

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 15 February 2012

Present	Cllr N I Kay (chair) Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr Mrs S M Reed Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Apologies	Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr M M Rahman

Matters arising from previous minutes

In answer to a question from the Mayor, the Clerk confirmed that the groundsman was completing a timesheet.

KGV playing field & Extension Field

Cllr Kay clarified that the extension field was owned by Alan Smith and leased to NTC of 180 years. The Clerk advised that the lease excluded the erection of any structures or development without the prior written consent from the landowner and so a sports changing room was possible in theory. The local football club which had approached the Clerk looking for a new home field had not taken up her offer to attend a meeting, nor provided a written proposal. It was suggested other local clubs might be interested in using the field, on the basis that the club would provide its own football posts and any other equipment required, though the lease might preclude subletting.

The Clerk reiterated that the field was in poor condition and the value of using taxpayers' money on improving an unwanted facility was debateable. If the field were to be brought into any usable condition, the first priority would be installation of proper drainage.

The Clerk advised that a painter had viewed the skate ramps today and would be submitting a quote for applying the anti slip paint provided by Maverick. Members agreed that the Clerk could go ahead and commission the job up to a maximum of £500 without reverting to the committee.

Provision of a MUGA at Forest Green

Cllr Kay reiterated the current stalemate position and reported that SDC planning department was pressing for a decision on the planning renewal for the original MUGA site. Debate ensued as to whether it was preferable to withdraw the application or let it go to its inevitable refusal on a site which in any case was no longer considered suitable. On balance it was thought preferable to withdraw the application rather than have a refusal on the file.

The relocation of the MUGA to a site on school land was beset with complications involving the many stakeholders, all with their own agendas. FGR-FC was apparently now considering creating a wildlife site on the old car park in partnership with Slimbridge Wildlife Trust, which would fulfil its obligations under the 106 agreement to create a 'community space' in the event the MUGA was not built within 10 years – which time limit was now approaching.

Despite the apparent agreement of individual board members, Ian Crawley had been unable to secure written agreement from the FC to giving up ownership of the MUGA site, preferably to NTC, so that a land swop with the school could be pursued. Cllr Kay was attempting to contact Dale Vince but suggested meanwhile that NTC should perhaps start considering an alternative site altogether for the MUGA and members agreed that this had to be in Forest Green, with Miles Marling field a possible, though less satisfactory location. The 106 agreement stipulated that a MUGA should be built as compensation to the locality for the inconvenience of having the stadium,

and was originally a precondition to building the stadium. Unfortunately, FGR was allowed to build the stadium first.

Clr Mrs Reed related the result of a previous 106 agreement to provide a play area in the housing development at Carters Way; this was ignored, the site built on and the funds lost to the town. Members were concerned that this should not happen again.

Options for the Miles Marling field were discussed, although a MUGA there would be too far from the school/recreation centre/FC for any of these to be interested in managing it. The original wish of the town to have an informal kick about area for teenagers could be revived, but residents near MM field were likely to oppose any planning application. An alternative was to improve the informal facilities in the field, level off an area for ball games and improve other play areas in the vicinity.

RESOLVED members agreed to recommend to NTC that

- **The funds from the FGR stadium 106 agreement should be used in Forest Green.**
- **Members would look at alternative sites for a kick about MUGA.**
- **Dale Vince would be asked about transferring ownership of the existing MUGA site to NTC.**
- **A date for end of discussions with all stakeholders about a land swop would be set for 1 May.**
- **Renewal of planning permission on the car parking site would be withdrawn.**

Mortimer Gardens & Town Gardening

The Clerk reported that the groundsman had made a temporary repair to some rotting trellis by the Old Warehouse, and members agreed that she could authorise Gerald Bufton to replace the relevant posts at a cost of up to £500 without reverting to the committee.

The Mayor showed photographs he had taken of the steps from Fountain Street to Mortimer Gardens, which had been covered in ice from the leaking drains on the corner property. It was agreed that the photos should be sent to the property owner, again asking that he see to his drains and remind him that he would be liable in the case of accident. Meanwhile, members thought it might be preferable to barricade off the steps in the event of another cold spell.

Market Street Garden

The rebuilding of the lower wall was in progress. The architect had submitted a new quote for a planting scheme for £3324.67 (having been advised that the budget was £2000(!). This could be immediately reduced by £402 by removing the 12 month maintenance charge included. However £3152.52 had been paid out so far, leaving only £313 in the budget with £1000 for the wall repair and a possible final bill from the architect still to come. Members felt it would be a pity not to complete the project with appropriate planting, and all agreed that grass was not suitable.

Local shop keepers were litter picking the area and a litter bin was suggested (as you enter, on the left, just before the wall starts). The WI tree had been planted and the Clerk advised that the lighting was working but currently had nothing of interest to illuminate, so had been switched off.

RESOLVED to recommend to NTC that funds be found from other underspent budgets to cover the cost of planting in Market Street Garden and completing the project, and the purchase of a basic litter bin.

Miles Marling Field

The lease had expired on the SDC-owned lower half of the field and the Clerk had received a letter advising that the new fee would be £200 p.a. As NTC had been paying £65 p.a. since the current lease was set up in 2003, members agreed the Clerk should respond that the increase was too great and offer £80 if the current fee had to be raised at all.

The FG-RA had circulated a questionnaire to residents in the vicinity of Miles Marling field, asking for views on improving play facilities, with a list of ideas; 5 replies had been received after 2 months. The few suggestions would be taken into consideration as part of deliberations over the MUGA. The Clerk had responded to the FG-RA that their comments had been noted but there was currently no money available, and Cllr Mrs Reed offered to discuss further with Angela Endacott.

Ironcrafts had quoted £168 to fix the loose roofing panels on the youth shelter and the work was going ahead.

Children's Play Areas

Cllr Mrs Reed seemed to think some spray painting of dog mess had occurred between the TH and Ruskin Mill. Cllr Mrs Thorpe urged the banning of dogs from all playing fields and play areas, but there were footpaths criss crossing some of these, although walkers could be asked to keep dogs on a lead. Notices about dogs were displayed where appropriate, but generally ignored. Cllr Mrs Elliott volunteered to seek advice from the dog wardens.

RESOLVED to recommend that NTC agree in principle to move towards banning dogs from parts of playing fields and children's play areas under its control, which policy to be advertised in Nailsworth News.

Shortwood Green – right of access for the Old Cottage

The Clerk had responded that NTC agreed in principle to renew the right of access licence with the new property owners at their cost and for a reasonable annual fee. The Clerk had been advised to increase the current charge of £5 p.a. to £250, which members agreed was too high, and £100 was deemed to be more reasonable. Members agreed with the advice that the right of way agreement should be attached to the property rather than attached to individual owners. The Clerk had talked with the new owner who was happy to exchange contracts on the assurance that the right of way would be renewed and accepting solicitors charges of £250-£300, but no more than £500.

Youth provision

The Mayor advised that, having gone on sick leave last November, the youth worker had now resigned and the Club would shortly be advertising for a replacement in the SNJ, who would probably start in post around May/June. The Mayor wished to notify NTC that the management committee intended to make a variation to the current job description to allow for two sessions (half a day each) outreach work in the community. As the youth workers were suitably qualified, the Club felt the new incumbent should get out into the community more and work with families.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that the Arkell subcommittee had been discussing with SDC the increased presence of a community development worker in Forest Green, which could complement the increased youth worker activities. She had a job description from a similar post in Stonehouse which she would pass on to the Youth Club.

Cllr Mrs Elliott had made enquiries about the SSP, and confirmed that the Mayor had received the correct information from Young Gloucestershire that this could not be reclaimed.

The Mayor had expressed to Steve Miles, SDC Youth Worker, his disappointment at receiving only half the SDC grant from the recent payout. He had copied his email widely and was still hopeful that this might provoke some reaction. He was congratulated on his tireless efforts on behalf of the Youth Club and the excellent facility it provided for the town's young people.

Nailsworth Games 2012

Queen's Diamond Jubilee events

The Mayor advised that the committees felt the various events, along with the school's own activities, were beginning to overshadow each other and it had been agreed that the Games would take place from 18-25 May, between the Jubilee weekend and the Festival. Individual sports clubs

would be encouraged to run their own taster sessions during this week, and the committee would be meeting again next Monday.

It was suggested that the budgets for both events be combined. The Jubilee fireworks would need to be professionally done with the appropriate licence, and Chinnick Theatre Services had been appointed (cost £1000). The company would provide the staging for the fireworks (£2000) which would also be used for the Nailsworth Silver Band, NDS and youth performing groups. It was estimated that £3500 would be needed for the Jubilee four-day event; that committee was meeting this Thursday.

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Date

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Chairman