

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

Present	*	Cllr S Robinson (Deputy Mayor) Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way
Apologies		Cllr N I Kay                      County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr Miss Macmillan
	*	denotes absence from part of the meeting

**2010/224                      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Bill Affleck asked about the **website** which had now been operating for 4-5 years and wondered how NTC felt it was developing. Mr Affleck felt the council minutes published were not up to date, nor complete and that the website was an important tool for sharing information with the public. The Clerk had sent in the January minutes to be added, which would in any case be the latest available until the February minutes were approved at the March meeting. She apologised that they were not up and would see to it.

Mrs Tricia Bidmead expressed concern about the lack of **parking provision for the new FGCC**, and asked how this would be managed especially on match days. Cllr Crawley offered to forward to Mrs Bidmead a paper he had written in response to the repeated concerns over the delay in GCC adopting the new roads so that parking regulations could be enforced. He added that NTC was in discussion with the primary school over an agreement to use the school car park outside school hours. Daytime parking was not expected to be a problem as most users of the Centre would walk. Concern had been expressed about doubling up on parking problems if the FGCC was being used on the same day as a football match was taking place, and Cllr Crawley advised that potential hirers would be steered away from match days and advised of the football programme. Mrs Bidmead asked about expected usage of the new centre; 33% was the county average figure being worked on at the moment. Mrs Bidmead was of the opinion that NTC should expect rather more car users than anticipated. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that on the basis of usage of the temporary hall, many users did appear to walk. The intention was for the building to have a low carbon impact and planning permission had been given on the basis of no general parking provision. NTC did not wish to encourage car usage.

Mr John Burfitt was concerned that he had heard nothing further regarding his appeal to NTC at last month's meeting to reconsider its view on a **residents parking scheme for Church Street**. Cllr Crawley repeated the advice received from GCC that county wide proposals were not ready to roll and would start in the cities first, although Mr Burfitt had understood from GCC that it was ready to include Church Street in its 2010/11 plans. Cllr Nicholson elaborated on NTC's general policy to reject residents parking on principle. It was agreed that NTC could do nothing until GCC took the matter forward and published its proposals.

Mr Steve Field asked for **information on the candidates** who were up for election to fill the council vacancies. The Clerk advised that he should contact the candidates direct, since once an election had been called, matters were out of NTC hands and the event managed by SDC.

Mr Field asked if there was any formal financial support from NTC for **Nailstock**, as with the Festival. The Clerk advised that both the Festival and Nailstock had separately received financial support in the past. She confirmed that no financial support was budgeted for either organisation and grants had to be applied for on an annual basis from the £6000 grants budget. She had just been informed that Nailstock 2010 had in fact been cancelled

## **2010/225 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 February 2010 were approved and signed with the following amendments.

2010/210; 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, line 2 – the name of the organisation was corrected to read “Active Gloucestershire”

2010/213; the comment re item 300 was deleted.

Discussion on approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 18 February 2010 began.

2010/221 – Cllr Carter considered ‘discussion ensued’ did not adequately record the content of the discussions which had been extensive. Cllr Nicholson expressed his opinion that the contents of much of that debate was puerile.

Cllr Carter walked out of the meeting.

The Clerk proceeded to explain that when the council resolved to exclude the public, it meant that the meeting remained closed and confidential and it followed therefore that the minutes could not reveal the detail of the discussion. She further clarified that generally minutes were intended to record decisions taken and did not purport to be a historical verbatim account of everything said in a discussion or debate.

The minutes of the Special meeting held on 18 February 2010 as circulated were approved and signed.

## **2010/226 CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION (minute 2010/207)**

Cllr Nicholson queried whether the consultation papers referred to in paragraph 1 related to the mention of SDC-SHLAA at the Planning Committee meeting of 2 March. Cllr Crawley clarified that NTC had submitted response to SDC about SHLAA proposals although only the Vicarage site was of direct relevance to Nailsworth. Cllr Crawley had prepared a paper for the Old Market Working Party suggesting a recommended response to the Core Strategy consultation. None of the options currently put forward for the distribution of the 2000 new houses across the district specifically mentioned Nailsworth and none appeared to have a direct impact on the town. It was felt that NTC did not need to make a formal response at the current time, but it might wish to submit comments on other policies which would need council endorsement. Cllr Crawley agreed to email his draft report to cllrs.

## **2010/227 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Waddington** had provided a written report advising that GCC continued its work on repairing potholes. The Clerk read out the full report. Highways officer John Roberts’ successor had been appointed and Mr Roberts intended to show him round before he left. Cllr Waddington had had complaints about the new opening hours at Horsley Tip, where the road access was going to be improved to ease queuing.

**District Cllr Miss Macmillan** had also submitted a written report advising that she continued to work with NTC cllrs over the future of Nailsworth Recreation Centre. Cllr Miss Macmillan questioned how the town’s sheltered housing schemes were run, as she wished to make a balanced survey of the provision. There were plans to rebuild Woolaways in Minchinhampton. Cllr Miss Macmillan had attended working parties at Norton Wood Orchard and was very impressed with the number of people involved and the enthusiasm shown for the project.

**2010/228            REPORTS OF TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor had advised that he would make his report at the next meeting, and the Deputy Mayor, having just returned from a long trip had nothing to report.

**2010/229            REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had received the Young Gloucestershire annual review 2009.

At a previous meeting she had mentioned that NALC was producing a report and new model Standing Orders which had now been published. This came in two parts; part 1 contained background information and advice and cost £25 and part 2 comprised the actual model draft SOs free in either hard copy or electronically. It was agreed to order one copy of part 1. The Clerk added that revision of standing orders would be a slow process but could not be avoided as it was important to amend standing orders in line with recent legislation. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should consider how to progress the matter.

**2010/230            COUNCIL VACANCY**

Cllr Mrs Binns had now formally resigned and the Clerk had been notified by SDC that a request had been received for an election to fill this vacancy. If a ballot was required, this could be run with district council elections which would save on the cost to NTC of running a separate election. If a general election was called on 6 May, the district and parish elections would take place three weeks later. The election for the first two councillor vacancies would take place on 24 March. The two successful candidates would be allocated to fill existing vacancies on committees by alphabetical order for the remainder of the current civic year.

**2010/231            REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Forest Green Action Group:** Cllr Crawley advised that the group hoped to hold no more than one further meeting and any outstanding issues would be taken up by the neighbourhood management meetings under the INA at Stonehouse. Mr Phil Sullivan's CCTV proposal was on hold until he knew the outcome of his bid, but he had since advised that it was unlikely to be successful as the total budget had been cut and was heavily oversubscribed. The Miles Marling field youth shelter had been discussed at the last meeting with regard to installing lighting and a solid base and Phil Sullivan was arranging a site visit. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was concerned that antisocial behaviour problems might increase with the better weather and lighter evenings and would like the action group to continue longer, to which Cllr Crawley responded that it could always be resurrected at a later date if new concerns came up. Cllr Robinson added that he thought problems had been moving to different locations in the town following the focus of attention on Forest Green and he hoped that they would not be taken off the community safety risk list altogether. The FG action group focussed more on children, younger people and families needing more support. From the first week of April, Cllr Robinson advised that the police youth worker and a youth worker from the Youth Club would be doing a weekly night of outreach work at different locations around the town.

**Fair Trade Committee:** Cllr Nicholson reported that last Saturday morning's coffee event had been very well attended all day, and had had good press coverage. A move was now afoot to examine the possibility of twinning with a village in East Africa, as had already been done by Minchinhampton. Cllr Nicholson had attended a talk by its organiser and there seemed to be sufficiently strong feeling that Nailsworth should do the same. NTC might consider supporting such an initiative financially at a later date but this would need to be a long term commitment.

**2010/232            REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting held on 1 March and the minutes were approved with the following amendment -

Page 2, Environmental Policy Statement: change 'energy audit' to read 'Home Energy Check Questionnaire'.

The Clerk had received plans for the formal registration of **patches of NTC owned land**, following which a land registry officer would come and assist in filling out the form. Original deeds were required and the Clerk had asked NTC's solicitor to locate the 6 or 8 involved.

Cllr Crawley had noted that several councils ran **spring cleaning events** and wondered if NTC wished to get involved. NTC had supported the SDC and NN annual initiatives but had not run its own event. This year's NN litter pick would take place on 17 April organised by Mr Don Luke, with as many volunteers as would come. SDC provided equipment and removed the resulting bags of rubbish. Cllr Mrs Way hoped to run a session also at Bunting Hill.

Beechwood Close residents had asked for help in getting Redrow to complete the process which would enable GCC to **adopt the new roads** and Cllr Nicholson offered to take this up if they applied in writing via the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that she had heard a Waterways Act was going through parliament in the autumn or next spring, to force water companies to take over responsibility for all sewers, with the aim of eliminating privately owned sewers. She would try and get more information on this. Cllr Nicholson added that small grants were available from GCC for small regeneration projects.

The **TIC meeting/party** would take place on **Wednesday 14 April at 6pm** – all cllrs were invited to attend this opportunity to show the council's appreciation for the invaluable volunteer work which allowed this facility to operate for the benefit of the town.

Cllr Byrne had been unable to participate in the **Norton Wood working party** on 14 March but would go another time.

NCP had requested a **new grit bin** on the corner of Spring Hill/Old Market by William's Kitchen, which the Clerk had added to the list submitted to GCC.

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Miss Jinny Marshall, seeking approval for a small group to maintain a **patch of common land at Rockness** by the footpath. A session had taken place to rake and de-litter the area, which the group felt should be kept wild but controlled and wished to continue tending informally. In principle, cllrs had no objection, but Miss Marshall would be asked to contact Cllr Nicholson so that they could visit the site together.

## **2010/233            REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting held on 10 March and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Nicholson had met with Mr Mant of Record Play Equipment to discuss the cost of providing a **MUGA** on the new site under consideration within the curtilage of the Primary School. Having measured out the school car park, Cllr Nicholson advised that this location would allow for a 30mx30m court (the original site being for approx 36x20) which would provide a better space for an adult 5 a side court, or 2 junior courts, and for basket ball and netball. The dimensions and location would also be attractive for the school. The build cost at this location was likely to be lower as there would be less groundwork required but ancillary work would be needed to re-align the fencing to maintain the security of the school. A method of controlling the floodlighting without entering the school premises would also need to be devised.

Mr Mant's full report was awaited but Cllr Nicholson felt the outlook was positive. The court would allow for access between it and the school to the new school car park on the existing hard standing play area beyond, and the school envisaged creating a nature area on the site originally identified for the MUGA. The current car park was apparently not used during the school day anyway, and this new arrangement should not make any difference to negotiations to use it for FGCC parking, which would just be a bit further away from the road.

Cllr Crawley had sent a draft agenda to the Mayor for the **special training session on 31 March at 7pm** to rehearse the past and present state of play with the **future of the Nailsworth Recreation Centre**. The Clerk would make sure this was circulated to all cllrs.

Ideally the MUGA would enhance the facilities of the Recreation Centre, but it would be preferable for the MUGA to be self contained with regards to lighting and access, so that it could operate independently from the school.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a call from Mr Chris Gregory advising that regrettably **Nailstock** would not take place this year. He had obtained his revised licence and felt that his figures would hold, but was concerned over the shortage of volunteers for his management team. Mr Gregory hoped to run the event in 2011 and asked the Clerk to pass on his thanks for NTC's support so far.

**2010/234 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that applications had gone in for ENTRUST and RDPE grants and results of the bids were now awaited. The next meeting of the working party would take place at 2pm on Thursday 25 March, and there would be a meeting with potential funders this Thursday at 2.30 at the temporary hall.

**2010/235 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Crawley presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 18 February and 2 March.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 18 February and 2 March 2010 be approved.</b>
-----------------	---

**2010/236 ACCOUNTS**

Item 330 – a reduced planning renewal fee of £170 had been obtained, giving a saving of £600.

<b>PROPOSED</b>	<b>that the list of accounts for 16 March 2010 amounting to £17,643.39 be approved for payment.</b>
-----------------	---

**2010/237 SDC – request for road closures re Nailsworth Festival**

The Festival Committee had made the usual applications for road closures on Festival Saturday 22 May, including use of the 14 parking spaces behind Old Market shops. The Festival would provide stewards as usual. NTC had no comment.

**2010/238 Sir William Romney's School – vacancy for Partnership Governor**

Nominations were invited to fill this vacancy and Cllrs were asked to see the Clerk if interested.

**2010/239 Diocese of Gloucester – proposed closure of Shortwood Church**

A formal decision had now been taken to close the church and arrangements would be made for relocating the registers and other formal documents.

**2010/240 GCC – publication of waiting restrictions; closing date for representations 31 March**

Notices advised that the draft order had gone out for public consultation for new restrictions around the clock tower, removing 'no waiting at any time' in Pensile Road, 'no waiting' to be introduced around Barn Close and George Street.

**2010/241 Mr Affleck – memorandum on FGCC**

The Clerk read out the covering letter and cllrs were invited to request a copy of Mr Affleck's memo if they wished. Some councillors requested a copy.

**2010/242      [www.nailsworthtown.co.uk](http://www.nailsworthtown.co.uk) website**

Picking up on Mr Affleck's comments at the beginning of the meeting, it was agreed to ask FE&GP committee to look at the website and consider whether it would be appropriate to increase the number of documents displayed. Cllr Crawley would circulate his paper on the FGCC QAs which it was agreed should be published on the web site. The Clerk advised that the council's Publication Policy needed to be reviewed and amended as required.

.....  
Date

.....  
Chairman