

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of a meeting held on 24 November 2010**

Present: Cllr S Robinson (Chairman)  
Cllr P Carter  
Cllr I D Crawley  
Cllr Cllr N I Kay  
Cllr J R Nicholson  
Cllr M P Robinson  
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe  
Cllr Mrs J M Way

**Request for a town meeting**

The clerk reported that under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972 six electors had requested that the council hold a public meeting by mid January to discuss the consequences of the GCC funding cuts affecting youth, library and transport provision in Nailsworth. It was agreed to accede to this request swiftly and arrange a public meeting at the town hall for 20 December 2010 at 7.00pm. Flyers would be posted around the town and a banner organised for display on the posts by the clock tower.

**Forest Green Rovers FC – payment of commuted sum and associated costs**

The clerk reported the offer received from the Club to clear the outstanding amount by payments of £2000 per month beginning in January 2011. Whilst members would have preferred a lump sum they agreed to accept the offer and authorised the clerk to respond accordingly.

**Special Council Meeting to approve budget**

The clerk had negotiated an extension of the date by which SDC must be notified of the council's precept demand to 24 January. It was agreed therefore to hold the Special council meeting to approve the budget for next year on 11 January 2011 which would give more time to gather information about the GCC budget cuts.

**Budget 2011/12**

Members considered the working schedule prepared by the clerk which took account of previous discussion and included calculations of income and expenditure budgets for 2011. Discussion ensued about the effect of the proposed cuts in youth and library services for residents. The continuation of the youth service at its present level would require an injection of £25000 to cover staff costs - this figure did not include any running costs which were met from Youth Club funds. GCC had provided a figure of £22000pa for the library running costs and staffing for three days a week. Some doubt was expressed about the veracity of these figures and the lack of firm information and details of what exactly was being offered to the community. A meeting was being sought with library service managers which it was hoped would provide necessary clarification.

**Because of the late hour the meeting was adjourned to 7.00pm on Monday 6 December** for which the clerk would provide amended working schedules to include support for the youth service and library as above and various other adjustments which had been discussed.

## Re-convened meeting held on 6 December 2010

Present: Cllr S Robinson (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs D L M Binns  
Cllr P Carter  
Cllr I D Crawley  
Cllr N I Kay  
Cllr J R Nicholson  
Cllr Mrs G E Smith  
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe  
Cllr Mrs J M Way  
Apologies: Cllr M P Robinson

### Grit bins

Cllr Mrs Way reported on the position to date:

- Cllr Nicholson had acquired eight bins in total from Quaker Chemicals (a small donation to be made to Winstons's Wish)
- GCC would provide two tons of salt for NTC to use at its discretion
- The mayor had confirmed storage for salt and spreader courtesy of James Chamberlain at Nailsworth Mills Estate
- A spreader was being researched – agreed it was important to have a spinner
- Groundsman and snow warden to have access to salt supply to respond to problem areas in town centre – mayor and clerk to produce map defining "town centre" for this purpose
- Snow warden had volunteered to visit every shop to encourage shop keepers to clear pavement in front of their premises

Cllr Kay requested that the entrance to KGV field be salted/gritted.

### Budget 2011/12

Cllr Carter had circulated a spreadsheet and Cllr Crawley a document for the benefit of members. Members considered the schedules revised by the clerk in the light of earlier discussions. Two options had been calculated, both containing support for the Youth Club @ £25000 and one in addition support for library services @ £22000 which would require precept rises of approx.16 or 28% if the level of reserves was not to be jeopardised.

Lengthy discussion ensued. Whilst all were agreed that the Youth Club should be supported (£25000) the position was less clear regarding the library principally because of the lack of pertinent and reliable information about the financial implications in the long term for the council in taking on this serious commitment. Young Gloucestershire had offered its services to deal with payroll and HR needs of employees in the youth service and the mayor agreed to find out more information. It was understood also that GCC had given SDC £50000 to be distributed in the form of small grants for youth purposes – but not to be used for paying salaries. It was agreed finally to include a tentative figure of £10000 for support for library services.

Members were agreed that some of the costs in supporting the Youth Club and the library should be met by making savings in the council's projected budget and the following additions/deletions were agreed:

Town Hall front doors	Take out £8000 (£4000 from designated & £4000 from revenue)
Market Street garden	Scheme was too expensive and cost should be reduced to not exceed a total of £20000 (NTC £10000 to match bequest grant of £10000) Take out £11721 (from designated)
Christmas lights	Replacement scheme proposals should be scrapped and radically re-thought to avoid costly annual charge for putting up and taking down decorations. Take out £5000 (from revenue)
Town Newsletter	Cease publication – current issue would be the last. Take out £4700 (from revenue)
Web site	Site in need of complete overhaul – new item Add £2000 (to revenue)
Clerical assistance	Administration costs would increase if additional responsibilities were taken on. Add £5000 (to revenue)

The clerk was asked to revise the schedules in the light of the discussion and calculate three options for circulation and discussion at the budget approval meeting viz:

option 1 - council wish list + youth @£25000 + library at £10000

option 2 - council savings + youth @ £25000

option 3 - council savings + youth @ £25000 + library @ £10000

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Date

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Town Mayor



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