

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 18 September 2007

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) Cllr W S Affleck Cllr J D Bratby Cllr J A Byrne Cllr J Eddyshaw Cllr B Jayes Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler	new co-opted Cllr: Mrs Sally Thorpe
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr W S Waddington District Cllr R Blackwell District Cllr Mrs DLM Binns	
Apologies accepted	Cllr S Robinson	

The mayor welcomed District Cllr Blackwell to the meeting and congratulated him on his election.

2007/111 CO-OPTION TO FILL COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Five Cllrs had interviewed the two high quality applicants for the vacancy and Mrs Sally Thorpe was selected. Cllr Affleck proposed, seconded by Cllr Eddyshaw to unanimous approval, that Mrs Thorpe be invited to accept co-option to the council. Cllr Mrs Thorpe was duly welcomed to the table and signed her declaration of acceptance.

2007/112 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2007 were approved and signed with the following amendment:

Minute 2007/92 – last word in second paragraph changed from ‘seniority’ to ‘status’.

2007/113 TRAFFIC ORDER - YELLOW LINES HORSLEY ROAD (minute 2007/90)

Despite Cllr Jayes’ assurance from Mr John Roberts GCC Highways that contractors had been instructed, yellow lines had still not been applied in Horsley Road. Cllr Waddington promised to chase this up. Cllr Nicholson pointed out that the traffic order had also been delayed because of an error in the markings outside Christ Church.

The clerk added that SDC would be surveying all existing markings to be policed when it took over responsibility for off-street parking on 5 November, and therefore it would be helpful if the Horsley Road markings were in place to ensure they were included on SDC’s list.

2007/114 SECOND HOMES FUNDING (minute 2007/91)

The mayor reported that there might be a new round of second homes money, and he had asked to be kept informed so that NTC could consider putting in a bid.

2007/115 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington reported that the summer flooding had caused huge problems in the County and a massive emergency operation had been undertaken. The County had come under serious threat of losing electricity with only one high voltage connection to the national grid at

Walham. A complete revision of the Highways budget was now required and despite sympathetic noises, no actual offer of additional government funds had been made towards the £24-25million cost of essential repairs to the road network, with the still slipping A46 at Salmon Springs being high priority and a huge job. Cllr Waddington advised that Highways intended to keep some of the existing programme of works but would be prioritising flood damage schemes over several years. The Pensile Road repair would however go ahead next week for completion by end October/early November.

The planned Rural Speed Conference had been cancelled. Full details of the flood damage and repair in the area would be explained at the Parish & Town Council meeting on 10 October. Projects for the year had swelled from 240 to 650.

Several of the 161 P&TCs approached, had responded positively to the reduced street lighting scheme and the final proposal for Nailsworth was awaited. Cllrs did not know if the neglected culvert in Chestnut Hill had been dealt with. The speeding problems in Nympsfield Road were being considered.

Cllr Affleck expressed disappointment that there was no government money to help with highway repairs. Cllr Waddington hoped that some contribution might eventually be forthcoming but it was unlikely to be much.

Cllr Nicholson asked if something was being done to provide back up electricity and water supplies in advance of the next emergency. Cllr Waddington advised that GCC was reviewing recent events and intended to make representations to the utilities companies but had no control over their actions. Protection against future flooding was being undertaken around the Walham electricity plant, but a second connection to the national grid was unlikely. It appeared Severn Trent had no contingency for water supply and it was GCC which had organised the bowsers and drinking water with the help of the army.

District Cllr Mrs Binns reported that collection of kitchen waste would start on 24 October in Selsley, Kings Stanley and Leonard Stanley. Two plastic lockable bins would be provided for each household's kitchen; filled and sealed liners would go into a larger kerbside bin emptied weekly. Residents in Leonard Stanley had been issued with 180 litre bins for non-kitchen waste, which would be collected fortnightly, and presumably the other two areas would continue using black plastic sacks. The kitchen waste would go into an IVC (in vessel composter) shared with other local councils and made into compost for sale. Councils were now being penalised for overuse of landfill and it was essential to cut down on this type of waste disposal.

The new organisation, CHIP & PIN (Community Help in Partnership – People in Neighbourhoods) would be visiting Nailsworth on 28/29 November to give information and advice on a range of topics and answer questions from residents.

Cllr Eddyshaw had written to the Dunkirk Mill Management Company in a private capacity to enquire if it had done appropriate calculations to contain the flood plains. Cllr Mrs Binns advised that SDC had undertaken a water course survey across the district and Mr Bob Nightingale had been appointed Critical Water Officer. He was trying to ensure water courses, culverts etc were maintained and kept clear, and Cllr Mrs Binns promised to report on this particular water course at the next meeting.

The mayor added that he would pass on to Cllr Eddyshaw the report that was attached to Dunkirk Mill's application to the Environment Agency for restoring the mill ponds.

Cllr Affleck queried the reference made at an SDC meeting in January 06 to a document regarding change in parking arrangements, which indicated that the council would undertake public

consultation, and he was not aware of any such consultation. He would provide Cllr Mrs Binns with the full details so that she could look into this.

2007/116 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The mayor had contacted the Fire & Rescue service to thank them for helping with the flooding emergencies, but was pleased that Nailsworth had escaped relatively lightly.

The GMTF AGM on Thursday 20 September would be hosted by NTC at Egypt Mill and would be GMTF's first ever meeting in the town. 50 representatives from around the county, including 15 African visitors would be attending the event and Cllrs Affleck, Bratby, Mrs Thorpe, Mrs Way would be helping the mayor, with Cllr Nicholson manning the TIC. Three visits were on offer and the proposal to hire a coach for two trips to Forest Green and back at a cost of £95 was approved.

The mayor advised that he would be abseiling down Eagle Tower in Cheltenham next Sunday to raise funds for Shortwood FC and thanked those Cllrs who had sponsored him.

The mayor would be unable to attend the National Star College breakfast briefing at Hotel du Vin, Cheltenham at 7.45am on 24 September and offered the invitation to another Cllr.

Mr Beale, Nailsworth Archive Office, had passed on a request from Macarthy & Stone for advice in choosing a name for the new development in Old Market. Cllrs were asked to consider suitable suggestions and pass them to Mr Beale.

2007/117 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The deputy mayor had represented the council at Renishaw's celebration of its 4th year receipt of the Queen's Award for Enterprise, and a tour of the Wotton works had been very impressive. Edward Jones had celebrated five years in Nailsworth and the deputy mayor had joined a photo shoot with American colleagues followed by a meal at Forest Green. He had also worked with the mayor to prepare the GMTF AGM.

2007/118 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The clerk had nothing to add to her written report.

2007/119 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Bratby presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 24 July and the minutes were approved.

The long awaited restoration of the TH patio was finally complete and a great success. Problems in the downstairs toilet were being addressed and the Hearing Loop system in the council chamber had been installed.

Cllr Affleck was of the opinion that the blackout curtains in the MR were not in fact 'suitable for the purpose' as indicated in the minutes, due to gaps between the blinds and window frames. This had not been pointed out before and committee members were asked to check on this for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Nicholson suggested that the committee had managed the FG community centre project very well, but he felt it was unfair on that committee to leave it with the task of finding the £500k now needed to build it. The meeting with representatives from FG Residents Association would now take place on 8 October and would be reported back to the committee. It was agreed to put the financing task on the next agenda for full council.

The clerk pointed out that the community centre was part of the 106 agreement and had to therefore go ahead. There would be plenty of time to revisit how it would be used and managed once realisation of the building came nearer.

2007/120 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 6 August and the minutes were approved.

He advised that the Youth Forum training event had been rescheduled for Wednesday 17 October, 7.15pm at the youth club.

Cllr Eddyshaw, seconded by Cllr Affleck suggested that the MG bridge was not a good use of tax payers' money. Cllr Nicholson gave some background to the project and advised that a bridge had always been part of the refurbishment plan for the gardens, but had had to be delayed through lack of funds at the time the main work was done. Installing the bridge now was merely completion of the original design, had been agreed and approved long ago, pending the setting aside of appropriate funds, and a tidy sum had already been spent obtaining planning permission. Although some new cllrs might now have reservations, it was accepted that a decision made by a prior council should be respected.

It was further agreed that disabled access to the other side of the stream was irrelevant, since alternative routes in and through the gardens were provided and nothing could be done to provide disabled access up the steps into the bus station.

Proposed revision to standing orders:

- 1 Changed to read " . . . the council will decide on the composition of committees *which will then* elect a chairman . . . ". It was explained that it was necessary to elect a chairman as soon as the new committee was formed, to ensure there was always a chairman, since NTC had been under the misapprehension that the outgoing chairman remained in post until the first meeting of the new committee.
- 3 Several cllrs criticised the political correctness of changing the title 'chairman' to 'chair', especially since 'chairman of council' was a statutory title so the alteration could not be consistent. It was agreed to let the proposal stand for detailed discussion at a later meeting.

2007/121 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 6 August and the minutes were approved.

The mayor drew attention to the suggestion to build up a library of stock articles and invited each cllr to put forward at least one for the collection.

With regard to distribution of the four 2008 editions, it was explained that the dates had been moved slightly in order to fit into two Royal Mail contracts (extending over maximum 12 week) with a minimum charge of £500 each. It was agreed that any overspend in the budget resulting from the increased delivery charges should be covered from reserves. It was explained again that alternative distribution methods had been regularly researched without success, and door-to-door with Royal Mail currently remained the only system for ensuring delivery to every premises in the postal sector.

Dates for 2008 would be:

Issue no	Copy date	copy approval meeting	Delivery to Royal Mail Swindon	Distribution week commencing
42	Wed 30 Jan	Mon 25 Feb	10 – 17 March	24 March (Easter Monday)
43	Wed 16 April	Mon 12 May	2 - 9 June	16 June
44	Wed 23 July	Mon 18 Aug	8 – 15 Sept	22 September
45	Wed 8 Oct	Mon 3 Nov	17 – 24 November	1 December

2007/122 REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 3 September and the minutes were approved.

Item 5 The proposal to prepare the next update of the Shops & Services Directory for distribution with the December Fountain was approved. The cost for printing 3500 copies would be £407.

Item 7 The mayor hoped that NTC would support the town sign project and find the necessary funds in due course.

Item 10 Cllr Nicholson had responded with the council's opinion on the proposed reclassification of the Ladder and adjudication of the application was awaited.

2007/123 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 11 September and the minutes were approved.

He clarified that the graphic designer preparing the model for Market Street Triangle, was in fact his labourer and there would be no cost to the council.

Discussion ensued on the estimates for providing electricity for the Farmers' Markets in Mortimer Gardens. Since a second electric supply was currently not needed in the piazza area and this would be a more involved and potentially difficult job, it was agreed, subject to clarification of SDC's grant offer, to approve the committee's suggestion that the new supply to the wall adjacent to the existing meter box only be installed at this time, which would include a £740 electricity connection charge.

The existing supply from the lamp post would continue to be available but Mr Blackwell pointed out that it kept blowing, so would need attention.

In relation to the promised £4000 grant, SDC had requested that a second quotation be obtained for 'its audit purposes'. The meeting was agreed that it was council policy for SP Electrical to undertake all council electric work and that alternative quotations were not required for jobs under £10,000, which was no doubt the same for SDC.

Cllr Nicholson elected to contact EON to ask the company to make some effort to camouflage the new sub station in Shortwood.

With regard to Dursley TC's communication about the quality of town centre cleaning provided by SDC, the clerk advised that a response was required for Dursley's forthcoming meeting. Cllrs confirmed that they did not have any problem with SDC's town centre cleaning in Nailsworth.

2007/124 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 19 July and 23 August. Cllr Affleck presented the report of the meetings held on 7 August and 4 September.

Meeting of 7 August

Cllr Mrs Way was added as an attendee.

Application 1672 had been withdrawn following an objection from GCC Highways

A detailed response had been sent to Mr David Cawker re the Watledge fence. The clerk added that the certificate of lawfulness had been approved with no conditions imposed. The owner had

made some alterations to the fence and the clerk's question re ownership of the strip of land in front remained unanswered.

Ms Maria Hickman, SDC Housing Renewal Manager, had responded to Cllr Affleck's representation that SDC could do nothing about the state of Glendower. Cllr Nicholson pointed out that SDC had done repairs to the house in the past, such as installing a new roof, so its current lack of interest was strange. The matter would be addressed again at the next meeting of the committee.

Meeting of 23 August

Cllr Affleck had been trying to pacify the disgruntled resident who was complaining about the willow tree pruning under 1773/TPO.

Meeting of 4 September

Apologies were added from Cllrs Wheeler and Mrs Way.

Point of procedure

Cllr Affleck pointed out that, unless the arrangement was modified, it was difficult for this committee to attend to outstanding matters at the beginning of a meeting since members did not have the minutes of the former meeting to consider.

RESOLVED that the comments of the Planning Committee made at its meetings held on 19 July, 7 and 23 August, 4 September 2007 be approved.

2007/125 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the lists of accounts at 21 August 2007 amounting to £12,592.82 and at 18 September 2007 amounting to £25,584.71 be approved for payment.

Cllrs noted that the overall cost of restoring the TH patio amounted to a substantial sum. An additional area of concreting had been required to finish the job, and cost of building materials and hire of skips (8 were required), as well as additional tarmac had increased the estimated figure.

2007/126 SDC – road closure Market Street Saturday 13 October

The road would be closed for the Market Street Market.

2007/127 GCC – Highways & transport issues – post flooding assessments; flood damage to public rights of way; flooding protection

A lot of work was being undertaken assessing and prioritising work now needed on roads and footpaths. Cross-agency strategic planning was underway for future flood protection. An offer of empty sandbags and sand was made. Basic training was offered for volunteers to keep waterways and culverts clear.

2007/128 GCC – road closure Tinkley Lane on 22 October and Pensile Road from mid September for approx 2 months

The closures were noted.

2007/129 GAPTC AGM 13 October

The mayor hoped to attend this meeting at 2pm at Dolphin Hall Tetbury.

2007/130 GCC – sixth annual highway maintenance & transport seminar 10 October

Cllr Mrs Thorpe hoped to attend this seminar from 6-8pm in Shire Hall. This meeting would be used to give a strategic overview of the flooding and allow parishes an opportunity to raise particular concerns.

2007/131 GRCC AGM 27 September

Cllrs were asked to notify the clerk if they wished to attend the AGM at 4.30pm in Maismore on the theme of 'Celebrating Partnerships'.

2007/132 Valleys & Vale Neighbourhood Watch – 'problem solving on your watch'

The document explained the Neighbourhood Watch setup and working process and a presentation was offered. It was noted that NTC had very little relationship with this group which appeared a little secretive.

2007/133 Glos Constabulary - SARA plans

The clerk had forwarded the email from PCSO Steve Phillipson with details of the seminar at Waterwells Police HQ on 26, 27 or 28 November to receive training and information on the SARA plans, which are the conduit for the police to address policing priorities identified by the community, for discussion and appraisal at CADA/CDRP meetings.

2007/134 GRCC – funding & parish plan event 9 October

Groups in the Cotswold District were invited to attend this event at Condicote Village Hall at 4pm.

2007/135 Sir William Romney's School – governor vacancy

Applications to fill the partnership governor vacancy were invited by 15 October. Cllrs were asked to notify the clerk of any suitable candidate.

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Date

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Chairman