

Meeting of Glastonbury Town Council held on Tuesday 4th September 2007 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: A Andrews, C Barry, T Billing, J Brunsdon MBE (Mayor), J Coles, S Cox, M Free, J Keery, W Knight, P Preston, H Sharp, I Tucker (arrived at 7.06pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

The Mayor said a prayer prior to commencement of proceedings.

41. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Councillor Browne, James and J White.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Keery – Personal interest – Public footpath to St Dunstan's School.

43. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Councillor Barry announced that the Somerset Wildlife Trust would be holding an Open Day at Brook Farm, Butleigh on 22nd September and the first Harvest Show would take place at the Town Hall on 14th September 2007 with a Harvest Supper in the evening.
- b) Councillor Sharp invited members to an illustrated talk on Glastonbury's twin town, Lalibela by himself and Mrs Sharp at the Town Hall on 12th September 2007 at 7pm.
- c) Councillor Andrews reported that people were urinating in the Town streets late at night and that the Council should look into the installation of pop-up toilets. Councillor Billing informed Councillors that CCTV was keeping an eye on anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Tucker arrived at the meeting (7.06pm)

44. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

A copy of the report had been circulated to each member.

Councillors reported that residents were extremely unhappy about the reduction in bus services at Windmill Hill. First Bus, as well as having problems with new legislation regarding reduction in driver working time had complained that parked cars were hampering the service. The Town Clerk was asked to contact the PCSO's to report the problem.

Councillor Keery pointed out that it was a failing of the District Council in not introducing on street parking enforcement.

45. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Barry reported that a Transition Town Glastonbury meeting had taken place on 3rd September 2007 and that 5 sub groups had now been formed.

46. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7th August 2007, which had been circulated to each member with the agenda, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the Town Hall Committee meeting held on 7th August 2007 were received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21st August 2007 were received and noted.

Councillor Keery pointed out that to retain the business within the Town the Avalon Plastics application would require a legal agreement, attached to any permission that may be given, ensuring that the factory on the Morland's site is built and occupied prior to the sale of the Beckery site. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write to the District Council with this request.

It was noted that Councillor Sharp and Free do not have voting rights on the Planning Committee.

- d) The minutes of the Burial Board held on 21st August 2007 were received and noted.

47. FOOTPATH TO ST DUNSTAN'S SCHOOL FROM MANOR HOUSE ROAD

The Mayor invited Sarah Switzer to update the Council regarding the School's application for prescriptive easement.

Ms Switzer explained that there were 92 objections to the application, 11 which were upheld and that these objections would need to be dealt with before any further action could be taken. She informed the Council that the school was still using the footpath for vehicular access.

RESOLVED that the Town Council should write a letter to the School Governors, with a copy to the legal department of the County Council and the County Councillor, stating that the Town Council wishes to be involved in any mediation that may come about.

48. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor Barry asked the Town Council to consider the provision of affordable housing in Glastonbury. She informed members of an enterprising landowner in Dorset who had built an estate of straw bale houses. The price of the houses had been capped at £80,000 and when sold they will only increase by the cost of living.

Councillor Tucker suggested that Councillors attempt to identify land in Glastonbury which would not be suitable for conventional housing but may be suitable for this kind of development.

The SALC representatives were asked to investigate this suggestion at the SALC Annual General Meeting.

49. REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL PITCH REQUIREMENTS FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS IN THE SOUTH WEST

A response to this consultation document from the South West Regional Assembly is required from the Town Council by 31st October 2007.

RESOLVED that a working group made up of Councillors Barry, Brunsdon, Keery, Tucker, Coles and Sharp should meet to formulate a response from the Town Council in consultation with the Robert Barton Trust.

50. DISABLED PASSENGER LIFT TO THE FIRST FLOOR OF TOWN HALL

Councillor Free explained that due to time constraint this item which would normally be dealt with by the Town Hall Committee had been placed on the Council Agenda.

Since the last meeting, quotations had been received from three companies for the installation of a disabled passenger lift. The quotations are for a glass lift from the foyer up to the Council Chamber. The quotations did not include building works which would be quoted for separately.

Positive meetings had been held with the Conservation Officer and Building Control Officer who had both implied that the contrast of metal and glass would have a good chance of gaining consent.

The timescale would be 8 weeks to obtain listed building consent and 12 weeks for manufacture of the lift. Councillor Free asked for permission to go ahead with the application for listing building consent.

RESOLVED to allow the application for listed building consent for a lift to go ahead and to accept the cheapest quotation of £19,650 should permission be granted.

51. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was noted. Copies of b,c,e,f and g were circulated with the agenda.

- a) Mendip District Council – Planning Enforcement: Training session for parish councils – 13th September 2007.
- b) Mendip District Council – Rights of Way Network Management – Working in partnership with Somerset's Parish and Town Councils – The Town Clerk passed the survey of paths in Glastonbury to the Conservation Society for completion.
- c) Somerset County Council – Mendip Area Working Panel – Future dates.

- d) Burma Star Association – Letter of thanks to Mayor and Councillors for attending the Annual VJ Service.
- e) Waterlinks – Letter with information on Waterlinks and The River Festival, 23rd September 2007 – The Town Clerk was asked to invited Martin Lofthouse to a future meeting to discuss the project.
- f) Somerset Association of Local Councils – Items of interest to Councillors including notification of Annual General Meeting.
- g) Somerset County Council – Working together for a safer Somerset – Briefing Sheet for Parish Councils in Somerset – It was noted how the abuse of alcohol is implicated in Crime.

52. 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, 2nd October 2007