

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 April 2010
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley * Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr M P Robinson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr Miss F Macmillan
Apologies	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr J T Jeffreys
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Mrs Gail Smith and Cllr Myles Robinson to their first meeting. Sgt Kirk Harrison had sent his apologies and therefore his scheduled presentation would not take place.

2010/243 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Affleck asked cllrs to consider an amendment to minute 2010/225 which he felt did not properly record the discourteous manner in which Cllr Carter's question had been handled.

2010/244 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April were approved and signed with the following amendments -

Item 2010/232, 2nd paragraph on page 425 – the date for the Nailsworth News litter pick was corrected to 17 April.

Item 2010/225, comment on minute 2010/221 – the second sentence was changed to read "Cllr Nicholson expressed his opinion that the content of much of that debate was puerile"

* Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting.

2010/245 COUNCIL VACANCY (minute 2010/230)

It had since been reported that the General and District elections would take place on 6 May, and the Parish election three weeks later.

2010/246 WATERWAYS ACT ref SEWERS (minute 2010/232)

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had said that she would look into the passage of the Waterways Act through parliament with reference to forcing water companies to be responsible for all sewers, and reported that this ruling had not in the event been included in the Waterways Act. Cllr Mrs Thorpe understood that the plan was to consult further on this matter so there was no definite prospect of any result.

2010/247 COMMON LAND at ROCKNESS (minute 2010/232)

Cllr Nicholson reported that he had met at the site with Mrs Jinny Marshall. Following the original clearance work undertaken by the volunteers, they had decided that no further work was required at present and they would merely concentrate on keeping the patch tidy. Cllrs were happy to give approval to the continuing of this activity and the Clerk would write to Mrs Marshall accordingly.

2010/248 REPORTS OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor had joined the Nailsworth News litter picking session last Saturday and organiser Mr Don Luke had asked him to report that in the five years that this initiative had been operating, he had never seen so little rubbish collected. Either Veolia were being very efficient, or the Clerk added, perhaps the areas litter picked this year happened to be those that were subject to the contractor's efforts, whereas in previous years the volunteers had attended to areas that were not.

The Mayor was concerned about recent editorial in the Nailsworth News, in which he felt the allegations made by cllrs who had resigned over FGCC were being quoted as fact. The editor had resisted his efforts to meet and provide evidence of the allegations, nor give Cllr Kay the opportunity to refute them. Cllr Mrs Smith thought the Mayor's emails on the subject were unnecessarily antagonistic.

The Deputy Mayor had nothing to report.

2010/249 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Miss Macmillan had been following developments on the future of **Nailsworth Recreation Centre** and offered to contribute to the discussion later in the meeting.

Cllr Miss Macmillan had been contacted by a Shortwood resident about the possibility of widening a section of the **access road to Shortwood** because of increasing congestion, and reported that she was consulting with GCC Highways regarding a piece of land which might be available for the purpose.

Plans for reorganising the District's **sheltered housing** should not affect Ringfield Close and Concord in Nailsworth because of their large capacity. Outreach care might be extended further into the community to help the vulnerable elderly still living at home.

2010/250 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had received a copy of the GMTF annual review 2009.

2010/251 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

National Trust Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee – Cllr Mrs Way had attended the latest meeting (these take place every two months and are attended by approx 20 members). The Committee looks at matters of stewardship and management of the commons and was currently targeting residents and local businesses to educate people and publicise the commons. Cllr S Robinson drew attention to the overgrown scrub on the W which would block all the views once the self seeded trees had leafed, and Cllr Mrs Way would ask at the next meeting if some clearance work in this area could be undertaken.

Stonehouse Police INA – Cllrs Carter and Kay regularly attended these meetings which were held every six weeks, but not particularly well attended from across the INA. The Stonehouse INA under the leadership of Inspector Jon Smith covered the area from Whitminster to Nailsworth, and the meetings were one of the few continuing links with the police. Cllr Kay outlined the general format of the meetings which included reviewing crime statistics and comparing these to the same period last year.

Cllr Kay expressed disappointment that Sgt Harrison had been unable to attend this evening, it having taken much time to arrange the visit. He felt it was important that a police representative reported to council at least once a year, and would try and rearrange this for the June or July full council meeting.

Cllr Kay advised that operational plans were currently under review for the 17 INAs in Gloucestershire. The freeze on recruitment last year had led to the loss of 20 police officers/PCSOs but Cllr S Robinson added that it had just been announced that Gloucestershire was recruiting again and that 36 new officers should be in post from July. Cllr Kay was pleased to note that the police station in Nailsworth

was currently open more often with officers based in the town, but was sceptical as to how long this would last.

2010/252 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held last night were circulated and approved. Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting and drew attention to the items of expenditure recommended.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe was disappointed at the news that GCC was not in a position to provide additional **grit bins**, but the Clerk felt it was too early to say how the system would be reorganised and more bins might be forthcoming. It was clear that too many bins were being requested and GCC had too little manpower to service them.

In response to Cllr Carter's comment that **litter bins** were disappearing around the town, the Clerk advised that some had already been reported to SDC for replacement, and the situation would be monitored.

Mrs de Lacroix had been invited to put forward a walk for a new **compilation of Cotswolds Walks**. The book would be sold in book shops and on Amazon and reference given to the source of each walk, providing free advertising for Nailsworth. Cllrs approved the use of either the 4 Walks or 6 Walks for this new book.

2010/253 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr S Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 23 March and the minutes were approved. The Clerk and Cllr Robinson were to meet with a **roof insulation** expert on Thursday to look at how this could be improved at the town hall.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had spoken with both contenders wishing to take on the **Forest Green temporary hall**, but that a response on the grant application to the RDA was needed before plans for its removal could be firmed up. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was to check with the RDA if Shortwood FC would fit its criteria as a suitable recipient. Both the Football Club and the Door were aware of the potential cost of removing the hall and were confident they had the wherewithal to do this.

Cllr Nicholson clarified the problems with repeated vandalism to the back two original **Town Clock floodlights**, but not the front ones. The Clerk advised that modern replacements would be more vandal proof and that the electrician recommended all four were needed to create the right effect. Cllr Crawley felt that they should not be replaced, respecting current economic and ecological influences, but others felt the clock was an important feature of the town. The lights operated on a timer.

2010/254 REPORT of FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor gave the report of the meeting held on 24 March to allocate the second half of the annual £6k grant monies, and the minutes were approved.

Cllr M Robinson asked about the regularity of grant applications from the school (which the Clerk clarified were rare, and on this occasion for a school trip) as he was involved with an organisation which provided grants for school activities and he would contact Nailsworth Primary School about this funding opportunity.

2010/255 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting held on 13 April and the minutes were approved. He drew attention to the resolution being proposed with regards to Nailsworth Recreation Centre, and Cllr Crawley clarified the current position and expanded on the points in the resolution.

District Cllr Miss Macmillan advised that £37k of funding was to be withdrawn in Nailsworth, but following a site visit, it was realised that the Centre could be run much more efficiently and effectively. In latter discussions, Cllr Miss Macmillan advised that SDC was conscious of a number of things in flux

in Forest Green at the moment - the FGCC, possibility of the closure of the recreation centre, financial problems at FGR-FC - so that SDC wished to look at all these together. Cllr Kay advised that he felt it was essential for SDC not to completely cut its funding all at once, in order to allow the opportunity for exploring the future of the centre with greater community involvement and participation of local sports groups, in addition to the possibility of the new MUGA.

In light of this discussion, an additional point was added to the second item in the resolution which was unanimously approved:

- RESOLVED**
- **That Nailsworth Town Council wishes to see Nailsworth Recreation Centre continue to provide sports facilities to the residents of Nailsworth and the surrounding area beyond the announced intended date of 31st March 2011 for withdrawal by SDC.**
 - **The Town Council recognises that this would require :**
 - **a significant increase in usage and a reduction in costs;**
 - **the support of local sports communities, possibly through a Nailsworth Sports Partnership;**
 - **SDC continuing to provide professional expertise and tapering funding for a further two years beyond 31.3.2011;**
 - **a review of the current and proposed sports provision in Nailsworth**
 - **The Town Council will do all it can, in partnership with the host Nailsworth Primary School, local sports communities, existing users, Stroud District Council and any other interested parties, to deliver a viable future for Nailsworth Recreation Centre.**

Cllr Byrne drew attention to the expenses being requested for **NW Games**. Cllr Kay showed the meeting an Events Manual produced by the Games committee regarding the participation of other clubs. He was proposing to produce 5000 leaflets – which would be cheaper than last time's booklet: a single A4 sheet folded. SDC had approved putting up of posters on lampposts which would be done by the Neighbourhood Warden who would also remove them afterwards.

The Clerk had received a letter from Mrs Burrows, leader of the restarted Nailsworth **Junior Football** Team about using KGV. As background to this, the Clerk informed cllrs that she had originally been contacted by Mrs Burrows' predecessor, but had never received the requested application in writing. Upon chasing this up, she had been advised, rather rudely, that the field was not after all required. This individual had now left the club and Mrs Burrows was applying to use KGV for the coming 2010/11 season. The Town Groundsman felt this should fit in with use of the field by Minchinhampton Junior Football, and the Clerk recommended that the application be approved. The hire charge of £16 (with use of changing rooms/showers) was agreed and Cllr S Robinson added that many of the players were from Forest Green, where no facilities for this activity currently existed.

Cllr M Robinson was concerned about the proposed **letter to FGR-FC** deferring payment of the debt, which he feared could be taken as exoneration if things changed at the Club. The Clerk clarified that the point was to tactfully stake NTC's claim, not give the impression that it was foregoing payment.

District Cllr Miss Macmillan added that the corporate structure of FGR-FC had changed in 2009 but it was presumed that any responsibilities had been passed on.

2010/256 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe gave a résumé of where the project had got to for the benefit of new cllrs. The Mayor pointed out that any proposal or decision made by the working party had to be ratified by full council. Various grants had been applied for, one of which had just been approved today but under the terms of the offer letter it was not possible yet to publicly divulge the details. The working party had applied to the public loans board for a £300k working cash flow – which would be needed to cover expenditure under the RDA grant which was paid in arrears. Result of the various grant

applications was awaited. Meanwhile, Cllr Crawley's list of FAQs had been posted on the website and would be included in the next Nailsworth News. In response to a query from Cllr Mrs Smith it was clarified that the price of the building contract was fixed for three months and included a 10%/£46k contingency fund.

Cllr Carter queried why cllrs could not be told which grant had been approved and for how much, and the information was given verbally and in confidence, since no members of the press or public were present at this point.

2010/257 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 18 March and 6 April. The minutes of the meeting of 6 April were amended in the last paragraph to record that "Cllrs **M** Robinson and Mrs Smith were informed . . ."

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 18 March and 6 April 2010 be approved.
-----------------	--

2010/258 ACCOUNTS

An item was added to the statement of accounts for 19 April 2010:
Item 25 – GMTF annual subscription - £473.80

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 31 March 2010 amounting to £13,016.62 and the list for 19 April for £11,251.71 be approved for payment.
-----------------	--

2010/259 GCC – closure of Inchbrook Hill on 19 and 20 May

The road would be closed for installation of a post and electrical work.

2010/260 GCC – closure part Spring Hill and Pensile Road on 18 and 25 April

The road would be closed for further resurfacing work, which had started last Sunday in George Street and across half the A46 roundabout.

2010/261 GRCC – Gloucestershire Vibrant Village of the Year 2010

Notice was given of the launch of this year's campaign, for which Nailsworth was too large to apply.

.....
Date

.....
Chairman