

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
on Tuesday 19 February 2008

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

**2008/238 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 15 January 2008 were approved and signed with the following amendment -

Minute 2008/230, end of paragraph at top of page 275  
change to read ". . . SDC might like to provide this 'and' a taxi telephone."

**2008/239 LEAP AT FOREST GREEN (minute 2008/217)**

The Mayor reported that the play area at the Redrow development in Forest Green was being installed.

**2008/240 TENDERS FOR FOUNTAIN RESTORATION (minute 2008/219)**

Cllr Bratby had been unable to attend the opening of tenders on 25 January and was trying to contact Mr Norrie Curtis SDC for an update on the situation.

**2008/241 GCC BUDGET (minute 2008/220)**

It was confirmed that the second budget proposal had been chosen by residents.

**2008/242 UPDATE OF COUNCIL WEBSITE (minute 2008/222)**

Cllr Wheeler ran through his paper circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllrs agreed to consider his points and discuss the matter at the next meeting with a view to organising a training session to explore options on managing the site. Cllr Nicholson recommended the website was handled by a professional and finance would need to be found to pay for this.

\* Cllr Affleck joined the meeting during the above discussions.

**2008/243 INA meeting (minute 2008/222)**

The Mayor confirmed that the next meeting, which traditionally lasted an hour, would be held in the Mortimer Room tomorrow at 2pm and all comers were welcome.

**2008/244 FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE (minute 2008/226)**

The Clerk had heard back from GAP&TC re an eventual public works loan with instructions to submit a formal application as and when the loan was needed, attaching a copy of the council minutes agreeing this action. It was presumed therefore that the nature of the application fitted the GAP&TC criteria. The next meeting of the community centre working party would be held next Tuesday. The meeting approved the suggestion that Cllr Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Sally Millett attend the GMTF village shop project trip to Urchfont on 20 March 2008.

**2008/245 PROPOSED TAXI RANK IN NAILSWORTH (minute 2008/230)**

The Stroud News & Journal had reported NTC's opinion that a taxi rank was not required in Nailsworth, which had engendered letters to the paper commenting on NTC's view and expanding to thoughts on reducing private cars and using alternative transport. The meeting agreed with Cllr Mrs Way that the matter should be referred to the Environment Committee for further discussion. It was noted that the press report had not recorded NTC's alternative proposal to ask SDC for a board with taxi numbers and a taxi phone in the bus station. Cllr Affleck added that the Nailsworth Community Partnership was also considering the matter and he understood also a petition in favour of a taxi rank was being organised.

**2008/246 TRAFFIC REGULATION STAR HILL/JUBILEE ROAD (minute 2008/232)**

GCC was undertaking further public consultations, but a substantial number of residents had written a joint letter objecting to being asked to comment again on a scheme they had already approved.

**2008/247 POLICE MEETING RE DISASTER EMERGENCY PLANS (minute 2008/236)**

Cllr Byrne reported that the meeting on 11 February had been well attended. Following presentations on recent flooding, discussions made it clear that parish and town councils were being asked to design their own emergency plan. The Police wanted to establish a Water Course Warden in each parish to monitor water flow and report back to SDC. A memory stick was circulating amongst cllrs showing all the presentations from the meeting and was currently with Cllr Jayes. The Clerk would eventually receive written instructions, but it was noted that no mention of funding had been made.

**2008/248 CLOSURE OF BURMA ROAD POST OFFICE (minute 2008/237)**

Cllr Eddyshaw had written to Royal Mail querying why it had changed its mind on closing the Burma Road PO, having assured him a while back that it was not under threat. No explanation had been forthcoming and he had been advised to participate in the consultation process.

Discussions ensued as to the precarious nature of village shops and their dependence on PO salaries, against the attractive redundancy packages on offer. The decisions of Royal Mail depended on economics and geography and a warning note was sounded against fighting to retain a service which was considered redundant, and ending up having to fund it. Although the current postmistress supported the principle that Forest Green should have a PO, it was not clear if the redundancy offer had been irresistible in relation to her own premises, and as PO licences were given to a person rather than a premises, it was thought unlikely in all the circumstances that Royal Mail would consider instating an alternative facility at Lawnside Stores. The meeting agreed however that the public view that a PO should be retained in Forest Green should be supported.

**2008/249 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Congratulations were extended to Cllr Waddington and GCC for successfully re-opening the A46 on the pre-announced date.

**District Cllr Blackwell** reported that there had been good feedback to the Chip & Pin session (despite the unfathomable name), though he felt it might have been better attended in a more clement season. Services were available all the time and the public should be encouraged to take advantage of them.

The Mayor had emailed Cllr Jeffreys last week for confirmation that income from land sales in Nailsworth would be ring fenced to provide affordable housing in the town. A response on this was awaited for the next meeting and Cllr Blackwell would remind Cllr Jeffreys.

### **2008/250 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

An invitation had been circulated to cllrs to attend a training evening on 6 March exploring the idea of setting up a Youth Forum. The invitation would be extended to all interested parties.

The Mayor confirmed he would be attending the Police Crime & Disorder meeting tomorrow although the previous meeting had only taken place on 31 January so there would probably not be much new to report. Previously this meeting had always been held in Stonehouse and the mainly local attendees used the opportunity to bring up issues of concern which were specific to Stonehouse. Inspector Moore had turned down the Mayor's suggestion to include a regular agenda item "Community Policing". The Mayor expressed confusion over the purpose and value of the different police meetings. He felt the structure needed to be rethought.

The Clerk reminded the meeting of Inspector Moore's explanation of the different groups when he attended the NTC council meeting in January 2007 and which was detailed in those minutes. Cllrs felt the meetings were purely to respond to the Police's statutory requirement to provide statistics, which could probably be circulated in written form.

The Mayor would be attending the launch of the small MUGA funding scheme at Ebley Mill on Wednesday (which included Nailsworth's at Lawnside), and would take the opportunity to talk to Ms Jane Bullows to clarify issues in relation to the Nailsworth Games.

On Thursday next week he would be attending the Ruskin Mill College reception and visit from the Prince of Wales.

### **2008/251 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

On 6 February, Cllr Affleck with architect Mr David Free presented to GCC Highways Mr Free's alternative and dramatic scheme to improve traffic flow in Old Market. GCC had considered and seemed to approve the innovative scheme, but with the current state of the Highways budget, nothing was likely to happen for some time. However the scheme was on the table and Cllr Affleck recommended some sort of public consultation. GCC would not proceed to engineer's evaluation nor even outline costing, until the scheme was given community approval. Cllr Affleck urged that a decision should be made soon on whether NTC wished to pursue the scheme so that formal public consultation could be started.

GCC was considering a pedestrian crossing and 'shared space' in George Street, but there was no funding available, and an appropriate road surface for the shared space not yet identified.

Cllr Affleck had learned that GCC intended to make the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Fountain Street a pelican crossing, not for the safety of pedestrians, but to improve traffic flow by preventing the steady trickle of people crossing. No formal intention had been submitted to NTC.

32 invited representatives and individuals had attended the Nailsworth Community Partnership AGM. The meeting had endorsed the proposal that NCP become a Company Limited by Guarantee and the steering group empowered to arrange this. Cllr Mrs Way had volunteered to be part of the new Green Group sub-committee, with the brief of drawing together environmental initiatives.

### **2008/252 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had received a visit from the new manager of Tesco Express, Mr Ian Wheeler, who had expressed concern at the poor publicity and feeling that the store was not popular in the town. In order to demonstrate Tesco's desire to be part of the community, Works Days were planned, with the first one to take place on Saturday 23 February, though the exact nature of this initiative was not

clear. The community was invited to approach Mr Wheeler with projects needing support. The Clerk had reminded him that a tree had been requested on the site, and Mr Wheeler had indicated that this was in hand. The wall had been repaired and the Mayor would keep pressing for the tree. Mr Wheeler could also be encouraged to resolve the regular flooding problem by the post boxes.

Cllrs approved the request from the 5 Valleys Cat Protection League to hold a sale at the Mortimer Room, for books, crafts, preserves etc.

### **2008/253 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Eddyshaw presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 22 January and the minutes were approved. The Mayor's apologies were recorded.

Stroud Waldorf College had withdrawn their request to rent the Town Hall main hall.

The Clerk had advised SDC that it could hold its May elections in the MR, despite the inconvenience to previous arrangements, and would make it clear that officials would have to put up with the Festival exhibition in the background. Alternative venues had been discussed but the polling facility had to be within a specified distance of electors.

The quote of £298 for new flooring in the lower ground floor toilet was approved. This would entail installation of a latex screed and safety flooring/skirting with welded seams.

### **2008/254 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 12 February and the minutes were approved.

The vendor's solicitor, Goldinghams claimed not to have a copy of the plan of the KGV extension field, and the Clerk would write again and send one. The Mayor had spoken with Mr Smith's company secretary, who had also asked for a copy of the plan, but the Clerk pointed out that the process was progressing – albeit slowly - through solicitors. Everyone was frustrated at the delay in completing this exercise.

Cllr Robinson had spoken with Ms Tracy Young who would contact Luke Pettit about his offer of skateboard equipment.

Cllr Robinson drew attention to graffiti on the end of the toilet block which needed attention.

Cllr Byrne had prepared a letter to GCC Highways seeking a "permit to cultivate" for the Market Street triangle, which the Clerk would forward, receipt of which permit would allow the project to progress.

Cllr Affleck commented that he had heard favourable reports from users of YWaste, eg Hobbs.

Cllr Nicholson queried the report of a shortfall in funding for the junior MUGA at Forest Green having understood that SDC had applied for the full cost. Cllr Robinson explained that SDC had underestimated the total sum of money required to complete the 4 MUGAs.

### **2008/255 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

The Mayor reported on the meeting of the committee held on 18 February and the minutes were approved.

The decision to repeat the Clubs & Associations Fair so soon was queried and the Mayor confirmed the intention to hold a second fair, this time in the better venue of Mortimer Gardens and ensuring it did not clash with another market as was the case last year, which also meant the Chamber of

Trade stalls were not available. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June had been suggested in order to take advantage of advertising in the Fountain issue to be distributed w/c 16 June.

## **2008/256 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 17 January and 5 February 2008 and the minutes were approved.

### **Meeting of 17 Jan**

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Church Commissioners to discuss the possibility of the release of Vicarage land for building affordable housing. Cllr Nicholson commented that if NTC decided to take an active role in this initiative, its interest in the use of the land would remain so that it could to some extent control who could buy the houses built thereon, and thus keep it for local people. He would investigate the process further and report back. Cllr Eddyshaw would forward to Cllrs Affleck and Wheeler an email received on the subject.

It was reported that a resident of the Railway Hotel had been given notice to quit and was 13<sup>th</sup> on the council housing list with little hope of getting a new home in Nailsworth.

Cllr Affleck explained the committee's views on handling the Roger Evans Report (RE). Cllr Nicholson asked if the committee was now recommending NTC to pay. He was referred to point (c) and the committee's concern not to prejudice future partnerships with SDC, and reluctant conclusion that if RE complied with NTC's other requirements, it was felt the bill should be settled. Cllr Nicholson was adamant that RE should not be paid as it had failed throughout the process and NTC had only used the company on SDC's recommendation. Cllr Affleck felt that no decision was necessary until the preconditions had been met.

The Mayor would raise with Ms Jane Bullows why the surface of the LEAP in the FG Redrow development had been tarmaced when it should have a safety play surface.

### **Meeting of 5 Feb**

Cllr Affleck explained the situation with the Old Warehouse application and the problem with installing pillars on NTC land. The agreed 'no comment' at this point was made on purely planning grounds. Some cllrs were in favour of the canopy design and saw it as providing a convenient youth shelter, but others saw it as an invitation to vandalism, directly reversing the decision to make the area less user friendly following application from Mr Anthony Hodge, former owner of the premises, not very long ago.

Another problem was the apparent direct access into Mortimer Gardens shown on the artist's drawing, although the design statement categorically stated that there would be no change to the existing access arrangements and cllrs were aware that the Mortimer Gardens deeds allowed no new access to be made into the Gardens.

**PROPOSE** Cllr Affleck proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Way that the David Austin Associates canopy design would provide a socially useful area and should be approved in principle, subject to further discussions. The motion was rejected.

It was agreed that it was only fair to write now to Mr David Austin and advise him of NTC's position, which the Clerk was asked to do.

**RESOLVED** that the comments made by the planning committee at its meetings held on 17 January and 5 February 2008 be approved.

## **2008/257 REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL TRUST MINCHINHAMPTON & RODBOROUGH COMMONS LOCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Former Cllr Mr Bryan James had been NTC's representative on this committee for over 20 years and had indicated that he was now ready to pass on the commitment. He would be happy to talk through the role with any interested cllr. The committee held six meetings a year at the Bear of Rodborough.

**2008/258 REPORT ON STROUD HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**

Cllr Eddyshaw reported on the League of Friends meeting held on 30 January and Stroud Hospital's intention to upgrade parts of the hospital, including its operating theatre, which would entail a six month closure from April, with services being temporarily relocated to Cirencester and Gloucester Hospitals.

- The day room for the maternity hospital had been completed.
- Weavers Croft was closing and Park House Hospital was under threat. A new H block two-floor hospital was being built in Cheltenham to take Weavers Croft patients, with a public meeting to be held on 27 February. Special transport arrangements were being made to bring visitors to the new location.
- A decision on the future of Park House was awaited and there was no clarification on where its services might eventually be relocated.
- A new public company was being set up: Health & Social Enterprise Service Co, supported by SDC and probably GCC social services, as well as Glos PCT, to defend Stroud Hospital services from further erosion and try to expand rather than accept down sizing. The League of Friends was keen to give financial support to this initiative but was uncertain about the restrictions of its charitable status.
- The Hospital had an ambitious programme to extend its services and to make Stroud independent of Glos PCT, though continuing to work with it, and funded by the health service.
- The Hospital was considering a rebrand of its image on the website which was under review. An estimate of £600 to help with this was being considered.

**2008/259 SDC - STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING**

The Clerk had emailed round the proposals on numbering of infill properties on existing streets, and responses from cllrs had favoured equally option B (separate name for new group of houses and new numbers, so new post code) and A (use existing numbers either side, adding a,b,c, and therefore keep same post code). A final decision was made to approve Option A and there was no objection to the use of no.13.

**2008/260 ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 19 February 2008 amounting to £16,254.00 be approved for payment.

Item 313 – the Mayor advised that SDC was to contribute £2000 to the Design Statement and the project would be completed in this financial year.

**2008/261 Glos NHS – Rurality Review re proposed community pharmacy in Kings Stanley**

The paperwork was available in the office.

**2008/262 Audit Commission – appointment of external auditor**

Moore Stephens had been reappointed as the council's external auditor.

**2008/263 Iain Selkirk – appointment of internal auditor**

Cllrs were happy to approve the appointment of Mr Selkirk to carry out the next audit.

**2008/264 GCC – notification of experimental traffic order Lawnside/Bunting Hill**

The information was noted.

**2008/265 Dreweatt Neate – TIC rent review**

Cllr Nicholson and the Clerk met with Dreweatt Neate's representative to discuss the rent review proposal, and were congratulated on negotiating a reduction in the new rate from £6200 to £5750 which was unanimously approved.

**2008/266 David Drew MP – proposed closure PO at Forest Green**

Mr Drew continued supporting the campaign against closing this PO.

**2008/267 David Drew MP – Severn Trent removal of preferential rates**

Mr Drew was protesting at the intention to abolish preferential rates for surface water drainage previously available to hospitals, schools, community buildings, churches etc. In complaining to Offwat, he discovered that this organisation was the instigator of the change. It would seriously affect those premises which had previously benefited from the lower rate band and cllrs approved Mr Drew's suggestion that NTC write to the minister to uphold his objection.

**2008/268 GCC – seminar for parish and town councils - 27 March**

The event would take place at Hartpury College from 6 to 8.45pm, with tea and coffee available beforehand. Numbers were limited but there was no cost involved. Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend.

**2008/269 SDC - code of conduct training sessions**

An event on 28 February at 7pm in Ebley Mill was primarily for clerks, chairmen, senior cllrs. Two further events on 19 and 27 March would be held for cllrs. Cllr Nicholson hoped to attend one of the March sessions. Others were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend.

**2008/270 LGIU – seminar on becoming an ethical town - 3 March**

The Clerk had circulated information on this event in London, and it was noted that it clashed with the next meeting of the Environment Committee. There was a ticket price of £100 and the Mayor indicated he might be able to combine it with a family visit to London.

\* Cllr Jayes left the meeting

**2008/271 GCC – consultation on minerals & waste core strategies**

The document was available on the GCC website indicating the preferred options.

**2008/272 SDC – notice of annual District spring clean**

Teams were invited to apply for equipment to participate in the litter picking to take place in April and May. A prize of £250 and a shield were on offer to the cleanest area.

**2008/273 GCC – temporary emergency weight restriction on Avening Road**

Continuing restrictions on this road were noted.

**2008/274 SDC – road closures in connection with Nailsworth Festival and request to use KGV field for Nailstock - 24-27 April**

Cllrs approved the proposals and Cllr Robinson added that Nailstock would need to organise much better toilet facilities this year; the Clerk would pass on the message to Miss Yvonne Bruce.

**2008/275 GCC – programme of Council Charter meetings for the year**

The programme would continue with regular meetings for subscribed members, of which NTC was one, every two months at Shire Hall starting at 4.30pm. Cllrs were invited to see the Clerk for details.

**2008/276 Golden Valley Classic MCC event**

This year's event would be passing through the town on 2 March.

**2008/277 Environment Agency – Severn Vale Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy January 2008**

The document was available in the office.

**2008/278 Stroud & District Motor Club – Mechanics Trial**

This year’s event would be passing through Nailsworth on 30 March.

**2008/279 GCC - Glos Medal for courage**

Nominations were invited for this annual award.

**2008/280 GCC - Horsley Road re-closure**

Having encountered an unexpected culvert, the gas mains work had been delayed whilst the subsequent damage to the culvert had been repaired in Cossack Square. The road would be re-closed between 3 and 7 March to finish the gas work.

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Date

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Chairman