

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of a MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 June 2016

Present	Cllr Jonathan Duckworth (Town Mayor) Cllr Anne Elliott Cllr Paul Francis Cllr Norman Kay Cllr Robert Maitland Cllr Sally Millett Cllr Angela Norman Cllr Sue Reed Cllr Myles Robinson Cllr Steve Robinson
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr Dorcas Binns Kev Adcock, Glos Fire Service Inspector Andy Poole, Glos Constabulary
Apologies	Cllr Ron Kerby

The Mayor opened the meeting with the following announcement: "On Thursday, a terrible and incomprehensible act of violence took the life of one of our country's elected representatives. Jo Cox was a young woman, a mother, a passionate campaigner for the weak and oppressed. It is sad that her extraordinary and selfless work only became better known to the public after her death." Cllrs were invited to stand for a minute's silence in her memory.

2016/46 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST and COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations or dispensations.

2016/47 SDC DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Cllr Myles Robinson asked whether any of the current ward Cllrs were on this committee, and was advised not. During the last term all three had been on the committee, which meant NTC could not make any statement. Now NTC ward Cllrs have the opportunity to attend meetings, give a view and report back. Cllrs can continue to represent individual residents in their applications.

2016/48 INTRODUCTION FROM KEV ADCOCK, Glos Fire Service

Kev Adcock introduced himself as the recently appointed Fire Service's Local Risk Manager for Stroud District. Responding to concerns raised in March about the sustainability and support of Nailsworth Fire Station, he reassured Council that the station was being reinforced and active recruiting was taking place. Kev Adcock was invited to return at another time to address Council at greater length and was thanked for his attendance this evening.

2016/49 AGENDA CHANGES

The Mayor highlighted some changes to the presentation of the Agenda and asked for Cllrs' patience while the new format was introduced. The aim is to provide much of the background information with the agenda a day earlier than has been the case, so that Cllrs can be prepared and meetings can focus on important decisions.

The meetings of Council (Planning) and the Recreation & Amenities Committee were incorrectly shown on the Agenda for 6 September, which should have read: Tuesday 2 August.

2016/50 CONSIDERATION of PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Mayor commented that NTC had been dealing with applications when they notified to Council, but this sometimes meant that Cllrs were unable to take into consideration comments from residents. He suggested review of applications be deferred until nearer the cut-off date. The Clerk would aim to inform Cllrs of applications in advance, to allow for a site visit or other investigation.

Consultation

		COMMENT
a) S.16/1036/COU Flat, Little Frustration House, Market Street	Change of use from health clinic to 1 bed flat	No observation
b) S.16/1221/FUL Crown Inn, Valley Road, Inchbrook	Conversion of former pub into two dwellings and erection of five new dwellings (revised application refusal S.15/0177/FUL)	Cllrs were concerned about the consequent increase in traffic on this dangerous corner and wished GCC to look again at this issue. Section 106 monies to be requested, e.g. for improvement of the cycle path. Cllrs noted their appreciation of the changes made to the original refused application.
c) S.16/1135/TCA Springhill Court, Spring Hill	T1 Cypress – reduce twin stems by 4m and reshape. T2 Silver Birch – crown lift five lowest primary branches. Existing height 10-11m, finished vertical height 10-11m. Branch structure will start above 3m of clear trunk T3 Yew – trim by 1.5-2m to previously reduced height.	No observations.

2016/51 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 17 MAY and 7 JUNE

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2016 were approved with two corrections:

2016/02 – Cllr Sue Reed was elected DEPUTY Mayor.

2016/28 – Ruskin Mill end of year ceremonies take place on Friday 8 JULY.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2016 were approved.

MATTERS OF URGENCY**2016/52 TOWN GARDENING (minute 2016/09)**

The Clerk confirmed that a temporary contractor had been appointed.

2016/53 UPDATE ON CHILDRENS CENTRE PROVISION (minute 2016/32)

It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the September meeting and ask County Cllr Dorcas Binns to attend. Cllr Sally Millett will research grant possibilities and bring a report to the meeting. Concern was raised about a previous assurance by County Cllr Binns that the provision would be safeguarded, to which she responded that £5k had been reserved for Nailsworth, although she was advised that £12-13k was actually needed. Cllrs Sally Millett and Steve Robinson will review the GCC cabinet report prior to the September meeting.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**2016/54 GCC CHILDRENS CENTRE PROVISION**

County Cllr Dorcas Binns advised that the cabinet report covered Children Centre provision for the next 5 years. The tendering process will take place from July to September 2016, with evaluation in November and contracts awarded in December to start on 1 April 2017. She confirmed that provision at the Arkell Centre will continue, working jointly with Nailsworth Primary School and Phoenix Playgroup.

Cllr Dorcas Binns added that there had been no financial cuts, only changes to services, with an extra £3million for social workers and the creation of 16 supercentres for up to 11 year olds in the areas of most need across the District. She promised to provide a copy of the cabinet report if this was not available online.

2016/55 RINGFIELD/TANNERS PIECE HOUSING

District Cllr Steve Robinson's paper covered SDC's recommendations. Nailsworth is the second in the scheme for 6 sites across the District, rolling on funding from one to the next. There was no additional money available and the project had to be self-financing through the sale of some property to fund the replacement of obsolete housing stock. The flats on Upper Park Road will remain, Ringfield Close will be sold off and linked to Tanners Piece to build a block of 1 and 2 bedroom sheltered housing flats, resulting in the net loss of 20 units.

Cllrs had met with residents who were naturally concerned at the enforced move. Some wished to stay in the town although others had already taken the opportunity to move away. Each was being supported and helped financially by SDC, as well as going to the top of the list for alternative accommodation, although a few had expressed dissatisfaction with their treatment. It will take two years to relocate all the residents.

Some Cllrs questioned the condemnation of Ringfield Close as no longer fit for purpose. Cllr Steve Robinson assured the meeting that there were serious problems with condensation and concrete cancer, there was no parking provision and rebuilding was the best option, a view which had been backed up by an independent adviser.

It had been made clear to SDC that Nailsworth still needed small sheltered housing units and it was hoped that the land would not be used for more profitable large executive houses. Cllrs hoped that the situation could be helped by SDC allowing an appropriate housing association to build more social housing on the garage part of the site, and that Section 106 monies will be provided to help with increased traffic and highway issues.

Sheltered Housing Officer Dave Milner had offered to attend a Council meeting to talk about the project and Cllr Steve Robinson was asked to arrange this.

RESOLVED **Whilst accepting that the redevelopment scheme for Ringfield Close/Tanners Piece was inevitable, NTC wished to record its deep concern at the loss of 20 sheltered housing units and urge SDC to look at this again and, at the very least, to allow a housing association to build additional social housing on the garage part of the site.**

2016/56 TRAFFIC CALMING AND SURVEY

District Cllr Steve Robinson reported on a meeting last week of the A46/20mph Group with Andrew Middlecote, GCC Area Highways Manager and County Cllr Dorcas Binns, following on from a well supported residents' meeting at the school last November. The recommendation was that Amey on behalf of GCC conduct a traffic survey of the 6 or 7 roads through Windsoredge. County Cllr Dorcas Binns offered to fund half of the £2,500 cost from the Local Highways Budget, with a contribution of £1,250 from NTC. A CCTV camera will also be placed on the mini roundabout to gauge the level of traffic at that point.

PROPOSED **Cllr Steve Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sally Millett that NTC commit £1,250 from the Environmental Enhancement Budget towards the Amey/GCC traffic survey in the Windsoredge area. Carried unanimously.**

2016/57 PRESENTATION BY INSPECTOR ANDY POOLE ON ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Inspector Poole advised that the problem had first been brought to his attention over the Easter holidays and had worsened over recent weeks. A team of Specials was visiting the area on Friday and Saturday evenings and a Section 34 Power issued so that officers could take the youths back home, and if caught again, arrest them. PCSOs have reported considerable disrespect and arrests have been made for theft, shoplifting and aggression. Criminal Behaviour Orders (formerly ASBOs) have been made, curfews imposed and other measures taken to tackle the small core group of ringleaders.

Alcohol played a big part in these activities and retailers were also being targeted and informed. Inspector Poole said the perpetrators were known, but it was essential that members of the public continued reporting incidents so that a stronger case could be built up.

Where SDC tenant families were involved SDC can take action against the parents to control their children's behaviour however with private residents this is not the case.

There were additional concerns about possible grooming and occasions where youngsters go off in a vehicle, destination unknown. Groups also text each other when a police car is spotted and everyone melts away until it has gone.

Inspector Poole added that youngsters under curfew were being monitored and officers had the power to arrest, even 14 year olds, if this was broken. In response to a question from Cllr Anne Elliott, Inspector Poole said he would check on the involvement of schools, although some of the worst offenders had been excluded. In these cases Youth and Youth Offending Services were involved.

Prosecution for an incident of arson had been dropped by the CPS, as there was no corroborating evidence and the two alleged perpetrators blamed each other. This unfortunately gave out the message that the culprits had 'got away with it', but was not deemed to be a serious enough incident to be pursued.

Inspector Poole asked that Cllrs, traders, residents be encouraged to keep reporting any evidence, incidences, names and places, as this all helped to build a rounded picture and strengthen the case.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Poole for his most helpful report and Cllrs were encouraged to attend a Cluster Group meeting in about a month for the 51 parishes across the District under the Inspector's remit.

2016/58 PROTECTING THE NEWMARKET VALLEY

It was recommended that Item No.3 be raised with GAPTC to ask for a review of AONB boundaries. It was also recommended that the Council establish ownership of all parcels of land in the Newmarket Valley. The Clerk pointed out that NTC needed first to identify its own parcels of land, which, as there was no mapping software, had to be done on the basis of photocopied deeds with a significant time and resources implication.

In response to a question from the Mayor, locum clerk Roy Balgobin advised that this could be researched online with Land Registry at a cost of £5 for a simple search, or £10 with more detail. It was agreed to do this when time allowed.

No.5 could wait until the Neighbourhood Plan working party met, as could No.6, if viable, to apply to have the valley declared an area of high quality.

2016/59 SDC ENVIRONMENT

District Cllr Sue Reed gave feedback on the approved SDC Environment documents and town councils' response to several proposals. SDC had agreed to amend its low carbon energy policy. Otherwise there were no major changes proposed. SDC's Environment Chair had congratulated the group for getting the CRTBO agreed and hoped it would be an example to other communities

2016/60 NAILSWORTH CLT COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUILD ORDER

A referendum will take place in Nailsworth on 18th August when the electors will decide whether to give the CLT the go ahead for the development at Lawnside, with the Right to Buy removed so that the houses remain under town ownership in perpetuity.

2016/61 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Sally Millett advised that Kevin Pring had now left SDC, meaning the loss of a useful contact. It was not known who would be taking over the SDC MUGA maintenance and Cllr Steve Robinson said he would follow this up.

2016/62 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Steve Robinson commented that a Hanover tenant had said how pleased he was to receive a certificate for the Bee Gardens competition.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

2016/63 SDC FLOODING REPORTS

The Clerk recommended inviting David Lesser to a training session to provide more information on planned flood defence works. This was **approved**.

2016/64 MUGA LEASE and MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

The Clerk had met with Robert Stephens (Diocese Board of Education), and recommended the Council agree to spend a further amount to settle the legal costs and move forward. She suggested this would be less than £5,000, which could not be taken from Section 106 funds.

RESOLVED Cllr Norman Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Robert Maitland that NTC agree to incur additional legal costs up to a maximum of £5,000 to complete the MUGA Lease and Management & Maintenance Agreement. The source of the funding would be decided at the July NTC meeting, when unspent funds would be re-allocated. Carried unanimously.

2016/65 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AREA CONSULTATION

Cllrs were asked to pass on any comments to the Clerk by 27 June.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

2016/66 MINCHINHAMPTON & RODBOROUGH NATIONAL TRUST COMMON LAND

Cllr Sue Reed advised that a newspaper article would be published on the loss of cattle (31 deaths since 2013) and increased traffic. NTC may be asked to comment.

2016/67 DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GREEN STADIUM SITE

Cllr Steve Robinson, in a private capacity, had been invited to attend a meeting at FGR with Ian Crawley, Ecotricity and GVA Planning Consultatns, regarding possible development of the Forest Green stadium site. Outline planning permission was likely to be applied for in October/November, depending on the timing of the application for the new stadium site by J13 M5.

The meeting led to the well-received suggestion that FGR's ideas for a sustainable development be presented to NTC at a training evening. The group appeared to have done some research, reviewed NTC's surveys and was aware of the town's needs. Starter employment units and shops could be considered as part of the overall Forest Green development.

Cllr Steve Robinson was asked to propose some dates for a training evening.

2016/68 GLOS VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR ALLIANCE

Cllrs Sally Millett and Steve Robinson attended the Forum on 8 June at Churchdown. A paper had been circulated outlining the question and answer session with Martin Surl, who explained his Police & Crime Plan and the future of his Commissioner's Fund.

2016/69 TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on 7 June were approved. The Mayor commented on the useful introduction to the role of the committee at the start of that meeting and invited Cllrs not on the Environment Committee to stay on for the first item of its meeting on 5 July, in order to also learn about the function of that committee.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to obtain three quotations for the undertaking of a professional review of Council assets and values, in order to ensure that NTC had adequate insurance cover.

Cllr Myles Robinson advised that the review would cost in the region of £2-3k and that NTC should factor in some preparation work to provide measurements and plans of Council property, in order to help the assessor with the task.

2016/70 ACCOUNTS

The list of accounts for 22 June 2016 amounting to £60,676.48 was approved for payment.

2016/71 APPROVAL OF 2015-16 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The 2015-16 Accounts had been circulated. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for the work undertaken in producing this clear set of accounts, and to Roy Balgobin for his support and assistance.

PROPOSED Cllr Paul Francis proposed, seconded by Cllr Robert Maitland that the 2015-16 NTC FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS be approved. Carried unanimously.

2016/72 MORTIMER FUND INVESTMENT

Cllr Steve Robinson advised that the remaining £14k Mortimer Bequest is in a simple investment account and is the remainder of monies spent on Mortimer Gardens and the Mortimer Room, to be spent as required. It was noted that there is no interest on the investment and Cllrs were keen to put it to use, possibly for a new capital project which would carry the Mortimer name.

The Clerk will clarify the exact position with the fund and The Mayor suggested residents could be asked for ideas on how it could be spent.

2016/73 COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

In response to a question from Cllr Norman Kay, the Clerk confirmed that the £60 annual payment for closed churchyards related to the War Graves Commission and would cease after this year.

2016/74 GRANT APPLICATION FROM STROUD NATURE

Cllr Sue Reed explained that, as this had come before the last Council prior to the election, it was decided to defer it for the attention of the new Council.

A grant of £1,000 had been applied for, towards the Stroud Valleys Showcase event on 1-2 October at the Arkell Centre. The programme will be run across Stroud but the plan was for next year's to start on May bank holiday in Nailsworth. The scheme was a way of engaging people with their locations with a comprehensive catalogue of events.

The Clerk advised that there remained £947 in last year's grants budget and that NTC was currently reviewing its grants policies and procedures. Cllr Myles Robinson commented that sponsors had already been signed up for this year, with their logos on the programme and events had already started. He suggested NTC contribute to next year's event, ensuring the town logo featured on that programme and Nailsworth was included on the map (it was missing from the current one).

In previous years NTC grants were paid out in September and February so that applications could be considered as a group and funds apportioned accordingly but this practice had ceased. The Mayor responded that the procedures review might come up with a different system, as the twice-yearly payout did not always suit the applicants. He suggested in this instance that a small contribution to Stroud Nature would be appropriate, with an expression of interest for next year.

The Clerk had spoken to Helen Royall, who confirmed that several events were planned for the Arkell Centre this year, and there was still space to include more events to showcase Nailsworth. Cllr Sue Reed added that the Bee Gardens project was supported by Stroud Nature, with a Bee Weekend as part of Nailsworth Festival, and workshops and activities for children. She suggested a grant from NTC might cover the Arkell Centre rent over the October two day event.

PROPOSED Cllr Sue Reed proposed, seconded by Cllr Myles Robinson that NTC contribute £500, to include rent of the Arkell Centre on 1-2 October, to Stroud Nature 2016 and ask to be fully included in next year's event. Carried unanimously.

2016/75 BEE GARDENS COMPETITION

Certificates had already been posted through doors in the town and volunteers were needed to judge the two remaining areas: 1) Norton Wood & surrounds, 2) Churchill Road/Tynings.

40 certificates needed to be allocated and addresses noted in the logbook so that Bee Lines could then be mapped over the ensuing years.

Cllr Myles Robinson offered to cover the Churchill Road sector.

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Town Mayor

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Date