

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of a meeting held on 6 January 2015

Present	Cllr SM Reed (Chair) Cllr NI Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MP Robinson Cllr SM Thorpe
In attendance	Cllr S Robinson
Non attendance	Cllr N Dart

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr S Robinson be co-opted onto the Committee for the meeting.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2014**

In response to a question from Cllr Kay, the Clerk advised that it remained unclear whether a byelaw existed prohibiting **equestrian access to Shortwood Green**. After discussion, it was agreed that no further action need be taken on this matter at the present time.

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Binns had confirmed that repairs to the **uneven footway in front of the Co-op** in Old Market were in GCC's current programme. Cllr S Robinson reported that he had been informed by Cllr Binns that there was some money left in her highway improvement budget allocation for the current year. He had suggested to Cllr Binns that this could fund repairs to the uneven footway between the Co-op car park in Old Market to the junction with Market Street, and to erect bollards on the kerb outside the wall in front of Tesco in Old Market to prevent vehicles from parking on the pavement. The Clerk was asked to make a formal request to Cllr Binns for this work to be done.

Councillors expressed disappointment at the apparent lack of response from Stagecoach to local concern regarding the **removal of bus services to Nortonwood**. In discussion, councillors could see no reason why the new bus timetables should prevent the hourly 63 bus service to Gloucester from serving Nortonwood. Cllr Reed undertook to draft a letter to GCC Public Transport Section, to be signed by the Mayor and with copies to Stagecoach and County Cllr Binns, requesting that bus services be restored to Nortonwood.

**NORTON WOOD**

Cllr Reed reported that, as part of the Management Plan, contractors would be starting work in the wood on 12 January. She had drafted an information notice for local residents and planned to deliver copies to properties on the perimeter of the wood on Saturday 10 January. The Mayor volunteered to help with delivery.

Cllr S Robinson reported that fence posts between the burial ground and the entrance to the wood had been broken off. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

Cllr Reed observed that, owing to the building works at the Jovial Foresters site, the footpath route into the Orchard was not very apparent and the Clerk suggested that once the development was complete a directional sign could be erected by the Council.

### **TOWN ALLOTMENTS**

One of the aspirations of the new Town Plan was to consider providing public allotments in Nailsworth and Cllr Reed announced her intention to tour the town to see if there were any suitable sites. She would inform members of the date and time of her walkabout and encouraged any interested councillors to join her. In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that the former allotments in Wood Lane had been converted to woodland, with trees being planted as part of a project to celebrate the millennium in 2000. Councillors agreed that it would therefore be impractical to restore this site for allotment use.

### **BUNTING HILL**

The Clerk confirmed that NTC's objection to the **application for adverse possession of a small area of land at Bunting Hill** in the Council's ownership had been lodged with the Land Registry, She clarified that the land in question was not adjacent to the public footpath.

The Clerk reported that she was in the process of arranging to meet with Tree Maintenance and the resident of Vale View to inspect which some trees on the property's boundary about which the resident had expressed concern. Cllr Reed agreed to attend the site meeting.

### **ROAD SAFETY ON NAILSWORTH 'W'**

Cllr Reed read out an email to the Council from the residents of Millbank, previously circulated to all councillors, asking for the Council's assistance in their request to GCC for a barrier at the bottom of the 'W' to prevent the wall of their property from being hit and damaged by large vehicles trying to negotiate the bend, as had happened on several occasions. They reported that GCC had stated it was unwilling to erect a barrier as this would prevent coaches from using the pavement space to swing round the bend. However, the residents felt this practice was in itself a potential danger to pedestrians. They also felt that vehicles were ignoring the weight restriction on the road.

In discussion, Cllr S Robinson suggested that the weight restriction sign on the road was not very visible. Councillors acknowledged the residents' concerns but were unsure of the extent to which NTC could assist. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the residents and Cllrs Reed, Kelly and M Robinson to **arrange a site meeting with Mr John Kay of GCC Highways**, hopefully on 29 January when Mr Kay was already due to visit Nailsworth to discuss other highway matters with Cllr Kelly.

### **TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE**

There was nothing to report at the present time.

### **SHORTWOOD ROAD TREES – SAFETY REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the Council's contractors had completed their **safety inspection of a group of trees on the bank opposite 'Rosedene', Shortwood Road**. 13 trees had been inspected and the contractors' report indicated that none of these presented a safety hazard. However, 4 of the trees, whilst not dangerous, had some defects, and the report recommended that these trees would benefit some attention within the next 6 months. It had proved difficult to fully inspect one of the trees as there was considerable ivy growth and the report recommended a rolling programme of ivy severance.

The Clerk was requested to ask the contractors to provide an itemised quotation for all the recommended work, following which a decision could be made on how to proceed. It was suggested that the Town Groundsman might be able to clear the ivy and the Clerk agreed to discuss this possibility with him.

**REQUEST FOR LICENCE FOR LAND AT WALKLEY WOOD**

It was unclear whether the resident concerned still wished to proceed and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Reed would arrange to meet on site with the resident and report back.

**POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF 20 MPH 'QUIET LANES' SCHEME IN RODBOROUGH PARISH**

The Clerk had received an email from Rodborough Parish Council informing NTC that the Minchinhampton and Rodborough Advisory Committee was considering the possible **extension of the present 20 mph zone/Quiet Lanes Scheme** from Rodborough parish along the valley from the Bear Hotel to Nailsworth, which she had circulated to all councillors with the relevant map. Rodborough Parish Council wished to meet with representatives of NTC and Minchinhampton Town Council to discuss the matter.

Councillors were highly supportive of the plan to extend the 20 mph zone/Quiet Lanes scheme to Nailsworth and Cllr S Robinson agreed to represent NTC at the proposed meeting.

**NEW BUS SHELTER IN NAILSWORTH BUS STATION**

Councillors were concerned that SDC had yet to install a new bus shelter in the redesigned Bus Station, recalling that it had been several months since NTC had approved SDC's proposed design. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with Mr Brian McGough SDC.

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Chair

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Date