

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
on Tuesday 18 July 2006

Present	Cllr Mrs S M Reed (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck * Cllr M K Akhtar Cllr J D Bratby * Cllr J Byrne * Cllr E A McLean * Cllr N I Kay * Cllr Mrs L J Williams-Allen
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Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr W S Waddington District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns
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Apologies	Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs A J Smith
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\* denotes absence from part of the meeting

**2006/45 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Nailsworth Town Website**

Mr Bruce Burn updated the meeting on the development of the website. Since monitoring had begun on 3 June, there had been 1264 visits, of which many were from abroad. Mr Burn requested clearer guidance from councillors as to what they wanted on the site and felt councillors' vision statements and details of committee activities would be good. He suggested including a 'guest book' to record (vetted) comments and feed back from visitors. Cllrs agreed to publish the approved full council minutes (commencing with June 06) which the Clerk was asked to forward to Mr Burn.

The Mayor advised that the Vision Statement and Action Plan would soon be available for publication and it was hoped advance notice of roadworks could also be put on the site.

**Selling of Concert Tickets**

Mrs Affleck had been misinformed that Nailsworth TIC was selling concert tickets and taking a cut of the income. She was reassured that Nailsworth TIC only sold Nailsworth Festival tickets and had certainly never taken any commission.

\* Cllr Kay joined the meeting during the above discussions

**Comments from Mr David Rice at last month's Public Question Time**

Cllrs mentioned that they did not quite appreciate in what capacity Mr Rice had addressed the meeting in June, and Cllr Bratby promised to provide more information on him and his research at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

**2006/46 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2006 were approved and signed with the following amendment:

Minute 2006/25, second sentence to read

"There had been a substantial increase in criminal damage but this could be attributed to the change in the basis of reporting such incidents."

**2006/47 CONSULTATION ON HEALTH SERVICE CUTS (minute 2006/31)**

Cllrs were advised that the consultation period had been extended to 11 August and that Mr Jeff James had provided some responses to the questions asked. A letter had also been received from the Department of Health, on which Cllr Kay commented and suggested it was circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs were dismayed that the cuts appeared to be inevitable and that the consultation was cosmetic.

**2006/48 GCC MOBILE LIBRARY (minute 2006/37)**

The Clerk advised that she had received the new schedule of routes effective from 17 July.

**2006/49 REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PART OF FUNDS FOR MUGA (minute 2006/32)**

The Clerk read out to the meeting the reply from Ms Karen Toole SDC, which confirmed that there would be no early release of funds from the £85,000 reserved for the MUGA and that SDC's contribution was currently estimated at £10,000 dependent on the final shortfall. Ms Toole referred to a final Management Agreement, which Cllrs were not aware had been agreed and the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy.

The Clerk advised that she would approach GCC for a contribution once the final shortfall was known.

**2006/50 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**District Cllr Mrs Bruce** was unable to attend and had sent her apologies.

**District Cllr Mrs Binns** advised that she had a new Cabinet position on Community Cohesion, which included Community Safety. She confirmed that the government's directive to standardise recording of crime statistics nationwide had misleadingly increased the number of incidences and she offered her help in providing explanations. The Neighbourhood Warden Scheme across the District continued to be a great success and had been featured in the nationwide Network newsletter, receiving interest from other councils in the country.

**County Cllr Waddington** advised that EDC Environmental Waste Control Ltd would take over the recycling part of the County's waste disposal contract from 4 August. EDC was progressive in treating waste as a saleable product and he was confident that the company would enhance the County's recycling record. The introduction of kitchen waste for composting would be added to the scheme. He would be recommending to GCC that the existing contractor be retained for a further 7 years for the landfill contract.

In response to Cllr Kay, Cllr Waddington advised that incineration was not an option in GB and that end treatments, such as burning to produce power, were under discussion but the technology was as yet incomplete.

Cllr Waddington's attempts to get advance notice of roadworks had led to the promise of a six month forward plan which would eventually be published on the GCC website. Parish and town council would also be provided with this information.

There were many government initiatives and changes in the organisation of children & youth services. The new director of GCC youth services lived in Nailsworth and Cllr Waddington was arranging for him to meet Mr Steve Robinson of Nailsworth Youth Club.

Cllr Kay was pleased that the yellow lines had finally been painted outside the Sub Rooms, but queried when the other agreed lines around the town would be done. He and Cllr Waddington would pursue the matter by email.

\* Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen joined the meeting during the above report.

**2006/51 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

22 June	Interview for the new TH caretaker were held with Cllr Bratby. Attended Nailsworth Primary School 'Celebration of Arts' .
23 June	Looked into Local History at the Nailsworth Library and Glos Records Office. Presented Cotswold Chine certificates of achievement. Attended a question & answer session with Mr Jeff James, Chief Executive, Glos Partnership NHS.
24 June	Attended the 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Nailsworth Guide Company
27 June	Attended the 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of Queen Elizabeth Celebrations of Nailsworth Brownies.
29 June	Attended the steering group with Roger Evans Associates.
1 July	Attended the Nailsworth Twinning Association's open house coffee morning.
3 July	Worked on the Action Plan, to go onto the website for public consultation before completion. Cllr Waddington suggested that a GCC officer visit the town council to discuss public transport issues.
4 July	Attended the Old Market public consultation meeting for the Town Plan.
5 July	Attended the Living Landscape Project in Rodborough with Cllr Kay.
6 July	Presented the Nailsworth Primary School sporting awards.
10 July	With the Clerk and Cllr Bratby met with Mr Norrie Curtis SDC and Mr William Beeston to discuss works taking place on the corner of Fountain Street. Attended meeting of Nailsworth Primary School Governors.
12 July	Attended the official opening of the Primary School new outdoor covered area, exercise trail, gym and wilderness planting; fantastic state of the art facilities for the school.
13 July	Attended Ruskin Mill open day and leaving presentation for students. Attended an evening buffet with Probus Club at Beaudesert School.
15 July	Opened the first Summer Fete at Ringfield Close; congratulations to Janet and her colleagues for a successful afternoon.

The Mayor was pleased to report that a new **caretaker for the Town Hall** had been appointed to start on 19 July.

The Mayor invited Cllrs to attend a meeting on **7 September** to assess responses to the consultation on the draft **Vision Plan**, and a further meeting on **21 September** to review the draft. Following final adjustments at a meeting to be held on **5 October** the Vision Plan would be posted onto the website. The Mayor added that Roger Evans was working with SDC on a 20 year plan which would include Nailsworth Town Centre. This was very much in partnership with SDC who were paying 75% of the fees.

The third **Action Plan** draft would be published for public consultation for finalising at the September Council meeting.

The Mayor added that she was delighted to see the number of community activities taking place and applauded the involvement of residents with each other and the town.

**2006/52 STONE FOUNTAIN**

The Mayor confirmed that, following the site meeting held on 10 July, Mr Curtis was looking into costs for restoration of the monument. As preparatory work for provision of services had not in fact been undertaken as part of William's Kitchen rebuild, and now that SDC was finally accepting responsibility for the Fountain itself, it had been decided to defer NTC's provision of plinth and services, until final details on size, location and timing were known.

**2006/53 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Kay was given approval to send a goodwill card to retiring head of GCC youth services, Mr Mike Counsel, and looked forward to working with new head Mr Bill Robinson.

NTC would have a stand at the Farmers' Market this coming Saturday and again in August, and attendance from other Cllrs would be appreciated.

Cllr Kay had looked at the Market Street Triangle with Mr Peter Rushton and had put back the public consultation meeting to 10am on 29 July; a poster was on site advertising this meeting. It was confirmed that the scrub had been cleared from the area.

Youth Worker Ms Tracy Young was consulting the young people about FG Residents Association's suggestion to install lighting at the youth shelter on Miles Marling Field, and a joint site meeting would take place in due course. The recent Youth Club AGM had been a well attended event, and Cllr Kay felt the town was lucky to have such a thriving and voluntarily-run club. It had recently been awarded £9000 from the Lottery Fund for improvements to the building. The Club also had a new sporting champion, winner of the UK under 14s pool competitions in June.

#### **2006/54 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs had no objection to the open meeting in Mortimer Gardens on 9 September with the Bishop of Tewkesbury.

The Clerk reported receipt of the Cotswold Conservation Board annual review, and SDC Affordable Housing News (to be passed onto the Planning Committee).

#### **2006/55 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Bratby presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 26 June and the minutes were approved.

#### **2006/56 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 26 June and the minutes were approved.

The Clerk read out a letter from Christ Church requesting an increase in grant for upkeep of graveyards, especially in consideration of their increased business following closure of Shortwood Churchyard. Following discussion, it was agreed to award the £750 already agreed, with an additional grant if there were surplus funds in the graveyards budget at the end of the year. (The Clerk drew attention to the likelihood of there being considerable expenditure required at Shortwood Graveyard to resolve the spring problem.) It was further agreed to review the annual grant awarded to Christ Church for the next financial year.

The Clerk recommended that the amount covered by the fidelity guarantee be increased to £260,000 in accordance with approved calculations, and this was agreed.

#### **2006/57 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

There were insufficient Cllrs present to approve the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 10 July.

Item 4 - The Clerk confirmed that the date for the push test of Shortwood headstones had been set for 14 August. She was obtaining a plan of the graves.

Item 7 - The way leave agreement for moving the electricity pylon on Lord of the Manor land opposite the Primary School had been received for signature.

#### **2006/58 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 22 June could not be approved since there were insufficient Cllrs present. Cllr Affleck drew attention to application S.1424/FUL and

PROPOSED that NTC strenuously oppose any applications involving additional access onto Nympsfield Road/Spring Hill, given the anticipated increase in traffic on this road. The motion was seconded by Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen and unanimously approved.

Cllr Affleck had emailed the SDC Enforcement Officer regarding 16 Fountain Street, and would chase for a response. Cllrs deplored the amateur and inappropriate new shop fascia.

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 6 July and the minutes were approved.

A four-page housing survey would be inserted into the September edition of the Fountain with a sae, following which the town's affordable housing needs could be assessed. Cllr Akhtar thought it would be useful to explain to the public the exact meaning and criteria of affordable housing.

Cllr Affleck had written to District Cllr Jeffreys regarding derelict buildings, cohesive shop signage and proliferation of A boards. Cllr Jeffreys was now on holiday but had passed the comments to the relevant SDC officers.

\* Cllr McLean left the meeting.

Members of the Planning Committee were concerned that they were being asked to handle diverse issues because of the frequency of the committee's meetings and recommended the redistribution of certain matters that had fallen to them.

The Mayor added that there was still work to be done on the Town and Action Plans. Some land areas may have been overlooked and the Mayor wished Ms Bojaniwska to identify these so that they could be included in the forward thinking.

PROPOSED Cllr Bratby proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen, that following completion of the Town and Action Plans, Ms Bojaniwska be commissioned to identify and record green spaces in greater Nailsworth that fell outside the previous calculations.

Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen had sent a report following complaints from residents on the condition of the Crown Inn at Inchbrook, which Cllr Affleck had not received. It would be resent.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meeting held on 6 July 2006 be approved.

### **2006/59 ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06**

The Clerk was congratulated on her preparation of the supporting notes which aided the completion of this audit.

PROPOSED Cllr Bratby proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen to unanimous approval that the Statement of Accounts for 2005/06 be adopted.

### **2006/60 ACCOUNTS**

Item 111 – the Clerk reported a letter from Mr Bruce Buchanan asking if NTC was ready to put in a planning application for the FG Community Centre. Results of the public consultation questionnaire would not be ready until September.

Items 119/120 – despite the agreement not to go ahead with transferral of the accounts from Npower to British Gas until the end of the contractual year with Npower, it appeared that the change had been made anyway. The Clerk confirmed that the savings to be made with British Gas would be greater than the cost of early release from the Npower contract.

Item 128 – the Clerk advised that she had negotiated an additional free disabling key for the vehicle within the invoiced cost.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 18 July 2006 amounting to £35,475.78 be approved for payment.

**2006/61 INSURANCE for GROUNDSMAN's VEHICLE**

The Clerk confirmed that she had consulted a broker to insure the vehicle but he had not been able to find a single company prepared to cover it in isolation. It was noted that road tax was not required.

PROPOSED Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Affleck that the groundsman's vehicle be included on the Council's general insurance policy at a premium of £350 p.a. (subject to future no claims bonus).

**2006/62 Wright Hassall – lease KGV extension field**

The Clerk read out the letter from NTC's solicitor asking to know who would be responsible for costs in relation to (1) revision of lease for extension field, and (2) variation of section 106 relating to play space on Redrow development of ex-FGRFC site.

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to respond that (1) was up to FGR-FC, and (2) would fall to Redrow or NTC.

The Clerk advised that the seeding of the field had resulted in an infestation of an unknown weed. Concern was expressed at the stability and content of the structure. The Clerk drew attention to her unanswered April letter to FGR-FC in which she had accepted a delayed completion against written assurances on various issues, including the field being ready for full use by 1<sup>st</sup> August, which it clearly would not be. The grass was growing reasonably well and it was agreed not to press for a grass sward inspection.

It was agreed that the structure of the new field should have been monitored by SDC which was responsible for it at the building stage, and Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen added that the 106 agreement referred to it as being "to the specifications of a sports pitch". NTC could not accept ownership until the field was in an acceptable and usable condition and insurance against future problems might be advisable. The solicitor had confirmed that Mr Smith had declined to provide an indemnity. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Barnard to see if he could use his good offices with Mr Smith but failing success stating that NTC would look to FGRFC to provide the indemnity it required.

**2006/63 SDC – proposed boundary changes**

Cllrs had no objection to the incorporation of part of Crystal Fountain into Nailsworth, and the removal of Scar Hill properties whose owners had elected to move to Minchinhampton. Cllrs did not feel it mattered that parish and electoral boundaries would no longer tally. The Clerk was asked to respond in approval of the boundary changes.

**2006/64 GCC – recruitment of volunteer drivers**

As a result of health cuts, GCC had to rely even more on volunteer drivers and recruits were being sought for community transport schemes.

**2006/65 GCC – new number for reporting problems with roads**

The new telephone number was 08000 514 514. Cllr Bratby would report the broken gully on Fountain Street.

**2006/66 SDC – Crime & Disorder Partnership**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June had been sent, along with a community crime partnership questionnaire.

**2006/67 Cheltenham & Tewkesbury NHS PCT – consultation document  
'Future of Healthcare in Gloucestershire'**

Cllr Kay offered to summarise the document on sustainable healthcare services and would email his comments to Cllrs.

**2006/68 GCC – road closures Jubilee Road and Burma Road**

Notification had been sent that the roads would be closed from 31 July to 14 August.

**2006/69 GCC – Lawnside/Bunting Hill Prohibition of Driving Order**

The traffic calming measures requested by residents were being installed.

**2006/70 Stroud Valleys Cycling Campaign – results of questionnaire**

The questionnaire had received a fantastic response and the results were attached.

**2006/71 GCC – Highway Maintenance & Traffic Management Seminar**

Cllr Bratby was very keen to attend the seminar at Shire Hall on 30 October at 6pm.

**2006/71 Ramblers Association – Use Your Paths Challenge**

The Association had issued a challenge to walk all the footpaths and bridleways across the country by September 2007 and participants were invited to cover different areas. Mrs de Lacroix was asked to respond to Mr Pool and put a piece in the September Fountain. Cllrs were inspired to consider a survey of Nailsworth's footpaths and their condition and elected to ask the Environment Committee to look into this in consultation with Mr Mike Brinkworth. It was noted that Mrs Makemson had a plan of 82 local footpaths in the Archives.

**2006/72 Glos Charter Test Group**

Volunteers had formed a group and minutes of their initial meeting had been provided. The group sought ideas for monitoring the performance of the County Council.

**2006/73 GCC – Avening Road**

The two-week repair of the collapsed wall by the Weighbridge would commence on 17 July.

**2006/74 AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING**

It was proposed that no Council meeting be held during August and that delegated power be approved for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, consulting with other Cllrs as appropriate, to take decisions on matters which could not be deferred until the next meeting in September. The proposal was approved.

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Chairman

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Date