

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
 Minutes of a meeting held on 11 September 2012

Present	Cllr SM Reed (chair) Cllr P Carter Cllr A Elliott Cllr MM Rahman Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson
Apologies	Cllr MJ Kelly

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **Shortwood noticeboard**

This had now been installed and was being well used.

#### **Trees above Gethsemane**

The Clerk reported that the owner of Gethsemane had paid his contribution of £500 to NTC towards the cost of the tree removal work along the boundary.

#### **Nailsworth Access Group**

Cllr S Robinson reported that the meeting of this group on 7 September had been well attended. The group had set up a bank account and was planning to apply to NTC for a grant in due course.

#### **Litter Bin near bus stop in Nympsfield Road**

The Clerk reported that the SDC had installed the bin on the lamppost outside the Arkell Centre, which was not the location NTC had requested, and it was apparently not being emptied. She had made SDC aware of both matters. Since it appeared that the bin was serving a useful function in its current location, it was agreed that it should remain there, and the Clerk was asked to order another bin, at a cost of £70, to be placed on the other side of Nympsfield Road, at the bus stop. SDC had confirmed that it would service and maintain the additional bin.

#### **Litter at Bunting Hill**

Sue Nicholson had telephoned Joan Goldsmith of the local Rotary Club to thank her for Rotary members' efforts in litter clearing earlier in the year. Mrs Goldsmith had agreed to pass NTC's thanks on to members at their next meeting, which would be taking place later in the week.

#### **Bus Shelter in Old Market – Ruskin Mill initiative**

The Clerk reported that Ruskin Mill students were planning to work on suitable designs and would be presenting these to the Committee in due course. Sue Nicholson had contacted SDC to report the damaged Perspex front to its noticeboard on the wall of the toilet block and had received an acknowledgement.

#### **Town Guide**

Cllr Reed congratulated Carole de Lacroix for the work she had done in organising the production and distribution of the Town Guide.

#### **No 2 The Green, Nympsfield Road**

The Clerk explained that the green area in front of this house and the two neighbouring properties was common land and was mowed periodically by NTC without obligation. The resident of No 2 had contacted SDC, who had then written to NTC asking for details of what NTC intended to do to resolve

the pooling problem at the entrance to the property. The Clerk had responded to SDC informing it that NTC was aware of the problem and still awaited a response from the resident regarding his access rights. The Mayor reported that he had visited the site. In his view the problem seemed to be a pothole in the entrance to the drive of No 2, possibly caused by the owner's vehicle. Cllr Reed agreed to visit the site to investigate the problem.

### **NORTON WOOD**

A written proposal from Simon Gardiner, with costings, for ongoing maintenance of the wood had been received shortly before the meeting. The Clerk agreed to circulate this, together with the proposal received earlier from Charlton Abbots, to all Environment Committee members via email. Cllr Reed asked members to bring their comments to the next Environment Committee meeting where the two proposals would be discussed. She confirmed that the matter was not time-sensitive, as any emergencies relating to maintenance of the woodland were covered by current arrangements.

Cllr Reed reported that she would be conducting separate walkabouts with two individuals who had interest and expertise in the woodland from arts and wildlife perspectives. She would be attending a future meeting of the Community Orchard Group as a first step towards building a list of groups who may like to become involved with the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the wood. She would also be liaising with two teachers from Acorn School who had expressed an interest in adopting a section of the woodland to conduct a biodiversity count with students.

### **TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE**

The short-term lease for 4 The Old George had now been signed. The planning application for change of use of the old police station had not yet been determined by SDC. It was noted that two long-term volunteers at the TIC had ceased their duties owing to relocation to other parts of the country. Cllr S Robinson reported that Jenny Barnett would be staffing a stall at the next Farmers' Market to publicise the new volunteer networking project which operated from the TIC. He understood that the stall was being provided free of charge.

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Clerk circulated a map showing the location points of the various Christmas motifs in the town. She reminded councillors that last year saw the first stage of the replacement of some of the old motifs with LED ones, and confirmed that there was £5000 in the budget for 2012/13 for setting up and taking down the lights, and for purchase of further LED motifs. It was agreed to purchase two additional motifs for the remaining faces of the Clock Tower and Cllr Reed and the Clerk would identify the location of further new LED motifs, within the limit of the budget. The Clerk explained that it would be advisable to ensure that the new lights were ordered by the end of September.

### **GCC HIGHWAYS SCHEME: A 46 INCHBROOK TO TILTUPS**

The Clerk had received details of GCC plans for programmed resurfacing of this section of road, which she had circulated to all councillors. Cllr S Robinson explained that this operation would involve additional road markings to highlight existing speed restrictions. The Clerk read out the contents of an email sent by Anne Johns of GCC Highways to County Cllr Stan Waddington detailing the rationale behind the planned works. The proposal appeared to be based on the principle of improving driver behaviour, especially on bends. It appeared that GCC had been unable to locate a suitable place for a safe crossing point for pedestrians on the A46 between Renishaws and The Hayes. The Clerk read out Cllr Waddington's response to this email, in which he questioned the likely effectiveness of the proposed measures. He had expressed his disappointment that no pedestrian crossing point was proposed, and suggested that there should at least be visual road narrowing and pedestrian warning signs in this area. Councillors strongly agreed with the views expressed by Cllr Waddington and the Clerk was asked to write a letter to GCC supporting the points he had made.

Cllr S Robinson agreed to investigate whether Dunkirk Mill still had a residents' association, and if so to encourage that body to express its views on road safety issues on the A46 to GCC, which had invited comments on the proposed resurfacing works. Cllr S Robinson also referred to problems of congestion at Tabrams' Pitch where access to Avening Road was sometimes blocked by traffic

queuing to turn on to the A46 at Fountain St. He suggested that GCC should be asked to consider cross-hatching to keep this access clear. It had also been drawn to his attention that there were no lowered pavements between Bath Road and the centre of town, which had been causing problems for a partially sighted resident who regularly needed to push his disabled wife in a wheelchair along this route. It was agreed that Cllr S Robinson's points should be included in the response to GCC.

### **TOWN ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Cllr Reed agreed to contact Chris Harmer, a local resident and ex Horsley parish councillor, to discuss his offer to help co-ordinate efforts to develop a new Town Plan. She reported that Ian Crawley had also offered his services.

### **LAND AT SHORTWOOD GREEN AND WALKLEY WOOD**

The Clerk had observed that the some areas of NTC owned land at Walkley Wood and the lower edge of Shortwood Green had become overgrown, whilst the snowberries in the larch copse adjacent on the Green were beginning to encroach about two metres onto the Green itself. It was agreed that Geoff Brookes should be asked to cut back as undertaken previously.

The Clerk and Cllr S Robinson had met with representatives of Dalcour Maclaren, employed by Severn Trent Water, at Shortwood to discuss its plans to replace water pipes in the area. The old pipes were to be left in situ. A trench would be dug across the Green from a point by the noticeboard to join the lower Shortwood Road and the land would be returned to its original state. Information on the series of temporary road and footway closures in Shortwood, Walkley Wood and Wallow Green which would be necessitated by this work was circulated. The work was programmed to take place between October 2012 and May 2013. Details of the various road closures would be posted in the area.

### **FOOTPATH AT LAWNSIDE**

The Clerk reported that some residents of Beechwood Close had contacted GCC objecting to the existence of an access point from the footpath behind Lawnside to their road. This access had always attracted anti-social behaviour in the location. Richard Gray, GCC Highways had explained that, now Highways had formally adopted Beechwood Close, it was in a position to consider the provision of a gated entrance from the footpath which could be locked at night. Councillors re-affirmed their previously expressed view that it was important that this access point remained open, as it provided a convenient and safe route to Nailsworth Primary School and the Arkell Centre.

### **WALL AT BREWERY LANE**

The Clerk had received an email from a resident of 1 Stone Cottages, Brewery Lane complaining that the retaining wall of the property was crumbling into the stream. He had been in touch with several authorities but none had accepted responsibility for repairing the wall. The resident was unsure how to proceed and had asked NTC for advice on the matter. The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident expressing sympathy and suggesting he consult his solicitor and his insurers.

### **GCC FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

The Clerk reported that GCC had organised a workshop for interested parties on 29 October aimed at developing local strategies to identify flood risk in the county. No Committee members were available to attend.

### **ENQUIRY ABOUT ALLOTMENT STRATEGY**

The Clerk and Cllr S Robinson had both been approached by a local organisation enquiring about the possible provision of allotments on the KGV extension field. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

### **MINCHINHAMPTON AND RODBOROUGH COMMONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MRCAC)**

Cllr Reed read out a report from Joy Way, previously circulated to Environment Committee members, detailing proposed changes to the structure of the MRCAC. These were aimed at making the organisation more responsive to the general public. Copies of the new Commons Handbook were handed out to Environment Committee members. Councillors were pleased to note that the MRCAC

was taking steps to follow up the Mayor’s suggestion of reinstating a bench on the W for dedication to a Nailsworth person. Cllr Reed expressed her thanks to Mrs Way for her full account of the MRCAC plans. She was also pleased to note that the work done by the ‘W Scrubbers’, with the support of NTC, was being seen by the MRCAC as a model for other groups who might wish to become involved with practical projects to maintain and improve the Commons.

**BROADBAND INSTALLATIONS AT FOREST GREEN**

Cllr Reed reported that she had been contacted by a resident of Lawnside who appeared to be concerned about the public health implications of what she saw as the proliferation of ‘Broadband towers’ in the Forest Green area. The resident wished to discuss issues relating to planning permission for such towers. Councillors felt that she was probably referring to BT Openreach junction boxes. Cllr Carter agreed to pursue the matter with the resident, as appropriate.

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Date

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Chairman