

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
The Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 20 October 2009
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr Mrs DLM Binns Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr I D Crawley Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr R Blackwell
	Mr Chris Gregory - Nailstock
	Sgt Kirk Harrison – Glos Constabulary
Apologies	Cllr J D Bratby County Cllr JS Waddington Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler

2009/113 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2009/114 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 September, and those of the Special Meeting held on 21 September 2009 were approved and signed with one amendment -
Minute 2009/111 point (c) to read " . . . at a cost of £14,573 per year over 50 years".

2009/115 MATTERS ARISING

Glendower – the Mayor had met on site with SDC officers and understood that a full repairs notice would be implemented. He hoped this would restore the house to a habitable condition.

Minute 2009/100 – Cllr Carter advised that following examination of the criteria, it was clear that an application to the SDC community planning grant scheme could not be made.

Minute 2009/112 – a letter had been circulated from four cllrs objecting to the FGCH decision, which the Mayor proposed should be put to the working party for consideration and report back to full council with responses to the points raised.

2009/116 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Blackwell added with regard to Glendower, that the process would run its course, but if there were insufficient funds to make adequate repairs, the house could go for compulsory purchase as early as next May. Cllr Crawley asked whether SDC would itself undertake works to Glendower whilst waiting for a final decision on the compulsory purchase order if the repairs notice was not complied with (which cost SDC could recoup from a future sale of the property).

Cllr Blackwell had asked **local shops and businesses about their parking arrangements**, which had produced a most interesting survey. Traders had to be parked by 8.30am in order to secure a space and had admitted to parking in the following locations:

behind the Britannia (Newmarket Road long stay car park)	37
Church Street	5
behind the Police Station (Old Market long stay car park)	41
Egypt Mill (at a cost of £70 p.a.)	2
Pensile Road	23
in front of Passage to India, Old Market	7
Winslow House (Spring Hill Close)	4
Chestnut Hill	13
Co-Op car park (4 hour limit)	27
Boys Club (at a cost of £30 per month)	2
in front of Lloyds Bank	2
other	20

With regard to trader parking, Cllr Crawley opined that the businesses provided very important local employment but it was inevitable that there would be people driving in. Would GCC or SDC consider setting up a car share facility on its website rather than looking to create more parking spaces?

GCC had put forward a proposal to introduce **residents only parking schemes in Church Street and at the bottom of Chestnut Hill**. The Mayor read out Cllr Nicholson's comments as chairman of the Environment Committee. Regarding the suggestion of **creating two parking spaces in the widened section of George Street** opposite the entrance to Morrisons, Cllr Nicholson felt this would cause an obstruction and recommended the proposal should be rejected. He also opposed any residents parking scheme and noted that no information had been provided on how any such scheme would be managed, and queried why only these two particular areas had been identified. It would only move the problem elsewhere and set a precedent for the rest of town centre residents. The Clerk pointed out that the current consultation was directed to the council only and a public consultation period would follow.

The Clerk added notification from **County Cllr Waddington** that he was tomorrow presenting a paper to cabinet setting out the paperwork, groundwork and criteria for introducing residents parking across the County, which SDC would be asked to administer. All local councils would be consulted about individual requests made to them by their own residents. The Clerk had already informed Cllr Waddington that NTC was in total opposition to residents parking and it was felt the idea had come through pressure from the County's cities.

Cllr Waddington advised that it was also planned to **remove the "no waiting at any time" sections on Pensile Road**, except hopefully the designated delivery bay. Cllr Mrs Binns queried what had happened to the shared space plans for George Street.

Cllrs agreed with Cllr Nicholson's recommendations and also agreed to the proposed removal of parking restrictions in Pensile Road subject to the retention of a short restricted stretch outside the Natural Health Clinic to provide an area for cars to wait for vehicles to exit Pensile Road. The Mayor would ask Cllr Nicholson to clarify with Sally Godwin GCC why the two specific sites had been chosen for residents parking and ask him to instruct the Clerk in sending a suitable response on behalf of the council.

2009/117 PRESENTATION BY Mr Chris GREGORY re NAILSTOCK 2010

Mr Gregory repeated his presentation made at the meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee on 13 October (see those minutes for detail). A couple of additional points were made - No alcohol to be brought on site; coloured wrist bands to be issued indicating type of ticket purchased; an external company would be appointed to cover security arrangements: Stewart Security, staffed by SIA (security industry association certified) personnel; there would be reduced rate tickets for families and w/e tickets.

Sgt Harrison was asked for his view and reported that several meetings had taken place to review the management system, with advice taken and suitable amendments made to the operating plan. The relevant role takers would need to be identified and traffic management discussed. Sgt Harrison reported that he was happy with the way the event organisation was progressing so far from a safety point of view but there was still work to do.

Following troubles at last year's one-day event, Cllr Mrs Thorpe questioned the intention to hold the festival over three days, although she appreciated this was in part to maximise the cost of set up and security. Mr Gregory advised that organisers were keen to broaden the interest and appeal to different groups with a very different emphasis on each day's music and confirmed that each day's performance time was limited. The Mayor noted that he would have liked other members of the organising team to have attended to which Mr Gregory responded that some were more comfortable with taking action rather than addressing formal meetings. He added that the organisers were keen to have good relations with the council and make Nailstock an event of which the town could be proud.

SDC environmental health had raised the point that the performing licence only allowed for an audience of 1200 people and this would need to be officially upgraded. Mr Gregory was in discussion with the SDC officer to sort this out and would chase it up. He estimated that the event might attract approx. 5000 people over the three days.

Cllr Carter said the three day event would impact on immediate neighbours over a substantial period of time but should also bring advantage to traders through extra visitors, and give other residents a chance to participate in the festival.

Cllr Mrs Binns wished to ensure that all residents would have the opportunity to attend the public meetings by holding these at different times of day. Mr Gregory advised that so far evening meetings were planned, but accepted the point and thought perhaps one could also take place on a Saturday. He was asked to note that there were a lot of elderly residents in Park Road who would be reluctant to come out to an evening meeting and Mr Gregory promised to make home visits where appropriate.

Cllr Crawley asked Sgt Harrison about plans to tackle traffic problems, potential antisocial behaviour and crime; what policing presence was envisaged to safeguard against problems? Sgt Harrison advised that he was looking at having a police presence also in the town centre, so that any alcohol matters could be dealt with quickly. It would be necessary to have detailed planning and borrow staff from other areas, with some cost implication to the police service. Pre event work was also planned to anticipate any trouble. Shops would be contacted about selling alcohol to or for underage consumption. Sgt Harrison would be drawing up a policing plan in writing in due course. The seniority of officers on duty was queried; this would be decided nearer the time depending on who was available and what was considered the appropriate level for the event.

Cllrs were disappointed at being asked to make a final decision without having residents' feedback to guide them. Cllr Mrs Binns raised the point about what would happen if there was total objection from residents, if NTC had in the meantime agreed to the event. The Mayor thought it would be difficult to go back on permission already given and the Clerk added that cllrs had agreed to take a decision in October and might have to make a judgement as best they could. Discussion ensued with cllrs expanding on their views and reasons for and against the event.

PROPOSED	Cllr Crawley proposed, seconded by Cllr Byrne that NTC make KGV available to Nailstock organisers for a three day festival in 2010, plus setting up the day before and clearing up the day after, and accepted that the organisers would make an entrance charge. The motion was carried with 4 votes in favour and 1 against.
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The Clerk asked if cllrs wished to make a charge for use of the field. It was confirmed that the organisers would be required to leave the site in good order. Mr Gregory asked if the grass could be

cut and raked aside prior to the event, to which the Clerk advised that whilst a cut might be arranged raking could not be undertaken. Cllrs agreed unanimously not to impose a charge for use of the field and the Mayor asked Cllr Byrne to keep in touch with the organisers to ensure that all issues of concern were addressed appropriately.

2009/118 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Waddington had also advised that an urgent agenda addition had been made for GCC's cabinet meeting tomorrow regarding the Swindon to Kemble railway line. There had been some developments and he hoped for a positive outcome. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that there was an investment potential of £32million.

2009/119 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Crawley had drafted a letter to GCC about its withdrawal of funding for junior (8-13 age) youth work. The figure quoted in the first paragraph had been amended and the letter circulated to cllrs. Debate ensued as to how NTC had learnt of this news (through the youth worker) and it was felt that Cllr Crawley's statement that NTC had not been properly informed should stand.

Cllrs were concerned that NTC was not a properly recognised partner in youth work provision, even if it did not directly contribute to the youth worker's time spent on junior clubs. It was agreed to make a formal application to GCC that NTC wished to be informed in the case of any changes proposed to any part of the youth service provision for the town. The Clerk was asked to circulate the Gloucestershire Charter so that cllrs could consider this in deciding on the exact form of the letter.

The Mayor asked again for help in selling Royal British Legion poppies outside Morrisons.

2009/120 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson had attended the AGM of the FGRA, which mainly revolved around discussion with Beechwood Close residents concerned about antisocial behaviour through the new estate. It was agreed that the FGRA should be congratulated on achieving a lot in a short space of time with a new play area and the small MUGA.

Cllr Robinson had also attended the recent police neighbourhood coordination group meeting at FGCH considering three main priorities to be focussed on over the next 3 months. Again, the evening antisocial behaviour in Lawnside/Beechwood Close was a main concern. 57 incidences had been reported in the last six weeks in that area alone. The Clerk added that two residents had emailed in the last couple days and she would notify them that the police were planning to tackle the problem.

The other main points of concern were litter problems at Forest Green and speeding on Spring Hill. It was agreed to talk to Mr Phil Sullivan SDC community safety regarding the speeding issue, as Sgt Harrison had advised there might be some money available for flashing 30mph signs.

Cllr Robinson was pleased to report that another PC would be coming to Nailsworth, who would alternate with the other PC and the PCSOs.

Cllr Crawley suggested it would be a better idea to send an experienced youth worker to engage with the marauding bands of young people, and provide alternative activities for them. Cllr Robinson responded that this was being done on a Thursday evening until funding had been cut and the initiative had to cease. Cllr Crawley suggested writing to the LSP (local strategic partnership) which was there to deal with this kind of problem. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at another time.

2009/121 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had received the EEC Panorama climate change document.

Cllrs were invited by Nailsworth Twinning Association to join a lunch party on Remembrance Sunday at Oldstones Restaurant with delegates attending from Lèves; £29 a head inclusive 3 course meal.

2009/122 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Crawley reported on the **GAPTC** AGM and was pleased to confirm that both of the Council's resolutions had been adopted unamended. About 50 – 60 people had attended the meeting. Cllr Crawley had contacted GAPTC to enquire what follow up action would be taken.

Cllr Mrs Binns provided some feedback from a recent **NCP** meeting. An SDC parking officer had attended the meeting and had expressed willingness to attend an NTC meeting to discuss the problem of double parking to see if particular trouble areas could be patrolled. It was agreed to invite him to attend a future meeting of the Environment Committee. Ruskin Mill College had submitted an application to have a pedestrian crossing at Millbottom. Ms Rachel Small SDC had advised that a retail study was being undertaken in Minchinhampton, Cam, Painswick and Nailsworth, which information the Clerk had also circulated by email to cllrs last week. Cllr Crawley advised that he had emailed back with a series of questions about the methodology of the study in order to understand its usefulness.

The Mayor reported that discussion continued over forming a **patients participation group** and he was meeting practice manager Mr Colin Ruddall tomorrow with Mr Bill Affleck.

2009/123 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Robinson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 29 September and the minutes were approved.

He was pleased to report that the abandoned car had finally been removed from the FGCH car park. The Clerk had received carpet samples for the MR.

The Clerk and Cllr Robinson had inspected the front door at Hazelwood Bungalow and confirmed that it required replacing; three quotes were being obtained. Cllr Crawley suggested a professional survey of the building as a whole be carried out to take advantage of insulation improvement schemes on offer.

Cllr Byrne, in his capacity as a stonework professional, stressed that the stone pillars by the TH doorway should not be sandblasted.

The Clerk reported that she had obtained quotations for rear stage curtain track, stage curtains and stage side curtains. In the absence of rear curtain track and curtains and the imminent play performance in November NDS had requested permission to paint the rear wall black on the understanding that it would be returned to its current colour at the end of the production. The Clerk explained that Chinnick Theatre Services fortuitously had suitable track in stock and would be able to make a set of curtains for it in time for the November production for a cost of £673.58.

Cllr agreed that painting the wall black was not an acceptable option and approved the immediate purchase of new track and set of curtains.

2009/124 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 13 October and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Robinson and the Clerk had attended the meeting at the proposed site for the new MUGA and had measured out the space. Cllr Robinson was confident the pitch could go crossways so that the goal end was not in front of the houses and there was sufficient space for the pitch not to be too close.

They proceeded to the site meeting at KGV and were joined by Cllr Crawley. Cllr Robinson had discussed improvements to the skate ramp installation with young people and it was agreed the new half pipe should not be installed adjacent to the existing equipment to prevent skaters leaping from

one to the other. It was agreed to seek the opinion of Mr Andy Wilkins, Skate Jam expert from Bussage before proceeding to obtain quotes.

Cllr Crawley advised that a site had been identified where two compost bins for general clippings could be situated, but burning of woody shrubs would continue as these would otherwise first require shredding.

Cllr Byrne reported that he had met with the Market Street Garden designer who was drawing up a shortlist of recommended contractors.

A letter from Nailsworth Festival had been emailed round, which provided additional information to explain the £5k being requested this time, and a request for future funding. The requests would be considered by the Finance Committee during budget discussions.

2990/125 REPORT OF FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 14 October and the minutes were approved.

The Clerk confirmed that the auditors had admitted their error in calculating the percentage figure and a letter of apology had been received to correct the mistake.

Cllr Crawley sought clarification on the process of internal auditing and the Clerk explained how the accounts were spot checked for accuracy. Details of the items checked were not currently recorded.

2009/126 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 8 October and the minutes were approved with a correction to the final line, to read

“. . . especially how decisions are made in the context of development plan policy and conservation area guidance.”

The Mayor had circulated to members a rolling schedule of issues raised at recent meetings to ensure that these were followed up. The Clerk was asked to write to Sherwood's owners about the need to obtain permission for any incursion onto the grass verge which belonged to NTC, and to clarify whether permission was required for creating an access to the new house.

PROPOSED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meeting held on 8 October 2009 be approved

2009/127 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the main thrust was now to seek grants to make up the shortfall in funding. An expression of interest was going to the Rural Development Agency, having established that NTC was entitled to make the application as the town's population was under 10k. (the application would be for £100k). A bid of £50k was being prepared for the Lottery Fund community development sustainability programme.

Cllr Nicholson would be registering the project with the Glos Environmental Trust, which would enable an application to be submitted for several thousand pounds, and the working party wished to recommend that the £100 registration fee be taken from the designated budget.

The working party wished to ask the architect to draw up tender documents for the building at a cost of £900 + vat (it was noted that these were 2007 prices) and the process would take two months. There had been no news from Redrow about the purchase of the temporary building.

The working party recommended that the Bequest trustees be asked to clarify the way in which the £300k would be paid, and to check if anything further had been heard from the Charities Commission regarding eventualities should the building ever be sold. A detailed revision of the business plan was

underway, based on the RDA model. Cllr Crawley had attended a course on 'applying for grants' and Cllr Mrs Thorpe had done a short course with SDC. Ms Barbara Pond GRCC continued to provide valuable support.

PROPOSED	Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed, seconded by Cllr Crawley that £100 be taken from designated funds to cover registration of the FGCH project with the Glos Environmental Trust; and that £900 + vat be taken to cover the architect's cost for preparation of tender documents. The motion was carried.
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The Mayor wished to express thanks to Cllr Mrs Thorpe and the team for the huge amount of work undertaken.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe advised that it was proposed to appoint Mr Bruce Buchanan to oversee the building of the new centre, and two cllrs needed to be available as client representatives to deal with any day to day minor decisions that might arise. Cllrs Nicholson and Mrs Thorpe had been put forward.

RESOLVED	it was agreed in principle that Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Mrs Thorpe be appointed as client representatives on the FGCH building project, with the proviso that no major changes should be agreed without full council approval and thresholds for their remit should be set.
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Cllr Carter believed standing orders required that NTC go out to tender for the role of project manager given the size of project, but Cllr Crawley thought it was usual practice for an architect to continue into the role of project manager. It was agreed to discuss the matter further and the Mayor referred to standing order 60e which allowed for cllrs to override the requirement to seek tenders for expenditure over £10k.

2009/128 ACCOUNTS

PROPOSED	that the list of accounts for 20 October 2009 amounting to £16,658.51 be approved for payment.
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Item 189 – the Clerk advised the Mayor that the bench was now in place so he could notify Mrs Dangerfield.

2009/129 Digital UK – meeting to explain switchover to digital next March

An email offer had been received to visit parishes as the time for the changeover approached and to address either an NTC or public meeting. Cllr Crawley had heard rumours that the Nailsworth transmitter might not be fully changed in order to provide a fully improved service. It was felt important to ask for written explanations which could be published in the Fountain January edition and to recommend that the company follow up with a public meeting in mid January for which they would be invited to hire a room.

2009/130 GCC - Highways Seminar for Cllrs, Shire Hall 17 November, 6.30-8pm

The meeting on Tuesday 17 November unfortunately clashed with the monthly council meeting. The Clerk was asked to enquire if a representative from NCP could attend instead.

2009/131 GCC – formal publication of various proposed waiting restrictions

The document advised that the proposed waiting restrictions had been passed.

2009/132 GCC - consultation on potential waste sites in Gloucestershire

The consultation exercise extended from 8 October to 30 November. It was thought Stonehouse was the nearest potential site to Nailsworth. A questionnaire and documents were available to view at the

Library, and on the GCC website. Cllrs were invited to respond individually and to ask the Clerk for the website username and password if required.

2009/133 Glos against Incinerators - 3 November in Whiteshill Village Hall

Individuals were free to attend the protest group meeting if they wished to do so, starting at 7pm.

2009/134 SDC – vandalised coin box in Bus Station toilets

The coin box in the disabled toilet had been broken into again. JMG Toilet Solutions had been asked to come up with a more vandal proof box and proposed one to be set into a reinforced plate, at a cost £1300 plus fitting. SDC advised it did not have enough funds in its budget but NTC was invited to cover the cost if it wished. Alternatively, the coin box could be removed altogether so that the toilet would only be available to radar key holders, which had apparently successfully been done in Stonehouse. Cllrs were not impressed that the original specification for the coin box had obviously not been up to the task, or that NTC was now being asked to pay for a new one. The Clerk was asked to respond that NTC was not prepared to fund a new coin box, with a copy to District Cllrs.

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Date

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Chairman