

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 3 February 2015

Present	Cllr SE Thorpe (chair) Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson Cllr MM Rahman
In attendance	Cllr NI Kay
Apologies	Cllr N Dart

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Cllr Kay onto the Committee for the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2014

The specifications for the **refurbishment of the ground floor gents' and disabled toilets** had been prepared and three tenders for the work would be sought. Cllrs M Robinson and S Robinson undertook to liaise with the Clerk to progress the matter.

Cllr Thorpe reported that the **new fitness equipment** had been installed in the KGV and Miles Marling fields and positive feedback had been received.

The Clerk confirmed that a response from SDC to the Council's request to **purchase the lower half of the Miles Marling field** was awaited.

Cllr Thorpe reported that Mrs Claire Uzzell had agreed that there was insufficient room in Cossack Square for a **memorial bench** to the late Jinny-Mae Cook. Mrs Uzzell was considering some form of public artwork as an alternative and would present her ideas to the Council in due course.

Cllr M Robinson reported that as directed at the previous meeting the letter to Forest Green Residents' Association about the conclusion of the **MUGA location** had been sent.

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Eric Pickles Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to request an update on the situation regarding the determination of **Forest Green Rovers FC's application to remove its S106 obligation** but had yet to receive a response. She would follow this up.

The Clerk reported that the agreement between Nailsworth Primary School and NTC for the use of **Nailsworth Recreation Centre** outside extended school hours was ready to be signed by the Mayor.

TOWN HALL

The Clerk reported that the Town Hall boiler had recently over-heated on a few occasions causing the central heating to cut out. She had turned down the boiler slightly, which seemed to have solved the problem temporarily. She explained that though the heating system for the ground and first floors operated independently on time clocks, it appeared that the system was set up in such a way that the heating on the lower ground floor remained on all the time, which according to the electrician may have contributed to the over-heating problem. The electrician had agreed to provide a quote for a possible solution to this problem.

The Clerk reported that the storeroom on the ground floor contained a considerable amount of redundant items such as old Christmas lights, heaters etc. It was agreed to hire a skip for the removal of these items and the Clerk and her assistant undertook to carry out this task. Cllr S Robinson volunteered to assist.

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Thorpe planned to tidy the Town Hall kitchen and remove redundant items on Friday 13 February. It had so far proved impossible to locate a company offering deep cleaning services for the kitchen walls and it was suggested that GCC Adult Services might possibly have a suitable contact.

The Clerk reported that there was evidence of infestation by mice on the lower ground floor and she agreed to contact SDC to discuss possible solutions.

The Clerk reported that she had called in a plumber to unblock the sink in the utility room on the first floor and to clear a blockage in the urinals in the ground floor gents' toilets. Both had been dealt with.

The Clerk reported that some of the hip tiles on the roof at the rear of the Town Hall had crumbled and fallen into the back yard. She would ask Mr Peter Merrett to inspect the roof and provide a quote for the replacement of the tiles.

The Clerk reported that she had received a request to hire the lower ground floor room for weekly afternoon infant massage classes. It was agreed that this would be charged at the regular user rate of £18 per session. The Clerk was asked to check that the hirer was appropriately insured and had undergone any necessary CRB (now DBS) checks. She was also asked to make the same inquiry of the leaders of the PlayCircle parents' and toddlers' group which used the lower ground room on weekday mornings.

MORTIMER ROOM

The Clerk reported that the agreed repairs to the Mortimer Room kitchen were in hand. A baby change unit had been installed in the Mortimer Room toilet.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that she had yet to receive a response from GCC regarding the Council's requests for the repair of the fascia boards outside the Library and the report for the Mortimer Room/Library roof repair. She agreed to follow this up. In the meantime, Mr Peter Merrett had cast the new coping stones for the Mortimer Room roof.

HAZELWOOD BUNGALOW

The new central heating boiler had been installed. Cllr Thorpe agreed to liaise with the Clerk and the Town Groundsman to carry out an inspection of the building.

KGV CHANGING ROOMS

The improvements to the changing rooms were in hand. A new bin had been purchased. The Town Groundsman had cleaned the tiles and the broken ones had been replaced. Cllr Thorpe agreed to arrange to inspect the changing rooms when she visited the Hazelwood Bungalow.

KGV PAVILION

Cllr Thorpe reported that Mr Kilyon had withdrawn his interest in hiring the pavilion and that no other hirers had come forward. Discussion ensued on the future of the building. Whilst it was useful for the storage of grounds maintenance equipment, the floor was unsuitable for heavy use and the ceiling too low for most fitness activities, and despite various efforts to publicise the facility there appeared to be little demand. With this in mind, Cllr M Robinson suggested

that consideration be given to dismantling and removing the building, with an alternative facility for the storage of equipment being built by the main door of the changing rooms. The Clerk advised that permission for both proposals would need to be obtained from Fields in Trust and reminded councillors that there were no funds in the 2015/16 budget to finance the proposal.

After further discussion, and bearing in mind that a new council would exist after the May 2015 election, it was agreed to recommend that a marker be put down for the successor Council that the pavilion may have come to the end of its useful life, and that if it were to be removed, suitable storage facilities for the Council's grounds maintenance equipment would need to be provided elsewhere in the KGV field. It was suggested that the recent improvements to the changing rooms could render the building capable of providing suitable facilities for outside events in the field.

KGV FIELD – NEW PROJECTS

Cllr Thorpe reported that the new fitness equipment had been installed and positive feedback had been received. Several games had been played on the new boules court. The S106 funding from the Vicarage development, amounting to £12,244.63, was available for the improvement of play space adjacent to the development and Cllr Thorpe understood that it could only be spent on equipment for children up to 11 and agreed to check that this was in fact the case. In discussion, councillors acknowledged that recent improvements to the play area had already brought it up to a high standard but agreed that there was probably room for one more new piece of play equipment, plus new seating. Cllr Thorpe undertook to liaise with local play expert Ms Sarah Urquhart and to bring suggestions to a future meeting. Thanks were expressed to the Town Groundsman for his efforts in maintaining the play area to an excellent standard.

Initial work had been done by Cllrs M Robinson and Thorpe on investigating suitable signage for the KGV field from the A46, Park Road and Vicarage Gardens and Cllr M Robinson agreed to follow this up and report to the next meeting of the Committee.

KGV FIELD – GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk had received a quote from the contractors for grass cutting in the KGV field for the financial year 2015/16, representing an £54 increase on the previous year, which was within budget. The quotation was **approved**.

KGV FIELD HIRE CHARGES

The Clerk reminded members that the hire charges for the football pitch and tennis courts had been increased for 2014/15. It was agreed to recommend that no change be made for 2015/16 and that charges be reviewed for the financial year 2016/17.

MILES MARLING FIELD

A consultation session would take place at the Arkell Community Centre on Saturday 7 February to seek local residents' views on the development of the Miles Marling field as a 'community park' and invitations to this had been delivered to all residences in Forest Green. Information about similar parks and aerial photographs of the field would be on display at the event and questionnaires would be available for residents to complete at the event or to return to the Town Hall and Town Information Centre. Residents would also be encouraged to become 'Friends of Miles Marling Field'. Cllr Thorpe reported that she had attended the local Youth Forum to publicise the initiative and the youth representatives had agreed to encourage local young people to attend the consultation session. The Youth Forum was also considering running its own consultation.

Cllr S Robinson reported that Cllr Dart had dismantled the redundant BMX ramps and the Clerk agreed to ask him to remove them, smooth out the humps and make good the surface. Cllr S Robinson undertook to inspect the field and inform the Clerk of any other work which needed to be done such as ongoing tree maintenance.

The Clerk reported that NTC's new lease from SDC for the lower half of the field, which would run until 2018 at £100 per annum, was ready for signing by both parties. Councillors re-affirmed their aspiration to purchase the lower half of the field if the opportunity arose and Cllr Thorpe suggested that grant aid could be available for this purpose. The Clerk advised that the lease might allow play equipment etc to be installed in the lower section of the field with SDC's permission.

MUGA IN FOREST GREEN

Forest Green Residents' Association had sent NTC a report containing the results of its consultation on the siting of the proposed MUGA. This was circulated at the meeting and the results were noted. Councillors were pleased that the report indicated a high level of support for the development of the Miles Marling field, a matter being addressed by the Council in its plans to develop the field as a community park.

In discussion, councillors were mindful that the Council had recently re-affirmed its intention to offer some free MUGA sessions, under appropriate supervision, for local residents. Cllr Kay reminded members that the terms of the S106 agreement had stipulated that the MUGA should be built adjacent to Highwood Drive and that the school site had proved to be the only location where this could be accomplished.

After further discussion it was agreed to **recommend to Council that a Working Party be set up** consisting of Cllrs Kay, Thorpe, M Robinson, S Robinson, and the Town Clerk and including Mr Ian Crawley as representative of the Nailsworth School Governors, with Cllr Kay as Lead Co-ordinator and the following terms of reference:

1. To negotiate all required agreements of the delivery of a MUGA on the school site
2. To instigate GCC project management for the building of the facility
3. To negotiate with SDC regarding the freeing of the full amount of S106 funding for the project, to include all interest accrued.

It was further agreed to recommend that GCC's the designated Project Manager, Mr Kirk Gardiner, be invited to the first meeting of the Working Party.

JOB SPECIFICATION FOR NEW POSITION OF TOWN GARDENER

The Clerk was asked to place an advertisement in the March edition of Nailsworth News seeking applications for the position of self-employed part time gardener to help to maintain garden space in the town centre, commencing 1 April 2015, with the closing date for applications 13 March. After discussion it was agreed that that the new town gardener should assist with the maintenance of the following garden areas in the Town Centre:

Market Street Garden

Leves Corner

Mortimer Garden

Clock Tower gardens

Troughs at the bottom of Spring Hill

Beds outside Paint-a-Pot, Cossack Square.

Cllr M Robinson undertook to liaise with the Clerk to process the applications and interview candidates.

REQUEST FROM TWINNING ASSOCIATION FOR TREE PLANTING

The Clerk had received a request from Mr Allan Beale of the Nailsworth/Leves Twinning Association to plant a cherry tree or similar on SDC land at the bottom of Spring Hill to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the link. She was asked to write to SDC to request permission.

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that a marker be put down for the successor Council that the pavilion may have come to the end of its useful life, and that if it were to be removed, suitable storage facilities for the Council's grounds maintenance equipment would need to be provided elsewhere in the KGV field.

RECOMMENDED that no change be made to the hire fees for the KGV football pitch and tennis courts for 2015/16, and that charges be reviewed for the financial year 2016/17.

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