

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of a meeting held on 4 June 2013

Present: Cllr S E Thorpe (Chair)  
Cllr S M Reed  
Cllr S Robinson

Apologies: Cllr A Elliott  
Cllr N I Kay  
Cllr M P Robinson

\*Ms Tracy Young Nailsworth Youth Worker – item on youth matters  
\* denotes not present for whole meeting

**KGV field - allotments**

The response from SDC was complicated and it was agreed the Clerk should arrange a meeting between Cllrs Reed and Thorpe and Go Grow representatives.

**KGV field – purchase dog bins**

The Clerk confirmed that two additional bins had been ordered.

**KGV field – pavilion rental**

The solicitor had estimated a cost of just under £1000 to draw up a lease. The Clerk had arranged to meet with him to discuss detailed requirements on 10 June.

**KGV field – resurfacing/additional skate surface for skate park**

One quote had been received and two others were awaited. The cost of the project was likely to exceed the budget but it was agreed that both items should be completed at the same time even if this meant delaying until next year.

**KGV field – dog fouling regulations**

The chair reported on the meeting with Alex Davies and Robert Weaver from SDC dog warden service on 29 April to clarify the situation with the control of dogs in NTC unfenced areas. There had been a frank exchange of views but no change to the SDC policy of directing dog walkers to KGV and Miles Marling fields and the Commons if they wished to let their dogs off the lead. It was clear that if there was an unacceptable increase in dog fouling NTC might need to consider taking out a by-law. Whilst SDC was willing to help with the paperwork it was unable to assist with enforcement etc. At the present time the situation was manageable. Cllrs Robinson and Thorpe had been at the field in the previous week and had witnessed at first hand a visitor with no control over his dog allowing it to run free on the pitch where it promptly defecated. When challenged, the owner had cleared up the mess but he appeared to be completely unaware of his obligation to do so or of the new laws on dog control. This incident was illustrative of the intractability of dog fouling issues.

**Miles Marling field - grass**

Cllr Thorpe had visited the field the previous week and had noticed that whilst there was no litter the grass round the BMX ramps was rather long. The Clerk confirmed that Jo Millett had agreed to help out during the summer and she would contact him to ascertain that he had no problem with equipment. There appeared to be some bumpy areas along the road side boundary of the field – possible remains of self made ramps – and the Clerk agreed to ask Mr Mansell to investigate and rectify if possible.

**Report on youth activities from Tracy Young**

Tracy Young circulated a written report and explained that she had been back in the job for a year and was very pleased to report that the Youth Club was thriving and

both club sessions and project evenings were well attended. The Junior Wardens project run by Charlotte Galling SDC had proved very popular (a separate report was circulated) and consideration was being given to repeating something similar in the future. The Youth Forum had started up again based in Minchinhampton and Tracy was keen to ensure good representation for Nailsworth young people.

Cllr Reed mentioned a recent conversation with the headmaster of Nailsworth Primary School in which he had expressed his desire to foster an active presence for the children in the life of the town. In discussion it was felt that years 5 and 6 could benefit from a connection with the Youth Club and Tracy agreed to discuss this possibility with the school. Other ways in which the children could connect were discussed ie. school assuming care of derelict site at Carter's Way, adopting a story telling space in Norton Wood, having a running route in Norton Wood etc. It was agreed that the head master should be invited to attend a meeting with councillors to expand on his ideas.

Tracy Young also mentioned a series of sessions for groups of young people at South Cerney and a new venture for ex club members (19 -23 years) who wanted somewhere to meet and socialise safely without the necessity to buy a drink or spend money.

The chair thanked Tracy for her attendance and remarked that Nailsworth young people were fortunate to have such a positive, vibrant and well respected youth club and the fact that ex members wanted to continue their connection spoke volumes for its importance to the local community.

### **KGV field – quotations for tree work, building works pavilion on and changing rooms**

The Clerk reported that in the recent heavy winds a large goat willow in the old allotment area had suffered serious damage with broken branches and needed to be taken down. An adjacent goat willow also in a poor state was now exposed and vulnerable and also needed to be removed. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Tree Maintenance of £980 for this work.

A quotation for laying new flooring in the kitchen and toilets of the pavilion at a cost of £392 was accepted.

The removal of a rotten hatch/window from the wall of the kitchen in the changing rooms and blocking up the space and making good the exterior render and interior plaster was approved for a cost of £345.

### **Licence for access from Shortwood Green for the Old Cottage Shortwood**

Members approved a draft licence circulated by the Clerk. It was suggested that the annual fee should be paid by direct debit.

### **Miles Marling Field – new draft lease**

The lease on the lower half of the field had expired and SDC had written enclosing an extensively revised draft lease. The proposed lease would run from 29/1/09 to 28/1/18 with an annual charge of £65 up to date of signing the new lease and thereafter rising to £100. Both parties could determine at 6 months notice and the lease would be excluded from the Landlord & Tenant Act. Members considered the proposed terms acceptable but it was agreed the Council's solicitor should be asked to give a professional opinion.

### **Town gardening – Leves Corner**

Volunteers from the Twinning Association had reluctantly stepped down from maintaining the flower bed due to the unacceptable dog fouling of the area. Members expressed their gratitude to the Twinners for the dedicated gardening to date and acknowledged that the bed was currently looking splendid. It was agreed

that unless another group came forward the groundsman would assume maintenance duties. It was agreed that gradually low growing and prickly shrubs should be introduced to deter dogs.

The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the broken wall by the steps to SDC.

It was noted that in view of developments reported at the May Council meeting resulting in it being agreed that the Mayor would send a letter to the SDC Chief Executive about the parking of bikes the Clerk had not written to the bike shop.

**Town gardening – tubs Cossack Square**

The Rotary Club which had donated the two new tubs and assumed ongoing maintenance wished to place insignia badges on the tubs instead of the signs used elsewhere and had asked NTC to contribute towards the cost. Members had no objection and agreed that NTC would contribute the same amount as it had paid for the previous signs.

**Miles Marling and KGV playing fields – site improvements**

In discussion it was agreed that it would be prudent to have a costed plan of additional facilities for these sites against the possibility of funding becoming available in the future. It was considered that hard standing (7x12m) for a basket ball hoop and possibly a half pipe would be welcomed at the Miles Marling field. Cllr Thorpe would obtain a quote for the basket ball area. Based on the recent installation at the KGV a half pipe would cost circa £25,000.

With regard to the KGV field Cllrs Thorpe and S Robinson had been meeting with play equipment providers to gather ideas and costings for updating the children’s play area. The play area fencing was nearing the end of its usefulness as also was the tennis court netting. It had been proposed that the football pitch should be enlarged and the standard of the changing rooms improved to enable higher league football to be played. Members concluded however that it would not be viable, feasible or necessary to pursue this proposal.

**MUGA – lack of progress**

Members regretted the lack of progress in securing a MUGA for young people and concluded that reluctantly NTC might need to accept the fact that the project was going nowhere and turn its attention to identifying alternative schemes for spending the section 106 funding in the area. Conflicting views were being expressed by SDC officers and the Diocese remained intransigent. The School must be encouraged to exert pressure on the Diocese. It was agreed that Cllrs Kay, Thorpe and S Robinson accompanied by the Clerk should request an urgent meeting with Phil Skill SDC Planning to clarify the NTC position regarding the existing MUGA site and FG Rovers FC wish to dissolve its section 106 obligations.

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Date

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Chair