

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
 Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 October 2008
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr J R Nicholson 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 RTH Blackwell District Cllr J T Jeffreys District Cllr Miss F Macmillan
Apologies	Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J D Bratby Cllr B Jayes County Cllr J S Waddington

2008/98 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The question was asked as to what the relationship was between NTC and NYCE. The Mayor responded that, following help from NTC with locating the remaining trustee of the Boys Club, supporting the campaign to save the building from sale, and advice and funding towards the legal fees to set up the company, NYCE was now an independent organisation, with currently no NTC representative on its committee. Latterly Cllr Bratby had been NTC's representative but had since resigned.

2008/99 REPORT ON THE CHAMBER OF TRADE

Cllr Carter had attended two meetings of the Chamber and reported that it seemed to be reasonably thriving with Mr Peter Blackwell as the new president. At the last meeting the Chamber agreed to update its website and was busy with plans for the Christkindl Evening, which this year would be on a more traditional theme and feature low key fairground rides to appeal to younger families, in the hope of deterring the disruptive teenage element of the previous couple of years.

2008/100 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2008 were confirmed and signed with the addition of Cllr Robinson's apologies.

2008/101 YOUTH SUPPORT FOR NAILSWORTH (minute 2008/78)

Cllr Robinson reported that he had this evening received a Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Intention from GCC for the Nailsworth Youth Worker appointment. He would email the documents to all cllrs and it was agreed that he would, with the mayor and Cllr Nicholson, review the papers so they could be signed and returned without delay.

2008/102 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – ACTION ON BUS SERVICES (minute 2008/87)

Cllr Nicholson updated cllrs on the committee's initiative led by Cllr Mrs Way to address public transport issues in the town, which had led to a meeting with Stagecoach, at which the company agreed that the 17.35 service from Cheltenham would be extended to Forest Green, along with the 18.35 service (trial) from Cheltenham, both of which would then run a service back to Stroud. The 18.25 service from Cheltenham on Saturday would also now terminate at Forest Green and run a service back to Stroud. Following a bedding down period for these extended services, Stagecoach

said it would then consider the possibility of concessionary rates between Forest Green and Nailsworth town centre. Full notes from the meeting would be circulated in due course.

2008/102 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Fi Macmillan reported that the laboratory test results from Miry Brook showed acceptable levels of contaminates and were in fact an improvement on tests done in 2006. Groundworks had been instigated over the last couple of weeks to rescue the landslip.

Following the meeting with Stagecoach, funding from the government was available for new bus routes and she was pursuing this on behalf of Nailsworth.

Changes in the SDC planning framework might cause new issues with planning.

District Cllr Jeffreys advised that cabinet had met on 2 October and cllrs would be meeting on 6 November. SDC had endorsed the decision to take up the government's 'free swimming for the over 60's' programme. He had brought NTC a copy of the new Health & Community Wellbeing Strategy for Gloucestershire, and outlined its main points.

1st to 7th November was National Youth Week, and an event to celebrate this would take place at Ebley Mill on 3 November. The Budgetary process was due to start shortly, with the first business consultation meeting to be held on 5 November.

District Cllr Blackwell had nothing further to add.

2008/103 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Following council's agreement that he should contact Prices Mill Surgery about setting up a **Patients Participation Group**, the Mayor had been invited to meet with Surgery managers to discuss the idea. Partnership meetings were held on Friday lunchtime and the Mayor proposed to attend one of these with Cllr Mrs Binns and Ms Caroline Smith, Participation Manager for Glos PCT who was keen to encourage this initiative.

Ms Rachel Small, SDC Regeneration Manager, had advised that the Glos Environment Trust had finally granted £10k to complete the funding for the **Stone Fountain project**. Cllr Carter would join the Mayor at a meeting with SDC officers this Friday to move the project forward. Mr Norrie Curtis SDC had been asked to check that the building bids were still valid and it was not anticipated that there would be any problem in renewing the planning permission which expires this month. It was tentatively hoped that work might finally start this autumn.

NTC had recently revived the project to create a large **MUGA at Forest Green**, and Mr Tim Barnard FGR-FC had reported sufficient positive response from surrounding clubs to support an application to the Football Foundation for funding. The cost of the project had now risen to £310k and the Mayor commented that no funds had so far been committed by either GCC or SDC. He thought it unlikely that the Football Foundation would provide the full cost.

The Mayor had attended the formal **opening of Maple Tree Court** by Princess Anne and had had an interesting discussion with the Princess about the lack of care villages for those who could not afford to buy into these schemes.

FGR-FC was setting up a **Supporters Trust** with the aim of improving links with the community and involving the public more in the club. Cllr Robinson would report on the meeting later.

The Mayor drew attention to **Holocaust Remembrance Day** on 27 January, which had been commemorated in Stroud in the past. He wished to approach faith groups and schools in Nailsworth in order to organise an event of thought and remembrance for all those who had suffered from genocide.

2008/104 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson had attended the meeting with Cllr Mrs Way to launch the **FGR-FC Supporters Trust**. Under the chairmanship of Mr Tim Barnard, the Trust already had 80 members and terms of reference had been drawn up. Cllr Robinson had also attended a match and meal at which he discussed the Trust with directors and residents. He understood a formal letter was being sent to the council. Sponsors were sought to help fund a free Community Day at the end of March, which would cost £10k but for which the Trust was making no financial request to this Council. The Trust was looking at activities to involve the community and was aware many residents had never been to a match.

FGR was also about to start selling shares in the club, minimum £250/share, to boost the Club's finances and be in a position to 'buy' better players.

Cllr Robinson had been approached by Mr Peter Blackwell, Chamber of Trade, who had subsequently written to NTC, asking for help this year in covering the £4k financial shortfall caused by lost revenue from the big fairground rides at **Christkindl Evening**. The Clerk read out the letter explaining the decision to have a more child-friendly evening. Cllrs were concerned that the implication was that changes had been made to the evening due to pressure from NTC, which was not the case. It was the police, and many residents, who had been unhappy with the last two events.

Cllr Nicholson reminded the meeting that the Chamber of Trade originally organised the Christmas lights and Christkindl Evening to show its appreciation to customers for their business throughout the year, and it had gradually grown into a much bigger event. Some years ago NTC had taken over the not inconsiderable expense of the Christmas lights which Cllr Nicholson felt was sufficient contribution from the council to the evening. He did not feel that it was appropriate to commit more funds to this event. Discussion ensued.

RESOLVED Cllr Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Carter that a one-off payment of £1000 be awarded from the grants budget to the Chamber of Trade towards Christkindl Evening 2008. The motion was carried with five in favour and two against.

2008/105 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing to add to her written report.

2008/106 REPORT OF SPECIAL RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 30 September and the minutes were approved. Subsequently the proposal for revising Nailstock 2009 had been circulated to Cllrs.

Cllrs asked the organisers who were present, to clarify various points;

Questions from cllrs	Answers from Chris Gregory, Jonathan Duckworth
How access to the site could be restricted	The organisers were in discussion with the police about securing the perimeter. They were aware of several weak areas, such as the gated access to the Smith field, and by the Pavilion and planned for additional fencing at these points.
What specific additional security arrangements were planned	Possibly identification stamp or wrist tag. SIA personnel (nationally registered bouncers) would be on the gate, controlling who and what was brought onto the site.
Concern over proposed two-day event causing two days of disruption to nearby residents	It was a big investment to set up for just one day and two very different music styles were planned to appeal to different audiences. The organisers were not aware that residents had been unhappy

	in the past but were happy to knock on doors.
Concern over two days of parking congestion and disruption (On Festival Saturday, additional parking was organised at Renishaw to help alleviate this problem)	The organisers' proposal last year to close Park Road to all but residents, or make it one way had been deemed unnecessary by local people. They had had no feedback on parking complaints. It was intended to repeat the promotion of public transport with the support of Stagecoach, which the organisers felt had been a success this year.
At the joint meeting held recently, the police had indicated they were unable to man a two-day event, but the proposal indicated they were now on board. Clarification of police involvement in 2009 would be required.	The change of heart was due to the intention to have two very different days entertainment which would be independent from one another.
The Clerk reminded the organisers that rules for use of the field were unchanged in that a donation could be requested, but nobody could be refused entry through non payment.	
	The event would be part of the Nailsworth Festival, and the name 'Nailstock' would be dropped, hopefully along with its reputation as the 'first music festival of the season'.
Had the organisers considered dropping the event altogether for a year to start afresh in 2010	Yes, but general feeling was that the impetus would be lost and it would be impossible to get going again.
Cllrs would like to see agreed measurements for this year's event (nos. present, no. of arrests, etc), so that it's success and problems could be properly assessed; also comparisons between different years	Some comparisons between Saul Festival and Nailstock 2008 had been provided by the police, but the much higher number of arrests recorded for Nailsworth were in fact mostly first aid incidents.

PROPOSED

Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Way that conditional approval be given to the Nailsworth Music Festival 2009 pending clarification of the following points and detailed consultation with residents, with a final decision to be made at the November council meeting.

- Feed back from Park Road residents that they can cope with a two-day event.
- Clear commitment from the Police of their support for the event.
- Proactive evidence of plans for stewarding and organisation to minimise disruption.
- Establishment of criteria against which the success of the event can be measured.

The motion was carried

Cllrs Byrne, Carter and Nicholson were authorised to pursue these matters with the organisers and report back to the November council meeting.

2008/107 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting held on 23 September and the minutes were approved.

Discussion ensued about the recommendation for **the use of the council chamber** by Nailsworth Community Partnership which with the approval of the meeting the Mayor took in two parts. The first part suggesting that NCP be offered the use of NTC managed public rooms free of charge for six months was rejected. It was felt no exception should be made to council policy and that NCP could request help with expenses by making a grant application.

The second part refusing use of the council chamber to the NCP for security reasons was approved. It was noted in discussion that the chamber had been offered as a venue for non-NTC meetings in the past but rarely and only in exceptional circumstances. Its occasional use on this basis could continue.

The Mayor and Cllr Carter declared non pecuniary interests.

2008/108 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting held on 14 October and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Byrne had today received the reports for the Clerk to submit to GCC Highways for approval for **Market Street Triangle**, following which a planning application could be made. Cllr Byrne would circulate the document to cllrs along with costs of management fees.

Cllr Robinson reported that he had met with **skateboarders** and a petition was being circulated requesting improvements to the facility at KGV field.

The Clerk advised the costs for **refurbishing the tennis courts**: £1700 washing, £260 weedkilling, £1900 painting = £3860. Although this could be done in two stages it was agreed that the overhanging tree/hedge problem should be resolved first and the Clerk was arranging this with Tree Maintenance. The Clerk suggested the boundary fencing in the problem area needed reinstating, so that a clear metre of ground could be maintained between the boundary and the court netting.

The Clerk pointed out that the **KGV field extension** appeared not to have been cut for some time. Having failed to get any response through his solicitor, the Clerk would write directly to Mr Smith, asking him to sign the lease and to maintain the field in the meantime.

2008/109 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMICS & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 2 October and the minutes were approved.

The Trustees of **the Bequest** had written asking for progress on a list of projects and the Clerk would respond that matters were in hand.

2008/110 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe thought plans were on schedule for the November 3rd takeover of the Redrow suite. She was meeting on Thursday with Ms Barbara Pond GCC to work further on the business plan. It had been decided to resubmit the planning application to bring forward the opening hours to 9am with the support of ward cllrs. Cllr Nicholson said this had been done as a resubmission which incurred no cost, and he felt confident that it would be approved.

2008/111 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meeting held on 18 September.

Discussion had already started with the Diocese and Bruton Knowles for affordable housing on the vicarage land.

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting held on 7 October with replacement of references to Cllr Byrne to Cllr Bratby.

It was agreed to defer the adoption of the Design Statement to the next meeting as a few minor adjustments were required.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 18 September and 7 October 2008 be approved.

2008/112 ADOPT A KIOSK PROGRAMME

Cllrs were referred to previous discussions reported under minute 2008/84. The Clerk had no further news to report but it was understood SDC's objections had been unsuccessful. The Mayor confirmed that both Watledge and Shortwood K6s were down for removal.

PROPOSED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Robinson to unanimous approval that NTC regrettably accept the loss of the Watledge and Shortwood public telephone kiosks.

2008/113 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that the audit opinion had been returned with 'no comment' and she was congratulated on her work. Lloyds Bank was having great difficulty in sorting out signatories for the council account despite the Clerk's efforts.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 21 October 2008 amounting to £25,634.66 be approved for payment.

2008/114 SDC- Standards Committee Vacancy

Cllr Mrs Mattie Ross from Stonehouse had been elected to fill the vacancy.

2008/115 SDC – Community Safety Panel meeting – 12 November 2008

The Mayor would attend the half-yearly meeting at Ebley Mill.

2008/116 Sir William Romneys School – vacancy for Partnership Governor

The Mayor urged Cllrs to put forward candidates for this post as a significant number of Nailsworth children attended the school. Nominations were requested by 17 November.

2008/117 Royal British Legion – arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

The parade on Sunday 9 November would start from the bus station at 10.35am and cllrs were invited to attend; tea/coffee to be organised by the RBL after the service.

2008/118 League of Friends of Stroud Hospital – Council representative

Former Cllr Mr Jim Eddyshaw had indicated that he would be willing to continue as NTC representative on this committee, which was gratefully accepted.

2008/119 SDC – temporary road closures for Market Street markets

Market Street would be closed on Saturdays 8 November and 13 December for the craft market.

2008/120 SDC – Community Planning Grant Scheme 08/09

Grants were available for parish plans and design statements.

2008/121 Office Rail Regulation – response to council communication

NTC's support of the campaign to have double tracks on the Kemble/Swindon line was acknowledged, with a decision to be made on 30 October.

2008/122 Communities & Local Government – consultation about the making and enforcement of byelaws

The Mayor undertook to review the document and circulate a summary to cllrs; comments were invited by 20 November.

2008/123 SDC – temporary road closures for Christkindl Evening

Cllrs thought the times for closing various sections of the town centre were somewhat extended, but Cllr Robinson thought the event on Friday 28 November might be starting earlier this year.

2008/124 SDC – community legal advice network for Gloucestershire

A countywide network of advice centres was planned, to help especially in rural areas. There was an opportunity to become involved in the consultation and set up, and information was available on the website. Cllrs were unsure how this would affect CAB and Cllr Nicholson offered to investigate.

2008/125 GCC – parking enforcement Fountain Street

Cllrs agreed with GCC’s proposal to replace the missing 1h time limit sign for the parking spaces along the church wall above Lloyds Bank. (It was thought that the few spaces directly in front of the bank were on property belonging to Lloyds.)

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Date

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Chairman