

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2013

PRESENT: Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor)  
Cllr P Carter  
Cllr JL Duckworth  
Cllr A Elliott  
Cllr N I Kay  
Cllr M J Kelly  
Cllr S M Reed  
Cllr M P Robinson  
Cllr S E Thorpe

District Cllr E Sims  
Mrs Kate Kay  
Ms Kim Bedford Chief Officer Glos Association of Parish & Town Councils

APOLOGIES: Cllr N Dart  
Cllr M M Rahman  
District Cllr R T H Blackwell

2012/223 RE-STRUCTURING OF COUNCIL PROCEDURES

The Mayor welcomed Ms Bedford and Mrs Kay and invited local resident Mrs Kay to speak first. Mrs Kay thanked councillors for extending her the opportunity to express her concerns about the proposals put forward for re-organising council procedures and she began by giving details of her extensive background and career in local government as monitoring officer with South Gloucestershire Council and latterly before she retired with Cardiff City Council. Mrs Kay was currently a serving councillor on Horsley Parish Council.

Mrs Kay circulated a written note detailing her concerns about the proposals which she amplified posing the following questions –

- did they comply with legislative requirements,
- did they improve community engagement,
- did they improve the delivery of services and sound decision making,
- did they improve good management and financial control.

Mrs Kay stressed the importance for council procedures to comply with statute and for discussion and decision making to be transparent with opportunity for public involvement and participation. It was important to have procedures which allowed for the open and flexible exercise of power in order to prevent the abuse of power.

The Mayor invited Ms Bedford to speak. Ms Bedford suggested that the council was at the start of the re-organisation process and considerable further work and discussion would be required to arrive at an equitable result. At present there appeared no unified approach to re-organisation and for any review to be successful it must have the majority agreement and support of all councillors. She suggested it would be beneficial to revisit current procedures and investigate whether and how these might be tightened or adjusted to improve performance and speed up decision making.

Both speakers emphasised that further discussion should be conducted in formal, properly recorded meetings with the proper officer in attendance.

Discussion on a variety of aspects of the re-organisation proposals ensued resulting in a proposal by Cllr Thorpe, seconded by Cllr Reed

That Council agrees as follows:

1. To review the current structures and processes of Council which may include:
  - the number of existing committees
  - the terms of reference of each committee
  - delegation of decision making to committees
  - the production of agendas & supporting documents & reports
 in order to improve the future efficient working of the Council.
2. The Town Clerk to organise a meeting of all councillors to be facilitated by Ms Kim Bedford GAPTC to explore all options
3. A report to be brought to an appropriate future Council meeting for final approval.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

The Mayor thanked Ms Bedford and Mrs Kay for their attendance and for their valuable contributions to the review of procedures process.

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Town Mayor

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Date