

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 08 May 2012

Present	Cllr SM Reed (chairman) Cllr P Carter Cllr A Elliott Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr S Robinson (part of meeting)
Apologies	Cllr SE Thorpe

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Energy neighbourhood competition

Cllrs Carter and Elliot had both been informed that they had won prizes for their successful participation in this initiative. They were congratulated on their efforts.

Problems in Shortwood

Mrs Nicholson was asked to research suitable community notice boards to replace the existing one on Shortwood Green.

Trees above Gethsemane

The owner had offered £500 towards the cost of tree removal. This was gratefully accepted and the work was authorised to go ahead.

Nailsworth Access Group Meeting

Cllr Kelly reported that the County Highways Officer had confirmed that it might be possible to place a bollard on the pavement outside Tesco, by the post box, to deter drivers from driving over the pavement. However, it was not feasible to put bollards all the way along the store's frontage. The Access Group will be holding its second meeting on Friday 11 May, when these issues will be discussed further. Cllr Reed planned to attend.

Request to Re-route ZNA10 Public Footpath at Inds Farm Nympsfield

Cllr Carter reported that the landowner was not pursuing the diversion further owing to local objections.

LITTER BIN NEAR BUS STOP - NYMPSFIELD ROAD

A resident had drawn attention to an issue with litter around the bus stop and had requested that a litter bin be provided there. The resident had established that Stroud District Council was prepared to maintain the bin and empty it on a weekly basis but would require NTC to fund its installation for a cost of £70. It was agreed to fund the bin for attachment to a suitable pole near the bus stop. Cllr Carter suggested that other areas might also benefit from the provision of litter bins and explained that residents of Newmarket had contacted him to suggest that a bin be provided there. Cllr Carter undertook to investigate this further so that a formal request could be put to the Council, indicating the preferred site with confirmation that SDC was prepared to empty it.

LICENCE FOR PARKING AND USING COUNCIL LAND AT WALKLEY WOOD

The Council was discussing a licence agreement with the residents of Box Cottage, establishing permission for them to use a section of Council land near their property for parking and amenity use. The Clerk reported that a fence should be erected to demarcate the boundary of Council owned land from that of neighbouring properties. One neighbour disputed council ownership but this would be resolved on completion of the exercise to register all council land with the Land Registry. Cllr Carter queried the need for the Council to retain ownership of parcels of land which appeared to have no community benefit. The Clerk advised that any disposal of Council owned land would require

permission from the Secretary of State, and that disposal was unlikely to be a straightforward process. Cllr Reed asked the Clerk to arrange a site meeting for members.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE

The Clerk had spoken to the surveyor dealing with the rent negotiation who had not been averse to recommending a year’s extension of the current lease albeit at an increased rent. He was consulting with Colburn Homes and would revert with an offer for approval by council at next week’s meeting.

NORTON WOOD – FUTURE PLANNING

The Mayor joined the meeting at this point.

Cllrs Reed and S Robinson had conducted site visits with three contractors, with a view to seeking tenders for woodland maintenance and general environmental enhancement, as part of a ten year management plan. It is envisaged that this plan will involve co-ordinating working with community groups, building on what had already been achieved by the Community Orchard Group. Cllr Reed was keen to enlist the help and advice of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) and would be undertaking a walkabout in the wood with representatives of this organisation in June. Prospective contractors had advocated a section by section approach, possibly working with different community groups for each section. Some thinning of self-seeded trees could be undertaken which could be made into billets. It was estimated that this work could be self-funding from the sale of the wood billets. No large machinery would be necessary for this purpose. Tenders are awaited from the three contractors.

NORTON WOOD – AERIAL LICENCE

The resident who was negotiating a licence agreement with the Council for the siting of radio aerials on Council owned trees had written with some concerns about the terms of the proposed licence although it was unclear what the resident was asking the Council to do. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate discussing the issue as appropriate with the resident and the Council’s solicitor.

REPORT ON ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Notes from the February meeting were still awaited and Cllr S Robinson agreed to follow up with Ian Crawley. Cllr Reed advised that Ellen Winter, Community Wildlife Officer for GWT, had offered to facilitate an informal training session for interested councillors. She would be visiting Norton Wood with Cllr Reed on 29 June with a view to mapping out the woodland from a wildlife perspective, linking in with Orchard Project and the Parish Action Plan, hopefully to integrate wildlife and nature conservation issues more holistically into the Plan. For example, designated wildlife enhancement areas could be established in various parts of the town.

LITTER AT BUNTING HILL

Cllr Carter advised that there was a real problem with litter and general rubbish along the footpath at Bunting Hill. The recent Litter Pick organised by the local Rotary had been abandoned because of inclement weather, but Rotary would presumably be happy to reschedule. Owing to the amount and nature of the waste in this location, provision of a skip would be appropriate, but it would need to be delivered and collected on the same day to prevent ‘dumping’ by local residents. Cllr Carter undertook to investigate the provision of a skip, in liaison with the Mayor and Chair of Environment Committee, and to liaise with Rotary with a view to recommending a suitable date, time and location.

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Date

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Chairman