

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council
 Held at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Old Bristol Road
on Tuesday 16th April 2024

Present:

Cllr Mike Kelly (Chair)
 Cllr Peter Bodkin
 Cllr Patsy Freeman
 Cllr Angela Norman
 Cllr Steve Robinson
 Cllr Jonathan Duckworth*
 Cllr Shelley Rider

Minutes:

Clerk

Apologies:

Cllr Colleen Rothwell
 Cllr Paul Francis
 Cllr Ros Mulhall
 Cllr Natalie Bennett

Verbal Introductions

These were made.

2023/241**Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

2023/242**Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensations**

Cllr Steve Robinson declared an interest in the grant application from the Town Twinning Association, being a member of this group.

2023/243**Consideration of Planning Applications received as follows:****CONSULTATION**

None.

PREVIOUSLY TRACKED APPLICATIONS

- a) S. 24/0141/TPO. TPO 547, The Old Vicarage, 2 Vicarage Gardens, Nailsworth. Application: Tree Preservation Order. T1 - Horse Chestnut - Reduce canopy by 40% - 9 metres from height and 5 metres from side laterals. Application permitted. NTC: What is the reason for the 40%.
- b) S.24/0295/TCA. The Old George, Tabrams Pitch, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire. Application: Trees in a Conservation Area. T1 Crack willow: Crown reduce by 4m. T2 Crack willow: Crown reduce by 4m. T3 Crack willow: Crown reduce by 4m. Application permitted. NTC comment: noted.
- c) S.24/0238/TCA. Coopers Mill, Dunkirk Mills, Inchbrook, Gloucestershire. Application: Trees in a Conservation Area. Description: T1 - Ash. Remove. T9 - Ash. Remove. T10 - Ash. - Remove. T11 - Ash. Remove. T12 - Ash. Remove. T13 - Crack Willow. Reduce to 12m. T17 - Black Poplar. Remove. T18 - Sycamore. Remove entirely the compromised western stem with bark loss (facing the parking area) to 1.5m above the trifurcation. T19 - Sycamore. Pollard western stem showing signs of a phytopthera or Kretzmaria. T20 - Ash. Remove. T21 - Ash. Remove. Application permitted. NTC: noted

2023/244**To confirm minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024.**

These were noted.

All agreed

**Cllr Jonathan Duckworth arrived at this point.*

2023/245

To confirm the minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024

These were noted.

All agreed

2023/246

Accounts:

To agree payments in accordance with the budget as listed in the attached reports

Cllrs Jonathan Duckworth and Angela Norman agreed to authorise the payments.

All agreed

2023/247

To consider moving NTC's banking to a different provider

Clerk explained that this will need to be a managed move and won't be immediate. In consideration of the time which has been spent putting right problems with NTC's banking provider, there was support for this change.

It was **resolved** to move NTC's banking to Unity Trust Bank.

All agreed.

2023/248

To consider closing NTC's National Savings Account and moving the funds to the current account

A sum of approximately £14,000 remains in a National Savings account in NTC's name; this money is the remains of the Mortimer Bequest which was used to create the Mortimer Garden.

It was **resolved** to close NTC's National Savings account and move all the funds to NTC's current account.

All agreed

It was **resolved** to divide the funds equally between earmarked Reserves for the Civic Centre project and Town Archives room refurbishment.

All agreed

2023/249

To consider a response to a question from a resident on the council's comments on Miry Barn planning application

Council was reminded of the previous objections to the application in 2022. It was noted that the 'equestrian' aspect of the planning application had been removed since its first submission and therefore the application was only for the building itself and the effect on the access track.

There was a discussion about the comments from residents on the Planning Portal and that many had concerns about the effect on the public right of way. It was noted that Newland Homes' Pike Lane development does not change the settlement boundary.

The Clerk confirmed it's acceptable to submit additional comments.

After further discussion about each of NTC's points submitted on the previous application, the following additional comments were agreed.

In consideration of the depth of feeling of residents, NTC submit these further comments;

1. *The application is outside the settlement boundary.*
2. *The applicant states the building is a heritage asset, however it has not been identified as having heritage interest by SDC. Is the building an exception to CP15?*
3. *Whilst acknowledging the applicant has made changes to the development for pedestrians, there are concerns about the dual use of the access track/PROW and the danger this poses to pedestrians.*
4. *The application fails to acknowledge the danger of additional weight from more frequent vehicles on the access track. What quality of track will need to be put in place to accommodate this? How will the new development accommodate turning/reversing vehicles?*
5. *There is no Tree Survey or evidence of the health of the trees, to back up the removal of the trees.*

All agreed

The Clerk was tasked with responding to the resident's question on NTC's previous comments on the Miry Barn planning application.

2023/250

To consider a grant application for £900 from the Town Twinning Association

Council is asked to consider the grant application and financial statement from the Town Twinning Association.

There was considerable discussion about the grant application and the financial statement of the Association and the following points were raised;

- the Association have funds of around £4,000 in their account and that £2,000 was granted by NTC in 2019 (not used due to covid-19). Have these funds been used since?
- concerns about the wider benefit to the town and access to non-member residents
- would like to have seen more evidence of fundraising. If NTC is giving money to an organisation with £4,000 in the bank then what's the organisation doing with these funds, and what fundraising are they doing?
- would like to see more evidence of involvement of the community; the Association is visiting the Primary School
- £900 is nearly a quarter of NTC's annual grant budget
- NTC signed an official Town Twinning Charter with Leves and it's worth the new council looking at the contents of this and the expectations.
- Cultural exchanges are important; NTC has a Friendship Agreement with Perry, USA.
- There was support for the 'benefits in kind' suggested (providing free room hire of the Mortimer Room on arrival: cost £40. Remembrance Day wreath from NTC: cost £20. A gift to Leves of a Bristol Blue Glass bird: cost £39)
- Need to demonstrate that Nailsworth is welcoming.

In conclusion;

It was **agreed** to grant the benefits in kind as listed (Mortimer Room hire, Remembrance Day wreath from NTC, Bristol Blue Bird) to the value of £100.

All agreed.

It was **agreed** to grant £300 plus the benefits in kind to the value of £100.

Six agreed, one abstained.

Motion carried.

2023/251

Financial summary:

- a) **Income and Expenditure report**
- b) **Budget comparison report**

c) Main bank account reconciliation report
d) Premier bank account reconciliation report

These reports were noted.

2023/252

To review NTC's Risk Assessment

It was highlighted that with a new council coming into place in May, there are some higher risks. There is a high risk that NTC's Communications and Social Media Policies may be breached. It was noted that one of NTC's strengths is the lack of political bias. Political statements are not acceptable. The new council will be reminded that all decisions are the decisions of the council, and that all communications come from the office, on behalf of the council.

It's hoped that the welcome and induction session on Tuesday 7th May will be a chance for the new council to get to know each other as a group.

2023/253

To review the Council's [Action Plan](#)

Noted.

2023/254

Report from Town Mayor

The last report from the present Mayor was noted. Mayor Mike Kelly gave thanks to all staff and to cllrs for their support during his time in office.

2023/255

Report from Deputy Mayor

Noted.

2023/256

Report from District Councillors

Noted.

2023/257

Report from County Councillors

The County Cllr reported that with the amount of rainfall this Winter, there are many problems with gullies and flooding which have been brought to the attention of GCC Highways. All GCC's flooding funds have been allocated for the next year and there are no further funds for repair work.

Nympsfield Road from Youth Club to stadium will be resurfaced in Q2 of this year.

2023/258

To receive an update on NTC office activities

On top of the usual busy time of year, council is reminded of the arrangements for this year's Town Meeting on Saturday.

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 Town Mayor
 Nailsworth Town Council
 Civic Centre, Old Market, Nailsworth, GL6 0DU

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 Date