

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 4 August 2015

Present		Cllr SE Thorpe (chairman) Cllr JL Duckworth * Cllr SM Reed * Cllr NI Kay Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson
Present for part of the meeting		District Cllr R Blackwell District Cllr E Sims
Apologies		Cllr A Elliott
	*	Denotes absence from part of the meeting

DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTERS ARISING from MINUTES of MEETING held on 2 JUNE 2015

Hip tiles on TH roof – Mr P Merrett had been asked to do the work and the Clerk was clarifying the start date. The Mayor and Cllr Duckworth were to check if there was other work to do whilst scaffolding was in place and would report to the Clerk tomorrow.

KGV directional signs – The Clerk had sent the design to GCC and awaited a site visit from Andrew Boyse.

Cllr Thorpe's List of Projects – had been circulated to Cllrs.

TOWN HALL

Confirmation of proceeding with ground floor gents' toilets refurbishment works

Some changes to the plan had been made in a meeting with the architect, who had been asked to notify the lowest tender builder and report any resulting change to the cost. The Mayor advised that the architect was away until 10 August, and as the Mayor was then himself away, the Clerk was asked to contact the architect. Cllrs were keen not to delay this work any longer and it was agreed that the Mayor, Cllrs Duckworth and Thorpe would give final approval to the builder unless there was a significant increase in cost, which they felt should go to full council at the September meeting.

Booking requirements

Cllr Kay raised the concern that a business had recently flooded the town with notices for an event at the town hall and he felt restrictions needed to be imposed. The Clerk advised that there were requirements in the booking agreement, and hirers were directed to an SDC leaflet on advertising. She would make a point of clarifying the issue with this particular business which had made a second booking in October.

RECRUITMENT of TOWN GROUNDSMAN/CARETAKER

The Clerk had written to offer the job to the chosen candidate and his response was awaited. He had been invited to start on 24 August to benefit from a week's induction with Mr Mansell. Thereafter, he might need to be put through further training courses as applicable and undergo a CRB check. There would be a probation period before the appointment was confirmed and his occupation of Hazelwood Bungalow secured.

HAZELWOOD BUNGALOW – Update on refurbishment

The Mansell family would be vacating the property on 31 August, at which point a full assessment could be made of work that needed to be done before the new groundsman could move in, and establish a list of works that could be done over a period of time thereafter. There was currently a budget of £3940. Quotes would be sought for full repainting throughout. In addition full electrical and gas surveys would be commissioned.

The kitchen was 18 years old; garden fencing needed replacing; some guttering was already being replaced. The new groundsman had been notified that he would not be able to move in until basic refurbishment of the property had been completed.

MORTIMER ROOM – Confirmation of contract for repair of fascia boards etc outside library

A quotation of £1300 had been obtained for re-furbishment work to the fascia boards, railings and door. GCC had agreed to share the cost meaning expenditure of £662.50 for NTC. This was approved.

MILES MARLING FIELD

Ongoing Maintenance

The entire boundary edge had been cleared of brambles and undergrowth last year but Cllrs were dissatisfied with the standard of the grass cutting service. The Clerk was arranging a meeting with the contractors to discuss this on site.

Cllr Thorpe added that the roadside verge was rather scrubby, but was advised that this was GCC land and so beyond NTC's control.

Future development including forthcoming meeting with Friends of Miles Marling field and results of Youth Forum consultation (details circulated by email)

The consultation event in February had been well attended. There would be a meeting for Friends and others at the Arkell Centre on 7 October at 7pm, when suggestions arising from consultations could be explored. Many comments in the Youth Forum consultation revolved around the desire for a new entrance to the field at a more suitable point half way down the road boundary, with a gate allowing access for wheelchairs and buggies, but not bikes.

Cllr Thorpe is intending to discuss some ideas for a multi-generational safe and attractive community park at the meeting on 7 October. There was currently a budget of £20k (with the intention of seeking additional grant funding). Local resident Ms Katherine Kearns was the lead for South Glos Council on developing play areas and open spaces, so was an expert in the field, and had a contact who could do some drawings, once there were ideas to consider.

It was agreed to see what came out of the meeting on 7 October, with Cllr Kay recommending that there was a structured agenda to focus the discussion.

NTC continued to press SDC about buying the lower part of the field and the current holding over lease expired in 2018.

MUGA – Update

GCC had put in a planning application. It had been confirmed that the 106 monies would not be used for match funded improvements to the Recreation Centre. NTC continued to negotiate the lease agreement with the Diocese but no particular problem was anticipated. Cllr Kay had urged County Cllr Binns to put pressure on the planning office, which was working through a backlog because of staff shortages.

A cheque was signed for the application fee of £1952 (with a 50% reduction for being a TC).

The working party had met on 6 July and would arrange another meeting in early September.

KING GEORGE V FIELD

Confirmation of terms of Section 106 Vicarage development money (email previously circulated)

It had been confirmed that the £12,244.63 needed to be spent in 'the locality of the development', although Cllr Duckworth queried the interpretation of the stipulation that it be 'within walking distance'.

The Mayor had received two suggestions for the KGV extension field: a croquet park and a junior cricket pitch (all weather concrete base with astroturf). There was space for one more piece of equipment in the very well used children's playground although the feeling was that this was already well provisioned.

Cllr S Robinson had been approached about having play facilities for young children in the town centre, perhaps in Mortimer Gardens at the side by Day's Mill.

The Mayor and Cllr S Robinson would prepare detailed proposals for the suggestions. The Mayor felt that if the extension field was maintained as regularly as the main pitch, its condition would be immeasurably improved and it would become a more useful space.

The Clerk was asked to get a quote to have the extension field cut every 3 weeks along with the rest of the KGV field.

Confirmation of electrical improvements to changing rooms

There was £3000 in the budget. Following the decision to improve the lighting and install heaters, quotes had come in as follows:

Rewiring and installation of 4 ceiling lights	£2195		
4 dimplex thermostatic heaters	£828	including woodwork & installation	£3023
or cheaper heaters	£392	including woodwork & installation	£2587

Although the brief had been to provide heaters, Cllr S Robinson queried whether this was necessary and whether it would actually be sufficient to just have frost protection units instead. It was noted that the changing rooms did get very cold and the re-wiring costs would remain the same whatever heating was installed. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of frost protection units for consideration at the next convenient time. It was noted that the kitchen was in dire need of replacement.

* Cllr Kay left the meeting during the above discussions.

Approval of Paul Carter memorial picnic table

Cllr Thorpe reported that a site meeting had taken place with the contractor for the installation of a concrete plinth with an all-metal picnic table and litter bin by the boules court in KGV field. The base would be level with the grass and 5ft away from the boules court on the side of the outdoor gym equipment. There was no cost to the Council as funds had been raised from private donations.

Although some would have preferred green, the picnic table only came in black. There was some discussion about the placing of the dedication plaque, which District Cllr Blackwell envisaged on a Cotswold stone rock to be positioned near the table, although there was some concern this could be a trip hazard.

The Clerk was asked to order the bench and the bin and once these were installed a decision could be taken with regard to the plaque.

Long term use of Pavilion – what does council want to do with the building?

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Pavilion, put up in 1968, was coming to the end of its life and NTC needed to consider its long term future. It was decided to defer discussion for the time being. In the short term negotiations were proceeding with the Scouts for a short lease.

Expression of interest from The Bears Croquet Club to use extension field for croquet

The Club had submitted a map showing 2 croquet pitches but the Mayor had informed its representatives that this was public open space so could not be reserved for private use. The Club's interest was noted and NTC awaited further developments.

Replacement of defaced sign by Skate Park

Although the newly vandalised sign had only been replaced a few years ago, as it was a safety notice, it was agreed that it would have to be replaced again. The Clerk would investigate a more resistant, cleanable finish this time.

Tennis Courts

The Clerk was getting quotations for fencing and surface repairs separately. The item would be put on the next agenda.

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Date

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Chairman