

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 17 March 2009
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr P Carter 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 JS Waddington District Cllr R Blackwell	
Apologies	Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J A Byrne	District Cllr JT Jeffreys

2009/219 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr John Hatton queried the process for advertising the casual vacancy on the council, to which the Mayor responded that NTC was bound by the constraints of statutory legislation, which process had been followed. Once residents had chosen not to request an election and the co-option process begun, the final choice of candidate rested with the council.

In response to further questions from Mr Jonathan Duckworth who felt the vacancy was not sufficiently advertised, it was confirmed that statutory notices were displayed across the town in line with the democratic process. The Clerk clarified that cllrs were elected, even if there were insufficient applicants to hold a contested election, and pointed out that in 2011 the four year term came to an end, so that all cllrs would be up for re-election.

Mr Duckworth's concerns (repeated from anonymous correspondents on nailsworth.com) that NTC was 'out of touch' were strongly refuted.

2009/220 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 17 February 2009 were approved and signed with the following correction from Cllr Waddington:

Min 2009/200 – the additional amount of GCC funding for pothole repairs was £50k.

Cllr Wheeler drew attention to fact that he was absent from that meeting because he was attending another meeting on behalf of the council. Cllr Nicholson suggested perhaps reasons for absence should be noted on the minutes, to which the Clerk responded that this used to be the case until cllrs had decided it was unnecessary.

2009/221 MUGA at FOREST GREEN (minute 2009/195)

A date had been agreed for next Wednesday at 3pm, when Cllrs Nicholson, the Mayor and Clerk would meet with directors of FGR-FC to consider a way forward.

2009/222 STONE FOUNTAIN (minute 2009/194)

The monument had now been dismantled and taken away for refurbishing. Piling work at the new site was due to start tomorrow and be finished by the end of the week, following which the base

would be built over 2-3 weeks. It was hoped that the job would be completed by Saturday 18 April, although installation of water and electrics might take a little longer.

2009/223 ARCHIVE OFFICE (minute 2009/203)

Cllr Nicholson reminded members of the Property Management Committee to consider the purchase of a mobile phone for the Archive Office at its next meeting on 24th. Mr Allan Beale, town archivist had been invited to attend the occasional meeting of that committee, and would be coming to the next one.

2009/224 FGCH LAND TRANSFER (minute 2009/201)

Cllr Robinson reported that the land transfer was now complete and Redrow had paid the £40 Land Registry fee.

2009/225 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington reported that Mr Vince Southcott had been appointed head teacher at Nailsworth Primary School and would be starting on 20 April. He was previously acting head of Leigh C of E Primary School in Coventry.

Cllr Waddington reported that routine highway inspections had been suspended while efforts were concentrated on safety critical defects and a review of the whole network to assess the extent of the recent weather damage.

Efforts to deter trade abuse of household recycling centres had been successful, and plans were in hand to relax some of the restrictions to allow small trailers without appointment. It was hoped to introduce permits for regular domestic users.

Refurbishment of street furniture had been completed and cllrs were asked to notify Cllr Waddington if there were any more areas needing attention.

It was hoped that traffic calming measures in Jubilee Road and Star Hill would be implemented in April. An outstanding issue was the physical road narrowing at FG Green which was owned by NTC; GCC asked if it could take an approx. one foot wide strip of land from the green to create a pavement with raised kerb, and asked that NTC notify GCC of its decision as soon as possible.

District Cllr Blackwell passed on a message from Cllr Jeffreys that the Nailsworth Design Statement had been accepted by cabinet at last week's meeting and would now be going forward for endorsement by full council.

2009/226 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had received a letter from FG resident Mrs Jean Dangerfield complimenting the council on the restoration of the Stone Fountain and returning it to its former location. She asked if there was room to have a seat alongside and that she would be willing to buy one. The suggestion was referred to the Property Management Committee.

The Mayor referred to the lack of opening hours at Nailsworth police substation, despite the new inspector's promise that it would be open regularly. The Mayor with Cllr Carter would attend the next INA meeting on 1 April, and intended to give advance warning that the matter would be raised then. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that she had heard today that some police station receptions were going to be closed elsewhere and encouraged the Mayor to question the policy. Cllr Nicholson had suggested to a previous chief inspector that volunteers could be employed to man a log-in reception at Nailsworth police substation if there was a problem with shortage of staff, and understood that this system worked in other parts of the country. The problem was with public safety as there was no security barrier between public and staff but perhaps the police could pay for one to be installed in Nailsworth.

The idea of a Patients Participation Group continued to be explored with Prices Mill Surgery and a couple of articles in Nailsworth News had led to positive responses from the public. Nailsworth Community Partnership would report on progress at the Town Meeting, and then set up a public meeting with Surgery staff. The initiative had the support of Glos NHS Trust which had a dedicated officer to promote such schemes.

The Mayor invited the chairs of committees to prepare a few paragraphs about their committee's activities which he proposed to put together into a written report for the Town Meeting.

The Mayor had attended an event hosted by Great Western Ambulance Service (covering Glos, Avon, Wilts) in Berkeley. The new chief executive had introduced awards for exceptional assistance in times of emergency. Work continued on trying to improve response times, which had been criticized under the previous chief executive.

2009/227 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson had recently attended a meeting of Glos Chartered Parishes (GCP). He had spoken with a senior officer from GCC Highways about salt bins and the Clerk reported that Mr Julian Wilson GCC had already provided her with a list of Nailsworth bins. There was also discussion about snow wardens, and the Clerk was pleased to report that an applicant had come forward and been put in touch with the relevant officer at GCC. He would be employed by NTC and the next step would be to arrange a meeting with the candidate which Cllrs Nicholson and Wheeler were happy to attend. The Clerk advised that she had not taken up the GCC offer to deliver large bags of salt to parishes for distribution by councils locally. As she did not have access to a suitable vehicle nor manpower for this task, and in the absence of any complaints from residents, she had presumed that Nailsworth had no identified need.

The next meeting of the GCP would take place on 23 April, with the head of Glos Archives and the Clerk thought she might like to attend and would ask if Mr Allan Beale, Town Archivist would be interested in attending also.

The 14 original applications for the post of Youth Worker had been whittled down to 7 and interviews would take place with the young people on 31 March, followed by formal interviews on 1 April. Two of the candidates were fully trained and the other five were trainees. It had been agreed that if no candidate was considered suitable, the post would be re-advertised. The Mayor would be representing NTC at the formal interviews, and Cllr Robinson would be there in his role as chairman of the Youth Club.

2009/228 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The County Youth Offending Team had undertaken some painting of town railings in the past and the organiser was looking for more work, so that the Clerk had negotiated the painting of the Lèves Corner railings. NTC would provide the paint and ancillary materials and the job was to be done at the beginning of the Easter holidays, before Nailsworth Festival and the Twinning visit. Replanting of the top flower bed was also in hand and expenditure on paint and plants was approved. The Mayor added that some lampposts and sign holding posts might also need a coat of paint and the Clerk would refer the organiser to GCC if she wanted to follow this up. Cllr Waddington repeated his earlier comment that he would be happy to follow up on any street furniture that had not been included in the recent refurbishment.

2009/229 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 2 March and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:

Page 2, second paragraph: correct name to Nature in Nailsworth audit team.

Cllr Nicholson expanded on some of the committee's discussions and decisions. He sought other cllrs' opinions on the traffic proposals for Star Hill and Jubilee Road and hoped, given the time

constraints, that a decision could be taken this evening on allowing GCC to take a slice of the Green. Cllr Waddington explained GCC's reluctance to impose 20mph speed limits and felt physical narrowing would help the situation and encourage GCC to later consider the speed limit proposal. The Clerk was asked to respond that NTC was in principle minded to agree to allowing GCC to take a one foot strip from the Green to form the raised pavement, but would like to see a more detailed diagram with dimensions. The Clerk was asked also to mention that NTC supported the 20mph request. Upon examination of the revised plan, Cllrs Nicholson, Robinson and the Clerk were delegated to take a final decision on behalf of NTC. Cllr Robinson thanked Cllr Waddington for following up the 20mph request and clarified that this was for the whole of the area down to Inchbrook.

2009/230 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 2 March and the minutes were approved. Cllrs were asked to check the list for articles they had been asked to provide and to observe the copy date. Cllr Nicholson drew attention to the suggestion following the meeting with the Nailsworth News team, that only two editions of the Fountain be produced in 2010 in the two months that Nailsworth News was not, pending arrangements with Royal Mail for delivery.

2009/231 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meeting held on 19 February and Cllr Carter presented the meeting of 3 March.

NYCE had confirmed that it already had plans for the Subscription Rooms and was not interested in the suggestion of housing.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 19 February and 3 March 2009 be approved with correction to 'no comment' with regard to application 09/0190/FUL.

Cllr Nicholson reminded cllrs that quotes from the Local Plan were now required as part of any objection. In the case of listed buildings, members were also required to quote from PPG15. Cllr Wheeler would check that full back up documentation was in the folder.

2009/232 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Notices had been put up, and 3 applications had been received by the closing date of last Friday. As before, the Mayor suggested a date be agreed for 4 cllrs to meet with the applicants and he would circulate criteria used previously to establish the candidates' aptitudes. Cllrs Mrs Binns, Nicholson and Robinson with the Mayor would hold the interviews on Wednesday 8 April from 6.30pm and the Clerk was asked to invite the 3 candidates. Their letters of application would be circulated to the interviewing panel in advance.

2009/233 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED that the list of accounts for 17 March 2009 amounting to £21,247.17 be approved for payment.

2009/234 SDC – Nailsworth Festival – closure of area behind shops Old Market Notification was given of temporary closures on Saturday 25 April for the bus station and parking spaces behind the Old Market shops. Marshalls would man the entrance to the Co-op car park which would also serve as the exit for that day.

2009/235 GAPTC – members needs survey

The instruction was that this be completed in consultation with Cllrs who were happy for the Clerk and Mayor to do so on their behalf.

2009/236 Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury – Arts project
A youth & community team was offering travelling workshops for children and OAPs, with free premises and advertising provided by the host town. Cllrs thought this was a good idea but more appropriate for consideration by the Festival Committee and Youth Club, to whom the papers would be passed.

2009/237 Glos Police – independent custody visitor advertisement
Volunteers (over 18 and who had no direct involvement in the criminal justice system) were sought for Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud. Visitors were required to ensure that prisoners were being fairly treated. Posters had been put up and the closing date for applications was 17 March.

2009/238 AES Winterbothams – terms of business
With AE Smith having combined with Winterbothams it was necessary to formally appoint the new practice as the council's solicitors. The Clerk was asked to confirm the appointment of AES Winterbothams. It was confirmed that NTC would bear the legal cost of setting up new leases for town hall tenants, as before.

2009/239 Mr Dawson – interest in purchasing council land at Walkley Lane
A small area of council owned land was already rented to 2 properties as garden land and the owners of Box Cottage was now seeking to purchase/lease a further small parcel of land for parking. The request was referred to the Environment Committee.

2009/240 Ruskin Mill College – annual report 2007
The report was available in the office.

2009/241 Air in G – 18 May Everyman
Another organisation offering travelling arts events, invited cllrs to a Promoters' Forum on 18 May.

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Date

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Chairman

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 April 2009
MINUTES

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Deputy Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J D Bratby * Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler	
	* Denotes absence from part of meeting	
Also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr J T Jeffreys	
Apologies	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor)	County Cllr JS Waddington District Cllr R Blackwell

2009/242 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Jonathan Duckworth asked whether the criteria used for assessing cllr candidates were circulated and was advised not, since it was an internal matter for cllrs whose decision it was to choose which candidate to co-opt.

Mr Duckworth asked if NTC had a policy on sustainable transport in Nailsworth. Cllr Nicholson responded that although there was currently no specific policy, a working group including two NTC cllrs was making progress on individual initiatives. Responsibility for the cycle track rested with GCC.

2009/243 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 17 March 2009 were approved and signed with the following amendment: page 354 minute 229 – change to lower case for Nature in Nailsworth audit team.

2009/244 POLICING IN NAILSWORTH (minute 2009/226)

The Mayor had asked to report that he would be contacting members of the constabulary to discuss the perceived lack of policing in Nailsworth on his return from holiday.

2009/245 NAILSWORTH ARCHIVE OFFICE (minute 2009/223)

A mobile telephone had been purchased for the Archive Office and the number was 07745 084 778. Mr Allan Beale would be accompanying Cllr Robinson to the Chartered Parish Meeting in Gloucester.

2009/246 ROAD NARROWING at FOREST GREEN GREEN (minute 2009/229)

The Clerk had written for additional information but GCC's reply could not clarify the exact size of the land required. However officers were anxious to get started on the work and were confident it would not have a detrimental effect on the green.

RESOLVED it was unanimously agreed that GCC be allowed to take a strip of land from Forest Green Green to a maximum width of 1m, and that GCC should undertake to reinstate the Green should the pavement no longer be required.

2009/247 ROSES THEATRE (minute 2009/236)

Following referral at the last Council meeting, Cllr Robinson confirmed that the organisation had been in discussion with the Youth Club and promising events were in the pipeline.

2009/248 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington's written report was read out. Cabinet had approved £600k to be spent on playgrounds across the county and the successful Norton Wood scheme had been awarded up to £50k. It was hoped that the suggestion of a 20mph limit for the Star Hill to Inchbrook area might proceed sooner, following statutory consultation with residents. Additional street signs and posts were in the queue for refurbishment. Draft proposals had been prepared to discourage parking in residential streets in the Forest Green area, and comments from NTC were sought before the proposals were formally advertised. The Clerk had also received the plans which were quickly passed round the meeting and would be considered in more detail at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday.

* Cllr Byrne joined the meeting.

District Cllr Jeffreys clarified that the grant referred to in Cllr Waddington's report was from the Fair Play Scheme channelled through GCC and administered by SDC and added that he was delighted the Forest Green scheme had been accepted.

Full council had met last Thursday and the Nailsworth Design Statement was proposed and adopted for material consideration in future development control. On Sunday the annual Celebrating Young People (who make a difference in the county) would take place at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury, with three candidates put forward from the Stroud area.

Cllr Jeffreys drew attention to the Community First Responders Scheme run by Great Western and St Johns Ambulance Trusts, inviting people to come forward for emergency training to then be available as a first response in their local community. 15 people came to the February event, and the next one would be held at Ebley Mill on Tuesday 5 May. Cllr Jeffreys distributed leaflets on a home based exercise DVD, created by SDC healthy life style officers. This cost £3 and gave advice on exercising at home using everyday household props. National Healthy Lifestyle Week would take place in June, and a one day event was planned within the district. Drinks awareness calculators were distributed to cllrs.

2009/249 REPORTs from MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR and TOWN CLERK

Issues would be covered elsewhere in the meeting.

2009/250 REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 23 March and 15 April, and the minutes were approved and signed.

PROPOSED Cllr Wheeler proposed, seconded by Cllr Carter to unanimous approval, that NTC adopt the GCC Local Government Pension Scheme policies detailed in the template document attached to the minutes.

Cllr Nicholson queried the thinking behind the suggestion to instigate staff appraisals and, from experience, felt that the current informal ongoing dialogue between Mayor and Clerk, and between Clerk and Groundsman was far more appropriate to NTC's purposes. If done properly, appraisals required specialised training, were time consuming and bureaucratic and directly linked to salaries, which did not fit the Council's two cases. Cllr Carter thought that the intention of the proposal was to have a formal annual meeting to plan ahead, although it was recognised that dialogue was permanently ongoing. Cllr Carter added that it would be a good idea to have a formalised and minuted dialogue for the sake of continuity with the regular changing of mayors. Perhaps "review meeting" would be a better choice of title.

RESOLVED that the FE&GP committee be asked to reform its proposal in line with the points made in discussion for "review meetings".

2009/251 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 24 March and the minutes were approved.

Cllrs were glad to see that the refurbishment of the Stone Fountain was almost completed and it looked good in its new location.

2009/252 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 14 April and the minutes were approved.

The Mayor had made representations regarding the missing Forest Green bus shelter and Cllr Waddington had also been involved. Redrow had claimed it was waiting for GCC to move some road sign cabling before it could go ahead, which was incorrect, and it had been confirmed that the siting of the bus shelter had been carefully investigated and approved three years ago. The Clerk had this afternoon received an email from SDC Enforcement Officer Mr Chris Fly, who had met with GCC Highways and the developers who had now promised to put in the bus shelter within the next four weeks.

A letter had been received from Mr John Roberts GCC confirming his approval for NTC to continue with plans for Market Street garden. A quote was being prepared by Ironcraft (who made the Mortimer Gardens bridge) to mend the KGV slide by removing the base and refixing it with extra struts, then weld and repaint the whole structure.

There was no news on the MUGA at Forest Green.

2009/253 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 19 March, 7 and 16 April and the minutes were approved, with the addition of Cllr Mrs Thorpe to the list of attendees on 19 March, and Cllr Mrs Binns' apologies for the meeting on 7 April.

The Clerk reported that the FGCH working party had removed the banner on the railings following installation of the new locking notice board and, in it, a notice with booking details.

Stone facing was now being applied to the concrete block wall around a property on the W. The Clerk had written to report the matter to SDC, as no planning application had come through NTC, but it was possible that the height was just under the 6' limit so that permission was not required.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 19 March, 7 and 16 April 2009 be approved.

2009/254 REPORT FROM FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

The next meeting of the working party would take place next week, and the group continued to work with the architect on developing more detailed plans. Following advice from GRCC members were asking for a breakdown of the costs to help with grant applications. Members were actively promoting use of the hall and talking about the new build as well as investigating possible sources of funding. Cllr Robinson asked about the gardening arrangements and the Clerk that this was going to be done by Mrs Sally Millett's son. Cllr Mrs Thorpe would chase this up. Help at the FGCH stall on Saturday would be appreciated.

2009/255 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Three candidates were interviewed and the interviewing panel wished to recommend Mr Ian Crawley be co-opted.

PROPOSED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Binns to unanimous approval that Mr Ian Crawley be invited to join the council as a co-opted member as from the May meeting.

2009/256 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the supplementary list of accounts for 31 March amounting to £11,197.85 and the list of accounts for 21 April 2009 amounting to £10,645.96 be approved for payment.

2009/257 GCC – land at Station Approach

Cllrs had been asked to take a look at this piece of land which GCC wished to put up for auction, having first asked NTC whether it would be of use to the town. Cllrs discussed its awkward shape and size and difficult access via a right of way through a ransom strip from a currently unmade up road. As it was, the plot could only serve for parking and at best would only take 8 or 9 cars, but boundaries of the surrounding properties were unclear and it was felt the end result was too uncertain and did not justify the cost and complications.

RESOLVED Cllr Nicholson proposed, seconded by Cllr Wheeler to unanimous agreement that NTC should not pursue the purchase of land at Station Approach, but was grateful to GCC for alerting the council to the opportunity.

2009/258 Glos Highways – calls now being answered locally

Calls were previously answered by a corporate customer contact centre at Shire Hall, and although the number remained the same, calls would now be routed to the "local offices".

2009/259 SDC – special funding information event and details of village & community hall network meeting on 12 May

Details had been circulated by email and Cllrs Mrs Thorpe and Robinson would be attending.

2009/260 Cotswold Conservation Board – rural skills training courses 2009

A list of courses was available on various topics.

2009/261 Cotswold AONB Lorry Management Zone trial

Restrictions came into force on 14 April to restrict the environmental impact of heavy lorries in the area.

2009/262 Glos Drug Project

Cllr Nicholson advised the meeting that former Mayor Mr John Cross had organised a seminar in the past on the subject of drug awareness, largely for informing parents, which had been very successful. Cllr Nicholson thought it might be time to have another, at a cost of approx £200. Cllr Bratby advised that NYCE had been approached by Drugs Anon. to run a course at NYCE, and he would report back. Cllr Robinson thought it might actually have been Alcoholics Anon. which had come to the Youth Club, seeking to use the premises over a long weekend for an event which also included parents. It was decided to await the outcome of these initiatives.

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Date

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Chairman