

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
 Minutes of a meeting held on 12 March 2013

Present	Cllr SM Reed (chair) Cllr A Elliott Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr MP Robinson Cllr S Robinson
Apologies	Cllr P Carter

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

A46 Traffic Issues Group

Cllr S Robinson reported on the meeting of the A46 group the previous day, which Cllr Reed had also attended. The meeting had been well attended and was continuing to develop a 'wish list' of potential road safety improvements to put to GCC Highways, focusing on methods of slowing down traffic such as the extension of speed restrictions and increased monitoring. There were plans to liaise with Renishaws, and a photo-call had been arranged with Dunkirk Mill residents later in the week. Cllrs S Robinson and Reed hoped that a small community led action group with limited NTC input would emerge from among those who had been attending the A46 meetings. A further meeting had been arranged for 15 April.

Nailsworth Bus Station

The recommendations of the Committee at its meeting on 23 January had been accepted by Council and had been forwarded to SDC

NORTON WOOD

The Clerk reported that Mr Will Wilkinson of Charlton Abbots Forestry had informed her that he anticipates that the business plan for the management of the wood would be ready for discussion in May.

Cllr Reed reported that the Norton Wood Orchard Group had been continuing clearance work in the old orchard. As directed by Will Wilkinson, contractors had begun work on removing a row of goat willows adjacent to the former Jovial Foresters car park. Inspection/remedial work to trees on the Burfords Ground boundary would commence later in the year, after the nesting season had finished.

Cllr S Robinson reported that he had been contacted by a local resident who had complained about the dumping of garden waste in the wood. The Clerk confirmed that this had been a long-term and somewhat intractable problem, and that attempts had been made to resolve it in the past. Cllr S Robinson agreed to inspect the area concerned.

TOWN INFORMATION CENTRE

The Clerk confirmed that the tenders for the building works to the former police station were due to be opened on Monday 18 March. It was agreed that this would be done at 12 noon in the Clerk's office, with the Clerk, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor present. The decision to award the contract would be made at the next full Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had arranged to meet with Western Power Distribution on site to progress the installation of a new electricity connection to the building. She was also progressing the removal of the gas connection to the building.

Cllr Reed reported that she had been liaising with TIC volunteers. The number of visitors to the TIC had recently begun to increase after the winter lull and were likely to reach a peak in April and May in the run-up to Nailsworth Festival. The Clerk confirmed the intention to vacate the current TIC building at the beginning of August and that a minimum of 3 months' notice was required under the terms of the rental agreement.

NAILSWORTH ACTION PLAN

Cllr Reed reported that the Action Plan had been gaining momentum at grassroots level. Two exploratory meetings had been held with local residents and a synopsis of the outcomes of these had been published in the March edition of Nailsworth News. Cllr Reed hoped that councillors would be able to assist in soliciting views on the future of the town. Mr Chris Harmer and Mr Ian Crawley had produced an online questionnaire using 'Survey Monkey' software to enable residents to give feedback relating to the NN article. Paper versions of the questionnaires would also be available at the TIC and Town Hall and would be used by councillors as a basis for their approaches to local businesses, groups and individuals. A letter encouraging the participation of clubs and associations had accompanied the usual invitation to attend the Annual Town Meeting on 8 April. The Town Plan would be an agenda item and paper copies of the questionnaire would be available.

Cllr Reed reported that she had learned from Elin Tattersall GRCC that the most recent census data was now available to download. This could be used to inform the Action Plan. Cllr Reed understood that GRCC offered a data collection service for a small fee. She agreed to investigate this further.

Cllr Reed reported that she had attended the NTC sponsored screening of the environmental documentary film 'Trashed'. Some constructive suggestions regarding the potential for a zero-waste policy for the town had been made by the audience in the ensuing discussion. She had noted these suggestions and hoped that these could feed into the Action Plan. Approximately £50 had been raised from audience donations to offset the cost of showing the film. It was agreed to recommend that two copies of the film be purchased from the money donated and offered on loan to any interested local groups.

Cllr Reed invited ideas from councillors for further development of the Action Plan. She agreed to attend the next meeting of the Nailsworth Access Group to update members on its progress.

The Clerk had received an email from a local resident suggesting that NTC create a dog exercise area in the town. Cllr Reed agreed to pass this on to the Action Plan group for consideration.

ADDITIONAL GRIT BINS

The Clerk had received three requests for additional grit bins in various parts of the town. She had discussed GCC regulations for the siting of grit bins with Yakub Mulla GCC, who had informed her that GCC would only approve their installation on highways where there was a 'steep incline' and/or a 'strategic bend'. Unfortunately none of the requests received were likely to satisfy these criteria.

EMERGENT SPRING

Cllr M Robinson reported that a spring had recently emerged on his property which on occasion had led to flooding of a section of the pavement in Spring Hill. He was concerned

that this could be a potential safety hazard in freezing weather and was working to resolve the problem.

SHORTWOOD GREEN

It was agreed to delay the proposed installation of temporary fencing around the informal track created by horse riders across the bank between the green and the lower Shortwood Road until Severn Trent had completed its repair/replacement work to water pipes in the vicinity.

TREE AT FOREST GREEN GREEN

The Clerk reported that a local resident had expressed concern over a lime tree on the edge of the green, adjacent to Jubilee Road, which he believed was a potential hazard to his property. The resident had suggested that approximately 15 feet be removed from the tree’s crown. The Clerk reported that an initial inspection by Tree Maintenance had revealed that the tree appeared to be in good condition and presented no danger. It was agreed that Tree Maintenance should be asked to produce a full safety report on the tree and an offer extended to meet the resident on site to discuss his concerns.

SHORTWOOD CHURCH

The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint from a visitor to the churchyard that low branches on the boundary trees in the old churchyard had been making it difficult to access some of the graves. She had passed the complaint on to St Georges PCC.

COUNCIL LAND AT HORSLEY ROAD

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a resident of Horsley Road who believed that damage had been caused to a Council-owned wall adjacent to the road by large vehicles attempting to negotiate the highway whilst avoiding parked vehicles on the opposite side. She had subsequently inspected the wall but had found no evidence of any significant damage.

STREET LIGHTS IN OLD MARKET

Cllr S Robinson reported that several of the street lights in Old Market were still not working despite recent repair work carried out by GCC. Sue Nicholson agreed to inform GCC.

BURIAL LAND IN THE PARISH

Cllr S Robinson had been asked by a local resident for information about the availability of burial land in the parish. The Clerk confirmed that there was no space for new graves in Shortwood churchyard, but she understood that there was still room for the interment of cremated remains. She pointed out that there were SDC municipal facilities in Horsley and in Stroud. She suggested that the resident be advised to contact St Georges PCC for further information.

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Chair

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Date