

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council**  
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 21 June 2011**

Present	* Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) * Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart * Cllr Mrs A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr Mrs SM Reed Cllr MP Robinson Cllr Mrs SE Thorpe Cllr RJ Windsor
Present for part of the meeting	County Cllr WS Waddington District Cllr Mrs CS Farrell Ms Aileen Bendall, village agent
Apologies	District Cllr RT Blackwell
	* denotes absence from part of the meeting

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Mrs Reed to the meeting and was delighted to have her back on the council.

**2011/30 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Nick Peters urged NTC to object to the **cuts to bus services** in the GCC consultation, closing date for response being 27 June. He accepted that the town would lose some services, but felt it was important to keep the subsidised early and late buses on the main routes, ie to Gloucester and Cheltenham, and the Sunday service. Mr Peters thought volunteers might be found to offer a dial-a-ride service to replace the little hamlet buses which would inevitably be cut. The Mayor reassured Mr Peters that the Environment Committee was pursuing the matter and that NTC would do its utmost to fight against cuts to bus services.

Mrs Philippa Kenzie related the incidences of an **abusive drinker** harassing her and a colleague in Mortimer Gardens. The Mayor responded that the Recreation & Amenities Committee had already discussed her complaint at its meeting last week (full report in the minutes of the meeting of 14 June); he had spoken with the police and investigated the success of the alcohol-free zone in Stroud. The Mayor reassured Mrs Kenzie that NTC was looking into a solution to the problem and Cllr Kay suggested he and the Mayor could meet with Mrs Kenzie to discuss the matter further.

Mrs Gail Smith questioned the report in the Nailsworth News about money raised for the **Arkeil Centre** which made no mention of the PWLB loan. The Mayor advised that a full financial report would be produced when the project was completed. Mrs Smith also questioned the reference to 'intensive' consultation in the minutes of the May council meeting (minute 2011/03), which Cllr Kay advised was a typographical error, and the word should have read 'extensive'.

The Mayor advised Mrs Smith that after this meeting, the Arkeil Community Trust Fund would no longer be on the NTC agenda since the charity was a separate entity and had taken over all matters relating to the Centre, albeit that NTC Cllrs as a body were sole trustee of the Trust. In response to a further question the Clerk explained that NTC had agreed to provide administrative assistance to the charity at no cost and to include the Centre on its insurance policy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2011 were approved and signed with the following corrections to minute 2011/03

First line in second paragraph to read:

"Cllr Kay refuted Mrs Smith's allegation and responded that in fact *eight out of eleven Cllrs had supported* the Arkell project which had been pursued following the result of *extensive* public consultation."

Fifth line in the same paragraph to read:

". . . Trust, so that a total of *£544k* had been achieved . . . "

Cllr Mrs Reed confirmed that there had been 'extensive' consultation on this project, which to her knowledge had started as early as 1998 with a tree planting in Miles Marling field.

**2011/32 VACANCIES on STROUD STANDARDS BOARD** (minute 2011/12)

The Clerk confirmed that the two nominees supported by NTC, Barry Pierce and Caroline White, had been elected.

**2011/33 SIGN at INCHBROOK BENDS** (minute 2011/09)

The Mayor had written again and confirmed that following a mix up, the sign would now be fixed. County Cllr Waddington added that his enquiries had uncovered a failure in communication between the various bodies involved, and he anticipated the sign would be repaired shortly.

**2011/34 CHANGES to SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES** (minute 2011/15)

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had attended the road show at Morrisons on 27 May, at which she had obtained the name of a contact person at GCC. Recognising that time was short, Cllr Mrs Elliott offered to follow up and, with Cllr M Robinson, would draft an appropriate letter for the Clerk to send to GCC.

**2011/35 TRAINING for NEW CLLRS** (minute 2011/18)

The Clerk advised that she awaited the price of the New Cllrs' Handbook which she would purchase. Former cllr John Nicholson regretted he was over-committed and unable to provide any training; Cllrs were invited to take advantage of other training courses available, which were of variable duration and in different locations. Cllr Carter advised that he had attended a five session course, held in different parts of the district, and he had found this very helpful.

**2011/36 CHANGES to POLICE SERVICE** (minute 2011/20)

A letter had been sent to the chief constable expressing disappointment at the closure of Nailsworth Police Station; an acknowledgement advised that the letter had been handed on to the superintendent. The Mayor was pleased to confirm that the officers responsible for Nailsworth still had the use of a car for the time being.

**2011/37 LIBRARY SUPPORT from RUSKIN MILL** (minute 2011/20)

The Mayor confirmed that the offer from Ruskin Mill was for eight hours assistance per week, year round, ie. including school holidays.

**2011/38 NAILSWORTH FESTIVAL 2011** (min 2011/29)

The Mayor had attended several Festival events and wished to record congratulations to the volunteer organisers on another excellent programme.

**2011/39 GAPTC – RESOLUTIONS for AGM** (minutes 2011/25)

Cllr Mrs Thorpe proposed that a motion be put forward asking GAPTC to support the creation of a unitary authority. The Clerk considered this was perhaps too political and outside the scope of GAPTC. The Mayor suggested the FE&GP consider this suggestion at its next meeting in order to open the discussion. Cllr Kay added that three motions had been approved at GAPTC AGMs over the last two years, but nothing had come of any of them.

**2011/40 MEMBERSHIP of NTC COMMITTEES**

A new list of committee membership had been circulated and Cllrs were asked to check it for accuracy. This was done and the list approved.

#### **2011/41                    REPORT of COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

As he had explained at the last meeting, **County Cllr Waddington** had retired from cabinet but retained a responsibility for Waste. Cllr Waddington advised that the subsidised **bus services** comprised less than 10% of the overall provision, but the subsidy was being halved so that cuts were inevitable. He endorsed the view that NTC should make a written response rather than phone call, even if this was going to be a day or two late, as long as the relevant officer was notified. Cllr Waddington suggested NTC base its argument on the main principles which had been adopted by GCC, which were getting people to work, college and hospital. Sunday services were not a high priority. GCC would be seeking to involve the voluntary sector to fill any gaps, and would encourage the involvement of community transport groups.

Cllr Waddington had noted the correspondence on **speeding on Nympsfield Road** but advised that money was focussed on high accident sites, which this fortunately was not. Last year had seen the lowest accident rate ever in the County, a great reduction on 10/20 years ago, by focussing on accident blackspot locations. He had however obtained agreement to undertake a speed and traffic survey on Nympsfield Road, with non-visible 'smart' cameras. This traditionally took place over a working week in term time, and he hoped to have a date for the next meeting.

Following comments from residents at the Farmers Market, the Mayor had met with Chris Riley and requested some **"20 is plenty" signs**. Cllr Waddington explained that the provision of these signs had to be agreed with Highways - how many signs were required, for which roads, and for what timescale. Once approved, signs were provided for the designated period with the council being responsible for providing manpower to put them up and take them down. The Environment Committee would be asked to follow this up.

**District Cllr Mrs Farrell** mentioned that she had had great difficulty obtaining forms for the **transport survey**, and would continue to publicise the consultation, with particular support for continuing the extended bus route up to Forest Green.

**District Cllr Carter** reported that SDC would be **resurfacing at least part of the bus station and behind the Old Market shops** during the first week of July; Brian McGough SDC would write to the Clerk to confirm the exact dates.

Cllr Carter had attended a planning training meeting outlining **changes to the handling of applications**, which meant that from the autumn the current full set of paper plans would no longer be sent out, but only email alerts for applications to then be viewed online. Cllr Carter had raised concerns that parish councils might be unable to handle the new system at such short notice and Barbara Tait had agreed to look at the timing again. The Clerk added that residents would need to be informed that plans would no longer be available to view at the council office. The OHP system at the Arkell Centre might be ideal for members of the committee to view applications on a large screen.

Changes had been made by government to the **Housing Revenue Account**, whereby the current system of rents paid to SDC, SDC paying the government, the government giving grants for maintenance, would be replaced by SDC handling the whole process. This however would involve taking on a £98million debt and having to borrow to manage this, but would give SDC more control. The timescale for the change was as yet unknown.

Cllr Kay urged Ward Cllrs to support Nailsworth's bid for a share of the **SDC £50k youth grant** as, although NTC had stepped in to save the youth workers, the Youth Club still needed help with a range of ongoing and new expenses.

#### **2011/42                    VILLAGE AGENT Aileen Bendell**

Ms Bendall had come to introduce herself and outline her role in the community. The Village Agent Scheme had been in existence for about four years to support and advise the over 50s in rural areas; to provide information, home visits on request, funded by the NHS and GCC, supervised and managed by GRCC. There were originally 30 agents, now 32 but covering a much wider area. Ms Bendall's area was Cotswolds District + Nailsworth and Minchinhampton, with a commitment of 15 hours a week. Ms Bendall outlined ways in which residents had been helped in the past. She had spoken with Neighbourhood Wardens who had been trying to undertake some of the tasks more suited to the village agent. The agents relied on being contacted, did not cold call nor get involved uninvited. Ms Bendall was thanked for attending and her help in the community warmly welcomed.

### **2011/43 TOWN MAYORs COMMUNICATIONS**

24 May	visited Fire & Rescue HQ and viewed vehicles in service
27 May	met with resident Mrs Deidre Lister regarding the Arkell Centre.
2 June	met with GCC Youth Service regarding TUPE and the Modification Order for Nailsworth Youth Workers.
9 June	with Cllr Mrs Thorpe, spoke at a Rotary event on the workings of the town council.
10 June	met in Shire Hall with Sue Laurence and Mark Parker regarding the workings of the library, notes of which had been circulated to Cllrs.
13 June	attended an all-day meeting in Cheltenham to discuss the distribution of SDC's youth grant of £50k. Next meeting on Monday 11 July at 6pm at Ebley Mill which the Mayor hoped to attend with Youth Club vice chairman Dorcas Binns.

The Mayor notified the meeting that he would be writing in a personal capacity to the Stroud News to complain about the cessation of the County Youth Service.

Cllr Kay expressed concern that plans for the library service were muddled with little consideration for the views of the public and parish councils, whose suggestions were over-ridden by the authorities who did not necessarily know best.

Cllr Kay referred to the Special meeting held last December at which there had been overwhelming support for the retention of the existing level of library provision and for NTC to investigate how this might be achieved. He suggested that when negotiations with GCC had been completed a further public meeting should be held to inform residents and obtain endorsement of the outcome proposed.

Cllr Carter was also disappointed at the confusion over library negotiations, and the insistence that the library could not be open without an official librarian present. Several volunteers had come forward to keep the library operating with a self-service book loaning system. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added her frustration at the rejection of the Ruskin Mill offer and had unsuccessfully asked for clarification. There was no model for link libraries so the library service was struggling with the legal and HR departments throwing up objections. Currently communities had no statutory powers to run libraries.

### **2011/44 REPORT of DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had asked at a Rotary meeting if any matters regarding Nailsworth were being considered, and was informed that the main concern was parking in the town and the risk of parking charges, which members were very against.

Cllr Mrs Thorpe had attended a Community Safety Panel meeting, well attended by groups from around the District. The downsizing of youth provision had been widely discussed. It had been acknowledged that Nailsworth Police Station was closing, but it was unclear how the integration of the service into the library would work, as this was a new concept which would require some new thinking. The Mayor added that he understood the intention was for the police to have a desk within the main room of the library, which he observed was unlikely to encourage confidential discussions.

**2011/45 REPORT of TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

**2011/46 REPORT from REPRESENTATIVES on OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Mrs Elliott had attended her first **CAB** meeting and returned with an induction pack. Cllr Mrs Thorpe added that Nailsworth was the fourth highest user of the CAB service, and felt it was important to keep involved. There was currently no likelihood of a service within the town through lack of funding and the expectation that people could get to Stroud fairly easily.

**2011/47 REPORT of PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Mayor, acting chairman, presented the report of the meetings held on 19 May and 7 June.

Cllr Carter added that he had attended SDC meetings looking at plans for the Railway Hotel. SDC officers had originally recommended acceptance, but in the event the application was unanimously refused as being too large and incongruous. The application for Barristers Cottage had also been rejected. Mr Jim Eddyshaw had telephoned the Clerk to thank Cllrs for their support in objecting to the Railway Hotel applications.

**RESOLVED** that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 19 May and 7 June 2011 be approved.

**2011/48 REPORT of PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr M Robinson presented the report of the meeting held on 24 May and the minutes were approved with the following amendment:

Listed Drinking Trough – A46, last sentence amended to read:

“However it was agreed that Cllrs Kay *and Windsor* would pursue some initial enquiries . . .”

Cllr M Robinson reported that SDC Planning Department was being awkward about the thickness of the **Town Hall replacement windows**, although these were standard for double glazing and planning permission was only applied for as a courtesy.

The three recommendations regarding the **division of duties** between the committee and the Public Buildings & Assets Working Party were approved.

It was agreed to create a **Library support working party** comprising Cllrs Carter, Kay, Mrs Thorpe and the Mayor with John Nicholson and Bill Affleck.

**2011/49 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Kay presented the report of the meeting held on 14 June and the minutes were approved. Cllr Kay commented that the meeting had only barely been quorate and urged committee members to do their best to attend. Cllr Mrs Elliott apologised for inadvertently missing the meeting.

Cllr Kay had contacted Liam Chambers about the location of his **boot camp**, which had indeed made use of KGV on two occasions. Mr Chambers was informed that he needed permission from the Clerk and was required to pay a hire charge. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Chambers had been in touch and had formally booked use of the field twice a month. She had sent him an invoice for the two outstanding dates.

For the benefit of new Cllrs, Cllr Kay gave fulsome background information on the **MUGA at Forest Green and Market Street Garden** projects, both of which had been ongoing for some years.

Martin Portus and John Byrne had approved the cheaper **pavings for Market Street Garden**; these were thinner but perfectly adequate. A CDM would have to be employed to oversee the project.

In response to Cllr Mrs Thorpe's concern that funding for **Nailsworth Games** had not been budgeted for, Cllr Kay reassured her that provision would be requested from the precept in the next financial year, but he did not anticipate the cost would be very great.

It was confirmed that the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** would be the first week in June 2012 and the Mayor hoped to arrange an initial meeting on Monday 19 September, with a view to encouraging the formation of a residents' committee to organise some form of town celebration.

Cllr Mrs Reed had noted Dale Vince's declaration not to support the School/FGR-FC Astro turf project and questioned how this affected the **MUGA**. Cllr Kay explained the background of both schemes which were not connected and confirmed that FGR-FC fully supported the building of the MUGA and the change of site.

Cllr Carter questioned whether there was any information on the distribution of **SDC's £50k youth grant**; the Mayor responded that the Youth Council might be involved in helping with the decision, but members were sixth formers from local schools who did not attend youth clubs, so did not really represent youth club users.

**2011/50                    ADOPTION of STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS & APPROVAL of ANNUAL RETURN**

The supporting notes were circulated with the agenda, and served as a basis for the internal auditor's report; the internal auditor had signed off his part of the annual return which would be submitted to the auditors for completion of the annual audit.

**RESOLVED                    Cllr Carter proposed, seconded by Cllr M Robinson to unanimous agreement, that the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return 2010/2011 be adopted and signed.**

**2011/51                    ACCOUNTS**

**PROPOSED                    that the list of accounts for 19 June 2011 amounting to £30,106.23 be approved for payment.**

**2011/52                    Boundary Commission – electoral review of Gloucestershire, draft recommendations**

Various proposals were put forward for changes in the representation of County Cllrs, which did not strictly affect Nailsworth. Any Cllr wanting further information should go to [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) to see all the recommendations and relevant maps.

**2011/52                    Neil Carmichael MP – local campaign for superfast broadband**

Mr Carmichael was preparing for a particular debate and sought any additional information or data to support a need in this area. The Clerk was asked to respond that NTC supported the campaign but had nothing to add.

**2011/53                    CPRE – AGM 28 June**

Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend the AGM at Toddington Village Hall on 28 June starting at 7pm. Attendees could stay for a light supper and drink at a cost of £14 a ticket. The AGM would include a talk on the Sapperton gas pipe project.

**2011/54                    GCC - road closure Watledge 11-22 July**

Repairs would be undertaken to a collapsing retaining wall from 9 to 3.30 on weekdays, but work would only commence once works in George Street had finished.

..... Chairman

..... Date