

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

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

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way	
Also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr J Jeffreys	
Apologies	Cllr B Jayes Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr A G Wheeler	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns District Cllr RTH Blackwell

2008/304 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 18 March 2008 were approved and signed.

2008/305 CANCELLATIONS EVENING 46 BUS AND NIGHT BUS (minute 2008/283)

The Mayor had discussed the proposed cancellations with chairman of Painswick TC, Mr Terry Parker. A final decision on cancellation of the night bus had yet to be made. District Cllr Jeffreys added that SDC was in discussion over possible subsidies. The Clerk read out GCC's reply to NTC's letter, maintaining the view that the night service of BUS 46 was little used.

2008/306 POST OFFICE CLOSURES (minute 2008/283)

Cllr Mrs Thorpe asked for an update on SDC's stand on the threatened Post Office closures. The Uplands postmaster had made a helpful presentation to a recent SDC scrutiny meeting and Cllr Jeffreys felt SDC had taken a strong stand over this issue.

2008/307 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Jeffreys advised that it was currently a quiet period at SDC with impending elections. The next full council meeting would take place next Thursday. Cllr Jeffreys had attended the signing of the Sheltered Housing Partnership Agreement earlier today, which included a detailed action plan. This was good progress and would also benefit Nailsworth's establishments, Concord and Ringfield Close. Cllr Robinson thanked Cllr Jeffreys for his help in negotiating a slightly enlarged space for the new MUGA at Bunting Hill.

2008/308 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that NTC had been invited to affiliate with Chris Moore's **Save the PO campaign**, but he was concerned that this organisation had recently been attacking the GCC Conservative administration and seemed to be taking on a political dimension. There was a second protest group which had approached Cllr Mrs Thorpe, but little was known about this second group.

On the basis that it was unlikely Forest Green's PO would be saved, and with the small level of response from Nailsworth residents, it was felt that NTC had no need to get further involved in any campaign.

Nailsworth Community Partnership was in the process of becoming a company limited by guarantee and had invited the Mayor to be one of its directors. The Mayor assured cllrs that, if he

accepted the offer, his first role would always be as the representative of NTC. Debate ensued about the problems of responsibilities and conflict of interest. The directorship would be a personal appointment, rather than handed from mayor to mayor and NTC could appoint another representative at any time. Cllr Affleck felt that it was important for the viability of NCP that a major town council player was on the board, not least because NTC was a founding partner of that organisation, and stressed that the director's role was essentially to ensure that the business of the company was conducted so as not to violate its terms of operation. Directors were (re)elected at every AGM.

District Cllr Jeffreys was asked for advice, being involved in a similar project elsewhere, but the situation had not yet arisen in that case, and he suggested NTC could consider this post as part of the council's representation on outside bodies.

It was thought appropriate therefore that the mayor, in accepting a Directorship, would not do so as a representative of NTC and he would declare this on the Register of Interests.

The Mayor read out the report of the **Police Consultative Meeting** on 10 April and advised that Owen Hughes was the new Chief Inspector at Stonehouse. Mrs Sally Millett (FG Residents Association) had also attended the meeting and had reported broken glass in the Forest Green play area. The mayor also reported that Inspector Hughes was keen to expand his officers' use of "stop and search" powers. This led to a discussion at the meeting on the balance to be struck between enforcement of the law and civil liberties

Cllr Mrs Thorpe queried the process for **dealing with abandoned cars**, and the time between affixing the 'police aware' notice and removing the vehicle. District Cllr Jeffreys advised that it was SDC's responsibility to deal with these matters, and timescales had been tightened since Mr Colin Peake had been involved. The Clerk added that sometimes the 'police aware' notice was applied because a vehicle was not displaying a valid tax disc and had not actually been abandoned. Cllr Mrs Thorpe would report a particular vehicle in Bunting Way and obtain information on SDC's policy covering a range of situations.

2008/309 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Affleck was pleased to report a good turnout of 37 people for the 'clean up day', but was disturbed at the mountain of rubbish that was collected and felt something should be done at local level. Various problems and solutions were discussed and Cllr Affleck would write a piece for the Fountain. The Environment Committee would be asked to come up with a series of actions.

2008/310 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had received the CPRE Glos Branch newsletter with a diary of events for the year.

2008/311 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Bratby presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 25 March and the minutes were approved.

2008/312 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 8 April and the minutes were approved with correction to the titles of two GCC officers:

Mr Paul McLean: cabinet member for youth services

Ms Jackie Hall: senior cabinet member for services for children and young people

"Water & wool" funding opportunity – Cllr Eddyshaw suggested the Urban Design plan could be a suitable project, but the Mayor drew attention to the end of April time limit for applications and the large amount of competition for - albeit large - amounts of money. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had met with Ms Rachel Small SDC, to discuss the applicability of the Mortimer Garden/Town Square project, or restoration of Days Mill. Ms Small had provided clarification on the entry criteria

and the Mayor felt NTC was unlikely to be successful. Cllr Affleck added that the council was not sufficiently prepared to put forward this project at this stage, which did not yet have the level of precision required. The Mayor also felt that this exercise was more for community groups rather than town councils. Nevertheless an application would be submitted for proposed action in the bus station/Old Market area.

MUGA at Forest Green – it was pointed out that one reason for the escalation in the cost of building the MUGA was because of the need to dispose of large amounts of soil. It was important to get the stakeholders to commit on the level of funds they were prepared to put forward.

2008/313 REPORT FROM FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the working party was meeting regularly and was currently focussing on negotiating with Redrow to hire its sales office, and working with Ms Barbara Pond GRCC in preparing a draft business plan for a permanent community centre. The establishment of need and demand for a centre was an important element, and information from previous questionnaires needed to be differently collated in order to be useful. Cllr Mrs Thorpe requested a sum of £100 for a member of Ms Pond's staff to do this job, bearing in mind that the £450 previously approved for an additional questionnaire had not been taken up. She hoped to have a draft business plan ready for the June council meeting with appropriate evidence to prove the case and begin the financing process. (The business plan would include responses to the questionnaire about to go out to new residents at Forest Green.)

Cllr Mrs Thorpe pointed out a couple of alterations to the proposed rental terms with Redrow and it was unanimously agreed to put this forward to the council's solicitor for formalisation.

2008/314 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 20 March and 1 April.

Cllr Affleck urged cllrs to look at Mr David Free's revolutionary plan for the town centre, which he felt had much merit. In answer to a query from Cllr Bratby, Cllr Affleck suggested that if the plan was taken forward, some payment should be made to Mr Free, although he had not to date submitted any invoice.

The latest version of the Roger Evans report seemed to have satisfactorily dealt with the additional requests and Ms Rachel Small SDC agreed. Two outstanding items however were the provision of the executive summary and copy of the presentation of 17 March. Cllr Affleck felt the report had fulfilled its purpose to become supplementary planning guidance, although the Mayor felt Ms Bojaniwska's Design Statement was a much worthier document. Cllr Affleck confirmed that the Roger Evans report presented only one view and NTC was not bound to follow its exact plan.

Cllr Affleck proposed, seconded by Cllr Eddyshaw, to unanimous approval that in respect of the Nailsworth Urban Design Framework by Roger Evans Associates, NTC should release funds to SDC to complete payment of the contract between SDC, NTC and Roger Evans Associates Ltd (REAL) on the understanding that

- the NTC liability is not more than £5000;
- that REAL will have discharged its remaining obligations as agreed at the meeting on 17 March;
- that the Mayor and Chairman of Planning jointly certify to NTC that these remaining obligations have indeed been properly discharged.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings held on 20 March and 1 April 2008 be approved.

2008/315 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllr Eddyshaw confirmed he would be retiring following the meeting of the Planning Committee this Thursday and Cllr Affleck confirmed he would be retiring on 30 April. The Mayor on behalf of NTC accepted these resignations and expressed regret at their going and thanked them heartily for their contribution to the council.

2008/316 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the supplementary list of accounts at 31 March 2008 amounting to £4401.11, and the list at 15 April 2008 amounting to £6809.01 be approved for payment.

2008/317 Audit Commission – appointment of auditor for NTC

It was confirmed that Moore Stephens had been appointed as NTC auditor for the next three years.

2008/318 Post Office Ltd – reply to NTC letter about proposed closures

The letter indicated that NTC’s comments would be taken into account and notification of decisions would be provided in due course.

2008/319 SDC – change of date of Community Safety Panel half-yearly meeting

The date of the meeting had been changed to 11 June at 10am in the council chamber at Ebley Mill, as the original date clashed with another meeting.

2008/320 Severn Trent – removal of preferential rates (minute 2008/267)

NTC had written to uphold the objection of Mr David Drew MP to the removal of preferential rates for surface water drainage which would affect organisations such as schools and hospitals. The response stated that basing charges on site area rather than rateable value was fairer, but that rebates could be claimed if it could be proven that surface water did not drain into the sewer system. The changes were aimed at business rather than residential customers.

2008/321 SDC Neighbourhood Warden office – calendar of events

A list of events was requested that might benefit from a greater Neighbourhood Warden presence. The Clerk suggested Nailsworth Festival & Nailstock, Nailsworth Games, Newmarket Fete, Christkindl Evening; Cllrs were asked to advise if they thought of any others.

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Date

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Chairman