

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 5 January 2016

Present	Cllr SM Reed (Chair) Cllr JL Dennis Cllr SK Millett Cllr DL Powell Cllr MP Robinson
Apologies	Cllr EF Bonner

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2015

There were no matters arising.

NORTON WOOD

Cllr Reed reported that the contractors, Charlton Abbots Forestry, had completed the programmed coppicing of hazels and a walnut tree on the perimeter of the wood near the old orchard. Some residents had expressed concern at the extent of the coppicing on their boundaries and she had visited them to explain the reasons for the work. Cllr Reed added that, as part of the management programme for the wood, further trimming of trees on the perimeter would be undertaken where necessary. She had asked Charlton Abbots to quote for coppicing an area of trees on a section of the boundary where no work had previously been undertaken. Cllr Reed was concerned that a split ash tree near the second gate at the top end of the wood could be a potential safety hazard and it was **agreed** that Charlton Abbots be asked to quote for the tree to be felled and split in sections with the wood left in situ.

Cllr Reed reported that she and Cllrs Millett and Powell had inspected the access to the wood near the former Jovial Foresters' car park. Cllr Reed demonstrated on a sketch-map some suggestions for improving the access. After discussion, the following was **agreed**:

- The path near the noticeboard at the entrance to the wood would be made more accessible by the removal of brambles, widening by 1 metre and the introduction of a gravel surface.
- The steep path from the current access point would be blocked off with sleepers and the noticeboard moved to this location to provide a physical barrier and direct walkers to the improved path.

Cllr Millett confirmed that she was in the process of obtaining quotations for two directional signs for the new footpath.

It was suggested that Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV) or a task force from Leyhill Prison might be interested in undertaking some of the above work and the Clerk Designate agreed to explore these possibilities. Cllr Reed reported that a rotten handrail by the steps at an access point to the wood from Burfords Ground needed to be replaced and the Clerk Designate undertook to discuss this with TCV.

PROPOSAL FROM COMMUNITY R4C TO BUILD DISTRICT WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Members discussed the above proposal, which had been the subject of a presentation by Mr Tom Jarman to the November full Council meeting. It was **agreed to recommend** to Council that NTC write to SDC to express support in principle for Community R4C to build a Resource, Recovery, Recycling and Refining Centre (R4C) in Gloucestershire which would provide an alternative to Gloucestershire County Council's proposed incinerator at Javelin Park.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Cllr Millett reported that, after 25 years, SDC had decided for financial reasons to cease to hold its annual Tenants' Gardens competition. SDC had suggested that local residents' associations might choose to run their own competitions in future but Cllr Millett felt that this would be too ambitious a project for these small organisations to manage and suggested that NTC might consider organising a town-wide garden competition, perhaps with support from voluntary organisations such as the Round Table.

Members felt that this suggestion had merit and various possible options were considered. After discussion, it was **agreed to recommend** to Council that NTC seek to organise a non-competitive front garden celebration event, open to all town residents, to take place in July 2016, with certificates being awarded to all residents judged by the Council to have made an effort.

It was suggested that the event could be publicised in the Nailsworth News and SDC 'Key Notes' tenants' publication.

NAILSWORTH FAIRTRADE TOWN

Cllr Reed reported that Nailsworth had, with NTC support, first received accreditation from the Fairtrade Foundation as a 'Fairtrade Town' in 2002. This status had been retained continuously since then, having been successfully renewed every 2 years. The Nailsworth Fairtrade Town Steering Group, on which Cllr Reed was the current NTC representative, was preparing for the next renewal which was due on 19 March 2016. To achieve the renewal, ongoing commitment to achieving five key goals had to be demonstrated. Cllr Reed presented a report, previously circulated, detailing the five goals.

After a short discussion, it was **agreed to recommend** that the Council formally express its support for the five Fairtrade Town goals.

Cllr Reed advised that Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 would run from 29 February to 14 March and that the Fairtrade Town Group would be organising a special event during this period. She added that Fairtrade issues could be relevant to the deliberations of the emerging Nailsworth Climate Change Awareness group.

CLIMATE AWARENESS MEETING

Cllr Reed presented a report, previously circulated, summarising responses from a residents' survey carried out at the Nailsworth Climate Change Awareness Day last October. She reported that a public meeting had been arranged on 29 January at 7pm in the Mortimer Room to discuss ways of developing a local response to the challenge presented by climate change. Cllr Reed invited further suggestions from Committee members and various ideas were suggested, including pesticide reduction, companion and bee-friendly planting and 'Meat-Free Mondays'.

FOOTPATH FROM NEWMARKET ROAD BESIDE CHRIST CHURCH

Cllr Reed reported that following a request from the Council GCC had undertaken clearance work to the footpath. Cllrs Reed and M Robinson undertook to visit householders living in properties bordering to the footpath to ask them to keep their hedges trimmed in order to prevent the path becoming overgrown in future.

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION BINS AT SHORTWOOD CHURCHYARD

Cllr Reed reported that the contractor had reported that unsuitable waste had been deposited in the garden waste bins in the churchyard and requested that a sign be placed indicating that the bins were for green waste only. The Clerk had drafted wording for the sign, which was considered. After discussion, it was agreed that the sign should simply read 'Green Waste Only' and Cllr Millett undertook to seek a quotation for a suitable sign.

FOREST GREEN GREEN

Cllr Reed displayed a sketch-map of the green at Forest Green showing the location of a bund to be built at the lower section of the green to prevent footballs rolling into the road. It was **agreed** to seek to enhance this with bee-friendly planting.

Cllr Reed reported that it had proved to be prohibitively expensive to use large stones to prevent vehicles from parking on the triangle of grass in Moffatt Road adjacent to Forest Green green. After discussion, it was **agreed** that a row of posts be placed 1 metre from the kerb to control parking in this area and at the upper section of the green adjacent to the burial ground. It was also **agreed** that a sign be placed near the entrance to the latter stating 'Parking for disabled access only'.

RESPONSE TO GCC ENQUIRY ON IMPACT OF TRANSPORT ON SOCIAL AND RURAL ISOLATION

It was agreed that the emerging Climate Change group should be asked to consider this matter and suggest an appropriate response.

CONSIDERATION OF REPLACING TWO BENCHES ON THE 'W'

A letter had been received from a Minchinhampton resident pointing out that the two rustic benches which had previously existed on the common adjacent to the 'W' had fallen into disrepair and were now unusable. It was agreed to seek a quotation for replacement benches. The Clerk Designate understood that the TCV could supply and fit suitable benches and agreed to contact this organisation for advice.

ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE SYSTEMS

Information about electronic signage systems, together with a quotation, had been previously circulated. Cllr Reed explained that such systems could be useful for publicising Council information and local events. Members felt that the Arkell Community Centre and the Library window might be suitable locations.

It was **agreed to recommend** that the matter be referred to the Communications Working Party for discussion and recommendation to Council.

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that NTC write to SDC to express support in principle for Community R4C to build a Resource, Recovery, Recycling and Refining Centre (R4C) in Gloucestershire which would provide an alternative to Gloucestershire County Council has proposed incinerator at Javelin Park.

RECOMMENDED that NTC seek to organise a non-competitive front garden celebration event, open to all town residents, to take place in July 2016, with certificates being awarded to all residents judged by the Council to have made an effort.

RECOMMENDED

That Council formally expresses its support for the five Fairtrade Town goals, as follows:

GOAL 1: *The local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings and in its offices and canteens)*

GOAL 2: *A range of Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés/catering establishments*

GOAL 3: *Local work places and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.*

GOAL 4: *Events and media coverage raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.*

GOAL 5: *A local Fairtrade steering group representing a range of local organisations and sectors meets regularly to ensure the Fairtrade Town continues to develop and gain support.*

RECOMMENDED

that the information on electronic signage systems be referred to the Communications Working Party for discussion and recommendation to Council.