

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 5 May 2015

Present	Cllr SM Reed (Chair) Cllr N Dart Cllr NI Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MP Robinson Cllr SM Thorpe
In attendance	One member of the public

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2015

Confirmation from Cllr Binns of the start date for GCC **repair work to the pavement in Old Market** was still awaited. It was noted that this work had been scheduled for the previous financial year.

The Clerk read out an email from Mr Ian Morris informing the Council that he had been successful in obtaining a street trading licence from SDC to site his **pizza vending van in the TIC car park** on Wednesday evenings. However, Mr Morris was wondering if NTC would consider extending his agreement with the Council to allow him the flexibility of operating on either a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evening in order to test the market. Mr Morris would be required to make a further application to SDC for this amendment.

In discussion, councillors recalled that Mr Morris had initially requested to use the TIC car park on Wednesday evenings as he had felt this minimised duplication with other businesses offering takeaway pizza. Members had taken this into account when acceding to the request. It was further noted that the agreement was for Mr Morris to pilot his initiative on a Wednesday evening for 6 months with a review after 3 months and councillors felt that this arrangement should stand. The Clerk was therefore asked to respond to Mr Morris accordingly.

UPDATE ON BOLLARDS ON PAVEMENT OUTSIDE TESCO

The Clerk was asked to request an update from Cllr Binns regarding GCC's proposal to re-instate the bollards on the pavement outside Tesco and on the current situation regarding the repair work to the pavement in Old Market.

NORTON WOOD INSPECTION AND FUTURE PLANNING

Cllr Reed had circulated a report from Mr Will Wilkinson of Charlton Abbots Forestry summarising her discussions with him on a recent inspection of the wood. Cllr Reed was pleased to report that the woodland appeared considerably more inviting following thinning and brushwood removal and that wild flowers were more in evidence.

The report was considered and after detailed discussion it was agreed that Mr Wilkinson be asked to quote for the following:

- To remove an ash tree and reduce the height of one oak and one beech tree on the boundary of the wood at the top of the orchard area which were leaning over an adjacent resident's property
- To produce and install 2 or 3 bench seats from the wood from the oak tree in an appropriate location in the wood

- To pollard the large walnut tree in the orchard to allow the fruit trees the opportunity to flourish
- To clear a swathe of approximately 7m width of on the right hand side of the central path approaching from the Star Hill entrance
- On left hand side boundary approaching from Star Hill entrance coppice ancient stands of hazel.

PROPOSED TOURS OF NTC PROPERTY HOLDINGS

Cllr Reed in liaison with the Clerk had drafted three proposed walkabout routes covering property and land owned or controlled by NTC, which had been previously circulated. Cllr Reed explained that the purpose of these walks was to acquaint Committee members with the precise location and nature of NTC property holdings and to check for any encroachment.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that the semi-circle of grassland opposite Nailsworth Primary School was registered as common land and as such the Council's control over this land was limited.

Cllr Kay expressed the hope that the walkabouts would assist the Council in clarifying whether NTC had legal title to the various parcels of land.

It was agreed that all interested councillors should be invited to attend the walkabouts regardless of whether they were members of the Environment Committee and it was suggested that, in order to keep numbers manageable, the three routes could be divided up between different groups of councillors.

LICENCE FOR USE OF LAND AT WALKLEY LANE

Cllr Reed reported that, together with the Clerk, she had inspected an area of NTC land at the end of Walkley Lane following a request by a resident with an adjoining garden for a licence to use the land as an extension to her garden. Cllr Reed explained that the area in question was steep and overgrown with brambles and that the resident wished to tidy it up and use it as a play area for her children. Cllr Reed added that there was evidence that another resident had been using the land to dump garden waste and advised that the land should be fenced to prevent this from continuing.

In response to a suggestion that consideration be given to selling the land to the resident, the Clerk advised that though this could perhaps be considered in the long term, disposal of council land was a long and complex process requiring the permission of the Secretary of State.

After discussion, it was **agreed to recommend** that Mrs Stern be granted a 5-year licence to use the land as an extension to her garden and to seek quotations for fencing to demarcate the area in question.

REPORT ON SHORTWOOD GREEN

Cllr Reed was pleased to report that the temporary barrier erected by the Council on a small section of bank below Shortwood Green appeared to have been effective in enabling the land to successfully regenerate.

REPORT ON WORK BY VOLUNTEERS AT BUNTING HILL

The Clerk was asked to write to the volunteers to congratulate them on their excellent work in clearing scrub and improving pathways at Bunting Hill.

LETTER FROM RESIDENT RE MAINTENANCE OF LAND AT WALKLEY WOOD

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Chris Norman, a resident of Walkley Wood, regarding trees at The Bluff and overgrown vegetation on the path between Price's Mill and the top of Pike Lane.

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to respond to the letter explaining that the Council's contractors had carried out all recommended work relating to the safety of the trees and to suggest that Mr Norman contact County Councillor Binns in relation to the footpath as this was the responsibility of the GCC rather than NTC.

Cllr Kay recalled that the Cotswold Voluntary Warden Service had previously undertaken clearance work on local footpaths and he agreed to contact Mr Mike Brinkworth to pursue this.

LIME TREE AT FOREST GREEN GREEN

Cllr Reed reported that, together with Cllr Kay and the Clerk, she had attended a site visit to inspect the lime tree on the edge of Forest Green green with Mr Simon Gardiner, following which Mr Gardiner had submitted a quotation of £1000 to remove the tree on a like-for-like basis with the Council's previous quotation from Tree Maintenance.

Cllr Reed reminded members that the safety report on the tree from the Council's contractors commissioned in response to concerns expressed by a nearby resident, Mr Williams, had concluded that it was a healthy specimen which presented no risk to neighbouring properties. However the Council had agreed to remove the tree at Mr Williams' expense.

The Clerk read out an email from Mr Williams making a series of general points about Forest Green Green to which she had responded acknowledging his comments and explaining that these issues were separate to the matter of the lime tree, and that the tree would be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting, which he was welcome to attend.

After discussion, Cllr M Robinson proposed, seconded by Cllr Thorpe and to majority approval, to **recommend** that, subject to satisfactory documentation, Mr Gardiner be instructed to remove the lime tree as per his quote of £1000 on receipt by NTC of this sum from Mr Williams.

It was agreed that the additional points relating to Forest Green green raised in Mr Williams' letter would be considered by the Committee at a future date.

LETTER FROM RESIDENT ABOUT PERSISTENT DAMAGE TO WALL OF APRIL COTTAGE, JUBILEE ROAD

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Geoff Turner of April Cottage detailing damage which had frequently occurred to his wall from long and wide vehicles negotiating Jubilee Road. This had occurred up to 20 times in a single year. Mr Turner had reported the problem to County Cllr Binns and a meeting of local residents had been held to discuss the problem.

The Clerk was asked to contact GCC Highways to request a site meeting with NTC councillors to which Mr Turner would be invited.

REPORT FROM TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE

The Clerk reported that the TIC printer had broken and a replacement had been purchased and installed. The supplier had indicated during installation that the TIC

computer had viruses so she had arranged for its examination by Mr Simon Hicks, who had declared it safe to use and had installed effective anti-virus protection.

Cllr Thorpe, whilst acknowledging the space limitation of the external noticeboard at the TIC, expressed the view that display of publicity for NTC events and issues for consultation such as the recent public meeting on local bus services should take precedence. The Clerk advised that this policy if adopted would represent a change of emphasis for the role of the TIC as its original remit was generally to publicise town events rather than to focus on NTC matters. Cllr Thorpe suggested that the current policy regarding display of publicity should be reviewed by the Committee at a future date.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF ROAD BARRIER BETWEEN LAWNSIDE AND BUNTING HILL

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Michael Levett asking the Council to support his request to GCC for the removal of the road barrier at the bottom of Bunting Hill and enclosing a petition. The Clerk confirmed that the barrier had been placed in this location some time ago at the request of local residents who were concerned that the road was being used as a 'rat-run' by vehicles. However Mr Levett felt that the existence of the barrier created congestion and access problems which could be exacerbated by the proposed construction of 8 new houses on the garage site.

The Mayor reported that he and Cllr S Robinson had previously met on site with local residents to discuss the matter. He understood that local residents were somewhat divided on the issue, with residents of Lawnside feeling inconvenienced by the barrier whilst those of Bunting Hill generally supported its retention. He suggested that after the upcoming election the new Committee should first discuss the barriers with the CLT before arranging a site meeting with residents of Lawnside and Bunting Hill.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that she had received no approaches from Forest Green Residents' Association on the matter.

The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Levett's letter stating that the matter would be considered in due course by the new council and asking him to provide copies of relevant correspondence with GCC.

As this was the last meeting of the Committee in the current civic year, Cllr Reed closed the meeting by thanking members for their efforts and was in turn congratulated on her efficient chairing.

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that Mrs Steffie Stern be granted a 5-year licence to use an area of NTC land at Walkley Lane as an extension to her garden and that a quotation be sought for fencing to demarcate the area in question.

RECOMMENDED that, subject to the provision of satisfactory documentation, Mr Simon Gardiner be instructed to remove the lime tree at Forest Green green as per his quote of £1000 on receipt by NTC of this sum from Mr Williams.