

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors: D Abbott, G Avalon, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, J Cousins, N Cottle, E George, S Henderson, L MacDougall, D Michell (Mayor), P Sander-Jackson, S Thurgood

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors: J Keery, S Shepherd, I Tucker

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
Gary Knight – Macebearer  
Terry Dowden – Macebearer  
Town Crier  
PCSO J Higgins  
County Councillors A Gloak and T Napper

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**The meeting was opened with the lighting of the Unity candle and a moment for quiet reflection.**

### **Public Participation**

- Mrs A Friend spoke in objection to proposed double yellow lines in front of garages in Manor House Road. This was noted by the County Councillors.
- Malcolm Allen provided the Town Council with proposals regarding Neighbourhood Planning, recycle bins, Community Land Trusts and air quality. The Town Clerk was asked to direct the proposals to the relevant committees.
- Lee Lintern thanked the Town Council for putting a notice board in the red phone box at Manor House Road, which was adopted by the Town Council and converted to an information kiosk, but reported that several glass panels need replacing.

### **75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **76. POLICE REPORT**

PCSO J Higgins reported on:

- 999 Day held by the Police Cadets
- National award won by Glastonbury and Street Police Cadets for work at events throughout Somerset
- New call handlers are being employed to address the volume of calls received via the 101 telephone number

Paradise Estate – Mr White, a resident of Paradise Estate had again emailed the Ward Councillors about the continuing problems of anti-social behaviour on the Paradise Estate. He said that the signs for the play area had not yet appeared.

Councillor George said she had spoken to Mendip District Council and reminded them they had agreed to erect signs stating play equipment is for 14 year olds and under. The Ward Councillors will address other issues raised by Mr White. Councillor Thurgood said that the Youth Committee had agreed to fund outreach work to be carried out by the YMCA at Paradise. Initially this will be four sessions to allow the youth worker to create a profile of what youth provision may be required. There is a possibility that the Scout hut could be used for youth activities.

## **77. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had attended the following events on behalf of the town since the last meeting:

Harvest Show where she was pleased to have won a Gold award for her hamper; Axbridge Blackberry Carnival; Royal Air Force Memorial Service at Wells; High Sheriff Civic Awards; Young Farmer's Thanksgiving Service; Limbless war veterans cycle ride – Sharpham; Freeman Ceremony for Geoffrey Ashe; Chard Carnival procession

## **78. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Thurgood reported on her day visit to Patmos. She and Mrs Jessie Henderson had stopped off in Patmos during a cruise and met members of the twinning association. Patmos Twinning Association wishes to name a street in Patmos after Glastonbury and they are keen to link with the schools. Two members of Glastonbury Youth Council are going to start an email dialogue with Patmos.

She invited Councillors to attend the Poppy Concert on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 at the Town Hall. The Heron Band will be performing and two local young soloists. Tickets cost £6.

Councillor George spoke about the Foamstream (weed control) trial and said that it would appear that currently this is the only viable alternative to spraying as hand weeding is too expensive. She has been speaking with Frome Town Council about a joint venture and has discussed the possibility of taking over weed control from the District Council with the contract manager. She will condense the information and data she has gathered into a report for the Property and Assets Committee.

Councillor Cousins reported his attendance at a silent peace vigil on the International Day of Peace. He recommended the Green Party document on TTIP to Councillors.

Councillor Henderson said that a number of market traders who trade out of their vans had objected to him about the proposed memorial stone for the Market Place which may affect their parking. Councillor Cottle said that the vans should not be parked on the Market Cross in any case. It was suggested the area could be marked out in chalk so that traders can see the extent of the memorial. Councillor George said this could be a matter for the Town Centre trader group.

## **79. COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

Councillor George has circulated a written report from the working group recommending that a committee be formed to oversee and facilitate the Council's official communications with the general public. It was recommended that the

Committee should be cross-party with at least one member from each party on the Council represented, including independents and should meet once a month, shortly after the full Council meeting. Councillor Cousins suggested the makeup of the committee should consist of one member from each group and not necessarily be proportional.

The Communications Committee will aim to give the council a greater element of control over the reporting of their proceedings and activities.; encourage greater participation through proactive communication; promote best practice, consistency and accountability in council communications.

Cost implications – The website currently costs £20 a month to maintain. It is envisaged that this will increase to no more than £40 per month. The Town Clerk confirmed that the marketing budget could be used for this purpose. Impact on staff time will be minimal.

### **Councillor MacDougall arrived at the meeting at this point (7.50pm)**

Councillor Thurgood stressed how important it is to disseminate information, especially via Facebook and Twitter. She hoped a Youth Page could be created on the website.

It was **RESOLVED** to form a Communications Committee to meet once a month, after the Council meeting, with membership consisting of one representative from each group.

## **80. 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.

Councillor Cousins said that he still did not understand why the Town Council pays rates on the Town Hall to an authority which it precepts.

## **81. MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record. Councillor Black said she did not have a personal interest in Mendip Community Credit Union which was therefore deleted. Councillor Cousins reported that Professor Fidgeon and his assistant had attended Geoffrey Ashe's Freedom ceremony and met with the Mayor and members of the Promoting Glastonbury Committee afterwards to discuss the Holy Grail Trail.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Promoting Glastonbury forum held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, were accepted with an alteration at item 36, para. 3 from 'Paul Lund' was disappointed to 'The Chairman was disappointed'. Councillor Thurgood congratulated those involved in getting Fairtrade status. Councillor Cottle was encouraged to hear about the cycling working group. Councillor Avalon hopes that Glastonbury could be a centre for cycling on the levels including cycling for the disabled. He has been in contact with a charity called Pedal Power which hires bikes for the disabled in Bristol.

- c) The minutes of the meeting of the A361 Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, were accepted. As the MP had said that the petition would be more effective with more local signature, Councillors were asked to help with door to door collection of signatures. Councillor Abbott said that the group is focussing on working towards the declassification of the A361 as a freight route. Councillor Cottle said that the MP is looking at an overall strategy including improvements at Nunney Catch. Councillor Black was surprised to hear that a pedestrian crossing would cost in the region of £130,000.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015, were accepted.
- e) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015, were accepted apart from the item on solar panels which will be considered again at the next committee meeting.

## **82. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Paul Sander-Jackson, Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the following recommendations to the Council:

- That Glastonbury has a Neighbourhood Plan.
- That in addition Glastonbury has a clear input into Mendip Local Plan Part 2.
- That additional staff is taken on by Glastonbury Town Council, specifically to run the Neighbourhood Plan, including community consultation and writing the Neighbourhood Plan report.
- That a Community Plan is produced alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and supported by the Town Council but that partners are found to support the implementation of the recommendations of the Community Plan.

He said that this is a once in a generation opportunity to reshape the future of the Town. The Neighbourhood Plan would take approximately 2 years and there are grants available to fund the process. It is predicted that a qualified officer would need to be employed for 2 days a week for 2 years with an approximate cost of £26,000.

Councillor Cousins said that Mendip District Council is fully behind Neighbourhood Plans and recently held a Neighbourhood Plan Workshop.

It was **RESOLVED** in principle that the Town Council writes a Neighbourhood Plan for Glastonbury.

Councillor Brunsdon abstained from the vote.

## **83. PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR GLASTONBURY**

The proposed restrictions were considered by the Council.

Councillor Brunsdon said that residents had requested an element of limited parking along Bretenoux Road where double yellow lines have been proposed. Councillor Gloak said he would discuss the matter with Chris Betty, Somerset Highways.

## **84. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillors Gloak and Napper provided written reports.

Councillor Napper said that Bristol Water is working towards repairing the leak at Wick Lane.

He discussed a request for a pedestrian crossing at the Wirral Park roundabout for people leaving the bus and walking to Tescos. Councillor Avalon suggested asking Tesco to contribute.

Councillor Cottle asked about the grassed area near the Wessex Water compound off Leg of Mutton Road as he said it used to be cut regularly. Councillor Napper said he would contact Wessex Water on the matter. He also reported that the drop kerbs at Cottle Close are in the wrong place and that the railings along Chilkwell Street have metal fatigue and need painting.

## **85. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillors Coles and Henderson provided written reports.

Councillor Coles reported that the District Council has recently employed two enforcement officers.

Councillor Henderson said that work has started on the play area at Cinnamon Lane.

Councillor Cousins said that the Deputy Mayoress had been hit by a Landscape Group vehicle in Benedict Street and had been disappointed at the lack of response from the Company.

Councillor Thurgood said that this Council should make it clear that Glastonbury would welcome Syrian refugee families being housed in the town. This was **AGREED**.

## **86. YOUTH COUNCIL REPORTS**

Theo Wilson thanked Councillors for their assistance in organising the Battle of the Bands which is being held at the Town Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> November. He said the Facebook page is going well and contestants are being encouraged to upload tracks to SoundCloud. A pre-event meeting will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Councillor Cousins suggested that the Youth Council could put together a Youth strategy to be presented to the Town Council.

## **87. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Coles said that the Carnival Committee is looking for people to put out and collect traffic cones on carnival day.

## **88. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) CRISP – Community Resilience in Somerset Project – Assistance in creating emergency plan

The Town Clerk was asked to investigate whether Glastonbury can benefit from the grant funding as there must be a risk to the community e.g. flooding, consequences of severe weather etc.

The following correspondence was noted:

- b) Mendip District Council – Parish Newsletter – October 2015
- c) Mendip Community Transport – Letter of thanks for grant funding

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**Mayor, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**