

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 15 December 2015

Present	* Cllr MP Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr JL Dennis Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell Cllr SM Reed Cllr S Robinson * Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr E Sims Mr Ian Crawley (Item 13)
Apologies	Cllr EF Bonner County Cllr DLM Binns District Cllr RTH Blackwell
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

2015/208 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND COUNCILLORS' DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interests or requests for councillors' dispensations.

2015/209 CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

a	S.15/2769/MINAM Land adjacent to Heath Cottage, Homefield, Shortwood Minor amendment – change to doors and windows No observations
b	S.15/2754/HHOLD Sylvan, Nailsworth Hill Erection of two bay oak framed garage with home office above No observations
c	S.15/2770/HHOLD Haydenville, Old Bristol Road Demolition of part existing rear two storey extension and adjacent boundary wall. Proposed two storey and single extensions to the rear of the property No observations
d	S.15/2749/HHOLD Fox Cottage, Newmarket Demolition and re-erection of replacement single garage No observations
e	S.15/2760/HHOLD and S.15/2671/LBC The Studio Pensile House, Pensile Road Conversion of an outbuilding into a granny annexe No observations
f	S.15/2783/LBC Copsewold Cottage, Windsoredge Lane Internal alterations and repairs, cosmetic upgrade of flat roof and alterations of outbuilding No observations
g	S.15/2765/DISCON Braeside, Spring Hill Construct a conservatory to the side of existing property Noted

2015/210 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

2015/211 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 17 November, and 25 November and 1 December 2015 were approved and signed.

2015/212 Financial Regulations Working Party (minute 2015/195)

Cllr Kay reported that the first meeting of the Working Party would take place on Thursday 17 December at 2pm in the Council Chamber. He had circulated a paper for discussion at the meeting.

2015/213 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr S Robinson reported that residents of Ringfield Close sheltered housing scheme had expressed concern about the potential impact of SDC's proposals to redevelop their accommodation in order to bring it up to standard. It appeared that the residents had received mixed messages from SDC officers on this matter and Cllrs S Robinson and Sims were having ongoing discussions with the residents and the SDC Project Manager in an attempt to clarify the situation and reassure the residents.

Cllr Millett reported that SDC officers would be giving a presentation to the next Tenants' Forum on the impact of new government housing regulations for SDC's housing budget.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had met with Cllr Sims, and County Cllr Binns and the SDC case officer to discuss the current planning application at Setwell, Walkley Wood. Cllr S Robinson explained that if officers were minded to approve the application under delegated powers it would be referred to the Development Control Committee for determination.

Cllr S Robinson was pleased to report that SDC had installed two large litter bins in Forest Green, one outside the Arkell Centre and one on the opposite side of the road.

2015/214 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported with on his attendance, together with Cllr Thorpe, at a Fields in Trust (FIT) 90th anniversary awards ceremony at Lords Cricket Ground, where they had been extremely pleased to receive an award of £45,000 to be spent on improvements to the KGV facilities. The Mayor congratulated Cllr Thorpe assisted by the Clerk for her hard work in putting together a successful application to Fields in Trust. A photograph of the presentation had been posted on the FIT website and the Clerk was asked to contact FIT in due course for confirmation of an appropriate format for a NTC press release incorporating part of this image.

The Mayor reported that SDC had arranged an information session for town and parish councils on 21 December on its revenue support grant arrangement for the coming financial year. As this meeting would be only 24 hours before NTC's Council budget setting meeting scheduled for 22 December, he proposed that the latter be postponed to allow sufficient time for information to be disseminated to councillors. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's precept form had to be with SDC by 1 February. It was agreed that the meeting would be rescheduled for Monday 25 January.

The Mayor reported that he would be reading part of the lesson at the Town Carol Service at St George's Parish Church, to be held on Sunday 20 December at 6pm. All councillors were warmly invited to attend.

**Cllr Thorpe joined the meeting during the above item.*

2015/215 REPORT FROM DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Duckworth reported that Nailsworth's World War 1 Centenary Commemorations group's deadline for report and return of unspent grant money had been extended until 31 March 2016. Excellent feedback on the recent WWI exhibition and talk had been received from two of the schools who had attended, including Nailsworth Primary.

2015/216 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported that she was enjoying working alongside the Clerk designate during the handover period, which would end on 31 January.

2015/217 REPORT FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Elliott was pleased to report that three new volunteers had come forward for the rota for CAB reception duties at the weekly Arkell Centre surgeries and would be starting in February.

Cllr Reed reported that Nailsworth's Fairtrade Town status was due for renewal in March, during Fairtrade Fortnight 2016. Nailsworth had held this status continuously since 2002. Cllr Reed indicated that she planned to bring some ideas on to how NTC might develop its support for Fairtrade in the town for discussion at the next Environment Committee meeting.

Cllr Reed was delighted to report that the Nailsworth-Vumilia (Tanzania) link group's project to sink a borehole in the village had met with success. Thanks to the generosity of Nailsworth people, the villagers should soon have access to clean water.

Cllr Reed reported that a meeting to take forward the suggestions received as a result of the Nailsworth Climate Awareness Day last October would take place on 29 January in the Mortimer Room.

Cllr Duckworth reported that now Nailsworth CLT had become an incorporated body in its own right the group planned to seek grant funding from NTC to cover the hire of the Council Chamber for its meetings. The Clerk explained that the Council did not make a practice of hiring out the Chamber and confirmed that it was Council policy to allow the Chamber to be used free of charge by groups with NTC representation as long as at least one councillor was present. It was therefore agreed that the CLT could use the Chamber as specified. In response to a question, Cllr Duckworth confirmed that no further news had been received regarding the implications for the CLT of the extension of right to buy regulations to housing associations.

Cllr S Robinson reported on a recent public meeting to discuss proposals for a 20mph zone throughout the parish, organised by the A46 Road Safety Action Group and chaired by the Mayor. Public consultation was ongoing and would include an information stall in the February Farmers' Market and a centre spread feature in the March edition of Nailsworth News. The group had been active with Speedar traffic monitoring and had recorded a significant number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Cllr S Robinson explained that the monitoring reports were routinely passed on to the police. He proposed that, as an additional measure, the Council produce a standard letter to businesses informing them when their vehicles were caught speeding. The Clerk advised that the additional workload this would cause for NTC staff should be monitored. The Clerk designate suggested that such a measure could run alongside an awareness campaign to warn local people that such letters would be sent.

After discussion, Cllr S Robinson agreed to liaise with the A46 group to draft a suitable standard letter to present to a future Council meeting for approval.

2015/218 COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS

There were no issues to discuss at the present time.

2015/219 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 1 December 2015 were approved and signed.

RESOLVED that the post of Town Groundsman be re-advertised as a senior role on the same salary scale point as previously with the occupation of the bungalow to remain a requirement of the post, and that the Groundsman Replacement Working Party be disbanded and the recruitment process overseen by the Personnel Committee.

Discussion ensued on options for wording the advertisement for a new Town Groundsman, with some councillors expressing the view that a more detailed advertisement than the previous one could help encourage a wider pool of applicants.

Standing orders were suspended at this point to allow Mr Ian Crawley, a governor of Nailsworth Primary School, to address the meeting.

Mr Crawley presented his report on behalf of the Primary School Resources Committee, which had been previously circulated to all councillors and discussed in depth at the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting of 1 December. He rehearsed the background to the report and answered questions from members. Mr Crawley advised that in order for NTC to apply to Sport England for a match-funded grant to refurbish the school changing rooms it would be necessary for NTC to seek a lease from the diocese for the use of that part of the building, in parallel to the 25-year lease for the land proposed for the MUGA.

After considerable discussion, Cllr Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr S Robinson, that subject to there being no financial cost to NTC, the Council seek to enter into a 25 year lease with the diocese for the use of the Nailsworth Recreation Centre changing rooms and apply to Sport England for a grant of £75,000 to refurbish the changing rooms, with any surplus money to be used to improve the gym and sports storage areas, the project to be led by Mr Ian Crawley who would provide the relevant documentation.

On being put the vote, the proposal was **accepted**, with 9 votes in favour and one abstention.

Mr Crawley undertook to obtain a formal letter from the school stating that it would fund NTC's legal cost for the lease.

Mr Crawley left the meeting and Standing Orders were resumed at this point.

It was agreed that, in the light of the success of the Council's application for £45,000 from Fields in Trust, consideration of the Committee's recommendation regarding improvements to the KGV tennis courts be deferred until full details of the grant had been received.

2015/220 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MUGA WORKING PARTY

Cllr Kay presented a report from the MUGA Working Party, previously circulated. He explained that a revised planning application for a MUGA on the school site at Forest Green was now ready to submit and that the Working Party was recommending that this be done the following day. Cllr Kay advised that the Working Party, after careful consideration and local consultation, was recommending that the use of the MUGA should cease at 9pm Monday-Saturday and 7pm on Sundays.

In discussion, some councillors felt that the closing time of 10pm Monday-Saturday, as specified on the previous application, was preferable as it provided greater flexibility and fitted in with the closing time of the Recreation Centre. It was pointed out that even if the planning regulations allowed use to continue until 10pm, the Management Committee could decide to

close the MUGA earlier if it felt this to be advisable. However, others felt that the earlier closing time would be more acceptable to local residents and represented a reasonable compromise. Cllr Dennis, seconded by Cllr Thorpe, proposed that the recommendation be amended to retain the 10pm closing time Monday-Saturday. On being put the vote, there were 5 votes in support of the amendment and 5 votes against and the amendment FELL on the Mayor's casting vote.

Cllr Kay, seconded by Cllr Powell, proposed the substantive motion that the MUGA planning application be submitted with the closing times specified as 9pm Monday-Saturday and 7pm on Sundays. On being put to the vote, there were 5 votes on support and 5 against, and the motion was CARRIED on the Mayor's casting vote.

The Clerk undertook to confirm that Gemma Davies SDC would send extra notices of the planning application to ensure that any which might be removed could be replaced expeditiously. The Mayor agreed to write a letter informing local residents of the application and the change in operating hours, which Cllr S Robinson would deliver.

2015/221 PROPOSED RESHAPING OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN NAILSWORTH

A GCC consultation paper on the reshaping of children's services in the county had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Thorpe reported that Treetops Children's Centre, which provided invaluable support for local children and families at the Arkell Community Centre, had indicated that under current GCC proposals it might be unable to continue this provision in 2016/17. Members acknowledged the importance of the Children's Centre's services for young and vulnerable families in the town.

After discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Paul McLean, GCC Cabinet Member for Children's services, expressing the Council's strong concern at any potential loss of Children's Centre services in Nailsworth as a result of GCC funding decisions and inviting him to visit the Arkell Centre and meet with selected community representatives to discuss the matter.

2015/222 APPROVAL OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Draft terms of reference for the new Personnel Committee, previously circulated, were approved in principle, subject to some clarification of details relating to the role of the Mayor in supervising the Clerk and the role of the Clerk in respect of staff supervision.

2015/223 PROPOSAL FROM CLLR KAY RE POSSIBLE DEVOLUTION OF COUNCIL SERVICES

Cllr Kay explained the background to his proposal and after a short discussion the following was **agreed**, proposed by Cllr Kay and seconded by Cllr Dennis, with 9 votes in favour and one abstention:

'Council supports the Devolution bid by the 'We are Gloucestershire' team insofar as it maintains the following precepts:

- that there is full consultation and involvement of the Town Council and GAPTC in service provision at local levels
- that it supports the internal provision of the NHS
- that the current cuts in funding by central government are not used to replace service provision by the use of charities and volunteers
- that any services the Town Council is asked to provide in lieu of those from other agencies are accompanied by appropriate funding
- that there is no loss in real democratic control from the lowest levels.'

2015/224 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 19C

After discussion, it was agreed that since the Council had set up a Working Party to discuss and make recommendations regarding the Council's financial regulations, the proposal to amend

Standing Order 19C to raise the minimum figure for tendering from £15,000 to £25,000 be withdrawn and the matter referred to the Financial Regulations Working Party.

2015/225 COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Reed explained the background to her view that the Council would benefit from a policy relating to members' use of laptops, Ipads and other electronic devices during Council meetings and suggested that the matter be referred to the Communications Working Party for discussion and recommendations. This was agreed.

2015/226 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the lists of accounts for 15 December 2015 amounting to £16,107.69 be approved for payment.

2015/227 SDC – notice of annual meeting with Parish and Town Councils on 14 January 2016 at Ebley Mill at 7pm

The communication was noted.

2015/228 Mr Iain Selkirk – appointment of independent auditor for 2015/16

The appointment of Mr Iain Selkirk as independent auditor for NTC for 2015/16 was confirmed.

2015/229 Mrs V Bowen – notification of proposed intention to form independent group to run the Friday market in the Mortimer Room

The Clerk read out a letter from Mrs Bowen, current Treasurer of Nailsworth Country Market, detailing proposed changes to the organisation of the Friday market and seeking NTC's permission for the new group to continue to hold the market in the Mortimer Room. The letter was noted and permission was granted.

2015/230 GCC – notification of decision to amend the listing of 'Jacaranda', Seven Acres Road ref Commons Act 2006

The decision was noted.

2015/231 GCC – Draft Local Transport Plan – consultation period 20 November 2015-5 February 2016

The information was noted.

2015/232 Dominic Everiss SDC – explanation of changes in Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

An email outlining changes to the Neighbourhood Warden service in the District had been circulated to all councillors. The information was noted.

2015/233 GCC – road closure Seven Acres Road 18-22 January 2016

The road closure order was noted.

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Town Mayor

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Date