



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

| Minutes of Glastonbury in Bloom Committee held Monday 30th March at 7pm | |
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| Councillors Present | Cllr M Oakden (Chair), M White (Deputy Chair), Cllr I Mutch Ark Redwood (Volunteer), |
| Apologies | Cllr Lokabandhu, Gez Smith (Volunteer), Katie Armstrong (Assistant Town Clerk) |
| Absent | Cllr J Cousins |
| In Attendance | S Marks (Committee Clerk), Conor Ogilvie - Davidson (Town Clerk) |
| Public Participation | |

69. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Cllr Lokabandu, K Armstrong and G Smith due to prior arrangements

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests in addition to those already disclosed via councillor's register of interests to the Monitoring Officer.

71. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January 2026 were **SIGNED** by the Chair, as a true record of the meeting.

The Committee Clerk reported that she had contacted the resident regarding grants but had not yet received a response. She will follow up again.

Cllr M White reported that the barrels on Chilkwell Street are currently being maintained by a local resident. The Committee Clerk confirmed that Chalice Well is happy to assist in looking after the barrel's nearest to them.

72. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT AND MAKE ANY ASSOCIATED DECISIONS REGARDING ANY EXPENDITURE NOT OTHERWISE LISTED ON THE AGENDA

The Committee Clerk presented the finance report to the committee.

Cllr M Oakden commented that 2026 may present greater financial challenges due to the global climate.

The Committee Clerk reminded members that there were no earmarked funds allocated for 2026.

The Committee Clerk asked the committee to consider whether she should be paid overtime or receive TOIL in respect of her attendance at the recent seminar at RHS Rosemoor.

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Cllr M White proposed that the Committee Clerk be paid overtime for the recent RHS Rosemoor Seminar 5 hours overtime at £95.35. The proposal was seconded by Cllr M Oakden and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

73. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SUMMER BEDDING FOR 2026

The Committee Clerk updated the committee that the summer bedding has been ordered from Sweet Acre Nursery. Four quotes were issued; however, only Sweet Acre Nursery responded.

It was noted that hanging basket application forms for local businesses will be distributed in April, with baskets scheduled to be installed in late May 2026.

The Committee Clerk confirmed that all planters will be planted during May, once the risk of morning frosts has passed, to improve the likelihood of plant survival.

74. TO DISCUSS THE OPEN GARDENS FOR 2026

The Committee Clerk reported that she had circulated the Open Day information to participants involved in the residential Glastonbury in Bloom scheme. Eight residents responded indicating their interest in taking part. It was agreed that, as this is the first year of the Open Day, participation would be limited to these eight gardens. The committee noted that this approach would allow the event to be reviewed before considering expansion in 2027. The Committee Clerk advised that she had received a form used by another Bloom group and will adapt it for use within Glastonbury in Bloom.

The need for risk assessments was discussed. It was suggested that advice be sought from South West in Bloom regarding best practice and any relevant guidance.

75. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP

It was agreed that the sponsorship letter would be slightly amended for 2026.

The Committee Clerk and Town Clerk will discuss the proposed amendments further outside of the meeting.

76. TO DISCUSS THE THEME FOR 2026 SCHOOL POSTER COMPETITION

The committee agreed that this year's theme for 2026 will be "Kindness and Community".

The Committee Clerk presented a draft poster design, which was approved.

It was agreed that the poster would be distributed to all local schools to encourage participation in 2026.

77. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

The Committee Clerk reported that judging dates have not yet been confirmed. Following discussions with the Secretary at South West in Bloom, it may be necessary to schedule two "mop-up" days and one official judging day due to the number of entries this year.

The committee noted that 12 IYN entries have been submitted, including three schools, along with 15 local businesses, some of which are new participants.

A concern was raised regarding one business entry displaying a “to let” sign. The Committee Clerk will investigate whether this entry will still be participating.

The Committee Clerk reported that she recently met with the Head Gardener at Chalice Well. While they are unable to take part in the competition, they have kindly offered to welcome the judges as guests to visit the Chalice Well gardens after judging has concluded.

It was also noted that the Committee Clerk has arranged a meeting with the new Head Gardener at Glastonbury Abbey to advise on what will be required on the judging day.

78. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Committee Clerk confirmed that Glastonbury judging day will take place on 10th August 2026, with the town being the first in its category to be judged.

The appointed judges are L Jelleyman and A Holland. It was noted that L Jelleyman has previously judged Glastonbury for South West in Bloom.

The Tribunal Room has been booked for the meet and greet and buffet, and the Festival Hall has been reserved for the morning presentation.

A litter pick will be arranged for the day prior to judging.

Following discussions with one of the judges, it was noted that they would prefer not to attend an evening meal. Instead, they would like to meet for tea and cake before returning to their hotel. The Committee Clerk will therefore arrange refreshments at the Festival Hall.

The presentation awards ceremony will be held at Rochdale Town Hall on 20th October 2026. It was agreed to provisionally book five hotel rooms with a cancellation policy, in case fewer tickets are allocated.

The judging route will remain the same as in 2024, as it proved effective and fits within the allocated time.

Participating schools have been asked to provide videos of their gardens/projects for the judges to view, as schools will be closed during the summer holidays.

79. TO DISCUSS THE SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM SPRING SEMINAR 2026 – RECEIVE FEEDBACK

It was reported that, unfortunately, due to some technical issues with the microphone and screen, the South West in Bloom seminar did not run as effectively as intended.

Despite this, attendees were able to walk around the gardens, which was enjoyed by members of Glastonbury in Bloom.

The Town Clerk requested that the Committee Clerk provide feedback on the seminar, particularly regarding the speakers. It was suggested that future seminars could include a Bloom group presentation on how they prepare for judging, along with practical tips and guidance.

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80. TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS GLASTONBURY IN BLOOM PROJECTS FOR 2026

The committee discussed the B&Q roundabout and how the area could be improved. It was agreed that the Committee Clerk will visit Sweet Acre Nursery to seek advice and suggestions.

The Town Clerk requested that Sweet Acre Nursery also review St Dunstan’s House Garden and provide recommendations for plants suitable for a sensory garden.

Further discussion took place regarding St Dunstan’s House, including the replacement of planters, as the original planters have now been relocated to St John’s Square.

Cllr M White proposed that four planters (two-tiered barrels, as used in St John’s Square) be purchased for outside St Dunstan’s House at a cost of £417.00 each plus VAT. The proposal was seconded by Cllr I Mutch and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

The committee also discussed planting areas under the trees in St John’s car park.

The topic “History of Glastonbury,” proposed by G Smith, will be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting.

Open Days had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

81. TO CONSIDER THE SAKURA CHERRY TREE PROJECT IN BUTLEIGH, SOMERSET

The Assistant Town Clerk had submitted a report advising that this project has now been completed. It was noted that enquiries will be made to identify any further tree planting projects in which the committee could participate.

82. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The date of next meeting will be held Monday 20th April 2026.

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