

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 22 February 2011

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Chairman) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
also present for part of the meeting	Cllr I D Crawley Andy Wilkins – skateboarding consultant
apologies	Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J R Nicholson

KGV PLAYING FIELD – HALF PIPE SKATE RAMP

Five companies had been approached and quotes were very varied with a difference of £10k between the lowest and highest for an identical product. Andy Wilkins recommended Maverick at £17,500 + vat, having used the company several times in the past, including for the Stroud skate park.

Gravity (at £15,200 was over £2k cheaper) had made the Bussage ramps, but reliability was questioned as this company was used to dealing with much larger projects and the quote had been given with no detail.

Maverick had recommended that it would be cheaper to use a local builder for laying the base, but offered to provide the spec for doing this.

The budget for the project was £25k (£20k promised by the Arkell Bequest had been asked for, but it was not known whether the donation was still available (Cllr Kay would chase up) + £5k from designated funds.



Mr Wilkins had obtained quotes for laying the base of £8,500; £8k; £6,440 not including taking away spoil; Summerbys had quoted £1850 + vat + £185 per load to remove spoil with an estimated 2 loads on a 60tonne lorry. (It was thought prudent to assume £500 for removal of soil.) Access would be required with a mini digger and presumably small dumper trucks would run back and forth from the entrance with loads of concrete as the field was unsuitable for heavy lorries. The final quote must include making good any damage to the field and removal of spoil. Summerbys was known by some present to be a competent contractor but it would be necessary to provide full and detailed instructions for the project. Mr Wilkins assured the meeting that Summerbys had visited the site and seen the access difficulties at first hand.

PROPOSED that council accept the quotation from Maverick at £17,500 + vat to build a half pipe at KGV skate park, with a concrete base built by Summerbys, at £1850 + ?£500 + vat, pending a fully detailed spec in writing to include removal of spoil and restoration of any damage to the field.

The Clerk pointed out that the agreement could only be in principal at this time pending the receipt of the bequest funds. It was estimated the work would take one week, with the pre-formed ramp delivered in sections and assembled on site. Mr Wilkins and Cllr Kay to project manage. Mr Wilkins was thanked for his time, and following his departure from the meeting, the Mayor suggested he be invited to submit an invoice for his expenses.

NAILSWORTH RECREATION CENTRE

Cllr Crawley updated the meeting on discussions with partners and plans for running an out of school service following installation of safety shutters to close off the rest of the school. Various grants had been awarded and others promised. Cllr Crawley anticipated that by year 3, the Recreation Centre would be self financing and in a position to start building a sinking fund for repairs and improvements.

Cllr Crawley was very keen to use the TIC as a telephone contact point for referring callers to the website or a designated bookings person. Mrs de Lacroix and the Clerk expressed concern that involving the TIC volunteers might not provide the most efficient service.

Cllr Crawley asked that two Cllrs be appointed as representatives on the management committee although it was confirmed that NTC had no formal responsibility for, nor involvement with running the Recreation Centre. Nailsworth Community Partnership Ltd was judged to be the best vehicle to act as banker for the project.

PROPOSED to recommend that council approve the arrangements for Nailsworth Recreation Centre as per Cllr Crawley's report dated 17 February 2011, with no responsibility on NTC; on a trial basis to use the TIC as a first contact point; and to nominate 2 cllrs as representatives on the management committee.

Cllr Crawley was commended on his negotiations with other stakeholders in pushing this project forward. GMTF had sent in their grant of £1500, currently residing in the NTC account.

MUGA

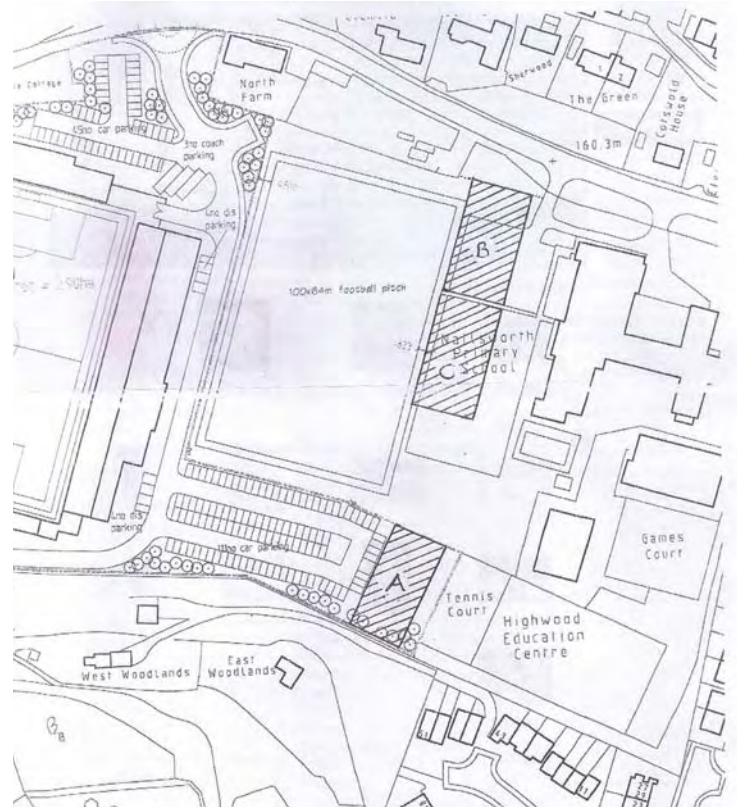
A letter was awaited from GCC, the School and Gloucester Diocese to confirm that they were all in favour of site C for the MUGA, so that NTC could take the formal decision to change its preference for site B, which was no longer a viable option. Should the letter be received by the time of the next full council meeting, it was agreed to take that decision then, so that discussions could proceed.

The Diocese had agreed in principle to give the freehold of site C to NTC, dependent on FGR being willing to handover freehold of the original site A in exchange. Cllrs Crawley, Kay and the Mayor would be meeting with David Drew FGR-FC on Friday to discuss this.

MORTIMER GARDENS AND TOWN GARDENING

The Mayor had met with the different groups which had volunteered to help with town gardening.

- The NW Flower Arrangers had already taken over the tubs at the bottom of Spring Hill.
- Ruskin Mill staff and students were preparing to tackle the clock tower bed outside the wall.
- NW Gardening Club would work on the beds under the bus station wall.
- A resident, Linda Ellis had offered to take on the round bed by the stream.



The Clerk had sent letters to all except Mrs Ellis, to confirm the arrangements and clarify the insurance position. From the £800 budget for town gardening, the Mayor recommended that a grant of £300 be made to Ruskin Mill, and £60 to each of the other groups = £480. The Youth Club had offered to manage the Cossack Square planter, but funds had already been donated to cover this. The Clerk had asked Ruskin Mill to clarify what they intended to do in the clock tower gardens in order to move existing plants elsewhere if they were not to be part of the new scheme.

Mrs de Lacroix asked that Lèves Corner be first in line if the initiative was a success and other groups came forward to join in. The Clerk added that the Mayor would need to check arrangements for acknowledgement signs on the various beds, although the NW Flower Arrangers had already installed their own, so perhaps each group would do the same.

The Clerk confirmed that £50 had been received from Central Networks towards plants damaged during their works in MG.

MARKET STREET GARDEN

A letter had been circulated from Portus & Whitton architects following the request to revise the spec to lower the cost.

The budget was £30k, of which at least £2k (SP Electrical estimate £3k) would be needed for the electricity installation, + £1k for EON to provide the connection + £800 for health & safety supervision + fencing (the original plan agreed by GCC included fencing) + planting + additional architects fees. At least £5-7k should be deducted therefore for these extras. Cllr Kay had pointed this out to the architects and further figures were awaited for the next meeting. The Clerk, Cllrs Byrne and Nicholson thought it would be a good idea to change the spec to match materials used in MG which should be less expensive. It was agreed that gravel would not be an option for the path surface – tegula blocks would be the preferred alternative to the present spec. It was proposed to get a quote for the railings from Ironcrafts Stroud Ltd which had built the bridge over the MG stream.

MILES MARLING FIELD

The Clerk was unsure if Joe Millett was still litter picking in the field. Neighbourhood Warden Pete Wilson appeared to have been left with the painting of the youth shelter, and the Clerk had arranged for him to collect more paint from Brutons. The Mayor offered to go and take a look.

KGV FIELD AND EXTENSION FIELD

Members agreed that the newly fixed gate by the vicarage should only open to a half circle and block the facility for opening it completely. Gerald Bufton would undertake the work for £150-£170.

Extension field: “no public right of way” notices had been put up, and chains & padlocks fitted.

CHILDREN’S PLAY AREAS

It was deemed unlikely that NTC would be able to tap into any grant funding.

YOUTH PROVISION

GCC had set its budget last week and was withdrawing from open youth work as anticipated, keeping only one centre in Stroud for targeted youngsters. NTC had put aside £41k + £1800 for under 18s, and awaited confirmation that for all current staff re-employed, a contingency fund would be required for possible redundancy payments. The Mayor advised that Part Time annual contracts would finish on 31 March and Full Time contracts on 30 June.

The Clerk explained that if youth workers were employed by NTC, this would take the council over the threshold limit of 5 employees, thus incurring greatly increased administrative charges. Members preferred the idea that the Youth Club be the employer, supported by Young Gloucestershire, funded by a grant from NTC. This would also keep the Youth Club independent from the town council. It was

agreed to invite an uninvolved cllr to meet with Tracy Clarke of Young Gloucestershire to finalise arrangements.

The Mayor had advised the Clerk that FG RA was keen to have Glos Play Rangers run activities in Forest Green during the summer holidays, as their previous visit had been very successful. 6 x half days had been pencilled in at a cost of £1780 (the Clerk thought it was £460 a day; this would need to be clarified). The Clerk advised this should come from the grants budget, as the Recreation & Amenities budget was needed elsewhere. Once confirmation had been received of the actual cost, the Finance Committee could be asked to reserve funds in next year's budget.

NAILSTOCK : 29 APRIL TO 2 MAY

Mr Chris Gregory had been expected at tonight's meeting but had not turned up. Cllr Kay had talked to SDC Environmental Health which had not heard from the organisers, but the Events Manual required them to make contact within 8 weeks of the event, ie by Friday 4 March. Cllr Kay had also talked to PC Paul Marshall who had no adverse concerns but as Inspector Kirk Harrison had passed responsibility to a Stroud sergeant, Cllr Kay was unclear if the police were satisfied with the arrangements. Inspector Kirk Harrison had been invited to attend the March council meeting, so would hopefully have some news. There was a lack of information, and the promised consultation with Park Road residents had not taken place. The website date had now passed for traders to apply, but a day or two remained for performers to come forward.

The Mayor and Cllr Kay proposed to meet with Chris Gregory and his team at 6pm on Monday 28 February to get a full report to bring to council.

.....
Date

.....
Chairman