

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
 The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 16 February 2010
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr JT Jeffreys Residents from Church Street
Apologies	Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson

2010/200 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Representatives of Church Street residents wished to ask NTC to reconsider its objections (as recorded in the minutes of the October council meeting) to GCC's proposals for the introduction of residents' parking in Nailsworth. Mr John Burfitt advised that residents had been requesting residents' parking in a defined bay in Church Street since December 04. GCC had originally rejected the appeal because of a lack of means of enforcement, but the situation had now changed with the reorganisation of parking enforcement. The residents felt that the lack of 8h parking provision in the town led to workers parking all day in Church Street which had no parking restrictions, and which was also taken advantage of by people leaving their cars to go on holiday. Mr Burfitt did not agree with NTC's view that allowing one scheme would set a precedent, as he felt there was no other place in the town which met the criteria.

The Mayor clarified that NTC had since learned that GCC was seeking only to approve the idea of residents' parking schemes in principle following pressure from the cities, and it was very early in the consultation process. County Cllr Waddington added that the initiative had been on hold while new parking enforcement systems were bedded in, and any future schemes would start in the cities. Nothing would be done in communities without consultation and the full support of the local council.

The Mayor suggested notifying Mr Burfitt when the matter was next to be discussed so that a representative from Church Street could attend

2010/201 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 January were approved and signed.

2010/202 STANDING ORDERS (minute 2010/183)

When the FE&GP committee decided a year ago to increase the sum to £10k below which it would not be required to seek competitive tenders for regular expenditure (eg. Christmas lights, grass cutting contract), the Mayor thought that the figure had also been upped from £5k to £10k for one-off projects, although the document still had this figure down as £5k. He suggested the committee meet to clarify the issue, but meantime, cllrs could decide to suspend SOs at the special meeting to be held on Thursday, if it was decided that Buchanan Partnership continue as architects for the FGCC project.

Cllr Carter was disappointed that it had taken so long to sort this out and merely wished that NTC conduct its business in the proper manner.

The Clerk added that new SOs from NALC had been published which would incur a complete rewrite of NTC's SOs, so suggested the NALC guidelines were reviewed before spending too much time on the old SOs which were out of date. She added that the whole new set would have to be adopted, though there was scope for modification to some of the Orders according to individual circumstance.

2010/203 BUNTING HILL REGENERATION PROJECT (minute 2010/190)

Cllr Mrs Way advised that the site meeting had taken place on Saturday and work would proceed on 23/24 February.

2010/204 SDC T&PC MEETING & FEBRUARY (minute 2010/196)

The Mayor had circulated his notes from the consultation meeting by email. He added that SDC was in a difficult financial position and had increased its council tax by only 1.9%, meaning that even greater cuts would have to be made. The meeting had listed a reduction in services across the board, intimating that it was down to parish councils to pick up the cost of continuing services.

2010/205 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington advised that the 70 gangs working on pothole repairs were making good progress. He had participated last Friday in the making of a video which was now on You Tube. The Adverse Weather Panel would hold its first meeting next week to debrief on events over this winter and look at forward planning. The Police Precept had also been set at 2.9%.

GCC had a major issue with secondary schools following the Badman Report which had recommended some closures, including two schools in Gloucester. This was however an opportunity to form a new Academy, bringing £20m into education for the area from the closure of the two schools, which GCC considered to be the best way forward. Berkeley Vale was also recommended for closure but GCC was looking at the option put forward by governors and staff for a community partnership scheme, which idea would be developed further. Mr John Roberts, divisional manager at Stroudwater Interchange would be retiring end March, and Cllr Waddington suggested bringing his replacement (yet to be appointed) in due course to meet with NTC to discuss Nailsworth projects. The Star Hill/Jubilee Road traffic calming seemed to have made a start with the erection of 20mph signs, although the order had not yet gone through the legal process; Cllr Waddington expected the signs would need to be blanked pending the order being confirmed.

Cllr Crawley complimented GCC on its repairs to Avening Road. He asked Cllr Waddington if a date had been agreed for inspection of the new Forest Green estate roads - Beechwood Close and Highwood Drive – prior to their formal adoption. Residents were concerned that until the roads were adopted, they could not be part of any parking enforcement or match day schemes. Cllr Waddington would look into this.

District Cllr Blackwell advised that County Cllr Waddington was helping to lobby Highways to progress the proposal of creating a new car park on Avening Road. This was the preferred site of the three put forward, the others being land adjacent to Lakeside Garage and Newmarket Road. It was agreed that the field at Lakeside, though unsuitable for parking, had become an eyesore and needed tidying up.

District Cllr Jeffreys advised that full council had met on 21 January and the council tax increase agreed. There had been complaints over the last 12 months about noisy use of the recycling banks by Tesco Express in Old Market and he had asked the contractors not to empty the bins either too early or too late in the day and to erect signs asking users to be considerate of nearby residents. Environmental Health had monitored noise levels and might return if these were considered excessive.

The Mayor noted that SDC's record low increase in council tax meant a lot of small schemes would be dropped and council services affected, with T&PCs having to pick up the tab if they wanted the provision to continue. Cllr Jeffreys countered that the council was obliged to seek best value in the current economic climate and would do its best to protect vulnerable sections of the community. He was not aware that there had been many staff reductions at SDC but there was increasing demands on their time with new edicts from central government.

2010/206 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

One of the issues that came up in discussions over the future of the Nailsworth Recreation Centre was why NTC had not been consulted over SDC proposals. It had been found that SDC did not have a consultation policy which involved P&TCs over issues in their areas and the Mayor had been asking other towns via GAPTC if they wished to make a joint appeal to SDC that it should have such a policy. Woodchester and Eastington had pledged support so far.

Whilst looking at the CSPAN site (community sports initiative led by SDC), the Mayor had been surprised to see that SDC claimed to have been a lead agency in the Nailsworth Games 2008 to which it had granted £6k, although in reality it had chosen neither to participate nor provide any funding. The Mayor had queried this with Ms Karen Toole and asked for an explanation, since which the CSPAN site had been updated and the references to Nailsworth Games removed. Ms Toole's response had been that the CSPAN action plan had included the Nailsworth Games as a possible project, which had not in the event been put forward to Sport England. It was however thought to be a good example for other towns. The Mayor was not satisfied that SDC had adequately explained why it had inaccurately taken credit for this initiative.

Cllr Carter raised his disagreement with the content of the Mayor's report in the latest Nailsworth News, and in particular his criticism of SDC's position regarding plans for the Nailsworth Recreation Centre, and the lack of support from two of the Nailsworth district cllrs. Cllr Carter thought the column should represent the views of NTC as a whole and the Mayor's statements had not been ratified by full council. The Mayor felt this was an important matter about which he and mostl cllrs felt strongly.

2010/207 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had received source material consultation papers for the Core Strategy Consultation for public perusal, which would be made available at the Town Hall and the Town Information Centre.

It was confirmed that the election would take place on 25 March for the two council vacancies and nominations had to be submitted to SDC by noon on 26 February. The election would take place if there were more than two candidates.

Cllr Carter drew attention to the fact that he and others had not received the January edition of the Fountain. The delivery week unfortunately coincided with the snows, when many postal rounds were cancelled, but Royal Mail should have notified NTC if some delivery areas were completely missed, particularly important in this instance because of the Energy Questionnaire included. Mrs de Lacroix would attempt to clarify the situation with Royal Mail.

2010/208 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Clerk was asked to notify those organisations where Cllrs Bratby and Wheeler had been NTC's representatives of their resignations, and that replacements would be appointed at a future council meeting. The bodies concerned were NYCE, Minchinhampton Educational Trust, CAB, Nailsworth Twinning Association.

2010/209 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 26 January and the minutes were approved.

The Mayor was pleased to report that he had found the mayor's chain which he had mislaid.

Cllr Mrs Way advised that she had had feedback from SWEA expressing approval of the energy audit report and implementation programme, but suggesting NTC could look at bringing forward a change of energy supplier and being more ambitious on savings to be achieved. The Clerk pointed out that there was time to reconsider the programme as no action could be taken until funds were available in next year's budget.

PROPOSED **Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Way to unanimous approval that the Energy Audit Report be approved and that the Property Management & Hiring Policy be adopted.**

2010/210 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting held on 9 February had been inquorate so the recommendations would have to be deferred to the next meeting, which it was agreed should be brought forward as some decisions needed to be made sooner than the next scheduled meeting in two months time.

Cllr Crawley expanded on the situation with regards to the future of Nailsworth Recreation Centre and hoped support and grant aid might be forthcoming from Active Gloucestershire, University of Gloucestershire and others, to provide assistance in exploring the options and in assessing the realistic situation of need and alternative provision. The premature publication of the SDC press release had drawn attention to the lack of involvement and consultation undertaken with host communities over issues of direct concern to them. At the meeting on 28 January NTC's representations had had a positive impact on getting SDC to consult with local communities and a decision deferred until June. Cllr Mrs Thorpe wondered if the District Council considered the overall impact of its range of cuts on an individual community.

A further meeting was due to take place at Nailsworth Primary School on 22 February at which it was hoped to get clarification of the support that would be forthcoming from SDC during the changeover period ie possible tapering funding etc.

2010/211 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that tenders for the build had been received and the third contractor was to be recommended. A bid for £50k went in last week to ENTRUST, and work continued now on preparing the bid to RDA for £250k. Different meetings had taken place with different bodies, such as with Gloucester University community development department (a positive meeting which produced ideas for obtaining funding for a short term development worker to help establish the new building); with FGRA (to discuss residents forming a shadow management committee to develop the use of the new centre - several volunteers had showed willing); with residents (to address their concerns and those of Cllrs Mrs Binns and Carter).

Cllr Carter asked what would be NTC's response to the request in Nailsworth News to hold a further public meeting with residents, to which the Mayor responded that the item would again be on the agenda at the annual Town Meeting.

2010/212 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter had been elected chairman of the committee at the first meeting, and presented the report of the meetings held on 21 January and 2 February.

The Mayor reminded the meeting of the suggestion that the MUGA might be built on school land, which was still to be discussed with FGR-FC. One advantage would be that the MUGA would not be on privately owned land, but the new location would of course depend on gaining planning permission and on agreeing a partial land swop with the school and renegotiation of the FGR-FC site. The Mayor would speak informally to SDC planning department to gauge the viability of the idea.

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 21 January and 2 February 2010 be approved.
-----------------	---

2010/213 ACCOUNTS

Item 315 – the Clerk clarified that the Signboards had been ready for months having been ordered in the last financial year but had been held up by the uncompleted artwork. She had agreed with Malcolm Lane to pay for the boards, and the revised invoice would clearly state that the boards belonged to NTC and were being held on its behalf. Cllr Nicholson was pursuing completion of satisfactory artwork.

Item 318 – it was confirmed that the period covered was April 09 – Nov 09, at 50% of the cost of temporary youth worker provision, as approved by Cllr Robinson.

Item 306 – the Clerk explained that there was a further problem with the Land Registry which had rejected one plan showing the boundaries of Mr Smith's land. However this did not affect the extension field itself and Mr Smith's solicitors had agreed to remove the offending plan from this application with NTC's agreement. Councillors agreed. NTC would now seek to obtain the £12.5k maintenance funds lodged with FGR-FC, and create a policy for use of the field.

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 16 February 2010 amounting to £25,226.74 be approved for payment.
-----------------	--

2010/214 Mr I Selkirk – appointment of independent internal auditor

The annual letter proposing Mr Selkirk continue as NTC's internal auditor was approved.

2010/215 AES Winterbothams – retirement of Mrs Caroline James

Mrs James' replacement would be Mr Edward Mosely and the Clerk had written on behalf of the council to thank Mrs James for her past work.

2010/216 Golden Valley Classic MCC – event for solo & combination motorcycles

The annual motorcycle rally would take place on 7 March. Parishes crossed by the rally were notified as a matter of courtesy.

2010/217 GCC – Glos Medal for Courage

Nominations were invited for this annual award

2010/218 GCC – pothole repairs – three steps to road rescue

A report had been sent on the latest position of the repair programme.

2010/219 Bus-com – proposed mobile shop

The email had been circulated from Mr Christopher Smith seeking information for his new business to run a mobile shop for isolated communities. Cllrs were invited to fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to Mr Smith.

.....
Date

.....
Chairman