

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of a meeting held on 7 March 2011

Present	Cllr Mrs J M Way (acting Chairman) Cllr J A Byrne Cllr S Robinson
also present for part of the meeting	Mr Peter Starkiss, snow warden
Apologies	Cllr I D Crawley Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe

**GRIT BINS AND THE ROLE OF THE SNOW WARDEN**

Cllrs, the Clerk and Mr Starkiss had recently met with Julian Wilson GCC to discuss requests for additional grit bins, and the Mayor had installed one himself at the Ridings. It was understood following this meeting that Mr Wilson had agreed to a new bin on the corner of Churchill Road, another half way up Tetbury Lane, possibly one in Dark Lane, and to service the bin in the Ridings. Mr Wilson was engaged in ongoing discussion about the provision/use of a snow plough with farmer Julian Cox in Horsley; but none of these actions appeared to have been moved forward. The Clerk feared that this service would be a candidate for cutting out by GCC and it would then be up to parishes to run their own schemes.

The Clerk was asked to chase confirmation from Mr Wilson on the agreed items and to ask for a timescale for installation of the new bins. Mr Starkiss would email to Cllr Mrs Way his notes from the meeting with Julian Wilson.

It was agreed that Cllrs Mrs Way and Robinson (with input from the Clerk) would meet on Thursday 17 March at 11am with Mr Starkiss to discuss the snow warden's tasks. GCC had provided a model job description, which the Clerk had copied to Mr Starkiss, but much of it was irrelevant. The Clerk was asked to copy this paper to Cllrs Robinson and Way along with the map showing town centre pavements to be gritted with the manual gritter.

**RESIDENTS PARKING IN CHURCH STREET**

Cllr Crawley had circulated two draft letters, and Cllr Byrne had suggested the wording be slightly changed so that it was made clear NTC had not changed its policy against residents parking in principle. Other Cllrs had commented on the draft letters but it was unclear how matters now stood. It was agreed that the Clerk would clarify with Cllr Crawley.

**INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC ROOF PANELS**

Mr Brian Oosthuysen had written to enquire whether NTC might be interested in installing photovoltaic panels on the town hall roof, and advising that the company was looking for other suitable sites and buildings. The Clerk had acknowledged the letter and was asked to respond further that the Youth Club might be interested, but that NTC currently was not, and to suggest an article be put forward to the Nailsworth News.

**REGISTRATION OF COUNCIL PROPERTY**

The Clerk was pleased to report that the solicitors had found the missing deeds.

**SIGN BOARDS IN TOWN CENTRE**

Cllr Nicholson had reported that Imagemakers needed a 50% advance payment in order to start work on the draft map. The cost of the map design was £2868.68 + vat, + approx. £120 per peripheral drawing. (there was £3295 left in the budget) The installation cost would also need to be taken into account. On receipt of the first payment Imagemakers would produce a line drawing of the map and peripheral information for the council to amend etc. These comments would be incorporated into a

revised drawing for the council to formally approve. This drawing would then be transformed into the final article.

**PROPOSED members recommended to Council that Imagemakers be commissioned to start work on the map for the signboards and that a cheque for 50% of the cost be included in the list of accounts at the next council meeting.**

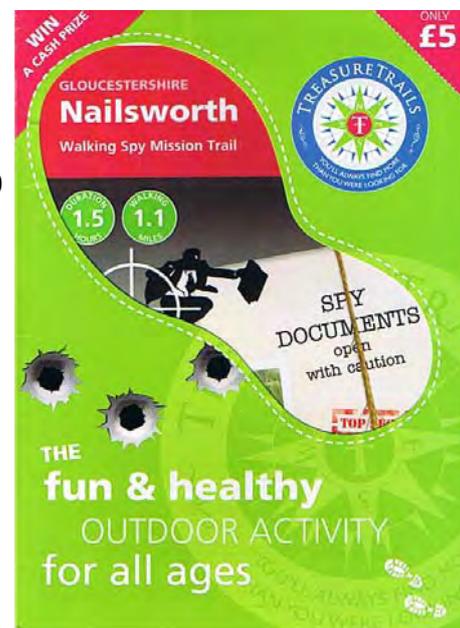
#### **TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE AND TOURISM ISSUES**

Mrs de Lacroix advised that the annual Staff meeting/party would take place this Wednesday 9 March.

The initial 10 copies of the DVD Rivers of Cloth produced by the SWTT and part funded by NTC, had sold very quickly and a further 10 had been supplied SOR. The disks retailed at £10.

Mrs de Lacroix requested permission to try an initial order of mystery treasure trails, retailing through TICs, which seemed an ideal product based on the requests the TIC gets from residents and visitors for local children's activities. One had been designed around Nailsworth, and the minimum purchase was for 25 retailing at £5, and it was agreed to go for 15 Nailsworth, 5 Stroud, 5 Tetbury.

The Clerk was pleased to report that she had received a refund of £35.13 from Severn Trent after re-rating the TIC.



#### **LARCH COPSE AT SHORTWOOD**

Cllr Nicholson and the Clerk had met on site last week with local resident David Stevens, following his letter regarding the larch copse. A big clearance job had been done and many people had complimented Geoff Brooks while he was doing it. Mr Stevens thought some tree work was needed although the Clerk had made it clear trees could not be removed merely because they blocked light to adjacent properties. Mr Brooks had duly done a survey and prepared a list of recommendations at a cost of £1275; plus the supply and planting of 6 new larch saplings for £212.60. Snow berry was very tough to cut back as it was old and well established, but Mr Brooks thought it could be kept trimmed to provide low ground cover.

**PROPOSED members recommended to council that Mr Geoff Brooks be asked to undertake the identified tree works in Shortwood larch copse at a cost of £1275, and to plant six new trees at a cost of £212.60 at a time of his choosing. Mr Brooks would also be asked to undertake an annual inspection of the copse.**

The Clerk would inform Mr Stevens of the council's decision.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

The Clerk advised that Paddy Brosnan would be doing the spring diversion work next month.

#### **NORTON WOOD**

Trees had been planted in the orchard and a lot of clearance work done; the results were very impressive. Cllr Mrs Way wished to record thanks to Cllr Crawley for being instrumental in preparing the guidelines to formalise the volunteers' activities.

Charlton Abbots had carried out its annual tree safety inspection in the Wood. Various medium risk tasks (within six months) had been identified, and some low risk. There was only one urgent inspection recommended for a suspect beech tree. The Clerk was asked to authorise the urgent job and ask for a quote for the rest of the work recommended.

### **AVENING ROAD BANK tree safety inspection**

Only low and medium risk tasks were recommended, including the severing of ivy for later removal. One tree in poor condition might be owned by the vicarage and closer inspection was required. The Clerk was asked to authorise the ivy work asap and get a quote for the rest.

### **BUNTING HILL REGENERATION PROJECT**

Cllr Mrs Way had visited the site today and was impressed with the amount of work which had been done; the Clerk would write a thank you note when sending the cheque to BTCV. Hedge clippings from a house on Seven Acres Road which had been chucked over the fence and rolled down the bank, remained at risk of blocking the path despite the Clerk's written request to the resident concerned to remove them. The Clerk was asked to write again and say if they were not removed, the council would arrange it and charge the resident accordingly. Cllr Byrne advised that several informal precarious routes had been trodden from the footpath up to roads above, but it was agreed it would not be a good idea to condone use of these by adopting them and making them more user friendly.

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Mayor had attended the first Christkindl Committee meeting for this year's event and the chairman David Middlemiss had expressed keenness to organise some fund raising to help with the new Nailsworth Christmas lights scheme. The Committee had applied to NTC for a grant towards the evening celebrations. There was £5k in the NTC budget and a cherry picker (and manpower) would have to be hired to put up the swags in the bus station. New LED motifs would cost in the region of £400 each, so a few could be purchased and more added each year. Some companies supplied the whole set at the start and took payment over several years. Labour costs should be lower as bulbs would not have to be screwed in individually, but a day to erect and a day to take down should be allowed for.

The Clerk had had an email request from the Christkindl Committee to put a "tree of life" in the clock tower garden (for residents to pin up remembrance cards). No exterior socket existed at the clock tower at present and concern was expressed about how power could be safely cabled to a tree and the health & safety issues involved. It was agreed the Clerk would ask Sue Arnold for a fully detailed plan, method statement, risk assessment, timescale, so that the request could be properly considered.

The Christmas Lights sub-committee would reconvene to plan a new lighting scheme for the town. Cllrs Mrs Way, Nicholson and the Clerk would be joined by the Mayor and agreed to meet on Monday 28 March at 2.30pm.

### **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Andy Nash SDC estates surveyor had responded to the Clerk's letter reporting that Smith lorry drivers were parking for their mid-morning break in the bus station - one day there were 4 lined up with engines running. Mr Nash had spoken to the company and asked it to desist from this practice, and asked that the Clerk let him know if the problem continued.

The Mayor had written to Chris Riley GCC following complaints about the road surface on Nympsfield Road, especially the corner with Barnfield Close. Mr Riley had responded that the section of Nympsfield Road between Moffat Road and Barnfield Close would be resurfaced early in the next financial year. GCC was looking at resurfacing the second half of Old Market but that would not be until the following financial year. The W, as a major route, was inspected on a monthly basis.

The Clerk had received an email from SDC looking at road sweeping schedules where parked cars meant the job could not be properly undertaken. SDC was asking for volunteers to distribute leaflets and set up cones prior to a sweeping session.

### **MAPPING LICENCE CHANGES**

From 1 April, the existing contractor's licence for use of Ordnance Survey maps was being replaced by a new Public Mapping Licence which could be applied for directly with PSMA (10 year agreement) or

via SDC. Given NTC's limited technological capacity, it was felt preferable to continue accessing the maps through SDC and the Clerk would ask for the relevant application form.

**W CLEARANCE**

Cllr Mrs Way would follow up with ranger Richard Evans who had indicated some clearance work would be done towards the end of February.

**REGISTRATION OF ROAD NAMES IN NEWMARKET**

SDC had provided a map showing roads at the end of Newmarket, confirming that they would be officially registered under the following names -

- Lower Newmarket Road - green
- Higher Newmarket Road- red
- Wood End Lane – pink

It was assumed the red marked road running into the blue one (Cllr Byrne thought this was a private road) would be Higher Newmarket Road all the way along, but the Clerk would check.



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Date

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Chairman