

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 17 February 2009
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns * Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter * Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs J M Way
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr J T Jeffreys District Cllr Ms F Macmillan
Apologies	Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr A G Wheeler
* Denotes absence from part of the meeting	

2009/192 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr John Hatton, Nailsworth News queried the council's refusal to send out draft minutes and supporting documents with the agenda in advance of the monthly meeting. It was confirmed that this was NTC policy, which the Mayor advised could be reviewed at the next meeting of the FE&GP committee. Meanwhile, the Clerk sent an agenda to the editor of Nailsworth News in line with council policy, but this could be sent to an alternate on request.

* Cllr Nicholson joined the meeting during the above discussions.

A member of the Nailsworth Music Festival Committee, wished to view written terms and conditions for use of the KGV field. It was explained that although the field was no longer a registered charity, it was still bound by conditions set by the KGV foundation which were standard for all KGV fields across the country.

2009/193 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 20 January 2009 were approved and signed.

2009/194 STONE FOUNTAIN (minute 2008/173)

The Mayor, Clerk and Cllr Carter had met with SDC and contractors and the schedule of work had been circulated. This was due to start on Monday week with the dismantling of the Fountain to be taken away for refurbishment. Meanwhile the plinth would be built and it was estimated that it would take six weeks to complete the job, excluding connections for water and electricity. The Mayor filled in some of the detail of the electrical discussions.

2009/195 MUGA at FOREST GREEN FC (minute 2009/176)

The Mayor awaited a call back from the FGR-FC director in order to arrange the meeting, which he had been unable to arrange through Mr Tim Barnard.

2009/196 SOUTH WEST RURAL ENERGY CONFERENCE (minute 2009/178)

Cllr Mrs Way had provided a written report of the conference she had attended on 12 February, which focussed on local resilience (promoting the local economy) and reducing energy consumption. Cllr

Mrs Way had also attended an Energy Efficiency event in Dursley and was in discussion with Cllr Mrs Thorpe about running an Energy Roadshow in Nailsworth centred on plans for the new FGCH.

2009/197 GRANTS FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT (minute 2009/178)

Cllr Jeffreys clarified that the funding resulted from the Government's Fair Play Strategy and was being channelled through GCC and there was no limit on the number of projects which could be put forward.

2009/198 VANDALISM OF PUBLIC TOILETS (minute 2009/187)

The Mayor had been unable to contact the SDC officer to update on this situation and would seek help from District Cllrs.

2009/199 MARKET STREET MARKET (minute 2009/188)

The Chamber of Trade had decided to hold future markets back in Market Street rather than Mortimer Gardens, and confirmation of whether these would be monthly or quarterly was awaited.

2009/200 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington reported that the implementation of the part night street lighting had been launched with a TV appearance, with supportive comments from passers-by.

He explained GCC's decision to grit only major roads when reserves of salt were getting low in the recent cold spell. Arrangements would be reviewed in anticipation of future incidents. He thought it would be helpful for local parishes to have a list of the locations of their grit bins, and parishes should also consider having a snow warden and a local snow ploughing facility. The Clerk advised that NTC had been unable to replace the last Nailsworth snow warden who had retired some years ago.

Cllr Nicholson confirmed that the grit bins belonged to GCC, even though some additional bins had been purchased by NTC when GCC's stock had run out. However all were monitored and refilled by GCC and Mr Julian Wilson at GCC was the key man. The Clerk would contact Mr Wilson so that a list of Nailsworth's bins could be kept at the town hall.

Following the snow, the condition of road surfaces had dramatically deteriorated and an additional £50k had been put towards repairing pot holes.

Waste Industry Day had taken place today, launching the tender process for new waste disposal facilities. GCC would commence its budget setting and it was expected an increase of 2.9% would be agreed across the board.

In response to a query from Cllr Bratby, Cllr Waddington advised that GCC was better prepared for flooding this summer. Extra funding had been put towards flood prevention measures and attention would be paid to maintaining culverts and drains.

District Cllr Jeffreys advised that GCC had not yet decided on the final distribution of grants for play area. Of the 11 schemes from Stroud district, five (totalling £150k) had been put forward by SDC including the one from FGRA.

Cllr Jeffreys advised that Generation Games would be held in Stratford Park on Sunday 29 March, 9.30-4.30, giving an opportunity for families and groups to try new physical activities.

Submissions from working artists were invited by 16 March for the 2009 Stroud District Arts Awards. This year's award would be to produce a piece of textile art for Cotswold Hospice.

A joint meeting of the Partnership Board of the Strategy Group for Supporting People in the County was looking towards a five year strategy taking into account reductions in funding and increase in demand.

Cllr Jeffreys offered to set up a meeting with Ms Dodd to discuss the situation regarding Nailsworth's public toilets.

District Cllr Ms Macmillan advised that Mr Smith was keen to purchase the former Nymphsfield Road refuse tip from the current owner Mr Hogarth. The slip had been removed from the Miry Brook and results of the environmental study were awaited.

Over 200 letters of objection had been received against the Worley Meadow planning application.

A meeting had been held to consider whether there was a call for supported agriculture in Nailsworth and a number of suggestions had been made, including vegetable growing projects, community gardens, Saturday children's club growing activities. Cllr Ms Macmillan would discuss the initiative with the Environment Committee and look at identifying suitable patches of land.

Complaints had been received from FGRA about a further increase in bus fares, which Cllr Ms Macmillan, with Cllrs Nicholson and Mrs Way, would take up at the next meeting with Stagecoach.

2009/201 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor with Cllrs Carter and Robinson had met with Ms Hannah Reynolds, whose consulting firm had been engaged by GMTF to work with individual member towns. Cllrs were under the impression Ms Reynolds was to advise on projects in the 14-15 member towns she had visited, but Ms Reynolds seemed to suggest her brief was to gauge member towns' satisfaction with GMTF in order to plan future activities. Advice on the next steps following the Roger Evans report for example, would be welcome. Although Nailsworth had had some financial help on specific projects such as the Nailsworth Games, cllrs felt GMTF could improve its networking and information sharing.

The Mayor drew attention to the discussion at the Property Management Committee meeting on 27 January concerning a small corner of land behind the FGCH plot which the presumed owner Mr Ind had offered to give over unofficially to NTC. Discussion ensued as to the advisability of NTC accepting the offer in the absence of proper handover of title, and it was agreed to continue the debate under the report of the Property Management Committee.

Redrow Homes had now signed the land transfer documents for the rest of the plot and had settled the solicitor's account, except £40 to register with Land Registry. It was unanimously agreed that NTC would pay the £40 to complete the transfer.

2009/202 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson attended the official launch of 'Playing for Success' at FGR-FC on 31 January. A lot of young people and several dignitaries had attended this very good event, part funded by GCC and the Football Foundation.

2009/203 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk with the Mayor and Cllr Nicholson had met with volunteers of the Archive Office on 13 January and it was felt the Office would benefit from being under the aegis of one of the council committees. Property Management was thought to be the most appropriate. Following feedback from the TIC that weekend visitors were keen to have an opportunity to visit the Archives, four new volunteers had been found to open the Office on a Friday morning from 6 March. It was also felt that the Office could do with a telephone, though not sufficiently to justify the cost of installing a dedicated land line. Volunteers expressed concern at the capacity of their existing computer and would consider their needs before reverting with a proposal.

PROPOSED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay to unanimous agreement that Nailsworth Archive Office be henceforth under the remit of the Property Management Committee and that NTC purchase a mobile phone for the Office.

The Clerk had received a further email about 'shop local' bags, advising that 500 bags had been allocated to Nailsworth, with the suggestion that these be distributed to retailers who were prepared to sign up to a plastic bag free town, the £1 per bag income being retained by the retailers. Although NTC had previously decided not to take part in this initiative which promoted Stroud District rather than Nailsworth, Cllr Nicholson felt that other issues had since come to light which merited the scheme being looked at again by the Environment Committee. The Clerk would meanwhile provisionally accept the 500 allocation dependant on the deliberations of the Committee.

2009/204 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 27 January and the minutes were approved.

The Clerk had received that day a report from Andrew Watton advising on new rental rates for the offices at the town hall. It was agreed she should negotiate with the tenants reverting to councillors by email in the event of conflict.

Discussion continued over the corner of land by the FGCH. It had not been possible so far to confirm ownership of the land as the adjacent property was not registered and Mr Ind had indicated that he was unwilling to produce his deeds. Cllrs were asked to take a look at the site and discussion would continue at the next meeting of the committee.

2009/205 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Carter presented the minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 22 January – attended by only two cllrs – and 3 February. The minutes of the meeting held on 6 January had been amended following the January council meeting and were being resubmitted for approval.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 6 and 22 January, and 3 February 2009 be approved.

2009/206 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 11 February and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Mrs Way hoped that Mr Rushton would include scented plants in his scheme for Mortimer Gardens.

Cllr Nicholson had met with Mr Kevin Pring SDC today to discuss the possibility of NTC taking over maintenance of the Forest Green play areas currently under SDC management, and creating a new toddler park by Badgers Way. Mr Pring was confident the idea would be acceptable to SDC and would consult with his colleagues. The planned new play area at Norton Wood was also looked at and it was confirmed that a grant bid from FGRA had gone forward to GCC. Assessment of the bids had been due to begin on 10 February and news was awaited as to whether this scheme would be going forward to the next stage, before making any decisions on the other play areas in locality. Cllr Nicholson added that support from residents for any plans would be essential and nothing would happen until the 2010/11 financial year.

Cllr Carter drew attention to the fact that the hand rail along the steps from Hanover Gardens to the Library did not extend to the bottom of the slope and the committee was asked to consider extending the rail another 3 metres or so, although it was believed the path belonged to Hanover Gardens. Members were asked to look at the site before the next meeting of the committee.

* Cllr Bratby left the meeting.

Regarding the committee's proposal to allow charging for events held on KGV field, Cllr Mrs Way questioned what had provoked a total change of opinion. Cllr Nicholson reminded the meeting why NTC had always been adamant that access to the field should be free to all and advised that since the policy had been formally confirmed within the past six months, standing orders dictated that a debate was required before the policy could be revoked. He was dismayed at this proposal and argued that the suggestion to take each application on its merit would lead to a new burden of management, and he could see no reason to change a system which had operated perfectly satisfactorily until it had been challenged now by one ill thought out application which had not included any financial information.

Cllrs each gave their views and explained why they had changed their minds. Cllrs Mrs Binns and Carter emphasized that upon further consideration they felt the original policy now needed to be reviewed, in particular with regard to the Scouts annual fundraising fireworks display which they felt NTC should support by allowing them to charge for admission.

The mayor questioned the concern that a change in policy would lead to an onerous management task and thought only one or two organisations were likely to wish to charge. The proposal merely allowed the council to consider such an application, which could still be turned down.

PROPOSED The Mayor proposed, seconded by Cllr Robinson that the council agree in principle that it will allow an organisation to apply for permission to charge for entry to an event on the KGV field.

The council will only consider applications from organisations that are registered charities or are 'not for profit' bodies.

Permission must be sought in advance and applicants must accept in writing that the decision of the council will be final and binding.

Council may, should it grant permission, require a fee for use of the field.

A recorded vote was requested.

The motion was carried with votes in favour from Cllrs Mrs Binns, Carter, Kay and Robinson, and votes against from Cllrs Byrne, Nicholson and Mrs Way.

2009/207 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

A notice had been displayed inviting residents to respond by 23 February if they wished to call for an election. It was agreed that if no election was required, advertising for a co-optee would run until 13 March for a decision to be made at the March full council meeting. The Clerk would give the relevant information to the Nailsworth News editor for publication.

2009/208 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 17 February 2009 amounting to £8201.23 be approved for payment.

2009/209 Glos Police – suspension of Police & Community Consultative meetings
It had been noted that the meetings worked better in some areas than others, and decided to stop the Nailsworth meetings and deal with specific topics at special meetings as and when required.

2009/210 Golden Valley Classic Car MCC

The annual event on the Ladder would take place on Sunday 1 March.

2009/211 British Red Cross – help the local community
The Red Cross was interested in working with the local community and offering help and support. It wished to improve first aid within the county and asked to attend a council meeting to discuss how it could help. Cllrs were not sure a council meeting was the appropriate forum and the Clerk offered to telephone the lady and discuss a more suitable approach.

2009/212 CPRE - Bledisloe Cup
Formal notification was sent that the competition had been discontinued although it was hoped to replace it with something else.

2009/213 GCC – Glos Medal of Courage
Nominations were invited for this annual award.

2009/214 Stroud & District Motor Club
Road reliability trials would come through the town on Sunday 15 March.

2009/215 SDC – additional support for village and community halls
A national quality standard 'the Hallmark' could be used by management committees for fundraising and up to £200 worth of grants were on offer. A meeting would take place on 4 March at Minchinhampton.

2009/216 GAPTC – Buckingham Palace Garden Party
The Mayor thanked cllrs for proposing to nominate him to attend this event but regretted it was against his principles. No other cllr volunteered to be put forward.

2009/217 GCC – traffic orders for Lawnside and Bunting Hill
Confirmation of the traffic calming orders was noted.

2009/218 GLOS PCT – application for community pharmacy at Kings Stanley
The panel had concluded at the hearing that the level of service in the area was adequate and the application had been denied, although an appeal could still be made.

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Date

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Chairman

