

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 2 June 2015

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| Present | Cllr SE Thorpe (Chair) Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson |
| In attendance | Cllr EF Bonner Cllr JL Dennis Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell |

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2015

Cllr Kay reported that he had attended the **Planning Inspector's site visit** held in connection with Forest Green Rovers FC's application to remove its S106 obligation. As he had anticipated, the Inspector had been unwilling to listen to his comments.

The Clerk reported that Mr Peter Merrett was attempting to obtain costings for suitable scaffolding to be erected to enable him to replace the **crumbling hip tiles on the roof at the back of the Town Hall**. After discussion it was agreed that the repair work be undertaken, funded from the Town Hall improvements budget, providing that the scaffolding costs did not exceed £1000, in which case the matter would be brought back to Council for consideration. Cllrs M Robinson and Duckworth agreed to liaise to investigate if there was any additional repair work which could be carried out to the Town Hall whilst the scaffolding was in place.

Cllr M Robinson reported that he had obtained a quotation of £1,325 for **the repair of fascia boards outside the Library**, together with repairs to the railings and wooden doors. The Clerk advised that the exterior fabric of the building was owned by GCC whilst the entrance lobby was shared space between GCC and NTC, and that normal practice would be for NTC to offer to fund 50% of the repair costs. She confirmed that there were sufficient funds in the Mortimer Room budget for this purpose.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to GCC enclosing the quotation and indicating that NTC would like to see the external fabric of the Library/Mortimer Room building improved and was willing to contribute 50% of the quoted cost.

Cllr M Robinson had obtained designs for **directional signs to the KGV field** from Butcher's Hill triangle on the A46, which were circulated. These were **approved**, subject to the amendment of 'KG5' with 'KGV', and the Clerk was asked to forward the design and details of the proposed location to GCC for its approval.

Cllr Thorpe reported that the planned **SDC Youth Forum consultation** on the development of the Miles Marling (MM) field had now taken place and she had requested a copy of the results. She indicated her intention to place proposals for developing the MM field as a community park on the next Committee agenda. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the Town Groundsman to organise strimming round the new fitness equipment in the MM field if

necessary. She reported that the redundant BMX ramps had been removed and the surface restored.

The Clerk confirmed that Mr James Aburrow had commenced his **weekly block booking of the tennis courts** on Tuesday evenings.

Cllr Thorpe reported that work to prepare the 4 year lease with the Scouts for the latter's **hire of the pavilion** was in progress. It was agreed that discussion of possible long-term options for the pavilion would be on the agenda of the next Committee meeting. The Clerk reported that Taverners AFC had confirmed they would be hiring the KGV football pitch for their reserve team in the new season.

TOWN HALL – GROUND FLOOR GENTS' TOILETS REFURBISHMENT

Cllr Thorpe reported that she had re-inspected the gents' toilets together with the Clerk and Cllr S Robinson and M Robinson to clarify some details of the architect's specification. Two tenders had been duly received with a third contractor declining to tender. Both tenders exceeded the budgeted allocation of £22,000.

The question was asked whether insulation to walls and roof had been included in the specification and it was agreed that if this was not the case the successful tenderer should be asked to provide an additional quotation to provide for this.

Cllr Duckworth expressed the view that as the agenda had not specified approval of tenders no decision should be taken. However members were advised by the Proper Officer that they could proceed to make a recommendation to Council.

After further discussion it was agreed to arrange a meeting with the architect and the lower tenderer to clarify the specification before making any recommendation to Council.

HAZELWOOD BUNGALOW

It was agreed that Cllrs Thorpe and Duckworth, together with the Clerk, would liaise to arrange to inspect Hazelwood Bungalow as soon as practicable following which quotations could be obtained for any necessary maintenance work to be carried out after the current Town Groundsman vacated the bungalow on his retirement.

TOWN GARDENING

The Clerk reported that the new part time gardener, Mr Peter Tessler, was now in post. He had cleared weeds from the Co-op car park and Leves Corner and made a start on Mortimer Gardens, where heavy weeding was required. She had discussed the programme with Mr Tessler and had arranged that he would focus on the tubs outside the kitchen shop, hairdressers and Paint a Pot in Market Street/Cossack Square and then move onto the Clock Tower gardens requesting some assistance from the groundsman. The groundsman would also be able to lend assistance with the Mortimer Garden when necessary.

RECRUITMENT OF TOWN GROUNDSMAN/CARETAKER

The Clerk reported that the Town Groundsman Replacement Working Party had met on 1 June to finalise the job description and terms of employment for the post. The post would be advertised in the local press the following week and the Clerk summarised the various advertising packages she had researched. The proposed wording of the advertisement was discussed and it was agreed that in order to keep the cost to a manageable level the number of words would be reduced to 25, plus reference to the closing date for applications which was 5pm on 24 June. Cllr Duckworth agreed to put details of the post and the application form on the NTC website and the Clerk was asked to send details to Cirencester Agricultural

University, Hartpury College and the local jobcentre if possible. Cllr Powell agreed to forward details of the post to the 'Jobs in Stroud' website.

It was agreed that a shortlist of suitable candidates would be drawn up on 25 June with interviews being held on 29 June by a panel consisting of Cllrs M Robinson, Thorpe and Elliott and the Clerk.

MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) UPDATE

Cllr Kay had previously circulated a progress report from the MUGA Working Party which he summarised. The Heads of Terms Agreement had been signed and sent to all interested parties and Cllr Kay understood that the Primary School was happy with NTC's proposed amendments to the Management Agreement. The next stage would be the planning application followed by the release of the relevant S106 money from SDC.

The Clerk reported that GCC had acknowledged receipt of the signed contract for its project management of the MUGA development. Mr Mike Davis GCC was arranging a site meeting to be attended by Cllrs Kay, Thorpe and S Robinson in order to clarify details of the planning application. It was agreed that Mr Ian Crawley be invited to attend this meeting.

The Clerk reported that the Diocese's solicitor had been in touch with NTC's solicitor and requested various documents relating to the MUGA project which she would supply. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the solicitors stating that the Council was willing to accept the Diocese's legal costs of up to £3,000 for the preparation of the lease.

Cllr Thorpe reported that, together with Mr Vince Southcott of Nailsworth Primary School and Mr Ian Crawley, she would be attending a meeting on 17 June with a representative of Gloucestershire Football Association in order to discuss a possible application to the Association for grant aid for improvements to the school changing rooms. She stressed that any such bid would be independent of the MUGA project and would not be allowed to delay progress on the latter.

KGV FIELD

Cllr Thorpe reminded members that there was money in the current budget to fund improvements to the kitchen in the changing rooms. She advised that these improvements were desirable as there was likely to be increased use of the changing rooms as a community building if the pavilion were leased to the Scouts.

Cllr Thorpe reported that S106 money amounting to £11,500 from the Vicarage development was available for new play equipment for the KGV play area. In response to a question from Cllr Kay, Cllr Thorpe confirmed that it was her understanding that this money could not be used for any other purpose and agreed to forward details of the wording of the S106 agreement to Cllr Kay. The Clerk confirmed that the KGV extension field was designated as a recreational area and that permission of the owner would be required for any proposals to site play equipment there.

PROPOSED TOUR OF NTC PROPERTIES AND PLAY AREAS

Cllr Thorpe noted that members of the Environment Committee were planning to tour NTC land holdings and indicated that she planned to liaise with the Clerk to organise a similar tour of NTC buildings and play areas for members of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

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Chair

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Date