

DRAFT MINUTES

TOWN OF NAILSEA



THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING was held on **Wednesday 19 April 2017** at 7.30pm at the Tithe Barn, Church Lane, Nailsea. The Chairman, Cllr D Packham, welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced the staff and Councillors. He reported that several Councillors had sent their apologies as they were unable to attend.

NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

The Clerk informed those in attendance that the Notice convening the meeting had been displayed on the Public Notice Boards throughout the Town, has been advertised on the Town Council website and in the North Somerset Times. He read out the Notice, including the agenda and it was agreed that this had been displayed as required by law.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2016 were introduced and it was proposed by Councillor Barber that these minutes had been provided prior to the meeting, therefore they should be taken as read. This was agreed.

The Chairman asked if there were any queries over the minutes which there were not. It was agreed they were a correct record of the meeting of 20 April 2016 and the Chairman signed the minutes as such.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman reported that the last twelve months had been very busy for the Town and the Town Council. Once again the residents of Nailsea had excelled themselves with their generosity and support for the many activities that make this a great town to live in, as was emphasized in the feedback from the Town Consultation held at the end of 2016. Comments were made that Nailsea offers

- a good quality of life
- a positive sense of community
- a quiet and pleasant environment

Full details of the feedback from the Consultation are on the Town Council's website.

In 2016 the Town Council was awarded Quality Council status. The Council has previously held Quality Council status, however this new award meets more rigorous criteria set by the National Association of Local Councils.

Last May the Town Council adopted a 5-year Strategic Plan for the town. It was decided that implementation of the plan would follow the Town Consultation to reflect the views of the residents. Now that the results of the consultation were available, the Town Council will develop the strategy for the town to cover leisure provision, strategic planning, environmental issues, community engagement and governance. The strategy will also take account of the consequences of the further cutbacks in the services North Somerset Council is able to provide. The Town Council will be looking to maintain and develop facilities and services within the town for the future where it can.

As an example of how facilities can be we can be maintained and developed, last July saw the opening of the new Skatepark. This was a fine example of collaborative working to achieve the best outcome. Led by the Nailsea Skatepark Project, the users of the park were brought together to contribute towards the design of a new state of the art skatepark. They then went on to raise over half of the funds required to construct it. The people of Nailsea, once again, showed their generosity with their contributions and now we have a skatepark that is one of the best in the South-West.

A further example of team work was the Christmas Fair, held last December. A small determined group came together and working with the Town Centre company produced a Christmas Fair that will live long in the memory. There were so many activities for all ages and it showcased Nailsea as a town that has so much to offer and residents who work tirelessly for their town.

Over the last five years the Town Council has been developing a concept called 'Nailsea Place'. The purpose of Nailsea Place is to create a centre where people can meet for mutual support, the sharing of ideas and learning from each other in a safe environment to improve their health and wellbeing. To achieve this the Town Council has purchased 65 High Street – formerly known to many as Youth House. This building will be developed as a hub for a network of activities and plugged into the services provided by the public, commercial, charity and voluntary sectors in other locations. It will be a centre providing advice on where to find support services and activities; a venue for information and a base for local events, clubs, hobbies, volunteering opportunities, benefits advice, adult skills, employment programmes, money management, healthy lifestyle programmes and much more. This is about people being empowered to take positive actions to manage their own wellbeing.

65 High Street will also continue to be used as a centre for youth activities. Now that there is certainty over the ownership of the building, dedicated space will be given to the Youth Services team to customise it for their needs and for them to create a real home for themselves.

The nation has a housing shortage that affects people of all ages across the country. Nailsea has not seen any significant new housing built for over a decade and as a result people of all ages are unable to find the right accommodation for their needs in the town. It is a situation that has to change and announcements made by North Somerset Council over the last twelve months are going to have an impact on Nailsea. Following a long debate the Planning Inspector concluded that North Somerset Council must build around 21,000 new homes across North Somerset in the period up to 2026. What this means for Nailsea is that around 1000 new homes are to be built between now and 2026. The sites and numbers have been allocated by North Somerset Council and have been published for all to see and consultation has been undertaken. Whilst there are a wide range of views as to where these homes should be built, if the numbers are not achieved, and North Somerset Council is seen to be falling behind their target, there is a real danger that housing development will take place on unallocated sites, such as Youngwood Lane. The town needs to work together to meet the housing demand and make sure that development is undertaken within an agreed structure. Unstructured development will be bad for the town. The Town Council has sold land it owns on Engine Lane to Barratt Homes to build 183 homes, which will make a small contribution to the overall requirement of 1000 homes.

In 2016 the councils of North Somerset, Bristol City, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset published the 'West of England Joint Spatial Plan'. This plan is calling for 2,800 new homes to be built to the west of Nailsea between 2026 and 2036. This will have a significant effect on the town. The Town Council has already responded to the consultation that took place at the end of 2016 and there is expected to be further feedback and consultation later this year. As a town there is a need to be prepared to challenge the proposals for such a significant change to our town and respond with positive counter proposals that recognize the need for growth but in a manner that improves our town and brings with it the appropriate infrastructure requirements.

Finally, the Cllr Packham thanked all of the staff: Ian, Pennee, Emma, Corinne, Nicky, Mark, Mandy and Sue for their work and dedication on behalf of the Town and Town Council. Sue retired last November after 17 years with the Town Council and the Council wished her well in her retirement.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman introduced The Clerk to present the Statement of Accounts.

The Clerk reported that the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 were audited and certified correct on 25 September 2016 by the auditors, Grant Thornton, in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. He said that some copies were available from him on that evening and that a balance sheet, income and expenditure and trial balance were available from the office on request.

The Clerk explained that The Council had produced an Annual Report which has been included in the Nailsea Paper for distribution to all houses in the town in May.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions relating to these statements and none were raised.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

The Chairman invited questions or comments from anyone in attendance. Nobody wished to speak and so he moved onto the next agenda item.

PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUES TO LOCAL GROUPS AND TALKS

Cllr Packham said the Council was pleased to support the work of local groups in the Town and handed cheques to representatives in attendance. A list of all the organisations that receive a grant is listed below.

Grant Recipients	Amount £	Funds to be used for
1 st Nailsea Scouts	£750.00	Support of Nailsea Town Carnival
2467 (Nailsea) Squadron	£800.00	Purchase of laptops for cadets
2 nd Nailsea Scouts	£1000.00	Running May Fair/Replacing Scout Hut Porch
Community Alcohol and Drug Forum	£600.00	Continuing support for Forum
Nailsea Community Transport	£11,000.00	Insurance and maintenance of vehicles
Backwell & Nailsea Carers Group	£200.00	Monthly support/friendship group for Carers
Friends of Stockway North Nature Res	£200.00	Public liability insurance
Friends of Trendlewood Park	£2,000.00	Maintaining environment of park
Golden Oldies Charity	£491.00	Funding of monthly session in Nailsea
Mencap – Cool Summer Club	£200.00	Towards Cool Summer Club
N & D Prostate Support Group	£150.00	Meetings/Coffee Mornings/Presentations

Nailsea Community Christmas Fair	£2,000.00	Running of Nailsea Community Christmas Fair
Nailsea Community Trust	£4,000.00	Support of local causes
Nailsea Concert Orchestra	£300.00	Local concerts
Nailsea Cricket Club	£2,000.00	Replacement of roof
Nailsea Disability Initiative	£8,000.00	General running costs
Nailsea Festival of Music	£1,000.00	Promote and implement Festival of Music
Nailsea Memory Café	£792.00	Towards venue rental for monthly Memory Cafe
Nailsea Socialshedders	£1,000.00	Funding of shed
Nailsea Theatre Club	£600.00	New curtain track system
Nailsea Methodist Lunch Club	£750.00	Towards provision of weekly lunch club
Nailsea Skateboarding Festival	£1,000.00	Assisting with the Skateboarding Festival
North Somerset Arts Festival	£2,000.00	Towards North Somerset Arts Week
North Somerset Citizens Advice	£9339.00	Towards weekly sessions in Nailsea
NPFA	£6,000.00	Car Park Marking/CCTV
Parkinson's UK NW Somerset	£1,000.00	Support for those affected by Parkinson's
Somerset Storyfest	£550.00	Evacuee Project
Trendlewood Community Festival	£500.00	Licenses, staging and equipment for Festival
Revitalise	£354.00	Provision of respite break for Nailsea resident
Wellspring Counselling	£2,000.00	Expansion of Wellspring's youth service
WRVS Nailsea Daycare	£1,000.00	Contribution towards rent of hall
Young Carers of Nailsea	£350.00	Hire of NTB for fundraising function
Patronage Recipients		
Nailsea Theatre Club	£100.00	
Nailsea & District Horticultural Society	£100.00	
Nailsea Choral Society	£100.00	
Nailsea Musicals	£100.00	
Nailsea Concert Orchestra	£100.00	

The Chairman introduced Phill Wheatley from **Nailsea Social Shedders**.

Phill Wheatley introduced himself as the Chair of Nailsea Social Shedders, who are a Community Group with the underpinning values of doing practical things, together. The group started in 2014 with an allotment plot. He explained that whilst individuals may like an allotment plot, many are not able to maintain a whole plot alone and so with suitable insurance in place, a community allotment plot was established.

Phill said that the grant from the Town Council has secured the group a room at 2nd Nailsea Scout Hall in which to meet. For a small donation people could bring tools to be sharpened. They will teach and work alongside people to repair tools, make items and undertake practical projects together as a group. This will be ideal for those who want to learn new skills or who do not have the tools or knowledge to safely do this themselves.

The group hopes to set up a suggestion box where people can request help with a repair or skill as they wish to provide out-reach and in-reach support.

Phill said the Nailsea Social Shedders meet weekly each Tuesday from 1pm – 4pm at the 2nd Nailsea Scout Hall and welcomed new members.

A member of the public asked if only men were allowed to join the Shedders. Phill explained that as trained bricklayer it concerned him that in eight years he had only come across one female in the building trade. Whilst men may have traditionally been interested in building or repairs, Nailsea Social Shedders would welcome individuals of any gender to join their group.

The Cllr Packham thanked Phill Wheatley and invited Cathy Gale from the **Memory Café** to speak.

Cathy Gale explained that the Memory Café was a drop-in group for people caring for someone with any type of memory problems. They meet for 2 hours on the first Wednesday of each month at the Tithe Barn. During the sessions, carers, whether they are the partner of the person with memory problems, the child or befriender, meet to receive support by talking with each other or trained professionals. In another room the individuals with memory loss take part in various activities such as skittles, quoits, craft or listen to music or have their nails painted. The group is supported by a qualified Occupational Therapist and two support workers. The sessions aim to provide people with memory loss with fun activities, whilst carers can let off steam, make new friends and get support.

The group outgrew its former meeting place due to attendance increasing to twenty couples on some weeks, and moved to the Tithe Barn with support from the Tithe Barn Trust and the Town Council grant. The Tithe Barn Trust is also helping them to apply for funding through Quartet for staff costs.

Anyone is welcome to attend the memory café, at the Tithe Barn, 2pm – 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Chairman thanked Cathy Gale and welcomed Sarah Reese from **Wellspring** to speak.

Sarah said that Wellspring was started 23 years ago by a group of Ministers and local GPs with the help of local people who were keen to train and provide support for people in the area. The mission was to provide professional and accessible counselling to people in distress who were unable to pay for counselling in any other way. Now, it is not a Christian organisation, and they provide support through volunteers and paid staff from a range of backgrounds to people of all faiths or no faith.

Adult counselling sessions are funded on a sliding scale and people are asked to pay what they can afford. There is a bursary for those who can afford nothing at all. Currently they are providing 50 sessions a week, with half of these still in Nailsea and Backwell. Wellspring is the only charity in North Somerset to offer a counselling service to those aged 11 – 18 and they currently provide 11 sessions per week which doesn't keep up with demand.

Sarah explained that people usually wait until they are in a desperate situation before they seek help and she hoped this would change in time with awareness of mental health and wellbeing now increasingly publicised. Some common things people seek help with include depression and anxiety, low self-esteem and bullying. They aim to help people to be able to self-manage the things they are struggling with.

Statistics suggest that one in four people will experience mental health distress at some point and the NHS only allocates 10% of their funding to this area meaning funding from local sources is essential to provide services.

All clients have reported improvement in their well-being from using the service. Comments have included: 'I am so grateful', 'brilliant counsellor who has helped me back on track', 'there is no bias or

preconceived notions', 'you have helped me greatly over the past year' and 'it is somewhere safe to talk about things'.

Cllr Packham thanked Sarah Reese and all of the speakers and said Nailsea Town Council was happy to support their organisations.

Presentation of Award

The Chairman explained to the room that Nailsea Community Transport has been serving local communities for over twenty years. Lesley Timmins first joined the group in 1995 and was eventually appointed Manager in 1998. At that time the scheme was operating with a single minibus, inherited from Nailsea Disabled Club with the addition of a loaned vehicle from North Somerset Council. With the help of Lottery grants, additional vehicles were obtained and a regular driver was employed; until then the vehicles were driven by volunteers.

In 2004 the demand for the service reached its peak and six part-time drivers were employed and with help from the Department of Transport, the minibus fleet was increased.

Throughout this time Lesley has been kept extremely busy managing the staff, drivers and a large group of volunteers. The growth of the scheme has been largely due to her efficient management.

At the end of the month Lesley will be ending her days as Team Leader and therefore on behalf of everyone who has known Lesley, the Chairman wished her a very happy retirement and presented her with a gift.

Presentation of Community Awards

Cllr Packham introduced Cynthia Dobson as a gifted musician and singer who has used her talents for the benefit of the community of Nailsea. She has worked tirelessly for Nailsea Community Trust and Nailsea Choral Society. She is a member of the vocal ensemble Miscellany and is the driving force behind the Nailsea Festival of Music. It would be fair to say that whenever Cynthia becomes involved in a project she gives her all.

For the Nailsea Community Trust she has served as a Director and stepped in to take on the role of Treasurer at short notice. The Trust has benefitted greatly from her skills, community spirit, enthusiasm and energy. Equally she has been a driving force behind the Choral Society and delighted audiences with her exceptional singing voice.

Cynthia has been a member of Miscellany for more than 30 years where she has been an invaluable and loyal singer, outstanding regular soloist and co-administrator. Miscellany's high standard is due to her exemplary level of personal commitment, preparation and first class performances.

Cllr Packham added that Cynthia's greatest achievement has been the creation of the Nailsea Festival of Music. For 10 years Cynthia has, in her capacity of Chairman, steered it from its initial event into the success it is today. Her professional approach, musical ability, admirable administrative skills, her welcoming manner to competitors, audiences and adjudicators alike have all combined to mark out this festival for its excellence and good reputation across the country.

Beyond the musical world Cynthia was the Director of her own financial firm which she chose to base in Nailsea. Her dedication to the town of Nailsea is outstanding and I am very pleased to be able to present a Community Award to her tonight.

Cynthia accepted the Community Award from the Chairman. She said that when she received the call to say she had been nominated for an award she had been lost for words, which was not a frequent event. She said the Music Festival would not be possible without the support of a lot of people. Cynthia said she valued the support of the community in all areas. She said she had been 'dragged into' the Choral Society and her proudest moment has been with the Music Festival where three strong, forceful and committed women have organised the day, with no interference from her. On Festival day lots of volunteers help to ensure the day goes well. It is a wonderful, competitive event with classes for everything from piano, to music composition or writing. Entrants receive technical adjudication from an expert and a certificate with their mark. Cynthia encouraged everyone to attend the Festival, on 25 November at Nailsea School. She thanked those who nominated her for the award and the Town Council for its support.

The Chairman introduced Alan Emery. Alan was a key member of the team who founded the current Methodist Church and community facility in Silver Street. He has been a Director of Wellspring Counselling and Chair of the Community Drugs Misuse Forum for many years.

Alan set up the Drugs Misuse Forum twenty years ago alongside Keith Town, who was Minister of the Methodist Church at the time. The Forum worked with year 5 and 6 pupils, in Nailsea and nearby parishes, informing them of the dangers of drugs. The continual shortage of funding meant that Alan was personally involved with the sessions and often worked alone.

Alan never failed to deliver the Vision of the Forum and continued to find new ways forward in changing times within the drug and alcohol scene and has always had a special concern for the young people of the area.

In addition to his leadership skills Alan works at the 'coal face' serving coffee and snacks at the Busy Bees playgroup, washing up at the Lunch Club and preparing tea for youngsters attending Messy Church.

Alan's dedication to the Drugs Misuse Forum and his commitment to caring for the young people of Nailsea make him a worthy recipient of a Community Award.

Alan collected his award. He said he had been totally taken aback when told he had been nominated for a Community Award and had not had an idea of who would have nominated him.

Alan explained that the Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Forum had been started by Keith Town as he had been asked to conduct funerals for people dying from these issues. He came up with the idea and asked Alan to be the Chair; he has now handed this over to Dilly Taylor.

He explained that the scene has now changed; drugs are now more readily available and young people communicate differently which creates a challenge to tackle. The Forum is still working with pupils in years 5 and 6 to provide resilience and this work will continue.

The Chairman explained that the Community Awards are plates made locally by Karen Lilley. She has made them in glass in a shade of green to reflect Nailsea's Glassmaking history, and 'Nailsea Glass'.

Any Other Business

The Chairman advised that North Somerset Arts week started on 28 April. It's an event enabling more people to access the arts and this year there are two venues in Nailsea as part of the trail.

He also reported that further to the Town Council agreeing to sell land on Engine Lane for housing development, the Planning Application has now been prepared by Barratt Homes and is available to view on the Town Council's website. As the owner of the land, the Town Council will need to confirm if it conforms to the conditions of the contract and will meet on 10 May to decide this.

Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments following the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.