

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 10 January 2011

Present	Cllr Mrs J M Way (Chairman) Cllr J A Byrne * Cllr I D Crawley Cllr S Robinson
also present for part of the meeting	Mr Burfitt – Church Street resident
Apologies	Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

REQUEST FOR NTC'S SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS PARKING IN CHURCH STREET

The Mayor reiterated that GCC's proposed scheme was in abeyance for the moment. It was not known why there were marked bays in this road, rather than no markings at all as in other areas of the town where there were no parking restrictions. Members were reminded that it was NTC's policy not to support residents' parking schemes at all. Mr Burfitt reiterated the position of Church Street residents and their claim to 5 of the potential 8 or 9 spaces. All agreed that any new restrictions would only work with adequate enforcement from SDC (which service is contracted out to Cotswold District Council). Additional areas requiring a visit from parking wardens might lead to a charge being made to NTC.

Mr Burfitt wished to put forward three options:

1. Introduce residents only scheme for 5 vehicles in Church Street, + 3 or 4 x 30minute bays.
2. Turn existing open bay into 8/9 defined bays to organise parking better
3. Make 8/9 marked bays to be shared between residents and 30 minute parkers

Another option was to remove the parking bay markings altogether.

NTC would have to change its policy with regards to residents' parking schemes before any of these could be recommended to full council. Cllr Crawley felt NTC should investigate the implications with parking officer Jim Daniels at GCC before making any decision. He offered to draft a letter to GCC (cc. SDC), and would ask Church Street residents to comment on the letter before it was sent.

TREE WORKS AT NEWMARKET

The Clerk had authorised the work following the site visit and Tree Maintenance would carry it out at the appropriate time.

NORTON WOOD – ORCHARD MANAGEMENT

The orchard group had contacted Cllrs to report that they had carried out the agreed works and waited to hear from Charlton Abbots about its part of the job.

MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD

Work to re-direct the errant spring had been authorised.

BUNTING HILL REGENERATION PROJECT

The draft management document had been further worked on. A dormouse expert had been consulted and had concluded that this was a highly suitable site but a survey would be required to discover if dormice were present. Miss Jinny Marshall had contacted the Co-Op which might provide a small grant (up to £250 community grant scheme) to purchase survey equipment and bird boxes. It was not clear whether this money could be paid to the town council. A map was being prepared to record work undertaken and a snail expert was being consulted.

Cllr Mrs Way circulated a plan showing the next phase of work to be tackled with BTCV. The Clerk had had no response to her letter requesting a further two days of their time and would chase this up. Rights of Way officers would need to be consulted on improving access to the footpaths.

Bunting Hill Conservation Volunteers was approved as a formal name for the group.

Cllr Crawley suggested the Army Cadet Corps might be willing to do some rubbish clearance in the quarry area.

Cllr Mrs Way would be away for five weeks from end of January, and Ms Ros John and Miss Jinny Marshall would carry on in her absence.

The Clerk had circulated an email from the resident of Vine Cottage complaining that walkers were going through her property. The Mayor had spoken with her and clarified that this was a public footpath.

SNOW MATTERS

Snow Warden Peter Starkiss's paper was circulated. He should have been sent instructions when appointed by GCC regarding his role and who to contact and when, which instructions should be followed. A manual grit spreader had been purchased for the town centre streets, but the promised 2 tonnes of salt from GCC Highways had not arrived. Cllr Crawley offered to clarify the snow warden's role with GCC. Julian Wilson under Chris Riley GCC was in charge. Peter Starkiss would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

The request for a mirror at the end of Park Road had been turned down by GCC twice, but District Cllr Blackwell was still being pressed for support by Park Road residents, despite the Clerk having forwarded GCC's explanations to Ringfield Close warden. There was nothing more that could be done. Another resident had written again asking this time for warning signs which the Clerk would take up with GCC.

SIGN BOARDS IN TOWN CENTRE

Cllr Byrne had forwarded a map to Cllr Nicholson covering the area he thought should be covered and Cllr Mrs Way understood that some information had been sent to Imagemakers.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE (AND TOURISM ISSUES)

The Clerk continued to battle with Severn Trent over water charges for the TIC where the floor area had been measured as it appeared the unit was in the wrong charging band.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The scheme would need to be totally rethought once the budget had been agreed tomorrow night.

REGISTRATION OF COUNCIL LAND

Investigations continued.

MINI ALLOTMENTS

Go Grow members had been to a conference, which suggested the idea of smaller sized allotments, or 'adopt a plot' around the town, possibly around KGV; the Clerk suggested there was no free space with all the different activities on the field. Members present could not immediately think of any suitable NTC owned areas, and did not feel they could take on a new project at this time.

ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN

It was agreed to appoint Cllr Byrne as temporary chairman of the committee in Cllr Mrs Way's absence.

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Date

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Chairman

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