

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
Minutes of a meeting of Nailsworth Town Council  
held at Town Hall, Nailsworth  
on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Present	Cllr Jonathan Duckworth (Town Mayor) Cllr Anne Elliott Cllr Paul Francis Cllr Steve Robinson Cllr Robert Maitland Cllr Myles Robinson Cllr Sue Reed Cllr Angela Norman Cllr Ron Kerby Cllr Norman Kay
Apologies	Cllr Sally Millett

**2016/170 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

3 Millbottom: Cllr Paul Francis and Cllr Sue Reed declared a potential interest in S.16/2540/LBC (neighbouring property owned by their employers, Ruskin Mill College).

Cllr Steve Robinson declared an interest in the Annual Budget line, Neighbourhood Warden contribution. Cllr Robinson had suggested an increase but is also an SDC Cllr on the committee who decides this and will leave the room when this is discussed.

Cllr Anne Elliott declared an interest as a Trustee of Citizens Advice.

**Public questions:**

Representation from resident Sally Thorpe who was interested in whether NTC is going to substantially support the continuation of the Children's Centre. Sally Thorpe referred to a report written by NTC in March 2016 and submitted to GCC stressing the need for professional services at the Arkell Centre, and she also referred to an earlier campaign which was to no avail. County Cllr Dorcas Binns offered funding for the Children's Centre which won't necessarily be forthcoming.

Sally Thorpe said that if there was no support, then the service will end on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and hopes NTC will find a way to fully fund the Children's Centre at the Arkell Centre, run by professionals.

**2016/171 CONSIDERATION of PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED  
CONSULTATION**

		COMMENT
a)S.16/2604/HHOLD	Gables, Newmarket, Nailsworth	No observations
b) S.16/2546/HHOLD	School House, Hayes Road, Forest Green	No observations
c) S.16/2540/LBC	3 Millbottom, Old Bristol Road	No observations

d) S.16/2593/OUT	Land at Little Lott, Seven Acres Road	S106 contribution: Bunting Hill open space improvements  We ask that Highways look carefully at the accesses.
d) S.16/2280/FUL	Harleywood bungalow – Matter of Urgency as this Planning Application not previously considered.	Subject to there being no reduction in on street parking we have no objections.

<b>2016/172 MATTERS OF URGENCY</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Hazelwood bungalow pest control</b></p> <p>The Clerk explained there is a very serious infestation of rats in the Groundsman's bungalow which may include some damage to wiring which inspected and made safe. Soiled insulation is designated as Hazardous Waste and needs specialist handling. Action had to be taken quickly to ensure the health of the Groundsman and his family. Finance for this work will be taken from the Contingency fund and Hazelwood bungalow fund.</p> <p>The infestation is now being dealt with and it was noted that bungalow will be inspected next week by Cllr Anne Elliott, the Mayor and the Clerk.</p>	
<p><b>BT phone boxes</b></p> <p>The Clerk explained that although this had been discussed by the Environment Committee the deadline for a decision is 14<sup>th</sup> January. NTC need to decide whether they can take on the phone boxes without securing community group use for them.</p> <p>Cllr Sue Reed said a straw poll of Watledge showed residents keen to keep their phone box. Cllr Steve Robinson said the Shortwood box has already been adopted and Tynings Residents Association are interested in Moffatt Rd phone box as a library.</p> <p>Cllr Norman Kay said NTC need to think about the long-term maintenance and who is responsible for maintaining the boxes.</p> <p>Cllr Jonathan Duckworth said the scheme is about helping groups take phone boxes on rather than NTC taking them.</p> <p>The Clerk to investigate whether the phone boxes can be sold on if they're not used by community groups by the next meeting.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<p><b>2016/173 Approval of Minutes of Special Council meeting 22 November 2016</b></p>	
<p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed.</p>	
<p><b>2016/174 CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR 2017/18</b></p> <p>There was no change to Rec &amp; Am's budget for 2017/18.</p>	

**Neighbourhood Warden contribution:**

\*Cllr Steve Robinson left the room for this discussion. Advice was sought from the other two SDC cllrs on whether they had a Conflict of Interest and the Mayor considered there was none.

While there's no set rate for contributions, the Neighbourhood Warden service is finding it more difficult to spread their services around the areas. Inevitably those who pay more get more attention.

It was agreed that more information was needed on this issue and that it would be helpful to find out what other parishes contribute.

Cllrs are very happy with the service from our Neighbourhood Warden however as more information is needed it was agreed Cllr Norman Kay would work with the Clerk to bring this to the next meeting.

**NK/Clerk****Children's Centre funding:**

The future of the Children's Centre and its funding was discussed at some length.

Cllr Myles Robinson said that without knowing what GCC's position is, there is a danger that a decision at this stage is counterproductive. Cllr Robert Maitland agreed and added that as a new cllr he hasn't seen a report or any information on this prior to this meeting and would need proper information with full details of what is being proposed and why before going ahead with a decision.

Cllr Ron Kerby expressed concern that there is the same problem across the board and that Council needs to be careful what it becomes liable for. Cllr Norman Kay said that while he didn't suggest a decision be made now, he was worried that if Council delays then the opportunity could be lost.

Cllr Angela Norman said that even if the current contractor gets the new service contract then this will be a different service that GCC is offering. The GCC service will be at the school and not the neutral ground of the Arkell Centre. Cllr Norman sees that if we took it on this will be a contracted arrangement. NTC would need to tender and develop a Service Level Agreement for the contract.

Cllrs Steve Robinson and Sally Millett had been tasked to produce a paper on this subject earlier in the year but couldn't proceed as a decision hadn't been made by GCC on who had won the contract and whether the contract would be at the school or not.

Cllr Jonathan Duckworth said NTC needs to be careful as there's no statutory requirement to fund this service and would need to consider the serious implications of commissioning such a service.

Clerk to research statutory duties of NTC.

**Clerk**

The Clerk strongly advised that, as NTC has unearmarked reserves available, any funding is taken from unearmarked reserves and not the annual budget

as we may need to incur further costs e.g. contractual obligation, legal fees, tendering process

Cllr Jonathan Duckworth stressed this subject needs a fully researched paper and it was suggested this paper be brought to the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. It was agreed this paper be written by Cllrs Sue Reed, Angela Norman, Myles Robinson and Norman Kay.

The Clerk to check date that SDC needs the precept.

The paper dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to be sent to all cllrs.

**Unearmarked reserves:**

The earmarked and unearmarked reserves were explained by the Clerk and it was explained that NTC need to allocate or spend these reserves.

The Mayor explained NTC has a commitment to look at all budgeted items including higher expenditure items in 2017/18. Cllr Ron Kerby will be looking at the asset register and buildings maintenance.

The Council expressed their satisfaction with the budget as presented and the budget will be set after information on the Neighbourhood Warden service is presented.

**Clerk**

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Town Mayor

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Date