

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 18 December 2007

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck * Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr B Jayes Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler
Also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns District Cllr J T Jefferies Mr Noel Burgess, Editor Nailsworth News Mr Nick Peters
Apologies accepted	Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J R Nicholson County Cllr J S Waddington
	* Denotes absence from part of the meeting

Cllr Affleck introduced Mr Noel Burgess, new editor of Nailsworth News.

2007/187 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Peters asked for clarification of the Second Homes Funding mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting and the mayor explained that local councils were allowed to collect tax from owners of second homes, which could be used for council and community led projects. For example, FG-RA had applied for installation of a climbing frame in Norton Wood.

Mr Peters queried whether Nailsworth took part in the Award for Best Market Towns (a GRCC regeneration initiative), which was won by Tetbury this year. Cllrs were unaware of this award which Mr Peters felt would be a prestigious achievement if the town were to win.

In answer to a further query from Mr Peters, Cllr Affleck advised that the original planning application 1773/TPO for pruning the willow trees by the lake had been withdrawn, but a later application had been passed. He reassured Mr Peters that this was for normal tree husbandry.

2007/188 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 November were approved and signed with the following corrections -

2007/164, page 257, 5th paragraph, 2nd and 3rd sentences to read:

"He confirmed that this was a change to a contractor, which would largely employ the same people and should not affect Nailsworth youth worker. Cllr Robinson added that the career service Connexions had been replaced by Prospect."

2007/165, item 223 to read:

"The contribution to GCC for Nailsworth youth worker . . ."

The minutes of the special council meeting held on 10 December were approved and signed following correction of the date at the bottom of page 6: Estimated Balance 31.3.2009 (not 08)

2007/189 COST OF YOUTH WORKER

Cllr Eddyshaw had visited the Youth Club and been impressed with the activities of Nailsworth Youth Worker. He pressed the point about the anomaly over lack of full funding for the post from GCC. The clerk pointed out that it was council policy to pursue the matter, but so far with little success. Cllr Robinson assured Cllr Eddyshaw that representations would be made in time for the 09/10 GCC budget planning as the current arrangement expired at the end of 2009. Negotiations when the post was created led to obtaining some help from GCC, which was a measured success; Cllrs canvassed and lobbied to get the contribution in the current contract. Cllr Eddyshaw was keen to participate in the next round of representations. Cllrs hoped County Cllr Waddington would bring the promised figures to the next meeting.

2007/190 FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE (minute 2007/173)

In response to a query from Cllr Eddyshaw, the mayor confirmed that hiring the Redrow site office was only one option being considered for FG-CC, and all options would be explored by the Working Party which would meet for the first time tomorrow. The mayor also confirmed that as he and the deputy mayor would be ex officio members of the group, Cllr Robinson would join as an additional member.

2007/191 SDC P&TC MEETING 11 DECEMBER (minute 2007/182)

Cllr Eddyshaw regretted he had been unable to attend as he had been unwell.

2007/192 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Jeffreys advised that the government had changed the way it calculated the carbon footprint allowing for motorways crossing certain counties, which had resulted in the improvement of the previously unbalanced figures for Gloucestershire. In response to a query from Cllr Mrs Way as to whether public transport was considered by SDC climate change panel, he promised to bring further information to the next meeting.

Cllr Jeffreys wished to clarify comments made in minute 2007/172 regarding SDC's tightening of the objection process for planning applications and assured the meeting that the changes were to improve the quality of planning decisions as well as speed up the process. He corrected the comment that a ward cllr could put forward an objection which could be followed up by him or other colleagues but, if not, would still count. Five people could also write for or against an application, as another form of representation. Cllr Jeffreys confirmed that objections raised by town or parish councils would result in the application being removed from delegated powers. He added that statistics indicated that satisfaction rates from planning applicants had increased.

Cllr Jeffreys was delighted to confirm that the bid for £200k had been successful for 'imaginative creative play' in the district, and Nailsworth MUGA was one of the 6 chosen projects. SDC and local councils were providing some additional funding towards their projects and the MUGA should be started around next June. Cllr Mrs Thorpe drew attention to the item of equipment for the Norton Wood play area which would cost £7000 to install, and Cllr Jeffreys thought this had been approved and would check. Cllr Jeffreys added that funding for maintenance of play areas came from the Housing Revenue account, for which a higher priority was to fund much needed affordable homes.

SDC Budget meeting had taken place last Thursday; council tax would increase by 2.5%, with anticipated investment of just under £1million across the District over the next four years. The Social Enterprise Trust (SDC initiative to facilitate health services within the District, eg. mental health, maternity, etc) was proceeding cautiously with a stakeholders group of senior figures. Cabinet had recommended that SDC fund up to £90k to develop a full business plan with external consultants, to be completed by March/April. The SET aimed to provide a service led by the people rather than from management as through a PCT.

It had been recommended that SDC join Gloucestershire Homeseeker Policy – which was a method of providing council housing based on client choice, similar to an estate agent approach. Applicants

would therefore have more say in the selection of their accommodation, although in the case of oversubscribed accommodation, tenants most in need would take priority.

In answer to a query from Cllr Eddyshaw, Cllr Jeffreys promised to investigate whether NTC would be eligible for government funding to create an Urban Design Framework, as indicated in an SDC document dated November entitled 'Statement of Community Involvement'.

Cllr Robinson wished to thank ward cllrs for their help in pushing the Nailsworth MUGA. It was confirmed that different contractors would be handling the different projects, with variable timings to suit.

Cllr Jeffreys asked Cllrs to promote the Chip & Pin event which would take place on 23/24 January at Lawnside and encourage residents to attend.

District Cllr Mrs Binns had nothing to add to Cllr Jeffrey's comprehensive report.

Cllr Affleck queried the scale of work to be undertaken by Mr Peter Gilbert who would be starting a revision of the Core Planning Strategy, and Cllrs Mrs Binns and Jeffreys promised to advise.

2007/193 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Following meetings held with young people of the town, with another in February exploring the possibility of creating a Youth Forum, a training session for interested adults was proposed for Thursday 6 March at 7pm with Mr Stephen Miles, SDC Youth Development Council.

The mayor sought Cllrs' approval to question the District Auditor regarding the legitimacy of NTC and other councils being excluded from the SDC consultation process on Business Rates, for the second year running. Nailsworth was a large contributor and the mayor wondered if it could legally be required to pay these rates having not been consulted. The meeting approved his suggestion.

2007/194 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Affleck had attended the AGM of Tetbury Partnership last month, which he felt was an inspiring meeting, the partnership comprising 50% council and 50% other local bodies. Cllr Affleck also looked at another, very different, model partnership: Vale Vision in Dursley. This was also an impressive operation covering a much wider area.

Cllr Affleck attended a meeting regarding the Design Statement, which was progressing though short of volunteers to help, including Cllrs.

Cllr Affleck had talked with Mr Conrad Moore about the status of the Design Statement as a potential basis for a planning document and advised that this was definitely the way forward and had to be based on community need with much consultation clearly demonstrated.

Cllr Affleck read a lesson at the Town Carol Service on behalf of NTC.

2007/195 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The December newsletter of the Glos Association of P&TCs had been received and the clerk confirmed that this publication could not currently be distributed by email but she would advise as soon as this became possible.

2007/196 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Eddyshaw presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on **27 November** and the minutes were approved following correction of the spelling of 'aerial' in the penultimate line.

The clerk reported that she and Cllr Bratby had met with representatives of NDS last week and had agreed lighting and wiring requirements. NDS had indicated it might hire in equipment for future plays rather than buy new, because of cost. A modest system would be retained for other TH users and NDS had agreed to rebuild the switch cupboard with a proper door.

Cllr Affleck recommended Cllrs view the very interesting collection of Nailsworth photographs in the archive office, which included some of the flood.

The clerk was thanked for her investigations into ownership title of Hazlewood Bungalow.

2007/197 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, the mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on **11 December** and the minutes were approved with the following corrections:

Dates of the Nailsworth Games would be 5th to 20th July 2008.

Nailsworth youth worker, Ms Young's first name was Tracy (without an 'e')

Cllr Affleck passed the comment that the Neighbourhood Warden overused the term 'vulnerable' in his reports, but others suggested this might merely be appropriate jargon.

Cllrs were sorry to hear of the demise of the youth football club, but it was understood this was due to a natural loss of interest from parents, and Mr Keith Postlethwaite had managed the club for many years. Cllrs were asked to encourage the revival of a youth team through the town's other clubs.

The quotation from Mr Phil Ritchings for £480 to undertake the stonework to prepare for the Mortimer Gardens bridge was approved.

The mayor had not yet had time to challenge Redrow Homes about the equipped play area it was required to provide within the new Forest Rise development.

2007/198 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on **28 November** and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:

Final sentence to read " . . . the clerk and mayor would investigate the clerk's pension arrangements".

It had been ascertained that the Night Bus did not actually come into Nailsworth, with the nearest stop being at the top of the W.

Consultations on the Design Statement would be held on 7 January, from 6-9pm in MR (NB. This clashes with Environment Committee meeting) and another at Somerfield about a week later. the mayor would email the Countryside Agency guideline document to Cllrs Eddyshaw and Mrs Thorpe. Cllr Affleck clarified the difference between the Urban Design Framework for the town centre, and the Design Statement which covered a much wider area.

2007/199 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Thorpe presented the report of the meeting held on **22 November** and the following amendment was made to the minutes:

Recent planning decisions, first sentence to read

"It was noted that SDC had been given consent . . . "

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meeting held on **4 December** and the minutes were amended as follows:

Second paragraph on page 2 was part of the body of the report and should be in normal size print and wider margin.

Third page, no.3, last line to read:

" . . . useful contribution to the development of the Development Framework"

Third page, no.4, first line:

"Framework" in one word.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the planning committee at its meetings held on 22 November and 4 December 2007 be approved.

2007/200 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NTC and NCP

Cllr Affleck referred to his document circulated at the last meeting identifying structural differences between the two bodies and the history behind the creation of NCP following on from the Action Plan and Healthcheck. Consultations had taken place since about how to structure the partnership, its financial status and eligibility to apply for grants, which SDC had indicated it would make to a community group, which could be protected as a company limited by guarantee. NTC currently was not in a position to finance NCP but Cllr Affleck was of the opinion that it should be a major partner along the lines of other similar organisations.

Cllr Affleck thought that NTC should then be able to contract projects out to NCP for action, formally and with agreed parameters and appropriate remuneration in the form of a management fee. His recommendation was that NTC should seek to use the facilities afforded by NCP such as district and county cllrs, their officers, and the chamber of trade.

Cllr Mrs Way expressed concern that no longstanding Cllrs were present tonight, and new Cllrs were not sufficiently familiar with past events and the original conception and expectations of NCP. Cllr Nicholson had emailed his comments to Cllrs in response to Cllr Affleck's document, querying the statutory permission/legality for NTC to support and make use of such an organisation.

Following further discussion over terminology in the report and understanding of roles and potential conflicts of interest, the meeting agreed with five votes in favour and three abstentions to accept Cllr Affleck's report in principle, but without the recommendations, and to seek clarification of the legalities of an association between NTC and NCP. Cllr Affleck was thanked for his explanations.

2007/201 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 18 December 2007 amounting to £20,100.41 be approved for payment.

2007/202 Dreweatt Neate – rent review TIC

Mr Wightman's report proposed raising the TIC rent from £4000 p.a. (the figure since 2002) to £6200 (fixed until 2012) which meant an increase of 55%. The clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Mr Wightman and the mayor to discuss this rather large increase.

* Cllr Byrne joined the meeting

2007/203 Moore Stephens – annual audit 2006/07 opinion

The unqualified opinion on the Audit had made a couple of minor comments.

2007/204 Mr P Carter – Christkindl Evening

Mr Carter had emailed his concerns over increasing public disorder at this annual event, and the gangs of underage rowdy drunks. There had been a large police presence this year and it was felt the funfair was largely responsible for attracting undesirable groups from outside the town to the

increasing concern of shopkeepers and young families. NTC regretted the situation but did not organise the event and Mr Carter's comments would be referred to the chamber of trade.

2007/205 Mr A Beale – requirements of Town Archive Office

Mr Beale had prepared a mission statement for improving the Archive Office and felt in particular that the computer equipment was elderly; which Mr Bruce Burn concurred. The meeting approved the clerk's suggestion to pass on the computer in the council chamber which was no longer used and she and the deputy mayor would meet with Mr Beale to discuss his other suggestions.

2007/206 Home Start – letter of thanks and details of volunteer training

A nice thank you letter had been received from Mrs Cunild, and notification of the training of six new volunteers, of which more were always needed; it was a valuable experience for the volunteers and many enduring friendships ensued.

2007/207 Bartosch & Stokes – invitation to attend opening of tenders

Bids for the Fountain restoration were to be returned by 12 noon on 25 January and cllrs were invited to be present for the opening. Cllr Bratby would be asked if he wished to attend.

2007/208 GCC – invitation to conference 'Protecting your Community'

Leading on from the floods, Cllrs were invited to attend this conference on 25 January, from 9.30am-4.30pm at the Holiday Inn at Barnwood.

2007/209 SDC – changes to parish boundaries

The order had been raised to incorporate some of Inchbrook into Nailsworth parish, and transfer other parts to Minchinhampton, and notification would be sent when the order was passed.

2007/210 SDC – processes for applying for planning permission

The review was in hand and the report with disk would be passed on to the Planning Committee for consideration. The six week consultation period would end on 25 January.

2007/211 Ms Sally Godwin GCC - traffic calming Lawnside/Bunting Hill

It was intended to introduce an experimental traffic order for six months to canvass reaction from residents; this could then be made permanent, withdrawn or revised for further six months (twice).

2007/212 SWTT – request for grant

Cllr Byrne had reported a telephone request from SWTT for a grant to pay for an actor to help at a February event. Cllrs agreed with the clerk that this should come in the form of a grant application to the FE&GP Committee.

2007/213 Planning Committee meeting 1st January 2008

Following debate, Cllrs were reluctantly persuaded to cancel this meeting and defer matters to the next meeting of the committee on Thursday 17 January.

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Date

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Chairman