



NAILSEA TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on
Wednesday November 23 2022 at 7.48pm at the Tithe Barn, Church Lane, Nailsea.

These minutes have not yet been approved and are in draft form.

PRESENT: Cllr Argles (in the Chair), Cllr Barber, Cllr Bird, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Frappell, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Kushner, Cllr Lees, Cllr Middleton, Cllr Packham, Cllr Smith, Cllr Watts, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, members of the public.

EL74/22 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Blatchford, Cllr M Blatchford, Cllr Houlbrook, Cllr Hopkinson, Cllr Miller, Cllr Turner.

EL75/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Hunt declared an interest as she lives near the Grove.

EL76/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

EL77/22 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12th November 2022

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

EL78/22 PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAY/RECREATION AREAS

a) Report by a representative of Nailsea Playing Fields Association and Grove Sports and Social Club

Maureen apologises that she is unable to attend due to health issues. Simon will attend this meeting. Simon and John apologise they were unable to attend and report to the October Environment and Leisure Committee meeting because they were attending the Grove AGM.

Grove Meetings were held on Mondays 12 September, 12 October and 21 November. We will report on the November meeting when the minutes have been ratified at the next meeting due on Monday 19 December.

At the AGM on 12 October Simon Brierley was elected as Chairman, Claire Dunn as Treasurer and Eve Simmonds as Secretary. Maureen has resigned the position of Treasurer.

During the past three months Grove has introduced new tills and a new membership system. To entice previous members back into the Grove, after the Covid problems, we have dropped the annual membership fee to £5 per person. A high membership figure should ensure more event bookings and bar takings. In times of financial upheaval, a lower membership fee is more inclusive. We are gradually updating our membership lists for all the sports and social clubs.

Following the new roof and refit of the sports hall, NTT use this exclusively together with the large gents changing room. They no longer use the preschool area which is now exclusive to the preschool. In the summer any unnecessary equipment was removed, the outside and inside of the preschool was painted, and in the half-term holiday, new flooring was installed.



Also, damaged areas of the external cladding and trim have been replaced in preparation for the winter. These projects cost around £14,000 ex vat. Preschool contributed £1000 towards their refurbishment. The boiler has been serviced for the winter.

Staff salaries were raised in April but are due for review. In preparation for the increase in the National Living Wage to 10.42 per hour in April 2023, we are considering a staged increase backdated to 1 October. This together with the increases to the price of bar stocks, in line with inflation, will mean that we need to increase our bar prices accordingly.

NPFA – Meetings were held on 22 September and 14 November. There was no October meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 December.
Greenfield Crescent – As the NJFC clubhouse is no longer in use NPFA are paying for the provision of a portaloos for the site. NJFC will resume payment of the grass cutting with effect from 1 September.

Maureen is confirming the legal basis of the NPFA ownership of Greenfield Crescent with the Charity Commissioners.

The Wessex Reserves rent at Greenfield crescent will increase in the next quarter, in line with RPI and the lease terms. Maureen is also enquiring about a possible community use of their building.

Grove Playing Fields

Dog signs – We are costing some small rectangular signs affixed to low posts as per the Backwell Lake arrangements

Lease- NPFA are currently awaiting further clarification about break clauses from NTC, after consultation with their solicitors.

Toby Riley Play Equipment Maureen has written to NTC – see item 5(c) on the agenda.

b) To confirm acceptance of a quote for the cost of drawing up a new lease for The Grove

Cllr Argles proposed and Cllr Packham seconded

RECOMMENDATION:

that Nailsea Town Council accept the quote for the cost of drawing up a new lease for the Grove.

The vote was passed unanimously.

c) To consider a letter from Maureen Brady regarding play equipment at The Grove.

The Clerk advised that the Finance Officer has contacted the insurance adviser, however they are on leave this week so unable to advise on the cost of adding this equipment. The caretakers are trained to inspect the Hannah More play area weekly, and this equipment will be added to their inspection schedule.

Monthly inspection of our play equipment is undertaken with contractors GB Sport and Leisure, and an annually inspection is undertaken by a separate contractor, which totals to £565 annually so we would anticipate this equipment being of a



similar cost to inspect. It was advised that no repair or maintenance costs included in this.

The Clerk advised that signage is required for who to contact if there are any problems with the equipment, and a meeting will be arranged with the Grove to discuss who this would be best suited to.

It was advised that a net is to be put up between football pitch and the proposed play area, and in the letter to Council it was suggested that a risk assessment be undertaken for the eastern cricket pitch. The Clerk advised that this is not something that the Council would undertake.

A Councillor expressed a concern on the risk of vehicles using the car park knocking the fencing, and a suggestion of concrete bollards or railway sleepers between the car park and play area fencing will be looked in to.

There will be an additional cost for the fencing surrounding the equipment, and it was advised that there is some money remaining from the collection which could go towards this, but any additional help from Nailsea Town Council would be greatly appreciated.

Cllr Packham proposed to and Cllr Hunt seconded

RECOMMENDATION: that Nailsea Town Council approve the installation of play equipment as outlined in the provided plans, and that that additional funding is contributed towards the cost of the fencing.

The vote was unanimous.

Cllr Lees left the meeting at 8:10.

EL79/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Consideration of items for the 2023/24 budget

The meeting noted the budget.

b) Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 15 November 2022

The meeting noted the statement.

c) Specified Reserves 2022-23 linked to Environment and Leisure Committee

The meeting noted the reserves.

EL80/22 To discuss Christmas lights for 2023/24

Cllr Lees returned to the meeting at 8:16.

The No. 65 Manager, Cllr Frappell and Cllr Packham met with a representative from Blachere Illuminations on the 18 November to discuss requirements for purchasing new Christmas equipment next year. The representative confirmed that they are able to store and deliver all the pieces each year and have also agreed that NTC can pay for this for 3 years in advance, which could then come out of CIL payments and not



be an addition to the precept. However, any further additional charges, such as increases in fuel or rent, would need to be charged annually.

They were unable to provide accurate costings at that time for delivery, storage, and installation, however a ballpark figure for 22 motifs – currently on a buy 1 get 1 free deal - festoon braid lighting and 25 artificial trees with lights is estimated at around £16,000 - £18,000. There are also discussions of a 3D product for the Village Green, which would be an additional cost.

The full anticipated figure for new equipment, fixtures, fittings and 3 years of storage and delivery is estimated to be a minimum of £30,000.

Money will need to be allocated for the scaffolding poles and highway works to install the holes for the posts, and quotes will be sought for this. There will need to be an additional 11 poles along the High Street for the festoon lighting.

It was noted that the High Street in Nailsea is not the same as other locations like Portishead, as it is not a high traffic road for the town.

It was advised that the deal for the motifs finishes in January, and it was suggested that the No. 65 Manager selects some options and they are selected at a committee meeting.

It was discussed that the Council would like to have the community and Praxis involved in the future of Nailsea's Christmas lighting, as other towns around us have, and would seek to arrange this in the New Year.

The Assistant Clerk suggested that the residents of Nailsea are advised of the anticipated costings of new lighting, as it may come as a surprise to many of how expensive these things are to organise and put in place.

It was suggested that the public are made aware that the new lighting will have LED bulbs which will cost a lot less to run, less to maintain and are far more environmentally friendly. The current light fittings have been cared for very well and have exceeded their expected 'shelf life', and it is hoped that the new lighting will do the same.

EL81/22 To consider supporting the campaign to only to have low noise fireworks in North Somerset

The meeting was advised that a low noise firework is classified as a noise level of around 70 decibels.

NSC issue licences for the long and short term selling of fireworks, and so can start making a condition of their licence to sell only quiet fireworks, although this does not deter fireworks being purchased elsewhere and brought in.

Cllr Middleton proposed and Cllr Barber seconded

RECOMMENDATION: that Nailsea Town Council write to North Somerset Council to confirm support for the campaign to only to have low noise fireworks in North Somerset.

The vote was unanimous.



The meeting discussed publicising the response, including putting something in local press and on our social media channels, encouraging residents and organisers to buy and use low noise next year, as well as local shops and businesses to stock low noise fireworks.

EL82/22 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk has contacted NSC to request additional funding towards the ground maintenance at the Garden of Rest, as presently it does not meet the expenditure on the site. A reply has been received and NSC are open to discussing this further.

The Clerk advised that Eat Festival will not be holding events in Nailsea next year. Although the Council are not fully understanding of why, a response has been issued by Eat Festival advising that initially the markets were held due to the farmers' market failing and a very high shop vacancy rate. Because of the success of the farmers' market and a reduced rate of shop vacancies, Eat Festival feel that their work is complete and will be holding events in two new towns in 2023.

The meeting closed at 8:47pm.

Chair's signature: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT