

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 9 April 2013**

Present	Cllr S E Thorpe (Chair) Cllr J L Duckworth* Cllr A Elliott Cllr N I Kay Cllr M P Robinson Cllr S Robinson *not present for whole meeting
Apologies	Cllr S M Reed
In attendance	Mr and Mrs Ellis (KGV pavilion item)

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Work on the **proposed mural for the Bus Station** was ongoing.

The Town Groundsman had agreed to empty the **new dog waste bin to be sited in Wood Lane**, along with the other bins on the KGV field.

Request for funding for play area at Forest Green

Cllr Thorpe reported that a request from the Forest Green Residents Association for a grant for play equipment had been withdrawn as the Association had decided it already had sufficient funding.

KGV Extension Field – proposal for allotments

The Clerk reported that she had written to Krista Harris SDC with the extra details she had requested in relation to the S106 agreement on the extension field, but had not yet received a response despite reminders being sent. The Clerk agreed to follow up. She had informed Mr Sharrock of Fields in Trust of the proposal as a courtesy, although the extension field was not registered with that organisation. Mr Sharrock had raised no objection provided that the area remained open to the public and that no leases or long term licences would be entered into. As NTC would wish to lease the land to the allotment group if the project was to go ahead, the Clerk agreed to write again to Mr Sharrock to clarify the situation. She would also check with SDC whether any planning permission would be needed for change of use for the field.

Proposed rental of KGV pavilion for early years facility

Cllr Thorpe welcomed Mr and Mrs Ellis to the meeting and presented a report and draft terms, previously circulated to Committee members, regarding Mrs Ellis's proposal to rent the KGV pavilion for a nursery and after school club during term time. Councillors explained that they were keen to see an increase in the use of the pavilion and willing to undertake necessary work to improve the facility for general community use. However, as Mrs Ellis wished to rent the pavilion for commercial purposes, they felt it was appropriate that she should fund the refurbishments which she had deemed necessary for the successful operation of her business, and that any additional NTC expenditure relating to the proposed nursery be recouped via the rent.

The draft terms were discussed and the following points were agreed:

- NTC to repair the guttering and downpipes on the building, which would solve the existing problem of water leakage, as per quote obtained by NTC (£287.00)
- NTC to supply and fit new vinyl flooring to the kitchen and toilets (to be costed)

- NTC to remove existing sensor-operated external light on the pavilion and replace with a switch operated alternative, with time-delay
- NTC to pay for electricity used during evenings, weekends if used by the community and in holiday periods
- NTC to retain existing fridge and microwave oven in kitchen and purchase kettle for community use
- NTC to store approx. 20 chairs and stack of 9 tables on trolley for community use
- The pavilion would continue to be unavailable for community use between October and March, as per the present arrangement
- NTC to pay business rates, water rates and insurance for fabric of building
- Mrs Ellis to repaint the external walls at her own expense, subject to NTC approval of the materials, finish and colour
- Mrs Ellis to pay for electricity used during term time excluding any periods of community use and holidays
- Mrs Ellis to pay costs of refurbishment to set up the nursery as per builder's quote to cover – extension of path, stud partition, work to doors and skirting boards, outdoor fencing, internal decoration, floor treatment in hallway and main room
- Mrs Ellis to pay solicitor's fees for the drawing up if an agreement
- Mrs Ellis to provide details of public liability insurance for her business
- Mrs Ellis to pay rent of £50 per week for the first year, £75 for second year and £100 for third year, during school terms
- Agreement to run for 3 years with provision for cancellation by either party after a minimum of 1 academic year, subject to 3 months' notice. Notice could be given after 9 months of the first year.

Proposed resurfacing of KGV skate park

The Clerk was asked to seek 2 quotations from each of three contractors, one to incorporate the reinstallation of the grind rail which had previously been removed for safety reasons, and one excluding this. Cllr S Robinson agreed to assist with the preparation of a detailed specification for the work and to liaise with contractors on site.

Moss kill on tennis courts

It was agreed that moss killing on the tennis courts would be done annually, funded from the KGV budget.

Dog fouling regulations

The Clerk reported that she had received several complaints from residents living near the KGV Field about the Council's policy of locking the gates to the car park during daylight hours to reduce the problem of dog fouling in the field. Users of the field were parking on adjacent roads and, on occasion, blocking residents' driveways. This problem appeared to be increasing with the recently improved weather. It was agreed to suspend the daytime gate closure with immediate effect, and to continue to monitor the situation.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had received a call from Alex Davies, SDC Dog Warden, in response to his recent article in Nailsworth News in which he had urged dog owners to keep their pets on leads in the KGV Field. She had indicated that, when enforcing SDC dog fouling policy on the Nailsworth end of the pedestrian/cycle trail by requesting owners to put their dogs on leads, she had been advising them that it was legal for dog walkers to let their dogs run free in the KGV and Miles Marling fields. Whilst councillors recognised that, as unfenced areas, these fields were not subject to SDC's dogs on leads policy, they were very concerned that an SDC officer appeared to be encouraging this practice, as it clearly conflicted with NTC's efforts to address the problem of dog fouling on its land. The Clerk was asked to arrange for Cllrs S

Robinson and Thorpe to meet with Ms Davies to clarify the position regarding the control of dogs in NTC's unfenced areas.

Children's play areas

Discussion of this item was deferred to the next Committee meeting owing to pressure of time.

Mortimer Gardens – steps to stream by bridge

The Clerk reported that a local resident, who had apparently slipped on the steps during icy weather, had suggested that a handrail be installed to improve safety. It was agreed that a handrail was not necessary, but that the Town Groundsman would be asked to grit the steps along with other areas in the gardens in icy weather.

Mortimer Gardens – alder tree

An alder tree in the Mortimer Gardens had become overgrown and the branches were beginning to obscure a streetlight which was attached to the tree. The Clerk had received a quote of £548 + VAT from Tree Maintenance for the work. She advised that there was no budget for the work and suggested that money be put in the 2014/14 budget as the work was not urgent. She agreed to mention the matter to Yakub Mulla GCC and ask whether the work could possibly be done by GCC Highways when their contractors were working in the area.

New planters in Cossack Square and at bottom of Spring Hill

The Clerk had received some suggestions that the new metal planters be painted so they would blend in better with their surroundings. Cllr S Robinson was concerned that the paint would begin to flake in time and felt that it was better to allow them to weather. It was agreed to leave the planters untouched.

Miles Marling field – maintenance

The Clerk reported that Joe Millett, who had previously undertaken strimming and litter clearance work in the Miles Marling field, had again offered his services. Councillors felt that Mr Millett's previous work had had a positive impact and agreed to accept the offer at the rate of £6.00 per hour, as required.

Market Street garden

The Clerk had received a request from the owner of Scrumptious café for permission to hold occasional barbecues in the garden as an extension to his business. Councillors felt that the garden was not appropriate for the sale of hot food. However, Cllr Duckworth reported that there were plans to revive the Market Street market, and suggested that the barbecues could form part of these events. The owner had also suggested that Chalford Brass Band could be asked to play at weekends but it was thought that because of the proximity of the busy A46 it would be unwise to encourage people to congregate. Music could however be an asset for future markets organised in the street. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

Leves Corner garden

The Clerk was asked to write to the owner of the cycle shop in Market Street requesting the removal of the rack of bicycles which was routinely being displayed in Leves Corner, as this was obstructing the proper use of the space as a sitting area.

MUGA at Forest Green

A letter from Mr Ian Crawley, secretary of Nailsworth Recreation Centre Management Committee had been circulated to all councillors. This was discussed, along with a report from Mr Crawley which had been circulated to Committee members. The letter urged NTC to draw down the £5000 budgeted to help deliver the MUGA and stated that SDC had also been asked

to agree a drawdown from the £93,000 held on account as matching funding. Though keen to see the MUGA project realised, members wanted clarification from the Football Foundation and other funding agencies that the project met their funding requirements. It was agreed to recommend to Council not to proceed with the release of the NTC money for the MUGA project until these concerns had been resolved.

Future of Nailsworth Recreation Centre

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 1 (sub-section 2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following proceedings because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

A general discussion was held regarding the future running of Nailsworth Recreation Centre bookings. It was agreed to suggest to the NRC that it should consider organising a public meeting to gauge the level of support for its activities and attract more volunteer assistance.

.....
Chair

.....
Date