

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 13 April 2010

Present	Cllr J Byrne (Chairman) Cllr I Crawley Cllr N I Kay Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs G E Smith
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CARL BENTON, PERSONAL BEST – APPLICATION FOR USE OF KGV FIELD

The Clerk had written to Mr Benton as agreed at the last meeting. He had responded that he was still considering several possibilities and asking for an idea on the charge for use of KGV to help in his decision making.

MORTIMER GARDENS AND TOWN GARDENING

Mr Bufton's repair of the broken trellis was awaited.

Cllr Robinson reminded members that he had raised concern over the height of the trees onto Fountain Street and that the street lights were being impeded. Members were asked to have a look so that it could be decided at the next meeting if any action was required.

UPDATE ON OLD MARKET WORKING PARTY

Cllr Crawley continued to try and get some response from SDC. Meanwhile a costed proposal would be considered at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

MILES MARLING FIELD

There was no news on the site meeting to be held with Mr Phil Sullivan and the FG Action Group. The Clerk had noticed a broken cross piece on the stile and would arrange its repair. Otherwise the stile arrangement seemed to be holding out well.

KGV FIELD AND EXTENSION FIELD

The Clerk had sought a quote for grass cutting the extension field – the contractor considered that it had a "really rubbish surface" with no drainage, and he guesstimated it would cost £15-£20k to create a usable sports field. The contractor recommended flailing the field monthly for this season (say 6 cuts @ £80 each) and reassess its condition before deciding what should be done next year.

Cllr Mrs Smith raised concern about the risk of land slippage to which the Clerk reminded the meeting that NTC had expressed this concern in the past and had been reassured by the developer that there was no problem. Padlocks would be required on the extra gates, and a 'no entry' sign for the one into the wood. It had been suggested that once NTC had acquired possession of the field, local sports groups and clubs would be invited to come up with ideas for its use, but given the current poor condition of the field, it was decided to defer such action for the time being.

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to FGR-FC regarding the £12,500 now due under the 106 Agreement, acknowledging the Club's current financial difficulties and without calling for immediate payment but in order to officially register the debt.

An appropriate hire charge for KGV in relation to Mr Benton was discussed and it was agreed to charge him £16 + vat, which is the rate for football training sessions.

Cllr Mrs Smith drew attention to the informal use of the field by the Cotswold All Runners, who meet there to warm up before going on a run around the town. She was concerned that charging Mr Benton

might impact on that group, but it was felt that CAR was not in the same category as Mr Benton's commercial business.

The Clerk had been contacted by Sergeant Kirk Harrison who had reported a facebook site which was suggesting an informal music festival to replace the cancelled Nailstock, to which 400 people had expressed an interest. The police had contacted the perpetrator who had withdrawn the site. Nonetheless the police planned a presence in the town on the relevant weekend. The Clerk would arrange for the field gates to be locked.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

Cllr Robinson commented on the splendid new play area at Norton Wood installed by SDC with strong support from the FG Residents' Association. A resident had rung the Clerk to point out the absence of 'no dogs' signs, and had been referred to SDC. Cllr Nicholson would revisit the idea of possibly developing further open space in the FG area. It was reiterated that the only real way to maintain play facilities in the town to a reasonable standard was for NTC to take over maintenance from SDC.

MUGA AT FOREST GREEN

The Clerk would chase Mr Charles Mant of Record Play Equipment for his promised costed plans. Discussion ensued as to when it would be a good time to talk to FGR-FC about the possible change in location for the MUGA. The Club had apparently withdrawn its planning application for six houses and had more recently indicated that it might be interested in using the MUGA for its youth and ladies teams.

The planning application for the MUGA on the original site expired in July; it was unlikely that FGR-FC would seek to renew it, but NTC could offer to do so. Although any plans would be circulated to the immediate 4 or 5 neighbouring properties Cllr Crawley volunteered to keep them informed of developments. Cllr Kay's informal discussions to gauge the general view of SDC planning had not been particularly helpful and he was following up at a higher level.

It was agreed that Cllr Kay would contact Mr Paul Dowdeswell to set up a meeting with Mr Trevor Horsley at FGR-FC.

YOUTH PROVISION

Cllr Robinson confirmed that on Thursday evenings a town youth worker with a police liaison youth worker would undertake outreach work around the town. The Club had opened between 1 and 3pm twice during the Easter holidays, but had had no visitors so had decamped to the FG area and found very few young people around. The new youth worker was settling in well. Cllr Kay hoped that the Youth Forum would continue to be a voice for Nailsworth youth and not become an action group for Stroud.

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE NAILSWORTH RECREATION CENTRE

Cllr Crawley reported that members had been investigating the situation, but it appeared SDC still seemed set at its cabinet meeting on 10 June to take a final decision to withdraw support completely at 31 Mar 2011. For the Centre to be viable it needed to increase usage and reduce costs.

A Resolution, based on a paper by District Cllr Miss Macmillan, needed to be agreed as the development of a sports partnership would require expertise and tapering funding from SDC to continue for a while if the proposal was to have any future. A public meeting was required to discuss the matter with all interested parties, but it was felt time was too short to publicise adequately and organise this prior to the SDC June meeting, and it might in fact be helpful to know SDC's decision beforehand.

Cllr Mrs Smith questioned whether NTC should be seeking to retain this facility, which might only be used by residents able and willing to go further afield. Cllr Crawley said the Recreation Centre was the only one of its kind in the town, and allowed the public to make use of the secondary school size gym and hall and adult changing facilities, and later the new MUGA, which would also help the Primary School to offset the expense of maintaining the premises. It was not being suggested that NTC

subsidise the Centre with taxpayers' money but that it should eventually be self financing, if SDC could be persuaded to provide tapering funding, and local clubs be encouraged to use it. Under the Graduate Challenge Scheme, a business studies or marketing graduate could be provided at no charge to help in preparing a business plan. Time was needed to consider the best way forward, and a decision could always be taken eventually to abandon the project once all avenues had been explored.

PROPOSED Cllr Crawley proposed, seconded by Cllr Nicholson that full Council be asked to approve the following resolution -

- That Nailsworth Town Council wishes to see Nailsworth Recreation Centre continue to provide sports facilities to the residents of Nailsworth and the surrounding area beyond the announced intended date of 31st March 2011 for withdrawal by SDC.
- The Town Council recognises that this would require :
 - a significant increase in usage and a reduction in costs;
 - the support of local sports communities, possibly through a Nailsworth Sports Partnership; and
 - SDC continuing to provide professional expertise and tapering funding for a further two years beyond 31.3.2011.
 - a review of current and proposed sports provision in Nailsworth
- The Town Council will do all it can, in partnership with the host Nailsworth Primary School, local sports communities, existing users, Stroud District Council and any other interested parties, to deliver a viable future for Nailsworth Recreation Centre.

The motion was carried.

MARKET STREET GARDEN

The Clerk had responded to the architect's questions and was awaiting the revised plan. EON had quoted £1000 to provide an underground electricity connection and it was planned to move the junction box to the back of the site. The Clerk had sought permission from SDC to move the road sign and a technician's visit was awaited 'to assess the situation'. Martin Portus had advised that as the job was likely to take more than 30 days, it would be necessary to employ a CDM (construction design & maintenance person) to write a health & safety report, and the name of his recommended person was awaited.

Cllr Nicholson had been approached by the W.I. Country Market group looking to have a public memorial to deceased past president Mrs Harvey for £150, which the committee had agreed could be part of the new Market Street Garden. Unless one of the trees needed replacing, it was agreed to suggest a contribution could be made to the general planting scheme and a plaque erected to that effect. It was agreed that a bench was too expensive and none was planned for this particular scheme anyway.

NAILSWORTH GAMES 2010

Cllr Kay confirmed that there were three groups working on the project: KGV Saturday event, liaison with clubs, and publicity. All were progressing well. Cllr Kay asked NTC to fund £50 + vat for the refurbished banner, and £696.15 incl.vat for medals. (He would ask the company for a proper vat invoice) It was confirmed that the budget was £5k + £500 donated by James Chamberlain.

SDC – REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON STREET CLEANSING AND LITTER BINS

The Clerk would request replacement of the damaged litter bin removed from the junction of Springhill and Northfield Road, and also for the one which had been removed outside Bluebird in Market Street.

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Date

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Chairman