for him to claim reasonable expenses. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was concerned that the allowable expenses should be itemised for clarity eg. for attending training, phone calls, use of his car but others felt saying 'reasonable expenses' was adequate at present considering the document was a record of discussion and not a policy statement. Mr Starkiss was currently working on a snow warden job description and a comment regarding allowable expenses could be included in that if required.

Mr Starkiss had checked the salt storage of 50 bags at the Chamberlain Estate, and had taken 4 to fill the Churchill Road/Tynings bin, so 46 remained. Mr Starkiss would be responsible for keeping track of the stock and Mr Mansell would be asked to tell him when he took any bags. It was felt the storage facility was secure. The spreader should be kept under cover unless in use and was currently with Mr Mansell. Cllr Mrs Way had sent some text to NN on this year's experience to keep residents informed that NTC was taking precautions in advance of the next cold snap.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE AND TOURISM ISSUES

The revised SDC Nailsworth map had been circulated for comment. This was displayed on a board showing a large map of Stroud surrounded by maps of other local towns, but Cllr Mrs Way did not see the relevance of displaying maps of other towns in Nailsworth, and noted that the board on the WC block was dirty. The Clerk was asked to respond to SDC with a request for the following modifications:-

- remove Burma Road PO
- the following locations were outside the map area but the Clerk would ask that they be identified with an arrow: Arkell Centre, NW Recreation Centre, FG Rovers, Shortwood Utd.
- mark the Quakers Meeting House with a 'church' symbol

Mrs de Lacroix would check if the board that had been erected without permission on the MR was the same as the one on the WC block; if so, the Clerk could add to the letter that Nailsworth only wanted the one on the toilets and not the other on an NTC building, and to make sure it was kept clean; and

to advise that, after the current update, Nailsworth was not keen to have this board in the town at all.

MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD

There was nothing to report.

NORTON WOOD

There was nothing to report.

BUNTING HILL REGENERATION PROJECT

The resident's hedge clippings had finally been removed following Cllr Mrs Way and the Mayor's visit to the house and speaking to the grandson of the resident concerned. Cllr Byrne reported that badgers had made a latrine site at a point along the path! Ellen Winter from GWT had been talking with the scouts and had arranged a site meeting with them on 13 May to plan a programme of involvement, such as litter picking expeditions. Cllr Mrs Way added that this had been a very daunting project when it was started two years ago, but that great progress had been made since then. The volunteer group consisting of herself, Jinny Marshall and Ros John, was willing to continue with the management plan and conservation work.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

At a meeting on 28 March, the Mayor, Clerk and Cllr Mrs Way reviewed the situation and discarded the plan to replace the current motifs. On the basis of £5k available next year, they decided on an outright purchase of new motifs, building up a scheme over three years. Cllr Mrs Way pointed out that the HP option would result in a much greater end cost. Further illumination of trees was not feasible without rearrangement of the electricity supply. The sub-committee had agreed to go with Festive Lighting and would be meeting with a rep on 26 April. The garland across the bus station could be reused, as could the tree lights in MG, and the smaller motif over Lèves Corner. Lighting of the tree outside the police station could be considered at a later date.

The plan for Year One was a single motif for the clock tower and four motifs for alternate lamp posts on Old Market.

There had been no further information on the Christkindl committee's proposal to erect a Tree of Life.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Common land opposite Primary School

A resident had phoned the Clerk, followed up with a letter and email, complaining about escalating problems with flooding from the green onto his driveway, leading to potholes and washing away of his chippings, and demanding that NTC repair the road. The Clerk had told him that it was not clear which part of the common land act applied to the area, but right of access was a separate issue and the council was not responsible for maintaining private drives. The resident was in fact a tenant and the Clerk had recommended that he ask his landlord to repair the drive or put in adequate drainage, and that he research the property deeds for the terms of the right of way over the common land. The clerk would research the common land angle.

Stroud Car Club

Cllrs Mrs Way and Nicholson had offered to meet with the Stroud Car Club representative and awaited a response.

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Date

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Chairman