

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 10 July 2012

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Shortwood noticeboard

Local carpenter Stephen Peart had inspected the board and advised that the posts were re-usable, but the board itself needed replacing. It was agreed to accept Mr Peart's quote of £245.00 plus VAT for making a new board and installing it on the existing posts.

Trees above Gethsemane

The Clerk reported that the tree removal work had been completed, and that she would invoice the owner of the property for £500, this being the amount he had previously offered to contribute to the cost of the work.

Nailsworth Access Group

Cllr Kelly reported that a bollard had now been installed on the pavement outside Tesco. SDC Community Safety Officer Ash Nicholson would be attending the next Access Group Meeting in September to talk about parking issues, and County Cllr Stan Waddington would also be in attendance to discuss ways of improving communication with GCC Highways. Cllr Kelly expressed his hope that the Access Group would be able to input into the new Town Plan. Cllr Kelly also reported that he had been in contact with the Disability Officer at Ruskin Mill College, who was currently working with students to produce various resources to support the work of the Access Group.

Litter Bin near bus stop in Nympsfield Road

The Clerk reported that this had been ordered.

Licence for parking and using Council Land at Walkley Wood

It was agreed to defer the proposed site meeting until the Clerk had had further discussions with the Council's solicitor.

Norton Wood – future planning

Cllr Reed confirmed that, of the three contractors approached, two had confirmed their interest in submitting their ideas for an ongoing management plan. One written response had been received, and a second was awaited.

Norton Wood – aerial licence

The Clerk agreed to continue with her investigations into what the resident was asking the Council to do regarding the proposed licence agreement.

Litter at Bunting Hill

The Clerk reported that the litter had been removed by car so it had proved unnecessary to hire a skip for this purpose. Sue Nicholson was asked to write to the local Rotary Club thanking members for their litter clearing efforts.

NORTON WOOD – GLOUCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST OVERVIEW

Cllr Reed reported on her recent tour of the wood with Ellen Winter from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust which had proved to be very helpful and informative. There appeared to be clear evidence that this was ancient woodland. Ms Winter had made some suggestions relating to selective felling and branch removal to increase light and promote growth and biodiversity. This could feed into the proposed Management Plan. She had also put forward some interesting ideas for ways to encourage community involvement, and had offered to work with community groups on specific projects. This could include mapping the woods, the production of information boards and possibly the provision of a seat in an appropriate location. There appeared to be the remains of an ancient drystone wall running alongside a section of the wood near the former Jovial Foresters pub, close to the community orchard. It was currently overgrown with laurel, and Ms Winter suggested that it could form an interesting and historic feature if it were to be cleared and restored. Close by the wall there was an ancient stand of coppiced hazel which could be re-energised with professional pruning if undertaken without delay.

Cllr Reed reported that there was a gap in perimeter fence in the steep corner adjoining the pathway at the rear of some of the residences in Norton Wood, and that there was evidence of **dumping of garden waste** here and also in other parts of the wood. The Clerk agreed to inspect the area in question.

Cllr Carter had informed the Committee that there was evidence of squirrel damage to a number of trees in Norton Wood, which may have contributed to the loss of several large branches during the recent winds. Cllr Reed confirmed that the Management Plan would consider options for dealing with this issue.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE

The Clerk reported that she had received the lease and related papers referring to the short term extension of the lease currently held for 4 The Old George. The lease granted a two year extension maximum at £8000 p.a. to be excluded from the Landlord and Tenant Act, with a right to terminate any time after 12 August 2013. She had sent the lease to the solicitor who had confirmed verbally that all seemed to be in order. It was agreed to **recommend to Council that the lease be signed.**

MAINTENANCE OF CLOSED CHURCHYARD

There was nothing to report.

TOWN ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Clerk reported that she had received an offer from a local resident who had considerable community development experience and wished to become involved in helping to develop the new Town Plan. The Clerk was asked to respond thanking him for his offer and Cllr Reed agreed to arrange to meet him to discuss his ideas.

SIGNPOSTING IN BUNTING HILL

Local volunteers from the British Trust for Nature Conservation had been working over the last couple of years to clear footpath ZNA73 between Seven Acres Road and Bunting Hill, which had been blocked for probably two decades. A representative of the group had reported that, thanks to their efforts, this path was now accessible, and had suggested that it would be a good idea for it now to be signposted so people were aware of its existence. Sue Nicholson had been in contact with the GCC to request that it install **waymark posts at both ends of the path**, and she reported that

Sarah Macaulay-Lowe, GCC Operations Officer, had agreed to inspect the site, though she had warned GCC would not be able to give the matter high priority at the present time.

BUS SHELTER IN OLD MARKET – RUSKIN MILL INITIATIVE

The Clerk reported that Andy Davies, the Craft, Design and Technology tutor at Ruskin Mill college had offered to organise a student project to **decorate the bus shelter** adjacent to the toilets in the Town Square. He had sent some design ideas, which reflected local history, and these were circulated. He was also investigating undertaking a similar project in Leves, Nailsworth’s twin town in France. The Committee was impressed with the concept and the Clerk was asked to respond thanking Ruskin Mill for the offer and approving the project in principle.

The Clerk was asked to contact SDC to report that the **perspex front to the noticeboard** attached to the wall of the toilets adjoining the bus shelter was damaged and to suggest that it be repaired.

TOWN GUIDE

Cllr Kelly pointed out that it was his understanding that, under the terms of the Equalities Act 2008, documents such as the updated Town Guide should be available in appropriate formats for people with visual impairment. It was noted that an electronic version of the previous Guide had been available on the old NTC website. Councillors agreed that this practice should continue, and Cllr Kelly undertook to contact the publisher, and to discuss with Cllr Duckworth the posting of an **electronic copy of the Town Guide** on the NTC website.

DIAMOND JUBILEE OAK – SDC

The Clerk reported that the Jubilee Oak tree was due to be delivered to the Council by SDC on the 12 July. The Committee agreed to **recommend to Council that it be planted at the edge of the Miles Marling Field** in the place where an oak tree previously stood.

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Date

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Chairman