

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the THIRTY NINTH ANNUAL MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 15 May 2012

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

The Mayor congratulated new District Cllr Emma Sims on her election and welcomed her to her first meeting at Nailsworth.

2012/01 ELECTION of TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Carter proposed, seconded by Cllr Elliott that Cllr S Robinson continue in post, and there being no other nominations, Cllr S Robinson was elected Mayor for a third term, and signed the declaration of office.

2012/02 ELECTION of DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr M Robinson was proposed by Cllr Duckworth, seconded by Cllr Carter. Cllr Reed was proposed by Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr Thorpe. The first vote taken resulted in a 5 to 5 draw; the second vote resulted in 5 for Cllr M Robinson, 4 for Cllr Reed and 1 abstention. Cllr M Robinson was duly elected deputy mayor in his absence.

2012/03 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance

2012/04 APPOINTMENT of COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES & ELECTION of CHAIRS

Two Cllrs had informally discussed the merits of changing the distribution of duties between the committees and reducing their overall number. The Mayor suggested a training session be held next month to enable all Cllrs to participate and discuss potential reorganisation. It was agreed that election of committees in their current form should continue for the time being. The revised membership of committees is circulated with these minutes.

2012/05 APPOINTMENT of REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

A few changes to the current appointees were agreed and recorded on the revised list attached.

2012/06 SCHEDULE of MEETINGS for the FORTHCOMING YEAR

The schedule of meetings for the year was circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Carter advised that members of the Planning Committee wished to change the meetings to 1st and 3rd Wednesdays instead of the current 1st Tuesdays and 3rd Thursdays, since the latter clashed with SDC meetings. There was no objection

to the change, which would commence next Wednesday 23 May followed by 6 June, 20 June and so on. The revised schedule of meetings is circulated with the minutes.

2012/07 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April were approved and signed with the following correction: Page 553, penultimate paragraph to read ". . . he understood that no *charges* would be proposed by SDC."

2012/08 USE of KGV EXTENSION FIELD (minute 2012/249)

Cllr Kay reminded the Mayor that they had agreed to prepare a piece for Nailsworth News inviting expressions of interest from local clubs in using the extension field (making it clear that this was for the field in its present condition and outlining its limitations)

2012/09 DOG FOULING MATTERS (minute 2012/249)

Cllr Kay stated that he had 'suggested' (rather than the recorded 'had no objection' to) the Environment Committee continuing the discussion over dog fouling, but other Cllrs felt that this impacted on play areas and should remain under the remit of the Recreation & Amenities Committee.

2012/10 COUNCIL WEBSITES (minute 2012/242)

Cllr Duckworth reported that the Arkell Centre and former nailsworthtown.co.uk sites had been moved across to the new website provider.

2012/11 NEW TOWN ACTION PLAN (minute 2012/244)

The Mayor confirmed that the meeting with Ian Crawley had taken place and Cllr Thorpe had spoken with GRCC; Elin Tattersall would be coming to a meeting next Friday.

2012/12 FOREST GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (minute 2012/244)

The Mayor wished to make Cllrs aware that the current officers would be resigning as of September, so that, regrettably, the Association would cease unless a new committee came forward to take it on.

2012/13 AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEM FOR COUNCIL CHAMBER (minute 2012/248)

SP Electrical had started to install the system today. Bruce Burn had to make some adjustments to the laptop so that the Planning Committee's comments could be transmitted directly to SDC online.

2012/14 PROPOSED PURCHASE of NAILSWORTH POLICE STATION (minute 2012/250)

The Mayor and Clerk had signed and forwarded the loan application documents to GAPTC for certification and onward transmission to the DCLG. The Council's solicitor had received the sale documents from GCC and was undertaking the appropriate searches and surveys. It had been noted that no 'urgent remedial action on asbestos' was required, so it was presumed that there might be an asbestos situation to deal with at some point. The full report was awaited.

In response to a question from Cllr Thorpe, it was clarified that the intention was to apply for a repayment loan over 20 years, and not the interest only option.

2012/15 AVENING ROAD TOP SURFACING (minute 2012/253)

The Mayor noted that the work scheduled for 28 April had not taken place, presumably because of the poor weather conditions, and a new date for this job was awaited.

2012/16 REPORT of COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington reported that there had been various excitements at GCC recently. Mick Matthews would be acting Chief Constable following the **unexpected resignation of Tony Melville** and Cllr Waddington thought a permanent appointment might wait until a new commissioner took up his post in November. Two suspected terrorists had been arrested in Cheltenham, where there had also been a large and very destructive gas explosion.

GCC's **Children's services** (covering children in care) had received a very good Ofsted report. The examiners were very impressed with the reorganisation of the service into seven district teams.

Despite the general economic gloom and drastic savings to be made, some good news was that GCC expected to recover 90% of its **Icelandic deposits**.

Cllr Waddington would enquire about the rescheduling of the final work on **Avening Road**. In response to the Mayor's question as to when resurfacing of the **A46** would be done, Cllr Waddington advised that this would be part of a larger traffic calming scheme to be undertaken on the A46 from Dunkirk Mill to Tiltups End, to include a pedestrian crossing at Dunkirk. This was definitely in the programme for the forthcoming year. The Mayor commented that NTC would have liked to see the plans for this scheme, to which Cllr Waddington advised he had not seen them either and would try to arrange a meeting for all interested parties to review them.

Cllr Duckworth passed on comments from residents about **flooding** in the parking bays opposite Tesco's, and **uneven pavements** outside Concept East Coast (by the pedestrian crossing in Fountain Street) and in front of the Old Police Station (Old Market). Cllr Kelly added that several trouble spots had been identified during the walkabout with Richard Gray GCC, and he hoped both Mr Gray and Cllr Waddington would attend the next Access Group meeting in September.

Cllr Kay advised that the preferred site for building the **MUGA** at the Primary School was on land belonging to the Diocese of Gloucester, which was intransigent in offering a reasonable deal. Hilary Menendez and Gareth Vine GCC were investigating a possible land swap with GCC and Cllr Kay asked if Cllr Waddington could enquire whether they had made any progress.

District Cllr Sims had nothing as yet to report and **District Cllr Carter** advised that the AGM on Thursday would establish how the new administration would be run.

2012/17 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor wished to recognise **Cllr Thorpe's** time as his deputy over the last two years and thanked her for her commitment and effort.

He had attended an SDC meeting on the new **Code of Conduct**; the draft document was available in the office.

A meeting was held with - now 35 - **library volunteers and co-ordinators**, with thanks to Cllr Elliott for managing this and to Cllr Duckworth for putting it online. The Mayor commented that he was disappointed not yet to have had confirmation from GCC of its decision regarding Nailsworth Library, to which Cllr Waddington responded that the scrutiny procedure had to be gone through before any final decision could be ratified and he expected that NTC would be receiving formal confirmation shortly. It was understood that the offer of 12 hours paid librarian time remained unchanged despite NTC's efforts to put forward Nailsworth's case for additional hours.

The Mayor had visited the '**Men's Shed**', run by Practical Intelligence on Tuesdays in the basement of the Subscription Rooms. The group wished to attend the next Recreation & Amenities meeting to present an idea for the Market Street Garden.

The Mayor joined a group of residents to welcome **Nigel Bedford** (terminally ill with prostate cancer) on his walk from John O'Groats to Land's End to raise funds for a prostate cancer charity.

He was pleased to attend the **County Trefoil AGM** at the Arkell Centre, which organisation was made up mostly of retired guide leaders.

Last week the Mayor attended the **SDC Community Safety meeting** and reported that parishes were now divided into two (North and South) districts, Nailsworth being the most southerly parish in the North District. Regular meetings would be held under the chairmanship of Phil Sullivan.

The Mayor and Cllr Kelly attended a GCC workshop on measures to tackle **speeding**. Following the end of the Jubilee celebrations, the Mayor planned to set up a group, similar to that at Rodborough, to monitor speeding around the town.

With regard to the **Jubilee**, many events had been organised around the town and the Mayor hoped that Cllrs would attend and support them. The Mayor reminded the meeting that Nailsworth **Festival** started this Saturday and Nailsworth **Olympics** next week.

2012/18 REPORT of RETIRING DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Thorpe reported that the trainee Community Organiser (appointed by GRCC for one year) Stephen Stafford, had commenced his duties and was based at the Arkell Community Centre. His role was to talk to residents, especially those whose voices were not usually heard, and help them to be heard.

2012/19 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk advised that Stroudwater Textile Trust had been unable to raise sufficient funds to produce a second DVD on the history of local mills, and asked if it could put the £200 grant awarded by NTC towards the alternative cheaper project of producing a booklet with CDs. This was approved.

2012/20 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Elliott reported that she was still negotiating with **CAB** to have a presence in Nailsworth and hoped for a final decision at the meeting end of May.

Cllr Thorpe had met the new **Children's Centre** Partnership manager Alex Kershaw, but was disappointed that Barnardos was being asked to re-tender for the Nailsworth and Parliament Street services as part of a global tendering process, after a mere 18 months in charge. She hoped their reappointment would go through smoothly, but this policy could result in a lack of continuity and too much time was taken up with repeated tendering.

Cllr Kelly reported that 4 members of the police force had attended the **Access Group** meeting last Friday and useful discussion had taken place on how to tackle illegal parking and speeding.

The Mayor reported that Tracy Young had been appointed Nailsworth **Youth Worker** last Tuesday, after six months without a full time incumbent.

2012/21 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Reed presented the report of the meeting held on 8 May and the minutes were approved.

There was some discussion about what had actually been decided regarding the **hiring of a skip** for removal of litter at Bunting Hill and it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate booking a small to medium sized skip for the day on 31st May.

The Clerk read out the email from the surveyor dealing with the rent negotiation for the **TIC at 4 the Old George**, proposing that

- a two year lease extension at a rent of £8000 p.a. be agreed,
- with three months notice in writing to be given,
- followed by marketing of the unit and erection of a To Let board
- and that NTC bear reasonable legal and surveyor's fees on termination

There was some confusion over the last point, and Cllrs certainly did not feel NTC should bear the cost of finding a new tenant. It was currently not possible to know when a move to the Old Police

Station would happen, and the Old George unit would be required until then. The Clerk undertook to clarify the final point.

PROPOSED Cllr Kay proposed, to unanimous agreement, that a rent of £8000 p.a. be agreed for a two year lease extension from 12 August 2012 on 4 the Old George, with a three month notice period, but that NTC would only agree to cover reasonable surveying and legal fees pertaining to the lease extension.

2012/22 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting held on 1 May. He advised that the previous meeting had been inquorate and so business had been deferred.

RESOLVED	that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meeting held on 1 May be approved.
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2012/23 REVIEW of INSURANCE COVER

The Clerk advised that the annual insurance was due for renewal on 1st June and that Zurich had drawn attention to a couple of changes NTC might like to consider, for which the Clerk gave details –

- Raising the 'personal accident' cover to a higher level – additional premium £193.17
- Including 'full legal expenses' cover – additional premium £193.52

The Clerk was of the opinion that the level of cover was sufficient, with the addition of the half pipe at the KGV skate park and a new member of staff. The current premium of £11,199.96 would therefore increase to £11382.85, or if contracted until 2015, would reduce to £10835, or if contracted until 2017, reduced further to £10278.

It was noted that there were few companies providing the full range of cover required by a town council, and having several different policies was not practical. Previous attempts to find an alternative quote had been unsuccessful and it was a time consuming exercise to investigate. Cllr Carter suggested asking GAPTC if they could advise. Cllr Duckworth commented that the insurance budget had risen by about 12%, which the Clerk explained was because prices had increased and NTC had had to make a couple of claims in the last period. Cover of the Arkell CC had added about £1000 to the premium and a higher level of public liability cover was required with several children's play areas.

PROPOSED Cllr Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Reed that the insurance be renewed on 1 June with Zurich until 2017 at a cost of £10278 p.a. without changes to the existing policy, and that more information be obtained about legal expenses option.

* Cllr Thorpe left the meeting

2012/24 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk advised that there were three more cheques to be added to the draft accounts emailed to Cllrs:

- Item 38. Refund on expenditure £91.19
 - Item 39. Town Crier's expenses £400
 - Item 40. Daphne Turner, flowers for Mayor's Reception £65.60
- And that Item 28 should read £982.33.

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 15 May 2012 amounting to £39686.25 be approved for payment.
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2012/25 GCC – road closure Rockness Hill 28 May to 1 June

The road would be closed for electrical works.

2012/26 GAPTC – call for resolutions for AGM on 11 October

Members were reminded to put forward their resolutions for the AGM.

2012/27 Diocese of Gloucester – sale of All Saints Shortwood

The Diocese had written to formally notify the Council that the church was being marketed for sale, with a copy of the particulars.

2012/28 Nailsworth PCC – annual report & accounts for year ending 31.12.11

This was available from the office.

2012/29 The Conservation Volunteers – renaming of BTCV

The organisation’s rather elaborate name ‘British Trust for Conservation Volunteers’ was being changed to a more manageable ‘The Conservation Volunteers’.

2012/30 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR in the TOWN

There had been more complaints from residents about one particular couple who had been banned from buying alcohol in any of the town’s shops. The Mayor advised that a meeting would take place with various agencies tomorrow at 2pm in the Council Chamber to discuss what action could be taken. Cllrs were welcome to attend. Cllr Rohman added that he had been subject to an aggressive approach from this couple wanting to buy alcohol from his restaurant and the Mayor urged him to report this to the 101 police number so that the incident could be added to the evidence.

..... Chairman

..... Date