

**NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
 Meeting of the Town Council at the Town Hall, Nailsworth  
**on Tuesday 16 September 2008**  
**MINUTES**

Present	Cllr N I Kay (Town Mayor) * Cllr Mrs DLM Binns * Cllr J A Byrne Cllr P Carter Cllr B Jayes * Cllr J R Nicholson Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe Cllr Mrs J M Way Cllr A G Wheeler
Also present for part of the meeting	County Cllr J S Waddington District Cllr RTH Blackwell
Apologies	Cllr J D Bratby Cllr S Robinson District Cllr J T Jeffreys District Cllr Miss F Macmillan
* Denotes absence from part of the meeting	

**2008/75 NAILSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

Cllr Jayes reported on his first impressions as NTC representative on the Nailsworth Primary School board of governors. He involves himself with the staff and children as much as he can and takes part in the Better Reading programme for year 6 pupils. Cllr Jayes was very impressed with the friendly atmosphere, lovely staff, and a great head teacher who was sadly, though understandably, moving on. Governors were actively engaged in seeking a new head, but there were currently many vacancies across the county and the school was prepared to wait for the right high calibre applicant. Pupil numbers were increasing with 190 on roll this term.

In response to a query from Cllr Mrs Thorpe, Cllr Jayes said he would enquire about the school's interaction with the Children's Centre at the Library, but he was aware that the head had been disappointed that this facility had not been set up at the school.

Cllr Mrs Way queried whether there were problems with traffic congestion at the start and end of the school day; Cllr Jayes did not believe this was an issue, with many children arriving on foot and a substantial car park used for those arriving by car.

\* Cllrs Byrne and Nicholson joined the meeting during the above report.

**2008/76 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July were confirmed and signed.

**2008/77 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Carter had offered to be the council's representative on the Chamber of Trade, at the INA Police Consultative Meetings and for the Nailsworth Community Partnership (NCP).

**2008/78 YOUTH SUPPORT FOR NAILSWORTH (minute 2008/53)**

The Mayor advised that a draft agreement for Nailsworth Youth Worker was awaited from GCC, and he was chasing Ms Lyn Speak, head of GCC Youth Services, to obtain this.

**2008/79 REFURBISHED TOILETS (minute 2008/57)**

Cllr Mrs Way was pleased to advise that instruction signs had now been put up, which were very helpful in clarifying the use of the new toilets. All agreed the refurbished toilet block was a much improved facility for the town.

**2008/80 BROKEN FREE STANDING SIGN (minute 2008/67 – accounts item 129)**

The Mayor reported that the broken sign had now been repaired.

**2008/81 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

**District Cllr Blackwell's** main concern was the landslip from the former Tinkley Lane tip. An article in Nailsworth News had raised public awareness and several cllrs and SDC officers had visited the site. Footpaths in the area were overgrown and neglected. SDC and the Environment Agency were monitoring the situation but a solution had not yet been decided. **District Cllr Miss Macmillan's** written report on the subject was read out. Cllr Blackwell would liaise with Cllr Miss Macmillan to work on a solution.

Cllr Blackwell reported that last Saturday 4 children had created a mud slide on the Green at Jubilee Road, and on Sunday there were 20 helping in the destruction of the grass and chucking soil at each other and the house of a nearby resident. The Clerk confirmed that the Green was NTC property but vandalism was a police matter. Reinstating the Green would be down to NTC.

Cllr Blackwell advised that it looked likely that from 2011 SDC cllrs would all be up for election on a 4 year cycle.

Cllr Nicholson added that he had also visited the Tinkley landslip and advised that the public rights of way people were not involved since the footpaths in this area were unofficial. The slip extended into the stream and water tests for pollution had been taken. SDC would have to take action.

With regard to the change in SDC election procedure, Cllr Nicholson advised that this had been looked at in the past, with residents being asked for their view. The current election on rotation system had always been preferred.

Cllr Waddington wished to congratulate the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Binns and their team on the organisation of a very successful celebration of the town's two Olympic heroes last Saturday. A letter of appreciation had been received from Mr David Drew MP and a thank you note from gold medallist Peter Reed.

\* Cllr Mrs Binns joined the meeting during the above discussions.

**2008/82 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor's report would be covered in the course of committee matters.

**2008/83 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Wheeler's nomination for the **vacancy on the Standards Committee** had been accepted; there were 10 candidates. The Clerk had completed and returned the ballot paper voting for Cllr Wheeler.

Following discussion on The Bequest, NTC had sought clarification from the trustees on the use of the gift, timing and criteria for applying. NTC had been asked to put forward a list of possible projects, both council led and other, which complied with the terms of the benefactor's will, the emphasis being on the promotion of homes for the elderly and indoor recreational space for the young. In principle the suggestion to use a large part of the bequest towards the new FGCH build was supported, pending notification of other funding obtained and the formal business plan. It was agreed the Bequest would

be discussed further at the meeting of the FE&GP committee which would take place on Thursday 2 October.

In a break with tradition, a list of forthcoming meetings had been circulated within the Clerk's report this time, and cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk which meetings they wished to attend.

#### **2008/84            ADOPT A BT KIOSK PROGRAMME**

Email information on BT's offer had been circulated to cllrs. The Watledge and Shortwood K6 phone boxes were currently down for removal and BT was offering a) the structure without telephone free of charge, or b) retention of the kiosk with serviced and maintained phone at £500 p.a. each.

As instructed, the Clerk had put forward NTC's objection to the removal of both these kiosks and SDC coordinator Ms Rachel Small was currently on leave. According to BT's records, 35 calls were made from the Watledge phone in the last year, and 36 from Shortwood. It was agreed that there was no point in retaining empty kiosks which NTC would be responsible for maintaining, but cllrs felt £500 a year was not a good use of taxpayer's money to retain a public phonebox.

The Clerk advised that BT had set a date for applications to adopt a kiosk to be submitted by 1 October, but cllrs wished to await response to SDC's objection campaign before making any decision, and Cllr Mrs Binns undertook to seek news on this. No representations from residents on the threatened closures had been received by NTC.

#### **2008/85            REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

In the absence of the chairman, the report of the meeting held on 22 July was presented by Cllr Mrs Way and the minutes were approved.

The Clerk advised that there were further problems with the boiler at Hazelwood which would incur additional expense.

With regard to the Stone Fountain, Cllr Bratby had heard from Mr Norrie Curtis that SDC's application for the £8k shortfall in funding had been turned down but an appeal process was available, and Mr Curtis was preparing an application. The Mayor expressed concern that this final £8k shortfall was holding everything up and the tenders for the works were already 4 months old. It was hoped to have some news for next week's meeting of the committee.

#### **2008/86            REPORT OF RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Byrne presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 12 August and the minutes were approved with correction of the misspelling of Cllr Jayes' name on page 2, and deletion of "3 votes in favour" at the end of the proposal.

Cllr Nicholson expanded on the committee's deliberations resulting in the decision to accept the offer of the triangle of rough ground at Newmarket Road, however written confirmation of the offer was awaited before any formal acceptance could be made.

#### Market Street Triangle

Despite Cllr Byrne's pressing, the landscape architects had failed to provide any figures or written estimates for provision of the stress calculations required by GCC. He would chase one more time before looking elsewhere. It was understood that there would be cost involved in obtaining the required report, as well as in commissioning plans and preparation of a specification so that the job could go out to tender.

#### **2008/87            REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 1 September and the minutes were approved. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 June were also approved.

**2008/88 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**County Cllr Waddington** drew attention to the Parish & Town Council Highway seminar on 15 October and the Clerk confirmed that four cllrs would be attending.

Results of the well supported public consultation over the residual waste contract were being analysed into a paper to be put before cabinet on 19 November.

Regional spatial strategy was considered by GCC at its meeting last week and it would be lodging an objection to the most recent strategy proposals; there would be a long debate before seeking cabinet's final approval to the objection.

Results of the surveys of traffic on Inchbrook Hill would be analysed in order to prepare new proposals for Star Hill/Jubilee Road traffic problems to bring to a further public meeting.

Cllr Waddington advised that major flood defence works were to be carried out in Fountain and George Streets, involving the creation of additional culverts. This was likely to cause much traffic congestion, and he hoped to do one road in this financial year and the other in next. Plans to create shared space in George Street would be taken into account.

A very good inaugural meeting of the Cycling Forum had taken place, and business proper would start at the next meeting to be held in October/November.

**2008/89 REPORT OF TOWN NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholson presented the report of the meeting of the committee held on 18 August. He explained the decision behind the proposal to revert to 3 issues of the Fountain p.a. which was carried unanimously.

**2008/90 REPORT OF FOREST GREEN COMMUNITY HALL WORKING PARTY**

It was noted that it had been decided to rename the project Community HALL.

There had been a last minute hitch over the proposed takeover of the Redrow suite on 1 September, but Cllr Mrs Thorpe was pleased to announce that a contract had now been signed for takeover on Monday 3 November for one year, with a rolling renewal. Regrettably articles in the Fountain and Nailsworth News on the open day scheduled for 6 September had gone to press; apologies and new dates would be given in the next editions. The working party was now concentrating on promoting the new facility and preparation of the business plan.

The Mayor explained that the draft transfer agreement for the land had been prepared, but was a template agreement for selling houses so much of it was not applicable to this case. NTC's lawyers had removed several clauses, some of which Redrow's lawyers wished to reinstate, but the Mayor felt he had resolved the points of contention over the telephone with Redrow's technical director.

Enquiries had been made about extending the opening hours of 10h-22h Monday-Saturdays and 10h-18h Sundays and bank holidays (not including setting up and clearing time). A complete resubmission of the planning application (free if within 12 months) would be required to attempt to extend the opening hours but Cllr Nicholson had spoken with an SDC planning officer who was not optimistic that this would be granted because of the site being within a residential area. He recommended that the Council seek advice from District Cllrs before deciding on a resubmission. It might help the eventual re-application if it included evidence of requests for bookings outside these hours.

**2008/91 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Wheeler presented the report of the meetings of the committee held on 17 July, 28 July, 5 August, 21 August and 2 September.

Meeting 17 July

Regarding the committee's wish to employ a minute taker, the Clerk advised that she needed to have the responses to applications at once so these could be returned to SDC, although full minutes could come later. The meeting approved the committee's proposal to employ a minute taker, with the job description duly amended to reflect the Clerk's point on response forms.

Meeting 5 August

Cllr Nicholson reminded the meeting that it was intended to have a cllrs' training evening with Mr David Free to review his proposals for town centre design.

Meeting of 2 September

Cllrs Wheeler and Mrs Binns met Diocese officers who were very positive about a partnership idea with GCC, SDC, NTC for developing spare vicarage land for affordable housing, and proposals were awaited from the Diocese within 6 weeks.

RESOLVED that the comments made by the Planning Committee at its meetings held on 17 July, 28 July, 5 August, 21 August and 2 September 2008 be approved.

**2008/92 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

Discussion and explanations ensued on the reasons behind the recommendations for all councils to adopt the amended standing orders.

PROPOSED the Mayor proposed, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thorpe to unanimous agreement that the following Standing Orders 17 and 18 be inserted.

“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”

“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”.

Re-number existing standing orders 17 -62 to 19-64 respectively.  
Delete words in brackets in standing order 16 (n).

**2008/93 ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED that the list of accounts at 19 August 2008 amounting to £12,788.79 and the list for 16 September amounting to £19,440.32 be approved for payment.

**2008/94 Mr Ian Mackintosh - report on Dunkirk Mill Museum 2007/08**

Mr Mackintosh's report was read out. It had been a successful year, with increased number of visitors and groups at both Dunkirk and the recently opened Gig Mills. New volunteers were sought to staff the venues.

**2008/95 David Austin & Associates – Evans report**

Following its talk to Stroud Civic Society, a CD of the PowerPoint presentation and visuals had been passed on to NTC.

**2008/96 SDC request for temporary road closure**

The notification of temporary closure of Market Street for the craft market on 20 September was approved.

**2008/97 Agenda for GAPTC AGM Thursday 9 October**

The Mayor hoped to attend this meeting at Shire Hall. There only seemed to be one proposal from Cam TC: to remove the obligation for parishes to hold an annual town meeting. Cllrs agreed to vote against this proposal subject to the discussion.

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Date

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Chairman