

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Arkell Community Centre, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 March 2012

Present	*	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr N I Kay Cllr M J Kelly Cllr M M Rahman Cllr S M Reed Cllr M P Robinson Cllr S E Thorpe
also present for part of the meeting		District Cllr RTH Blackwell
Apologies		Cllr A Elliott
	*	denotes absence from part of the meeting

2012/210 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2012/211 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February were approved and signed with the following addition to minute 2012/208:

"Kingswood PC, NTC and GAPTC had invited . . ."

2012/212 TRAINING SESSION for NEW ACTION PLAN (2012/190)

The training session had been facilitated by Ian Crawley, who would write up notes of the meeting on his return from holiday.

2012/213 SDC GRANT for YOUTH SERVICES (2012/192)

The Mayor was pleased to announce that SDC had agreed to match GCC's grants towards youth services.

2012/214 COUNCILLOR TITLES (2012/196)

Cllr Thorpe reported that none of the lady cllrs had any particular view on whether to retain their titles and it was agreed that henceforth, all cllrs would be identified without titles.

2012/215 WAR MEMORIAL GATE (2012/198)

Cllr M Robinson reported that he had met the contractor on site and an estimate for repairing the gate was awaited.

2012/216 MUGA at FOREST GREEN (2012/199)

Ian Crawley had reported on his meeting with FGR-FC, at which it was clear that the Club had no desire to transfer freehold of the area originally set aside for the MUGA under the 106 agreement to either NTC or the School. Formal notification of FGR's position was awaited although Mr Crawley thought the Club might consider granting a lease, which would not help with the land swap idea. Recreation & Amenities Committee would continue to try and push this matter forward.

2012/217 SALE of FORMER POLICE STATION (2012/200)

Cllr M Robinson reported that the building had been taken off the market and NTC given a timescale in which to agree a fair price, to be the mean between valuations commissioned by NTC, the Police Commissioner and a third independent valuation. The site was not easy to value and it was not clear what rights of way belonged to the library, nor for what purpose planning permission would be granted. Cllr M Robinson believed County Cllr Waddington, as a member of the Police committee, had been most helpful in supporting NTC's case.

An architect had been appointed from a panel of three, and had inspected the Police Station, TIC and Archive Office. A working party meeting to consider the his initial ideas would take place on Thursday at noon in the Council Chamber to which all Cllrs were invited.

2012/218 GCC LIBRARY CONSULTATION (2012/201)

NTC's library subcommittee had met and subsequently NTC had sent a letter to Mark Hawthorne GCC leader and the GCC head of Library Services, both of which letters had been acknowledged. The consultation was now closed and GCC's decisions were awaited.

2012/219 SDC CONSULTATION POLICY MEETING (2012/208)

Cllr Kay reported on the meeting he and Cllr Elliott had attended on 29 February, which had been well attended and productive. Notes of the meeting had been circulated to the attendees and principles for discussion would then be circulated to all parishes in the district.

2012/220 SPORTS RELIEF RUN 25 March (2012/209)

The Mayor reminded the meeting that the sponsored run would start at 11am on KGV field.

2012/221 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Blackwell congratulated NTC on the finished **Market Street Garden** which looked very good.

- A 12 page report had been submitted by a GTEC consultant advising that the proposed **windpower generator on the A46** would not interfere with TV reception.
- A 28 day stop had been put on **Smiths lorry runs** from Brimscombe to Tinkley Lane, so that this activity could be investigated.
- Permission for the **site opposite the garden centre** was being held up by the Environment Agency's concerns over potential flooding.
- An article on Nailsworth would appear in a forthcoming **Cotswold Life**, which included a photograph of the Mayor and Stroud Cllr Marjoram at the Farmers Market.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Blackwell for chasing up all issues.

2012/222 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he had been very busy at the last **Farmers Market** and Cllr Duckworth had included several of the pertinent topics on the website's 'ask the council' page.

He and Cllr Kay had met with Ray Figg SDC regarding the **MUGA** and, as agreed, the planning application for the original site had been withdrawn. The Mayor expressed disappointment that there had been no movement from the School, Diocese or FGR-FC on this project.

The Mayor and Cllr Thorpe continued discussions with Jenny Barnett on creating a **volunteers' register** and a further meeting would be held on Thursday.

The Mayor was delighted that Nailsworth's original **youth worker** Tracy Young was returning to the post as from 7 May.

SDC needed to expand the current **recycling banks** in the town and was looking for an alternative location. The Clerk explained that larger containers were required which might not fit into the current

site in Old Market. Cllrs M Robinson, Reed and the Mayor would attend a demonstration of the new containers at 7am on Friday in Old Market.

The Mayor hoped to get more information from County Cllr Waddington about the worrying rumour that the **PCSO force** was to be reduced. The two current officers had been active in the town for some time and were well informed on the trouble spots and trouble makers.

2012/223 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Thorpe reiterated her involvement in the **volunteer register**. She had attended the first meeting of the **Nailsworth Access Group**, including the walkabout which had identified areas of conflict between pedestrians and drivers – see the Environment minutes for more detail.

Cllr Kay referred to a motion put forward to the GAPTC AGM last October calling for central government to clarify the **law and regulations on parking**, with problems prevalent across the country, and who was responsible for enforcing them. Bollards had been erected along Tesco's wall in the past to stop parking on the pavement, but these had been knocked down so often that they were eventually discarded. GCC had not wanted to install stronger metal posts, for fear of legal retribution from damaged vehicles. Chris Riley GCC had been suitably appalled at the situation in certain places and would revert with some ideas. The Environment committee would continue to work on this problem.

Cllr Thorpe was in contact with GRCC about the new **Community Organiser** (to support residents in coming together and getting things done). This would be a full time trainee post for a year; a person had been appointed and was currently undergoing training.

2012/224 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The latest edition of the EEC Panorama magazine was available in the office.

The Clerk had received a request from the NDS Strollers to have some free rehearsal time (approx 5 sessions) at the TH for their Jubilee two act play.

PROPOSED Cllr M Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay to unanimous agreement that NDS Strollers be allowed up to five free rehearsal sessions at the TH in preparation for their performance as part of the Jubilee Programme of Events.

2012/225 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Thorpe reported that Cllr Elliott had met with Job Centre Plus to discuss a **careers fair** in October at the Arkell Centre. JCP was supporting this initiative and Cllr Elliott had already secured support from some local businesses.

Cllr Elliott was visiting **CAB** tomorrow to address the board and discuss the possibility of having a representative at the Arkell Centre on a regular basis.

Cllr Kelly awaited news on the **Patients Participation Group** and had been invited to the next **Nailsworth Health Partnership** meeting. The Clerk reminded Cllrs there was no formal NTC representative on the NHP Committee as the organisation had not felt it appropriate at present.

2012/226 REPORT from ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Reed presented the report of the meeting held on 13 March and the minutes (with the addition of apologies from Cllr Thorpe) and recommendations were approved.

- The Energy Neighbourhood Competition finished on 31 March and Cllr Elliott had won a prize! Some useful tips on energy saving had come out of this exercise and Cllrs needed now to consider how to inform residents.

- An article would go in the June NN to encourage residents to participate in taking care of the town's open spaces.
- The Clerk confirmed that the terms of the lease for the TIC at 4 the Old George were unchanged, other than the amount of rent.
- The Clerk was delighted to report that the spring diversion at Shortwood church yard had been completed.
- The Clerk advised that SDC had awarded a grant of £500 from next financial year towards updating the action plan.
- Cllr Thorpe had been approached by a Newmarket resident complaining about dog mess and requesting an additional poop scoop bin; she would pass the information on to Cllr Reed to follow up.

2012/227 REPORT of FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Thorpe presented the report of the meeting held on 6 March and the minutes were approved.

The Mayor had contacted NTC's insurance company to discuss additional cover for the Jubilee events, following his and Cllr Elliott's meeting with SDC's Health & Safety officer. The insurance officer deemed that no additional premium would be required. It was noted that no additional insurance cover was needed for the Nailsworth Olympics either, since all the activities were being organised by other groups.

The Clerk advised that the CAB had emailed to chase up their annual £850 grant, but this organisation had not been included on the list since no application form had been received. Residents from Nailsworth made up the fourth largest group using the Stroud office and it was still hoped to encourage return of a presence to the town. Cllrs agreed that CAB provided an invaluable service and was under significant pressure across the country.

RESOLVED	Cllr M Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Thorpe to unanimous agreement that a grant of £850 be awarded to Stroud CAB.
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2012/228 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the first part of the meeting held on 8 March, and the Mayor took over for the second part.

Cllr Kay pointed out that in respect of council policy for banners and A boards the Recreation & Amenities committee had an interest re. Mortimer Gardens and would discuss the Planning Committee's recommendations at its next meeting.

RESOLVED	that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meeting held on 8 March be approved.
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2012/229 MARKETING and TOURISM WEBSITE

Cllr Duckworth was pleased that this evening's meeting was being held in the Arkell Centre and hoped that this would become a regular occurrence. He had circulated a paper suggesting how the Nailsworthtown.co.uk website could be redeveloped as a tourism and marketing vehicle for the town (at an additional cost of £3/month), under NTC's overall control, but allowing different organisations to edit and update their own pages. He did not feel it was appropriate for the gov.uk website to advertise businesses in the form of B&Bs and eating places, and that site should be restricted to official council business.

Cllr Thorpe reported good feedback on the new site and expressed thanks to Cllr Duckworth for designing it. She was concerned about who would manage the co.uk site and that NTC would be ultimately responsible for its content. Cllr Duckworth responded that the biggest job was to set up the site – which he was offering to do – then it could be edited as much or as little as desired which he did not feel would require a large amount of regular time, particularly if different people were responsible for most of the pages.

Cllrs agreed that ownership of the co.uk site should be retained and to delegate to the Communications Committee how this could best be used.

* Cllr Carter joined the meeting during the above discussions

2012/230 EMAIL & WEBSITE POLICY

Following discussion with SDC, Cllr Duckworth had prepared a formal email and website policy, which was required as the use of a gov.uk address demanded more accountability. This would apply to anyone using an NTC.gov.uk email address, which already included the TIC and possibly later the youth worker. The Clerk asked Cllr Duckworth to ensure that her co.uk emails continued to be forwarded to her gov.uk address and include a request that the sender’s record be updated.

2012/231 ACCOUNTS

Item 339 – was corrected to £15.31, and three new payments added:
Item 360 - £11520 for the Shortwood spring diversion (part to be reimbursed by the PCC)
Item 361- £850 grant to CAB
Item 362 - £20 hire of Akell Centre hall for tonight’s meeting

PROPOSED that the list of accounts for 20 March 2012 amounting to £43,355.25 be approved for payment.

2012/232 GCC – schedule of mobile library service April-June

A schedule was provided for the East and West routes, though it was not clear where the bus actually stopped.

2012/233 GCC – publication of Fire & Rescue integrated risk management plan

The local division had made a presentation to NTC some time back regarding proposed changes to staffing and equipment, to which NTC had responded at the time. The report claimed that the changes would improve the service whilst reducing costs, and firefighters were being given first response training. Full information on the proposals was available on the Fire Service website.

2012/234 GCC – road closure Seven Acres Road

The road would be closed between 13 April and 11 May for repairs to a retaining wall.

2012/235 County Cllr Waddington – GCC Feasibility Grant

Grants were available to community organisations to research and develop entrepreneurial ideas for the local community and bids for between £10k and £25k were invited. The information would be passed on to NN for publicising.

2012/236 Revision to Nailsworth Town Guide

The revision of the Town Guide had begun and it was suggested the text should be updated, the layout jazzed up and new photographs taken. The useful contact pages at the back needed a complete rewrite which Mrs de Lacroix offered to do. Cllrs were invited to let her know of any particular contact details they wished to include. Mrs de Lacroix would enquire whether the previous version could be provided in a readable version for Cllr Kelly, and to ensure the new one complied with requirements for persons with sight impairment.

..... Chairman

..... Date