

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 2 February 2016

Present	*	Cllr SE Thorpe (chair) Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson
Apologies		Cllr JL Duckworth
In attendance for part of the meeting		Cllr SK Millett Cllr SM Reed
	*	denotes absence from part of the meeting

DECLARATIONS of INTEREST AND CLLRS' DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

NTC CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE BASED AT THE ARKELL CENTRE

Cllr Thorpe appraised members of the current situation relating to GCC's proposed changes to children's services in the county, under which funding for the Children's Centre drop-in sessions at the Arkell Centre would cease in 2017. Cllr Thorpe had previously circulated a draft document summarising NTC's objections to the proposal and the Clerk had circulated an email received from Cllr Paul McLain, GCC Lead Member for children's services, referring to possible alternative localised arrangements incorporating volunteers and suggesting that cllrs attend GCC's consultation meeting at Nailsworth Town Hall on 16 February and/or the parents' focus group meeting to be held at the Arkell Centre during the first week in March. The Clerk confirmed the focus group meeting had been arranged for 2 March at 10 am. Cllr Thorpe reported that a press photocall outside the Centre would take place at 9.30 am on the day and suggested that cllrs might like to attend.

In discussion, members agreed that NTC should make the strongest possible case for the retention of the 2 weekly Children's Centre drop-in sessions as the Arkell Centre and to urge that provision for this service should be included in GCC's tender documents in 2017. Cllr Thorpe agreed to redraft the previously circulated document for Council with the recommendation that it should be sent to Cllr McLain and copied to County Cllr Binns. It was suggested that NTC could seek to liaise with other town and parish councils with a view to making a joint response to the GCC consultation and Cllr Kay undertook to contact the Mayor of Stroud Town Council to discuss what actions that council might be considering. Cllr Kay also agreed to draft a letter to be signed by the Mayor and sent to the County Cllrs for the district, with copies to Stroud and Wotton Town Councils and Painswick Parish Councils.

Cllr Thorpe had drafted and circulated a public information leaflet on the consultation for local distribution and reported that she had produced a version referring to the parents' focus group meeting for Nailsworth Primary school to circulate to parents. These were approved and the Clerk was asked to arrange for 1000 copies of the former leaflet to be produced.

Cllr Kay undertook to organise the production of a banner for the town banner posts publicising the campaign and the Mayor volunteered to distribute leaflets in the Town Centre once the banner had been erected.

** Cllr Reed left the meeting at this point.*

MUGA AND SCHOOL CHANGING ROOMS REFURBISHMENT

Cllr Kay had produced a progress report on the MUGA planning application which had been previously circulated. The planning consultation period was due to end on 5 February and the application would hopefully be approved later in the month. Cllr Kay reported that NTC's grant application to Sport England for the refurbishment of the school changing rooms had been submitted and that news of the outcome was expected in April. Cllr Kay advised that following planning consent the MUGA project would proceed to Stage 5, and also the drawing up of a full legal agreement between NTC and the diocese and the detailed specification and tender process for the building work.

In discussion, it was felt that there had been some shortcomings in the quality of GCC's management of the project so far. It was suggested that the project would benefit from being managed at a more senior level and it was agreed that Cllr Kay would seek to discuss the matter further with the relevant GCC officers.

** Cllrs Elliott and Kay left the meeting at this point.*

TIMETABLE FOR RECRUITMENT OF NEW TOWN GROUNDSPERSON

The timetable, which had been previously circulated, was noted. The Clerk advised that the Personnel Committee would be meeting on 11 February at 10 am to process the applications and draw up a shortlist of candidates for interview.

MILES MARLING FIELD – DESIGN BRIEF AND TENDERING PROCESS

Cllr Thorpe presented a draft design brief for the development of the Miles Marling Field as a community park, which had been previously circulated. She explained that the brief had drawn on suggestions made by the Friends of Miles Marling group, which had met on several occasions, and confirmed that the anticipated date for tendering for the agreed work was 30 June, following which further public consultation would take place.

Members were broadly in favour of the suggestions contained in the design brief and to **recommend to Council** that the brief be accepted in principle. It was acknowledged that the Friends had consulted with the Youth Forum before drawing up the brief. However some councillors felt that further consultation with local youth, particularly the 11-12 age group, should take place on matters such as the provision of a youth shelter and the nature and location of the proposed kickabout area. After discussion, it was agreed to ask Tracy Young, the Nailsworth youth worker, to use the design brief and sketches as a basis for further discussion with youth club members to elicit their views.

** Cllr Millett left the meeting at this point.*

TOWN GARDENING – REPLANTING SCHEME

The Clerk reported that she had held preliminary discussions with the Town Gardener concerning spring planting in the town centre, particularly the Market Street garden area. The gardener had suggested the staged replacement of 'troublesome' plants with ones which would provide more colour, together with weed-killing where necessary. Members were in favour of this suggestion and the Clerk was asked to continue to liaise with the Town Gardener on this matter.

KGV FIELD –REPLACEMENT OF SPRINGER IN PLAYGROUND AND UPDATE ON FIELDS IN TRUST AWARD

The Clerk had received a quotation of £320 for the replacement of a broken spring in one of the springers in the KGV children's play area. This was **approved**.

The Clerk reported that Fields in Trust (FIT) was keen to highlight NTC's scheme for the improvement of the KGV's facilities on its website and social media utilising the photographs and documents supplied by the Council in support of its successful grant application. She explained that NTC would be required to pay the invoices for the specified work and reclaim the money from FIT. Work to improve the KGV changing rooms could start in the near future, with the invoices being received in the new financial year.

The Committee agreed to **recommend that Council** proceed with the quotations for work as specified in the FIT grant application and approve a timetable for the work.

GROUNDSPERSON'S STORE

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of building a store in the KGV field to accommodate the town's grounds maintenance equipment. Cllr S Robinson agreed to take on the role of lead councillor for this project and undertook to liaise with the Clerk to visit similar structures in other parishes if possible. It was **agreed** to ask architect Keith Angus to produce some diagrams of possible structures and to allocate a budget of up to £300 for this.

GRASS MAINTENANCE FOR KGV AND MILES MARLING FIELDS

A quotation from the Council's contractor for grass cutting in the Miles Marling, KGV and KGV extension field in 2016 had been previously circulated to all councillors. The Clerk suggested varying the contract to specify the number of cuts during the year instead of the existing April-September 7-10 day cycle, as she felt the former would give greater flexibility.

After discussion, the quotation was **accepted** subject to possible variations in the cutting cycle and the Clerk undertook to discuss this further with the contractors and to report back.

QUOTATION FOR MOVING LITTER BIN TO ACCOMMODATE SCULPTURE

The Clerk explained that in order to accommodate the memorial sculpture for Jinny-Mae Cook in Cossack Square it will be necessary to move and reinstall a litter bin. NTC had agreed to fund this work and a quotation of £300.00 had been received and circulated. The quotation was **approved** and the Clerk was asked to proceed.

TOWN HALL – NEW FLOOR COVERINGS FOR STAIRS

A quotation totalling £2,365.00 for new floor coverings for the top landing and stairs and the 2 lower landings and stairs had been received and circulated. This was **approved**.

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that the design brief for the Miles Marling field be accepted in principle and that Tracy Young, the Nailsworth youth worker be asked to use the design brief and sketches as a basis for further discussion with youth club members to elicit their views.

RECOMMENDED that Council proceed with the quotations for work to the KGV facilities as specified in the FIT grant application and approve a timetable for the work.