

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 18 March 2008**

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr B Jayes Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr S Robinson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr W S Waddington District Cllr J Jeffreys
Apologies	Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J D Bratby

**2008/281 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 19 February 2008 were approved and signed with the following amendment:

Minute 2008/258 – amend last line to read

“An estimate of £600 to help with this was being considered”

**2008/282 LGIU seminar (minute 2008/270)**

The seminar had been over subscribed and the mayor applied too late to attend. He hoped there would be another opportunity.

**2008/283 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**County Cllr Stan Waddington** explained the reasoning behind the withdrawal of the route 46 bus evening service, which had been introduced to complement the Stroud night bus which did not extend into Nailsworth. However the service was very little used, so it regrettably needed to be withdrawn. The clerk reported that she had heard there was a move in the town to start up a petition to keep the service going – especially to get from the town centre up to Forest Green. The mayor would seek clarification from Mr Terry Parker GCC as to whether the night bus service could be extended into Nailsworth. Cllr Eddyshaw thought a drop off point in Nailsworth was being considered, but this would need to include a service up to Forest Green.

Cllr Affleck congratulated GCC on the **resurfacing work recently completed on the W** with little disruption to traffic.

In response to the query from Cllr Mrs Thorpe, Cllr Waddington confirmed that GCC was keeping in touch with **anti-PO closure campaigns** elsewhere in the country, but that there was little funding to support a similar scheme in Gloucestershire. GRCC was providing a service to closing POs on business planning and the future. An outreach service was being mooted for isolated villages, which had already been refused to Minchinhampton, but Cllr Waddington would make enquiries as to whether this would be applicable to Nailsworth and copy his findings to the clerk.

Cllr Waddington reported the rumour that the £10million from the EU for **flood damage repairs** might be retained by the government to compensate for the grants it had made across the country.

As previously stated, Gloucestershire had approx £25million of damage to repair. The promised £10million had already been spent and another submission would be made for more. Funding for **future flood defences** had been covered through a levy on council tax as there was no central funding forthcoming for this.

In response to the comment made in minute 2008/246, Cllr Waddington advised that it was a legal requirement to ask a second time for approval of a traffic order. He was unable to proceed with the **Star Hill/Jubilee Road scheme** without a consensus from residents who had put forward a range of objections to the plan, and sought NTC's help in resolving the matter. Cllr Nicholson reminded the meeting that the main purpose of making the top end of these roads one way, was to remove the danger of vehicles emerging blind into Nymphsfield Road, and there would always be some objectors to any proposed change to road systems. It was suggested Cllr Waddington invite the individual objectors to a meeting at the Town Hall and Cllr Nicholson would attend to help with negotiations in the hope of reaching agreement.

**District Cllr Jeffreys** advised that SDC cabinet was discussing its stand on **PO closures** and intended to complain about the very short public consultative period.

In response to the query raised in minute 2008/249, Cllr Jeffreys advised that the Section **106 money from land sales** in NW was allocated to the group comprising Nailsworth, Horsley, Woodchester and Minchinhampton, but he very much hoped it would in fact be spent to provide affordable housing in Nailsworth.

He was not aware that there was any shortfall in **SDC funding for the FG Junior MUGA** at this point and understood building would start on 8 April as planned.

In defence of SDC's falling **recycling performance** rates, Cllr Jeffreys advised that other councils had improved their collection figures by including garden waste, only for this to go to landfill anyway. SDC's view was to consider the environmental impact of the extra vehicles needed to undertake this additional collection, and rather to encourage community composting schemes, such as the one currently running in Bisley (working with the Wildlife Trust), where garden waste was delivered to a local site for treatment, then redistributed for local use. SDC would be happy to work with NTC to set up a similar scheme. Meanwhile the trial collection of kitchen waste in the Stanleys was proving very successful and achieving 59% recycling rates.

It was confirmed that garden waste collected in green sacks currently went to landfill, but deposits at the Horsley recycling centre went to Bishops Cleeve via GCC for proper recycling. Cllr Waddington explained that business waste was collected separately and that increasing landfill taxes would encourage an improvement in the handling of business waste and hopefully a change in legislation to facilitate this.

Cllr Jeffreys confirmed that volunteer Watercourse Wardens were being sought.

Refurbishment of the bus station toilet block had started, due for completion 19 May.

Weekly walks were now running every Tuesday afternoon from the Library.

The Asset Management Group had recommended to council that a small site in Tynings Road should get outline planning permission for new affordable accommodation.

He was delighted to advise that a compulsory purchase order had been approved for Tricorn House at Cainscross roundabout in Stroud.

## **2008/284 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

On March 6 the mayor participated in a well attended, stimulating training evening to explore the setting up of a youth forum. This was presented by Mr Steve Miles, youth development officer SDC, and Nailsworth youth worker Ms Tracy Young. Notes and recommendations from the meeting would be passed on to Recreation & Amenities Committee for consideration.

On 27 March, Glos Partnership NHS Foundation Trust would be holding its first annual meeting, road show and conference from 1 to 5pm in Gloucester Guild Hall. The organisation supervised facilities for older and disabled people.

The mayor reminded the meeting that SDC was making available £2000 for any project arising from the Action Plan/Healthcheck from the next financial year's budget. He would email round the information and welcomed any suggestions of suitable projects.

The Police Crime & Disorder meeting held in Nailsworth only 3 weeks after the previous meeting, was not well attended, as anticipated. The Stonehouse representative had raised concerns about the increasingly disruptive element in its goodwill evening, similar to Nailsworth's experience in recent years. The mayor had spoken with Mrs Claire Uzzell and Mrs Lesley Williams-Allen who were considering rethinking the format for Nailsworth's event and limiting the fairground rides to a younger age group.

The mayor invited teams to join him in participating in the Nailsworth litter pick event on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

### **2008/285 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Affleck assisted Cllr Byrne in the opening of the MG bridge on 23 February.

He attended a meeting of the FG Community Centre working party on February 26, which was making considerable progress.

Cllr Affleck had held a meeting with Ms Helen Bojaniwksa regarding the Design Statement, which was being thoroughly overhauled and would be good. Ms Bojaniwksa had asked if the volunteer assistants could be credited at the Town Meeting.

Cllr Affleck was disappointed that the public meeting February 28 on PO closures had been so badly attended and appreciated the presence of Mr David Drew MP to help in focussing activities. The questionnaire results had been consolidated into a letter to Royal Mail and others had written independently.

Last night the Evans Report had been presented and Cllr Affleck felt Mr Robert West had done a good job in putting across what he had achieved. Cllr Affleck was pleased to report that a point had been reached at which the end was in sight. He thanked the cllrs who had attended.

### **2008/286 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

The clerk reported receipt of the March newsletter of the Standards Board and CPRE field work magazine for March.

### **2008/287 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 3 March and the minutes were approved with the addition of the mayor's apologies.

### MUGA at Forest Green FC

The mayor had spoken with Mr John Clapp and Mr Tim Barnard seeking a stakeholders meeting to move the scheme forward, in particular to clarify the withdrawal of the bid to the Football



Foundation since the criteria had not been fulfilled. Although NTC had only wanted a kick-about area, it was clear that FGR-FC was after a much more substantial facility with professional surface and floodlights, which it could use for training and for other sports teams – SDC had requested a hockey facility. Cllr Nicholson reminded the meeting that the promised community room within the complex had been forgotten, and the clerk added that the replacement of the bus shelter also needed to be resolved. It was noted that the £85k (+ interest) was still in the hands of SDC.

**2008/288 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 5 March and the minutes were approved.

Cllr Eddyshaw queried the cessation of the regular donations formally made to Friends of Stroud Hospital, and the clerk explained that the grants system now operated on the basis of applications submitted by groups. Cllr Eddyshaw would inform the secretary.

In response to the question from Cllr Affleck, Cllr Mrs Thorpe advised that 45 of the 800 questionnaires re use of Burma Road PO had been returned. It was understood there was a certain element of *fait accompli* leading many not to bother responding.

**2008/289 REPORT FROM FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the committee had been busy; members went to see Whitminster Community Hall and learned about how that group had obtained public support and had managed the process to achieve the end result. The working party had met again with Ms Barbara Pond GRCC whose valuable help and expertise had led to conclusions and decisions on action points.

Ms Pond had suggested a second questionnaire was not needed at the present time, and so this idea had been dropped, other than to undertake a survey of the new houses on the Redrow site. Cllrs Nicholson and Mrs Thorpe, with Ms Pond, would begin working on the first draft of the detailed business and action plan, asking GCC's Maiden Project to assist with a population needs analysis.

Negotiations had begun with Redrow to rent the sales office currently on the site which would become available following the sale of the last property, possibly this summer. A rent of £4600 for a year had been proposed, which with the addition of insurance, business rates, utilities, cleaning, general management etc would amount to perhaps £7500. There would be an initial start-up cost for furnishing, adapting the toilet for disabled access etc, say £5000, bearing in mind that movable objects would be transferred to the new facility in due course, but it was hoped that existing furnishings such as carpet would remain. (The clerk added that there were spare chairs and tables in the Pavilion which could be used at least to start with.)

Cllrs felt the rental terms of the Redrow building were very reasonable but would prefer an 18 month if not 2 year renewable contract, in order to have time to build up and establish usage of the centre, and in the hope that it would not be needed by Redrow for installation on another site. (The clerk pointed out that arrangements would need to be made to accommodate users between the eventual removal of the Redrow building and build of the new centre.) Cllr Mrs Thorpe advised that the Whitminster CC had been a refurbishment rather than new build, which had taken 4 years, although much of this time had been spent fundraising.

It was noted that larger groups might not be able to use the small Redrow building, but this eventuality could provide valuable supporting information for the build project. It was confirmed that funding had already been set aside. Cllr Eddyshaw drew attention to the potential cost of repairs and maintenance to the Redrow temporary building, which was perhaps not designed to be a long-lived structure.

**PROPOSED** Cllr Mrs Thorpe, seconded by Cllr Bratby, proposed to unanimous approval, that the Redrow sales office be rented at a cost of £4600 p.a., to serve as a temporary

Forest Green Community Centre, and that expenditure of up to £7500 p.a. be approved to include ancillary running costs. In addition, up to £5000 was agreed for set up costs.

The mayor with Cllr Wheeler undertook to arrange a further meeting with Redrow to clarify the length of rental and related matters.

### **2008/290 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 21 February and 4 March and the minutes were approved.

08/0043/FUL - Mr Austin had been advised that NTC would not allow any encroachment on Mortimer Gardens.

Brockley House – SDC had responded that a retrospective application would probably be required for the fencing but it appeared that the rest of the unsatisfactory alterations did not need planning consent, which was a great disappointment.

Roger Evans Report – a DVD of the power point presentation was awaited and the final document expected by the end of April incorporating discussions from last night's meeting. A 2–3 page summary would also be provided for wider circulation.

New affordable housing – Cllr Nicholson had spoken with SDC housing manager regarding the long term influence of NTC becoming actively involved in obtaining land for social housing. He reported on a similar scheme in Nympsfield, for which the Parish Council still influences the choice of tenants.

It appeared to be policy to use for social housing land outside, but adjacent to, development provision within the Local Plan, although it was not clear if the Nailsworth site qualified. Cllr Nicholson would seek clarification of the policy, whether within or without the designated development area, and also whether ownership of the land was a factor in determining NTC's continuing influence. Naturally all this depended on getting agreement with the landowner - Gloucester Diocese - which was not renowned for its communication skills.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 21 February and 4 March 2008 be approved.

### **2008/291 PUBLICATION & PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

Cllr Eddyshaw proposed that the list of accounts be circulated in advance with other council meeting papers so that cllrs had the opportunity to investigate any items they were not clear on. The motion was rejected.

Discussion ensued as to the practicalities and timing for preparing the list of accounts and the need to ensure all invoices were included in the once a month cheque signing session. In his capacity as town clerk elsewhere, Cllr Nicholson suggested the problem was rather in the planning and monitoring of expenditure, rather than at the point of signing the cheques. New cllrs were sometimes not fully up to speed with long standing activities that had been put in place by previous councils, and Cllr Mrs Way suggested a review of ongoing projects should be included at new cllr training sessions.

The clerk added that she could circulate the list of accounts by email at 4pm on the day of the meeting if that would help, and of course cllrs were welcome to look at the file of invoices being prepared for payment each month.

**2008/292 NAILSWORTH GAMES – FORMATION OF WORKING PARTY**

The mayor wished to formalise the working party which had in effect been operating since last September/October, reporting to the Recreation & Amenities Committee, now that the event was approaching, money being spent, grants could be applied for and VIPs invited.

Terms of reference for the Nailsworth Games Working Party to be -

“To consider and plan for a festival of sport in early July 2008 in Nailsworth; and to be responsible and make recommendations to NTC Recreation & Amenities Committee.”

Membership of the Working Party would comprise -

Cllrs Byrne, Kay, Robinson;  
District Cllrs Jeffreys and Mrs Binns;  
Youth Worker Ms Tracy Young;  
PCSO S Phillipson;  
Mr Jim Ellen and Mr Ian Probert, FGR-FC;  
Ms Gail Smith, Chamber of Trade.

The mayor confirmed that funds were currently being taken from the Recreation & Amenities budget where a sum of £3000 had been set aside for the Games. Mr Jim Ellen had offered a further £3000 and match funding was in the pipeline. Most of the participating clubs were covering the cost of their own events. NTC's responsibility would be to cover publicity, producing the programme, medals and trophies, hire of the Silver Band for the opening ceremony etc.

PROPOSAL the mayor proposed, second by Cllr Nicholson, to unanimous approval, that the Nailsworth Games Working Party be formed as outlined above.

**2008/293 FORMATION OF WEBSITE & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Revised recommendations for the website had been circulated to the meeting, but it was recognised that a fair amount of discussion was required. Cllr Affleck proposed that a training session be arranged and a date was agreed - Wednesday 30 April commencing at 7pm.

**2008/294 ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 18 March 2008 amounting to £21,096.11 be approved for payment.

**2008/295 GCC – withdrawal of bus service 46 – Nailsworth/Stroud/Cheltenham**

The services to be withdrawn from 29 March were those departing from Cheltenham at 19.25, 20.25, 23.00, so that the last service going all the way to Nortonwood would depart Cheltenham at 16.35, with the 17.38 service terminating in Nailsworth centre, and the 18.35 service terminating in Stroud. Comments were invited, but given the timing of the announcement, there was obviously no consultation involved. The mayor would investigate the Glos Charter regarding GCC's commitment to consult with the public. Meanwhile the clerk was asked to write in protest at the short notice and register cllrs' disgust and disbelief that the service was not needed.

**2008/296 National Offender Management Service – supervised work parties within the community**

The letter from NOMS was noted, offering the services of teams from Leyhill Prison, which NTC had used in the past. The clerk was asked to copy the letter to NYCE in case it had any suitable projects.

**2008/297 Co-operative Futures – Glos support for social enterprise**

Information was provided on a new body offering support and advice to new social enterprises.

**2008/298 The Citizen – “where I live” feature**

An email had been received inviting residents to provide copy for the paper. The proposal would be considered at the website & communications training evening.

**2008/299 SDC – Car Club request for parking near library**

Mr Norrie Curtis asked for NTC’s comments on the Car Club’s request to use the parking space behind the police station; (this would of course free up the temporary space currently being used in the TH car park). The clerk gave some background on NTC’s long standing effort to secure this very space for the Car Club and the prevarications of both GCC and SDC. It was agreed that the clerk should respond that NTC was strongly in support of the Car Club being given this parking space.

**2008/300 GCC – revised routes for mobile library**

The revised routes from April were available in the office or could be viewed on the GCC website, but did not appear to involve Nailsworth.

**2008/301 GRCC – 2008 Calor Glos “Village of the Year” award**

Nominations were invited for this annual award.

**2008/302 SDC – closure of Market Street for monthly market**

Cllrs were surprised to hear that the craft market was successful enough to be held monthly, but wished it well.

**2008/303 Use of banner posts by Chamber of Trade for markets**

Especially now that there would be both a Farmers Market and Craft Market every month, the clerk was asked to regulate the use of the banner posts by the Chamber of Trade, which neglected to book use thereof in line with other users, and should not be allowed to monopolise the facility.

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Date

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Chairman