

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 November 2012

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MM Rahman Cllr MP Robinson Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington
Apologies	Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr SM Reed District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims

The Mayor explained that Cllr Kelly was currently unable to attend meetings as he was on sick leave from work. Cllr Kelly had informed the Clerk that he hoped to be able to resume Council activities early in the New Year.

2012/132 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Tony Burton expressed his pleasure that the Hilliers medals had now been acquired for the town and that public subscription had covered the purchase cost. He was grateful to Mr Bill Affleck facilitating the project. The Clerk reported that Mr Affleck planned to hand over the medals to the Council at its December meeting.

Mr Burton then reported that the Library Club had now restarted at Nailsworth Library on the second Wednesday of every month, 11.30 – 12.30. The Ring and Ride minibus was available to support this. He hoped that councillors would do what they could to publicise the club.

Mr Burton, reported that the restoration of Glendower, the former residence of the poet WH Davies, was proceeding well and expressed the hope that it would be habitable by the end of January 2013. He had brought photographs of interesting features of the building which he would be pleased to show to interested councillors. The Nailsworth Health Partnership proposed to include a visit to Glendower in its annual Walking Festival, to be held in May 2013. The Friends of Glendower proposed to invite the Mayor of Newport to visit the restored building next summer and he hoped that councillors would participate in this event, which would not incur any costs to NTC. Mr Burton would be happy to show people around the building on request.

The Mayor thanked Mr Burton for his interest in and involvement with the town.

2012/133 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October were approved and signed.

2012/134 Policing in the Town: Minute 2012/113

Cllr Duckworth asked to be invited to the Environment Committee when CCTV was on its agenda, as he had relevant professional experience. In response to a question, the Mayor confirmed that he would arrange a meeting with Sgt Willenberg to discuss details of the latter's proposal to increase police presence in the town. The Clerk reported that Sgt Willenberg had agreed to attend a future Council meeting, possibly in March, to report on the outcome of this strategy.

2012/135 Minutes of Property Management Meeting: Minute 2012/118

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September, deferred from the Council meeting of 16 October, were approved and signed.

2012/136 Councillors' Surgeries: Minute 2012/120

Cllr M Robinson reported that the first of the two joint councillors' surgeries proposed for 2013 was scheduled to take place in the Mortimer Room on Saturday 2 February, probably between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. County Cllr Waddington and District Cllr Carter had confirmed their attendance. More details would be circulated in due course. The Mayor thanked Cllr M Robinson and the Clerk for their efforts in organising the surgery.

2012/137 Remembrance Day Parade and Service: Minute 2012/124

The Mayor reported that, though this had been a successful and well attended event, few NTC councillors had participated. He hoped that more councillors would be able to attend next year, as he saw this as an important annual event for the town.

2012/138 REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington confirmed that he planned to attend the proposed public meeting on 10 December on traffic issues on the A46. He reported that the new contract for the provision of Children's Centre activities in the Stroud District, had been awarded to Hill Valley and Vale Children's Centres.

In response to a request from Cllr Carter, Cllr Waddington agreed to ask GCC to investigate drainage problems at the bottom of Springhill, where it appeared that blocked drains had been causing flooding in the recent weather. The Mayor reported that work had been done in this location in the past by GCC, but it appeared that this had not been effective.

Responding to a request for clarification from Cllr Thorpe, Cllr Waddington explained that he understood the phrase 'good basic services' in the GCC Budget Strategy consultation document to refer to the targeting of resources on children and vulnerable groups. He agreed to attempt to supply Cllr Thorpe with further information on this matter.

District Cllr Carter reported that SDC was meeting on Thursday 21 November to decide whether to retain the committee system implemented by the new administration or to return to the former Cabinet system.

2012/139 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended an event at Cheltenham Racecourse, where he had been pleased and proud to accept a Gloucestershire Media Award on behalf of Nailsworth's Olympic Gold Medallist Peter Reed.

The Mayor circulated a report recommending the establishment of a Nailsworth Community Land Trust (CLT) in order to facilitate the building of affordable housing for local people in the town. He saw this as a 'once in a generation' opportunity for the community to have effective control over such a scheme. Some councillors were strongly supportive of this type of initiative. However, recognising the potential workload a CLT might create for NTC, councillors felt that it would be preferable if it could be organised and run predominantly by other members of the community. Some councillors suggested that it would be premature to agree to set up a CLT before funding for its activities was confirmed. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Thorpe, Kay and Duckworth would liaise with Mr Ian Crawley to progress the following:

1. investigate the costs to NTC of pursuing a GRCC Housing Needs Survey in Nailsworth
2. seek to meet with SDC to explore what SDC sites in the town might be available to a Nailsworth CLTY and on what basis.

The Mayor reported that GCC Highways Officers had declined his invitation to attend the forthcoming public meeting on traffic issues on the A46. He agreed to circulate the GCC response to all councillors. Councillors were disappointed that no officers would be present at that meeting to answer questions and clarify issues. Cllr Kay felt that a requirement for relevant officers to attend public meetings should be incorporated in the GCC Charter, if this was not already the case. The Mayor agreed to inform Renishaws of the meeting, as he understood that some concern about highway safety on the A46 had been expressed by this company.

The Mayor stated that he was keen to utilise SDC's recently adopted district wide dog fouling restrictions to introduce a dogs on leads policy on the whole of the KGV field.

2012/140 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

There was nothing to report.

2012/141 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

Various EEC publications and the latest Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust magazine were available from the Clerk's office on demand.

2012/142 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Thorpe reported on a GAPTC training session on the Localism Act 2011 which she had recently attended. She felt that this had been a useful and informative meeting which could be helpful in the development of the new Nailsworth Action Plan. The Act had introduced a new general power of competence for town and parish councils, offering increased autonomy. However it appeared that NTC, in common with the majority of Gloucestershire town and parish councils, would not meet the full criteria for this new power as their clerks did not currently hold the recognised sector-specific qualifications. The Clerk was asked to circulate copies of the information sheets which had been provided at the meeting to all councillors.

Cllr Elliott reported that the Forest Green Residents' Association had formed a new committee at its recent AGM and that she would be willing to attend its meetings as NTC representative. This was approved.

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce was busy preparing for the special Christmas Farmers' Market to be held on 22 December. It would be known as the 'Nailsworth Noel' and would feature the 'sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Nailsworth'.

2012/143 REPORT FROM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 13 November were approved and signed. In response to a question relating to the management of the council website and email account, Cllr Duckworth confirmed that the action of clearing individual councillors' inboxes, permanently deleting the emails within, would only be utilised as a crisis management measure to prevent the blockage of the whole system, as had occurred in the past. In his view, this action should only be taken with the permission of the councillor concerned, and/or with Council approval. After some discussion, it was agreed that this policy should be considered in more detail at the next meeting of the Communications Committee.

2012/144 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr M Robinson presented the minutes of the meeting of 13 November, in the absence of Cllr Reed. These were approved and signed, subject to the amendment of the date from '11 September 2012' to '**13 November 2012**'. In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that the larger version of SDC's draft plans for Nailsworth Bus Station which she had requested some time ago from SDC had yet to arrive. Cllr M Robinson reported that he was in discussion with John Davis of St George's PCC regarding the notice to be displayed in All Saints' Churchyard relating to the results of the recent 'push test'.

2012/145 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 31 October were approved and signed. Cllr Carter reported that the owner of the land west of Newmarket had been in negotiation with SDC regarding his appeal against an enforcement notice relating to the siting of four metal storage containers. Cllr Carter understood that the appeal had now been withdrawn and the landowner had been given four months to remove the containers. Cllr Carter confirmed that the next meetings of the Planning Committee would be held on 5 and 19 December, and suggested that the meeting scheduled for 2 January be cancelled as there were unlikely to be any applications to consider on that occasion owing the holiday period.

2012/146 REPORT FROM SPECIAL RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 14 November were approved and signed.

2012/147 REPORT FROM FINANCE, ECONOMIC AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 23 October were agreed and signed, subject to the addition of Cllr Duckworth to the list of those who had attended.

It was agreed to defer the next scheduled meeting of the Committee from 28 November to 5 December to enable the Property Management Committee to formulate its budget recommendation prior to this meeting. To accommodate this, it was decided that the Planning Committee would meet at 6.30 p.m. on 5 December, to be followed by the Finance, Economic and General Purposes Committee at 7.30 p.m.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that NTC's contribution to the funding of the CAB in Nailsworth would be discussed at the next Finance Committee. Cllr Elliott reported that she understood that the Deputy Manager of Stroud and District CAB was planning to provide a report on the organisation's drop-in service at the Arkell Centre for the December Council meeting.

2012/148 HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Cllr Duckworth reported that NHS Gloucestershire was currently conducting a survey of local residents' views on health issues. A questionnaire entitled 'Let's Talk Health' was available online and in doctor's surgeries, and Cllr Duckworth recommended that councillors consider responding. He agreed to email the relevant link to all councillors.

2012/149 MOTION PROPOSING ADDITION TO STANDING ORDERS

Cllr Kay sought permission to withdraw his motion and this was agreed.

2012/150 MOTION ON PROPOSED WASTE INCINERATOR AT JAVELIN PARK

Cllr Thorpe explained the background to her motion and outlined her reasons for opposing the GCC proposals. Cllr Duckworth proposed, seconded by Cllr Carter, that County Cllr Waddington be allowed to put the GCC case for the incinerator to the meeting, and this was agreed. After considerable discussion relating to the possible economic and environmental effects of the proposed incinerator, the following motion was proposed by Cllr Thorpe and seconded by Cllr Rahman:

1. That NTC writes to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, requesting him to 'call in' the planning application for a waste incinerator at Javelin Park
2. That NTC writes to GCC objecting to the above planning application.

Four councillors voted in support of the motion and four voted against, with one abstention, and the motion was **CARRIED** on the Mayor's casting vote. Cllr Thorpe agreed to draft the appropriate letters and to liaise with the Clerk.

2012/151 REPORT OF TRAINING EVENING DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Notes from the training evening were circulated to all councillors and it was agreed that a follow up training session would be held on Wednesday 12 December at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber for all committee chairs, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, with Cllr Elliott and the Clerk also in attendance.

2012/152 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 20 November 2012 amounting to £159,203.75 be approved for payment.

2012/153 GCC – emergency closure of footpath NA 28 in vicinity of Ruskin Mill

The Clerk reported that this was to facilitate repair work to the steps. No map had been received from GCC.

2012/154 Stroud and District Motor Club –3/3/13 Cotswold Clouds Trial – Nailsworth Ladder

This was noted.

2012/155 Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce – grant for Nailsworth Noel on 22/12/12 The Clerk explained that a grant application for £100, which had been received too late to be considered by the Finance Committee, was to fund prizes for a shop window competition, to be judged by Cllr Duckworth, District Cllr Emma Sims and the SNJ. The grant application was **approved**.

2012/156 Cotswold AONB Management Plan 2013-2018. The consultation period ended on 13 January 2013. Cllr Kay agreed to download a copy of the Plan and bring his observations to a future Council meeting.

2012/157 GCC – consultation on budget strategy for 2013/14. The Clerk reported that responses were required by 17 December. The Clerk was asked to write to GCC expressing the Council's disappointment that the consultation period was too short to allow NTC to respond within the given timescale.

2012/158 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED MUGA ON 29 NOVEMBER

The Mayor explained that he and Cllr Kay would circulate a factual briefing on the history of the project prior to the meeting.

.....
Date

.....
Chair