



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Town Centre Crime Reduction Advisory Committee held on 8th August 2024 at 7pm	
Councillors Present	I Donfrancesco, P Manning (Chair), M Oakden (Deputy Chair)
Apologies	Kim Von Coles, Susannah Hart (County Councillor), Insp. Rose Green (Work Commitments)
Absent	Nick Cottle (County Councillor), Chloe Forfitt
In Attendance	PC Stacey Bennett, Abigail Gibbs, Martin Hicks (Curtain Pole), Sgt Simon Lancey, Rev. Kieron Rowley, J Sparkes (Labyrinth Books) and S Hallam (Committee Clerk)
Public Participation	N/A

10. Apologies. Insp. Rose Green (work commitments), Susannah Hart (personal commitments), and Kim Von Coles (holiday). These apologies was duly **NOTED**.

Cllr Nick Cottle (County Councillor) and Chloe Forfitt, were both absent without reason.

11. Declaration of Interest.

Jim Sparkes – now a member of the Parochial Church Council and Trustee at St Johns Church.
Cllr Donfrancesco – Member of Town Deal Board & Chair of Red Brick Building.
Cllr Manning – Member of Town Deal Board & Director of Beckery Island Regeneration Trust.

12. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2024

The minutes of the meeting on 25th June 2024 were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

13. Police Report.

Sgt Simon Lancey firstly introduced PC Stacey Bennett to the Committee. PC Bennett joined the Beat Team in May.

Sgt Lancey talked through his Report which had been put together as a direct comparison with the town of Chard, as they are a similar sized town to Glastonbury – see attached report of figures.

14. Speed Cameras

The A361 Committee asked for this item to be put on the Agenda as they wish to find out the requirements for obtaining a police backed speed camera. The Police at this meeting did not know the answer, but Sgt Lancey advised that he would try and find out.

Action: Sgt Lancey / S Hallam

15. Buskers Code.

The Committee Clerk showed the Committee the newly printed Buskers Code and advised that 1,000 had been printed. The Committee were very happy with the leaflets. J Sparkes suggested that the buskers code be distributed by members of the Committee with a PCSO and ask the shop keepers for feedback of using this code. Copies will also be available from the Town Council Reception.

Action: Committee Clerk

16. St Johns Churchyard.

J Sparkes advised that at a recent PCC meeting it was acknowledged that things are better than they were, however on a daily basis the Church has problems with anti-social behaviour, whether that be directed at the Clergy, Trustees or the Wardens. Hard drug dealing / drinking alcohol and fighting have all been witnessed within the church grounds. This also makes it difficult for the church to gain volunteers which is damaging to the church.

The banning system is not working and the Church has been backed into a corner and an option for discussion is the closing of the Churchyard for a period of time, which no-one wants. The elderly helpers at the Church find it very difficult and upsetting.

Sgt Lancey added that the police do have staffing issues which is frustrating and acknowledged that Glastonbury needs more policing and advised that he would speak with Inspector Rose Green.

J Sparkes added that there are cultural issues and we need the community to come together and get behind the Church. People need to respect the Church and its grounds, it is not a park! Sgt Lancey added that we are policing symptoms and not the actual cause. Sgt Lancey also added that if there is drug dealing etc, that the Police need to be more visible and the Church volunteers/clergy etc need to feel safe.

J Sparkes added that there is also homophobia in the Town with certain groups being attacked, for example, the flags were up for Glastonbury Pride, but by the evening they had been removed.

CLlr Donfrancesco asked Rev Rowley if the verbal abuse etc is at closing up time? Rev Rowley advised that they lock the gates between 6pm-7pm and he still does get verbally abused. Sgt Lancey advised that he will arrange a police presence next week – Weds/Thurs/Friday at

the time when the gates are locked. PC Bennett added that everything needs to be reported then we can see a pattern. Rev Rowley advised that if anyone refuses to leave then he does call 999.

Rev. Rowley added that it is cultural and the PSPO's are now out of date. The PSPO's have limitations, but it does make a clear message that we as Glastonbury will not tolerate it. Cllr Manning added that we as a Council did write to Somerset Council about the PSPO's.

Action: Committee Clerk to speak to Town Clerk

Cllr Oakden stated that with Britain in Bloom Judging in the town that St Johns School have been looking after the flowers in the pots/tubs outside the school which look amazing and has lifted that area.

Rev. Rowley expressed his thanks to the Town Council for having the railings painted.

17. Town Ambassadors.

Cllr Donfrancesco advised that the Town Ambassador proposal was discussed at the full council meeting and they were all happy to take this forward. A Steering Group made up of Stakeholders Partners (Police, businesses, Church, Glastonbury Health Network, etc) would be established.

The Town Ambassadors will be a presence on the High Street, they will be trained in first aid, mental health etc and will also be able to signpost people to different services.

Cllr Donfrancesco advised that they need to look at funding ideas.

The next step is for the Stakeholder Partners to have their first meeting and then she will report back to this Advisory Committee after that meeting.

Sgt Lancey advised that he thought this was a very good idea and added that a Police member could be a stakeholder too.

18. Agenda Items and Date of Next Meeting.

- Town Ambassadors/Navigators – update from Indra Donfrancesco/Jim Sparkes.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 10th October 2024 at 7pm.

SIGNED:	DATE:
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