

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 18 November 2008
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr B Jayes Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler	
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington Sgt. S Irvin, Gloucestershire Constabulary	
Apologies	Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe	District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr J T Jeffreys District Cllr Miss F Macmillan

2008/126 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the council meeting held on 21 October 2008 were confirmed and signed.

2008/127 REFURBISHING KGV TENNIS COURTS (minute 2008/108)

The quotation for hedge cutting around the tennis courts of £430 was approved.

2008/129 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (minute 2008/117)

The Mayor commended all who had taken part in this year's ceremonies. Four police officers were in attendance to ensure the roads were closed to traffic at appropriate times and the Mayor had written a letter of thanks to Inspector Stack for the police support. A useful dais had been borrowed from Nailsworth Primary School.

2008/131 CAMPAIGN FOR DOUBLE TRACKS ON KEMBLE/SWINDON RAILWAY (minute 2008/121)

Cllr Mrs Way wished to record NTC's regret that Office Rail Regulation had decided not to proceed with doubling of tracks on this section of the line and it was understood that Mr David Drew MP was continuing the campaign.

2008/128 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES 28 NOVEMBER (minute 2008/123)

SDC had written to advise that Market Street would not after all be closed during Christkindl Evening.

2008/130 SDC COMMUNITY LEGAL ADVICE NETWORK (minute 2008/131)

Cllr Nicholson reported that the letter had been sent before the report had been presented to full council and there was some confusion as to whether SDC would take part after all. This appeared to be the latest phase in government's attempt to reduce spending on legal aid and, whereas the scheme might be appropriate for urban communities, more wide spread rural communities might lose out.

2008/131 NAILSWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2009 (minute 2008/106)

Cllr Byrne reported that he had spoken with Mr Chris Gregory last evening who advised that £18-20k funding would be needed to put on the Music Festival. Mr Gregory had reiterated that the organisers felt a two-day event was needed to offset the lost revenue through the planned 8.30pm finish. The first day would be for school bands with the main event on the Sunday. Security fencing would be

erected with five access points manned by SIA personnel. The organisers wished to charge a £2.50 entrance fee and issue wrist bands.

In respect of charging some thought that a precedent had been set by the Scouts who had charged for entrance to the field for the fireworks display, but the Clerk pointed out that the Scouts had acted in contravention of direct instructions from NTC (endorsed at the October meeting) that a compulsory entrance charge could not be made. The Clerk would be asking the Scouts for an explanation. As the field was no longer a registered charity, NTC had complete discretion over its management, and if a decision was ever taken to allow entrance fees to be charged it would only be fair in turn for hirers to pay a fee to NTC for use of the field.

Discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of the proposals, and further debate about the logistics of a two-day event, but no decision could be taken until the organisers had properly responded to the questions asked at the October council meeting, in particular a clear report of the views of Park Road residents. Cllrs were concerned that the 'noisy' day was now to be on the Sunday (apparently at the suggestion of the police) and questioned how the organisers planned to close the event at 8.30pm and clear the field, if some of the audience wanted to carry on and party.

Sergeant Irvin was asked to put forward the police point of view. He advised that he had met on site with Mr Gregory, and that the security fencing was to regulate numbers for safety reasons and to comply with licensing regulations which would be stringently enforced this time. Names and addresses of stewards would have to be submitted to the police in advance and a proper system of organisation and radio communication set up between stewards, SIA and police. A PCSO would join the stewards at the entrance points to control alcohol brought onto the site. A risk assessment would be made to estimate the number of police officers and PCSOs required, but officers over and above the standard number for a 'community event' would have to be paid for. As a guideline, Sgt Irving advised that a sergeant and 6 PCs for 8 hours = £1500. The police would undertake to provide a mobile police station, PCSOs and PCs, and perhaps a CCTV van at additional cost.

It was noted that, in the case of an arrest, at least two officers would have to leave the site with each offender, and might not be able to return for some time, if at all.

The Clerk warned cllrs against becoming too involved in organising the event and felt NTC's role was to give permission for use of the field or not, and leave the detail to the organisers.

RESOLVED it was unanimously agreed that NTC was not in a position to make a decision on allowing Nailsworth Music Festival organisers to use the KGV field, as questions asked at the October council meeting had not been satisfactorily answered. A written reply with evidence and assurances on those points was required and the Clerk was asked to notify Mr Gregory accordingly.

2008/132 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington advised that DEFRA had awarded PFI credits for the GCC waste contract, worth £6.5million over 25 years. Cllr Waddington was presenting a paper to cabinet tomorrow addressing the evaluation criteria in preparation for inviting tenders. The new pre-booking arrangements for vans and trailers at Pike Quarry (Horsley tip) were causing some dissatisfaction but would settle down and were to prevent deposit of business waste in line with neighbouring councils.

The extensions to bus services agreed with Stagecoach at last month's meeting would start on 22 November. The company had agreed to retime the Minchinhampton bus by 5 minutes in order to coordinate with the Bath service and Cllr Waddington hoped to have a start date for this for next month's meeting.

Cllr Waddington would be looking at the latest proposals to resolve traffic congestion in the Jubilee Road/Star Hill area but confirmed that the idea of interfering with the flow on Inchbrook Hill had been dropped.

Cllr Waddington urged cllrs to take part in the Zero Waste Week taking place in January and to look for information on the website.

The Mayor drew attention to rusting and dilapidated belisha beacons, lamp standards and highway signs around the town. Cllr Waddington would check Nailsworth's position on the maintenance and repair programme schedule.

District Cllr Blackwell had advised the Clerk that SDC was now aware of the damaged door handle on one of the public toilets and a new lock was on order.

District Cllr Miss Macmillan had reported that remedial work continued on the Tinkley tip and thanked NTC for sponsoring the Warm this Winter event on 29 November.

2008/133 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he had had two responses to the invitation to install benches on the cycle track, one from a Watledge family and the other from the mother of former Cllr Aaron Hamblyn. Cllrs agreed that these two families be allowed to provide a bench at a cost of approx £400-£450 each.

The Mayor advised that Cllr Bratby had resigned as chairman of the Property Management Committee due to family commitments. Council extended its thanks to Cllr Bratby for all his work as chair.

2008/134 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The amended Memorandum of Agreement between NTC, Nailsworth Youth Club and GCC for a full time qualified youth worker for Nailsworth had been circulated, and was ready for signature. Cllr Robinson was very pleased that a formal permanent agreement had finally been achieved after many years of effort by several NTC cllrs and Cllr Waddington's support was noted. The campaign would however continue secure 100% GCC funding for the post.

RESOLVED Cllr Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson to unanimous agreement that the Memorandum of Agreement with GCC for Nailsworth Youth Worker be signed.

Cllr Robinson reported on the GCC Chartered Parish Group meeting he attended on 30 October which he had found most interesting. Ms Jane Larkin, manager family advice service, had spoken about the organisation's support of young people and families in the 0-19 age group. Leaflets would be put in the TIC. Mr Chris Davis spoke about emergency response schemes in parishes for eg floods, which Painswick already had in place. He felt this was a good idea and information was available. Mr John Robert's deputy from GCC Highways gave an update on road improvements. Cllr Robinson would be happy to attend the next meeting in December.

Cllr Robinson also attended the launch of Youth Work Week at SDC for youth forums and was very pleased with the presentation made by Nailsworth youth forum (copy circulated to Cllrs). The event finished with a quiz led by District Cllr Jeffreys.

GCC would be altering its youth support management structure with a drastic reduction in funding over coming years: cuts of £150k in 08-09, Connexions budget reduced by £650k over the next three years, and further cuts of £300k across youth support services for 09-10.

2008/135 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk listed further documents received in the office including Inforregio News, annual report of Volunteer Community Action SDC Ltd, the CPRE October newsletter, information on the Sue Rider

Charity, NALC annual report, minutes of the Stonehouse INA meeting, information on cllr training courses.

The Clerk referred to previous discussion over lack of spare links for inscribing names on the Mayor's chain and advised options to increase capacity –

- a) Inscriptions on the back of the flat links @ 34p per character, or £1.65 per character on the domed links (which would give another 30 years of life), or
- b) A new line of links across the front and back at a cost of £649 each line (all the links across the front would already be needed to make up the backlog)



PROPOSED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Robinson to unanimous agreement that the sum of £1300 be included in the 09-10 budget to purchase new lines of links across the front and back of the Mayor's chain.

The Clerk advised that SDC had agreed to replace the street sign for George Street, but felt the Bridge Street one was still adequate. However, NTC could pay £97 to have the Bridge Street sign replaced as well, which was unanimously approved.



District Cllr Miss Macmillan was looking into SDC's prioritisation system for refurbishment of street furniture.

2008/136 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 3 November and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:
"Cllr Wheeler (only) agreed to modify Ms Pond's draft (environmental) policy to suit".

Cllr Nicholson suggested cllrs review the new draft environmental policy so that they could consider adopting it at the January 09 council meeting. Once agreed, the next stage would be to seek ways to implement the measures therein.

2008/137 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 3 November and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Nicholson drew attention to the relationship between NTC and the Archive Office and reiterated the basic principles.

2008/138 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMICS & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 12 November and the minutes were approved.

Members endorsed the proposed projects to be put forward to the trustees of the Nailsworth Bequest. It was hoped that background information would be to hand by the end of the month.

Discussion had continued at this meeting about the relationship with the Archive Office and it was agreed that the Clerk, Cllrs Kay and Nicholson would meet with the volunteers to discuss this. All cllrs were reminded of the date of the Special Council meeting to approve the budget to be arranged for Monday 8 December at 8pm.

2008/139 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had submitted a written report with the working party's recommendations for the next steps. The temporary hall was now up and running with two regular hirers already and it was anticipated that more groups would start using the pleasant, though small, facility in the coming weeks.

Some cllrs questioned whether it was too early to involve architects in fine tuning the design for the new building, but it was pointed out that a feasibility study and extensive research had already been undertaken to establish what sort of space was required by the community. The Business Plan was a tool to attract outside funding and needed design detail in order to estimate accurate building costs. It was noted that ecological components attracted grants.

The Mayor suggested there might be a case for buying an off the peg Scandinavian type building, rather than designing and building from new, in order to save time and cost.

The working party's report was approved. It was agreed to move to the next stage and expenditure of £8950 for architect's fees was approved.

The Clerk reported that the vacuum cleaner and some other items originally left behind, had since been removed by a Redrow representative, although the site model remained; this would be moved to allow installation of a cupboard coming from the Children's Centre. The electric shutters might be a potential problem and two new remote controls had been purchased (£70 each). The Clerk had been unable to source an exterior key safe large enough to house the remote on site, so one would need to be attached to each key. The Clerk was authorised to purchase a vacuum cleaner and more shutter remotes as required.

2008/140 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting held on 23 October and Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meeting held on 4 November.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 23 October and 4 November 2008 be approved.

The Mayor recommended that Mr David Free's town centre design be presented to a public meeting, along with the Roger Evans plan, however it was pointed out that Roger Evans had won the contract over David Free when the town centre redesign project was first commissioned and it would be confusing to now put both schemes before the public in parallel. Although Mr Free had already presented his scheme to two or three council committee meetings, all cllrs had not had a chance to properly review his designs, not least because Mr Free had always refused to leave any documents behind for consideration.

It was agreed that a further training session with all cllrs should take place in January so that cllrs could decide if and how they wished to proceed.

2008/141 ADOPTION OF NAILSWORTH DESIGN STATEMENT

RESOLVED the Mayor proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Way that NTC accept the document for submission to SDC. The motion was carried.

2008/142 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 18 November 2008 amounting to £14810.75 be approved for payment.

2008/143 St George’s Church – invitation to read lesson at Carol Service 21 December

The Carol Service would start at 6pm and Cllr Jayes offered to read the lesson.

2008/144 Stroud & District Motor Club – Cotswold Clouds Trial – 1 February 2009

Notification had been received for this annual event on the Ladder.

2008/145 SDC – Watercourse Wardens

SDC continued to seek nominations for volunteer wardens.

2008/146 Communities & Local Government – consultation on codes of conduct for local authority members & employees

Cllr Nicholson volunteered to look at the document and report back in time for return of comments requested by 24 December.

2008/147 David Drew MP – Sustainable Communities Act – meeting 27 November

Representatives of the local works campaign would talk to local councils at St Lawrence Church hall, Stroud starting at 7pm on 27 November on the subject of housing in rural areas. Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend the meeting. Written responses were invited by 31 December.

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Date

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Chairman

Cllr Byrne was unable to attend the meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee on the scheduled date of 9 December, and the date was changed to Thursday 11 December at 7.30pm