

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
 Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday 17 June 2008
MINUTES

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor)	
	Cllr J D Bratby	
	*	Cllr J A Byrne
	Cllr J R Nicholson	
	Cllr S Robinson	
	Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe	
	Cllr Mrs J M Way	
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Also present for part of the meeting	District Cllr RTH Blackwell	
	District Cllr Mrs F Macmillan	
	Mr Mike Conroy, NYCE	
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Apologies	Cllr B Jayes	County Cllr J S Waddington
	Cllr A G Wheeler	
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	* Denotes absence from part of the meeting	

2008/30 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – presentation from NYCE

Mr Conroy reported on progress made by NYCE since it was formed to save the Boys Club building. NYCE had received charity commission recognition and had been doing research to establish how to develop the organisation to best serve the needs of the community. He said it had established that a large part of the town's youth felt alienated and the Business Plan under preparation would put forward different initiatives for young people, as well as community activities aimed at fostering a greater sense of cohesion within the community. It was planned to launch the Business Plan in the autumn with a number of pilot studies, and local architect David Austin had been brought in to advise on schemes for restoring the building.

Mr Conroy felt that NYCE was a prime candidate to benefit from the recent generous bequest to Nailsworth. It was pointed out that the trustees were currently consulting with NTC about possible beneficiaries. The Mayor and Cllr Robinson accepted Mr Conroy's invitation to visit the premises.

2008/31 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 20 May 2008 were approved and signed.

2008/32 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Bratby reminded the meeting that he had resigned as NTC's representative on the NYCE committee.

2008/33 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Four applications had been received, from Mrs Dorcas Binns, Mr Paul Carter, Mr David Austin, Mr Stephen Migdal. The interview panel would comprise the Mayor, Cllrs Robinson, Nicholson and Mrs Thorpe, with interviews to take place at on Thursday 26 June. The Clerk was asked to arrange appointments at 20 minute intervals starting at 6.15.

2008/34 REPORT OF COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Waddington had asked the Mayor to report on the **46 bus service**; Cllr Waddington hoped that some arrangement with Stagecoach would be made to reinstate the early evening buses for people to get back from work along the Cheltenham route, and which would terminate in Forest Green. Notification had been received that the **Stroud night bus** would cease its service on 30

June. The Clerk added that she had received a letter from GCC advising that it continued to explore possibilities for the early evening 46 service and apologising for not acting within the letter of its charter.

District Cllr Mrs Macmillan reported on an extraordinary meeting which had taken place regarding the **canal regeneration project**; a vote was taken that SDC would seek to become the lead partner and application to the Heritage Lottery had been submitted.

With regard to planning issues, Cllr Mrs Macmillan advised that the **application for the Cheldon development** (down by Goldwater Springs) had been refused.

Cllr Mrs Macmillan had attended the Community Safety Panel meeting in mid June and had noticed that the **police** were not putting much time into this area. She intended to attend INA meetings in the future to ensure Nailsworth was represented.

Mr David Hagg came to Nailsworth (by bus!) for a tour of the town with Cllr Mrs Macmillan yesterday and walked up to FG, where they considered several points of contention, such as dog bins and the MUGA, and various queries from the Mayor were passed on. Cllr Mrs Macmillan had noted that there were issues with the new **MUGA** and suggested the Neighbourhood Warden and Youth Worker could be brought in to the discussions.

District Cllr Blackwell had nothing to add other than to draw attention to the importance of the canal restoration project. He looked forward to the formal opening of the MUGA in Forest Green.

2008/35 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor had visited Prices Mill Surgery as a patient and had seen a leaflet on the **patients' participation group** at Minchinhampton Surgery. The Prices Mill practice manager had advised him that following consideration, it had been decided not to have one in Nailsworth. The Mayor was of the opinion that there should be some form of consultation process for the mutual benefit of the surgery and patients and asked if cllrs would like him to pursue this. In particular with the recent debate on replacing surgeries with polyclinics (there was a petition in the surgery as part of the BMA campaign against this scheme), and with consultation on Gloucestershire's NHS provision having gone quiet, cllrs agreed that it would be a good idea for the Mayor, aided by Cllrs Bratby and Nicholson, to follow up on the idea of a patients' participation group for Nailsworth.

The Mayor reported on the third stakeholders meeting today regarding the **large MUGA** – now to be an artificial grass pitch facility. He reminded the meeting that the provision of a MUGA was part of the planning conditions for FGR-FC's new stadium and was supposed to have been built before the stadium went ahead. This had not been possible in the event, and the cost of installing a MUGA now had risen to an estimated £317,000 – much of the increase because of now having to dispose of earth which was originally intended to be subsumed into the Stadium build.

The £85,000 from Redrow was still in the hands of SDC, and NTC was trying to establish the extent of accrued interest. NTC had committed £5000 to the project and FGR-FC's contribution of £13,000 remained unconfirmed. Neither GCC nor SDC had committed any funding. The specification for the court surface was being discussed with the Football Foundation prior to revised estimates being sought. The funding application to the Football Foundation was complicated and a Business Plan was needed to include clear indication of the need for the MUGA and a financial management plan, to be submitted in August/September for a decision by December.

Cllr Nicholson stressed that under the 106 agreement, FGR-FC was responsible for providing the MUGA and the onus should be on the Club to find the extra funding now needed. The facility would bring extra income to the Club through hire to other groups/clubs, but it was important to ensure that sufficient time was set aside for use of it by the community, and at special rates.

The Clerk raised a note of alarm from the meeting when an SDC officer had seemed to suggest that if not satisfied that the facility was wholly inclusive SDC might not release the developer contribution funds for the project.

The Mayor extended to cllrs an invitation from Macarthy & Stone to a launch visit and buffet reception at **Maple Tree Court** on Wednesday 25 June, at 12.30 for 1.00. He would be attending and intended to ask pertinent questions such as arrangements for residents' parking, wheelchair access, and Cllr Nicholson suggested he ask about the number of service people (and cars) who would be attending the site on a daily basis.

2008/36 REPORT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Robinson reviewed the visit to Nailsworth by Mr Paul McLain, GCC cabinet member for youth service – which was reported in the minutes of the Recreation & Amenities committee meeting on 12 June.

This morning, Cllr Robinson had met with Mrs Dorcas Binns and Ms Alison Williams, new head of Prospect which had taken over GCC **youth services**, and had taken them on a tour of the town. Ms Williams had promised to talk with the head of youth services about funding and hoped to revert with some figures by the end of the week. Cllr Robinson had the strong impression that if Nailsworth agreed to fund half the £30,000 annual cost of a youth worker, GCC might be prepared to confirm this as a permanent position. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that if NTC set a precedent by accepting to pay half the cost of a youth worker, was this intended to be for ever? And it would mean the acceptance of GCC's failing in its statutory responsibility to fund a youth worker for the town.

2008/37 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

2008/38 REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Bratby presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 27 May and the minutes were approved following deletion of the * absences from start of meeting.

It was confirmed that NTC was a life member of the Drinking Fountains Association – which traditionally gave up to £2000 to projects. The Mayor would contact Ms Rachel Small SDC so she could make an appropriate application for the Nailsworth **stone fountain restoration**. Mr Norrie Curtis had indicated that he hoped to get the work going by September. Questions were raised again about the cost and energy usage of the proposed up-lighting system for the fountain, and the Clerk was asked to seek clarification from Mr Curtis on what exactly was planned.

2008/39 REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 12 June and the minutes were approved.

It appeared two further **K6 telephone boxes** were up for removal, from Watledge and Shortwood Green, according to information provided by District Cllr Mrs Macmillan. The Mayor had checked the regulations online and advised that BT had to consult with both the local planning authority and the local parish or town council, and it seemed to suggest there was a right to veto the proposed removal. There had been no communication from BT, but the Clerk reported an email dated 13 June from SDC advising the intention. An appeal process was apparently available, and the Clerk was asked to write to SDC stating that Nailsworth did not want to lose any more public telephone boxes.

Horse muck complaint – PC Nolan had confirmed that there was no legislation against horse muck on the public highway.

Cllr Mrs Way reported that she found the **refurbished public toilets** in the bus station unsatisfactory, with unhelpful signage, odd locking arrangements, no indication from outside if toilet was occupied or vacant. The 24h toilet was already out of use. She was invited to submit her comments to SDC.

Cllr Robinson advised that the **Nailsworth Games** organising committee had met last evening. Mrs Dorcas Binns, coordinator for Sunday 6th activities, had asked for volunteers to steward on the day between 10am and 4pm. Cllr Byrne would help, and possibly Cllrs Bratby and Mrs Thorpe.

Cllr Nicholson had been referred to another SDC officer and would be writing about NTC's wish to take over **management of SDC play areas** in the town.

Cllr Nicholson reported that some remedial work had been undertaken yesterday on **Shortwood Green** by Balfour Beaty, with some top soil and seeding, and it would be wise for NTC to rope off the area to protect it from SDC grass cutting. It was not a very brilliant job.

With regard to **allotments**, Cllr Nicholson warned that unless NTC was being strongly pressed to provide more, this should be left well alone; it was a big job to manage. The one allotment manager in Nailsworth had advised that she had a waiting list of eight people, and the Mayor had had a positive response from two others.

2008/40 REPORT FROM FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs Thorpe reported that the working party had met today and most of its recent work had gone into securing the Redrow marketing suite for use as a temporary community centre. Redrow was likely to vacate at the end of July so it was hoped to take over the building in August and be ready to open for business early September. Cllr Nicholson had undertaken a fire risk assessment, and a change of use agreement from SDC needed to be obtained amongst other jobs. The Mayor was working with solicitors to finalise the rental agreement, each side to pay its own legal costs. It was agreed that NTC solicitors should prepare the rental agreement documentation. An official Launch of the facility was planned. Work on developing the Business Plan was progressing, and being able to start operating would be very helpful in providing information on need and usage.

The transfer of land ownership was also in hand with solicitors; with all legal costs for this to be met by Redrow.

Bus shelter (opposite site of FG-CC) – Mr Gavin Hill of Redrow had confirmed that the company accepted responsibility for reinstatement of the bus shelter and that this was in hand.

2008/41 REPORT OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Mayor presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 5 June and the minutes were approved.

Councillors' expenses – Cllr Nicholson explained why he felt NTC should not claim expenses and the past history on the matter. Discussion ensued as to the right to claim expenses –v- the public perception of 'cllrs being in it for the money'. NTC had previously resolved not to claim attendance allowance, but views were split on mileage allowance and other disbursements, the lack of which might discourage certain people from becoming cllrs. It was made clear that attendance fees and travel allowance to specific conferences/events that a cllr might attend representing NTC, or disbursements for a particular project, were refunded on an individual basis, so there was no need for any cllr to be out of pocket. It was up to each cllr's discretion whether to claim or not. The Mayor received an annual sum to help with undertaking the duties of the office.

PROPOSED Cllr Nicholson proposed seconded by Cllr Mrs Way, that cllrs should not claim expenses according to the scale of rates listed in the minutes, unless it was confirmed that this was a statutory requirement, and the motion was carried with four votes in favour.

Bequest - The Mayor explained that the purpose of the first meeting had been to consider an initial list of possible projects. This list was for further discussion, addition and amendment, prior to making a presentation to the trustees.

Discussion ensued as to the alternative merit of putting forward one large project (FG-CC) for up to £300k with the remaining £100k remaining invested for projects which would without doubt arise in the future, as with the Mortimer bequest which had funded the creation of Mortimer Gardens and the Mortimer Room. It would be a pity to dissipate this unexpected windfall on a variety of "housekeeping" type projects which could be funded in other ways. Many worthy causes could benefit from this bequest but it was suggested the money should go to town council led projects in order to safeguard the true intentions of the bequest.

It was not clear what the trustees' timeframe was for disposing of the bequest. If the trustees wished to approve specific projects fairly quickly it was recognised that the FG-CC would not be ready to go ahead for at least two years.

RESOLVED with four votes in favour, to ask the trustees for further direction to establish if they would be prepared to earmark up to £300k for the FG-CC, if the criteria of the bequest was satisfied, and leave the balance invested for disbursement later.

It was agreed that the Mayor and Clerk would seek a further meeting with the trustees.

2008/42 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 22 May and 3 June 2008 be approved.

2008/43 EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

A training session had taken place to discuss the website and links with the media; whether there was a need for a separate communications committee. Notes from the meeting had been circulated and cllrs approved the Mayor's suggestion to defer the matter to the FE&GP committee to explore further and make recommendations.

* Cllr Byrne left the meeting.

2008/44 PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO TOWN CENTRE PARKING

The Mayor declared a non pecuniary interest and explained that in the NCP's transport committee's report on town centre parking which had been circulated previously, cllrs were invited to approve the recommendation that:

- the time limit for parking in the present long-stay area behind the police station be *reduced* to three hours and that the time limit on adjacent SDC parking areas be *increased* to three hours so that parking in that contiguous area was consistently controlled
- the Town Council should allow trades-people to use the hard standing car parking space on the KGV field for long-term parking as a temporary measure until alternative long term parking facilities could be provided

It was stressed that the two proposals should be clearly associated and approval for one should not be given without approval for the other.

Cllr Nicholson considered that any changes in parking time limits should apply to all car parks in the town centre and introducing yet another time option would serve only to confuse drivers. The suggestion for long term parking at the KGV was totally unacceptable even as a temporary measure, and he therefore proposed that the recommendation be rejected. The Mayor was of the opinion that the recommendation did infer that a three hour time limit should be imposed in all town centre car parks. Discussion ensued as to how to proceed, with proposals and counter proposals being made and withdrawn.

The Mayor proposed and it was agreed, that discussion be deferred until the next meeting of the Council and that the chairman of the NCP be invited to attend to elucidate the matter.

2008/45 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

The amendments proposed were following recommendations from the National Association of Local Councils to comply with the current code of conduct. They would lie on the table for approval at the September meeting.

a) New order 17 to read:

At all meetings of the council the chairman may at his/her discretion, and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct which was adopted by the council on 16 April 2002 shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting. Where, however, members of the council exercise their rights pursuant to SO 18 below, members of the public shall be allowed to attend the meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions, or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted.

New order 18 to read:

At all meetings of the council, the chairman may permit members of the council (including co-opted members as defined by s49 (7) Local Government Act 2000) who have a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business to be transacted at that meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions, or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct which was adopted by the council on 16 April 2002 shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting.

b) Re-number existing standing orders 17-62 to 19-64 respectively.

c) Delete words in brackets in standing order 16 (n)

2008/46 ACCOUNTS

Item 101

The clerk drew attention to the April bill from Ms Bojaniwska for work on the design statement and advised that £7850 of the agreed budget of £8500 had been paid out. There was nothing in the 08/09 budget for this work since it had been expected to finish within the previous financial year. It was regretted that this project had got out of hand, and accepted that Ms Bojaniwska had had less help with it than anticipated, thus requiring more work from her. The Mayor advised that Mr Conrad Moore, SDC senior planner had opined that the Design Statement satisfied its purpose in providing supplementary planning guidance and it was ready to go out to public consultation. He reported that Rachel Small SDC had confirmed that up to £2000 was available from regeneration funding to cover costs of amending the document following consultation and printing costs of the final version. Ms Bojaniwska would be asked to submit a revised invoice to come within the budgeted figure.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 17 June 2008 excluding item 101 amounting to £22,117.87 be approved for payment.

2008/47 Citizens Advice Bureau – AGM 19 June

Cllr Bratby would attend the AGM on 19 June at Ebley Mill, commencing at 12noon.

2008/48 Namulas Pension Fund – rent review TIC

The Council approved signature of the revised annual rental agreement of £5750 and noted that the standing order for the quarterly payment would be adjusted accordingly.

2008/49 Glos NHS PCT – decision on rurality of Kings Stanley area

Notification had been circulated that Kings Stanley was designated as rural area.

2008/50 CPRE (campaign to protect rural England) AGM 3 July

The AGM would take place at Berkeley Castle on 3 July at 6.30pm.

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Date

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Chairman