



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Abbott, G Avalon, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, N Cottle, J Cousins, J Keery, E George, S Henderson, W Knight, T Napper, Lindsay MacDougall, D Michell, S Thurgood, I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Coles
County Councillor A Gloak MBE
PCSO N Burge

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Gary Knight - Macebearer
Terry Dowden - Macebearer

The Unity Candle was lit prior to a silent moment.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gerry Urch spoke on behalf of residents of the Redlands estate about traveller vehicles parked along Bretenoux Road and associated anti-social behaviour including urinating in the hedges.

Matthew Tomlinson complained about the state of the area near the skatepark including a burnt out caravan and missing barriers which have allowed illegal parking of caravans etc.

Malcolm Allen spoke about the Sleeping Bus Project, Community Land Trusts and the Localism Act.

174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

175. PRESENTATION BY PRINCIPAL OF STRODE COLLEGE

James Staniforth informed members that although he would shortly be leaving the College, he was pleased to have been offered the opportunity to speak to the Council before his departure. With the aid of a Power point presentation, he provided an overview of the opportunities provided by the college. He was pleased to be able to report that the college achieved 'outstanding' in the last Ofsted Report and added that Strode College is currently the only 'outstanding' sixth form in the Mendip area. Councillors were interested to hear about the successful studies of former St Dunstan's School students. Councillors thanked James for his excellent work whilst at the college and wished him well in his future career.

176. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL

Councillor George reported in the absence of Theo Wakeling. She was pleased to announce that a local business has granted the Youth Council £2500 towards the installation of a graffiti wall at the Skatepark. Work continues on the organisation for the Battle of the Bands.

177. REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Glastonbury Chamber of Trade and Commerce – Paul Manning, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce reported on recent meetings. The next meeting will be held at the Glastonbury Town Hall on 10th April.

178. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PRESENTATION BY GERARD TUCKER

Gerard Tucker reported on the Glastonbury Housing Needs Assessment.

He informed Councillors that Mendip District Council will be consulting the Town Council on the Local Plan Part II at a meeting on 4th April 2017 at 7pm at the Town Hall. He will be providing an update on the Neighbourhood Plan at the Town Meeting on 18th April and at that time will call for further volunteers to sit on 6 focus groups.

179. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th February 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record. Councillor Napper reported that he had enquired about the Fields in Trust application relating to Tor Leisure fields at the last full County Council meeting but to date has not received a reply. Councillor George said that the Friends of Tor Leisure wrote to Mendip District Council, handing over negotiations to the Town Council but unfortunately a meeting arranged for last month was cancelled by MDC and she has emailed for a replacement date.

Reports on actions following the last Council meeting:

- The Town Clerk a) lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman re lack of response following A361 site visit in August 2016 b) Attempted to reapply for zebra crossing etc through the small improvement scheme to be told that the £1m reportedly allocated to the scheme was for existing projects only.
 - Councillor Henderson contacted the MP regarding issues including the disputed smell zone from the Sewage works on the Morland's site and was informed that he is still in the process of investigating.
 - Councillor Cottle is waiting for a response from the Assets Manager about land adjacent to the cemetery
 - Councillor Coles was not present at the meeting so was unable to report about lack of provision from the Landscape Group in outlying areas of town
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21st February 2017 were noted.
- c) The minutes of the Communications Committee held on 23rd February 2017 were approved.

- d) The minutes of the Glastonbury in Bloom Committee held on 7th March 2017 were approved.
- e) The minutes of the Youth Provision Committee held on 7th March 2017 were approved. Councillor Thurgood reported that Mark Willcox from Mendip YMCA had said that they received the most help from Glastonbury Town Council and thanked them for their generous support and commitment in supporting local young people and Windmill Hill Youth Club and the partnership project with Red Brick Building.

Discussion took place about the fact that the Avalon Boxing Club application had been refused and that the Scouts were open to the club using the Scout Hut. Councillor George had recently spoken to the Scouts and learnt that there is a problem with the renewal of the lease with Mendip, as the original documents and deeds cannot be found. Councillor Brunsdon said that the Scouts were given a loan by the Town Council to build the hut. Councillor Brunsdon agreed to speak to Georgina Dicken at Mendip District Council about the deeds for the Scout Hut.

180. PLANNING APPLICATION

Planning application no. 2017/0294/LBC – Nationwide Building Society - Refurbishment of ground floor of empty property to create new Building Society Branch – 3 High Street – Listed Building Consent

RESOLVED to recommend approval.

In light of the news that Nationwide Building Society will be opening a branch in Glastonbury, the Town Council formally thanked Councillor Avalon for initiating the 'Last Bank Standing Campaign'.

181. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Gloak provided a written report.

Councillor Napper provided a report. He confirmed that he has requested the repairs to Old Wells Road.

Councillor Brunsdon reported that the cattle grid at the bottom of Wellhouse Lane needs clearing out; the railings along Chilkwell Street are in a dilapidated state and in need of repair and repainting; there are 28 patches of tarmac on the town centre pavements and a proper programme needs to be in place paving slabs instead of patching up, especially in the conservation area; the Tin Bridge side of the bypass needs clearing and obscured yellow lines need cleaning or repainting for enforcement purposes, especially on the lanes around the Tor.

Councillor Napper suggested that Councillors may like to go around the town as a group to identify problems.

Councillor MacDougall said that if the County Council supplies the paint she and other residents are prepared to paint the Chilkwell Street railings.

182. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Henderson reported that Mendip District Council resolved to investigate the feasibility of providing disabled toilet changing facilities in the five towns.

Councillor Cottle had attended the MAG meeting. He suggested the Town Council obtains a Commonwealth flag to fly from the Town Hall on Commonwealth Day.

Councillor Keery was concerned that the Town Council had not been kept informed about progress regarding the closure of the traveller site and has not been informed of any strategy in place to deal with illegally parked vehicles when the site closes.

It was **RESOLVED** to make a Freedom of Information to Mendip District Council to request sight of the papers on which Councillors based their decision to close the site.

Councillor Napper abstained from the vote.

183. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Town Centre Working Group – Councillor George reported that Chipperfields who run the Tor Fair attended the last meeting and voiced their concerns that St Dunstan's Car Park is not a large enough area to site the Tor Fair and therefore would not be viable as they would be unable to use their most popular rides. Their preference is to use St John's Car Park. Discussions took place about getting the Town Centre ready for the season. Plans are in place to deal with anti-social behaviour including possibly moving the benches forward ie nearer the pavement or introducing Camden benches which deters drug dealing, theft and reduce littering.

Gerard Tucker informed members that he has been reviewing the signage for the Tor and car parks and hopes to be able to direct pedestrians to the Tor via the High Street to encourage use of the cafés and shops. He will also be arrange for a sign in St Dunstan's Car Park with details of postcodes of alternative car parks.

184. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, now submitted, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes be approved and signed by two members as the Town Clerk's authority to make the payments.

The Town Clerk reported that she had not been successful in negotiating more than £25 discount on the Christmas tree. Councillor Tucker informed the Council that Freeman of the Town and former Councillor, Mrs Jan White has offered to gift a tree this year.

185. BUDGET REPORTS

The report was noted. The Town Clerk pointed out that due to Easter falling later this year and school holidays starting later, she predicts a slight decrease in car park takings compared to the previous year.

186. ANNUAL RETURN 2015-2016

The Town Clerk reported that except for the matters reported below, on the basis of the External Auditor's review of the annual return, in their opinion the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters came

to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Matters reported were that the Council has not reviewed and adopted the risk assessment in 2015/2016 nor has it fully documented its internal controls.

187. INTERNAL CONTROL DOCUMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Council are working on these documents ready for the new Council year which will satisfy the matters reported by the External Auditor.

188. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported taking part in the following events since the last Council meeting.

Meeting with Tim Lethaby, editor of Central Somerset Gazette to discuss ways to improve the paper's local coverage of the Town's news stories; Opened 'founding' account with Nationwide with Deputy Mayor; took part in Nationwide conference call with other stakeholders to discuss the development of the Society's public/community engagement process prior to the opening of the new branch at No 3 High Street; Attended a Photocall to promote the new Glastonbury Nationwide Building Society branch; Multi-agency meeting to help address the anti-social behaviour and other issues that impact community; Axbridge Civic Service and Community Awards event; Presentation about the proposed reordering of St John the Baptist Church; Peer Challenge stakeholder consultation with the 'Peer Team' at Mendip District Council; Presentation to Heritage Lottery in support of Glastonbury Abbey's Heritage Lottery Fund application.

189. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Councillor Thurgood informed Councillors that due to the changes in Universal Credit, the Bridging the Gap food bank reported an increase in requests for help. She announced a Quiz Night which is being held at the Conservative Club on 19th March 2017;
- Councillor Napper announced that a Pig Roast will take place at the Football Club on 8th April 2017.

190. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) Mr T Goodall – Email with request for Tetrapac recycling and drinking fountains

Councillor Henderson said that the Deputy Town Clerk had requested new bins for the High Street including recycling bins. It was suggested that the Town Council should work on a recycling strategy for the Town Hall and the High Street. It was **AGREED** that the matter of recycling and water fountains be placed on the agenda for the next Town Centre Working Group meeting.

The following correspondence was noted:

- b) Somerset County Council – Email regarding diversion of footpath no. WS 15/6
- c) Email from Hannah Gratton, 1610 re Clubbercise flash mob in Glastonbury High Street on the 18th March between 10.30 and 11am
- d) Mendip District Council – Off Street Parking Places Order 2017

191. PRESS RELEASES

Youth Provision including Youth Council to include the donation for grafitti wall and the comment from Mendip YMCA.

192. ACTIONS ARISING DURING MEETING

- Town Clerk to make a Freedom of Information request for Committee papers provided to District Councillors prior to decision to close traveller site; to ascertain whether the District expects any input from the Town Council relating to provision of disabled changing facilities and to query why the cost of car parking is more at Northload St West car park.
- Councillor Brunsdon to talk to Georgina Dicken about Scout Hut lease and deeds.

Mayor, 11th April 2017