

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
 Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 20 January 2009**  
**MINUTES**

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J D Bratby Cllr P Carter Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs J M Way	
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell	
Apologies	Cllr J A Byrne Cllr B Jayes Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr A G Wheeler	District Cllr J T Jeffreys District Cllr Ms F Macmillan

**2009/171 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Several members of the public had attended the meeting to discuss reasons why the Nailsworth Music Festival was not able to proceed this year. Whilst NTC had given permission for organisers to use the field for the event, they did not understand or agree with a refusal to allow them to charge for entry. It was alleged that many traders in the town would suffer loss due to the cancellation of the event. It was explained again that the field belonged to the town and was maintained through public taxes and it was Council policy to offer open and free access to all. Football clubs and tennis players paid a hire fee towards pitch and court maintenance and for the upkeep of the changing rooms which only they used.

The police and SDC Environmental Health officers were insisting on tighter security and monitoring measures following the problems at the 2008 festival, and discussions on these points needed to be taken up with those departments. It was suggested the event had outgrown the KGV open public space and needed to move to a more suitably secure location. It was recommended that claims that Christkindl Evening had a much larger police presence than Nailstock 2008 should be taken up with the organisers and the police.

The Mayor suspended discussion after 30 minutes but offered to continue when the meeting ended.

**2009/172 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 16 December 2008 were approved and signed with the following corrections

Minute 2008/162: first line to read "Cllr Mrs Way drew attention to the suggestion from Uley Go Zero . . ."

Minute 2008/156: penultimate line to read ". . . which with a maximum attendance of 3000 people would have brought in £7500."

**2009/173 STONE FOUNTAIN (minute 2008/157)**

The mayor had circulated an email from SDC giving a start date of Monday 2 March for refurbishment and re-siting of the Fountain. A meeting with contractors had been arranged for Thursday 12 February to go through the process and confirm lighting and water requirements. Cllr Carter had confirmed that the GCC culvert improvements would not interfere with the fountain project.

**2009/174 CREDIT UNION USE OF FGCH (minute 2008/168)**

The Clerk was asked to consider how to make the appropriate bookkeeping entry to record the waiving of rental charge in lieu of receiving payment and refunding by grant.

**2009/175 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Waddington** confirmed that most of the street furniture refurbishment had been completed and was thanked for arranging this by the mayor. Nailsworth was to be in the vanguard of the next phase of reduced night time street lighting, with implementation to start in the next few weeks. A photo shoot would take place in February to launch the initiative.

Zero Waste Week would take place next week following a good response from the public with over 1000 signed up to participate. Any resulting improvement in recycling and landfill rates would be monitored.

Glos First was organising a rural services sub group event on 29 January, aimed at existing service providers, which would look at further practical measures to improve local services following the closure of many rural post offices.

It looked likely that GCC would opt for a 2.9% increase in council tax for 2009/10, to be finalised at its February meeting. The police precept remained uncertain with very serious constraints.

In response to a query from the mayor, Cllr Waddington confirmed that a shared space arrangement in George Street was under consideration and had not been forgotten. The pavement was too narrow to allow for a pedestrian crossing and a shared space arrangement would merge roadway and pavement. Major schemes to improve the culverts around the junction were going ahead and might need to be tackled in two parts. He had requested that the shared space proposal be considered at the same time as the culvert work in George Street and he undertook to obtain a progress report.

Cllr Mrs Binns urged that residents be made aware of the part night lighting so they were not alarmed by failing lights. Cllr Waddington advised that stickers would be affixed to the individual lamp posts involved. Public notices could be put up in strategic places, and Cllr Waddington would provide maps and an article for the next edition of the Fountain. A copy of the map would be held at the town hall and Town Information Centre and Mrs de Lacroix would organise a special window display. It was agreed that Nailsworth News should be asked to assist with publicity of the scheme.

**District Cllr Blackwell** advised that the town's Neighbourhood Warden had been asked to monitor the ongoing vandalism of the toilet block. SDC was asking to close the toilets at 6pm instead of 8.30pm but Cllrs did not feel this would solve the problem. Replacement for the broken parts were on order. Minchinhampton had the same problem and CCTV had been discussed.

Cllr Waddington sought and received clarification that the planning application for land west of Worley Lodge was for the same Worley Meadow site, which had been the subject of a previous planning application.

**2009/176 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

As mentioned previously, the obligation to provide a MUGA as part of the FGR-FC planning permission had been resurrected recently. Mr Tim Barnard on behalf of FGR-FC had had a mixed response from local sports groups about making use of the MUGA, and the state of the art facility FGR-FC wanted was to comply with requirements for a grant application to the Football Foundation, which FGR-FC had told him not to submit. The planning approval for the MUGA granted in July 2005 would expire in 2010 and Mr Barnard had proposed a meeting to move the matter forward. Confirmation of a date was awaited and the mayor, Cllr Nicholson and the clerk would attend. NTC was still keen to pursue a less elaborate (and less costly) facility as the artificial grass surface being proposed would preclude use of the MUGA by some non professional groups.

The mayor confirmed that two families had come forward wishing to privately fund benches along the cycle trail. Cllr Nicholson drew attention to putting in place arrangements for ongoing maintenance and it was agreed that NTC would accept responsibility along with other town benches. The mayor was given the go ahead to seek GCC's permission to install the two benches at the locations already identified, after which it would be judged whether there was room for any more. It was agreed at the same time to refurbish the existing bench provided by the Friendly Circle some years ago.

#### **2009/177 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Robinson was sad to announce that Nailsworth's youth worker Miss Tracy Young would be leaving on 28 February after seven years in post. An advertisement to replace her would be published next month and the likely gap between appointments would be covered by a part time leader. Cllrs greatly appreciated what Miss Young had done for the town during her tenure and wished her well in her new job working for SDC.

#### **2009/178 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had received the latest Inforeggio News. A Village & Community Hall network meeting would take place on 28 January in Cranham and she would pass on the details to Cllr Mrs Thorpe.

Cllr Mrs Way had offered to attend the South West Rural Update conference at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and it was agreed NTC would fund the £30 attendance fee.

GRCC was running a session at Ebley Mill on 29 January on Ground Source Heat Pumps, following the undertaking of pilot studies. Cllr Mrs Way was unable to attend but her husband had offered to go on NTC's behalf, which offer was accepted. Cllr Nicholson added that the event was aimed at SDC residential units to continue a scheme which had been trialed in Coaley, however it might bring up some interesting points for the future FGCH, where the system had already been discussed with the architect, and was strongly favoured for the new building.

The Clerk had circulated Cllrs about the SDC fund for play equipment, applications for which had been invited on 7 January for submission by 23<sup>rd</sup>. One idea had been the KGV slide although the Clerk had since established that a complete rebuild was required and she was not in a position to put forward a detailed application at this stage. The half pipe for the KGV skate ramps was another possibility. SDC officers had indicated that they were looking for new exciting projects for the 8-13 age group. It was noted that the offer was for 24 projects between six districts, and therefore only four within Stroud District. There was insufficient time to provide a well thought out and researched project and it was agreed not to apply this time. Recreation & Amenities Committee would be asked to consider a new slide project for the KGV play area.

#### **2009/179 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 5 January and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:

Notice board attached to public toilets – penultimate sentence to read “the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Way would be producing an information sheet . . . .”

Maintenance of Council Property at Shortwood – Mr Boyles had given an outline of suggestions for the corner plot and Cllr Nicholson suggested a site meeting for Committee members to discuss this. Cllr Robinson clarified that the cable affected by one of the trees was in fact a phone line, not electricity. It was agreed to meet by the play area on Shortwood Green at 10am on Friday and the Clerk would notify other members of the committee. Work on the site should be deferred until a clear programme had been approved.

**2009/180 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY**

Architect Mr Bruce Buchanan had provided revised plans increasing the main hall capacity from 70/80 to 100 people by moving internal walls without altering the overall footprint as detailed in revised plan 426fgcc?AL(0)2E. This was approved. Cllr Nicholson advised that he and the Clerk had been appointed project manager, rather than bring in a paid outsider or volunteer. A training session for Cllrs with Mr Buchanan would take place on 19 February at 7.30pm following the Planning Committee meeting. The Clerk would circulate the draft business plan in advance so that questions could be submitted to Cllr Mrs Thorpe in advance of the training session.

**2009/181 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Carter presented the report of the meetings held on 18 December and 6 January and the minutes of the December meeting were approved.

The following addition was made to the minutes of the January meeting which would be approved at the next session:

Affordable Housing - Cllr Wheeler would approach NYCE with the suggestion that the building be used for affordable housing for young people.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 18 December 2008 and 6 January 2009 be approved.

**2009/182 PROPOSALS FOR TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

Cllr Mrs Way referred to the discussion at the training session held on 6 January when Mr David Free had attended to outline his ideas for improving the traffic flow in the town centre and she considered some important issues had been raised which required serious thought. Cllr Mrs Way proposed that

Nailsworth Town Council should seek to explore Mr Free's ideas further with the Highways Department of GCC. The motion failed to get a seconder and was lost.

After further discussion Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Binns that

Mr David Free be thanked for his work on producing an alternative town centre scheme, but that NTC declined to take the matter further. The motion was carried with one abstention.

**2009/183 ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 20 January amounting to £16844.64 be approved for payment.

**2009/184 Mr Iain Selkirk – internal audit 2009**

Mr Selkirk advised that the internal audit now had to be submitted by end June which made timing very tight. He hoped to start before the end of the financial year and would work in house as per the usual arrangement. His fee would be £235. Mr Selkirk's continued appointment as internal auditor was approved.

**2009/185 Mr W Affleck – meeting of newsletter committees**

The Clerk read out Mr Affleck's letter suggesting the Fountain and Nailsworth News committees meet to explore a more coordinated service. Cllr Nicholson pointed out that similar discussions had taken place at least twice in the past, but it was agreed to have a further meeting following the next Fountain copy deadline.

**The Fountain – Production Schedule for 2009 – GL6 0 = 2926 premises**

<b>Issue no</b>	<b>Copy date</b>	<b>copy approval meeting @ 6pm</b>	<b>Delivery to Royal Mail Swindon</b>	<b>Distribution week commencing</b>
<b>46</b>	Wed 4 Feb	Mon 2 March	16-23 March Contract: T805703	30 March blue
<b>47</b>	Wed 22 Apr	Mon 18 May	1-8 June “	15 June purple
<b>48</b>	Wed 9 Sept	Mon 5 Oct	19-26 Oct Contract: T805704	2 November brown or green

**2009/186 GCC – introduction of part night lighting scheme**

Ms Lesley Smith had provided details of the process; the conversion takes 3 nights.

**2009/187 SDC – vandalism of public toilets**

Coin boxes cost £600 and would only be replaced one more time. Feedback from residents indicated a preference for reverting to manual locks other than for the disabled toilet, and NTC was invited to comment. More serious vandalism had taken place over the Christmas period and SDC felt it might help to close the toilets at 6pm (rather than at 8.30pm) as had been done in Minchinhampton which shared the problems. Discussion ensued on the reason for the problems and possible solutions. The mayor and Cllr Mrs Binns would meet with SDC officers, but Cllrs were adamant the toilets should be open until the time of the last bus. It was suggested the police could bring the roving CCTV camera back to monitor more closely.

**2009/188 SDC - temporary road closures in Market Street**

A list of Saturday road closures had been provided for the craft market until end of the year but the Clerk advised that Market Street traders no longer wanted stalls in front of their shops and the January market had been moved into Mortimer Gardens. A letter was awaited from the Chamber of Trade about the future of the craft market with a request to use the Mortimer Gardens. The Clerk had verbally authorised a market in February as a one off, pending receipt of the letter which she had requested for discussion at the next meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee.

**2009/189 GCC –Star Hill, Jubilee Road, Inchbrook Hill traffic proposals**

The latest traffic calming proposal had been circulated to Cllrs by email and would be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Environment Committee. The scheme was going out to public consultation now and there might be comments from residents to consider. There did not appear to be a deadline for response.

**2009/190 GCC - programme of road closures, Hollingham Lane, Ragnall Lane, Wallow Green**

Roads would be closed between 11 and 17 March for essential carriageway works.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed.

**2009/191 Continuation of public question time discussion**

There was a further exchange of views between residents and some councillors about the future use of the KGV field for the Nailsworth Music Festival. The Mayor undertook to arrange for the issue of the introduction of a charging policy for use of the KGV field to be included on the agenda of the next Recreation & Amenities Committee although he warned against any assumption being made that a change to current policy would be forthcoming.

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Date

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Chairman

It was agreed to reschedule the next meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee to Wednesday 11 February.