

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 7pm

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

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were accepted from Councillors N Cottle and S Shepherd

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
County Councillor A Gloak  
PC Mark Pople  
PCSO Spencer Bishop  
Gary Knight – Macebearer  
Terry Dowden – Macebearer

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### Public Participation

- Ianthe Alexander queried whether Councillors had viewed the DVD she had sent to them regarding nuclear power. A number of Councillors had not received the DVD.
- Paul Lund reported that Earth Hour would be taking place on 23.3.2013 between 8.30pm and 9.30pm which the Environmental Charter agrees to observe.
- Councillor T Napper complained about graffiti and dirty pavements in the town and general degeneration around the Market Cross.
- Andy Andrews from Frack Free Somerset spoke against fracking
- Louise Somerville-Williams from Frack Free Somerset congratulated Glastonbury Town Council for resolving to reject fracking in the Mendip area and Great Britain as a whole.

There was a fire drill at this point when the meeting was adjourned. All those present left the room for approximately 5 minutes and then returned. The meeting was resumed.

### 142. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

### 143. POLICE REPORT

PC Mark Pople said that the graffiti mentioned by Councillor Napper had not been reported to the police and encouraged Councillors to form a working party to deal with graffiti in the town.

At the PACT meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 concerns over parking in Bove Town and Leg of Mutton, the bin at Northload Stores and dogmess in

Benedict Street were dealt with. Further issues raised regarding anti-social behaviour in Northload Street and Benedict Street until 3am would be dealt with over the 10 weeks prior to the next PACT meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Chris Wickham has arranged for a CCTV camera to be used by residents of Benedict Street.

Councillor Cousins asked whether anyone had offered the camera for use at St Edmund's Hall. PC Mark Pople was not aware that they had and suggested contacting Chris Wickham on the matter.

Councillor Keery said that the biggest debate at the last PACT meeting was about anti-social behaviour. It came to his attention that people are complaining about anti-social behaviour after 3am. He said that if a late licence causes so much trouble may be the Council should call for a review.

Councillor Henderson said he had the impression that the PACT CCTV cameras would be used around the town and not just Benedict Street.

#### **144. MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the addition of the words 'experimental exploration into' prior to the word fracking in para. 1 of item 132 page 34.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Burial Board Joint Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were approved.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were approved.

#### **145. PRESENTATION FROM DR JAMES P VERDON ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF FRACKING IN THE MENDIP AREA**

Dr James Verdon, NERC Research Fellow, School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol gave a presentation on fracking. He will forward the information covered to the Town Clerk for distribution to the Council.

**Councillor Free left the meeting at this juncture (8.40pm).**

Questions were taken by Dr Verdon.

The Mayor thanked Dr Vernon for his presentation.

#### **146. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor Gloak had provided a written report which included changes to the 375 bus service to simplify and improve the service and the return of the Sunday bus.

Councillor Gloak took questions regarding drainage problems at Basketfield Lane, creating problems at the end of Ashwell Lane when the water freezes.

He has looked at the Road Traffic Order for Magdalene Street and it does not include a 20 mph restriction. It was **AGREED** to include a 20 mph limit for

Magdalene Street and Benedict Street on the next Council agenda.

Councillor Barron asked for restrictions to be placed at the junction of St Gilda's Way and Palmers Road to prevent the rubbish lorry mounting and damaging the pavement.

Councillor Sharp was concerned that he had not heard about the Community Enablement Fund grant application. Councillor Gloak said that there was £34,000 granted for youth provision at the Red Brick Buildings and £16,000 for Highways functions.

Councillor Gloak left the meeting.

#### **147. GLASTONBURY TOWN HERALDIC DEVICE AND MOTTO**

Councillor Cousins and Michell presented a paper to the Town Council suggesting that Glastonbury Town Council may wish to consider the heraldic device and motto. With the movement towards unity through diversity prevalent in the Town, they feel that the coat of arms does not reflect the multi-faith community of present Glastonbury. Councillor Cousins said that the Shield and Motto are not registered at the College of Arms.

Councillor Thurgood said that she would oppose any change to the current Coat of Arms and was happy to keep with tradition.

Councillor Michell said that as this Council represents the people they should be involved in discussions.

It was **AGREED** that Councillors should return to the next meeting with names of people that may wish to be involved in a working group to discuss the matter further.

The Mayor suggested making the Town Council letterhead more current and professional looking by using the Coloured Town Coat of Arms on the Town Council stationery when the current stock is finished. This was **AGREED**. At present the black and white motto and shield is used.

#### **148. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Reports were provided by the four District Councillors.

#### **149. OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT**

Councillor Barron reported that the Library Service Review working party had met with Sue Crowley, Somerset County Council Library Services Manager. They learnt that shortly Social Services will vacate the upstairs of the library building. The working party thought it would be prudent to explore whether the space could be let commercially in order to raise revenue to be reinvested into Glastonbury Library to assist running costs. Sue Crowley agreed to arrange for Mr Baber, Assets Manager to visit the building and to discuss the possibilities of a commercial let. A meeting has been arranged with Caroline Tapfield, Senior Assistant in Charge on 21<sup>st</sup> March to discuss the future of the library.

Councillor Knight said that he would be meeting with Mark Welch regarding the reintroduction of the webcam network in Town.

Councillor Cousins reported on the progress of the Town Hall alterations scrutiny committee. He also reported that he was still in negotiations with Pickering Lifts regarding the scissor lift.

Councillor Sharp was concerned about the terms of the £50,000 grant from the Somerset County Council Community Enablement Fund particularly the £34,000 for youth provision which had been obtained without the knowledge of the Town Council Youth Provision Committee.

Councillor Cousins questioned whether £16,000 was enough for the highways functions the Town Council would be providing in the future. The Town Clerk said that further monies had been included in the 2013-2014 budget and also an application to the Community Warden scheme for £3000 had been successful. Councillors hoped that youth provision could be returned to the town centre.

Councillor Thurgood provided written information regarding the Celebration of Youth event which she will be hosting at the Town Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013. She would hope that out of the day a youth council could be formed.

The Town Council **RESOLVED** to support the venture.

## **150. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Barron reported that he would be attending the Allotment Association AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7pm.

Councillor Keery had attended the CAB AGM and reported that although they will break even this financial year, there are concerns that the new benefit system will create more work for them.

## **151. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had represented the Town on 9 occasions since the last meeting including the opening of the Youth Café at the Red Brick Buildings and the new Brewers' Fayre.

## **152. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that the Conservation Society would be working at Northover Jubilee Park on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Councillor Thurgood asked whether expenses are paid to speakers invited to meetings. The Town Clerk will investigate the matter but as far as she knows parish councils do not pay expenses to speakers.

Councillor Sharp said that there should be a separate budget for Northover Jubilee Park. The Town Clerk confirmed that there is £5000 in the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

### **153. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) Letter from Mrs G M Spencer regarding obstructions on the pavement in Magdalene Street – The matter was discussed. Councillor Napper handed the Town Clerk a paper from the County Council detailing their current policy regarding A Boards. Councillor Cousins suggested that policing of A boards and pavement clutter could be a duty of the Community Warden. The Town Clerk will liaise with the Highways Department.
- b) Letter from Zurich Municipal – Town Council Insurance Policy Schedule – 1.4.2013-31.3.2014 - The policy schedule was considered adequate for the Council for the forthcoming year.
- c) Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service – Invite to comment on consultation document – No comment would be forwarded from the Town Council
- d) Mendip District Council Parish Council Bulletin – February 2013 – It was noted that a Rural Forum would be taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> April and the Town Clerk, along with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the day should attend.

### **154. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER OF STAFF**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Staffing Committee be given authority to appoint a new member of staff, as agreed by the Property and Assets Committee.

The date of the next meeting would be 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 when the job description, salary and advertisement of the post would be discussed.

### **155. BUDGET REPORT**

The budget report was considered.

It was **AGREED** that the Budget Report and Schedule of Payments should, in future, be placed earlier on the agenda.

### **156. 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.

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**Mayor, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013**