

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 17 January 2012

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr N Dart Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr N I Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr M M Rahman Cllr Mrs SM Reed Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr Mrs CS Farrell
Apologies	Cllr P Carter

2012/172 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2012/173 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on **20 December** 2011 were approved and signed with the following amendment:

Minute 2011/178, last sentence to read " . . . Nailsworth was in fact no longer to be grouped with Minchinhampton for GCC elections." County Cllr Waddington added that he now had maps showing the new boundaries which he would forward to the Clerk for circulation.

Minutes of the Special meeting held on **12 December** 2011 were approved and signed with an additional sentence at the end of the first paragraph of item 2011/171:

"Cllr Duckworth expressed concern that reserves had been falling over the last few years. He also noted that it was not always clear how the council's figures split between revenue and designated funds. He resolved to look at other ways the figures could be presented to better show this."

2012/174 TRAINING SESSION for NEW ACTION PLAN

The Mayor urged all Cllrs to attend the training session on Tuesday 28 February (not 27th as shown on the agenda), and suggested they might like to re-familiarise themselves with the previous Action Plan which was available to view on the town website.

2012/175 A FRAMES (minute 2011/176)

The Mayor advised that Cllr Carter had been seeking advice about this problem from Phil Sullivan and Peter Wilson SDC Community Safety.

2012/176 SDC CONSULTATION POLICY (minute 2011/184)

Cllr Kay reported that, following Mr David Hagg's seeming willingness to improve consultation with parishes, a letter had been circulated and several parishes had arranged to meet on 29 February, when it was hoped to agree an outline of a consultation procedure to propose to SDC.

2012/177 BUS STATION RE-DESIGN (minute 2011/189)

Cllr Carter had emailed round his record of the informal meeting in May/June 2011, and official notification of SDC's plans and timescale were awaited.

2012/178 SWITCH to gov.uk EMAILS (minute 2011/191)

Cllr Duckworth had handed round today a simple guide for re-arranging Cllrs' emails.

2012/179 CHEQUE to Mr JIM EDDYSHAW (minute 2011/196)

As directed the Clerk had spoken with Mr Eddyshaw and had returned the cheque to him.

2012/180 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington advised that

- GCC was still consulting on the **budget**, to be completed in February.
- **Library hours** in Nailsworth had now been restored to 35 per week, closely followed by notification of a new library strategy under which Nailsworth would be a 'partnership' library, with between 12 and 21 hours of officer time. Consultation on the new proposals would start at the end of this month.
- Following complaints from residents around Dunkirk Mill, Highways were looking at **traffic calming along the A46** and the possibility of putting a pedestrian crossing thereabouts.

In answer to a question from the Mayor, Cllr Waddington advised that as far as he was aware, the **resurfacing of Old Market** was still scheduled for next month. The road closure had not yet been advertised and Cllr Waddington would check the situation.

Cllr Kelly asked again about the **speed survey for Spring Hill** about which Cllr Waddington had emailed Highways a couple of weeks ago; he would chase a response.

District Cllr Blackwell asked about **resurfacing plans for the A46** up towards Tiltups, which Cllr Waddington believed was on the programme for the first quarter of this year.

District Cllr Blackwell noted from NTC minutes that Cllr Carter was keeping the council well informed on SDC activities.

- A **budget setting** meeting would take place next week and the community charge should stay the same.
- Residents across the valley had complained about the **floodlit garages at New Mills**, Newmarket, which remained lit all night causing light pollution and a great waste of energy. The letting agent had been notified and had blamed the builders but Cllr Blackwell was hopeful that something would be done.
- The latest planning application for the **Railway Hotel** would go to committee in March.
- The owners of **Worley Lodge** were re-applying to build a house in the grounds, which Cllr Blackwell thought was more likely this time to be approved.
- SDC was working at getting the builders materials removed from the **end of Horsley Road** and there was an enforcement problem opposite at **Barristers Cottage**, where a buttress needed to be removed or reduced.
- Chamberlains had submitted an application for the **land opposite Wyevale** which looked promising.

Cllr Kelly questioned how much weight SDC gave to public comments on planning applications and to **comments from NTC planning committee**. Cllr Blackwell confirmed that NTC's comments were noted and listed, sometimes supported by ward Cllrs, and, he felt, were given due consideration. Comments from the general public had to be treated with a little more circumspection and many objections came from people who did not even live in the area.

Cllr Kay asked about the application for a **windpower generator** close to a TV mast **off the A46**, and residents' concerns that this would affect their TV reception. Cllr Blackwell confirmed this was being looked into and he would monitor the situation with Cllr Carter. District Cllr Mrs Farrell added

that she had raised the matter with Phil Skill who was adamant there would not be a problem and the mast was for mobile phones rather than TV. Cllr Kay said the mast did transmit TV channels.

2012/181 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor was pleased to confirm that **Nailsworth Library** hours were back to their previous levels and staff had been taken back on short contracts until the end of the financial year, pending the six week consultation on the new strategy commencing 30 January. In his report in Nailsworth News, the Mayor had urged residents to fill in the consultation document.

According to statistics, Nailsworth library had received 70k visits over the last year, compared to 27k in Stonehouse (changing to 12 hours), 24k visits in Tetbury (maintaining 35 hours), 28k in Matson (increasing to 21 hours from being a community library). Given the much larger volume of traffic in Nailsworth, it was difficult to understand the decision to cut its hours, rather than, say, Tetbury, where residents could access two other nearby libraries in Malmesbury and Nailsworth.

A second visit to the **police station** had taken place today followed by a meeting of the subcommittee at the town hall. Cllr M Robinson hoped that NTC would support the subcommittee's action in expressing an interest in acquiring the building, for which it had identified a potential use. It was recommending that GMTF be asked to prepare appraisal and advice and a business plan, which would be done free of charge under its technical assistance grants scheme. It was hoped to have this executed without delay as the estate agent had reported that there were other interested parties. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was reassured that the business plan would take into account and reconcile all NTC's property stock and overall use. The Clerk added that the GMTF officer would guide NTC through completion of the technical assistance application form.

2012/182 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had attended a two day **seminar in December** on Affordable Housing and Community Land Trusts and had some documentation to pass on to the Planning Committee. The seminar included the new neighbourhood planning system, community growing schemes, local involvement and sustainability.

She had attended the **Nailsworth News annual party**, which publication was produced and distributed entirely by unpaid volunteers. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was amazed at the number of volunteers willing to help with the library and other town activities and wondered if a more organised system could better tap into this hidden workforce.

On Tuesday 7 February at 3pm, Cllr Mrs Thorpe had arranged to take Charles Arkell, trustee of the Arkell Estate, on a **tour of the projects funded by the Bequest**. The Mayor would accompany them and other Cllrs were invited to attend. The tour would take in the Arkell Centre, Youth Club, Sub Rooms, Market Street Garden, KGV Skateboard Park. Funding from the Bequest had also contributed to the TH hearing loop and loudspeaker system and hearing loop at the Mortimer Room.

2012/183 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had obtained a quote for £500 to repair the **wall below Market Street Garden**, but the contractor recommended that the whole wall should be rebuilt at a cost of £1000 as it was in poor condition throughout and likely to collapse elsewhere. The Clerk advised there was £2k in the budget for landscaping, and additional funds could be taken from the Town Enhancement budget to cover the planting. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the wall to be rebuilt.

The architect had offered to get three tenders for the **revised planting scheme** to provide low maintenance dense low evergreen carpeting, in three integrated design sections. The Clerk had wondered about laying a membrane in the meantime to prevent the earth running off in heavy rain but the architect preferred the idea of mulch. The Clerk was asked to give the go ahead to the architect to apply for tenders, which would hopefully be returned for consideration by the time of the next Recreation & Amenities meeting.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe suggested NTC should consider **planting edible produce**, such as nut trees and wondered if Go Grow could come up with some ideas. Given the soil erosion of the slopes on this site, planting was needed to bind the bank together in very shallow soil, other than the soil pit for the WI tree which the contractor had been asked to prepare. Perhaps the edible produce idea could be considered if a more suitable location presented itself.

2012/184 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rahman wished to step down as representative on the **Fair Trade Committee**, which Cllr M Robinson was happy to take on in his place. The Clerk was asked to notify the committee of the change.

2012/185 REPORT of ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs Reed presented the report of the meeting held on 10 January and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe drew attention to dangerous conditions in Stroud last year at a time of **cold and ice**. The Mayor advised that the snow warden was gritting paths in Nailsworth on that day which coincided with the Farmers Market, and the situation in Nailsworth had been fine(!) Peter Starkiss had since received delivery of the free salt spreader from GCC.

Cllr Mrs Reed invited other Cllrs to attend the **walkabout in Shortwood on 28 January** with resident Clive Webb. The Mayor and Cllr Carter would be at the Farmers Market on that morning and therefore unable to go.

It was agreed that the new **10 year plan for Norton Wood** should include the Avening Road bank which had been part of the expired plan.

The Clerk had spoken to the groundsman about putting an additional **dog waste bin between KGV and the extension field** as there was some evidence of waste deposits there, and Mr Mansell had offered to empty the bin, as he also did occasionally with the bins at the entrances. If SDC did not wish to provide a new bin, the one from the vicarage entrance could be moved as it was little used. Recreation & Amenities Committee would be asked to consider suitable action.

Cllr Mrs Reed was keen to encourage Cllrs to **visit areas of the town with residents** in order to get a different perspective on matters needing attention.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the **energy saving checklists** had gone into the TIC, and hopefully would also soon be available from the library, and that Nailsworth News was running a short article. Efforts were being made to increase awareness of the initiative and energy saving opportunities.

2012/186 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk had heard by email today from the architect approving the final payment for the Market Street Garden ex the retention figure, and a cheque was added to the list of accounts: item 292; payment to 5 Valleys Natural Pools for £2042.56

RESOLVED	that the list of accounts for 16 January 2012 amounting to £17406.39 be approved for payment.
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2012/187 Sir Graham Watson MEP – contact details

The MEP’s contact details were provided, and Cllr M Robinson advised that his SW England patch included Gibraltar!

..... Chairman

..... Date