

The intention was to create a community hub, a centre for community meetings and activities.

Mrs Bratby added that she was not against the community hall as such, but was concerned about the size of the proposed new building and the impact on nearby residents. The very large facilities at FGR-FC were underused, and the Club might now be more willing to open up its facilities to other groups. The plot for the new building was too small and there was no parking provision. The Mayor commented that, following troubles with parking on match days, attempts were being made to discourage outsiders driving to the area, and the working party was in talks with the school about using its car park out of school hours. It was anticipated that most users of the FGCC would be within walking distance.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that all these points had been carefully considered over the years. The costs of the new building were expected to be met by the Arkell Bequest and from other grant funding. The building was required to have zero carbon impact and therefore the lack of parking was not considered to be an issue. Cllr Mrs Thorpe believed this was a window of opportunity for the town to make a real investment in Forest Green.

* Cllr Nicholson left the meeting

Cllr Mrs Thorpe explained the reason for the decision on the size of the building based on research identifying demand, and giving flexibility of use and income. The Mayor added that advice had and was being taken from Ms Barbara Pond GRCC village halls expert, who had recommended that the new building should be able to accommodate 100 people, in order to take best advantage of grant possibilities.

2009/161 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 17 November 2009 were approved and signed.

2009/162 CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT OF ARCHITECT FOR FGCC (minute 2009/141)

Cllr Mrs Binns was not happy with the second sentence in the third paragraph indicating that it was 'logical' for the architect to prepare tender documents, which she felt contravened the council's standing orders. The Mayor, backed by the Clerk advised that it was not appropriate to change project leader midway through the process. Each stage of employment of the architect had been ratified by NTC. Discussion ensued as to whether monies paid to the architect should or should not be cumulative and whether he should continue to be employed for the ongoing project.

Cllr Carter did not feel the question had been properly answered relating to compliance with standing orders and stated that he would take advice elsewhere as he was not satisfied with the responses given.

2009/163 CLLRS CONCERNS OVER FGCC NEW BUILDING (minute 2009/137)

Cllr Bratby asked why no meeting had yet been called and was advised that two dates had been put to the cllrs concerned by email on 3 December. **11 January at 2pm** in the council chamber was proposed, although Cllr Carter was not happy that the meeting should be held during working hours, which the Mayor advised was the normal pattern for members of the FGCC working party.

2009/164 VANDALISM AT GLENDOWER (minute 2009/142)

The email from a Watledge resident reporting this incident had been circulated to cllrs and District Cllr Jeffreys had looked into the general situation regarding the property, as requested at the last council meeting. He reported that two SDC officers had visited the house to assess whether it was a dangerous structure, which they felt it was not. It would be kept under observation to watch for any deterioration. The long term situation was that SDC had been granted authority in November to issue a 'repairs notice', in which Mr Phillips had until the new year to repair or sell the property. If no

progress was made with Mr Phillips, SDC could issue an 'urgent works' notice (which Cllr Jeffreys thought unlikely, as the house was wind and weather tight). The more likely step would be to issue a 'repairs notice' requiring the owner to return the property to the condition it was in at the time of its listing. If he was unwilling or unable to do so, then a compulsory purchase order could be put in motion, which was a long process and SDC had four other properties in the district in the same situation.

Cllr Wheeler pointed out that SDC had failed to enforce a previous repairs notice requiring Mr Phillips to mend the roof and replace the guttering, which work had never been completed. He did not feel that SDC had been properly monitoring the situation over the years. Cllr Jeffreys countered that it was a matter of finances and any costs to SDC would end up coming out of taxpayers' pockets. Compulsory purchase would only be an option if a potential purchaser was lined up first in a back to back arrangement. The services of the District Valuer would be utilised to pursue the compulsory purchase option. Cllr Blackwell added that the Preservation Trust might be willing to do some work on the house.

2009/165 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Jeffreys offered to comment on the **threatened closure of parish leisure centres** and felt this suggestion should be seen in the context of the total provision of leisure facilities within the district. The management agreement at Stratford Park terminated in 2011 and SDC had begun looking at alternative management of this facility, and as part of that process had decided to look at similar services across the district. Public subsidy differed for different levels of facility and was higher in joint-use centres, so discussions were taking place to sort out the discrepancies. Cllr Jeffreys had attended the multi agency meeting at Forest Green last Friday, although no representative from NTC had been present. The unanimous view at that meeting was that this was an opportunity for the host town and its community to rethink the running and management of their own leisure facilities.

Cllr Jeffreys was not at the SDC cabinet meeting, but understood that the decision had not been finally taken, and in any case nothing would be done until 2011. Cllr Mrs Binns felt the wording was very confusing and the step taken was actually to 'give notice' to cabinet of the proposal. The proper consultation process would start after SDC's meeting in January and its regeneration officer was to visit Nailsworth in February.

Cllr Robinson commented that he was at the multi agency meeting on Friday representing NTC, but that cllrs had not been invited to attend. He had visited leisure facilities at Eastcombe, Stonehouse, Dursley, and felt that Nailsworth's was a very poor setup in comparison. Cllr Jeffreys added that other communities had been able to get money from elsewhere to upgrade their facilities.

District Cllr Blackwell added his understanding that the 'notice' to cabinet was merely the start of the consultation process. Attendance at Nailsworth leisure centre amounted to 112 visits per week, which was considered quite low, but even if SDC management of the facility was removed, all the equipment would stay and training would be offered in the use of it.

Cllr Blackwell confirmed that no legal process had yet been started on Glendower.

Cllr Crawley was not reassured by the comments from district cllrs about the 'notice' to cabinet regarding closure of outreach leisure facilities, and would like to see the minutes of that meeting recording the decision. The press release claimed savings of £170k would be made, but this was not in the cabinet report, nor any indication given of what proportion of this saving related to Nailsworth.

The Mayor had written to Mr David Hagg asking about **SDC's policy of consultation with town and parish councils**. He questioned how the situation had been allowed to get so bad in Nailsworth with currently only three poor activities on offer at the leisure centre. A wide range of activities was available at other places in the district. Nailsworth had lost its secondary school and consequently,

after school activities, so the town actually needed more not less leisure provision. Cllr Jeffreys advised that SDC was supposed to follow the statutory consultation procedure, and added that Berkeley had the same problem as Nailsworth for a range of reasons. CSPAN had been brought up at Friday's multi agency meeting, and would be involved in seeking to resolve the problem of occupying the town's disaffected youth. The Mayor had spoken with the democratic service officers and confirmed that no decision had been made but a special meeting of cabinet on 28 January would consider the matter further.

District Cllr Miss Macmillan had sent in a written report advising that the **Railway Hotel** planning application had been refused. She was adding her efforts to lobbying for the leisure centre and would be appearing at the planning appeal for the development in Newmarket.

Cllr Robinson was disappointed that **County Cllr Waddington** was not present this evening, as he had asked him in October about the **20mph proposed speed limits for the Windsoredge area**. Cllr Waddington had confirmed that he had signed a letter which Cllr Robinson had still not received.

Resident Mr Partington had written about **speeding on Nympsfield Road**, and had contacted Cllr Waddington in August, but had not heard from him either. Cllr Robinson commented that GCC had required an urgent decision from NTC about appropriating a section of land on FG green for its traffic calming measures, but since then nothing had happened. The Mayor suggested Cllr Robinson invite Cllr Waddington to meet informally to discuss these matters.

2009/166 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he had been working with Mr Bill Affleck NCP to encourage the creation of a **patients participation group** with the doctors' surgery. Two meetings had been held and people identified who would be interested in joining a steering group. It had now been left to those individuals to form a group and take the initiative forward. The Minchinhampton PPG had been going for 20 years and was happy to advise. Any cllr wishing to be involved was asked to notify the Mayor.

The **Poppy Appeal** had broken last year's record at just under £5500 (£5400 last year) with a bit more still to come in.

The Mayor and Cllr Carter had attended the **Police INA meeting** in Stonehouse. Mr Phil Sullivan SDC community safety office had asked whether NTC wished in principle to enter a partnership with SDC to apply for a grant to install **CCTV cameras** in the bus station area and around the small MUGA. It would help his application for funding if the project could be presented as a partnership, and there would be no cost to NTC. The immediate questions were

- 1 Were cllrs in favour of CCTV in Nailsworth?
- 2 It could be anticipated that there would be a request for financial support later on.
- 3 There was the issue of maintenance and monitoring of the equipment; it had been suggested that NTC would need to employ an operative, but later that a service could be provided by the police or public finance.

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of CCTV, and reports of successes elsewhere in reducing crime levels, or creating a problem of displacement. The general experience seemed to be that CCTV served to disperse trouble makers and their hangers on. Cllr Crawley had first hand experience of the installation and monitoring of CCTV and warned that it was very expensive to manage properly. He favoured better street lighting with occasional roving CCTV rather than a permanent installation.

The Mayor added that the police anticipated that security for the whole of Gloucestershire would eventually be operated from one place and outsourced to a private firm. Cllr Mrs Thorpe suggested the money could be better spent on youth worker time and felt cllrs needed more time to consider the options. District Cllr Jeffreys added that roving CCTV was already in operation and thought this was

one strategy proposed to solve the Forest Green problems specifically, with occasional rather than permanent CCTV.

It was agreed that the proposal needed further investigation and it would be inappropriate to take a decision based on the current level of conflicting information. The Mayor would seek further clarification from Mr Sullivan and would ask for the report of the INA meeting which might answer some of the questions. He would arrange a meeting with Mr Sullivan and circulate the proposed date to cllrs. The Clerk asked that Mr Sullivan be asked to include NTC in the membership of the FG Community Safety Panel.

2009/167 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson had nothing special to report

2009/168 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing to add to her written report.

2009/169 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Way had attended her second meeting of the **Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee** which she felt was a worthwhile body to be involved with, as its area included a section of the parish. She proposed to make an annual report on the committee's activities, rather than report after each meeting.

Cllr Bratby reported that **Stroud CAB** was working well, but there was currently a problem with one of the managers which it was hoped would be resolved soon.

Cllr Carter commented on the **Police INA** meeting, the main issue being that the level of crime within the area was dropping every month, and was now at a very low level. The Mayor expressed some scepticism about the value of the reported figures, and wondered how much crime was not reported. It was important to get a true idea of the crime hot spots, but he recognised that this was generally a low crime area by comparison with cities. The Mayor suggested inviting the local officer to come and report to a future council meeting. Cllr Crawley added that cllrs should encourage the police to engage with the public and make clear their accountability.

* Cllr Bratby left the meeting

2009/170 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 24 November and the minutes were approved.

PROPOSED Cllr Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thorpe to unanimous approval that NTC's preferred option for disposal of the temporary FGCC building was that it should be donated to another community group at no cost to NTC. The committee would consider how to publicise its availability at the appropriate time.

The Clerk confirmed that the **step into the TH lower room** had been marked with fluorescent tape and warning notices erected.

Cllr Crawley drew attention to item 5 paragraph 2 of the minutes, and commented that the **new policies** were for the council as a whole. The policies were being worked on and would be ready for approval at the January meeting, so it was agreed that drafts would be circulated to all cllrs before Christmas. The Mayor wished to call an FE&GP meeting in order to discuss the policies prior to the January meeting. It was confirmed that a child protection policy was included.

2009/171 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting held on 25 November and the minutes were approved. Cllr Crawley had said he felt it would be helpful to have a mid-year budget review discussion and that budgets should be part of a three year plan, to remove the risk of seeing each year in isolation. The Clerk warned that there could be a problem when coming to the end of a council term, but the three year plan would only be for guidance, and could be altered. The Clerk added that the designated funds were intended to cover forward planning. The Mayor suggested a meeting to discuss the idea in greater detail within the next financial year.

2009/172 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 7 December. The Mayor thanked editor Mrs Sharon Wells and coordinator Mrs Carole de Lacroix for all their efforts in producing the publication.

2009/173 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, and other members of the committee, approval of the minutes was deferred.

Cllr Carter queried why there were no results from the **Nailstock's Park Road consultation**, but it was believed this had not yet taken place. Cllr Byrne would be asked to check on progress with the organisers.

The Clerk had heard today from AES Winterbothams that **Mr Austin**, had signed the **licence paperwork for his window boxes**. Once the Clerk had checked that all was satisfactory, she would arrange for the licence to be counter signed by two cllrs.

The Mayor had written to Mr David Hagg, SDC chief executive for outline approval to the **large MUGA** scheme, and had asked what would be the level of SDC's contribution, and sought confirmation of the release of the Redrow funds (£85k + interest = £94k approx). The letter had been passed to Mr Ray Figg for response. Cllr Robinson sought approval for the request that the Mayor should follow up with school governors and the head teacher regarding any potential land swap, and the action was approved.

2009/174 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting held on 1 December, and Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meeting held on 19 November.

Risk of flooding in Bridge Street – the Clerk advised that the GCC drainage expert had looked at the problem area and thought flooding might be prevented with the installation of more grilles into the drainage system which otherwise had plenty of capacity.

Cllr Wheeler had attended the SDC planning meeting at which the application for the **Station Hotel** was considered, and was impressed with the case which had been put forward by ward cllrs. All NTC's objections had been presented and had been added to the reasons for refusal.

Cllr Crawley advised that, because of a shortage of time, the **Newmarket Valley** application had been discussed at the FE&GP committee meeting and a statement of objection prepared for presentation to the inspector. A meeting had been held with residents and two representatives of the developer who had accepted that the statement of objection could be put forward.

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 19 November and 1 December 2009 be approved.
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2009/175 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe summed up the current situation and advised that the specification for the building was being finalised with the architect in readiness for the tendering process in January, with grant applications to be submitted at the end of January. The draft RDA application was going in this week for comment, giving an opportunity to tweak it if required. Members of the working party had visited one of the two projects which had already received RDA money and were taking advice. More work on finalising the policies was required and the working party was generating a list of potential users and considering how to bring services and activities in to Forest Green.

Cllr Mrs Binns hoped that all cllrs would be able to see the RDA application as part of the consultation process. Ms Pond had indicated that there might not be a response to the draft application until as late as 25 January, but Cllr Mrs Thorpe would try to have the completed application ready for the January council meeting. Cllr Wheeler requested sight also of the updated business plan. Cllr Carter queried why such a large building had been deemed necessary in the first place, if the working party was already considering sub letting part of it, to which the Mayor responded that this was only one idea being considered in order to generate more income.

2009/176 PROPOSED OLD MARKET WORKING PARTY

Cllr Crawley reported that cllrs had been supportive of his initial proposal and their comments had been noted, such as the inclusion of Market Street. A practical group would be formed with a wide range of cllrs, although Cllr Crawley was disappointed at the lack of response to date from ward cllrs. It would be important to engage with landowners and lease holders. The final outcome of the initiative would be an addendum to the Nailsworth Design Statement, and for adoption by SDC, with ideally some commitment from GCC, SDC and landowners to take account of the conclusions of the working party. Cllr Crawley felt it was important for NTC to press ahead with setting up the working party, rather than wait for GCC and SDC to get on board or choose not to be involved.

PROPOSED Cllr Crawley proposed to unanimous approval that NTC agree in principle to set up a working party to consider regeneration of Old Market and the surrounding area, with further work to be done to involve GCC and SDC.

Cllr Crawley urged cllrs to make private approaches to ward cllrs, and encourage them to respond.

2009/177 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED that the list of accounts for 15 December 2009 amounting to £12,025.93 be approved for payment.

Item 255 - The Clerk drew attention to the honorarium for Mr Jim Eddyshaw for maintaining the Town Clock, and clarified that he had not in fact incurred any expenditure lately.

2009/178 Mrs D Lister – second letter expressing concerns about the new FGCC

Following her first letter, Cllr Nicholson had arranged a meeting with Mrs Lister which she had postponed, and he would be asked to contact her again to reschedule the meeting to address the concerns expressed in both letters. Cllrs asked the Clerk to circulate the second letter.

2009/179 Mr and Mrs Joyce Affleck – concerns about the new FGCC

The mayor had spoken with Mrs Affleck and would arrange to meet with her to discuss her concerns further. Some cllrs had received Mr Affleck's email directly but it had not been sent formally to the Council. The Mayor undertook to obtain Mr Affleck's agreement to the wider circulation of his email. Cllr Mrs Way had invited Mrs Liz Green to formally express her verbal concerns to the council, but she had not so far done so. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that she had received expressions of support for the project.

2009/180 Stroud & District Motor Club – Cotswold Clouds Trial

The annual event would take place on the Ladder on 7 February 2010.

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Date

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Chairman