

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 15 January 2008

Present

Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor)
Cllr W S Affleck
Cllr J D Bratby
* Cllr J A Byrne
Cllr J Eddyshaw
Cllr B Jayes
Cllr J R Nicholson
Cllr S Robinson
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Cllr Mrs J M Way
Cllr A G Wheeler

Also present for
part of the meeting

County Cllr J S Waddington
District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns
District Cllr R Blackwell
PCSO Stephen Phillipson

* Denotes absence from part of the meeting

2008/214 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 18 December 2007 were approved and signed.

2008/215 OBJECTIONS TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS (minute 2007/192)

Referring to the end of the second paragraph of Cllr Jeffreys' report, Cllr Mrs Binns clarified that objections from parish & town councils needed to refer to the relevant section of the Local Plan in order for applications to be removed from delegated powers.

2008/216 FUNDING FOR NAILSWORTH YOUTH WORKER (minute 2007/189)

Cllr Waddington's input and explanation of GCC figures would be solicited for further discussions and efforts to have Nailsworth's youth worker fully funded by GCC in the future.

* Cllr Byrne joined the meeting.

2008/217 LEAP AT FOREST GREEN DEVELOPMENT (minute 2007/197)

The MATTER would be discussed at the meeting of the Planning Committee on Thursday.

2008/218 TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE (TIC) RENT REVIEW (minute 2007/202)

It was clarified that Cllr Nicholson and the Clerk would be arranging to meet with the surveyor but other cllrs were welcome to attend the eventual meeting.

2008/219 OPENING OF TENDERS FOR FOUNTAIN RESTORATION (minute 2007/207)

Cllr Bratby confirmed that he would attend the opening of the bids on 25 January.

2008/220 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington reported that work on the A46 at Salmon Springs had progressed well with all the pilings in place before the Christmas break. Work was now starting on the capping beam before proceeding with the rest of the road surfacing with a forecasted completion of 15 February.

The consultation procedure for installation of bollards at Lawnside/Bunting Hill was proceeding. In order to do the work in this financial year, the job would be classed as a temporary closure for a six

month period, prior to deciding if the bollards should remain permanently. Resolving the rat run situation at Star Hill/Jubilee Road was also in hand. Studies were continuing to find a solution to speeding on Nymphsfield Road.

GCC's major issue currently was the budget, and proposals had gone out to consultation. An increase of 3.8% in council tax was considered the minimum workable figure including a lot of savings, which would mean badly needed work on the county's drainage system could not be done. Extra money had been spent this year on drain clearance but much of the system was Victorian and not fit to cope with current climate change. It was thought unlikely that the county would get government help against future anti-flood measures and the suggestion was an additional 1.1% levy to start the essential work.

The Police budget was out to consultation, with a separate precept increase proposal of 4.99%. the government's grant involved a 2% increase on the basic precept but with the withdrawal of a number of grants, this would equate to only +1%. Either way, 80 civilian posts would have to be cut, and a top up of £4million taken from reserves.

Cllr Affleck congratulated GCC on completion of the Pensile Road job, which was a welcome long-awaited result.

Cllr Affleck had read the results of consultations following the July floods and was dismayed to see the negative responses from the county's utility providers, which had been responsible for the almost collapse of the county's infrastructure. Cllr Waddington confirmed this was regrettably the case. Contribution to flood-prevention efforts was badly needed from outside bodies over which GCC had little power.

Cllr Nicholson asked for clarification on GCC's budget proposals; one option being council tax increase of 3.8% + 2.1% = 6.9% which might lead to problems with capping. Cllr Waddington concurred but advised that if the county's residents chose this option, GCC would be prepared to fight the case in the absence of sufficient government support. There was £20million damage to the county's road system and it was not known if the £10million promised by government would actually come through.

In response to a query from Cllr Eddyshaw, Cllr Waddington explained that the Police levy was now separate to the GCC precept and in previous years had been over the rate of inflation. The Police budget for next year was in the region of £100-£114million. The tax payer paid a higher proportion of council tax – 70%, as opposed to 40% of the police budget.

District Cllr Mrs Binns wished to clarify the comment in minute 2007/192 that the 2.5% budget increase for SDC had yet to be approved by full council. She reminded cllrs of the Chip & Pin event in Nailsworth on 23/24 January and reported that a similar event in Stonehouse had received good feedback.

The kitchen waste collection scheme in the Stanleys was showing good results following the first 7 to 8 weeks of implementation, with a substantial increase in the level of recycling and 90% participation from residents. It was hoped to expand this one year trial to other areas. County & District councils were working together to take this initiative forward, bearing in mind financial implications of future landfill waste disposal.

In response to a query from Cllr Eddyshaw about the economics of kitchen waste collection, Cllr Mrs Binns advised that money could be recouped from recycled goods, and all attempts to reduce landfill waste disposal were essential with increasing tax and penalisation to come. Cllr Waddington added that £5million would be paid this year on landfill waste and the tax was increasing from £24 to £32 per ton next year. Despite the ever increasing population/new housing in the county, it was hoped to eventually halve the current landfill waste of 200,000 tons.

Cllr Bratby queried whether incineration was a suitable solution and it was confirmed that this was one of the many options being considered and was popular with government and DEFRA, but other schemes produced saleable by-products.

District Cllr Blackwell had nothing to add.

2008/221 REPORT FROM PCSO PHILLIPSON

PCSO Phillipson was pleased to attend his first NTC meeting and meet those cllrs he did not already know. He reported that crime figures, reviewed quarterly, showed little change on last year with the exception of a slight increase in theft from vehicles. The PCSO team was looking to work on this along with the main areas of concern highlighted in recent consultation: anti social behaviour on the streets and in parks, and drug use. PCSO Phillipson also urged attendance at the Chip & Pin event and would be happy to meet with cllrs and walk the area with them. The aim was to smarten up the Lawnside area and discourage casual misuse and vandalism. The mayor, cllrs Mrs Thorpe and Wheeler were keen to go and the mayor would liaise with them, following details of timing and location to be confirmed by Cllr Mrs Binns.

In response to a query from the mayor about parking on the pavement in Bridge Street, PCSO Phillipson advised that it was not actually an offence to park on the pavement and a ticket could only be issued if the vehicle parked was causing an obstruction.

2008/222 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The mayor had emailed cllrs suggesting a team look at updating the website with Mr Bruce Burn; he would notify the latter that Cllrs Affleck and Wheeler had volunteered.

The mayor had written to congratulate Mr Phil Sullivan SDC on receiving an MBE in the recent honours list.

The mayor felt that electricity power cuts had escalated in the past year and questioned the efficiency of the maintenance programme undertaken by the utility companies, wondering if cost cutting now meant that problems were only dealt with once they had occurred rather than striving to prevent them through ongoing maintenance of the network. Cllrs gave their approval to his writing to voice his concerns and get a clearer picture of the maintenance procedure.

In response to Cllr Eddyshaw's suggestion that the mayor's enquiries should include questions about cost profile and record of tree cutting to protect overhead power lines, District Cllr Blackwell added that he had personally witnessed an agent from Central Networks making a recent survey of trees in Nailsworth in order to identify necessary pruning work.

The mayor had received a reply from Inspector Moore explaining that a shortage of officers had led to insufficient police presence to stop traffic in Nailsworth on Remembrance Sunday. He was advised to tell members of the Royal British Legion that they needed to liaise consistently with the police prior and running up to the event, to ensure their needs were met.

The mayor urged other cllrs to join him in attending the Stonehouse Police INA meetings held every 2 to 2 ½ months, the next one taking place on 31 January at Stonehouse Council offices, 2 to 3.30pm. Nailsworth was within this INA although discussion focussed heavily on Stonehouse, so that a Nailsworth cllr presence at the meetings was important to ensure Nailsworth did not get left out. It was suggested the next meeting could be held in Nailsworth. The mayor would circulate the minutes of the last meeting to cllrs.

The clerk pointed out that it was the Police & Community Consultative meetings which were held in rotation around the district. She added that MR and TH were pretty fully booked, so that Nailsworth might not be able to offer a venue for an additional meeting, and that tea/coffee facilities were not readily available in Nailsworth.

2008/223 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Affleck advised that most of his work since the last meeting had been concerned with Nailsworth Community Partnership (NCP). The committee had been looking at the structure of the organisation, and at its meeting yesterday had resolved to set up a company limited by guarantee. The committee had spoken with various experts and felt confident that this was the correct way forward and would create a more business like operation which could then more readily work with other bodies including NTC.

Cllr Affleck advised that he had celebrated his 75th birthday before Christmas and that he would be resigning from the council at the end of April.

2008/224 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The clerk had nothing to add to her written report.

2008/225 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 7 January and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Nicholson drew attention to comments on the recent Christmas light display, and the clerk added that apparently one of the motifs had twisted out of position after being hit by a truck. The committee would report its findings on the electrician's costs in due course.

With regard to the TIC rent increase proposal, the meeting was reminded that the landlord had been generous in the early days of the tenancy in 2002, but the proposed increase was still excessive. Cllr Nicholson offered to contact SDC again in an attempt to get business rate relief on this non-profit making facility.

In relation to problems with match day parking at Nortonwood, Cllr Affleck commented that the original spirit of cooperation from Forest Green Rovers FC whilst building the new stadium, appeared to have been lost. He felt it was socially irresponsible to charge for parking in the grounds. Cllr Nicholson advised that the parking problem had already existed with the old stadium, and on-street parking was a common situation for football clubs around the country. The Police used to cone off streets in the past. Cllr Robinson added that a large section of the muddy stadium car park was used as a rubbish tip, thus restricting even more the amount of parking space available on site, although arrangements had obviously been made to use the school play ground next door for overflow parking.

2008/226 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE Working Party

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that a second lengthy meeting had taken place yesterday with Ms Krista Harris SDC regeneration officer and Ms Barbara Pond GRCC. Practical details had been carefully considered and it was estimated it would take two years to explore grant possibilities, followed by one to two years for the build. A solid well-thought-out business case and detailed operational/business plan would be required to support applications for grant funding. Ms Pond had offered to produce a consultation/needs questionnaire and analyse the subsequent responses. It was proposed to circulate said questionnaire in the Forest Green Residents Association newsletter in March, 600 of which would be delivered to Forest Green residents. Following this initial survey in Forest Green, consultation from the wider community could be sought via a questionnaire in the Fountain Magazine, with further exposure in Nailsworth News, at the Town Meeting in April and other public meetings/events.

PROPOSAL Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by the mayor to unanimous approval, that NTC authorise expenditure of £450 for production and analysis of 600

consultation/needs analysis questionnaires for Forest Green residents. It was anticipated that a further amount might be needed later for wider consultation.

The mayor anticipated an early response from Mr Gavin Hill of Redrow Homes about the possibility of renting the current sales office so that a pilot community centre could be put into operation.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe advised that Whitminster Village Hall had achieved half its build costs of £400k from grants, although it could not be predicted that Nailsworth would have the same success. It was anticipated that a loan would be required from the Public Works Loans Board, to which end an application to GAP&TC was required to establish that the project met the criteria in principle.

PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson that NTC approve the application to GAP&TC for permission to apply at a later date for a loan from the Public Works Loans Board to build Forest Green Community Centre. The motion was carried with one abstention.

The Mayor took the opportunity to alert cllrs to the possibly significant financial demands on the council from other projects in addition to the FGCC such as the children's play areas and specific projects arising from the Urban Development Brief. He suggested that before commitment was made to any large capital project the council should set aside time to compare possibly competing demands and seek the views of council tax payers.

2008/227 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 20 December 2007 and 2 January 2008.

Meeting of 20 Dec 07

Cllr Mrs Binns agreed to check and email her findings regarding screening for validity against SDC criteria.

The mayor clarified his thoughts behind the second paragraph on page 2.

Meeting of 2 Jan 08

07/2662/FUL: Worley Lodge & adjacent land at The Rollers.

The committee's response to the application had been copied to SDC cllrs with additional clarification. Cllr Nicholson congratulated Cllr Affleck on preparing the extensive and detailed response.

Cllr Wheeler added that the Worley protest committee had held two meetings and was pursuing the same line of attack. Cllr Nicholson advised cllrs to keep an eye on this space which had been subject to attempted planning applications in the past and was a rare and valuable green space. It would be important to try and identify these few green areas for preservation in the new town plan.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the planning committee at its meetings held on 20 December 2007 and 2 January 2008 be approved.

2008/228 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 15 January 2008 amounting to £9696.97 be approved for payment.

2008/229 SDC – temporary road closure Market Street on Saturdays 9/2, 8/3, 12/4 2008

Cllrs had no objection to these road closures for street markets.

2008/230 SDC – does Nailsworth need a taxi rank?

The letter had been circulated with the agenda and consultation concluded on 15 February. Cllrs felt that with current pressure on parking in Nailsworth and the way taxis were used in the town, an official taxi rank was not appropriate. It was agreed however that it would be useful to have a

prominent town centre listing of taxi numbers (these were of course available in the TIC), perhaps in place of the soon to be redundant board on the toilet block in the bus station and the clerk was asked to respond that SDC might like to provide this, and a taxi telephone.

2008/231 GCC – consultation on Council Tax increase

Formal information on proposals had been provided and deadline for comments was tomorrow. Cllrs had no comment to make.

2008/232 GCC – traffic regulation order – Star Hill and Jubilee Road

Details and a plan of the proposal were available in the office and would be advertised during January for implementation in the spring.

2008/233 David Drew MP – speeding on Nympsfield Road

Mr Drew was aware of residents’ concerns, although the result of GCC surveys to date showed no evidence of a speeding problem. The mayor would raise the matter at the next INA meeting. Cllr Robinson added that he was keen to keep the matter under discussion as he had raised it following comments from residents.

2008/234 Neighbourhood Policing – donation towards radar vehicle classifier

The Clerk read out the letter recommending the purchase of the above gadget at a cost of £1700. It was proposed to buy one for Stonehouse INA and parishes which would benefit had been invited to contribute to the cost, leaving a further £700 to be raised. This was an unmanned but non-vehicle-identifying machine and cllrs were keen to establish the level of use it would get in Nailsworth which might be dependent on the level of financial contribution. Also, would the Police be willing to act on the basis of data gathered, and implement appropriate traffic calming measures if this was shown to be necessary? The mayor would ask pertinent questions at the INA meeting.

PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed to unanimous approval that £150 be contributed towards purchase of a radar vehicle classifier.

2008/235 GCC – distribution of “Your Essential Flood Guide” leaflets

TIC had received a copy of this leaflet and it was understand that it had been distributed to householders.

2008/236 Police meeting to discuss need for disaster emergency plan

The meeting would be held at SDC on Monday 11 February with presentations on how to work together in an emergency, how to set up a warden scheme and put in place individual emergency plans. The event would start at 6.30pm with a buffet, with presentations from 7.30pm. The clerk would forward the email to the mayor and Cllr Byrne who indicated they would attend.

2008/237 Glos PO Network Change Programme – rural services support group

The group was investigating possible sources of funding to support post offices threatened with closure. Information was available and a public consultation underway.

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Date

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Chairman