

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
 The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 16 June 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 I D Crawley * Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson * Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr J Jeffreys
	* Denotes absence from part of the meeting
Apologies	District Cllr Miss F Macmillan

2009/32 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

2009/33 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Thirty Sixth Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May 2009 were approved and signed.

2009/34 PRESENTATION BY Mr NATHAN TRAVIS, Senior Officer Fire & Rescue Service & Area Lead Representative for Nailsworth

Mr Travis wished to update NTC on the Area Lead pilot project and answer questions. The Area Lead officer role covered the whole county, and was linked in with police public consultation. Mr Travis himself was responsible for the Stonehouse/Nailsworth area and his role was to act as support to county cllrs, to liaise with the public on matters that came under county council remit, but also that of district and parish councils. Mr Travis was also responsible for emergency response and enforcement teams throughout the county and as a support to the chief fire officer. He had been in the service since 1993 and had served at several fire stations across the area. The Service was a UK leader in prevention strategy and had achieved a great reduction in the number of house fires. Staff were also being given training in the event of flooding and in the use of a hovercraft.

The current focus was to encourage fire prevention in the homes of people deemed at risk, in partnership with other voluntary organisations and district councils. Dedicated community safety advisors were appointed to work with other agencies and prepare safety plans. The service prioritised smoke detectors and could provide and fit these for free. Members were training with A&E services, undertaking major incident planning and practical exercises. All staff were being trained in trauma care, to be able to work with and support ambulance crews, mainly in relation to RTAs.

The service was currently recruiting in Nailsworth with several people in training. It was an ongoing challenge to maintain staff levels with big changes in primary employment leading to officers moving away. Town and parish councils could follow progress by being involved in their local station and the fire service provided regular data on activities. Any specific initiatives put forward would be

considered by the chief fire officer and Mr Andy Gillingham of the community safety team. One of the Business Plan's objectives was to reduce current sickness levels; Mr Travis stressed the special circumstances where minor injuries might exclude officers from carrying out their duties because of the physically arduous nature of the job. The service was supportive of staff, helped with rehabilitation and offered health advice. Mr Travis would be pleased to follow up any leads and invited cllrs to contact him. Mr Travis was thanked for his informative presentation.

* Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Mrs Binns joined the meeting during the above presentation.

2009/35 ELECTION OF MAYOR (minute 2009/01)

Cllrs had asked that it be recorded that the vote count for the election of Mayor had been 6 votes for Cllr Kay and 5 for Cllr Carter.

2009/36 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (minute 2009/05)

Cllr Bratby reported that the CAB fund raising event at Lammas Park on Sunday had been very well attended and had raised £3000.

2009/37 COLLAPSED PAVEMENT at TABRAMS PITCH (minute 2009/31)

Cllr Crawley reported that he had not pursued this matter, since the site had been made secure by BT the following day.

2009/38 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington was congratulated on his return as county cllr in the recent elections. It was noted that Cllr Carter had in fact raised the Tabrams Pitch collapse with Cllr Waddington who had passed on the complaint to BT. An announcement had been made that government officers had suspended the SW Regional Spatial Strategy publication, owing to legal challenges having been made to the SE plan. Job reductions in Shire Hall to reduce costs had been announced, with 200 staff to go as part of a process started a year ago. GCC was looking to save £60million over a four year period but promised there would be no impact on front line services.

Cllr Waddington had been pleased to sign off a press release following the agreement on concessionary fares, following a long running dispute between district councils and the bus services. GCC had been working to broker an agreement for some time and it was hoped the new three year contract would provide some stability to bus services.

Consultation on the proposed Star Hill/Inchbrook 20mph zone had received a lot of support from residents, and would be put before the statutory consultees this week. Traffic calming at Star Hill/Jubilee Road, and in particular the road narrowings, had been approved in principle. A site meeting would take place this Friday to finalise the design. Cllr Waddington hoped that these schemes would be implemented in late summer.

Cllr Waddington had been in correspondence with the Mayor over the proposed shared space in Bridge and George Streets. A meeting would take place this week to finalise the drainage work design, before pedestrian improvements could be considered. The structural work would be carried out towards the end of this financial year.

Cllr Waddington had been involved in the discussions over match day parking at Forest Green and advised that some concerns had led to modified proposals going out to consultation. The slip on Seven Acres Road was shortly to be geotechnically investigated, but it was believed the problem was due to crumbling rock and would hopefully be straightforward to fix.

District Cllr Jeffreys reported that the first full council meeting of the new civic year would take place this week on Thursday. He expected that the recommendation to adopt the Children and Young People's Plan and the updated Procurement Strategy would then be debated and accepted.

* Cllr Mrs Thorpe joined the meeting during the above discussion.

District Cllr Fi Macmillan had provided a written report which the Clerk read out. A compulsory schedule of repair was being prepared for Glendower, which if not implemented would lead to compulsory purchase of the property. Residents had commented to Cllr Fi Macmillan that they felt the parking situation in Forest Green on match days could be improved if FGR-FC did not charge for parking in its own car park.

2009/39 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor recapped on the protracted negotiations to create a large MUGA at FGR-FC. The planning permission received in 2005 would expire in July 2010 and it was presumed FGR-FC would not be in a hurry to renew it. The only funds committed so far were £5000 from NTC and the £85k + interest from Redrow Homes currently lodged with SDC. The Mayor with Cllr Nicholson had met with FGR-FC officers in April and had urged FGR to put forward alternative proposals for the MUGA, as funding was not available for the high tech facility which had evolved out of NTC's wish for a basic kick about area for young people.

The Mayor continued his investigations in GCC and SDC to discover which officer was responsible for enforcing the terms of the planning permission which included creation of the MUGA, and proposed to attend the next SDC meeting to ask the question again.

Cllr Nicholson added that it was not necessarily bad news that a simpler and cheaper scheme was now being considered, since this was after all what NTC had wanted all along, but decisions on funding and involvement needed to be made by GCC and SDC. Cllr Crawley suggested GCC and SDC be asked to undertake a feasibility study to design and cost out a more realistic scheme.

2009/40 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson advised that an advert for the Nailsworth Youth Worker had been emailed by the youth support manager for approval, and had been returned to GCC for final approval before going out nationally. He hoped for an appointment in early autumn. In the meantime, the acting youth worker was doing a good job for the town.

2009/41 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk advised that Zurich Insurance Local Council Advisory Service was running a course at Swindon on risk management processes, which Cllrs agreed it would be helpful if she attended and the attendance fee of £60 was approved.

An email from Mrs Liz Green asked for permission to hold the Go Grow Nailsworth Valleys Group (promoted by the Eden Project) picnic in the KGV field on Sunday 19 July near the play area. This was approved, but the Clerk would let Mrs Green know that it was the same date as the Skate Jam.

SDC had advised by email that the development on the former Hilliers/Hazelwood site in Newmarket would be called New Mills.

The Clerk had been approached by Mr David Homer who was organising an exhibition in Minchinhampton on 10-11 October of the work of Terry Thomas, and the organisers were trying to find originals of his work. Mr Homer had heard that NTC had the original drawing for the WH Davies poem and asked to borrow it, which was approved.

Home Start had booked a 10 week course at FGCH, one day a week from 9-2.30, and the Clerk had negotiated a fee of £20 as the hours exceeded a single session and would possibly prevent a second booking being taken for the afternoon.

A springer in the KGV play area had again been broken and would need total replacement, which was approved.

The Clerk had been contacted by Mr Michael Cooper, Nailsworth Rotary Club fund raiser, asking if NTC had any objection to the production of a Nailsworth Calendar. Funds would be raised by selling sponsorship of pages or specific dates. Cllrs had no objection but wished to comment that they expected the calendar to be 'tasteful'.

2009/42 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 26 May and the minutes were approved.

Cllrs were cautiously delighted that Redrow had offered to donate the sales suite to the town, and it was felt it would be helpful to have some guidance on repairs and maintenance of the structure which appeared currently to be in very good condition. Cllr Nicholson recommended that the committee put money aside to pay for maintenance and the eventual cost of removal of the structure, perhaps using money earmarked for rent.

Cllrs agreed to pursue the offer pending the committee's receiving assurances on all relevant conditions and practicalities.

It was noted that NTC had already obtained planning permission for change of use to a temporary community hall.

The Stone Fountain had been unveiled and looked superb. Water and electricity connections were awaited and a commemorative plaque would be erected in due course. The Mayor would notify Mrs Dangerfield that there was no room for a bench at this location, but possibly she could provide a bench somewhere else at another time.

2009/43 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 9 June and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:

End of page one ". . . minimum number of days possible given the financial constraints, *and finish at a reasonable time if a Sunday was involved*".

Cllr Mrs Way had been unable to attend the meeting and was concerned to see the committee's recommendations regarding Nailstock. Cllr Byrne outlined some of the lengthy discussion around the very vague proposal presented at the meeting by Mr Gregory. The committee had decided to allow him to go away and develop a detailed plan. Cllr Carter recommended that Mr Gregory be given a specific time scale and a one-time final opportunity to present a fully thought out plan, and that all members of the organising committee attend the meeting to present it.

RESOLVED **The recommendation of the committee made at its meeting of 9 June was passed with six votes in favour and five against, that Mr Gregory be given one final opportunity to submit by 30 September 2009 a comprehensive, detailed plan for Nailstock 2010, which would then be discussed at a special meeting in the first half of October, which all members of the organising committee would be asked to attend. The Clerk was asked to ensure Mr Gregory was aware that acceptance of any plan was not guaranteed. SDC and police licensing officers and the police community liaison officer should be informed of NTC's reservations so that they could be taken into account in ongoing discussions with the event organisers.**

The Mayor advised that the Skate Jam Event would take place on Sunday 19 July.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe queried the move to limit the age of users of the small FG MUGA as several of the town's over 16s were instrumental in getting the facility provided in the first place. Cllr Robinson

reported on his meeting last week with various people involved including the young people, and reassured Cllr Mrs Thorpe that the matter was still under discussion.

Cllr Crawley requested that recommendations be more clearly presented in the minutes, and the Mayor offered to address this at the next FE&GP committee meeting. Committee recommendations relating to Mortimer Garden planting, Miles Marling field tidying, KGV slide repair, skatejam expenditure and license for Mr Austin were approved.

* Cllr Bratby left the meeting

2009/44 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 21 May and Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting held on 2 June.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 21 May and 2 June 2009 be approved.

2009/45 ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN

RESOLVED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Wheeler to unanimous approval that the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for 2008/09 be adopted.

2009/46 ADOPTION OF ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

RESOLVED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by the Mayor, to unanimous approval that the Environment Statement be adopted, and the Environment Committee be asked to draw up an operational action plan.

2009/47 RESOLUTIONS FOR AGM of GAPTC (to be submitted by 31 July)

Cllrs had no specific resolutions to put forward. Discussion ensued around the lack of autonomy allowed to parish and town councils and the restrictions laid down by central government. Cllr Crawley would formulate a resolution and circulate to cllrs for approval at the July meeting.

2009/48 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED that the list of accounts for 16 June 2009 amounting to £31,224.71 be approved for payment.

2009/49 Severn Estuary Partnership – invitation to join the Partnership

The invitation had been circulated to all parish and town councils, seeking to raise funds and work together for the development of the Severn Estuary. The Clerk had more information if anyone was interested.

2009/50 GCC – road closure Tinkley Lane from 8-26 June 2009

The closure was noted

2009/51 Care & Repair – recruitment of people to help with household tasks

Paid workers were sought to provide a few hours help a week for the elderly.

2009/52 GRCC – event on 9 July at Highnam – roles & responsibilities of trustees

This did not appear to be particularly relevant to Nailsworth but cllrs could contact the Clerk for more information if required.

**2009/53 CPRE – GLOS BRANCH AGM on 30 June at 7pm in Tithe Barn
Brockworth**

Cllr Crawley had attended the Stroud District CPRE AGM on 16th June and, although the meeting had been over very quickly, he recommended the ensuing tour of the house and gardens. Any cllr wishing to attend on 30 June was invited to contact the Clerk.

2009/54 Mr David Drew MP – loft insulation

Public meetings would be held on 3 July in the Shambles, Stroud at 7pm, and on 4 July at 10am at Kingshill House Dursley, to discuss a strategy to ensure that every possible loft in the district was insulated within the next two years. All relevant agencies were being invited. Any Cllr wishing to attend was asked to inform the clerk.

2009/55 Crime & Disorder Partnership Meeting

The next meeting would take place tomorrow at 10am at Ebley Mill.

2009/56 Date of Environment Committee Meeting

The next environment committee meeting was scheduled to take place on 6 July but as Cllrs Nicholson and Mrs Thorpe would be on holiday an alternative date of 20 July was agreed.

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Date

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Chairman