

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council**  
**held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth**  
**on Tuesday 16 October 2012**

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

In the absence of the Town Mayor, the meeting was chaired by Cllr MP Robinson, Deputy Mayor.

**2012/108 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**2012/109 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of held on 18 September were approved and signed, subject to the alteration of the phrase 'Beechwood Rise' to 'Beechwood **Close**' on minute 2012/89.

**2012/110 A46 Resurfacing Scheme: Minute 2112/97**

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Waddington had received a number of emails from local residents requesting a safe crossing point for pedestrians near Dunkirk Mill.

**2012/111 Motion on NHS Re-organisation: Minute 2012/100**

Cllr Kay was pleased to report that the local campaign to support the creation of a stand-alone NHS Trust for Gloucestershire had been successful. He understood that 96% of those responding to the recent consultation had supported this option. The new Trust would come into operation on 1 April 2013 and would have to prove its effectiveness over the next few years.

**2012/112 REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Cllr Carter reported that SDC had instituted a Dog Control Order for the District. The new regulations would require dogs to be kept on leads on the Nailsworth to Stonehouse pedestrian/cycle trail. Neighbourhood Wardens would be identifying footpaths in the vicinity of schools where similar restrictions might be appropriate, and town and parish councillors could recommend further areas. SDC

councillors had now agreed the composition of its new Standards Panel. SDC officers were currently finalising proposals for the layout of Nailsworth Bus Station and the adjacent parking area and would be consulting on this in the near future.

### **2012/113 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair read out a written report from the Mayor. The Mayor had chaired a public meeting on 1 October regarding the possible banning of alcohol in public places in the parish. This had been attended by Sgt Patrick Willenberg, Philip Sullivan SDC Community Safety team, Nailsworth vicar Stephen Earley, and approximately 30 residents. After considerable discussion the majority of those present considered that there was no need for an alcohol ban at the present time. The possible installation of CCTV cameras in the town was also discussed this meeting, and the Mayor agreed that this issue would be considered by NTC in due course.

Cllr Carter, who had been unable to attend the public meeting, expressed his view that there should be further discussions between NTC, SDC and the police so that a fully informed decision could be made regarding a street drinking ban. However, Cllr Kay, who had attended and spoken at the public meeting, felt that existing police powers were sufficient if fully exercised. He wondered if the closure of the Nailsworth police station had reduced the effectiveness of policing in the town, and reported that he had been assured by Sgt Willenberg that there would be an increased police presence in the town centre in the future. Consequently, Cllr Kay felt that it was inappropriate for NTC to pursue a street drinking ban at the present time.

After some discussion, Cllr Carter proposed, seconded by Cllr Dart, that a meeting be arranged between NTC, SDC and representatives of the police to discuss the advantage and disadvantages of an alcohol ban in public places in the parish, in order that an informed decision could be taken by NTC. Cllr Carter requested a recorded vote. On being put to the vote, the motion was **LOST**, with voting as follows:

*For:* Cllrs Carter and Dart  
*Against:* Cllrs Kay, M Robinson, Reed and Elliott  
*Abstention:* Cllr Rahman

On the issue of CCTV, Cllr Kay reported that he had read a report containing evidence suggesting it was only effective in car parks. He had passed the report to Philip Sullivan. He had learned from Mr Sullivan that the SDC was looking to introduce CCTV into the Nailsworth Bus Station at some point in the future.

The Clerk explained that Mr Sullivan had requested NTC to consider the installation of CCTV in the town on several occasions in the past, but NTC had decided not to pursue this. Cllr Reed wondered what research had been done on the potential effectiveness of CCTV in Nailsworth. She recalled that a temporary portable camera had been installed by SDC as an experiment some years ago before being moved to another part of the District. The Clerk confirmed that NTC had not been informed of the results of this experiment. She reported that Mr Sullivan had stated at the public meeting that whilst it was difficult to quantify the effectiveness of CCTV in preventing crime there was no doubt it was an effective tool in identifying and prosecuting offenders. After some discussion, it was agreed to refer the issue of the provision of CCTV in the town to the Environment Committee.

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr GS Pearce from Nailsworth Ironmongers, who had attended the public meeting, summarising his personal views on the issues discussed. Mr Pearce felt that there had been serious problems in the town relating to street drinking which could be reduced if there was stronger policing and enforcement of existing laws. If this proved ineffective within a given timescale, consideration should then be given to a street drinking ban and CCTV. Councillors noted the contents of the letter.

Cllr Kay suggested that the practice of having regular visits from police/PCSOs to NTC meetings, which had ceased some time ago, should be resumed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Sgt Willenberg asking him to report back to NTC in six months' time on the outcome of the more vigorous policing which he had proposed.

The Mayor had reported that, in his view, GCC Highways' current proposals for traffic calming on the A46 were inadequate and unlikely to reduce the speed of traffic entering the town from both directions. There was minimal traffic calming proposed for the Bath Road, and he was particularly disappointed that the proposed pedestrian crossing between The Hayes and Dunkirk Mill had been withdrawn from the scheme. Having discussed the latter with the General Manager of Dunkirk Mill, who had expressed strong support for a crossing, the Mayor was willing to organise a petition for the crossing to be reinstated in the plans. Cllr Reed expressed the view that petitions could be helpful in promoting awareness of local issues. The Clerk advised that in her experience local authorities were only likely to take account of signatures from those who resided close to the area of concern. Cllr M Robinson reported that there had been a successful campaign for a safe crossing on the A46 at Rooksmoor in the wake of a fatality at that location, which suggested to him that local pressure could be effective.

The Mayor had reported that County Cllr Waddington had contacted NTC with information on a scheme whereby highway improvements could be provided via match-funding agreements between town/parish and county councils. The cost of a suitable crossing on the A46 at Dunkirk Mill had been estimated at approximately £30,000, so the cost to NTC could be around £15,000. Cllr Waddington was prepared to investigate this further if NTC was interested in pursuing such a scheme. Discussion ensued, with most councillors strongly supporting the view that, since road safety was clearly a county council responsibility, a safe crossing point at Dunkirk Mill should therefore be wholly funded by GCC. The Clerk was asked to thank Cllr Waddington and to relay the decision not to provide match funding in this instance, and to contact the relevant GCC officer reiterating NTC's earlier comments on the proposed scheme for road safety improvements on the A46. Councillors felt it was important to point out that a safe crossing point was needed between Dunkirk Mill and The Hayes not just for local residents but also for children alighting from the school bus.

The Mayor had reported that, along with Cllr Carter and representatives of Horsley and Nympsfield parishes, he had met with SDC senior planning and enforcement officers to discuss the continuing development of a site at Tinkley Farm. He had been concerned to learn that, owing to a requirement to cover 'bunds' to the south of the site with soil, around 400 lorry journeys would have to be made through the town in the near future. Cllr Carter confirmed that he would be pursuing this matter further with SDC officers. Cllr Kay stated that NTC's original concern about the site

related to possible breaches of planning permission. He felt that this issue should be the main focus for the planning authority.

#### **2012/114 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR**

There was nothing to report.

#### **2012/115 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK**

There was nothing to report.

#### **2012/116 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Kay reported on the annual SDC meeting of town and parish councils, which he had attended with the Mayor. A draft consultation document had been circulated, which Cllr Kay had studied. Cllr Kay agreed to draft a response in consultation with the Mayor.

Cllr Elliott reported that the weekly CAB advice sessions at the Arkell Community Centre appeared to be going well, with seven clients attending the first session and two attending the second. In response to a question from Cllr Carter, Cllr Elliott confirmed that whilst the number of clients seen was a major criterion in relation to the viability of the sessions, it was not the only one.

The Clerk read out a report prepared by Cllr Duckworth of the main points covered at the Chamber of Trade meeting on 27 September. Councillors were pleased that the Chamber was being re-energised. The Clerk confirmed that the Christmas lights would be switched on as usual on the last Friday in November (i.e. 30<sup>th</sup>). In response to a question, she explained that it would be difficult to provide further motifs in Market Street due to the lack of council lighting columns.

#### **2012/117 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings of 19 September and 10 October were approved and signed. Cllr Carter advised that he hoped to raise the issue of Community Land Trusts at the next SDC planning meeting, in advance of the NTC councillors' training session on 18 Oct on the possible use of a CLT to develop affordable housing in the town.

In response to a request for clarification from the Clerk, Cllr Carter explained that the Committee had wondered whether the map boards displayed in the town could be amended to show the various shopping areas. Cllr Reed explained that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to change these laminated boards. She suggested that the local shops and businesses directory produced by the Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce could be updated to serve this purpose.

Discussion ensued about the proliferation of A boards advertising local businesses in the town. Cllr Kay suggested that NTC should have a clear policy on this matter. The Clerk advised that the siting of A boards on pavements was covered by highways regulations. Cllr Carter agreed to inform Cllr Kay when the subject of A Boards was next on the Planning Committee agenda. Cllr Carter explained that he understood that GCC would respond to any complaint from NTC by removing all boards from pavements. However, it was his view that the best way forward was to attempt to reach a compromise with traders. Cllr M Robinson suggested that one large board on which businesses could place their logos might be a possible solution.

### **2012/118 REPORT FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September could not be confirmed as only 2 attendees were present. Discussion was deferred to the next full council meeting.

### **2012/119 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Elliott presented the minutes of the meeting of 9 October in the absence of Cllr Thorpe. The minutes were approved and signed.

Cllr Elliott reported that the Committee had agreed to allow members of Go-Grow to continue with their investigations of the suitability of the KGV extension field for use as community allotments, without prejudice. A possible alternative site at Carters Way had been suggested by the Mayor, but Cllr Carter felt that this would be too small for allotment use. Cllr Carter suggested that this area of land, which had originally been earmarked as a play area but had proved unsuitable, could be the subject of a community meeting where local residents could discuss possible uses for the land. The Clerk explained that it was her understanding that, as the developers had ceased trading, the Section 106 agreement relating to this land would have ceased. There appeared to be some uncertainty regarding current land ownership, which Cllr Carter agreed to investigate.

The purchase of planters for the bottom of Springhill was confirmed.

It was noted that the Special Council meeting to discuss the MUGA had been postponed from 30 October to 29 November. The Clerk advised that the meeting would focus firmly on whether or not to move forward into a lease agreement with the Gloucestershire Diocese for the MUGA to be sited on the Primary School site. It was vital that the meeting should have a clear outcome.

Councillors had been pleased to learn that Section 106 money to the value of £34,464 from the developer of the former Hazelwood Factory was soon to become available for community projects. Cllr M Robinson felt that it would be appropriate to consider spending this money on improvements to the KGV playground equipment. It was agreed that councillors should submit any further suggestions for the use of this money to the Chair of the Recreation and Amenities Committee for consideration.

The Clerk pointed out that the 'estimate' of £2,200.00 plus VAT received from a contractor for repairs to the skateboard park surface, referred to in the minutes, was in fact merely an indication of possible cost.

### **2012/120 PROPOSAL TO HOLD DROP IN SURGERIES IN THE MORTIMER ROOM**

Cllr Carter proposed that the Mortimer Room should be made available at no charge twice a year for Nailsworth town, district and county councillors to hold drop in surgeries for local residents. Whilst acknowledging that the Mayor regularly made himself available at the monthly Farmers' Market to discuss issues with residents, Cllr Carter felt there was an additional need for more formal surgeries with a degree of privacy. In response to a question from Cllr Kay, Cllr Carter confirmed that he was making his request as a district rather than a town councillor, and that he did not intend the surgeries to be used for party political purposes. Discussion ensued, with some councillors suggesting that it might be appropriate for some of the proposed sessions to be held at the Arkell Centre. However, this would have to be negotiated

separately with the Management Committee. The Clerk advised that Nailsworth Town Councillors had held surgeries in the Mortimer Room the past, but that these had been discontinued as most questions had not related to NTC's area of responsibility.

After further discussion, it was agreed unanimously that NTC would make the **Mortimer Room available free of charge on two occasions per year for surgeries to be held by Nailsworth town, district and county councillors, to be reviewed after 12 months.** Cllr M Robinson agreed to organise the surgeries.

### **2012/121 REPORT OF ACQUISITION OF FORMER POLICE STATION**

Cllr M Robinson presented an executive summary of a pre-contract report which had been prepared by NTC solicitors on the former police station (attached to these minutes). It would be necessary for NTC to negotiate an agreement with the Library regarding the informal right of access which it currently enjoyed through the car park, and NTC would also need to negotiate with GCC a right of access over the area in front of the Library for the new entrance to the property.

After a brief discussion it was agreed unanimously to proceed to **purchase the former Police Station** and the Clerk was asked to make arrangements to draw down the PWLB loan to facilitate this.

### **2012/122 PROPOSAL FOR MANAGEMENT OF NTC WEBSITE AND EMAIL**

Cllr Duckworth had produced a report which had been circulated to all councillors. In his absence, the report was presented by Cllr Carter, who explained that, as space on the server used by NTC was limited, problems had been caused by disk space being filled up. Once full capacity had been reached it was not possible for councillors to send or receive council emails, or the Council website, until space had been freed up. This had already occurred on some occasions. More space could be purchased, but the problem could be resolved if councillors routinely deleted unwanted emails and emptied their 'trash' boxes. To encourage this, Cllr Duckworth was proposing to limit email accounts to 30 MB per person. Councillors would receive warning emails when their individual accounts were nearing capacity. Cllr Reed reported that she was unable to use the nailsworthtowncouncil.gov system owing to restrictions on her work laptop computer, and stated that she was happy for Cllr Duckworth to delete her account and empty her mailbox. Cllr Duckworth also proposed a system of file sharing, and to introduce an Apologies page to the website to enable councillors to submit apologies to the Clerk's office via email.

Discussion ensued, with some councillors expressing the view that the proposals should have been first considered in detail by the Communications Committee before being brought to full Council, as they had significant implications for the ways in which individual councillors carried out their functions. However, Cllr Carter felt that the proposals related to a relatively trivial aspect of website management and recommended that councillors supported them.

Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Elliott, proposed that the website and email management proposals be referred to a meeting of the Communications Committee, which the Chair should be requested to arrange as soon as possible. The motion was carried by majority decision.

*\* Cllr Carter left the meeting at this point.*

**2012/123 ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED** that the list of accounts for 16 October 2012 amounting to **£14,727.62** be approved for payment.

**2012/124 BRITISH LEGION: ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE 11/11/12**

Approximately 5 councillors confirmed their intention to attend.

**2012/125 SDC - STROUD DISTRICT ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT & EMPLOYMENT LAND STUDY**

This document was referred to the next meeting of the Planning Committee, which was authorised to respond on behalf of NTC. It was noted that, owing to the indisposition of Cllr Kelly, the Planning Committee currently had only two operational members, excluding the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, who were ex officio. Cllr Kay agreed to join the Committee on a temporary basis until Cllr Kelly was able to return.

**2012/126 SDC – Notice Of Publication Of Revised Proposals For New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries**

An eight-week consultation process had started on 16 October 2012. Details were available on the SDC website and SDC offices.

**2012/127 SDC – NOTICE OF ELECTION OF A POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE AREA – 15/11/12.**

The notices had been displayed at the usual locations.

**2012/128 SDC – NOTICE OF HOUSING ADVISORY PANEL MEETING AT EBLEY MILL 17/10/12**

This was noted.

**2012/129 WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION – INVITATION TO STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS**

Details were available from the Clerk's office on request.

**2012/130 GCC – FEEDBACK SESSION ON HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

A drop-in session would be held in Leonard Stanley Village Hall on Wednesday 14 November between 5.00 and 8.00 p.m. The Mayor and Cllr Kay would attend, if possible, on behalf of NTC.

**2012/131 GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION – NOTICE OF AGM**

This would be held on Tuesday 4 December at 3 pm. Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

..... Chair

..... Date