

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of a meeting held on 12 June 2012**

Present	Cllr S Robinson Cllr J L Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr M P Robinson Cllr S Robinson
Apologies	Cllr N I Kay Cllr S M Reed Cllr S E Thorpe
In Attendance	Joe Davis, representing skate ramp users

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Thorpe, the meeting was chaired by Cllr S Robinson, who wished to record congratulations to Cllr Kay for his excellent work as Chair over the past two years.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Cllr S Robinson was pleased to report that the Nailsworth Games and the Diamond Jubilee events in the town had been very successful and well attended, and that grants of £800 from SDC and £250 from Renishaw had been gratefully received to support these events. Cllr Duckworth reported that he had discussed with the Neighbourhood Warden, Peter Wilson, the matter of Cllrs conducting a 'spray painting' initiative to highlight offending areas on Council land. The Neighbourhood Warden had been reluctant for NTC to act unilaterally on this, intimating that GCC permission would be required, but it was unclear whether this would apply to spraying in private land. Cllr Duckworth undertook to have further discussions with him. Cllrs agreed to defer further consideration of a possible ban on dogs in NTC public open spaces, and issues of enforcement until SDC had published its own revised policy on dog fouling.

**Chess Garden project – Market Street**

A proposal by the 'Men's Shed' section of Nailsworth Community Workshop to build and site a 'Chess Garden' in the newly created Market Street Garden had been circulated to Committee members. The proposed structure would be 4 ft square, with a total height of 2 ft. Cllrs Thorpe and S Robinson had inspected the site. The Clerk reminded the Committee that, as the original idea for the Market Street Garden was to create an open space for all members of the community to enjoy, it was important to ensure that the use and flexibility of this space should not be restricted in any way. Cllr S Robinson commended the project to the Committee.

**RECOMMENDED: that the Men's Shed Project should be permitted to site their structure on the Council's land, subject to the following conditions:**

1. The structure remains the property of the Men's Shed.
2. The Men's Shed retains full responsibility for its maintenance.
3. NTC retains the right to terminate the agreement, subject to a reasonable period of notice.

4. Any damage to the Market Street Garden or other NTC property caused by vandalism to the structure will be covered by the Council's Public Liability Insurance.

### **KGV field – skate ramps**

Joe Davis, representing skate ramp users, informed members that the half pipe required re-painting – Maverick recommended recoating every 6 months. He had confirmed with the groundsman that Maverick had donated sufficient paint and he volunteered to organise skate ramp users to undertake the re-painting. He advised that ramp users were keen to be involved and take ownership of the equipment.

Joe Davis reported that he had also been researching the options for re-surfacing the skatepark. Removing the items for re-surfacing and then replacing them might not be viable in view of the age of the equipment and therefore the re-surfacing might need to be carried out with the equipment in situ. He was willing to undertake fund raising and it would be helpful to have a guide figure for the cost of re-surfacing.

The Chair confirmed that no money had been set aside in this year's budget for work to the skate ramps, but that the Council would in due course research quotations for re-surfacing. The chair thanked Joe for his interest and suggestions and commended his attendance at the meeting. Cllr S Robinson undertook to discuss issues relating to supervision of volunteers working on painting the half pipe with youth workers and the Neighbourhood Warden. Cllr M Robinson agreed to investigate a guide price for re-surfacing.

### **KGV – use of extension field**

Cllr S Robinson agreed to liaise with Cllr Kay to progress the proposed article for Nailsworth News publicising the availability of the extension field. In reply to a question from Cllr M Robinson, the Clerk confirmed that the Council had not made any applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Cllr M Robinson reported that he was aware of some successful applications by other councils for improvements to community spaces, and he wondered if this might be an avenue to pursue for the extension field.

### **MUGA at Forest Green**

The Clerk reported that Cllr Kay had been in communication with Gloucestershire County Council and that there had been no further progress to date on the possible transfer of land between GCC and the diocese. Cllr S Robinson agreed to set up a meeting with himself, Cllr Kay and County Cllr Stan Waddington to attempt to progress this matter.

### **Mortimer Garden & town gardening**

The Clerk reported that would instruct the Town Groundsman to remove the stone from the drain and test to see where the blockage occurred. She had identified a possible contractor who might be able to unblock the drain if this proved necessary.

She had received a letter from a local resident who was interested in volunteering to maintain a section of the Mortimer Gardens, to the right of the steps. After some discussion, councillors agreed that the area concerned was not currently in need of maintenance, as the plan was to let it remain in as natural a state as possible, and that there was consequently no need to extend the volunteer gardening project at the present time. The Clerk was asked to thank the resident for her offer and to inform her of the Committee's decision.

### **Miles Marling Field**

The Clerk had followed up a complaint from a Forest Green resident over the standard of grass cutting. It would appear that there had been some misunderstanding about the extent of work programmed on the field. The Clerk had asked the Town Groundsman to trim the entrance to the field and cut back overhanging branches to the boundary trees. She reported that the installation of the new kissing gate had appeared to have reduced the amount of damage to the field walls.

Further to a complaint from a resident about long grass on the bank by the green on Jubilee Road, the Clerk had arranged for the Town Groundsman to resolve the problem, and the work had now been completed.

### **Children's Play Areas**

Cllr S Robinson reported that SDC was negotiating to designate the playing fields in its ownership at The Tynings as 'Jubilee Playing Fields' so it could potentially attract Jubilee funding. The Committee was in full support of this initiative. There was some discussion about the possibility of providing the Groundsman with a ride-on mower to assist with the maintenance of the KGV Play Area when it became necessary to replace the current machine. The Clerk advised that the Council did not have the facilities to store such a machine, and that the existing mower was small enough for the Groundsman to transport on his truck to other locations when required. Cllr M Robinson advised that, in his view, ride-on mowers could be problematic when attempting to cut wet grass.

### **Clock Tower Banners**

Cllr S Robinson and Cllr Kay had produced a draft policy which was circulated at the meeting. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend the following policy to the Council.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

1. Use of the banner posts is restricted to organisations or events within the parish of Nailsworth.
2. The posts may only be used to advertise events.
3. Use of the posts is restricted to a maximum of two weeks at a time, and for a maximum of four occasions in any calendar year, with the exception of the Farmers' Market.

4. The banner posts may not be used for commercial events.

The Clerk was asked to inform the Nailsworth Society of the policy. If the Society organised a membership recruitment event it would be welcome to use the posts for this purpose.

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Date

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Chair