

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Nailsworth Town Council held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth on Tuesday 20 July 2010

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr N I Kay Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe (Deputy Mayor) Cllr Mrs J M Way
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr Blackwell District Cllr J T Jeffreys
Apologies	Cllr J R Nicholson District Cllr Miss F Macmillan County Cllr J S Waddington

2010/54 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

2010/55 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 June 2010 were approved and signed with the following amendments

Minute 2010/37, page 434: correction of spelling to "Selly" Oak Hospital.

Minute 2010/53, page 438: correction of proposal (1) to read "That NTC accept the offer of a grant of £224,840 from the rural development programme for England via its agent the South West Regional Development Agency . . ."

2010/56 RESURFACING of OLD MARKET (minute 2010/36)

The Mayor had hoped to be able to ask County Cllr Waddington why only one part of Old Market had been resurfaced, and not the area between the pedestrian crossing and Cossack Square.

2010/57 FLOODING in BRIDGE STREET (minute 2010/36)

The Mayor had visited the two shops in Bridge Street which had put up their own flood defences, but had no news about improvement to the culverts and if/when this work would take place.

2010/58 POPPY APPEAL 2009

Cllr Kay was pleased to report that the final figure for the poppy appeal collection in Nailsworth was just over £6800 (up from £5700 last time).

2010/59 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Miss Macmillan had sent in a written report, advising that there would be a meeting on 22 July to hear feedback from the consultation on joint use centres.

She had received complaints about dilapidated houses in Market Street.

She was exploring the possibility of improving disabled access to Lloyds Bank, with either a designated disabled parking bay in front or lowering the church end pavement for easier wheelchair access, and invited comments from NTC. Environment Committee would be asked to respond.

Cllr Miss Macmillan's monthly surgeries would start in September.

District Cllr Blackwell had been pleased to see the Mayor at the last Farmers Market and felt it was good for residents to have access to him. The sites panel had spent some time in Nailsworth and had approved the Beaudesert School arts block. The panel had gone to Newmarket to view the property under an enforcement order to tidy up and had found the resident working on the job, whose ongoing progress would be monitored.

Cllr Blackwell was asked about how to resolve the problem of the play area behind Norton Wood which was equipped for younger children, being used as a kick-about area by teenagers. The resident at no.59 which lay below the play area was continually getting their balls in her garden. Cllr Kay advised that a similar problem elsewhere had been partially resolved with better fencing to keep balls within the play area, but it was agreed the teenagers should be playing elsewhere and that this was a further incentive for the new MUGA to provide an alternative more suitable space. The Neighbourhood Warden and PCSOs would be asked to look into the matter, as well as the Youth Club outreach team.

Cllrs Crawley and M Robinson urged SDC to keep monitoring the enforcement notice at Lower Newmarket to ensure the two shipping containers were also removed. The planning consent for a new house on the derelict site was conditional on the restoration of the mill pond, which had been done badly in the past and caused town centre flooding. The current works appeared more substantial. Cllr Kay suggested a lifebelt should be installed next to the pond.

District Cllr Jeffreys had nothing to add, but reported on questions raised at the last meeting. Ms Rachel Small's assessment of the current situation with the Old Market development had been circulated.

On 30 September Cabinet would prepare a recommendation on the future of Joint Use Centres in Nailsworth, Wotton and Berkeley to go before full council in November. Cllr Crawley asked for a response from District Cllrs on NTC's report and views including asking SDC to agree to taper its removal of funding and provide assistance (for at least two years) to allow Nailsworth to work on a scheme for retaining its recreation centre. Both Cllrs Jeffreys and Blackwell were keen to support any initiatives to maintain/improve services for Nailsworth but Cllr Jeffreys wished to look at the financial implications of tapered funding before making a final decision, and awaited the results of the consultation process. Cllr Crawley offered to email the report to both and requested their comments on substance and presentation.

2010/60 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

21 June	Attended the police meeting with local groups to look at different priorities. The police would keep an eye on antisocial behaviour in identified areas, and make a point of monitoring the KGV skateboard ramps. There would be extra police presence at the start of the school holidays to set standards of behaviour, which action had worked well last year.
24 June	Attended the Chartered Parishes meeting in Gloucester. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of A boards and furniture outside premises was mentioned and apparently a charge was made for these in Gloucester and Cheltenham. • A new GCC Highways policy would mean that complete road refurbishment would be undertaken, rather than individual potholes repaired as at present. • A new large salt bunker at Stow is ready for use this winter with a larger one planned

	<p>for Stroudwater when funds allow. This will ensure plenty of salt, as and when required, in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting with Snow Wardens was being arranged. • The Mayor had asked if Highways had a policy to tackle hedges overhanging footpaths, and had learnt that two local councils received £30 a year to send out standard letters to culprits. He would look into similar for Nailsworth.
26 June	The Nailsworth Games were well supported and the compacted weekend format worked very well. The Mayor was pleased to see the new MP Mr Carmichael both at the Games and the Farmers Market.
25 June	Attended the opening of the Mr Carmichael's new offices in Stroud.
2 July	Attended the cream tea opening of the forge at Ruskin Mill, which was very impressive
9 July	<p>Attended the Police INA meeting in Stonehouse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime was reducing in all areas, in particular in Nailsworth. • The Mayor intended to speak with the Nailsworth sergeant about keeping the door open when the station was manned, which only happened currently if there were two officers present, because of the breachability of the counter. • Stonehouse received money for reducing crime, which the Mayor would enquire about for Nailsworth. • In Stonehouse there was a telephone for members of the public to use when the station was closed, and again he would enquire about having one in Nailsworth.
10 July	Attended the Primary School fête and helped in the balloon release
14 July	Presented the awards at the Ruskin Mill Awards Day and was very impressed with both the staff and the students.
	Chaired the Youth Club AGM. The Mayor was very impressed with the work done by Ms Danica Emes in her first six months as town youth worker.

The Mayor reported that Cllrs Carter and Crawley had expressed concerns about NTC's increasing workload and how this was prioritised. Some Cllrs 'did their own thing' and then it was up to the Clerk to pull everything together. Cllr Crawley offered to run a training session with a view to focussing on priorities and updating the 2005 Action Plan, and it was agreed to do this at 7pm on Wednesday 8 September.

2010/61 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Mrs Thorpe continued to focus all her efforts on the FGCC project.

2010/62 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing to add to her written report.

2010/63 REPORTS form REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Smith was pleased to report that NYCE had received its grant from the Arkell Bequest, and this had already been put to use on renovation of toilets and adding a disabled toilet. It was hoped to zone the heating system and upgrade compliance with fire regulations.

2010/64 REPORT of TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Cllr Crawley presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 28 June and the minutes were approved. He talked the meeting through the recommendations that the committee's remit be extended, including taking control of the town website, with a change of name to reflect its wider responsibilities. The Clerk drew attention to the Environment Committee's current tourism responsibilities covering the Town Guide, Shops/Services Directory, advertising; that committee's policy statement would need to be consequently altered. The new 'Communications' Committee's meeting schedule would need to be revised to cater for its additional duties.

PROPOSED Cllr M Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thorpe to unanimous agreement that the committee be renamed 'Communications Committee' with the following Policy Statement

- To be responsible for all Town Council communications and publications (other than press releases or dealing with media enquiries) and the associated budget
- To use all the channels available to explain and promote the role, services and activities of the Town Council, seeking feedback and comment; local voluntary organisations and clubs; public services available to Nailsworth residents and visitors; local businesses
- To promote an understanding of Nailsworth and its surrounds in history
- To promote environmental sustainability
- To minimise the direct costs to the Town Council by maximising advertising income.

2010/65 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Way presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 5 July and the minutes were approved with the following amendment -

Page 1, last paragraph, first line, to read: " . . . Cllr Crawley felt that a written agreement should be drawn up to cover its activity in the orchard."

The Clerk instructed Cllrs to remove the mention of Mrs Betty Mills' former address from the Bunting Hill report survey circulated with the minutes.

The Mayor had mentioned salt bins to Mr Julian Wilson GCC, who had advised that it was premature to discuss new bins and he would revert when he had some idea of the situation for the coming winter. The Clerk was asked to chase up Mr Wilson at the end of August in the hope of some news for the next meeting of the committee.

A draft policy update for Bunting Hill had been circulated with the minutes, with a three point recommendation for the management of the Key Wildlife Site, following advice from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. A good start had been made with the BTCV work team in February, and more work would be needed. Using local volunteers was a problem because of health & safety; BTCV brought its own experts and its insurance covered any volunteers working with them.

PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Way proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawley to unanimous agreement that the Town Council undertake to

- Seek the preparation of a management plan for Bunting Hill as a Key Wildlife Site, with the intention of protecting and maintaining biodiversity, including through continuing scrub clearance and rubbish and litter removal.
- Ensure appropriate access is maintained at the top of the slope, with signing and if necessary fencing, to ensure users are aware of its status and the potential risks, particularly from the steep and precipitous slopes and the quarry face.
- Ensure the extent of the Town Council's ownership is clear to adjacent landowners and take appropriate action to deal with any encroachment.

2010/66 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 7 July and the minutes were approved.

PROPOSED Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawley to unanimous agreement that the following recommendations be adopted

TOWN CLERK

- The Clerk would notify the mayor of training courses applicable to her work and the Council would support her requests for relevant training.

- **In recognition of the hours regularly worked in excess of thirty in her conditions of service, it was agreed that the Clerk's hours be increased to thirty four with effect from 1 April 2010; office hours to remain unchanged.**
- **Mrs de Lacroix should be assigned additional duties as appropriate (ie. Energy saving initiatives)**
- **"Desirable Attribute 1" should be removed from the clerk's job description which was not relevant as NTC was not aspiring to Quality Council status.**
- **NTC should meet the cost of membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks as this was included in the job description.**
- **The purchase of a new office chair and scanner should be authorised**
- **The Clerk to be set a target for completing risk assessments for all buildings, facilities and relevant procedures.**

TOWN GROUNDSMAN

- **Although considered unnecessary, the Groundsman would check whether his weed spraying certificate required updating.**
- **New safety shoes and a leaf rake to be purchased**
- **Approve the Groundsman's request to resuscitate the old mower which would cope more effectively with the rough mowing around the old allotment area.**

2010/67 REPORT of FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the group was working hard to ensure all finances were in place, and all necessary details were covered before starting the build. She had learnt today that the RDA had awarded NTC the largest grant in the SW region. A paper had been circulated following the agreement on 15 June to investigate setting up a charity which would own the land and building and receive the Arkell Bequest monies.

Cllr Kay had advised the working party of a discussion with the North Nibley team regarding their development worker funded by Big Lottery and wished to make a similar application. It was agreed to add this recommendation to the list.

Cllr Mrs Smith read out a personal statement alleging that misleading information had been involved in seeking funding for the project and disputing the claim that the new hall was needed as there was insufficient space for hire in the town.

Cllr Kay voiced the view that, whilst respecting individual opinions, he felt it was no longer necessary to revisit the same points at every meeting and that the majority decision should now prevail. Cllr Mrs Binns countered that, as part of a democratic process, Cllrs had the right to raise matters of concern as often as they wished. She queried the role of the development worker and it was agreed that the job description from North Nibley would be circulated to all Cllrs.

Cllr Carter asked about the role of the new charity and its relation to NTC; if the new centre would be managed differently to other council properties. Cllr Mrs Thorpe would arrange a training evening for Cllrs Mrs Binns, Carter and Mrs Smith with Ms Barbara Pond GRCC who could better explain the details of the charity administration.

PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay that the Town Council approve

- a) The establishment of a charity to be called The Arkell Centre Forest Green, to own the Forest Green Community Centre (and build and operate it, as necessary)**
- b) The transfer to the charity of the land gifted to the Town Council under the terms of the Redrow housing development Section 106 planning agreement for the purposes of providing a community hall**
- c) The appointment of solicitors to advise the Town Council on establishing a charity**

- d) **The allocation of up to £10,000 from the Forest Green Community Centre budget in 2010/11 to meet the legal costs of establishing a charity**
 e) **Seeking a grant from the Big Lottery to fund the services of a Development Worker**

The motion was carried with seven votes in favour and three against.

2010/68 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the reports of the meetings held on 17 June and 6 July – adding “Planning Committee” to the heading of the minutes of 6 July.

The Clerk was asked to notify members by email when letters had been sent out but did not need to provide them with hard copies.

In relation to the proposed development at the Vicarage, the Clerk urged members to ensure that the PCC respect the correct boundaries, as there had previously been some confusion over land belonging to NTC and a right of way.

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 17 June and 6 July 2010 be approved.
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2010/69 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 20 July 2010 amounting to £14,606.37 be approved for payment.
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The Clerk confirmed that the new councillors had been added as signatories to the Lloyds bank account – she was currently updating all signatories for the National Savings account.

2010/70 GAPTC – request to submit motions for the AGM on 14 October

As mentioned at the last meeting (minute 2010/46), Cllr Kay had lobbied fellow councils to join with Nailsworth in seeking GAPTC’s help in urging SDC to improve its consultation process, and 12 councils had eventually responded in general agreement with the principle. A copy of SDC’s Engagement Policy had been reviewed, which made no mention of P&TCs. The SDC officer concerned had advised Cllr Kay that input from GAPTC on this matter would be very useful.

PROPOSED Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thorpe to unanimous agreement that the following motion be put to GAPTC for its AGM on 30 July

“That GAPTC is asked to take the lead in seeking to negotiate a detailed Consultation Agreement between Stroud District Council and parish and town councils in its area.”

2010/71 GCC – what budget cuts mean for road safety & improvements

Mrs de Lacroix would scan in and circulate the letter from Cllr Waddington explaining the cuts.

2010/72 GMTF – Forum Networking meeting Thursday 29 July at Coleford

A representative was invited to attend the meeting (7.45pm - 8.30pm) on the subject of “Sustainability”, to include a buffet supper.

2010/73 Ruskin Mill College – road safety measures for the College

The College Principal, Mr Michael Frosch had met with County Cllr Waddington and Mr Chris Riley GCC Highways to look at safety issues on Old Bristol/Horsley Road. Resurfacing and road narrowing were being considered as traffic calming measures, which the College felt were essential for the safety of its students and other pedestrians, and had offered a contribution of £1500 to the estimated £15k project. Mr Frosch urged NTC to add a further contribution but Cllrs were reluctant to set any precedent in subsidising GCC obligations, although Cllrs were unanimous in their

appreciation of the benefits of having Ruskin Mill in the town and were keen to support it as far as possible. The amount of £15k was questioned as being too little to do anything of consequence. The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Frosch accordingly.

2010/74 GPFA – reception for Sir Henry Elwes KCVO on his retirement as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and President of GPFA on 10 September

The Mayor or Deputy Mayor would attend the reception at Stanway House to include a display of its spectacular fountain.

2010/75 SDC – consultation on taxi & private hire policies and conditions, and Licensing Act 2003 policy

The information had been circulated to Cllrs and was noted.

2010/76 GAPTC – presentation on current issues by Chief Constable Tony Melville on 14 September

The event would take place at Highnam Community Centre between 2 and 4pm with a presentation on current issues and questions taken (submitted in advance by 6 September). The Mayor would speak with local police officers about the matters raised in his report above (minute 2010/60), failing which Cllr M Robinson would formulate a question to be submitted to the Chief Constable at the GAPTC meeting, which both Cllrs Robinson would attend.

The Mayor added that he believed a second police officer had already been withdrawn from Nailsworth but awaited confirmation.

2010/77 GCC – road closure Devil's Elbow

The road would be closed from 23 August to 17 September for wall and tree works.

2010/78 CUTS in FIRE SERVICE PROVISION

Cllr Mrs Smith, whose husband was a fireman, drew attention to the county-wide rearrangement of the fire service, with cuts meaning the loss of 8 fire fighters and major incident vehicles being withdrawn to the cities. She feared that Nailsworth would eventually be under threat

2010/79 AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

PROPOSED It was proposed that no council meeting be held during August and that delegated power be approved for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, consulting with other Cllrs as appropriate, to take decisions on matters which could not be deferred until the next meeting in September. The proposal was approved.

It was noted that a special meeting might need to be called to progress the Forest Green Community Centre project.

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Date

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Chairman