

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Nailsworth Town Council held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth on Tuesday 15 June 2010

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr N I Kay Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr M P Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe (Deputy Mayor)	
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr J T Jeffreys	
Apologies	Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr Mrs G E Smith Cllr Mrs J M Way	District Cllr Blackwell District Cllr F Macmillan

A minute's silence was held in honour of Lance Bombardier Mark Chandler of Churchill Road who lost his life in Afghanistan last Tuesday. Town Crier Tony Evans and Mr Pat Burgess Royal British Legion (RBL), were at his repatriation ceremony at Wotton Bassett. The Mayor had expressed condolences to the family on behalf of the council. A military funeral would take place in Salisbury.

2010/32 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Margaret Marshall pointed out that Cllr S Robinson was the third Nailsworth mayor in office since the project to build a community centre at Forest Green had begun and she wished to thank the council for its efforts and support throughout the many years it has been ongoing.

2010/33 MINUTES of COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Thirty Seventh Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2010 were approved and signed.

2010/34 MEMBERSHIP of COMMITTEES (minute 2010/04)

It was felt that Cllrs Crawley and Nicholson would be useful members of the FE&GP committee and "exl. Chairman of Town Newsletter Committee" was deleted from the FE&GP section of the committee list.

2010/35 REVISION of STANDING ORDERS (minute 2010/10)

Cllrs Crawley and Nicholson had attended the course at Churchdown on 27 May and would prepare a draft revision of NTC's SOs in due course.

2010/36 REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington advised that GCC's biggest concern currently was finding how to make the £6.5million cuts required under the new government, in addition to the staffing reductions already planned. He was doing his best to protect highway maintenance work but anticipated a reduction in road improvement projects. Next year, the council would be required to save a further £25million.

Cllr Waddington had walked around the town with Mr Chris Riley to consider various roadway issues and hoped that the A46 and Old Market road repairs would get done soon.

Horsley PC had pointed out that the new driveway into Pike Quarry had resulted in a smaller area for unloading with consequent congestion. Parking bays were being marked out to help, and GCC was investigating traffic light controls to limit the number of vehicles unloading at any one time.

Cllr Waddington was asked to provide capital and revenue budget details so that cllrs could understand the existing planned cuts alongside further cuts required. He advised that the Area Base Grant had already been abandoned.

In response to a question from the Mayor, Cllr Waddington confirmed that the flood prevention work in Bridge Street was still on this year's programme which he did not expect to be changed. Heavy rain last week had again caused flooding over the roundabout and affected the same shops as before. Cllr Waddington asked to be informed when these incidents occurred as it helped his case, and he would try and get a date for the work.

Cllr Carter asked about the implementation of the 20mph restrictions around Jubilee Road/Inchbrook area, as the signs had been put up and numbers painted on the roads. Cllr Waddington advised that completion of the scheme had had to be put on hold whilst an outstanding objection was dealt with and which was going through the legal process; he could not say when the matter would be resolved.

Cllr Kay thanked Cllr Waddington for his help in negotiating the renewal of Nailsworth's youth worker contract and hoped he would help again to keep it going.

District Cllr Jeffreys reported that SDC's last meeting was the AGM which was concerned largely with IT security and the constitution. Cllr Crawley asked for confirmation of an email from Ms Karen Toole that changes to SDC's closure plans for recreation centres in Nailsworth and elsewhere had been put back to September. Cllr Jeffreys was not aware that this had been agreed at a formal meeting.

The Clerk read out a written report submitted by **District Cllr Miss Macmillan**. She confirmed that a section 48 repairs notice had been issued for Glendower, which, if not complied with, could lead to compulsory purchase of the property. Mr Anthony Burton was trying to support Mr Norman Phillips over undertaking repairs.

A disabled parking space had been requested in front of Lloyds Bank.

Cllr Miss Macmillan was supporting the initiative to fight against litter at Lawnside.

2010/37 MAYOR and DEPUTY MAYORs REPORTS

The Mayor had attended several of the Nailsworth Festival events and thanked the organising committee for the impressive variety and quality of activities. Festival Saturday had been particularly successful, helped by glorious weather.

On Wednesday 26 May, the Mayor with members of the RBL had welcomed Mr Doug Hamilton-Cox (ex royal engineer walking from Dartmoor to Selly Oak Hospital in aid of Help the Heroes) and given him coffee at Fields.

The Mayor's intention was to hold an informal surgery at the Farmers' Markets, commencing this coming Saturday, which he had advertised in Nailsworth News.

The Mayor wished to organise a training session/BBQ at his home for cllrs, council staff and their spouses on Saturday 3 July. He would circulate details by email.

Mr Bill Affleck had written inviting another cllr to join the Nailsworth Community Partnership board to replace Cllr Kay who had resigned his directorship. Since Cllr Mrs Binns was treasurer and Cllr Carter already a director and Cllrs Crawley and Kay acting also as NTC's representatives it was felt there was sufficient council involvement. No cllr present felt able to take up Mr Affleck's invitation. The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr Affleck accordingly.

The Deputy Mayor had also attended some of the Festival events and was equally impressed. Otherwise she had been concentrating on the FGCC project.

2010/38 REPORT of TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing to add to her written report.

2010/39 REPORTS form REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports.

2010/40 ADOPTION of STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS and ANNUAL RETURN

The Clerk had re-circulated the Supporting Notes 2009/10 with the accounting problem resolved. Cllr Nicholson was of the opinion that in section 12 the figure of £5.86 was incorrect and it had been raised to £6.15. (subsequently confirmed by Clerk to be correct and that section 137 limit should therefore be corrected to read £29,058.75)

The Annual Statement of Accounts had been approved by the internal auditor and was presented to members.

RESOLVED Cllr Kay proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson to unanimous agreement that the Mayor and Clerk sign the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for 2009/2010.

2010/41 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting held on 25 May and the minutes were approved.

A second insulation expert was expected next week to look at the TH loft space and the Clerk would ask him to consider if the existing netting could be cut away and left to fall onto the current insulation and then add more insulation over the top, as it seemed an unnecessarily expensive option to remove and replace the netting.

Shortwood FC had withdrawn its request to take the temporary FGCC as the building would not fit into the site identified. The Door had re-affirmed its interest in acquiring the building.

RESOLVED the Mayor proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thorpe to unanimous agreement that the temporary community hall be offered to the Door, and if it transpired that the charity received the building at no cost, it would be asked to agree that for a minimum period of six years, the building would be used only in connection with its community activities.

Cllr M Robinson reported that he had contacted Faulkners about lighting the town clock and Mr Ian Macriner had made a visit free of charge. He felt 4 uplights set in concrete similar to the Fountain was the best way to go, with LED favoured but very expensive. The Clerk confirmed that this tracked with the plan being worked on with NTC's electricians.

In response to a query from Cllr M Robinson, the Clerk confirmed that NTC had previously agreed to continue using SP Electrical for all council electrical work as the company had proved to be competent and was familiar with the town's various requirements. This job would cost £7-800 and therefore did not require the obtaining of alternative quotes.

2010/42 REPORT of RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 8 June and the minutes were approved, with the correction to the timing of the Market Street Garden meeting to 9.30am.

The Mayor had looked at the protecting cages around the Old Market trees and agreed that all but one had outgrown the frames and perhaps the trees were now sufficiently established for the cages to be removed altogether. Cllrs Kay and Nicholson thought the trees had been an SDC project and the Clerk was asked to write to Ms Alison Fisk to invite SDC to remove the cages or authorise NTC to do so. The comment was made that a tree was supposed to be planted by the post boxes at Tesco Express as part of its 106 Agreement.

The Clerk reported that part of the wooden fencing around the KGV extension field had been destroyed and she would seek a quote for repairs.

The Clerk had checked with SDC which saw no problem in renewing the MUGA planning permission at the original site, whilst discussion continued about its possible change of location.

Discussion had begun with the owner of Sherwood about his use of the land opposite the primary school, which had always been understood to have been donated to the town by the Lowsley Williams Estate. It would in due course be formally registered with the other bits of land across the parish.

Cllr Crawley commented that he had met Nailsworth residents at children's play areas outside the town because they felt there were inadequate play facilities for under 3s in the town. It was noted that the updated play area at Norton Wood was now very good, as was the new one in Lawnside.

RESOLVED	Cllr Byrne proposed, seconded by Cllr Kay to unanimous agreement that the recommendations of the Recreation & Amenities Committee made at its meeting of 8 June 2010 be approved.
-----------------	--

2010/43 **REPORT of FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY**
It was agreed to defer this topic to the end of the meeting as it needed to be taken in committee.

2010/44 **REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE**
Cllr Carter presented the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20 May and 4 June.

Cllr Kay wished to record how impressed he was with the range of matters dealt with by the committee.

Meeting of 20 May re bus shelters – Cllr Nicholson advised that when the shelters were replaced, they had been deliberately positioned facing the wall in order to benefit from additional protection from the side of the adjacent building. The Mayor referred to a design he had seen at Cainscross which he felt might suit better. Cllr Nicholson added that the current models had not in the event weathered well.

RESOLVED	that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 20 May and 4 June 2010 be approved
-----------------	--

2010/45 **ACCOUNTS**
Item 81 – the clerk explained that this referred to petty cash for postage etc.

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 15 June 2010 amounting to £15823.79 be approved for payment
-----------------	--

2010/46 **GAPTC – request to submit motions for AGM on 30 July**
Cllrs were asked to pass on any suggested motions to the Clerk for a decision at the July meeting. Cllr Kay wished to raise again SDC's lack of consultation with parish and town councils and suggest

that it should form a motion for the AGM. He agreed to formulate a motion and circulate it by email to those councils who had supported his earlier approach in the hope that they would put forward the same motion.

2010/47 Help for Heroes – letter of thanks for supporting sponsored walk

As mentioned in the Mayor's report, the organisation had written to thank Nailsworth for its reception of Mr Doug Hamilton-Cox.

2010/48 District Cllr Miss F Macmillan – request to hold surgeries

The Clerk read out a letter from Cllr Miss Macmillan who wished to hold regular surgeries on Saturday mornings over the summer in MG and then later in the year in MR or FGCC. She sought outline approval and a list of hire charges. Cllrs had no objections.

Cllr Miss Macmillan expressed concern that some residents felt excluded from the democratic process and asked if NTC might consider adopting a dependent care allowance to make it easier for residents of restricted means to participate. It was agreed that the FE&GP Committee would be asked to consider this point, but the Clerk pointed out that NTC had decided that cllrs should not claim an attendance allowance. Cllr Nicholson commented that perhaps the issue should now be reviewed as membership of the council had changed substantially since the decision was taken some time back.

2010/49 Mr Will Mansell, constituency case worker for Neil Carmichael MP

The Clerk read out Mr Mansell's letter expressing the MP's concerns over the development of FGCC, and asking to meet with cllrs to discuss the project. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was delighted that the new MP was taking an interest in the town and suggested he be invited to attend a meeting with the FGCC Working Party, which the Clerk was asked to arrange.

2010/50 FE&GP MEETING DATE

Since the meeting scheduled for 7 July clashed with the World Cup semi final, it was agreed to bring it forward to start at 6pm.

2010/51 FGCC GRANT APPLICATIONS – breach of confidentiality

Concern was expressed over information regarding negotiations of a grant application which had been given to cllrs in strict confidence having apparently been discussed with a member of the public. Cllrs were reminded that matters discussed in confidence in a council meeting should not be divulged to anyone who was not a Nailsworth town councillor. Cllr Kay added that this constituted a contravention of Standing Orders and penalties could be imposed if a complaint were made to the Standards Board.

2010/52 EXCLUSION of MEMBERS of the PUBLIC

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
-----------------	--

2010/53 FGCC

The recommendation papers dated 11 and 15 June put forward by Cllrs Crawley and Mrs Thorpe were discussed. The confidentiality element of the discussion was demanded by the grant giving bodies until such time as contracts and a joint press release were agreed.

PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson that the working party's recommendations be approved as follows:

- 1 That NTC accept the offer of a grant of £224,840 from the rural development programme for England via its agent the South West Regional Development Agency towards the cost of constructing and fitting out the FGCC, subject to the conditions in paragraph 3 below.
- 2 That NTC investigate the possibility of setting up a registered charity for the Community Centre, and create one if required.
- 3 That NTC's decision on 21 September 2009 to seek a loan of up to £300,000 from the Public Works Loan Board, is amended to up to £500,000, as working capital to finance the construction pending receipt of the sums from SWRDA and the Arkell Bequest.
- 4 That Nailsworth Town Clerk, as Proper Officer of NTC, signs the contract and subsequent claims on behalf of the council.

The motion was carried with six in favour and one abstention.

.....
Date

.....
Chairman