

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 14 June 2011

Present	Cllr N I Kay (chairman) Cllr MM Rahman Cllr S Robinson
Present for part of the meeting	Robert Paterson – Forest Green Residents' Association
Apologies	Cllr Mrs SM Reed Cllr Mrs SE Thorpe Cllr RJ Windsor
non attendance	Cllr Mrs A Elliott

Nailstock

Cllr Kay wished to record that Nailstock 2011 had been postponed. A public meeting had already taken place in the hope of rescheduling the event for 2012.

Council land at Nympsfield Road (grass area opposite Primary School)

The Clerk had established that the piece of land was common land, but needed to find out under which part of the Act it was registered in order to clarify who was legally appointed to maintain it. The tenant at 2 The Green had written in March complaining about the state of the track across the grass to his house, which regularly led to flooding in the driveway, and asking NTC to repair it. The Clerk had explained that the area was common land, and suggested he speak to the house owner about repairing the track, and to ask him for a copy of his access rights.

The Clerk was pleased to report that all building waste and cars had been removed from outside Sherwood, another of the houses adjoining this land.

MILES MARLING FIELD

Mr Paterson outlined the FG-RA's discussions around improving facilities in Forest Green, bearing in mind the overuse of the existing MUGA, in particular by older teenagers. Following research amongst Youth Club members, the favourite additional facility seemed to be for a basketball hoop, and the Association had identified a suitable location in MM field for a 25 x 50ft tarmac area. A written outline of the idea with photograph had been circulated at the meeting, and Mr Paterson sought NTC's approval of the idea before consulting with local residents and investigating costs and funding.

Cllr Kay advised Mr Paterson of NTC's current negotiations for a new MUGA at the Primary School, which might provide some community facilities but would not in the event be the free-for-all kick-about court originally intended. Members anticipated there might be some objection from Norton Wood residents to basketball in MM field and could not approve the idea until relevant consultation had been undertaken. Cllr Kay, with Cllr Rahman and the Mayor would arrange to meet members of the FG-RA on site, and recommend that the residents' consultation was undertaken first.

The Mayor commented that he had seen the MM field lately and thought the field was a bit tidier. Neighbourhood Warden Pete Wilson had finished the painting of the shelter.

KGV playing field

Half pipe skate ramp – Cllrs would meet onsite tomorrow with Maverick (supplying the new ramp) and Baileys (laying the concrete base) in order to agree final position and dimensions. Following Baileys' original quote for a 10 x 6.5m base, Maverick had advised the size should be 10 x 10.5m to allow for

sufficient overlap around the new ramp, and Cllr Kay sought approval for the inevitable increase in Baileys' costs as long as the quote remained reasonable. This was agreed.

Use for fitness training – the Clerk reminded the meeting about

- a request from **Stuart Dunn** to use the field for bootcamp fitness classes, and the agreement to let him have some free sessions to test the viability of the course, but had heard nothing further from Mr Dunn.
- **Carl Benton** had wanted to do circuit training, but again, nothing had been confirmed.
- The Clerk had spotted in the June Nailsworth News, that **Liam Chambers** (who had made enquiries of the Clerk in 2009, but again with nothing confirmed) was advertising bootcamp sessions in Nailsworth starting 2 July.

Meanwhile, Norman Mansell, town groundsman, had reported that a group had turned up for 'bootcamp training' on Saturday 4 June, claiming that it was all agreed with NTC. It was not known if any of the above was running this training and the Clerk had asked Mr Mansell to keep an eye out and make sure to get a name if this happened again. Cllr Kay offered to contact Mr Chambers to investigate the location of his Nailsworth course.

An option was to offer the Extension Field for use by such groups with a nominal charge to set against maintenance costs.

The Clerk confirmed that **Cotswold Allrunners** had formalised their use of the field and booking of the Pavilion every Wednesday from 8 June to 26 October from 4.15pm for 2-3 hours for junior classes. A fee of £15 per session had been agreed.

FGR-FC had asked to use the pitch for its women's reserve team, with 10 league home games and use of the changing facilities. The season ran from September to April. The Clerk had had no response to her request to Charlie Cooney for clarification of which day of week and times were required, and had advised that the large windows in the home changing rooms gave little privacy. Currently the Taverners used the field on a Saturday and the Boys Youth Team on a Sunday. The Clerk would email Ms Cooney that the meeting had been unable to take a decision as the requested information had not been provided, so the matter would have to be considered at the next meeting of the committee. Cllr Kay suggested an agreement in principle that, if Mr Mansell agreed the pitch could take the extra use and the dates did not conflict with other bookings and the information was provided as requested, the Clerk could accept the additional booking. This was agreed.

Taverners had requested use of the field for a one-off match with Pucklechurch on 23 July, but the Clerk reminded the meeting that Council policy was to allow no matches before 1st August, however she felt this was sufficiently close to that date to allow the match, strictly as a one off, and not to set a precedent for eating into the closed season needed for the pitch to recover. It was agreed to accept the booking and the Clerk would make it clear that this was an exceptional permission only.

Extension field – the 180 year lease had been confirmed. The field was there as recreational space for residents and NTC was not obliged to do anything specific with it. NTC could rent it out, or not, as required.

Pitch maintenance – Mr Mansell had been asked to arrange for TW Hawkins to slit and seed the field where needed, which the Clerk hoped was in hand.

MUGA (NB ADDENDUM ADDED AT END OF THESE MINUTES ON 9 AUGUST 2011)

The Mayor and Cllr Kay with others would be meeting with representatives of the Primary School and Gareth Vine GCC on 22 June at 11am to hopefully move the project forward. As it was believed the Diocese would not be willing to transfer the freehold of the site to the council, this would need further discussion.

Ian Crawley's latest report had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Kay advised that Mr Crawley was keen to commit at least some of the 106 monies destined for the MUGA, to the School/FC's scheme to upgrade the school playing field to create an Astro turf pitch, but NTC was adamant that only once the MUGA was built, could the use of any potential surplus funds be considered. Meanwhile, the new FGR-FC chairman Dale Vince had indicated that the Club would not be supporting the Astro turf project.

With regards to ownership of the land on which the MUGA would sit, members opined that as long as the 106 agreement could be moved to the preferred site, under its terms, some form of community space would have to be retained in perpetuity, even if the area was later used for development, so perhaps this would be sufficient for NTC to ensure the longevity of the MUGA. Legal guarantees/agreements would be required stipulating the extent of use of the MUGA by the community

Nailsworth Recreation Centre

Ian Crawley had been leading from NCP Ltd in taking over management of the Recreation Centre, which had been operational since April with half a dozen organisations making use of the centre. Cllr Kay's request to the GMTF to increase its grant had been turned down. The security system required by the school was incomplete but the facility had been operating successfully, and perhaps the additional measures would now not be needed.

NTC was keen to see this facility succeed, but was not directly involved and it was agreed to drop the item from future agendas, relying on occasional reports from the management committee for information.

Mortimer Gardens & Town Gardening

The various volunteer groups were working well and had a beneficial effect on the town's flower beds.

Philippa Kenzie of Peter Joy in Fountain Street had emailed the Clerk on 9 June to report verbal abuse in MG from drinkers, and had complained that this meant the general public could not enjoy use of the gardens. The Police had been notified and urged her to call if the problem persisted, and had told Mrs Kenzie that NTC was against making the MG an alcohol-free zone, which suggestion the Clerk advised had been rejected in the past in order not to restrict legitimate events, such as the Festival and Christkindl Evening. The meeting was unsure that creating an alcohol-free zone in one area would resolve the problem and would just lead to the drinkers moving elsewhere, such as the bus station or shelter by the library. The Mayor offered to consult the polices and also to speak to John Marjoram about the success of this policy which had been implemented in parts of Stroud, and would mention the suggestion in his next Mayor's piece in NN seeking the views of residents.

The Clerk would email Mrs Kenzie to advise that the matter was under investigation and invite her to consider making a formal request that MG become an alcohol-free zone.

The Mayor, with Jenny Bailey had met with Gill Fellows, SDC Estates Department to look at the neglected patch in the Co-op Car Park by Green Spirit. With her approval, Jenny Bailey, with assistance from the mayor had dug over and planted out part of the patch although more help would be required to reclaim the remainder. Unfortunately it appeared that this initiative had attracted the disapproval of Carlos Novoth SDC. The owner of Green Spirit had himself repaired and capped the wall by his shop.

The Clerk reported that the wall at Prices Steps was crumbling and shedding debris onto the steps. She believed it was owned by the adjacent shop, being part of the wall supporting system, but this was not clear and SDC was investigating.

David Free and Halaina Gillam had put troughs of plants in front of the railings over the culvert by William's Kitchen.

Market Street Garden

The revised costs had been agreed at the last meeting, but subsequently the contractor had suggested further savings could be made by using different paving. The opinion of John Byrne and Martin Portus

of the suitability of this alternative paving was awaited. It was hoped to have news in time for the full council meeting next week so that the scheme could proceed without further delay.

The Clerk had discussed with the WI its request to have a commemorative plaque for Meirwen Harvey. It had £150 to spend. The Clerk's suggestion to the WI of a small ornamental tree in the lower flowerbed had been welcomed, and Ruskin Mill could be asked to make the plaque to match the ones being made for the volunteer-managed flower beds. This was agreed.

Children's Play Areas

The ROSPA inspection report had arrived, with nothing apparently requiring immediate attention.

Youth provision

The Mayor reported that all GCC youth club funding would cease at the end of this month, so the county youth support service would henceforth be dealing with 8k young people across the country, leaving 21k with no county-funded youth provision. TUPE issues with youth worker Danica Emes had been sorted out. The Mayor was pleased to advise that she was taking redundancy from GCC and therefore not carrying over her years of previous service that would have added to Nailsworth Youth Club's potential liability. The Clerk had transferred £15k to the Club's new account for wages, with the paperwork to be done by Young Gloucestershire. Yacob Mulla was moving to another part time job in the county, but the Mayor hoped that he might still find a bit of time to help out in Nailsworth.

The Mayor had attended a meeting yesterday in Cheltenham to consider dispersal of the GCC £50k grant SDC had available for youth bodies. There were 12 representatives from each district, Nailsworth being grouped with Dursley, Cam and Berkeley. Mark Hawthorne GCC had said originally that this grant would be available annually for 4 years but it had become apparent that the grant was only guaranteed for this year and for succeeding years thereafter would have to be included each year in the budget discussions. The Mayor hoped to seek support from Nailsworth's ward Cllrs and it was felt the Youth Club might have a greater chance of a share of the grant if it put in a bid for a specified amount for a specific purpose. The Youth Club now had to pay for staff training and insurance, which was previously covered by GCC.

Queens Diamond Jubilee 2012

The Mayor suggested calling a public meeting for interested residents to set up a committee, and would mention this in his NN column. The Clerk added that in the past, members of the public had got together to organise town celebrations for the Queen's Silver Jubilee and Nailsworth Centenary.

Nailsworth Games 2012

Cllr Kay advised that a request had been sent to the London Olympic Torch Committee to ask if the torch could pass through Nailsworth on its way from Bristol to Cheltenham, and that runner Dan Robinson had expressed an interest in carrying it. Cllr Kay recommended the formation of another working party to organise NW games under the same terms of reference as in 2009, to take place either in May if the torch was coming through the town, or at another suitable time. The committee would include some Cllrs, representatives from sports clubs, and others, to be chaired by the mayor with a first meeting in September.

Sport England via GAPTC

Notice had been given of grants on offer with match funding, with more information on the website. This could be of interest for the Recreation Centre or the School/FGR-FC Astro turf project and the information would be passed on to Ian Crawley. It was of no interest to NTC which had no match funding available.

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Date

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Chairman

ADDENDUM submitted by Ian Crawley – 9 August 2011

The minutes of the R&A meeting of 14 June were ratified at the next meeting of full council on 21 June. I did not attend the committee meeting; therefore Cllrs received no comments from me other than information in a joint report with Cllr Kay regarding the delivery of the MUGA at Forest Green. I was not aware of the views incorrectly attributed to me at that meeting by the chair of R&A, Cllr Kay, before the full council meeting; and could not therefore have them corrected.

I am particularly unhappy that the committee chair read into the formal record his own erroneous belief that *"I was keen to commit at least some of the Section 106 monies destined for the MUGA to the School/FC's scheme to upgrade the school playing field to create an Astro turf pitch . . ."*

We had met informally a few days before. However I cannot recall anything I said or have written in respect of the Astro turf idea that would lead Cllr Kay to think his statement fairly represented what I have been seeking to achieve.

The actual position is as follows

- I am not, and have never been, keen to commit Section 106 funds to delivering an Astro turf pitch at the primary school. I have however always considered that utilising the MUGA money to bring in further funding to upgrade the Recreation Centre was sensible, and remains so.
- I have never suggested, and I am not aware anyone else has, that the Astro turf idea is the School/FC's scheme. The idea originated from FGR-FC. When the chair of the primary school governing body and the headteacher considered it worthy of exploration, I agreed to undertake that exploration.
- I have always stated that I have been involved in no more than an exploration of an idea. Any commitment of the MUGA monies to the MUGA project as currently proposed and to any other option(s) would still need to be formally agreed by all the responsible authorities including the town council.

Additionally, Cllr Kay amended the draft report I initially authored. We then agreed both our names should go on it as authors. This is not reflected in the committee minute.