

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
 Minutes of a meeting held on 12 July 2011

Present	Cllr Mrs SM Reed (chairman) Cllr P Carter Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr S Robinson
Apologies	Cllr Mrs SE Thorpe

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Kelly proposed Cllr Mrs Reed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Elliott, and she was duly appointed chairman of the committee.

**STROUD CAR CLUB**

Former Cllr Mrs Joy Way had contacted the Stroud organisation as agreed at the last meeting, but no response had been forthcoming.

**GRIT BINS AND THE ROLE OF THE SNOW WARDEN**

A job description for the Snow Warden and gritting schedule was circulated to members, to be reviewed for discussion at the next meeting. The Mayor added that he had been approached again by Newmarket residents about the lost grit bin by the roundabout near the George Inn, which had not been replaced after the development of the Lower Newmarket houses. Cllr Carter thought there was a bin higher up which might be better located, and would check. The Clerk added that residents had a far greater chance of success in contacting GCC direct about additional grit bins, since approaches from NTC had little effect.

**SIGN BOARDS IN TOWN CENTRE**

The boards were finally done, and were ready to be put up. After discussion and looking at previous minutes it was established that the locations finally decided upon by the previous council in March 2009 were: free standing against Kiosk's wall in the bus station; free standing at Market Street Triangle (exact position will now need to await development of the garden); wall mounted at William's Kitchen. 3 adhesive "you are here" arrows had also been provided.



Mrs de Lacroix was asked to write to Mr Beeston to check he was still prepared to have the board on his wall, and to SDC to confirm NTC intended to replace the former sign by Kiosk's wall.

**TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE AND TOURISM ISSUES**

The lease of the unit at The Old George expired on 11 August 2012. Following a visit to the police station yesterday, it was felt that, should NTC be in a position to buy the building and it was decided appropriate and desirable,, it could be adapted to take the TIC with some modifications.

**SDC – REQUEST FOR RESIDENTS PARKING SPRING HILL**

The three householders at the bottom of the Hill had approached Alison Fisk SDC about obtaining parking permits allowing them to park all day in the 2hour bays in Old Market. Ms Fisk had in turn contacted NTC for its view. NTC was regularly approached by groups of town centre residents who had bought properties in the full knowledge that there was no parking provision, and allowing permits for one group would set a precedent. Town centre parking was primarily to bring business into the town and encourage visitors to come and go. Blocking up parking spaces with residents' vehicles would be counterproductive. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly to Ms Fisk and advise that NTC's policy on residents' parking was unchanged.

#### **REQUEST FOR RESIDENTS' PARKING IN CHURCH STREET**

Another case in point was the request from Church Street residents to have permits to occupy some of the free parking bays in that street. NTC had written to GCC and SDC to enquire about logistics, enforcement and costs and the Clerk would circulate the response received today from GCC.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD AT SHORTWOOD**

NTC was not responsible for maintaining the graves, other than undertaking an annual 'push test' of the headstones (usually in August) and reporting any that were unsafe to the PCC. After much time and effort, the Clerk had managed to find a solution and contractor to redirect the inherited leaking spring, and the PCC had, after much prevarication, finally agreed to pay for the work, which should be taking place imminently.

#### **NORTON WOOD**

The Clerk had noticed that the Norton Wood notice board had disappeared, and the adjacent gate no longer closed as part of the latch was missing.

#### **NORTON WOOD ORCHARD PROJECT**

A residents' group had formed to restore the orchard in the lower section of the Wood. Undergrowth scrub had been cleared, trees pruned and planted on regular work days, the latest of which took place on 10 July, and part of the area left natural to encourage wildlife. NTC had funded some professional tree work from Charlton Abbots and the group was asking for a bit more coppicing and tree removal. The group leader Marilyn Miles had offered to give an overview of the project to Cllrs, and Cllr Mrs Reed would meet her to view the site and invite her to the September meeting.

#### **BUNTING HILL REGENERATION PROJECT**

Another group of volunteers, led by former Cllr Joy Way, Jinny Marshall and Ros John had started a scheme to clear scrub and encourage wildlife on this much neglected site. NTC had paid for help from BTCV experts on a couple of occasions. Access from the Newmarket valley side was now being used again, including a right of way through one garden, but the property owner was aware. Cotswold wardens had been asked to renew some of the path revêtements (supports) along the top path which had rotted away. It might be necessary in the future to add some fencing along the top boundary and erect warning signs for the quarry area. There had been a little resistance from some residents who felt their privacy was being affected by the clearance work.

#### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The total budget for 2011/12 was £5000 and electricians' cost for erection/removal should be lower as only 4 motifs were planned for this first year of the new LED scheme which would no longer require a complete change of bulbs. The clock tower motif could be put up by ladder and it was hoped also to include the existing bus station swags and Leves Corner motif in the scheme. The new motifs agreed by the last council would need to be ordered now and the electricity metering system modified.

#### **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

##### Land at 2 The Green, Nympsfield Road

The Clerk explained the lack of clarity over who was responsible for maintaining this area of common land. She had advised the tenant to ask his landlord to repair the drive and awaited confirmation of the terms of his right of way.

The Mayor mentioned his request for **"20 is plenty"** signs for use in the Star Hill/Windsoredge area. The Clerk reminded him that a proposal had to be presented to GCC indicating which lamp posts were to display the signs, how many were required and for how long. Once this was approved, the

signs would be supplied for the designated period with erection and taking down to be arranged by NTC. The Mayor and Cllr Mrs Reed would put together a proposal.

The Mayor had again emailed County Cllr Waddington today asking for news on the repair to **the A46 “slow down” sign** which had been inoperative since February, despite repeated appeals. The Mayor was astounded that Cllr Waddington had blamed the delay on yet more communication problems, but he had promised to get the sign working within the next 24 hours.

**POSSIBLE CAR SHARING SCHEME**

Cllr Kelly put forward the proposal that, owing to cuts in bus services and rising fuel costs, NTC should consider promoting a car sharing scheme on its website, which he would be happy to run. This could be publicised also in the Nailsworth News, perhaps creating an anonymous contact point such as [carshare@nailsworthtown.co.uk](mailto:carshare@nailsworthtown.co.uk) to avoid exposing any personal details.

**CUTS TO BUS SERVICES**

As agreed at the last full council meeting, a letter had been sent to GCC protesting at cuts to bus services which was subsequently also sent by email.

**A BOARDS**

It was agreed that the town was now completely overrun with A boards and Cllr Carter advised that the Planning Committee had organised a visit from SDC planning enforcement officer Jamie Cooper, looking at signs and street clutter generally. He would contact Mr Cooper to follow up.

**ACCESS FOR DISABLED**

Cllr Kelly felt that there was a lack of representation for Nailsworth disabled residents and offered to be the town’s representative on the Stroud & District Access Group. His proposal was welcomed and he would advertise in Nailsworth News that he was available at a future market day to receive comments and suggestions from residents.

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Date

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Chairman