

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 7 July 2015

Present	Cllr MP Robinson (Chair) Cllr JL Dennis Cllr SK Millett
Apologies	Cllr EF Bonner Cllr DL Powell Cllr SM Reed Cllr SM Thorpe
In attendance for part of the meeting	Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr S Robinson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PROPOSED MEETING WITH RESIDENTS RE TRAFFIC ON STAR HILL & WINDSOREDGE ETC 16 SEPTEMBER 2015

Cllr S Robinson reported that, in his capacity as a Ward District Cllr, he had leafleted Windsoredge households to seek occupants' views on a range of possible options to improve road safety on Windsoredge Lane/Inchbrook Hill prior, to a meeting with residents which had been arranged for 15 September. He had so far received more than 40 responses which he agreed to pass on to the Clerk, who would place them in a folder with a copy of the leaflet and retain this in the office for councillors to consult on request.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF ROAD BARRIER BETWEEN LAWNSIDE & BUNTING HILL

Members discussed a letter from Mr M Levett enclosing a petition from residents of the Lawnside area for the removal of the road barrier between Lawnside and Bunting Hill. Cllr Duckworth confirmed that Nailsworth CLT had taken no position on this matter. Councillors were mindful that the barrier had been installed several years ago, following a request by local residents, to deal with problems caused by speeding drivers. However it was acknowledged that the barriers could potentially cause inconvenience to road users during the construction of the proposed CLT properties on the old garage site in Lawnside.

After further discussion, the Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Levett indicating that whilst the Council had found the petition informative, members felt that the responses did not encompass the whole of the local population which could be affected by the removal of the barrier, and explaining that members felt it would be premature for the Council to take any action at this time, given the possible need for some temporary adaptation of the barrier during the construction of the CLT properties.

**Cllrs S Robinson and Duckworth left the meeting at this point.*

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 MAY 2015

Cllr Dennis reported that he had observed that delivery vehicles appeared to be causing damage to the **new kerbing around the Bus Station.**

The Clerk reported that unfortunately the barrier which had been installed by the Council **at the side entrance to Norton Wood**, adjacent to the old non-conformist churchyard, in order to prevent access by motorbikes had been dismantled by persons unknown. She had inspected the site with Cllr Reed. She had been informed that the churchyard had been acquired from its previous owners, Christ Church, by a trust which would manage it in future and suggested that it could be helpful for NTC to maintain a dialogue with this body.

The Clerk reported that she had received an estimate of between £200-£300 for the **erection of a fence** to demarcate Council land at Walkley Lane, which was approved.

The Clerk reported that the **lime tree at Forest Green green** had been removed and a **silver birch planted** in the centre of the green. She had received a letter of complaint about its position from a local resident who felt it would inhibit ball games on the green, and wished it to be relocated. However, councillors felt that ball games were not appropriate on the green as it was bordered by roads. The Mayor, together with Cllr Reed and the Clerk had been present at the planting and were satisfied that the tree had been planted in the best location to enhance the local amenity and allow for gang mowing operations and the Clerk was asked to respond to the resident accordingly.

CONFIRM DATES OF TOURS OF NTC PROPERTY HOLDINGS

In the absence of Cllr Reed, it was agreed to seek to confirm the dates for the proposed tours of NTC property holdings within the responsibility of the Environment Committee at the next Council meeting. Cllrs Dennis and Millett agreed to liaise to suggest possible dates for the three tours and to inform the Clerk in time for inclusion on the Council agenda.

FOOTPATH CLEARANCE – REF ZNA 21 & MHO 6

Email correspondence between Cllr Kay and Mr Mike Brinkworth, Cotswold Warden, relating to the state of footpath ZNA 21 (between Newmarket Road and Pike Lane) and MHO 6 (adjacent to Shortwood United Football Club) had been previously circulated to all councillors. This, together with a letter from Mr Chris Norman of Walkley Wood relating to ZNA 21 was discussed.

Members were mindful that maintenance of public rights of way was the responsibility of GCC. However, after discussion the Clerk was asked to write to those householders whose hedges were overhanging footpath ZNA 21 respectfully asking them to cut them back to improve the path's accessibility. She would inform Mr Norman accordingly.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES INCLUDING ACCESSIBILITY OF NEW TIMETABLE

Information relating to the revised bus service to Forest Green/Nailsworth had previously been circulated to all councillors. It was noted that not all connections to Cheltenham were working smoothly.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE – MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Cllr Millett reported that the Save Nailsworth Valley group wished to mount a display in the TIC window to support its campaign against proposals to develop land at Pike Lane prior to the forthcoming appeal. Members present felt unable to make a decision so the matter was deferred for consideration by full Council.

TRANSITION TOWNS

In the absence of Cllr Reed, consideration of this matter was deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

INTEREST IN COMMITTEE FOR MEMBERS TO RESEARCH PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Clerk explained that Cllr Reed was seeking indications from individual Committee members of issues within the Committee's remit in which they had a specific interest, in order to increase member involvement and spread the workload. Members agreed to give the matter some thought and to contact Cllr Reed as appropriate.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PROGRAMME

The Clerk explained for the benefit of new councillors that the Council had opted for LED uplighters to illuminate the tree in Mortimer Gardens over Christmas 2015 to replace the previous pea lights which had reached the end of their useful life. However, several councillors had stated that they preferred the pea-lights and she had obtained a quotation of £6,200 for 2,500 LED pea lights for the tree for Christmas 2016. It was agreed to recommend the purchase of the lights and to select the 'crystal white' option.

REVIEW OF NORTON WOOD BUSINESS PLAN 2005 – 2010

In the absence of Cllr Reed, it was agreed to defer consideration of this item to a future meeting of the Committee.

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Chair

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Date

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL**RECOMMENDED**

That 2,500 LED pea lights in crystal white be purchased at a cost of £6,200 to illuminate the tree in Mortimer Gardens over the Christmas period 2016. This figure to be included in next year's budget.