

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 16 January 2007

Present	Cllr Mrs S M Reed (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr N I Kay Cllr E A McLean Cllr Mrs L J Williams-Allen
Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Inspector Eric Moore, Glos Constabulary
Apologies accepted	Cllr M K Akhtar Cllr J Byrne Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs A J Smith

2007/206 PRESENTATION BY INSPECTOR E.R. MOORE, GLOS CONSTABULARY

Inspector Moore was welcomed to the meeting. He had been in post since November last and was getting to know the areas and main councils. He considered there were three main concerns to be addressed – antisocial behaviour, especially related to alcohol; criminal damage, which was not prevalent in Nailsworth; road safety, which he felt should be tackled by prevention and education as well as enforcement. Inspector Moore reported that there had been an increase in overall crime in the INA (which extended as far as Slimbridge and Epney), largely because of criminal damage in Stonehouse. In the period from 1st April to December 06 however, crime for Nailsworth had decreased in all categories. Overall detection rates for house burglary were up by 2% and for vehicle crime by 73% (following apprehension of a few culprits responsible for the majority of incidences).

In order for the police to be more available to the public, Inspector Moore indicated that Nailsworth's PCSO would be in the police station for two hours every other day and he hoped to improve access by phone, email and the website. A poster in the station window would publicise this information to include a designated telephone number for reporting Nailsworth matters. A link to the Glos Constabulary website would be added to the NTC website. Three officers on different shifts would be given special responsibility for Nailsworth and it was hoped could be present at times of particular need.

Inspector Moore confirmed that financing in the future was looking grim but did not know the amount of the precept for 07/08.

Solutions to prevent a repetition of the small pockets of trouble at the last Christkindl Evening were discussed. A ban on on-street drinking would need careful consideration but could be applied to certain streets only and for limited periods. Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen had been in discussion over this with Mr Phil Sullivan SDC on behalf of the Chamber of Trade.

In response to a query from Cllr Eddyshaw, Inspector Moore advised there was no evidence to support the rumour that miscreants were migrating from better policed areas. Inspector Moore was not aware of the Shared Space scheme, in which cars and pedestrians have equal rights, which Cllr Affleck understood was to be trialled in Stonehouse. The Mayor passed on appreciation from FG Residents Association at improvements in that area through greater contact with the PCSO. Inspector Moore did not consider that Nailsworth had a particular problem with drugs.

In response to a request to clarify the purposes of the different constabulary meetings, Inspector Moore advised that –

PCC meetings were held once a quarter in the evening at rotating locations within the District and were open to the general public to bring forward matters of concern.

CDLP meetings were held in Stonehouse on a Thursday at 2pm and chaired by Inspector Moore, acting in partnership to work at reducing crime & disorder, looking at the issues and methods.

Cluster meetings were held at SDC every two or three months, between CDLP meetings, providing an opportunity for town and parish councils to talk with District Cllrs and the police. These meetings were held in the evening.

Inspector Moore was thanked for attending the meeting and for protecting society with much improved links and communication.

2007/207 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 December were approved and signed.

2007/208 PARKING RESTRICTIONS HORSLEY ROAD (minute 2006/181)

The Clerk confirmed that the Traffic Order showed double yellow lines would be painted up to the level of Barn Close but that the work had not yet been done.

2007/209 SDC CONSULTATION MEETING FOR BUSINESS RATE PAYERS (minute 2006/184)

Cllr Kay advised that he had not heard back from District Cllr Jeffreys about the consultation meeting on 11 January which he had not attended. Cllr Kay had asked the chief executive of SDC about the statutory requirement to consult all business rate payers. Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen added that she had received a telephone call in her capacity as chairman of the Chamber of Trade, but the promised written confirmation was not forthcoming and she had been unable to pass the message on to other members of the Chamber.

2007/210 SDC MANAGED PLAY AREAS (minute 2006/184)

Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen reported that the proprietors of Lawnside Stores had applied for a grant to Convenience Store Magazine and had been awarded the sum of £1000 which was to be put towards the new play area at Forest Green. Cllrs applauded this gesture, and noted that once again Nailsworth was being proactive in helping itself.

2007/211 MAYORS FOR PEACE (minute 2006/187)

The Mayor explained that this was a register of town mayors across the world who were listed as supporting the peace process. The decision to register was up to each individual mayor with the approval of the rest of the council. Cllrs approved the suggestion that Cllr Mrs Reed add her name to the website register.

2007/212 SAVE STROUD HOSPITAL TASKFORCE (minute 2006/203)

The Clerk confirmed that a letter drafted by Cllr Mrs Smith had been sent to Mrs Patricia Hewitt with a copy to Mr David Drew MP, who had replied that he was to meet with Mrs Hewitt shortly and would raise the issue of Weavers Croft.

2007/213 STONE FOUNTAIN (minute 2006/192)

The meeting with Mr Norrie Curtis SDC on 20 December had not taken place. He had advised Cllr Kay that a job specification was awaited from Bartosch & Stokes 'within four weeks' so that the restoration/removal contract could be put out to tender.

2007/214 STROUD MARKET (minute 2006/194)

Cllrs Affleck, Kay and Mrs Williams-Allen had attended the MTF meeting today and were interested to learn about the history and development of Stroud Market. This was now a fully commercial operation, rather than the co-operative system running in other towns. It was felt that SDC gave an unbalanced amount of support to Stroud Market and should play a greater part in promoting all the

markets in the District. For example, on the home page of the SDC website, Stroud Market was vaunted but none of the others even mentioned.

Ms Judy King, cheese maker from Dursley, apparently voluntarily promotes local markets but it appeared her efforts were centred, understandably, on Dursley. The Mayor reinforced the message that towns in the District should work together on a non-compete basis, and that the inference that 'Nailsworth was different' should be firmly quashed.

Following conclusions of the Shoppers Survey, Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen circulated a map showing the provenance of visitors to different shopping areas in the District, which indicated that Nailsworth attracted shoppers from the widest area.

2007/215 GCC WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (minute 2006/198)

The questionnaire seeking support for better waste management had been completed and returned. Cllr Affleck reported that Stroud Town Manager had told him a two-bag waste system was being trialled in the area. There was confusion as to whether cardboard was being collected in some areas of Nailsworth or not.

2007/216 PENSILE ROAD REPAIRS (minute 2006/205)

The road repair work was now scheduled for June/July 2007.

2007/217 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Mrs Binns presented apologies for County Cllr Waddington and District Cllr Jeffrey. It was hoped that District Cllr Mrs Bruce would return from Scotland next week.

Cllr Mrs Binns was under the impression that cardboard collection was operating in at least some parts of the town, but would make enquiries and advise, so that this could be properly publicised.

Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen reported that SDC contractors had started painting council properties in Forest Green and proper information on the schedule of works would help to allay the nervousness of some of the elderly residents who found it difficult to identify the workmen. There had been reports of windows left open and dogs let out. Cllr Mrs Binns would look into the matter and ensure the work was continued in a responsible and sensitive manner.

2007/218 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

20 December	Attended the Alzheimer Association Christmas party at Christ Church
8 January	Attended meeting of Nailsworth Primary School governors
9 January	With Cllr Byrne, met with Mr Tim Barnard at KGV extension field to decide a planting scheme for the bank. This planting would be done either before March or in November.

2007/219 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Kay advised that GRCC would be holding a meeting for town and parish councils at Maisemore on 15 February, starting at 6pm to consider threatened post office closures and formulate a collective response.

Cllr Kay understood the toilets at Bedford Street, Stroud needed further attention following vandalism. It was intended to refurbish them at the same time, despite this having been done relatively recently. Cllr Kay was concerned that this meant promised refurbishment of public toilets in other parts of the District would be delayed as funds were limited. District Cllr Mrs Binns had understood the Bedford Street toilets were to be demolished, which plan had apparently been changed. She undertook to confirm that refurbishment of Nailsworth toilets was definitely scheduled for 07/08.

2007/220 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported receipt of further EC publications: Cohesion Policy and Cities & New Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance.

The Clerk had received a letter from Action for Market Towns advising annual membership was due for renewal on 1st April, but was not aware that NTC subscribed to this organisation. The Mayor advised that SDC paid a blanket subscription of £400 for the District and that no action was required from NTC.

Cllr Nicholson had suggested NTC take a stall at the March 24th Farmers Market in anticipation of the council elections, and the Clerk was asked to make the booking. Mrs de Lacroix was asked to organise a poster campaign in the run up to the elections.

Members of the Town Newsletter Committee were reminded that the next meeting of that committee would take place at 6pm on Monday 12 February.

2007/221 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting held on 8 January but the minutes could not be approved as there were insufficient members present.

Discussion ensued as to the logistics of applying for change to parking restriction in the car park behind the Library, pending developments on decriminalisation of enforcement powers. Cllr Ms Williams-Allen felt it might serve as a catalyst to encourage Chamber of Trade members to sort out their parking arrangements, although it was accepted the new restriction was likely to be ignored for the time being.

RESOLVED Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen proposed, seconded by Cllr Eddyshaw that NTC should request that SDC reduce the 23-hour long term parking above the Library/Police Station to maximum 4 hours.

RESOLVED it was unanimously agreed to ask County Cllr Waddington to explain the discrepancy in bus fare of 90p from Nailsworth Bus Station to Forest Green, compared to other local routes.

Visual mock-ups showing 3D signboards in different possible locations had been produced, but Cllr Kay advised that Rural Renaissance was coming to an end and was not accepting any new applications for funding. He would contact Ms Stella Yates SDC to enquire if another source of funding was available.

Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen advised that two traders from Market Street would attend the next meeting of the committee to begin consideration of Christmas lights for the street.

2007/222 NEW SDC TOURISM PUBLICATION - VISIT COTSWOLDS

SDC's new brochure replacing Undiscovered Cotswolds, produced in partnership with Cotswold District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council, had suddenly appeared. Despite being in communication with Ms Shirley Anderson, SDC tourism officer, and sending her Nailsworth's accommodation list, not a single Nailsworth provider was listed under any of the accommodation categories. In the body of the brochure, Nailsworth hardly got a mention, was not listed as a Market Town (although Dursley was), received a two-line comment in the general section. Dates of the Festival were omitted from the Schedule of Events and the TIC was listed as providing only a limited service. Despite having been a regular advertiser in Undiscovered Cotswolds, NTC had not been invited to advertise in the new publication, although Ms Anderson had assured the Clerk that all previous advertisers had been contacted.

Ms Anderson had verbally advised that the brochure should be sold for 50p, but no written confirmation of this, nor advice as to who would receive the income had been forthcoming. Mrs de Lacroix was asked to write to Ms Anderson outlining NTC's opinions, which it was understood were

shared by Wotton TC. It was agreed the publication was of very little relevance to Nailsworth, and illustrated once again, the priorities shown by SDC to certain areas.

2007/223 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Affleck presented the reports of the meetings of the committee held on 21 December and 2 January.

Meeting of 21 December

Last line corrected to read “. . . discussions with Ms Jane Bullows SDC.”

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings on 21 December 2006 and 2 January 2007 be approved.

2007/224 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 16 January 2007 amounting to £10883.29 be approved for payment.

2007/225 Stroud & District Motor Club – Cotswold Clouds Trial

This year’s event on the Ladder would take place on 4 February.

2007/226 Ms Clara Sudbury - Members Seminar on findings of research into economic impact of the Creative Industries in Glos

The seminar would take place on Monday 29 January at Sandhurst.

2007/227 GCC road closures - Star Hill, Moffat Road, Jubilee Road - Shortwood Road

The former would be closed from 12 to 16 February for essential carriageway works, and the latter on 22/23 January for replacement of power cable.

2007/228 SDC – call for evidence by Commission of Racial Equality to assist with its formal investigation into regeneration

The document was noted.

2007/229 Ms Angie de Costie – Stroud High School Citizenship Day on 19 January

Cllrs were invited to participate in group sessions with year 9 girls. The Mayor and Cllr Kay would advise if they were available, and it was thought Cllr Nicholson might be interested.

2007/230 WPS Insurance Brokers (Norwich Union)

New policies were now available and the company offered to provide a quotation for the Council’s insurances. The Clerk was asked to reject the offer.

2007/231 NYCE – storage of trophies

The treasurer had written asking if NTC could look after NYCE’s collection of trophies while the building was being restored. The Clerk was asked to respond that NTC would be happy to store the trophies in the TH attic entirely at the owner’s risk.

2007/232 Community Partnership Meeting – 22 January

Details for the meeting had been circulated to Cllrs. The Mayor advised that the actual name of the new committee would be decided at that meeting and that this was to be a community-led process with chairman elected from within the community. The committee would provide an opportunity to share and proceed with initiatives to benefit the town.

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Date

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Chairman