

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of Nailsworth Town Council
 Held at the Town Hall Nailsworth
 On Tuesday 15 February 2011

Present Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor)
 Cllr P Carter
 Cllr I D Crawley
 Cllr M P Robinson
 Cllr Mrs G E Smith
 Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe

Apologies Cllr Mrs D L M Binns
 Cllr J A Byrne
 Cllr N I Kay
 Cllr J R Nicholson
 Cllr Mrs J M Way

District Cllr Miss F Macmillan

2011/214 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the floor.

2011/215 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2011 were approved and signed with an amendment to minute 2011/201 by adding "as chairman of the Nailsworth Youth Club" after "Mayor" in line 7.

2011/216 GCC CUTS (MINUTE 2011/197)

No written acknowledgement had been received to either of the two letters of objection sent on behalf of NTC by the clerk. The clerk understood from a GCC officer that telephone calls by Mark Hawthorne to the mayor had been considered sufficient response but a written response could be provided on request. Members considered this response totally inadequate but decided it would be a waste of time to pursue the matter further.

2011/217 REQUESTS FOR GRIT BINS (MINUTE 2011/198)

The mayor and clerk reported on a meeting held with Julian Wilson GCC last week attended also by Peter Starkiss snow warden. There were more than 3000 bins across the county and it was a huge logistical task to keep the bins filled during icy weather because of the poor road conditions and the fact that all available staff were deployed to driving the gritting lorries. The theft of salt from the bins had become a major problem but the difficulty of identifying the culprits and lack of enthusiasm by the police to prosecute made it hard to combat. GCC was reluctant to add to the number of bins unless the new sites fulfilled a narrow set of criteria. There might be a case for re-deploying existing bins to new locations and Peter Starkiss had agreed to look into this possibility. A number of requests were discussed with the result that only three met the criteria viz – The Ridings (the mayor had already put a new bin in place), the corner of the Tynings/Curchill Road and half way up Tetbury Lane. Mr Wilson agreed to visit these locations and confirm the positioning of the bins. Cllr Mrs Smith posed the suggestion that in bad weather SDC litter collection teams could be deployed to assist with road gritting. In response Cllr Waddington agreed that this was a good suggestion and that a

conversation had already been initiated with SDC although he was unsure what progress had been made. He agreed to investigate.

2011/218 NAILSTOCK (MINUTE 2011/199)

Cllr Kay was to meet with the organiser Chris Gregory who would also be asked to attend the forthcoming Recreation & Amenities Committee.

2011/219 GCC GRANT FOR STROUD AREA YOUTH (MINUTE 2011/201)

Cllr Blackwell had asked questions but as yet had received no indication from SDC officers as to how the grant would be allocated. The mayor had written on behalf of the Youth Club to the chief executive and Karen Toole SDC had replied that no decisions had been taken but SDC would take account of his concern that local youth providers should be represented.

2011/220 SDC STAFFING LEVELS (MINUTE 2011/201)

Cllr Blackwell understood that the intention was to reduce staff by 10% over 4 years (loss of 45 posts in total) by natural wastage and that so far this year 13 staff had left. Cllr Crawley remarked that it was inconceivable that SDC had no policy on staff reduction – clearly services had to be prioritised to maintain efficiency and arrangements must exist to cover vacancies and re-align responsibilities. Cllr Blackwell undertook to make further enquiries.

Cllr Blackwell confirmed that Care & Repair would continue its house repairs service but its garden maintenance service was to be cut severely.

2011/221 SIGN ON POLICE STATION DOOR (MINUTE 2011/202)

The mayor reported that the sign was now in place.

2011/222 CHURCH STREET PARKING (MINUTE 2011/206)

Two draft letters had been finalised and were ready to be sent to Mr Burfitt for comment.

2011/223 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington reported that following debate at last month's meeting the library petition had been referred back to the Cabinet. The budget meeting was scheduled for tomorrow evening when general policy and limits would be set although negotiations over fine details would continue. He was aware that NTC representatives had met with GCC officials to discuss the proposed future library service in the town. Cllr Mrs Smith deplored the fact that the proposed service cuts would hit the most vulnerable sectors of the community although Cllr Waddington in response said that at present 52% of the GCC budget was directed to support services for vulnerable children and vulnerable adults leaving just 48% remaining for all other services.

The mayor expressed his concern that the two remaining outdoor centres – South Cerney and the Wilderness Centre – were to be closed or handed on to private enterprise. These centres and the activities they offered were highly valued by schools and youth and uniform groups and over past years huge amounts of public money had been spent in developing their facilities. It was agreed that the mayor would send a letter of protest on behalf of NTC.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe enquired how the proposed reduction in subsidy for public transport would affect services in Nailsworth. Cllr Waddington had no definitive information although he was able to confirm that as services 93 and 46 were commercial services they should not be affected. The new model for delivering services was a hub/spoke system

which would rely on community transport services. It was agreed that the Environment Committee should keep this under review. Cllr Blackwell said that concerns raised within SDC about the start time for using bus passes had been put forward to GCC which would be running the scheme in the future. Cllr Waddington indicated that the matter was being investigated and that exceptions were being negotiated to enable people to use bus passes before the 9.30am start time if not to do so would result in delays of 1.5 or 2 hrs to the start of their journeys.

District Cllr Blackwell reported that the planning application by the Coventry Building Society for an illuminated sign had been turned down and he had requested a site visit for the Railway Hotel application.

2011/224 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- January 22 Attended Farmers Market – he was pleased with the response he got by being there to answer moans and groans.
- January 28 Attended a meeting with Lyn Speak GCC to discuss the terms of employment for the youth workers. She had confirmed that apart from three, all staff were on annual contracts ending on 31 March 2011. The other three (two part time and full time youth worker) were on permanent contracts ending 30 June 2011. These three staff would have to be transferred with all rights protected. The working party had met and a response from Young Gloucestershire was awaited.
- January 31 Attended a meeting of the Forest Green Residents Association.
- February 2 Met with the gardening tutor at Ruskin Mill on site to discuss plans for planting the outside bed around the clock tower wall. Ruskin Mill would be looking for local sponsors for plants etc and the mayor had agreed to provide a letter of support.

It was agreed to invite Inspector Kirk Harrison to attend the March meeting and Peter Wilson Neighbourhood Warden to attend the April meeting. A meeting of the **Finance Committee was agreed for Wednesday 9 March at 8.00pm** (to be preceded by the TIC party for volunteers beginning at 6pm.)

2011/225 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had nothing to report.

2011/226 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The clerk had nothing to report.

2011/227 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that she had attended her first meeting at the **Citizens Advice Bureau**. It had been most interesting but shortage of funding continued to be a serious concern.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that she continued to attend networking meetings organised by the **Children's Centre**. She also attended meetings of its Partnership Board in a personal capacity and suggested that consideration could be given to formalising this arrangement when representation on outside bodies was reviewed in May.

2011/228 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Carter presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20 January and 1 February 2011 which were approved.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 20 January and 1 February 2011 be approved.

2011/229 REPORT FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2011 were confirmed and signed.

Invoices for emergency work and quotations for refurbishment as a **result of the burst pipe at the town hall** were being collected to support an insurance claim.

Cllr M Robinson had met with Trade Plas on site to view **the council chamber windows** and a revised quotation was awaited together with a sample of how the replacement windows were made. Cllr Mrs Smith queried the choice of contractors asked to quote for the work and was concerned that the replacement windows would be of sufficiently robust construction. Cllr M Robinson said he was satisfied with the choice and professionalism of the firms contacted.

The clerk confirmed that the land on which the **war memorial** stood remained in the ownership of the church whilst responsibility for the monument rested with NTC. Any changes to the war memorial would therefore be subject to Gloucester Diocese Faculty jurisdiction. The clerk had asked the Church secretary to provide full details of the information required to make an application for a Faculty, a process which she understood could take at least three months and quite possibly longer.

The clerk reported that coincidentally she had received an email that afternoon from Mr T Godden RBL chairman confirming he had received no response to the notice he had placed in the February Nailsworth News and requesting authority therefore to proceed with the process of laying a plaque in honour of LBdr Mark Chandler. Considerable discussion ensued. All present concurred with the importance of commemorating service men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country but considered the appropriate moment to take this action was at the end of a conflict.

Proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Crawley and to unanimous approval it was agreed that **NTC would support an application by the Royal British Legion for a plaque to be laid on the war memorial to honour casualties of the war in Afghanistan at the conclusion of the conflict.**

The clerk was asked to convey this decision to the RBL together with details when to hand of the requirements for making application for a Faculty so that discussions could be initiated to agree details of wording, design of plaque etc.

2011/230 ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 15 February amounting to £11,812.91 be approved for payment.

2011/232 GCC REPOSE TO NTC REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT CHANGES TO FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE CHANGES

The response was noted.

2011/233 ARKELL COMMUNITY CENTRE – PWLB LOAN

The letter was noted.

2011/234 GCC – ROAD CLOSURE AVENING ROAD – 2/5 -26/8/2011

The closure related to remedial work to repair the land slip. GCC had arranged a drop in session to explain the works at the Mortimer Room on 22 March 2011 from 2.00 – 8.00pm.

2011/235 GAPTC – BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY INVITATION

Local councils had been asked to put forward candidates to be entered in a draw for attendance at a Garden Party in the summer. It was agreed that Cllr Nicholson should be asked if he wished his name to be put forward. The clerk would contact Cllr Nicholson.

2011/236 NAILSWORTH FESTIVAL – ROAD CLOSURES

The proposed road closures were noted.

2011/237 STROUD & DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB – MECHANICS CLASSIC TRIAL

The event arranged for 13 March 2011 was noted.

2011/238 GOLDEN VALLEY CLASSIC MCC TRIAL– 6 MARCH 2011

The event was noted.

2011/239 SDC 2011/12 MARKET TOWN FUNDING

Due to budgetary restraint SDC had withdrawn this source of funding but as NTC had not submitted an application it was unaffected.

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Date

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Town Mayor