

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 February 2007

Present: Cllr Mrs S M Reed (Town Mayor)
Cllr W S Affleck
Cllr J Eddyshaw
Cllr E A Mclean
Cllr J R Nicholson
Cllr Mrs A J Smith

County Cllr J S Waddington
District Cllr J T Jeffreys

Apologies accepted: Cllr J D Bratby
Cllr N I Kay
Cllr Mrs L J Williams-Allen

Non attendance: Cllr M K Akhtar
Cllr J Byrne

2007/233 COUNCIL MINUTES

Due to lack of members being present who had attended the meeting held on 16 January 2007 the minutes were unable to be confirmed.

2007/234 MAYORS FOR PEACE (minute 2007/211)

The Mayor reported that 143 towns had signed up to this initiative and Nailsworth had received its certificate. It would be framed and displayed at the Town Hall.

2007/235 SAVE STROUD HOSPITAL (minute 2007/212)

An acknowledgement of the Council's letter had been received from Minister Mrs Patricia Hewitt.

2007/236 REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Waddington reported that the debate on waste disposal in the County was ongoing. The SDC pilot scheme for kitchen waste collection had been postponed indefinitely until GCC had set up arrangements (in vessel composting) for its disposal.

GCC was conscious of its responsibilities in the arena of climate change and the Environment Director would be working on a programme to clarify the numerous issues.

The GCC budget meeting was to take place the next day and an increase of 3.4% was being proposed – the lowest rise to date. Cllr Mrs Smith enquired whether it was

proposed to restore the cuts made last year in the budget for supporting carers. Cllr Waddington undertook to establish the facts but he doubted that the budget was to be increased. Since 2004 GCC provision of home care hours had doubled and current policy was to move away from grants to carers' organisations focusing instead on service level grants.

Cllr Affleck enquired whether GCC would be developing a congestion charge scheme to take advantage of government grant money for such schemes. Cllr Waddington said that GCC would not be embarking along this route at present. It was working on extending Park & Ride schemes and improving public transport.

Cllr Nicholson raised the question of the discrepancy between the bus cost per mile of 90p for travelling from the town centre to Forest Green and 50p per mile for travelling from the town centre to Stroud. Was there any possibility of subsidising specific parts of bus routes rather than the whole route? Cllr Waddington agreed to investigate.

Cllr Jeffreys reported that SDC would be meeting on Thursday to approve the budget for next year. An increase of 2.5% was being proposed. In answer to a question from Cllr Kay Cllr Jeffreys said that some consultation with non-domestic ratepayers had been undertaken but there was no statutory obligation on SDC to do this.

Discussions were ongoing with a Building Society exploring the possibility of three persons incomes being taken into account for mortgage purposes. A similar scheme had been piloted in London.

Cllr Jeffreys reminded members that SDC grants had to be claimed by 31 March and there appeared to be an amount outstanding for NYCE which needed to be followed up without delay.

Cllr Jeffreys drew attention to the Play Regeneration Scheme under which SDC had £200,000 of lottery money to disburse for play schemes for young people. He urged NTC to take advantage of this opportunity.

2007/237 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

18 January	Attended with Mrs Margaret Marshall CDLP meeting chaired by Inspector Moore. Discussion was wide ranging from petty crime to parking offences to support community groups. Mr Colin Peake had nominated Forest Green residents Association for a community award.
20 January	Attended first event of the year of celebrations by Christ Church to commemorate its 40 th Anniversary – congratulations to them
22 January	First meeting of Nailsworth Community Partnership. Comments were invited on Terms of Reference already circulated.
23 January	Presentation of convenience store award of £1000 to Forest Green Residents Association which would be put towards the provision of a roundabout. Suki and Bob Singh had applied for the award on behalf of FGRA.
1 February	Met with Mr P Russell of Nailsworth Dramatic Society to write Awards For All grant application to help pay for updating the stage wiring and

	provision of new lighting bar at the Town Hall. The Society was submitting a grant application at the same time for an electronic system to control the lighting effects. The aim was to provide an up to date installation for all users of the stage.
5 February	Attended meeting of Nailsworth primary School Governors.

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the Nailsworth Community Partnership meeting arranged for 26 February.

The Mayor raised the question of SDC policy in handling monies received from Section 106 agreements. She was instigating this discussion now as she had heard informally that a sum of £34000 had been obtained last July for affordable/residential housing and outdoor play space as a result of housing development on the ex-Hazelwood site. No information had been received from SDC and she felt there should be a transparent process for consultation between SDC and towns and parishes on how such monies should be disbursed. At the very least a list should be maintained so that these funds did not go astray. Cllr Jeffreys undertook to make enquiries.

2007/238 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

No additional publications had been received.

2007/239 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Due to insufficient members being present who had attended the meeting held on 23 January the minutes were unable to be confirmed.

The Clerk reported that the Leves plaque had been installed. The contractors had done an excellent job and the plaque looked splendid in this location. The Clerk was investigating options for a new sign for the Mortimer Room which might require the re-positioning of the Christmas tree bracket which had been removed for painting.

Cllr Affleck referred to a recent Ofsted report on the Town Hall Nursery. Reference had been made to the dilapidated appearance of the rear patio and poor security measures. The Clerk stated that although the rear patio looked neglected the area was safe and serviceable. The patio gate had a latch and bolt attached to the outside inaccessible by the children. The kitchen stairs had a bolted gate accessible by visitors only if opened by nursery staff. It was noted that the building was a shared premises catering for a wide range of interests and ages and it was up to individual hirers to satisfy themselves that the facilities met their individual requirements. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the difficulty being experienced in obtaining quotations for the rear patio area – those received so far exceeded the budget allocation. Further quotations were awaited.

2007/239 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

The meeting held on 12 February 2007 had been inquorate but the discussion was noted. Proposed by Cllr Nicholson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Smith and unanimously approved it was agreed that

- the fee paid to the editor be raised to £25 per page starting with edition 39
- the printing of the newsletter should remain with Printco
- criteria for advertising rates amendments were accepted

2007/240 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Due to insufficient members being present who had attended the meeting held on 13 February 2007 the minutes were unable to be approved. Councillors present did not disagree with any of the recommendations contained in the minutes. Cllr Mrs Smith proposed an amendment to the section on children's play areas and the Clerk agreed to incorporate the revision and re-circulate the minutes for approval at the next meeting.

The Council agreed that the toilet block should remain at its current location and a letter of confirmation should be sent to Mrs Samack SDC.

Cllr Nicholson agreed to contact Mr Phil Sullivan SDC to investigate whether any funding might be available from the Crime & Disorder budget towards the provision of lighting for the youth shelter at the Miles Marling field.

2007/241 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Affleck presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2007 which were approved. It was noted that the final version of the Housing Needs Survey had now been published and the Clerk was asked to circulate a copy to all Councillors (by email if available in that format) for discussion at the April Council meeting.

Cllr Affleck presented the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2007 and the minutes were approved with the deletion of the first paragraph. It was agreed to be cautious about participating too frequently on Shopping and Footfall Surveys – once every five years was thought to be about right.

Cllr Affleck said that the Housing Needs Survey had not identified any potential housing sites and suitable land was proving elusive to identify. In answer to a question Cllr Jeffreys said there were no exception sites suitable for use in Nailsworth although there might be departure sites i.e. sites outside but adjoining the town boundary.

2007/241 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the List of Accounts dated 20 February 2007 totalling £16874.77 be approved for payment.

2007/242 AUDIT COMMISSION – AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR CURRENT & FUTURE YEARS

The letter was noted. Charges had risen but it was accepted as inevitable.

2007/243 MR I SELKIRK – APPOINTMENT AS INTERNAL AUDITOR

Mr Selkirk's appointment as internal auditor for year ended 31 March 2007 was approved.

2007/244 SDC – COTSWOLD CANALS AREA ACTION PLAN

The documents were noted.

2007/245 GOLDEN VALLEY CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE CLUB

The event arranged for 4 March was noted.

2007/246 GCC – SEMINAR FOR PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS – 6 MARCH

The event was noted.

2007/247 CENTRAL NETWORKS – PARISH COUNCIL PACK

Councillors considered the initiative to be worthy but a waste of money.

2007/248 GCC – MEDAL OF COURAGE

The letter was noted.

2007/249 SDC – TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES – MARKET STREET 10 MARCH &
BUS STATION 28 APRIL

The Council supported the road closures.

2007/250 NALC – REVIEW OF QUALITY TOWN & PARISH SCHEME

The letter was noted. Cllr Nicholson agreed to keep an eye on developments.

2007/251 ENJOY ENGLAND – CELEBRATION OF ST GEORGES DAY

The letter was noted. The Mayor's reception was planned for this date.

2007/252 COMMUNITIES 7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT – REVISED MODEL CODE OF
CONDUCT

The letter was noted.

2007/253 DAVID DREW MP – RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL

The letter was noted.

2007/254 CPRE – SUPPORT FOR CAMPAIGNING ISSUE IN DORSET

The letter was noted. It was felt to be inappropriate issue for the Council to respond.

2007/255 POLICE & CONSULTATIVE MEETING – 7 MARCH

Cllr Affleck agreed to attend.

2007/256 GCC – PROW PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR APPLICATIONS

The letter was noted. It was unclear whether this new system would affect the determination of the footpath at Forest Green.

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TOWN MAYOR