

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 18 October 2011

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) * Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr J L Duckworth * Cllr N I Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr M M Rahman Cllr Mrs SM Reed Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Present for part of the meeting	Mr Jim Eddyshaw, League of Friends of Stroud Hospital Mrs Becky Parish, NHS Gloucestershire
Apologies	Cllr Mrs A Elliott County Cllr WS Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr Mrs CS Farrell
	* absence from part of the meeting

2011/113 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor

2001/114 PRESENTATION from Mrs BECKY PARISH, NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Mr Eddyshaw had invited Mrs Parish to update council on health service development in the Stroud area. NHS Glos had been redeveloping localities across the county and was beginning to look at services in the Stroud area and how these should be developed over the next 25 years. Mrs Parish stressed that this was very early in the consultation process, and discussions would proceed with local GPs and the community with advice from Stroud Hospital League of Friends. At some point in the probably very distant future, a rebuild of Stroud hospital could be envisaged.

Glos GPs were forming a clinical group with support from NHS Glos, and PCTs as we know them would be disbanded. Mrs Parish confirmed that the Estate would remain with the NHS even if services were passed onto a Social Enterprise. The new hospital at Dursley was due to open very shortly, which would include a minor injuries department, as there exists at Stroud. Stroud maternity services had already transferred to the Glos Hospital Trust, which would give the department greater security being part of the wider county maternity network.

Bringing specialty consultant services to local hospitals was set to continue and some GPs would increase in-house facilities by combining surgeries. Cllrs expressed concern that 65% of Nailsworth's population lived in Forest Green, and the only doctors' surgery was at the other end of town. The Arkell Management Team had asked the surgery to consider running clinics in the Arkell CC and Mrs Parish would look into this.

Mrs Parish offered to return in the new year when she hoped to have a clearer picture of the situation and would notify the Clerk when there were local events Cllrs might be interested in attending. The Dursley Community Hospital would open before Christmas and Cllrs were invited to come to an open day to be held there on 12 November. Mrs Parish was thanked very much for her time.

2011/115 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 were approved and signed.

2011/116 CHANGES to POLICE SERVICE (minute 2011/84)

The Mayor confirmed that the Police Point was now set up in the Library and manned 'from time to time'. The officers also had use of a private room if required.

2011/117 SDC YOUTH GRANT (minute 2011/85)

The Mayor was disappointed that the Youth Club was only awarded £2500 despite a very good presentation to the panel. No explanation had as yet been forthcoming why the full £5000 was not given.

2011/118 UNDERSPEND at SDC (minute 2011/88)

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had questioned District Cllr Blackwell about the reported underspend at SDC. He had responded that the £4m Capital underspend was set aside for canal work which would take place next year. He was seeking further information on the alleged £1m Revenue surplus.

2011/119 POSSIBLE RELOCATION of ARCHIVE OFFICE (minute 2011/94)

Cllr Mrs Reed asked if a long term business plan had been prepared before any decision was made to relocate the Archive Office, and was advised that the suggestion was only hypothetical at this stage as the future of the former Police Station was unknown.

2011/120 SKATEBOARD RAMPS KGV (minute 2011/96)

Maverick (the company commissioned to install the new piece of equipment) had offered to provide the anti-slip paint free of charge, as compensation for being late in installing the new half pipe. This offer was estimated to be worth about £300, and the Mayor added that the young people were happy for their £70 donation to be put towards the cost of Andy Wilkins painting.

2011/121 NTC RESPONSE to SDC PARKING CHARGES PROPOSALS (minute/2011/97)

NTC's response had been submitted to SDC and Cllrs had also met with the council's solicitor to discuss a possible solicitor's letter to follow. A draft was circulated. Cllrs agreed that spending £3-400 on a solicitor's letter was not justifiable and Cllr Kay suggested tidying up the draft letter to be sent from NTC, and he would circulate a final draft to Cllrs first. The Mayor thought that SDC officers intended to come round and talk to P&TCs again.

2011/122 STROUD AGAINST the CUTS DEMONSTRATION (minute 2011/98)

The peaceful demonstration was well attended and publicised.

2011/123 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE (minute 2011/96)

The Mayor confirmed that the organising committee had agreed that Nailsworth events would be on Monday June 4th, not Sunday 3rd to coincide with other beacon lighting around the country.

2011/124 GCC HIGHWAYS INFORMATION EVENING (minute 2011/107)

The Mayor had attended this event on 10 October and brought back brochures on the 'Big Community Offer' inviting communities to make financial contributions to get their highway repairs done more quickly. Also leaflets showing priority roads for winter gritting. Vernon Smith had been appointed cabinet Highways Champion to manage renewal of the highways contract in 2014, and comments were invited on satisfaction with the current contractor and suggestions for improving the service.

2011/125 CONSTABULARY MEETING 12 OCTOBER (minute 2011/111)

Cllr M Robinson regretted that he had in the event been unable to attend.

2011/126 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no County or District Cllrs present. The Clerk reported that she had had calls from worried Forest Green residents who were concerned about the proposed closure of Nymphsfield Road

and how they would access their homes. The Mayor believed access would be maintained for residents and buses during the work, and he understood GCC had written to residents.

The Mayor reported that resurfacing work in Old Market, which was to have taken place over the next four Sundays, had been postponed until the new year. He had complained to County Cllr Waddington, but had today received notification of dates for the work to be done in February, which would be publicised in NN.

2011/127 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS

22 September	Chaired a meeting for volunteers wishing to help in the Library. More than 20 attended and Cllr Mrs Elliott had prepared an initial rota to begin on Wednesday afternoons in November, building up to 28 hours per week by January.
23 September	Attended the AGM of NCP (Nailsworth Community Partnership)
26 September	Attended the first meeting of the 2012 Nailsworth Games Committee; Cllr Kay had established that it could be renamed Nailsworth Olympics 2012
29 September	Attended a meeting of NPRAG (Nailsworth Parking Residents Action Group). The SDC decision had been deferred by one month following the volume of objections
10 October	Attended a GCC Highways meeting at Shire Hall
11 October	Met with the Clerk and Cllrs to consider a job description and advert for the position of Clerical Assistant to the Town Clerk.
14 October	Attended the Nailsworth panel meeting with the Police
16 October	Attended the Stroud Hospital League of Friends annual service at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud

The Mayor urged Cllrs to attend the Remembrance Parade and Service on Sunday 13 November and asked that they let him know so that an appropriate number of spaces could be reserved in the church. Four representatives from Nailsworth's twin town would be taking part and Cllrs were invited to join a lunch organised by the Twinning Association afterwards.

2011/128 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had taken the Mayor's slot at the last Farmers' Market and reported that residents were concerned and angry at the parking charges proposals, as well as anxious to see Old Market resurfaced.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had joined the solicitor's meeting mentioned earlier, and discussed disabled accessibility with Cllr Kelly. She was due to meet shortly with the Children's Centre Partnership Board and advised that GCC was likely to put all its children's services out to tender, with their future uncertain.

2011/129 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

2011/130 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Kay reported that he thought there were fewer attendees from the Stroud area at the **GAPTC** AGM last Thursday. Charlton Kings had put forward a motion that GAPTC should urge central government to set up a review and issue guidance on dealing with fixed penalty notices and parking infractions, the system being in disarray since parking had been decriminalised. Hardwick had put forward the motion that GAPTC should oppose the incinerator plans at Javelin Park, which appeared to be popular as many communities would be downwind of the proposed installation.

Cllr Kay had put forward an amendment, that GAPTC should voice its opposition clearly and in favour of renewable sustainable dealing with waste.

The GAPTC annual report made no comment on the removal of funding for youth services and libraries, nor on parking charges. Last year's motion that GAPTC ask SDC to create a consultation policy with p&tcs had elicited the response from SDC that it saw no real problem and that p&tcs should bring their comments to the annual forum. Cllr Kay questioned the value of GAPTC, membership of which cost the council over £1000 a year.

* Cllr Carter joined the meeting during the above discussions.

2011/131 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 27 September and the minutes were approved.

District Cllr Carter would see if he could help with the water fountain spout which was still not working.

The Clerk sought approval for use of the TH by the Christkindl Committee for children's choir practice on the night, bringing together the seven schools which were participating in this year's event. This was approved.

The committee's recommendation was approved that council policy on war memorial plaques be set aside, so that a tribute to Mark Chandler could be erected without awaiting the end of the conflict. The RBL would be invited to present a detailed design to the next meeting of the committee.

2011/132 REPORT of COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Cllr Duckworth presented the report of the meeting held on 12 October which was approved with the following amendments -

p.2, last paragraph to read

"Cllr Mrs Thorpe questioned how much time Cllrs could give to this, and how important a communication tool was the website, given that residents who had a genuine question could always contact the clerk . . ."

p.3, sixth paragraph to read

"Cllr Mrs Thorpe thought that clarification on the purpose of the website was needed, eg. What documents was NTC obliged to publish? NTC would need to take account of new government requirements."

It was agreed in principle to recommend to council that

- a) The domain name for the town website be changed to www.nailsworth.gov.uk
- b) Cllrs be issued with gov.uk email addresses, eg. steve.robinson@nailsworth.gov.uk
- c) Cllr Duckworth would talk with Bruce Burn to discuss the best way forward.

Further email addresses such as planning@nailsworth.gov.uk , mayor@nailsworth.gov.uk could be envisaged and set up so that communications were directed to the relevant person or committee chairman, with a copy to the Clerk's office. Previous mayors did not feel that they continued to receive a lot of council email communications once they had stepped down, so that individual names would be the way to start.

2011/133 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the report of the meeting held on 4 October. 'Cartilage' was corrected to 'curtilage' in the penultimate application.

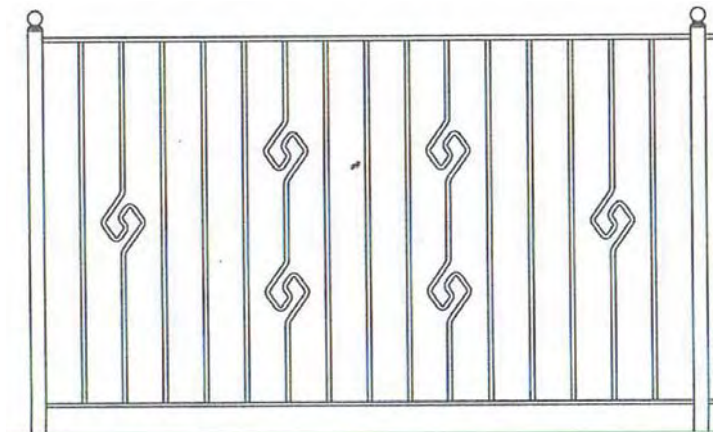
Cllr M Robinson added that the committee had discussed having an OHP system in the council chamber to handle the new digital planning system. The Mayor questioned whether the expenditure should come from the Property Management budget, as others may wish to use the facility, and Planning did not have a budget. The item was put on the agenda for Thursday's Planning meeting.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meeting held 4 October 2011 be approved.

2011/134 REPORT of RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 11 October and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Kay confirmed that community groups could use the 'Olympics' name; restrictions were for commercial activities.



The two designs for the Market Street Garden seating area railings were considered and the second one approved, at a cost of £1,700.00 + vat to supply and install.

The second invoice of staged payments had been submitted by the builder and awaited signing off by the architect at his site visit tomorrow. Cllrs were happy that this should be paid as soon as it was approved.

Cllr Carter urged the committee to entertain no further discussions with the Nailstock organisers until they had undertaken a residents' consultation, which they had failed to do on the two previous occasions despite repeated requests from NTC.

2011/135 FINANCIAL SUPPORT for CAMPAIGN to OPPOSE INTRODUCTION of COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY by NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Cllr Kay put forward the proposal that NTC contribute £200 to the campaign to fund a judicial review, with the proviso that if successful, the money would be refunded. The Clerk advised that the council had the power to spend money 'to be of benefit to all or some residents in the parish', but could not give money to individuals nor provide loans.

Cllrs did not feel that this was appropriate for NTC and Cllrs could make contributions in a personal capacity if they so wished. The motion was rejected.

2011/136 FINANCIAL SUPPORT for EXTENDED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

The Mayor advised that the group had met with the County Librarian to discuss a contribution from NTC to enable opening hours to be gradually increased from 12 to 28 by January. There was £10k in the budget for libraries in this financial year, and a final figure would be negotiated with the County Librarian.

PROPOSED that NTC provide funding of £1370 from the 2011/12 budget pro rata to the end of this financial year, to support increased Library opening hours @ £3300 p.a.

Cllr Kay pointed out that NTC would need to monitor that the number and turnover of books was maintained to a satisfactory level, and that the number of well used computer terminals was retained.

* Cllr Kay left the meeting

2011/137 CONSIDER and AUTHORISE NEW PERMANENT PART TIME ASSISTANT to the CLERK

A draft job description was circulated, with a salary on an LC1 scale to be pro rata of £16,054 p.a for a 37 hour week; therefore £8677.83 for 20 hours/week. With NI and pension contributions the cost to the Council per year could be in the order of £11,500 p.a. Mrs de Lacroix was willing to continue managing the TIC as a separate task at a cost of approximately £2000 p.a. giving a final total of £13,500p.a. There was £10k in this year's budget which should be sufficient to cover the cost of wages and office set up for an employee starting in January.

Cllrs Carter and Duckworth suggested the job description should be less prescriptive to prevent potential later complications if the job developed differently over time. Cllr Duckworth opined that the job description should be separate to the personal specification which identified the skills required, and that the IT packages used should be identified. The Clerk was asked to confirm whether the holiday entitlement included bank holidays or if these were in addition. The comment about driving was also removed. Cllr Duckworth offered to help in fine tuning the documents.

The advertisement for the SNJ and associated regional issues was approved but it was not thought appropriate to advertise in NN.

2011/138 IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCAL BROADBAND PROVISION

Cllr Duckworth had attended a meeting in Painswick explaining the Glos & Herefordshire campaign to act as a catalyst to address poor broadband provision. Upgrades were forthcoming and Nailsworth was included, hopefully for early next year, but outlying parts of the town which were further from the exchange did have poorer access. Broadband suppliers were invited to make proposals to improve the service, provide evidence of business and consumer demands and current usage. The organisation was seeking champions to collect and disseminate information, and Cllr Duckworth was willing to be champion for NTC and organise copies of the survey (also available online) for the TIC. He would put together an article for NN to inform residents.

RESOLVED That Cllr Duckworth be appointed NTC champion in the campaign to improve broadband provision in Nailsworth. He would request 1000 leaflets to be distributed between the TIC, TH and Library. Council was happy for Cllr Duckworth to compose an article for the Nailsworth News.

The motion was carried.

2011/139 ACCOUNTS

Item 178 – the Clerk clarified that this was for repairs to the KGV skate ramps

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 18 October 2011 amounting to £44.110.83 be approved for payment.
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2011/140 RBL – notice of Remembrance Parade and Service

An invitation was extended to Cllrs to attend the parade, service and wreath laying on Sunday 13 November, assembling in the bus station at 10.30am.

2011/141 Volunteer & Community Action (Stroud) - AGM

More information was available from the Clerk on the AGM to take place on 20 October with a buffet lunch and guest speaker.

2011/142 Queen's Diamond Jubilee - beacons

Bruno Peak pageant master had sent a booklet about beacons which would be passed on to the organising committee.

2011/143 Mr Tomlinson – complaint about building site, Newmarket Road

Mr Tomlinson complained about the state of the site adjacent to Ondine in Newmarket Road owned by TradePlas or one of its affiliates. A letter had been sent in 2009 requesting that it be cleaned up and Mr Tomlinson was now asking NTC for help. The letter was referred to the Planning Committee.

2011/144 SDC – road and bus station closures Christkindl Evening

The usual notification had been sent advising closure of the bus station from midnight on November 24th to midnight on 25th, and closure of Old Market from 10am to 11pm on 25th .

2011/145 CHANGES to BUS SERVICES

The Mayor had picked up a copy of a summary of the changes to bus services as from 13 November.

2011/146 FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllrs attention was drawn to the Budget setting meeting which would take place on Monday 12 December.

..... Chairman

..... Date