

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 17 July 2007

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr W S Waddington District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns PCSO Clare Slark and PCSO Alan Pye-Jones
Apologies accepted	Cllr J A Byrne Cllr B Jayes District Cllr J T Jeffreys

The Mayor and District Cllr Mrs Binns spoke about District Cllr Mrs Sybil Bruce, recently deceased, and added their condolences and regrets to public sadness at her death. The Mayor added that, with the agreement of the Bruce family, he intended to suggest to the FE&GP committee that a new civic trophy be dedicated to Mrs Bruce for annual award at the Mayor's reception.

2007/84 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 June 2007 were confirmed and signed.

2007/85 NEW COUNCILLOR TRAINING (minute 2007/52)

On behalf of those who took part, Cllr Wheeler wished to record thanks to Cllr Nicholson for his very helpful and informative training session for new councillors.

2007/86 USE OF SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS IN SUMMER HOLIDAY (minute 2007/57)

The Mayor advised that Miss Tracy Young had indicated Neighbourhood Warden Ashley Nicholson would be able to help in supervising sessions over the holiday. Cllr Robinson added that a meeting was taking place tomorrow at the School with Miss Young, Mrs Jo Smith and Mr Ashley Nicholson to clarify arrangements.

2007/87 SHARED SPACE SEMINAR 3 July (minute 2007/63)

Cllr Mrs Way had attended the interesting seminar and had circulated her helpful report prior to the meeting. She suggested the Nailsworth Community Partnership (NCP) might be the right body to continue discussion on this topic in its transport working group.

2007/88 CREATION OF YOUTH FORUM (minute 2007/64)

The Mayor had received positive reactions from Ruskin Mill in writing, and verbally from Acorn School.

2007/89 GAPTC ELECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (minute 2007/75)

The Mayor suggested it might be useful if the organisation's newsletter could be emailed to cllrs, and the Clerk was asked to enquire if this was possible. There were no nominations or resolutions to pass on.

2007/90 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & PCSO TEAM

District Cllr Mrs Binns reported that the first 100 days of the new Environmental Strategy had been very productive and included submission of a planning application for a hydro scheme at Ebley Mill. One of the neighbourhood warden cars had been converted to LPG and it was hoped the others would follow. The new Sainsbury supermarket at Dursley was embracing recycling and environmental schemes. After 12 years, SDC was renewing lighting at Ebley Mill with a suitably environmentally friendly system. Cllrs were invited to look at the website for up to date news, and advised that the next Cabinet meeting would be held in December.

County Cllr Waddington advised that government inspectors would visit GCC in September to undertake a Comprehensive Performance Assessment, in line with councils around the country. GCC was close to concluding a Vessel Composting Facility to deal with kitchen waste which it hoped to have in place for March 08. Residual Waste Management systems were going out to tender at the end of the year. The street lighting economy scheme continued to be trialled, in which Nailsworth was the next contender, for which the public consultation would take place soon.

Cllr Waddington was pleased Cllr Mrs Way had been able to attend the Shared Space Seminar, and felt it had produced lots of ideas. He would be hosting a Rural Speed Conference on 11 September, to which councillors were warmly invited. A closure order for Pensile Road had gone through for 7 September, at which time the work would finally take place to restore this road.

The local Constabulary was sorry to lose Deputy chief constable Craig Mackay who was taking up a new position as chief constable in Cumbria.

In response to a query from Cllr Eddyshaw regarding frequency of waste collection, Cllr Waddington confirmed that GCC only managed the recycling and SDC was responsible for collecting from households. The Mayor added that he had learned at a recent Local Strategic Partnership meeting that the pilot scheme kitchen waste collection was intended weekly, with the rest of the waste collection fortnightly. Cllr Mrs Binns would enquire about the future collection schedule and report back.

Cllr Robinson handed over a photograph of the neglected culvert running down Chestnut Hill and Cllr Waddington promised to look into this, though commented that the summer's adverse weather conditions had wreaked havoc with the Council's regular weed clearing programme.

Cllr Robinson had had further complaints about speeding on Nymphsfield Road and asked if a speed-activated sign could be installed. Discussion ensued as to the long-term effectiveness of this speed control method which was becoming over popular. Cllr Waddington advised that applications for installation of a speed-activated sign had to comply with three out of four criteria, following which the application would join the queue. He agreed with Cllr Affleck's suggestion that these signs should be portable in order to retain the novelty effect, but that this was not practical.

The Clerk drew attention to the Traffic Order passed last December, from which some of the parts had been completed, but she had completely failed to get a satisfactory response as to why the double yellow lines on Horsley Road between the Britannia and Barn Close were still outstanding. The Clerk was asked to let Cllr Waddington know which parts of the Order had been completed and he undertook to chase up on the others.

PCSO Clare Slark informed the meeting that a consultation exercise had been run in May/June in the Nailsworth Community Sector (including Horsley and Woodchester) in order to identify three main policing priorities. The result had shown the current main perceived problems to be a) anti social behaviour and underage drinking; b) parking difficulties; c) speeding. These would now be concentrated on in partnership with other local bodies, and the Council, and website, would be updated on progress. Consultation would continue and priorities changed as required.

Crime figures for April to July were 14% down on the same period last year, with a good reduction in criminal damage. PCSO Slark announced her departure from the team after being Nailsworth's community contact for 3 ½ years, to become a police constable in the Cirencester area. GCC funded police officer Nicky Logan would now be in charge of Nailsworth, along with two new PCSO's. PCSO Alan Pye-Jones was a floater, operating where needed throughout the area.

PCSO Slark added that some speed checking on Spring Hill/Nymphsfield Road had been undertaken with a handgun, but this was hampered by the twisting nature of the road and lack of pulling-in spaces to stop offenders. Monitoring of the problem would however continue.

2007/91 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor asked for volunteers to help transport the 50 delegates who would be attending the **GMTF AGM on 20 September at Egypt Mill**, hosted by NTC. Visitors would be invited to arrive around 4/4.30pm and offered two of three tours – a) visit to FGR-FC and Leisure Centre; b) walk down the cycle track and tour of Dunkirk Museum (led by Mr Ian Mackintosh); c) walk around town to arrive at the Mortimer Room for a talk on the Nailsworth Vision and Masterplan (led by Mr Mike Brinkworth and companions). Volunteers were needed to set up the Mortimer Room for the talk and to ferry visitors to and from Forest Green. A finger buffet supper would be provided at Egypt Mill at 6.30/7pm.

Cllr Nicholson asked that the town tour should include a visit to the TIC, where he was happy to be on duty, since this was a unique facility well worth showing off. Cllrs Bratby, Eddyshaw, Mrs Way and Wheeler indicated they should be available to help.

The Mayor had attended the **Local Strategic Partnership meeting at Ebley Mill on 22 June**. This think-tank of local people was set up in March 2002 to prioritise problems and find solutions. Members included representatives from large businesses, local authorities, police, Sport England, Churches Together, Stroud Youth Council. The Mayor understood the organisation had some £84,000 to make available to local activities and was concerned that NTC was not contacted about this potential pot of gold. The Clerk mentioned that NTC had benefited once from a small grant, but confirmed that NTC had never been directly invited to bid. The Mayor had observed that bids put forward were essentially from the organisations represented by members of the group, and had suggested to the meeting that it consider a wider membership.

District Cllr Mrs Binns clarified that the fund came from rates income from second homes, but covered the whole County, with SDC's share being about £100,000, most of which was allocated to various projects undertaken in partnership with the County Council. Thereafter there were indeed a few thousand pounds left to disperse to community projects, which were chosen by the LSP, but had to be approved by SDC also. Cllr Mrs Binns promised to look into the lack of communication and see if Nailsworth could in some way be eligible to put forward a bid.

Mrs Williams-Allen had passed on an invitation to Cllrs from Mr Nigel Court, new proprietor of **Alfreda's** in Market Street, to attend an opening drinks party on Friday 20 July at 7.30pm. Now that the bistro had been granted a licence, it would also open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Mayor reminded Cllrs of the **FE&GP meeting to be held on 1 August** to consider various points and practices; and projects including whether to pursue the idea of a civic centre on the site of the Mortimer Room.

2007/92 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

With other Cllrs, Cllr Affleck had attended the **SDC Planning Training Session** at Ebley Mill and found it useful. He noted the difference in status with regards to planning infringements between a conventional application, and one for a listed building where this was a criminal offence. He advised that SDC's general policy was that new development should go ahead.

Cllr Affleck reported that the **NCP** steering group had met recently and there had been a couple of working group meetings. Cllr Affleck felt it important that NTC defer jobs to NCP, being an organisation which it was instrumental in setting up. Cllr Nicholson added that it should be borne in mind that NTC was still the controlling elected authority and hoped that NCP would accept its status.

The Planning Committee had considered the new system for **licensing applications**. Town and parish councils could comment on new applications, but only the police could comment on variations to existing licences. Cllr Affleck voiced concern at the limited powers held by town councils, and advised that Mr John Brakewell was the man to speak to at Stonehouse Police Station. Cllr Wheeler added that the process was complicated and the development framework evolved all the time. The SDC case officer could be consulted regarding a particular objection, but a strong case would need to be made.

2007/93 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

Mr David Drew MP had submitted a report on Housing Development on Flood Plains, which Cllr Wheeler would review, although this was fortunately not a problem suffered in Nailsworth.

2007/94 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 2 July and the minutes were approved. He drew attention to the initial selection of streets/areas in the town for the street lighting reduction scheme but stressed the importance of consulting with residents and security services. It was hoped to hold the public consultation meeting in August, at which any objections or concerns about the locations could be discussed and the list revised. Copy had been submitted to Nailsworth News.

It was noted that the belief held hitherto that good street lighting was more effective than CCTV in protecting residents now had to be reviewed in the light of new economy and ecology measures, and this was likely to lead to public objection.

PROPOSED Cllr Affleck proposed, seconded by Cllr Bratby to unanimous agreement that a car space be dedicated to the Nailsworth Car Club vehicle in the Town Hall car park.

It was confirmed that the Chamber of Trade had submitted a grant application to the Rural Initiatives Fund for the Town Centre Signboards.

2007/95 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 26 June could not be approved as there were insufficient cllrs present, but Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting in the absence of the chairman.

Cllr Robinson confirmed that he was obtaining a copy of the CRB checks for the Tai Kwando Club, whose debt remained unpaid.

With regard to repairs and refurbishment of the KGV changing rooms, Cllr Bratby pointed out that some damage to the guttering had been caused by groups of youths congregating on the roof. It was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Warden and PCSOs had been made aware of this and were dealing with the problem. It would cost £120 to refix the guttering, if the missing section could be

found, or more if a new piece had to be bought. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the work to be done. Discussion ensued on the merit of painting the walls, and it was pointed out that the colour scheme would have to be carefully chosen in order not to make the building a prominent eyesore.

It was pointed out that the youth shelter in Miles Marling field was not being greatly used and ground under the BMX ramps was overgrown – although the Clerk advised that Mr Mansell had been sent to do some strimming. Overall, it was felt inappropriate to spend money on lighting the shelter at the current time.

Estimates for creating the Junior MUGA at Lawnside were coming in some £10,000 over expectation, so that additional funding would need to be sought in due course.

The Clerk had received confirmation from the Charities Commission that Nailsworth KGV field had been removed from the register and she would notify SDC accordingly. Terms for use of the field, such as the ban on charging for access, remained however, since these were part of the KGV regulations.

The Clerk awaited a quotation from Mr Colin Godden for refurbishing the flower bed at the bottom of Spring Hill and would forward this to Mr Julian Wilson GCC for approval. NTC would organise the work to be paid for by GCC, and then added to GCC's maintenance of its garden areas in the town. SDC had advised that it would repair the wall in a few weeks time.

2007/96 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 21 June. He advised that a more senior member of the team, Mr Robert West had been put in charge of the Evans Report and would hopefully make some rapid improvements.

Cllr Eddyshaw presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 3 July.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings held on 21 June and 3 July 2007 be approved.

2007/97 CO-OPTION TO FILL COUNCILLOR VACANCY

SDC had confirmed that an election had not been requested so that advertising for a new cllr could begin. It was agreed that applications should be submitted by Friday 17 August and posters would be displayed, and Nailsworth News asked to include a mention. Interviews would be arranged as required with three or four cllrs. Cllrs were asked to encourage suitable candidates to apply.

2007/98 ADOPTION OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

Following Cllr Nicholson's clarification of the implications of including point 12.2 or not,

RESOLVED Cllr Bratby proposed, seconded by Cllr Wheeler to unanimous agreement,

- (1) that the Nailsworth Town Council adopts the Model Code of Member Conduct for Parish and Town Councils including paragraph 12(2) with effect from 1 September 2007.
- (2) that the Council also adopts as a non-enforceable Annex to the Code the Statement of General Principles from the same date.

2007/99 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT and SIGNATURE OF ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN

The Clerk confirmed that the internal auditor had approved the accounts and submitted his report which contained no matters to follow up.

RESOLVED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Wheeler to unanimous agreement, that the Annual Report and Annual Audit Return for 2006-07 be approved and signed.

2007/100 REVIEW OF FIDELITY GUARANTEE and RISK ASSESSMENT REPORTS

RESOLVED Cllr Wheeler proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson to unanimous agreement that the Fidelity Guarantee be increased to £280,000 for the 2007/08 financial year, and that the Risk Assessment Reports for 2006/07 and 2007/08 be approved as adequate.

Cllr Nicholson suggested that at the first meeting of each civic year the Council should review its policies, according to a pre-determined list, and instigate at that point any changes which had come up over the previous year.

2007/101 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 17 July 2007 amounting to £10,412.93 be approved for payment.

2007/102 GCC – Speed Management Conference 11 September

Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk before 13 August if they wished attend the conference at the Pittville Pump Rooms Cheltenham, from 12.30 to 5pm on 11 September.

2007/103 Nailsworth Scouts – request to use KGV for bonfire and fireworks

Cllrs were happy to approve the request to hold this annual event on 3 November.

2007/104 SDC – Parish Cluster meeting 11 September

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 May had been provided and the Mayor indicated he would attend the next meeting on 11 September at 7pm at Ebley Mill.

2007/105 SDC - Review of polling districts and polling stations

New legislation required a review of polling facilities and the Clerk was asked to respond that there were no complaints on the current arrangement.

2007/106 SDC – Closure of Market Street for market on 4 August

The traffic order was noted.

2007/107 GCC – Closure of George Street on 29 July

Further repairs were required to the cattle grid, for which the road would be closed on 29 July.

2007/108 INA CDRB group meeting 19 July

The Mayor would try and attend this meeting at Stonehouse commencing at 2pm

2007/109 GCC – traffic order 40mph limit on Avening Road

The order had been passed.

2007/109 GCC – 6th annual Highway Maintenance & Transport Seminar

This would take place at Oxtalls Campus, University of Gloucester some time in October from 5-8pm. The list of topics to be discussed was read out and Cllrs identified those they felt to be of particular importance.

2007/110 Council Meeting in August

It was proposed that no council meeting be held during August and that delegated power be approved for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, consulting with other cllrs as appropriate, to take decisions on matters which could not be deferred until the next meeting in September. The proposal was approved.

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Date

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Chairman