

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

of the meeting of the Council held at the Town Hall Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 June 2006

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S M Reed (Town Mayor)
Cllr W S Affleck
Cllr J Byrne
Cllr N I Kay
* Cllr J R Nicholson
Cllr Mrs L J Williams-Allen

Clare Slark PCSO
Sergeant Bill Tully

APOLOGIES ACCEPTED: Cllr J D Bratby
Cllr E A McLean
Cllr Mrs A J Smith

NON ATTENDANCE: Cllr M K Akhtar
Cllr J Eddyshaw

* denotes absence from part of meeting

2006/25 **PRESENTATION BY POLICE REPRESENTATIVES**

Clare Slark explained the importance of sharing information and said that she kept in regular contact with local schools, the Youth Club, Ruskin Mill and Neighbourhood Watch groups. There had been a substantial increase in criminal damage but this could be attributed to the change in the basis of reporting such incidents. In the past the keying of a number of cars at one location would have been logged as one incident whereas now the keying of each individual car would be logged as separate incidents. She referred to ongoing problems of illegal parking outside Brutons which could not be pursued due to the indistinct yellow road markings. Also as the no cycling signs had been removed from Mortimer Gardens it was awkward to tackle cyclists who persistently rode their bicycles through there. It was pointed out that the signs had been extremely dilapidated and had been removed because for the most part they were ignored and therefore had served no useful purpose.

Sergeant Tully said that due to lack of staff it was not possible to man the police station on a regular basis although every effort was being made to have it open all day on Wednesdays.

In response to a question Cllr Waddington reported that it was proving very difficult to get agreement between the six district councils on how to manage the de-criminalisation of parking in Gloucestershire. There was only one person working full time on the project and it would be a long while before traffic wardens could be recruited. Before

the new system could be operated every yellow line would have to be checked on the ground against existing traffic orders.

The police representatives were thanked for their attendance and Clare Slark was invited to give a further presentation to the September Council meeting.

2006/26 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr David Rice brought to the Council's attention some recent little publicised legislation whose effect would be to deny vehicular access over class 6 highways. The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act Section 6 had been designed to address the increasing problems of off road driving but due to its wording would have far reaching and unintended results. From May 2006 it was unlawful to drive over a footpath including a footpath over which previously there had been driving rights. The most high profile local example was The Ladder. Councillors were bemused by the complexity of the subject and thanked Mr Rice for drawing it to their attention. It was agreed that the matter should be passed to the Environment Committee for consideration

2006/27 **COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 May 2006 were confirmed and signed.

2006/28 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES** (minute 2006/03)

The Clerk reported that as meetings of the Environment Committee had been re-scheduled for the first Monday in alternate months Cllr Mrs Smith was able to attend and that therefore she would continue on the Committee and Cllr Eddyshaw would revert to membership of Property Management Committee.

2006/29 **REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Cllr Waddington reported that in the course of installing new street lighting up Spring Hill and Nympsfield Road there appeared to be a problem with lack of lighting by the Nailsworth Youth Club and this oversight was being pursued by Mr Steve Robinson.

Bus passes were issued free to pensioners and problems had arisen for some bus operators over a miss match between passes used and income received which had resulted in the withdrawal of one service. The matter was being resolved.

The review of Primary Schools was nearing completion and the aim was to encourage schools to amalgamate or federate in order to keep schools open wherever possible.

Negotiations on drawing up a new Waste Management contract were well advanced and it was hoped to announce details of the tender list shortly. Initially the contract would be for a "like for like" basis although candidates would be asked to provide options for improving composting and re-cycling measures.

Cllr Kay expressed concern about the long delay in installing yellow lines at various approved locations in the town centre and Cllr Waddington agreed to investigate.

District Cllr Mrs Bruce reported that the previous day she had chaired a meeting with Mr Jeff James Chief Executive of the Glos Partnership NHS Trust and good information and exchange of views had taken place.

At the AGM of the Citizens Advice Bureau gratitude had been expressed to all the organisations and individuals who financially supported its work. In reply to a question from Cllr Kay Cllr Mrs Bruce said it was unlikely that SDC would increase its annual funding contribution.

District Cllr Jeffreys reported that he had organised the distribution of 2000 leaflets around Nailsworth and Horsley about the proposed health service cuts.

Only nine District Councils of which Stroud was one had responded to the survey being undertaken by the Rural Housing Commission.

A very successful Affordable Housing Conference had been organised by SDC.

Cllr Jeffreys reported that officers had photographed the derelict properties in Nailsworth and NTC now needed to lodge its interest for action to be taken with Mr D Cawker Principal Appeals Officer.

2006/30 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR

During the month the Mayor had been involved in the following activities:

17 May	Attended meeting of Nailsworth Primary School Governing Body Attended launch of Nailsworth Chamber of Trade web site. The Chamber was to be congratulated for this initiative and the start of a positive process which would develop the town, its trade, industry and tourism.
18 May	Attending meeting of Nailsworth Primary School Governing Body
22 May	Chaired meeting to discuss planning of Nailsworth Action Plan meeting arranged for 12 June
24 May	Attended AGM Nailsworth Scouts. The Scouts were celebrating their 100 th anniversary and had organised an extensive programme of activities. It had full membership and was to be congratulated on its dedication and hard work.
26 May	Accompanied by Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen met with Mr Ian Soule SDC and the contractor building the pitch at the Primary School and the KGV extension field to inspect the work preparatory to signing off the project. It should be noted that Mr Soule had not had any previous involvement with the project and a final decision on signing off would be referred back to Ms Karen Toole.
29 May	Attended official opening of the Five Valleys Leisure Centre at the Forest Green Football Stadium.

30 May	Attended the launch of the Ruskin Mill Hydropower Electric scheme.
6 June	Attended SDC community safety cluster group meeting.
7 June	Attended committee meeting at NYCE.
8 June	Chaired meeting with SDC officers and Roger Evans Partnership to discuss the process of completing the design brief for Old Market. A meeting of stakeholders had been arranged for 4 July 6-8pm which would necessitate the re-scheduling of the Planning meeting due to take place on that night.
9 June	Attended meeting of LSP at Museum in the Park. Attended AGM of Nailsworth Festival.
12 June	Chaired Nailsworth Action Plan meeting and workshops.
16 June	Attended Cotswold Chine School to present certificates to students.
17 June	Attended Nailsworth Primary School summer fete.

2006/31 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Kay reported that he had arranged a public meeting at the Town Hall on 23 June at 2pm at which Mr Jeff James would be present to explain the proposed cuts to health services and answer questions.

Following the Annual Town Meeting in April Cllr Kay had written to all attendees to establish their interest in participating in a "fair" to enable them to publicise their services and seek volunteers and members. Response had been positive and it was agreed that an event would be organised next summer.

Cllr Kay reported that there would be no Council presence at the June Farmers Market but stalls had been booked for July, August, October and December. He invited colleagues to assist with manning the stalls.

2006/32 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported that the Twinning Association had written to request approval to hold a bring and share social on Shortwood Green on the afternoon of 3 September. An invitation had been extended to Councillors to attend. The request was approved.

Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen asked whether the Clerk had received a reply from Karen Toole SDC about the FGRFC request for the release of part of the £85000 developer contribution to the MUGA and whether she had confirmed the amount SDC was contributing towards the project. The Clerk confirmed that she had received no reply from Ms Toole on either matter. The Council asked the Clerk to write again to Karen Toole asking for a response.

The Clerk reported that whilst in conversation with Mr Gareth Vine GCC on an unrelated matter she had enquired whether GCC had been approached by SDC for a contribution towards the MUGA as agreed at a meeting the previous November. Mr Vine confirmed that he had not received any such request. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Vine requesting a contribution.

2006/33 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May were confirmed and signed.

It was agreed that the Mayor and Chairman would interview applicants for the post of caretaker at the Town Hall and make an appointment.

The Clerk reported that she had obtained quotations for decorating at the Town Hall and as one project was the decoration of the lower room to be undertaken in the school holidays it was important to take a decision without delay. It was agreed that the Committee would meet at 7pm on 26 June to take a decision on this issue.

2006/34 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2006 were confirmed and signed.

The proposed contribution towards materials for the repair of the wall at Miles Marling field was confirmed on the understanding that the project would be managed entirely by the Cotswold Warden Service.

Considerable discussion ensued about the breakdown in communication between SDC and NTC over the building of the extension field at KGV field which had resulted in an unsightly mound and aggrieved local residents.

The Clerk reported that during a conversation she had initiated with one of the organisers of the Tai Kwondo Club to chase up payment for outstanding invoices for its use of the pavilion at the KGV field she had been informed that the Club proposed to end its hire at the end of June because of health and safety issues with the venue. The Clerk had queried why she had not been informed of the venue's alleged deficiencies and had received a vague and unsatisfactory response from the organiser who had ended by saying when pressed for details that all incidents had been reported to the groundsman. Subsequently the Clerk had discussed the matter with the groundsman who had confirmed categorically that he had never received any complaints from the Club about the pavilion facilities. Furthermore he had stated that he had had no communication with the Club apart from an occasional word of greeting when members arrived for an evening session. It was agreed that the Club's hire of the pavilion should be terminated with effect from end of June and that the locks should be changed and if necessary the outstanding debt pursued for payment through the Small Claims Court. The Clerk drew attention to the destruction of the flowerbed outside Williams Kitchen due to the laying of the new water main. The contractors were obliged to re-instate the flowerbed and repair any damage but not replant and a local resident had queried whether a flowerbed in that location was really necessary and had suggested that it should be removed and the pavement widened. The Clerk had established that GCC would be happy for the flowerbed to be removed if NTC had no objection and the Clerk invited members to consider the proposition. After discussion the Council agreed that it had no objection to the flowerbed being removed and the Clerk was asked to confirm to GCC accordingly. If for any reason the flowerbed had to be retained NTC would be prepared to consider taking on responsibility for maintenance assuming appropriate funding was forthcoming from GCC.

The Council confirmed its interest in a free trial of the SDC Neighbourhood Warden Scheme and it was agreed that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should meet with Mr Phil Sullivan SDC to discuss details and in particular to work out the criteria for judging whether or not the Scheme was successful and beneficial to Nailsworth ratepayers.

2006/35 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was agreed to re-schedule the meeting planned for 4 July to 6 July 2006.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 18 May and 6 June be approved.

2006/36 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts dated 20 June 2006 totalling £8887.28 be approved for payment.

2006/37 GCC – MOBILE LIBRARY REVIEW

The letter was noted.

2006/38 GLOS HIGHWAYS – ROAD SURFACE DRESSING PROGRAMME

The letter was noted.

2006/39 CPRE – AGM 5 JULY 2006 AT 6.30 HIGHNAM

The details were noted.

2006/40 SW REGIONAL ASSEMBLY – CONSULTATION DRAFT SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR SOUTH WEST 2006/26

The documents were noted.

2006/41 HANOVER HOUSING OPEN DAY 28 JUNE 10.30 – 3.30PM

The invitation was noted and appreciated.

2006/42 GCC CHARTER – PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL TEST GROUP

The Council declined to join the Group.

2006/43 GLOS TRAINING PARTNERSHIP – UPDATING CONFERENCE IN CHELTENHAM 29 JUNE 2006

The conference was noted but no one was free to attend.

2006/44 SDC – ROAD CLOSURE MARKET STREET 15 JULY 2006

Members welcomed the street market and had no objection to the road closure.

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Date

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Town Mayor