

Meeting of the Council held on 9th June 2009 at Glastonbury Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors E James (Mayor), A Andrews, T Billing, J Barron, L Browne, J Brunsdon MBE, S Cox, M Free, J Coles, E James, W Knight, H Sharp, I Tucker, J White

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Natalie Fee spoke regarding Glastonbury Wifi and the possible effects on children through low level radiation. She cited several examples and undertook to forward relevant paperwork to the Town Clerk.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

20. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Hull, Councillor Keery and Councillor Preston.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

22. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the last meeting the Mayor had attended the Transition Towns Day at Glastonbury Town Hall, the AGM of Bath City Council and the Lions Presentation Dinner.

23. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PCSO Becky Smith was in attendance.

She reported on:

- Anti-social behaviour in Benedict Street
- Underage drinking
- The success of the Airwave radio at CCTV monitoring post

Councillor Cox asked that the patrols at Windmill Hill are increased.

Councillor Billing reported that horses are still being tethered and ridden on the pavements and this could lead to a serious accident.

24. PRESENTATION BY BEN CAME AND CAROLINE HOWLETT, MENDIP HOUSING – RENOVATION OF TERRACE COTTAGES AT BECKERY

Ben Came and Caroline Howlett updated Councillors on the progress of the renovation of the cottages at Beckery. They confirmed that the people who were moved out of the properties over 18 months ago would have the option to return. The estimated cost of the renovations are £90,000 per unit.

Ben confirmed that the development should be ready by 19th October 2009. 8 properties will be 3 bed and 4 properties 2 bed.

Councillors asked whether Mendip Housing make an effort to use local firms to carry out works. They said that they were obliged to follow EU Procurement Law.

Mr Came said that the Avalon Tyres development would be for social housing and the Town Council, which objected to the design. He confirmed that he had no influence over the design.

Mr Came informed the Town Council that they would be working with the District Council in identifying gypsy and traveller sites for Mendip.

25. MINUTES

a) The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 12th May 2009, 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 19th May 2009 were received and noted.

26. PLANNING APPLICATION

The following application was considered:

Planning application no. 2009/0426 – Mr and Mrs S Carey, The Orchard, Wick Lane, Wick, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8JR – Reserved matter approval – Previously approved for outline permission for demolition of mobile home and erection of dwelling

RESOLVED to recommend approval due to the development being less conspicuous.

27. MORLAND'S SITE INCLUDING RED BRICK BUILDINGS

Councillor J Barron reported that SWRDA had pulled out of the Morland's Development and were in negotiations with Mendip District Council. There is a possibility that the site could be handed over to a partnership of the County, District and Town Council.

Councillor Gloak confirmed that he is in discussions with the ECOS Trust and Wessex Redevelopment Trust regarding taking and restoring the red brick buildings.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should register with the District Council that the Town Council is interested in being involved in the proposed Morland's partnership.

28. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor White thanked Councillor Gloak for his time as Chairman of the County Council.

Councillor Gloak reported that the County Council intended to regain possession of their land at Wells Road and the bypass and arrange for the erection of wooden bollards to stop future camps.

Councillor Andrews suggested that bollards could be placed all along Wells Road.

Councillor Gloak also reported that the speed indicators were due in the Town again, which appeared to be effective, but he acknowledged that a more permanent solution was required.

Councillor Tucker asked what the cost benefit to the taxpayers was with regard to the wifi.

It was **AGREED** that there should be an Agenda item at the August Town Council meeting which discusses the business case only for wifi in Glastonbury.

Councillor Knight asked for white lines to be painted on the corners of Feversham Way and Sedgemoor Way.

Councillor Sharp reported that the junction at Manor House Road and Wells Road is dangerous due to vehicles obscuring the view for vehicles leaving Manor House Road.

Councillor Gloak confirmed that the Morland's site could not become a travellers site due to the proximity to the sewage works.

29. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Barron reported that Mendip District Council contributed £54,000 towards the skatepark.

Councillor Free asked the District Councillors to investigate the possibility of providing play equipment at the St Brides Close playpark.

Councillor Andrews asked who had authority to name streets as he was concerned that the new 'Rushes' development would appear to have now been named Dunstan's Park which could create confusion, especially for the emergency services. The Town Clerk undertook to contact the District Council with these concerns.

Councillor Sharp said that he understood that the District Council are behind in their provision of gypsy and traveller sites.

30. OUTSIDE BODIES

- a) Talking Newspapers for the Blind – Councillor Browne said that she was pleased to be involved with the organisation which caters for 40-50 blind or partially sighted local people.
- b) Glastonbury Charities and Austin Memorial Homes – Councillor Browne reported that she and other Trustees have concerns about the management company, Knightstone Housing and there is an extraordinary meeting being held on 17th June 2009 at 10.30am.
- c) Councillor Sharp had attended a meeting arranged by Street Parish Council regarding the changes in mental health provision. There is a follow up meeting in six months.
- d) Graffiti group – Councillor White commended the youth group for the graffiti project recently undertaken at the skatepark. She reported that they had run out of money for material and that the underpass still required painting. It was **AGREED** that £200 should be donated from the graffiti fund for the youth group to paint the underpass at the Thorndun Estate.

31. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported that Glastonbury Conservation Society were to be shown around Bridgwater at 2.30pm on 14th June 2009.

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that those taking part in the Pilgrimage on 20th June 2009 should meet at the Town Hall at 11.30am.

32. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted.

- a) Mendip District Council – Standards Update Training for Councillors
- b) Somerset Levels and Moors – Local Action Group Event on 16th June 2009 – Councillor Barron agreed to attend
- c) Pioneer Somerset: 'Devolution of Services' Survey update
- d) Avon and Somerset Constabulary – Summary Policing Plan 2009-2012 and Policing Pledge
- e) Letters from Primark and BPC Retail Property Specialists declining offer to take up use of ex Woolworths premises in High Street

33. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET 2008/2009, ANNUAL RETURN AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Copies of the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and the Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement had been circulated to members for approval following a satisfactory inspection by the internal auditor.

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance sheet and the Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2008, are approved and adopted.

34. PROBUBUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES

It was **AGREED** that as Probusiness Financial Services use guidelines laid down by the Audit Commission they are suitable to carry out

internal audits for the Town Council. None of the Town Council members, nor the Town Clerk declared an interest in Probusiness Financial Services.

RESOLVED to appoint Probusiness as internal auditors for 2009-2010.

35. ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

The wording of the Annual Report was approved with the addition of the management of the cemetery; Mr Sharp to read Dr Sharp and access for the disabled at the Town Hall item.

The Town Clerk will make the alterations and arrange for the report to be distributed.

36. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, now tabled, 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.

Mayor, 14th July 2009