

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 July 2009
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr R Blackwell
	* Denotes absence from part of the meeting
Apologies	Cllr J D Bratby District Cllr J Jeffreys Cllr J A Byrne Cllr A G Wheeler

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Jo Lloyd to her first meeting as new editor of Nailsworth News.

2009/57 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Clark wished to raise the problem of youths congregating on Star Hill Green in the evenings, kicking footballs which hit house windows and cars, drinking and smoking, inflicting noise and abuse on residents, leaving rubbish behind. He had called the police in the past who claimed they could take no action unless there was a 'no ball games' notice on the Green. Stonehouse Community Officer had promised to patrol there, but Mr Clark had only seen him once. The Mayor offered to come and talk to Mr Clark at home, perhaps with Neighbourhood Warden Ashley Nicholson who had already been alerted to the problem by the Clerk. The Mayor would also look into the police and PCSO response. The Clerk pointed out that the police should be able to take action because this was a case of civil disturbance and antisocial behaviour, regardless of the existence of a 'no ball games' notice.

2009/58 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 June 2009 were approved and signed.

2009/59 YOUTH WORKER FOR NAILSWORTH (minute 2009/40)

Cllr Robinson reported that an advert for the youth worker post was now on the GCC website. A provisional date for interviews had been set for 11 September.

2009/60 MUGA AT FGR-FC (minute 2009/39)

The Mayor's investigations had revealed that there was nothing in the planning application submitted by FGR-FC requiring them to pay towards or provide a MUGA. The only requirement was to make available a piece of land for either a MUGA or an open community space. In order to move forward, bearing in mind that the planning permission expired next year, the Mayor proposed that a contractor be asked to prepare some designs and cost indications for a kick about area to be built within the £100k available resources, to include floodlighting. The Mayor had written to FGR-FC to notify the Club that NTC would be seeking permission for the contractor to enter the grounds for the purposes of this preparatory work. It was confirmed that the site in question was that originally designated in the plans as the Club did not wish to offer an alternative.

2009/61 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE (minute 2009/43)

Use of small MUGA by over 16s

Cllr Robinson confirmed that he had attended a meeting with the acting youth worker, some young people, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Millet of FGRA. All had agreed that 16 was far too young a cut-off age for use of the MUGA - maybe 21. He hoped that nets would be installed to keep balls in, and negotiations continued with SDC to site the litter bin in the optimum place.

Skate Jam on 19 July

The Mayor reported that the Skate Jam had been deferred until Sunday 26th, as the original event had been rained off and the refreshments held back for the re-run.

2009/38 LOFT INSULATION INITIATIVE (Minute 2009/54)

Cllrs Crawley and Mrs Way had attended Mr David Drew's loft installation meeting on 3 July, with the outcome that a small group would take the project forward with Mr Drew and report back in due course.

2009/62 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington was pleased to report that the Glos Fire Brigade had been voted 3rd best in the country following a public opinion survey.

The household recycling centre at Pike Quarry, including DIY waste disposal, last year achieved just over 70% recycling.

The residual waste contract - the biggest that GCC had ever awarded - had got through the POQ stage and the 10 maximum number of bidders was going through to the next ISOS stage, for consideration in October/November, to be followed by shortlisting towards the end of the year down to three bidders who would then be asked to submit detailed solutions.

Cllr Waddington advised that he had in hand the issues concerning the footpath at the back of the primary school and would email progress to the Clerk for circulation to cllrs.

District Cllr Blackwell wished to record his commendation to the mayor for his persistence in promoting the project. The stone drinking fountain restored and moved was looking fantastic. Efforts regarding Glendower were ongoing, and there was a possibility that Stroud Preservation Trust might be persuaded to take an interest.

Cllr Blackwell had sought to have something done about the patch of neglected rough ground by Green Spirit, but no one seemed prepared to accept ownership. The Clerk confirmed that the patch was within SDC's car park, and encouraged Cllr Blackwell to press the point with SDC.

Cllr Blackwell and the Clerk had checked out the complaint that fencing at the Railway Hotel was encroaching on the footpath, but did not feel this was the case. The Clerk had nonetheless notified GCC to verify, and added that there may be a problem with ownership of the path.

Cllr Blackwell sought some advice re car parking in the town, following total chaos over the last two days with the opening of the new Morrisons store. There was no obvious solution and the increasing problem had been under discussion for years. NTC's request for NCP to investigate and come up with ideas had as yet not produced any feasible solutions. Cllr Nicholson felt one would need to start with a detailed assessment of turnover, and reduce all 4h parking down to 2h, and for time limits to be enforced with a greater warden presence – both down to SDC. The Mayor and Cllr Nicholson outlined various traffic calming and parking measures taken in the past. Cllr Nicholson added that he would like to see a few more 30min parking spaces at the top of Market Street, with the approval of adjacent traders.

2009/63 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor was looking forward to the official unveiling of the drinking fountain at 10am on Saturday. Ms Karen Tweed, accordionist would be playing and William's Food Hall was providing refreshments. The guest of honour, 89 year old Mrs Doreen Biddle, had lived all her life in Nailsworth and remembered the Fountain in its original position.

20 people had attended the Patients Participation Group meeting in the Mortimer Room. Some good ideas had emerged, such as arranging volunteers to transport non drivers to doctors' appointments and a carers' group. A steering group would be formed in September to take the project forward.

The Mayor had previously mentioned the problem of the continual quick changeover of chief inspectors for the Nailsworth INA and had passed on his concerns to the force. He felt it was difficult to provide continuity and see through the development of issues under discussion. He had contacted Superintendent Bridget Woodhall again to express concern and was due to meet with her deputy. There were 17 INAs in Gloucestershire and the Mayor would ask if the other 16 suffered a similar number of changes. He felt the force's good intentions about partnership with the local community were not being put into practice, and a better system was needed to record issues which were being lost in career moves.

Cllr Carter added that he felt the INA meetings were being dumbed down and now served little purpose other than to comply with legislation. The closure of the Nailsworth station had also added to the sense of alienation with the loss of familiar officers who regularly reported to council meetings.

Cllr Nicholson noted how difficult it was to get through the call system, especially if one wanted to speak to the same officer again. Cllr Waddington, as a member of the police authority, commented that police should be visible and should be able to send an officer regularly to report to council. He was dismayed to hear about the call centre problems and would pass on the comments.

Cllr Crawley questioned to what extent each new chief constable could alter policing priorities in an area and Cllr Waddington advised that the setting of policing priorities was undertaken by a group of residents (KIN: key individual network) who were chosen to reflect the concerns of the community. It was fact however that the chief constable in post had a great influence on the way the force was run.

The Mayor sought guidance from cllrs on Nailsworth's economic and general sustainability in the current recession with shopkeepers and businesses reporting some downturn in trade, and wondered if NTC should be taking certain initiatives to encourage business, as other towns were doing with publicity, food fairs and cultural events. It was hoped the opening of the new supermarket would attract more business without detracting from independent shops. Cllr Mrs Binns suggested seeking the view of the Chamber of Trade.

A recent GMTF survey across 16 towns showed that 49 shops had opened against 70 closing with the biggest category of closures being estate agents. It was agreed that encouraging people to 'shop local' was the direction to take, and the FE&GP committee would hold a meeting after the summer, to which relevant others would be invited, to discuss initiatives and form a plan of action

2009/64 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson had attended the Chartered Parishes meeting, which would now be held every quarter rather than two monthly. The meeting had been addressed by the manager of a three month old project "putting people first" aimed at keeping the elderly healthy and happy in their own homes. 85% of older people received no care, 15% got some and only 8% received help at home on a daily basis.

The Highways officer had been inundated with questions from across the county and it was revealed that GCC had received extra cash for a drainage survey. Highways had reverted to the old calling system with an 0800 number direct to that department. Each call was now answered within 2½ minutes, and feedback was sought to keep this much better system going.

Cllr Robinson had attended the Scouts AGM and reported that all the groups were full with waiting lists. He had reminded Mr David Golding that he needed to write to NTC for permission to use the KGV field for the firework display in November. Cllr Robinson added that the present Scout committee appeared to be unaware that it could apply to NTC for grants.

2009/65 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

An email had come in from Ms Sally Gleed SDC Community Safety, seeking to collate an email contact list for circulation of correspondence regarding Stonehouse Parish Cluster Group meetings. The Mayor volunteered to be Nailsworth's contact initially.

Minutes of the Community Safety Panel meeting 2009 were available in the office.

With regard to the Gambling Act 2005, district councils were required to issue a statement of principles every three years, and SDC's was due for renewal in Jan 2010. The council was therefore starting its consultation, and a draft document was available on the SDC website with comments invited by 25 September

The Guides had asked for permission to use Mortimer Gardens to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the guiding movement with an event on 3 October; they wished to erect a tent and do guiding activities, run a cake stall etc and canvass for new members. The request was approved.

2009/66 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports to make.

2009/67 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 20 July and the minutes, having been circulated at the start of this meeting, were approved. The recommendations detailed in the minutes were endorsed by the meeting.

2009/68 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 18 June.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe queried the government's decision not to pursue the building of new affordable homes, especially social housing, ie for rent, and wondered if NTC could lobby SDC for action. A big problem was the lack of land available for building and the GAPTC 2006 Housing Needs Survey (which might soon be updated) showed that the waiting list for social housing in Nailsworth was actually quite low, but the situation should be monitored closely. Flats for middle-aged single people seemed to be the current big requirement owing to the breakdown of families, and a possibility could be to focus on making full use of existing housing stock. Following consultation with the chairman, it was felt it might be helpful to invite a member of SDC to update the committee. Cllr Crawley opined that private renting vacancies should not be ignored and Cllr Robinson drew attention to the funds set aside from the Macarthy & Stone development.

The mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 7 June and clarified the proposed resolution to NALC to be rephrased as follows:

This AGM asks our national body to request of central government that they issue definitive planning guidance: this would require an authority's planning department, if it receives an objection on valid planning grounds from a town or parish council to an

application, to have this application considered by the full relevant committee of that authority.

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 16 July. The Mayor was pleased to comment on the improved number of attendees at planning meetings.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 18 June, 7 and 16 July 2009 be approved.

2009/69 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY
Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the architect's detailed plans were almost complete, with a breakdown of costings. The final figure was currently £447k + vat. Ms Barbara Pond GCC was helping with the creation of a funding strategy for the project and the working party would shortly be seeking the formal backing of NTC with a detailed presentation and a special meeting to discuss. The working party would be viewing similar projects elsewhere and had sought advice from the Energy Agency. Planning permission ran out in 18 months time and the next meeting of the group would take place in September although work on the funding strategy continued in the meantime.

There had been no further news on taking over the temporary building although the Clerk had written to Redrow confirming NTC's interest in accepting the offer and asking how to proceed. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that one organisation had already shown some interest in purchasing the temporary building when it was no longer needed. There was also no response to NTC's application to the Bequest trustees although the Mayor hoped for news within next month.

Lengthy discussion ensued on the importance of having a reply from the Bequest trustees before NTC could agree or not to support the project, pointing out that plans were well advanced before the Bequest became known so this should not be a factor in the final decision. The strategy would need to show an outline of funding resources with or without the aid of a contribution from the Bequest, but it was noted that the working party needed NTC's backing to the project before being in a position to go out and seek funding.

The Clerk pointed out that the land was given for the specific purpose of creating a community hall, and if NTC decided not to pursue the project, cllrs needed to know what would happen to the land which technically might have to revert to the owner.

RESOLVED	to hold a special meeting on Monday 21 st September at 7pm to discuss the building of a new FGCH and make a final decision with regard to supporting the project.
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2009/70 RESOLUTIONS FOR AGM of GAPTC (to be submitted by 31 July)
Cllr Crawley had circulated a potential motion, seconded by Cllr Nicholson. The Mayor felt the motion should include a recommended action and that the varying competences of P&TCs could not be lumped under one statement. Cllr Nicholson explained that the Power of Wellbeing was an empty power, and that no town, district or county council had the General Power of Competence which would give reasonable autonomy. Cllr Nicholson felt the motion made the appropriate gesture although it was unlikely to change anything except hopefully lead to some discussion. The motion was carried with six votes in favour.

RESOLVED	that a resolution from NTC for submission to GAPTC AGM for 22 October 2009 read as follows:
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<p>This AGM deplores the lack of trust and confidence in town and parish councils shown by the government in the way it has made use of the Power of Wellbeing conditional on councils meeting criteria for eligibility and asks that they be removed.</p>
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- 2009/71 ACCOUNTS
PROPOSED that the list of accounts for 21 July 2009 amounting to £19,871.35 be approved for payment.
- 2009/72 HMCS – recruitment campaign to attract new magistrates
Applications were invited as part of the Court Service's endeavour to encourage new magistrates. Notices would advertise locally run open events.
- 2009/73 SDC – Community Planning Grant scheme 2009/10
The opportunity was offered to apply for grants for "a quick win community project" to be undertaken between October 2009 and March 2011. Cllr Mrs Binns would bring this to the attention of NCP, Cllrs Crawley and Mrs Thorpe would consider it for the FGCH, and information passed on to Cllr Wheeler with regard to town centre regeneration.
- 2009/74 SDC – Tenants' Garden Competition
SDC invited nominations for this annual competition.
- 2009/75 SDC – Flood Prevention measures
There was a limited supply of self expanding (non sand filled) sandbags available for P&TCs to allocate to residents who were at risk from repeat flooding, according to stringent council criteria. It was not thought that any Nailsworth residents would qualify.
- 2009/76 GCC – draft Traffic Order for waiting restrictions at Forest Green
The draft traffic order was confirmed.
- 2009/77 August council meeting
It was proposed that no council meeting be held during August and that delegated power be approved for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Committee chairmen as appropriate (two of the three), to take decisions on matters which could not be deferred until the next meeting in September. The proposal was approved.

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Date

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Chairman