

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 21 November 2006

Present	Cllr Mrs S M Reed (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr M K Akhtar Cllr J D Bratby * Cllr J Byrne Cllr N I Kay Cllr J R Nicholson * Cllr Mrs A J Smith
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Present for part of the meeting	District Cllr J T Jeffreys Ms Clare Slark, PCSO
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Apologies accepted	Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr E A McLean Cllr Mrs L J Williams-Allen County Cllr W S Waddington
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* denotes absence from part of the meeting

2006/143 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 September could not be approved as there were insufficient Cllrs present tonight.

2006/144 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN (minute 2006/117)

The Mayor reminded the meeting that a decision had to be taken on this appointment for the FE&GP committee to consider at its meeting on 29 November. The Mayor had spoken with sections of the community, including FG Residents Association, and felt it would be worth continuing the scheme for a year to properly assess its effect on the community. It was agreed to propose continuing with the services of a Neighbourhood Warden, for 2 ½ days a week as this would ensure Nailsworth retained the existing officer Ashley Nicholson. The alternative was a 5 day a week appointment, but this would involve other officers who would not have had the opportunity to build up the knowledge and relationship with the town that Mr Nicholson was in the process of doing.

* Cllr Mrs Smith joined the meeting

2006/145 REPORT FROM Ms Clare Slark, PCSO

Ms Slark reported that the crime statistics for the Nailsworth parish from January to November had fallen overall 14% against the same period last year, and detection rates were up 13%. She mentioned the next Police Consultative Committee Meeting would be held in Nailsworth on 11 December and that Crime & Disorder Partnership meetings were held every six weeks in Stonehouse. The Mayor and Cllr Mrs Williams-Allen had attended the latter in the past. A new Chief Inspector Eric Moore, had recently taken over at Stonehouse and was undertaking a general review of the area within his remit before taking any action.

The Mayor pointed out the difficulty in getting in touch with Ms Slark through the contact centre and her email address was noted for future reference.

* Cllr Byrne joined the meeting

2006/146 TOWN HALL MEN'S TOILETS (minute 2006/127)

The Clerk reported that the floor of the TH men's toilets had been thoroughly cleaned, and members of Property Management were asked to check this was satisfactory before the next meeting of the committee.

2006/147 KGV EXTENSION FIELD (minute 2006/128)

The Recreation & Amenities committee would be asked to consider the revised plan received from Mr Tim Barnard.

2006/148 MARKET STREET TRIANGLE (minute 2006/128)

Cllrs Kay and Nicholson met with Ms Katie Griffiths GCC on 6 November. Ms Griffiths' personal opinion was that the triangle was not load bearing but confirmation in writing of this would of course be required. Ms Griffiths agreed to pass on the suggestion that GCC install railings along the A46, and would consult GCC records to track evidence of any underlying services. Ms Sheila Hulme SDC Regeneration Officer had also shown an interest. Local traders were happy with the rough design of the proposed seating area, but detailed plans would be needed before an application for planning permission could be made.

Cllr Kay was keen to obtain approval to push on to the next stage of undertaking a detailed survey of the land, which the Clerk had advised could cost in the region of £1200. Cllr Bratby advised that there had formerly been a public house on the site and he presumed rubble-filled cellars now lay underneath the surface. The Clerk suggested the individual service providing companies be contacted for information on possible conduits underground.

The Mayor asked the Recreation & Amenities committee to put down on paper a detailed plan of the scheme process with costings, as this was the largest project NTC proposed to undertake and was likely to cost a substantial amount, bearing in mind that creation of Lèves Corner came to £28,000. Cllr Bratby reminded the meeting that District Cllr Mrs Bruce had mentioned at the start of the year that £8000 had been set aside for Market Street improvements, and perhaps this funding could be called upon for the project.

2006/149 INSPECTION OF SDC PLAY AREAS

Cllr Mrs Smith's meeting with Ms Jane Bullows SDC had been rescheduled for 14 December and other Cllrs were welcome to join this inspection of SDC play areas in the town.

2006/150 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Jeffreys advised that following the full council meeting on 9 November, meetings would now be webcast live online. Up to £40,000 had been included in the budget to help the Social Enterprise Trust work for continuing local health services, in partnership with Glos PCT and GCC.

The proposed boundary change to transfer houses at Scar Hill into Minchinhampton parish had been approved, but residents at Crystal Fountain Village were resisting the proposal to transfer them to Nailsworth. SDC's newsletter had been distributed to every household as part of the council's endeavour to seek public opinion. A new website had been created entitled "Strolling in Stroud District" offering a selection of walks around the area. A public forum would take place in Tewkesbury on 24 November on the Great Western Ambulance Service.

The community hub based on Ringfield was up and running on a three-year pilot scheme for the assessment and provision of additional support, and inclusion of another sheltered housing establishment was likely in order to widen the test area.

In response to Cllr Kay's question, Cllr Jeffreys confirmed that Stroud Farmers Market had received no funding from SDC other than the one-off £8000 grant made to Ms Claire Gerbrands at the start of the whole project. This grant had been made on the

understanding that Ms Gerbrands would also help and advise other towns, and her help had been valuable when Nailsworth started its own market.

Cllr Mrs Smith asked if voluntary organisations would be consulted as part of the Social Enterprise Trust investigations; Cllr Jeffreys presumed this would be the case but would check with particular reference to the Alheimers Society.

2006/151 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

19 October	Attended key stage 3 Celebration Evening of Performing & Visual Arts at Sir William Romney's School, and award of certificates
29 October	Inspected vandalism to field gate and dry stone wall at Miles Marling field
30 October	Attended Nailsworth Primary School governors meeting
	Attended meeting of Nailsworth Festival Committee
2 November	Met with Roger Evans Associates and SDC Regeneration team. A report was circulated to Cllrs to consider for the meeting on 30 November
	Constitution & Community Payback team completed ground floor painting at the Subscription Rooms; Clive and Stephen to be invited to next Mayor's reception.
4 November	Congratulations to organisers of firework display and bonfire in KGV field
6 November	Attended meeting of Nailsworth Primary School governors
12 November	Congratulations to the RBL for a well attended and moving Remembrance Sunday parade and service.
15 November	Attended annual NW & District Flower Arrangement Society event at the Primary School. NTC was thanked for its grant which enabled members to exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show earlier in the year
16 November	Attended the AGM of Nailsworth Youth & Community Enterprise
17 November	Congratulations to Nailsworth Dramatic Society for another evening of well produced theatre.

2006/152 NAILSWORTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Mayor was keen to agree dates for the formation of the new committee to progress the Action Plan. The resumé leaflet had been printed and was available throughout the town. It would also be reproduced in the forthcoming December edition of the Fountain.

2006/153 SDC SHOPPERS SURVEY

This had now been completed and copies of the results were available, with comments invited by 1st December, either to the Mayor or directly to Ms Tiina Emsley SDC.

2006/154 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Kay asked if another Cllr could attend the Youth Club meeting on 29 November in his stead, which would include raising the issue of litter around the town's residential areas.

Cllr Kay expressed concern that Cllrs were not available to help with the council stand at the Farmers Markets, and greater participation was needed if the initiative was to continue. The Mayor suggested that it was of more value to have a council stand when there was a particular issue or topic that needed public opinion, and it was agreed therefore to only take a stand when such an event occurred. The Clerk was asked to cancel the December booking.

2006/155 SUCCESS OF FARMERS MARKET

Cllrs were concerned that Stroud's recent decision to hold its market every Saturday, and insist that traders committed to 52 weeks of the year, would lead to loss of traders and customers for markets run in other towns. The matter would be put on the agenda of the Market Towns Forum meeting on 16 January. One or two Nailsworth market traders had been lost, and others commented that takings had dropped, but the Chamber of Trade would be asked to monitor this closely over the next few months to get a more long-term view. Cllr Nicholson added that the funding provided to Ms Claire Gerbrands at the start of

the markets initiative was to work in partnership with other towns, and schedules were originally organised so that markets did not clash. He suggested however that it might be to the benefit of other towns, if traders were not able to commit to the 52 weeks required now by Stroud, they might be more available to take part in other markets in the area.

Stroud had also instigated a Sunday market, but this was not for farmers produce.

2006/156 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported receipt of the Lèves magazine, Sue Ryder and CPRE newsletters.

2006/157 PAVILION HIRE DEFAULTER

Court records did not show return of the summons sent to the defendant, nor any receipt of payment, and NTC was invited therefore to decide how to proceed. The claim was currently £444, which included the £50 court fee and it was agreed to ask for full payment immediately.

2006/158 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 6 November and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:

Item 9, 'Mr' Griffiths corrected to 'Ms'.

Item 4 - Encroachment on council land at Wood Lane

Only the Clerk turned up for the site meeting on 17 November at the appointed hour, although the Mayor did arrive later. Cllr Nicholson would take a look at another time. It was felt that no urgent action was required at present.

Item 6 – advertisement in South Cotswolds & Vale of Severn Visitors Guide

The Clerk had declined to advertise in this publication as agreed at the meeting, but had been offered several incentives to persuade NTC to change its mind. Following discussion, it was agreed that since an advert would have been placed in Undiscovered Cotswolds if it still existed, and as the new SDC publication was not yet available, perhaps it was worth giving this publication a try given the special deal of 15% discount and free publication of photos and editorial. It was not known what the actual level of response was from these advertisements. This publication had a circulation of 20,000. The Clerk was asked to accept the offer with a 15% discount for a half page advert and to provide photos on disc.

Item 7 – maintenance of Shortwood Churchyard

Cllrs accepted the quote for £400 for cutting back the beech and laurel hedges. The Clerk pointed out that the cost was a little high as the job had not been done last year. The quote for £150 to sort out the compost heap was also accepted. Non-compostable rubbish would be removed and the rest raked over to decompose naturally. Two compost bins would then be installed.

Item 9 – bus stop at Forest Green

Mr Bill Carr SDC had replied that final position of the bus stop would be decided once the road layout was complete. The Clerk was asked to pass on this information to the FG Residents Association.

Corner by William's Fish Market & Food Hall, Fountain Street

Cllrs had shown this unfinished area to Ms Griffiths when they met on 6 November, and it was noted that Mr Beeston had proceeded to pave over the SDC part of the rough ground. It was hoped that when the asphaltting of the remaining area was undertaken it would meet the level of the paving.s.

2006/159 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Bratby presented the report of the special meeting held by the committee on 7 November to consider the request from Hobbs Bakery to site a skip in the Clock Tower Gardens

whilst carrying out work on the first floor level. In the event, it was understood that the work had been undertaken without use of the Gardens after all. The minutes were approved.

New blinds in the Mortimer Room

The Clerk and Mrs Bratby were thanked for removing the curtains from the Mortimer Room.

2006/160 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 13 November and the minutes were approved.

Staff employment matters

Cllr Kay expressed concern over the revelation of personal details about a member of staff and it was agreed to change the first paragraph to read:

“The Clerk explained that since the new caretaker had taken up post at the Town Hall, his personal situation had changed. At present he was visiting Ireland bi-monthly for a weekend and had asked whether he might take this time as unpaid leave.”

A file note would be made to explain the special circumstances under which NTC had agreed to relax the terms of the caretaker’s contract.

Utility bills

The Clerk explained that more work was needed to take into account termination costs and refunds relating to the change of service provider, before being able to produce a utilities budget estimate for 2007/08

2006/161 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

In the absence of the chairman, Cllr Bratby presented the report of the meeting held the previous evening which had been inquorate. It was hoped that Cllrs would make a greater contribution to the provision of articles for the next issue, and one or two spaces were filled on the list below –

Issue 38 – copy date Friday 12 January – distribution w/c 12 March

	Action
Mayor’s report	
Report from Nailsworth Society	Bill
Chamber of Trade	Lesley
NYCE update	Lesley
Interview with Concord resident	Lesley
FGR-FC advert	Lesley
Council elections – big spread to encourage applications, to include resumé of committee responsibilities, outline of NTC’s tasks, powers, comments from existing Cllrs on what they enjoy about the job, etc	All
Council Budget plans	Sue
Nailsworth Festival ~ Nailstock – Rose Langston	Sue
Community payback scheme – young offenders community service	Lesley/Carole
Date of Town Meeting	Carole
The journey of producing/printing/delivering the Fountain	
Youth activity update	Norman
Missionary work at Forest Green – Rev Early	John Bratby
?Chinese New Year <i>(previously featured in Spring 05 issue)</i>	Norman
First impressions of Newcomers at Forest Green – Redrow Homes	Lesley
Focus on Gardens, wild birds and animals	
Japanese knotweed, local environmental report	John Byrne
Archive – evidence of wildlife in NW in the past	Ann Makemson
Spring watch – invite readers to report sightings	
Hedgehogs – badgers etc now	John Bratby

Terry Grant – update on birds found in the area now	
Spring planting	
Mortimer Gardens bridge	John Nicholson
Norman Mansell in his vehicle – photo ?NTC logo	Sue
Nailsworth in Bloom – Chamber of Trade	Lesley
Primary School nature garden	Sue/Lesley
Works around town	Sue
Twinning plaque ~ forthcoming visit	Carole
Passage to India fundraising campaign to build house in Bangladesh	Lesley

The meeting had decided not to change the wording of the Christmas message on the front cover as requested by Cllr Kay. Cllr Akhtar, as representative of a minority religion, added that downgrading Christianity was not the way to support other religions and fully accepted that England was predominantly a Christian country in which Christmas was a very important festival which should be properly recognised. In line with its policy, the committee was more than happy to feature festivals from other religions, and asked for relevant information to be provided at the appropriate time.

Despite the meeting's decision not to review printing costs at the present time, Cllr Kay requested that this should be done and Mrs de Lacroix was asked to obtain quotations for the next meeting of the committee.

Cllr Affleck expressed disappointment at the long lead time between copy date and publication. It was explained that the editor worked on the Fountain in her own time at a special rate of only £20 a page, and needed 3 clear weekends to put an issue together. The printer then needed a week to print, which was lengthened if bank holidays fell at the time. A further 10 days advance delivery was required by Royal Mail. If the council decided the long lead time was unacceptable, another editor could be sought but at a consequently higher cost.

The content suggestions for the March issue and the 2007 production schedule were approved.

2006/162 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 19 October and 7 November.

Cllr Nicholson asked about the new directive from SDC that objections to planning applications should refer to the relevant section and clause in the Local Plan which was being contravened. It was not clear whether it was SDC or local councils that were supposed to do this, but Clerks and Cllrs at local level did not have detailed knowledge of the Plan. Cllr Affleck advised that SDC planning department was not observing its own directive and that local councils should ignore it.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings held on 19 October and 7 November 2006 be approved.

2006/163 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk pointed out that the first two items (225 and 226) had already been paid. Thanks to a letter written by Mrs de Lacroix, Colburn Homes had relented over the 51% increase to the TIC service charge and had agreed not to increase it at all (item 228).

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 21 November 2006 amounting to £12623.14 be approved for payment.

2006/164 Mr M Brinkworth – vandalism at Miles Marling field

Cotswold Wardens had repeatedly repaired the dry stone wall, which had once again been vandalised. Cllrs were not convinced that this was being done by young people, nor could they understand why the wall was being systematically damaged. Discreet enquiries would be made with the Youth Worker and Neighbourhood Warden to try and identify the culprits/cause, but at the end of the day, responsibility for the wall and its problems lay with the private owner.

2006/165 Police & Consultative Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 11 December at 7.30pm in the Mortimer Room Nailsworth.

2006/166 CPRE – Reception and talk

The Mayor indicated she would attend this event on 25 January at 7pm at Manor Farm, Frampton.

2006/167 Countryside Alliance – campaign to save rural post offices

Since this contribution came with a political agenda, the CA's campaign could not be promoted.

2006/168 GRCC – Rural Partnership Conference

The conference would take place at 5pm on 23 November in Brockworth.

2006/169 GVA Grimley – Stroud District Employment Land Study

The study looked at the rural economy of the area, employment sites and premises. The Mayor had already forwarded the information to the Chamber of Trade and chairman of the Planning Committee.

2006/170 SDC – afternoon training sessions followed by meeting/festive supper

The invitation from Mr David Hagg was to training sessions beginning at 3pm on 14 December, and an evening event at 7pm which the Mayor hoped to attend.

2006/171 GMTF – Extraordinary General Meeting

The meeting would be held on 7 December at 7pm at Churchdown.

2006/172 GCC – Charter Test Group meeting

The next meeting would be held on 30 November in Shire Hall at 4.30pm.

2006/173 GCC – road closure Whitecroft/Hayes Road junction

The road would be closed from 27 November to 1 December for power cable installation.

2006/174 GCC – road closure Barton End Lane

The road would be closed from 11 to 13 December for tree works by Glos Highways.

2006/175 Police Consultative Committee meeting

The parish cluster meeting took place on 21 November in Stonehouse.

2006/176 Stonehouse Constabulary – new Chief Inspector

Eric Moore, who had been a PC in Stonehouse in the late 70s had returned as the new Chief Inspector and looked forward to meeting Cllrs.

2006/177 GCC – survey of the County's Rights of Way

A detailed record would be made of the 3300 miles of paths to include assets such as bridges and gates.

2006/178 Glos Playing Fields Association – AGM

The AGM would be held on 5 December in Tewkesbury.

2006/179 December Council meeting

The Mayor extended an invitation to Cllrs to join her for a drink after the December meeting.

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Chairman

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Date