

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the Meeting of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 19 April 2011

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr N I Kay Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr J T Jefferies Peter Wilson and Andy Murray, Neighbourhood Wardens
Apologies	Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J A Byrne

The Mayor made special mention of Cllr Nicholson's 20 years on the council and thanked him for his enormous contribution over the time. His expertise had been invaluable and he would be sorely missed. He was presented with a small gift.

2011/263 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2011/264 PRESENTATION by NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Peter Wilson passed round a written overview of the service which was launched in 2002 with two wardens, currently seven. In addition to being the eyes and ears of the community, the Wardens were now trained First Responders. Their role covered a wide variety of activities; including stepping in to cover school crossing patrols; providing transport support in their 4x4 vehicles in bad weather conditions for essential services such as meals on wheels; monitoring fly tipping and giving evidence in prosecutions; removing abandoned vehicles/bikes; removing graffiti; helping to manage antisocial parking. Cllrs thanked the Wardens for attending and appreciated Mr Wilson's monthly reports.

2011/265 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2011 were approved and signed.

2011/266 CLOSURE of SOUTH CERNEY & WILDERNESS CENTRE (minute 2011/145)

The Mayor advised that he had received a reply from Mark Hawthorn, confirming the information given in Cllr Waddington's report under 2011/248.

2011/267 CHURCH STREET PARKING (minute 2011/244)

Mr Burfitt had not responded to the draft letters for GCC and SDC. Cllr Crawley and the Mayor undertook to amend the wording to remove the possible impression that NTC had changed its policy on residents parking. The letters to obtain more information on regulations and costs only would then be sent.

2011/268 ROAD REPAIRS at MINCHINHAMPTON (minute 2011/248)

County Cllr Waddington confirmed that a special steel plate was awaited so that a temporary repair could be done on the Minchinhampton Road (full repair delayed because of the badger breeding

season), since this job had to be done before work on the Avening Road could commence. He hoped that one shared lane on the Minchinhampton Road would reopen by the end of this week.

2011/269 SLOW DOWN SIGN by INCHBROOK BENDS (minute 2011/248)
Cllr Mrs Smith had yet to report this to GCC Highways.

2011/270 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington had met with Mark Parker and the Police. He confirmed that the recommendation from the Police would be to sell the adjoining police station and move into the Library space. The Mayor advised that a special working party set up by NTC to look at property options, would be meeting next week, and would then consult with the Library and Police, after these organisations had made a decision about their buildings, which would not be before mid May.

District Cllr Jeffreys had nothing to report, but as his period of office was coming to an end and he was not seeking re-election, he wished to say good bye after 11 years of service, for 9 of which he represented Nailsworth and Horsley. He wished the council well, and the feeling was reciprocated.

2011/271 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

31 March	met with several individuals who were interested in becoming Town Cllrs
25 March	visited the Arkell Community Centre and was very impressed. The Mayor wished to thank Cllr Mrs Thorpe for all her hard work in bringing this project to fruition.
	attended the GMTF meeting on youth work at Fairford, where the panel included Mark Hawthorn GCC and one of the Deputy Chief Constables.
4 April	the Annual Town Meeting was well supported
11 April	the Mayor's Reception seemed to have been enjoyed by all present and the Mayor had written to thank the two young performers
During April	several meetings had taken place with groups involved in town gardening projects.
14-18 April	took part in the twinning trip to Lèves and thoroughly enjoyed the experience
19 April	was interviewed at Stroud FM on the current youth work situation and other relevant topics

2011/272 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR
Cllr Mrs Thorpe had been fully occupied on the Arkell Centre project.

2011/273 REPORT of TOWN CLERK
The Clerk had nothing additional to report.
Cllr Kay suggested some of the GAPTC training courses might be of interest to new Cllrs.

2011/274 REPORTS from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES
Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee
Cllr Mrs Way explained a little about this committee of 20 members representing the commons, surrounding parishes and National Trust. Volunteers were keenly welcomed to help with clearance work. Cllr Mrs Way advised that although she was standing down from the council, she would be happy to continue as the council's representative on this committee for the time being, or until another council wished to take over. She would provide reports as and when matters of interest to Nailsworth came up.

2011/275 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Cllr Mrs Way presented the report of the meeting held on 18 April and the minutes were approved. Cllr Mrs Thorpe voiced the council's thanks to Cllr Mrs Way for all her sterling work.

2011/276 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE
Cllr Carter presented the reports of the meetings held on 17 March and 5 April.

Some discussion ensued about Cllr Mrs Smith's suggestion to **reverse traffic flow on Market Street** and it was explained that this idea had been visited many times before, and no satisfactory conclusion had ever been reached. The Old Market/Spring Hill junction became extremely congested at busy times, especially with the increased populations at Forest Green and Newmarket, but there was no easy way of redirecting the traffic. Environment Committee would be asked to revisit the matter.

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 17 March and 5 April 2011 be approved
-----------------	---

2011/277 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 22 March and the minutes were approved.

2011/278 REPORT of RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 12 April and the minutes were approved.

Cllr M Robinson had agreed to oversee the building of the new concrete base at the **KGV skateboard park** to the specification indicated by Maverick. Cllr Crawley recommended that Andy Wilkins and the young people who use the facility should be invited to approve the new installation before it was signed off. The proposal was approved.

The Clerk added that comments had been made that graffiti on the ramps should be cleaned up, but there was an awful lot of it, and it was agreed that this was a normal and acceptable form of expression for the young people, (other than obscene, offensive or personal attacks which would be removed). The obligatory rules and regulations sign had also been defaced and it was agreed that a replacement should be ordered.

Both Cllrs Byrne and Nicholson had agreed to continue overseeing the **Market Street Garden** project. This was greatly appreciated.

Cllr Nicholson expressed concern that NTC should risk sacrificing the **MUGA** to the FGRFC/School astro-turf pitch aspirations, and was convinced that the Football Foundation, having already made substantial contribution to the FGR stadium, was unlikely to commit further funding to the same area. Cllr Crawley added his intention that the MUGA funds and project should not be jeopardised or held back by investigations into the feasibility of an astro-turf pitch. Cllr M Robinson advised that the principal activity on astro-turf was hockey, and definitely not rugby; Cllr Crawley advised that it was intended to be used for rugby training and hockey but there were already two other astro-turf pitches in the area. The Primary School saw the advantage of having this facility to enhance its sports reputation despite it being highly unusual for a primary school.

The Diocese had indicated informally that there would be no question of granting NTC freehold of the MUGA site, and leasehold terms would need to be negotiated.

Cllr Mrs Way congratulated the Mayor on setting up the **town gardening scheme** which was already showing good results; he added that other organisations were now keen to join in.

Cllr Carter queried the figures on **Market Street Garden** and the Clerk clarified the reason behind her suggestion that an additional £5000 should be added to the £30k budget:

ground and building works	£21775.00
electrics/fencing/planting/architect	balance of £30k budget
additional costs/management fees/contingency	£5000

The original project had been heavily pruned following budget cuts, and the Clerk was confident that at the end of the financial year, a further £5k could be found, some of which might not be needed. The proposal was amended and carried

PROPOSED **Cllr Crawley proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay that the Five Valleys quote of £21,775 + vat be approved to build the Market Street Garden, and a revised budget of £35,000 be approved to include the outstanding costs of the project management and a contingency.**

The Committee's proposal regarding payment of youth worker wages to the Youth Club was also approved.

2011/279 **NAILSWORTH HEALTH PARTNERSHIP – advisory sub group**
Cllr Kay referred to the changes in the NH service, with greater financial control being given to local GPs. 4% efficiency savings had been recommended in a recent NHS newsletter which could lead to significant redundancies. The Government was requiring a greater involvement of and consultation with patients and Price's Mill was keen to set up a sub group with external participation. Cllr Kay was keen that residents stay in control and be involved in decision making, as well as ensure the Practice's accountability in use of the funds it will now control. Clarity about the Practice budget and its priorities was key and he urged that NTC should be represented on the sub group. The result of NTC's approach to join the NHP management group should be clear by the next meeting.

Nailsworth News was doing a feature on this topic in the next edition. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was not impressed by the recently circulated paper and considered the proposals to be a completely inadequate way to scrutinise the performance of the Practice and thought an appeal should be made to the MP.

2011/280 **ACCOUNTS**

PROPOSED **that the end of year accounts at 31 March 2011 amounting to £6370.98 be retrospectively approved**

that the list of accounts for 19 April 2011 amounting to £16,291.81 be approved for payment

2011/281 **SDC – cancellation of discretionary rate relief for Mortimer Room**
SDC was undertaking a study of discretionary rate relief and had meanwhile cancelled all existing arrangements as of 1st April. NTC would be invited to re-apply once the new regulations had been confirmed. The Mayor had spoken to District Cllr Blackwell, who was not in fact aware of this development. Cllr M Robinson advised that the Property Management committee was investigating rate relief for the Arkell Centre, and would be happy to keep a watching eye in relation to MR, in the hope that it would still fit the revised criteria.

2011/260 **GRCC – Village Agent for Nailsworth**
Nailsworth had recently been included in this scheme, now in its 5th year. The agent allocated to Nailsworth was Aileen Bendall. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that Nailsworth's inclusion might have been prompted by enquiries made by the Arkell Centre team. The Clerk read out what the Village Agent actually does in supporting the local population.

2011/261 **SDC – Two Vacancies in Parish Council Representation on Stroud Standards Board**

Cllr Crawley had expressed interest in putting his name forward, which was approved, pending his re-election to council.

2011/262 **SDC – Future of Youth Work Provision in Stroud District**

The Mayor read out an email received from Steve Miles asking for an indication of Nailsworth's plans in relation to youth work; and read out his reply reporting on the actions taken by NTC to pick up the rest of the cost of funding the town's youth workers. The Mayor had taken the opportunity to mention that he felt there should be some community representation on the panel deciding on the distribution of the £50k SDC youth grant.

Mr Miles had responded with congratulations to NTC for having taken steps to overcome the difficulties. There was some concern that, once again, those who help themselves will be left to get on with it, and any funding available will go to others.

2011/263 POWER CUTS

Cllr Crawley referred to the unacceptable number of power failures experienced in this area, with another 20 minute cut only this morning. He blamed this squarely on the lack of investment by the electricity companies and felt the public should be encouraged to take a stand. He asked that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Mayor thanked all retiring Cllrs for their hard work over their terms in office; some of whom have kindly accepted to remain involved in seeing through certain projects.

..... Chairman

..... Date