

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors: A Black, J Barron, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, M Free, S Henderson, W Knight, J Keery, D Michell, H Sharp, S Thurgood, I Tucker

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors: I Forster and S Shepherd  
County Councillor A Gloak

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

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### Public participation

- Laiqa Browne was concerned that Tor View Avenue has become a rat run.
- Denise Abbott asked for a rubbish bin to be installed at Bere Lane Park.
- Angela Friend spoke about her concern taking over St Dunstan's House.

**The Mayor opened the meeting with a silent moment.**

### 145. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ian Tucker - personal and prejudicial interest – planning application no. 2015/0142/FUL.

### 146. REPORT FROM MEMBER OF THE GLASTONBURY BEAT TEAM

PSCO Mel Rowlands reported on the PACT priorities including dog mess, rubbish at Abbots Court, illegal parking of vehicles in Benedict Street and said that the next meeting would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7pm at Glastonbury Town Hall. She was happy to report that reported crime is down in Glastonbury for the past month.

She reported that PC Sam Downing is on a 3 month job swap with PC Mark Pople.

### 147. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were taken as read and signed as a true record of the meeting.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were accepted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Glastonbury in Bloom Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were accepted.

- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were accepted.

#### **148. APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID**

An application form for grant aid for Glastonbury Fringe 2015 was considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant £500 towards the project to be taken from the Frost Fayre 2014 surplus funds.

Councillor Henderson said that Glastonbury Ales would also be sponsoring the event.

#### **149. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Coles provided a written report. He said that the enforcement team are working on the Coldharbour site.

Councillor Cottle reported on the illegal excavation of the back at Fourways, Brinham Lane. In relation to the closure of the A361 for sewer works he said he would be interested to see where the lorries are diverted to.

Councillors Brunsdon reported on the need for signage for Park Terrace. He had attended the Conservation Advisory Panel. Councillor Henderson said he had nothing to report this month as the scrutiny committee had been postponed.

#### **150. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Free said the priority markings at Underwood/Austin Roads had not been implemented. Councillor Cottle said that those at Chalice Hill Close hammerhead also needed to be done.

Councillor Keery said that the traffic orders for the Town were out to consultation at the moment. He reported that the changes the Town Council had suggested to the taxi ranks and parking spaces in the High Street had been removed from this round of Orders due to lack of consultation with the taxi drivers.

Councillor Keery complained about the Ofsted reports for the County Council Children's Dept which state the department remains poor.

Councillor Napper said that there are over 500 children in care and that they are doing all they can to sort out the problems. He said it costs £60,000 annually to keep a child in care.

It was proposed by Councillor Keery, seconded by Councillor Cousins and **RESOLVED** to write to the Leader of Somerset County Council asking him to attend a future Council meeting to explain why he had not felt the need to step down from his position as Leader and what he is doing to improve the performance of Children's Services.

A recorded vote was called for: Councillors Michell, Tucker, Sharp, Keery, Free, Cottle, Cousins, Black and Brunsdon (9) voted for the proposal. Councillors

Barron, Coles, Henderson, Knight and Thurgood (5) abstained. The motion was therefore carried.

### **151. PLANNING APPLICATION**

Due to additional information received, planning application no. 20215/01422/FUL – Mr Jamie Vincent – 11 new light industrial units on derelict land – Beckery was reconsidered by the Town Council.

Sandra Shearer gave a presentation on why the increase in traffic has been greatly underestimated. There is a water pipe on the site which is potentially at risk.

#### **Councillor Cousins and Tucker left the room.**

Judi Hawkins spoke about the situation of the skate park next to the proposed development and that their concern is with the height of the buildings that will box the children in and create a dingy area.

Jaine Raine, Chair of the Friends of Brides Mound spoke about the importance of Brides Mound as a sacred site. She explained that there is a ditch which runs between Brides Mound and the site and in that ditch is a beetle which is protected. She said Somerset Wildlife Trust is very concerned about the development and in the absence of an Environment Impact Statement would not support the application.

The architect for the developer provided a summary of the application addressing concerns on the height of the buildings and the shared access with the Brides Mound site. Somerset County Council proposed a different access route to that first discussed and the scheme has been redesigned to accommodate this request. English Heritage has stated that the proposals would not significantly impact the setting of the Mound.

In view of new information received regarding the threat to wildlife the Town Council **RESOLVED** to request that the decision is postponed for a proper review of the whole site and to ask for an environmental impact statement.

Councillors Brunsdon and Cottle abstained due to their membership of the District Council planning committee.

#### **Councillors Cousins and Tucker returned to the room.**

### **152. PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR H SHARP**

Councillor Sharp gave a presentation on fund raising for Lalibela, twin Town of Glastonbury.

Councillor Keery acknowledged Councillor Sharp's work as a Councillor on his retirement from the Town Council and wished him good luck.

### **153. EDF MEETING**

The Mayor reported that as previously agreed, he, Councillor Tucker and the Town Clerk attended a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March with EDF to discuss freight movements

through Glastonbury, generated by the Hinkley Point development. EDF was represented by Ross Edwards, Communications Officer who had invited Alan Jones from Somerset County Council to join the meeting.

The Mayor highlighted the importance of tourism to the Town and the negative impact of increased freight. EDF said they would be funding a Tourism Officer post and are working with John Turner of Visit Somerset.

The EDF officer said that Aggregate Industries have the contract for the Cannington bypass and he undertook to find out how much of their stone is coming through the town. Councillor Tucker pointed out that the A361 through Glastonbury was designated a national freight route temporarily in anticipation of the Eastern Relief Road which was never built. Alan Jones said that the Town Council would need to convince Somerset County Council to review the freight route and that the circumstances will need to be significant. Recording of near misses will be extremely important and identification of stone lorries specifically undertaking work for EDF contractors.

Councillor Cousins said he understands that the A361 is a County designated freight route and not a national freight route.

Councillor Tucker said that EDF had suggested that the Town Council applies to the Community Impact Mitigation Fund and wondered whether there would be any scope in improving the footpaths but it would seem money will not solve the problem in Chilkwell Street. EDF will confirm whether money from the mitigation fund could be paid to contractors to offset the extra costs incurred should they be rerouted.

Councillor Henderson said that PACT has two CCTV cameras and maybe the traffic could be filmed and a copy sent to EDF as evidence.

It was **AGREED** to form a working party to work on the case for diverting EDF freight.

Sara Clay had made suggestions on how to tackle the problems.

The following people wished to be included in the working party. Councillors Brunsdon, Cottle, Free, Keery, Thurgood and Tucker, County Councillor Napper, Katerina Sonntag and Gabriel Avalon.

#### **154. ST DUNSTAN'S HOUSE**

The Town Clerk presented the borrowing approval application for the loan of £350,000 for the purchase of St Dunstan's House. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the application.

#### **155. 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.

## **156. BUDGET REPORT**

A budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 was circulated to all Councillors and noted.

## **157. COAT OF ARMS**

The Mayor announced that the letters patent document granting the Coat of Arms had now been received. It was **AGREED** that the framing of the document should be financed from the Mayor's allowance.

## **158. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk explained that due to the election results not being published until Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the next Town Council meeting would need to be moved to from 12<sup>th</sup> May to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 which was **AGREED**.

## **159. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk explained that due to the election results not being published until Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the next Town Council meeting would need to be moved to from 12<sup>th</sup> May to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 which was **AGREED**.

Councillor Cousins said he had attended 8 hustings events since the last meeting and would be attending others on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **160. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Austin Memorial Homes – Councillor Keery reported that the trustees had undertaken a recent inspection of the Homes. A number of maintenance issues were noted including the painting of the exterior.

Councillor Brunsdon said that the sheep on the Tor are back with lambs which are vulnerable to dog attacks.

## **161. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a) Mendip District Council – Parishes Information Bulletin – March 2015
- b) Wessex Water – Road Closure – A361 Courting Batch and Chilkwell Street – Sewer renovation 20<sup>th</sup> April until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015

The following correspondence was considered:

- c) Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit – Somerset Emergency Community Contacts. The Unit requested a Councillor Free reminded Councillors that the Town Council has an emergency plan in place. The Town Clerk said this would need updating and suggested that the community warden could be the first point of contact in an emergency with the Town Clerk as reserve. This was **AGREED**.

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**Mayor, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015**