

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

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were accepted from M Free (illness)

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
County Councillor A Gloak
PCSO James Higgins
Gary Knight – Macebearer
Terry Dowden – Macebearer

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cottle – Planning application.

129. POLICE REPORT

PCSO James Higgins reported on recent garage burglaries, VOSPA checks in the Town and the movement of a traveller site. He invited members to the next PACT meeting which would be held at the Town Hall on 27th February 2013 at 7pm.

130. MINUTES

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2013, 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 Planning Committee held on 29th January 2013 were approved. Councillor Keery spoke about an application to build a house in a garden in Glastonbury, which had been approved at the Committee. It had been brought to his attention that there was a covenant on the land prohibiting the erection of more than one house. The Town Clerk said that the Town Council had made the District Council aware of the covenant.

131. SPEED HUMPS IN MAGDALENE STREET

Councillor Henderson said that a resident in Magdalene Street had requested that the traffic calming speed humps were replaced since they had been removed for the Tour of Britain cycle race.

Councillor Gloak said that the County Council does not consider speed bumps a priority. He mentioned that in the past, complaints had been made by the Abbey and other properties along Magdalene Street that buildings were being damaged through vibration caused by heavy vehicles driving over the bumps. Due to this he doubted that the County Council would move on the issue.

Councilor Brunsdon suggested that a 20 mph speed limit be enforced. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate whether the 20 mph limit in the High Street could be extended to Magdalene Street.

132. NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillors Cottle and Cousins said that although the government had given permission for fracking, they have reason to believe that fracking poses a risk to wildlife, the quality of the water and can cause earthquakes. A number of councillors felt unprepared to make a decision. Councillor Cousins said that any decision made now could be altered in the future if new evidence comes to light.

Proposed by Councillor N Cottle

Seconded by Councillor J Cousins and **RESOLVED**

‘That this Council resolves not to support Fracking in the Mendip Area or throughout Great Britain’.

The Town Clerk was asked to record the vote. Councillors for the motion (8) – Black, Cottle, Cousins, Forster, Keery, Knight, Michell, Tucker. Councillors against the motion (3) – Barron, Brunsdon, Henderson. Councillors abstaining from the vote (4) – Coles, Sharp, Shepherd and Thurgood.

As some Councillors felt unprepared to make a decision it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should arrange for a presentation on fracking at the next Council meeting, if possible.

133. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

Reports were provided by the four District Councillors.

134. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The County Councillor provided a written report.

135. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Barron reported on progress at Tor Leisure Sport. The kitchen was now open and work continues on the gym and dance suites. He also reported in his capacity of Secretary of the Allotment Association that he is dealing with Bristol Water regarding a pipe which needs to be laid across the allotments. The Town Clerk said she thought the water board would need to pay the Council way leave if they cross the land with services not destined for the allotments. She will liaise with Councillor Barron on the matter.

136. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had represented the Town on 8 occasions since the last meeting. He had been at the first Friday night opening of the Youth Cafe and said that young people from Street should be encouraged to attend.

137. PLANNING APPLICATION

Planning application no. 2012/2489 – Erection of commercial unit - Bartlett’s Farm, Godney Road – Mr P Bishop

RESOLVED to recommend approval although the Town Council would not like to see any further development in the area.

Additional comments: It was **AGREED** that the development could benefit from more plant screening.

Councillors Brunsdon and Cottle did not vote on this item.

138. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Cousins updated members on the lift. He had been heartened by the reply he had received from the Company and hoped for a mutually acceptable agreement.

Councillor Thurgood reported on the reconciliation work by CHALLIS.

Councillor Cousins reported that a film on nuclear power was being held at the Town Hall on 21st February 2013 at 6.30pm.

The Town Clerk was still in the process of organising a public meeting about nuclear power, with EDF and others.

The Town Clerk said she would contact Tracy Aarons at Mendip District Council to find out why there was a hold up with the Town Hall solar panel planning application.

139. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered.

- a) Somerset County Council – Traffic Management Measures, A361, Coursing Batch, Glastonbury - Councillors welcomed the measures and hoped they would be successful.
- b) Somerset County Council's Library Service Review – Opportunity for Town Council to get involved – Response required before end March 2013 – It was **AGREED** to form a working party to consider the proposal of the library becoming a community hub. Councillors Barron, Brunsdon and Cottle will arrange to meet with the librarian and Friends of Glastonbury library.

140. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY ELECT

Councillor Cousins said that as standing orders do not allow for election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor prior to the Annual Council meeting, he would suggest that the Council meets informally, as suggested by the Somerset Association of Local Councils, after this meeting to select the Mayor and Deputy for 2013-2014. This was **AGREED**.

141. 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.