

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 6 September 2016

Present	Cllr Sue Reed(Chair) Cllr Jonathan Duckworth Cllr Norman Kay Cllr Robert Maitland Cllr Sally Millett Cllr Angela Norman
In attendance for part of the meeting	Mr Mike Brinkworth – Cotswold Voluntary Warden and Nailsworth resident.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or applications for dispensations.

REPORT FROM MIKE BRINKWORTH, COTSWOLD WARDEN

Cllr Reed welcomed Mr Mike Brinkworth to the meeting. Mr Brinkworth outlined the history and purposes of the Cotswold Voluntary Warden Service, which had been set up in 1968 under the auspices of the Cotswold AONB, and since 2004 had been part of the voluntary section of the Cotswold Conservation Board. Its purpose is to help with the protection and conservation of the Cotswold landscape for future generations.

Mr Brinkworth explained that he is one of some 350 wardens and summarised their various activities, including monitoring and maintenance of footpaths, leading themed guided walks, organising work parties and educational projects and acting as a link between landowners and the Public Rights of Way authorities as required. He outlined some ongoing problems with some footpaths in the parish, for example the continually boggy state of the footpath by the Miry Brook in the Newmarket Valley.

Discussion ensued on issues relating to a number of local public rights of way. Mr Brinkworth indicated that he was happy to follow up on issues drawn to his attention by councillors and members of the public, as indeed he had done in the past, and that he would be willing to advise a town volunteer work group if such a group was established.

Mr Brinkworth was thanked for his valued contribution to the local environment. Cllr Reed suggested that an article on his work with the Cotswold Voluntary Warden Service should appear in a future edition of the Nailsworth News. **ACTION: CLLR SUE REED.**

BEE FRIENDLY TOWN PROJECT

Cllr Reed presented a report summarising the results of NTC's 'bee friendly' garden competition, which had proved highly successful, and outlining a potential three-year plan to develop bee friendly events in the town as a means of highlighting the importance of pollinators and encouraging positive action locally.

Members were pleased to approve the plan subject to costs, and it was agreed that Adam Hart, Professor of Science Communication at the University of Gloucestershire, be invited to a future Committee meeting to advise on how it might be put into practice. Cllr Reed undertook to write to Horsley Parish Council inviting it to participate in the project.

ACTION: CLLR SUE REED.

REVIEW OF SDC'S PROPOSAL FOR TREE CARE CONTRACT

Cllr Sally Millett presented her report detailing an approach from Stroud District Council inviting NTC to share in its tender programme for a new contract for care and maintenance

of trees in the district. SDC proposes to hold meetings with town and parish councils to explore the process and answer questions.

Members were interested in the proposal but mindful of the importance of the Council having a responsive and flexible client-led service, which they felt might be less achievable if a large company was to be granted the contract. The report was noted and the Clerk has already expressed members' willingness to attend meetings with SDC in due course.

R4C COMMUNITY RECYCLING WASTE FACILITY PROPOSAL

Members considered a report updating recent research evidence relating to the above project, which NTC had previously agreed to support in principle following a presentation from a representative of R4C. The update was noted.

UPDATE ON TWO COTSWOLD VISITOR GIVING GRANTS

Cllr Sue Reed reported that following NTC's application for grant aid, the Cotswold Visitor Grant Scheme had agreed to provide 50% of the respective sums requested for the building of steps from Bunting Hill to Bunting Way and the restoration of stonework at the spring at Watledge adjacent to Glendower.

Cllr Sue Reed undertook to approach Mr Mike Brinkworth to investigate if the Cotswold Warden Service might be able to assist with the steps. She reported that work was in hand to seek a suitable contractor for the spring restoration work. **ACTION: CLLR SUE REED**

CONSIDERATION OF 'YARBOMBING' POLICY FOR NTC

The Clerk reported that NTC had been approached by the Nailsworth Knitters with a request to 'yarnbomb' part of the town. She outlined the concept of 'yarnbombing' – a type of street art involving the decoration of public places with knitted items – and advised that it would be helpful for NTC to have a clear policy for this activity.

After discussion, it was **agreed to recommend to Council** that requests from groups wishing to 'yarnbomb' areas of the town be granted under the following conditions:

- Yarnbombing must not obstruct the highway, pavement, signs or lighting nor cause a nuisance or offence.
- It must be removed within a timescale of up to 4 weeks, at the discretion of NTC officers. Removal is the responsibility of the yarnbombers.
- NTC reserve the right to remove any yarnbombing that is causing a nuisance, obstruction or offence without prior notice.
- NTC accepts no responsibility for yarnbombing installed on other people's land.

CONSIDERATION OF TRIAL OF ONLINE MAPPING SERVICE FOR NTC

Cllr Jonathan Duckworth presented a report on his research into the ParishOnline mapping service which he felt could be very helpful in providing clear and detailed maps to accompany Council reports. The initial set-up cost was £20 with an annual fee of £188.00. However, if SDC was a subscriber to this service, town and parish councils could access it free of charge.

Cllr Jonathan Duckworth undertook to continue to pursue his investigations and to check whether SDC did in fact subscribe to the service and report back to the Committee.

POSSIBLE ENCROACHMENT ONTO LAND AT NORTON WOOD

Cllr Sue Reed reported that, following representations from a resident regarding a possible encroachment onto a walking route in Norton Wood, she had investigated and discovered that as part of building operations adjacent to Ormonde, Windsoredge, a gate and fence had been erected across the public footpath entrance to the wood from Windsoredge and Norton Wood Close. A report and map had been previously circulated

to members. Cllr Sue Reed undertook to visit the owner of the building plot and report back. **ACTION: CLLR SUE REED**

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that requests from groups wishing to 'yarn-bomb' areas of the town be granted under the following conditions:

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