

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 19 May 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
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Also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr RTH Blackwell
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Apologies	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr Miss F Macmillan

Cllr Kay welcomed Cllr Crawley to his first meeting as a co-opted councillor.

2009/01 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

There were two nominations for the office of mayor as follows:

Cllr Kay was proposed by Cllr Mrs Thorpe, seconded by Cllr Robinson and Cllr Carter was proposed by Cllr Mrs Binns, seconded by Cllr Bratby.

Cllr Robinson took the chair whilst a paper ballot was conducted, duly announcing Cllr Kay as the successful candidate for the office of mayor. Cllr Kay signed the declaration of acceptance of office and resumed the chair.

2009/02 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Carter and there being no other nominations, Cllr Robinson was duly elected deputy mayor for the forthcoming year and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2009/03 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

2009/04 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES & ELECTION OF CHAIRS

Membership of committees was agreed and chairmen appointed as per the list attached to the end of these minutes.

2009/05 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Representatives on outside bodies were appointed as per the list attached to the end of these minutes.

Cllr Robinson reported that Nailsworth Primary School wished to renew the link between the governing board and NTC and the chairman of governors had asked if a cllr would join the board. Since this was a change of policy, a formal invitation should be solicited from the school governing

board. Previously the board had insisted on a four year term for members and had not wanted a cllr appointment that could change on an annual basis.

PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed seconded by Cllr Robinson, that an item on the agenda be included at every full council meeting giving the opportunity for representatives on outside bodies to report any pertinent activity or development, or for other cllrs to ask questions, and NTC would expect at least one report a year from each representative at the AGM. This was unanimously agreed.

2009/06 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The schedule had been circulated to cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Wheeler asked to have regular dates for FE&GP meetings as he was often unable to attend due to prior commitments, but it was pointed out that these only took place as and when they were needed and did not fit a regular pattern. The mayor undertook to contact Cllr Wheeler to check his availability before fixing a date for the next meeting.

2009/07 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 21 April 2009 were approved and signed with 2 amendments -

Minute 2009/248 - last paragraph, line 5 to read ". . . exercise DVD, created by SDC *healthy lifestyle* officers."

Minute 2009/254 – second sentence – replace "GMTF" with "GRCC".

2009/08 POLICING in NAILSWORTH (minute 2009/244)

The mayor would raise his concerns at the Stonehouse INA meeting tomorrow

2009/09 FGCH GARDENING ARRANGEMENTS (minute 2009/254)

It was reported that Mrs Millet's son had been asked to do the gardening and it was agreed that the Property Management Committee should review and confirm arrangements at the next meeting.

2009/10 STONE FOUNTAIN (minute 2009/251)

The Mayor advised that he was chasing the uplighting for the Stone Fountain, installation of which had been due to start today and finish by the end of the week. There was a slight leak in the period drinking tap that hopefully was being resolved. Princess Anne had been invited to undertake the official unveiling on 10 July, but as she was keen to visit another venue, and the youth club at the same time and it was considered inappropriate to do this on a school day, a date in the autumn was being mooted.

2009/11 MUGA at FOREST GREEN (minute 2009/252)

The Mayor continued to press for specific proposals in relation to the MUGA and had left a message for John Clapp Director of FGR-FC. He was also pursuing the extent of SDC's responsibility for ensuring FGR-FC's planning conditions were met. The Mayor had spoken also to Mr Gareth Vine GCC to see if FGR-FC had made contact with GCC and they had not as far as he was aware.

2009/12 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Blackwell advised that he and Cllr Jeffreys had nothing in particular to report.

Cllr Crawley sought some clarification on the process and discussion in SDC's adoption of the Nailsworth Design Statement, and wondered how to be sure SDC planning department would take it into consideration. Following a question from Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Wheeler confirmed that formal letters from SDC about proposed changes to planning procedures had been considered at recent planning committee meetings. The proposals were the result of government pressure to meet an eight week deadline for determining applications which SDC was trying to meet in order to qualify for grants which would provide the planning department's major source of funding.

No formal objections had been submitted to SDC on behalf of NTC in the consultation process although many other towns and parishes had. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that he was briefing Cllr Fi Macmillan, a member of SDC development control committee, for a meeting taking place later in the week.

Cllr Wheeler was in discussion with Cllr Blackwell re Glendower.

County Cllr Waddington had provided a written report which was read out by the Clerk.

2009/13 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor mentioned the Clubs & Associations Fair held twice in the last two years, which had not been particularly successful and would not take place this year.

The Mayor had been invited to join the board of directors of GMTF and felt this would be a valuable opportunity not to miss out on matters that could benefit Nailsworth. He would therefore join the board on a one year trial basis.

2009/14 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson had attended the Chartered Parishes meeting in Gloucester with Town Archivist Mr Allan Beale. This had been a very interesting meeting with one of the speakers being the County Archivist who was keen to make a visit to Nailsworth – the Clerk added that she understood this meeting would take place this coming Friday.

2009/15 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reminded cllrs who wanted copies of the council photograph to remit their payment of £8.50 so that the photos could be ordered.

SDC had asked cllrs to consider whether their Register of Interest forms needed amending or changing. Cllrs were invited to review copies of their current declarations in the office.

The Clerk had received a request from Mr Oisin Hawes under the freedom of information act to provide a list of cllrs' attendance at meetings since June 2006. The Clerk had previously advised Mr Hawes that the information was recorded on minutes of meetings which were in the public domain, and therefore it was not clear that this was a freedom of information matter. The Clerk would take advice from SDC on the correct form of response.

The Mayor drew attention to the list of training courses available to cllrs.

The Clerk had reported to the chairman of Recreation & Amenities Committee and the Deputy Mayor that the incumbent of the Old Warehouse had without notice installed new windows and sunk boxes into the ground in front of each, which were on NTC owned land. The Clerk had visited the premises, followed up by a letter on 23 April, seeking an explanation, but had had no response. She had now noticed that window boxes had been affixed under the first floor windows, again without consultation, which were technically trespassing by overhanging council property and could be a danger to people passing below. The Clerk's proposal to write again and request a full report and explanation to present to the next meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee was approved.

2009/16 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting held on 27 April and the minutes were approved with the following amendment –

Sign boards - last line to read ". . . on his building, *subject to seeing a mock up*".

The draft Environmental Policy had been circulated to cllrs, and Cllr Nicholson provided some history on why this had come about. He asked cllrs to review it for discussion at the June meeting and to

email him any comments, alterations or amendments in advance. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that this was an essential document to have as part of funding applications in relation to the FGCH.

With regard to insurance for members of the public working on council land, the Clerk had spoken to Ms Teresa Watt of BTCV (formerly British Trust of Conservation Volunteers). Nailsworth volunteers could be led by a member of BTCV under its insurance at a cost of £100 a day, and could later form their own group and be affiliated to the Trust at a charge of £35 per annum. It would be helpful to ask someone from BTCV to come and talk to the Nature in Nailsworth group and the Clerk was asked to invite Ms Watt to attend the next meeting of the Environment Committee on 6 July.

RESOLVED Cllrs approved the committee's recommendation to appoint Mr Peter Starkiss as Nailsworth Snow Warden.

RESOLVED that Mr Calnan be invited, at his own risk, to undertake a survey of the Norton Wood orchard area and report back with proposals for the next step.

A site visit had taken place at land off Walkley Lane, which superseded the committee's recommendation. It had been decided that professional tree work was required and that NTC should undertake it. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation, and had sought advice from the council's solicitor who felt it would be sensible to put arrangements on a formal footing with the residents concerned.

In response to a query from Cllr Crawley, the Clerk confirmed that there were plans and records of the status of parcels of land around the town under NTC control.

Cllr Mrs Binns asked for clarification on access to the Norton Wood community orchard and whether all and sundry would be free to come in and help themselves to its produce. This and other points needed to be considered and put into the proposal, as well as taking into account the effect on resident wildlife. It was confirmed that at present options for the orchard area were being explored without prejudice and no decision had been taken to change current management of the area.

In response to a query from the Mayor, Cllr Nicholson reassured him that the committee was merely attempting to find and cost out a solution to the errant spring in Shortwood churchyard, before approaching the partners responsible to fund the work.

2009/17 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting held on 18 May and the minutes were approved. Cllr Nicholson again urged cllrs to help in providing copy for the magazine. Following discussion with the Nailsworth News team, Cllr Nicholson explained the decision to produce two editions in 2010 to fill the two gaps between issues of Nailsworth News in January and July. The scheduled November edition would therefore be pushed back to January.

With regard to the Town Guide, as it had been established that this could not be enclosed in the Fountain, a separate distribution had been provisionally booked with Royal Mail door-to-door for the earliest possible date of w/c 29 June at a cost of £500. It might be possible to use the November slot for distributing the Town Guide although this would be rather late.

PROPOSED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by the Mayor that up to £500 be spent on circulation of the Town Guide. The motion was unanimously carried.

2009/18 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY
There was nothing special to report.

2009/19 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Clr Wheeler presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 5 May and the minutes were approved.

It was noted that the list of apparent planning infringements would be reviewed for accuracy before any action was taken.

RESOLVED that the response to planning applications made by the Planning Committee at its meeting held on 5 May 2009 be approved.

2009/20 REVIEW OF INSURANCE COVER

The insurance policy was up for renewal in June, and the Clerk was confident that everything was adequately covered, although the trophies/awards might need to be added as well as cover for hirers of the Town Hall who did not have their own insurance (details to be agreed at next week's meeting of the Property Management committee). It was confirmed that the Stone Fountain had been removed from the policy since establishing that it belonged to SDC.

2009/21 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED that the list of accounts for 19 May 2009 amounting to £12,553.12 be approved for payment.

Clr Carter felt the litter picking cost in Mortimer Gardens was expensive for a less than perfect service. The Clerk pointed out that the contract only covered litter picking along the paths, and emptying bins. Service Team was responsible for the main town cleaning contract, so it was logical to use the same contractor, although a supplementary arrangement was required as MG was private land.

2009/22 Land Registry – opportunity for voluntary registration of unregistered land

Land Registry was seeking to complete the registration of all land in England and Wales, and Property Management Committee was asked to consider whether any action was appropriate.

2009/23 GAPTC – invitation to submit resolutions for AGM on 15 October

Clrs were invited to consider resolutions for submission by 31 July. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for next time.

2009/24 VCA Stroud – celebration of Volunteers Week 4 June 12 noon

Clrs were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend this event to meet trustees and staff of Stroud Volunteer Centre.

2009/25 Mrs S Reed – drinking fountain

Mrs Reed expressed her congratulations on the completion of the Stone Fountain project and the progress on the FGCH.

2009/26 GMTF – new addition to services

A new tool was offered which might be of benefit - up to 15 hours of technical assistance including training for each member of the community, available until September 09.

2009/27 Ringfield Close Tenants Association – request for pedestrian crossing across Bath Road adjacent to Park Road

The Tenants Association was seeking support from NTC for a new pedestrian crossing on Bath Road, but it was noted this had been asked for many times in the past and was not physically possible given the adjacent road junctions and lack of sight lines. The Clerk was asked to forward the letter to Mr John Roberts GCC Highways, and notify the writer of her action.

2009/28 Difficulty for wheelchair access to Fountain Street pedestrian crossing

Cllr Nicholson reported several complaints about the awkwardness for disabled scooters to turn into the pedestrian crossing opposite Jacaranda, since the beacon poles had been replaced. Plants on the pavement outside the flower shop were also causing an obstruction and Cllr Nicholson would have a word.

2009/29 Crime & Disorder Partnership – annual community safety panel meeting

The annual meeting would take place on 17 June at 10am in Ebley Mill and the minutes from the last meeting were available in the office.

2009/30 GAPTC – re-registration of common land

GAPTC had notified members of an initiative to enable errors in the original registration to be corrected and for new areas of land to be registered as common.

2009/31 Collapsed pavement/road at Tabrams Pitch

Cllr Crawley was concerned that the collapsed drain on Tabrams Pitch, though fenced off, had still not been repaired despite it having been damaged some weeks ago, and offered to email County Cllr Stan Waddington to chase this up.

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Date

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Chairman