

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14th July 2015 at 7pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors: G Avalon and S Shepherd
PC M Pople
County Councillor A Gloak

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
County Councillor T Napper
Gary Knight – Macebearer
Terry Dowden – Macebearer
David Greenway – Town Crier

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

Public Participation

- Gary Butlin left information regarding the European Union with Councillors.
- David Robinson served a notice to Glastonbury Councillors asking where the Councillors stand constitutionally, with regard to the invocation of Article 61 of Magna Carta 1215.
- Hugh Sharp said that he was disappointed with the new Town signs and that they do not do the Town justice.
- Jay Scott-Berry advertised the Glastonbury Magic Festival which he would be holding the following weekend and hoped it would become an annual event. He performed a magic trick.
- Mark White reported continuing anti-social behaviour on the Paradise Estate and that when he telephones the police he can never speak to local officers. He is unhappy about the lack of police presence and asked the Councillors to be more proactive.
- Sue Vines complained about the parking problems at St Dunstan's Park and that there frequently is no access for emergency vehicles.
- Hazel Pegg asked the Town Council to consider funding the Market Cross webcam.
- Sandie Adam spoke about Agenda 21 and gave her opinion on how it threatens democracy and freedom
- Ian Mutch asked if there was any progress regarding the planting of trees at the end of Benedict Street. The Town Clerk will look into the matter.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

29. POLICE REPORT

The Town Council was yet again disappointed not to have a police presence at the meeting. Gary Knight said that PC Pople was due to attend but sent his apologies as he had been called to an emergency.

Councillor Coles said that a police presence is needed in the town from 2-5pm due to fights breaking out in the street.

The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Police Commissioner again stating that the Town Council contributes to CCTV and the fact that the precept for policing for 2015/2016 has increased by 1.99%.

30. GLYPHOSATE

A resolution had been passed at the last meeting to ban the use of gysophate as a weedkiller and to work with Mendip District Council on an alternative method.

Stuart Finney, Manager of Operational Assets and Contract for Mendip District Council and Danny Mitchell from The Landscape Group attended the meeting to hear suggestions and discuss alternative weed control. Councillor Black said that she had been doing some research and found the Lambeth Council use a system called Foamstream which uses a method of hot water and biodegradable foam.

Councillor Tucker said that during a recent Town cleanup the volunteers had found it necessary to hand weed Northload West car park as it did not seem to have been touched for months. Stuart Finney said he would look into the matter. Councillor Brunsdon also pointed out the lack of weeding along the raised pavement along Chilkwell Street.

Stuart Finney suggested a group of officers and Councillors get together to discuss the matter further and The Landscape Group will organise a demonstration of the Foamstream weed control method.

31. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th June 2015, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Promoting Glastonbury forum held on 11th June 2015, were accepted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23rd June 2015, were accepted. Councillor Cottle reminded the Committee of the importance of the Planning Chairman attending Planning Board meetings at Mendip District Council when Glastonbury applications are being considered.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 29th June 2015 were accepted.
- e) The minutes of the meeting of the Glastonbury and Sharpham Burial Board were noted. The Mayor reminded Councillors that there would be a site meeting at 6.30pm on 20th August 2015.

- f) The minutes of the meeting of the Glastonbury in Bloom Committee were accepted. The Chairman said that the South West in Bloom judges would be in Town on 20th July 2015 at 9am.

32. 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.

CCTV payments – Councillor Cottle said that the Town Council should request upgrades of cameras to improve detection rates as would have appeared to have happened in Frome.

33. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon said he had spoken to James Heapey MP about the A361.

Councillor Henderson provided a written report.

Councillor Coles spoke about land search delays caused by staffing issues at Mendip District Council Planning Department.

Councillor Cottle reported on the appointment of an enforcement officer for dealing with rental properties.

Councillor Cottle thanked Councillor Cousins for setting up a Facebook page for St Edmund's Ward.

34. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Napper said he had recently attended Windmill Hill over 50's club.

He reported his attendance at Somerset Waste Partnership Board and said that Somerset is running out of landfill and needs to build incinerators. The Partnership is looking at ways to reduce the waste produced.

Councillor Keery was not happy about the lack of concern the County Council would appear to have regarding the unsuitability of the A361 through Glastonbury as a freight route.

Councillor Tucker said that the leak at Basketfield Lane has not been repaired.

Councillor Cottle reported that the pothole at Olds Wells Road has not been repaired.

35. NON COUNCILLOR MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES AND VOTING RIGHTS

The Town Clerk said that the following advice had been taken from the National Association of Local Council's legal topic note on the matter of non councillor members of committees and voting right.

Standing orders allow the council to appoint persons other than members of the council to any committee.

Non-council members will only have voting rights when the Council agrees to this and amends the committee's terms of reference accordingly apart from the following :-

- management of land owned or occupied by the council;
- the functions of the council as a harbour authority (as defined in s.57(1) of the Harbours Act 1964);
- any function under s.144 of the 1972 Act relating to the promotion of tourism;
- any function under s.145 of the 1972 Act relating to the management of a festival. The term management does not include making decisions about the total amount of money which may be spent by the council in a financial year in respect of land or a festival.

Non-councillor members will need to abide by the Council's code of conduct when in meetings and are disqualified from holding office by the same criteria as Council members.

It was **RESOLVED** to permit non-council members voting rights in accordance with legislation.

36. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that as decisions of the Council are ratified at full Council and therefore all Councillors are involved, it would be necessary to appoint a scrutiny panel, independent from the Council, should concerns be raised by a Councillor or member of the public about a specific project.

37. COMMUNICATIONS WORKING PARTY

It was proposed by Councillor E George and seconded by Councillor G Avalon that this Town Council sets up, with immediate effect, a Communications Committee to manage all public communications by the Council, in the interest of raising greater public awareness of Council activity and encouraging wider public participation.

Councillor George said that it would be useful for the Town Council to look at how it disseminates information to the wider public and how this could be improved.

Councillors felt that a working party should be formed to look at the proposal in more detail. Councillor George agreed to withdraw her proposal. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to form a Communications working party, to report back to the Town Council.

38. YOUTH COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor S Thurgood, seconded by Councillor G Avalon and **RESOLVED** that this Town Council includes an item for Youth Council matters on the monthly Town Council agenda.

39. A361

It was proposed by Councillor D Abbott seconded by Councillor N Cottle and **RESOLVED** that the status of the A361 working party be converted to that of a Committee of the Town Council.

Councillor Abbott reported that the working party had agreed to collate all evidence and boost the petition before presenting it to Somerset County Council in November. Requests have gone out for information relating to traffic numbers, air quality, noise and vibration statistics. She has spoken to James Heappey MP who has agreed to meet with the A361 group. Contact is being made with Alyn Jones at County who had been quite helpful at the meeting with EDF.

40. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced she had represented the Town at the following events since the last meeting:

- Visit to the Glastonbury Festival site on 11th June
- Somerset schools dancing on the green at Wells
- Wells Mayor's Sunday
- Opened Glastonbury Festival on the Pyramid Stage
- Yeovil Mayor's Service
- St Dunstan's School Achievement Awards
- Meeting with Mark White and residents of Paradise Estate about anti-social behaviour
- Avalon Community Energy Day at the Town Hall
- Anglican and Catholic Pilgrimages
- Town Clean up

41. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor announced his attendance at two Millfield speech days and the rededication of the Lady Chapel by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Councillor Coles had carried out an inspection of the allotments and attended the funeral of ambulance driver of 30 years, Michael Kears.

Councillor Thurgood highlighted the Friday Feast and the good work being done by Sandra Booth and volunteers at St Benedict's Church. They feed up to 50 people at the free soup and pudding lunch every Friday. Paul Sander-Jackson said that Waitrose has now joined other supermarkets in giving away unsold food for good causes. Further details are available from the Somerset Food network website.

Councillor MacDougall provided a written report from the meeting held regarding improvements to the High Street meeting held on 7th July 2015. This will be discussed further at the next Promoting Glastonbury meeting and a date set for a further public meeting.

42. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Brunsdon, Tor Warden for the National Trust said that the tenant farmer is very pleased that his sheep have not been attacked. He has noted the increase in creeping thistles since the Trust has stopped spraying on the Tor.

Councillor Black said she had noticed the increase in with thistles but said that many butterflies use thistle and nettles as part of their lifecycle.

Councillor George said that she is waiting to hear back from Lead Ranger, Ian Clements about a management plan. Councillor Brunsdon said that 12 people for a couple of weeks with strimmers would be needed to tackle the problem. Councillor George said she is concerned that there is no management plan in place and pointed out that there are people in the community willing to help clearing weeds and overgrowth.

Councillor George reported on her attendance at the Mendip Health and Wellbeing Board on 16th June 2015. The main initiative is the environment, which includes poor housing. A survey is being carried out by university students to find out people's concerns relating to health and wellbeing. A venue for drop in for young people to discuss health and wellbeing related matters is being sought for St Benedict's Ward.

43. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) St Mary's Church – Proposal for 2 Designated disabled parking outside St Mary's church, Magdalene Street, Glastonbury
- b) Somerset County Council – Chairman's Award for Services to the Community 2015 – One nomination allowed per Council – Suggestions were made and as the deadline is not until September the Councillors decided to leave the decision until the next Town Council meeting

The following correspondence was noted:

- c) Somerset County Council – Adopt a Path Scheme – Information leaflet and application form
- d) Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter – June 2015

Mayor, 11th August 2015