

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 May 2013

Present		Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MM Rahman * Cllr SM Reed Cllr MP Robinson * Cllr SE Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting		County Cllr DLM Binns District Cllr E Sims
Apologies		Cllr MJ Kelly District Cllr RTH Blackwell
	*	denotes absence from part of the meeting

The Mayor thanked his fellow councillors for their support over the past three years. He had enjoyed his time as Mayor, despite the hard work which the role had entailed, and he felt that the Council had achieved some very positive outcomes for the town, for example the Market Street Garden and the Arkell Community Centre.

2013/01 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Cllr M Robinson was proposed by Cllr Reed and seconded by Cllr Carter. There being no other nominations, Cllr M Robinson was elected Mayor, and signed a declaration of acceptance of office. In response to a question, Cllr M Robinson identified his main priorities as working towards the re-siting of the Council offices from the Town Hall to Old Market, maintaining employment in the town and possibly investigating the potential for the development of water powered energy in the local area.

2013/02 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Duckworth was proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Dart. Cllr Reed was proposed by Cllr Thorpe, seconded by Cllr Rahman. In response to a question, both the nominated councillors outlined their priorities for the town. These included working with community groups and lobbying outside bodies in order to maintain and improve the economic and cultural life of the town. A ballot ensued resulting in 6 votes for Cllr Duckworth and 4 votes for Cllr Reed. Cllr Duckworth was duly elected deputy mayor and signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

2013/03 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2013/04 APPOINTMENT of COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES & ELECTION OF CHAIRS

The revised membership of committees is circulated with these minutes.

2013/05 APPOINTMENT of REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

A few changes to the current appointees were agreed and recorded on the revised list attached.

2013/06 SCHEDULE of MEETINGS for the FORTHCOMING YEAR

The revised schedule of meetings is circulated with the minutes. The Clerk suggested that, since the Planning Committee no longer met on the first Tuesday of the month, Environment and Recreation and Amenities Committees should in future meet on the **first** rather than the second Tuesdays of their respective months, as this would assist with administration. This was **agreed**. To accommodate this change, it was agreed that the meeting of the Arkell Trustees scheduled for 4 June be changed to 11 June. The Clerk would confirm this change to all councillors via email.

2013/07 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 April 2013 and the Special Council meeting held on 15 May 2013 were approved and signed.

2013/08 - GCC grants for road improvements (minute 2012/253)

Cllr S Robinson reported that Mr Richard Gray GCC had confirmed that the £10,000 allocated to Nailsworth would be spent on repairs to the pavement opposite William's Kitchen near the zebra crossing and near the ex HBSC bank, and on resurfacing work in Fewster Road. Whilst he was glad to see these repairs were to be carried out, Cllr S Robinson hoped that NTC would be consulted before allocations were made if similar grants were to become available in future.

2013/09 – Traders' A boards (minute 2012/261)

Cllr Carter reported that some of the A boards and the bicycle rack which had been routinely placed in Leves Corner had been temporarily removed but had now re-appeared. He understood that the owner of the rack had been informed by SDC Planning that there was no planning reason for removing them. The Clerk confirmed that the land in question was owned by SDC but maintained by NTC. It was agreed that Cllr Carter would draft a strongly worded letter to Mr David Hagg, CE of SDC, asking him to clarify SDC's position on this matter, for the Clerk to send. Cllr Kay suggested that NTC should consider requesting to take over the land from SDC if councillors were not happy with the response.

2013/10 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Mayor congratulated new County Cllr Dorcas Binns on her election and welcomed her to the meeting at Nailsworth. Cllr Binns reported that the recent elections had resulted in no party having overall control. At the recent AGM, it had been agreed that the Conservative party would set up a minority administration, working with the other party groups. She had taken on the role of Cabinet member with responsibility for Public Health and Communities. Her portfolio would include libraries and community assets, plus liaison with town and parish councils and she hoped to improve communications between GCC and these bodies. Cllr Thorpe stated that she was encouraged to hear of Cllr Binns' portfolio. She would welcome increased dialogue with GCC over the need to make the best use of the limited resources available, particularly regarding children's services, in the light of reduced funding from central government. Cllr Thorpe also hoped that NTC could form useful partnerships with GCC, especially relating to village halls.

In response to a question from Cllr Kay, Cllr Binns reported that she would be meeting with the Stroud Highways Team and the relevant Cabinet member to push for major repairs to the A46.

District Cllr Simms reported that she had recently attended the AGM of Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce. A new President, Ms Verity Simcox, had been elected. She hoped that more traders would become actively involved with the Chamber over the coming year.

District Cllr Carter reported that SDC's new committee system was up and running. Four main committees had been established. He would sit on the Strategy and Audit Committee, Cllr Simms on Housing and Cllr Blackwell on Planning and Communities. A change to the system of

councillors' allowances had been agreed, with the basic allowance being raised by 8.6%.

2013/11 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

Cllr S Robinson had given notice to all councillors via email that he intended to put an emergency motion to the meeting, and it was agreed that this should be taken at this point. Cllr S Robinson explained the background to his motion. Then CU was a successful and valuable community resource. Its profile and efficiency had increased significantly from operating from premises instead of a roadside vehicle. The Children's Centre, which had previously funded the weekly Arkell Centre hire fee on behalf of the Credit Union, had very recently informed the Clerk that it would cease this practice as of May 2013. As the Credit Union had no funds of its own, this would mean that it could no longer rent the Arkell Centre for its sessions. Cllr S Robinson was therefore proposing that NTC give the CU a grant to cover the cost of renting the Arkell Centre for its weekly sessions for the current financial year.

The Clerk confirmed that no application for funding had yet been received from the Credit Union, and advised that a letter of application from that organisation would be necessary before a grant could be paid. The grants budget for the current financial year was £9,000 and the annual costs of the CU's weekly hire of the Arkell Centre amounted to £490. She would be invoicing the CU directly on a monthly basis from May 2013. In response to a question, she explained that any decision on waiving the rent for this organisation was a matter for the Arkell Trustees, not NTC.

After discussion, Cllr S Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Rahman, that NTC award a grant of £500 to Stroud Credit Union to cover the rental of the Arkell Centre for the current financial year, subject to a letter of application from the Credit Union being received. On being put to the vote, the proposal was **accepted** with 9 votes in favour and one abstention.

*Cllr Thorpe left the meeting at this point.

2013/12 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

There was nothing to report.

2013/13 REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had received a letter from NYCE thanking the Council for its grant and detailing improvement and repair works to Nailsworth Subscription Room. The Trustees had offered to show interested councillors around the building and the Clerk would provide the secretary's contact details on request.

The CPRE's New Transport Toolkit had been received and was available from the Clerk's office.

2013/14 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Duckworth reported that Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce would be meeting on 6 June to set its aims for the future. There would be a Market Street 'open day' event with stalls and entertainment on 25 May, and a road closure order had been granted to facilitate this. A 'Nailsworth Noel' event was planned for 29 November.

Cllr Duckworth reported that the A46 Action sub-group had met recently. The petition for a safe crossing at Dunkirk was continuing. More volunteers were being sought to be trained in the use of the Speedar traffic speed monitoring device and there were plans to introduce speed signs on those wheelie bins which were visible from the road. The group now had a dedicated website separate from NTC.

2013/15 REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 14 May were approved and signed.

Cllr Reed explained that the draft Management Plan for Norton Wood was in the process of being amended and would be circulated to all councillors in due course.

Mr Martin Hutchings GRCC had presented the draft Housing Needs Survey to the Committee. The final report would be circulated to all councillors.

There was some discussion of possible arrangements for car parking at the new TIC, with some councillors expressing doubt at the practicality of placing a 30 minute restriction on the spaces in the TIC car park, and some advocating a charging policy for parking permits. Councillors were uncertain as to how to proceed so no decision was made and the matter was referred back to the Environment Committee for further consideration.

*Cllr Reed left the meeting at this point.

2013/16 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meeting of 1 May be approved.

In response to a question, Cllr Carter explained that Cllr S Robinson had received an email from a local resident stating that the problem of excessive lighting at New Mills, Newmarket had been resolved, and thanking the Council for its assistance in this matter.

2013/17 REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVER

It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

2013/18 MAINTENANCE OF TOWN CLOCK

The Clerk had received confirmation from Mr David Duval that he was happy to undertake the maintenance of the Town Clock, previously carried out by Mr Jim Eddyshaw. Cllr S Robinson reported that Mr Duval was an experienced clockmaker who had been highly recommended by Mr Eddyshaw. To unanimous approval, it was **agreed** to appoint Mr Duval to look after the Town Clock. Mr Eddyshaw had stated that he would continue to take an interest in the clock and would hold a key in case of emergencies. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Eddyshaw thanking him for his valuable assistance in maintaining the Town Clock over the past few years.

2013/19 PROPOSAL TO LIAISE WITH OTHER COUNCILS ON A46 SPEEDING ISSUES

Cllr S Robinson proposed the following motion, seconded by Cllr Duckworth:

'NTC will support working with Woodchester, Rodborough and Stroud parishes to reduce speeding on the A46 between Stroud and Nailsworth with no cost implications to any parish.'

In support of the motion, Cllr S Robinson explained that, with Mr Les Haines, Chair of the Nailsworth A46 sub-group, he had been in discussion with Woodchester and Rodborough parishes regarding possible schemes for dealing with the problem of speeding on the A46, and it had been suggested that NTC join with these parishes and Stroud Town Council as a cluster group to lobby GCC regarding the implementation of suitable speed reduction schemes. Cllr S Robinson felt that working together in this way would help give NTC a louder voice in campaigning for appropriate action.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was **accepted** with unanimous support.

2013/20 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 21 May 2013 amounting to £49,376.96 be approved for payment.

2013/21 Reminder from GAPTC about submission of resolutions for AGM by 24/05/13
There were no resolutions for submission.

2013/22 SDC – road closure Market Street on 25/05/13 from 8.30 am - 4 pm
The order was noted.

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Chair

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Date