



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Town Centre Crime Reduction Advisory Committee held on 20th August 2025 at 7pm	
Councillors Present	I Donfrancesco, Lokabandhu, P Manning (Chair), I Mutch, M Oakden (Deputy Chair) & M White
Apologies	Cllr S Henderson, A Gibbs & M Hicks
Absent	Cllr L MacDougall, Paul Kenny (Co-Op), Susannah Hart (County Councillor)
In Attendance	Insp. Rachel Clark, Sgt Simon Lancey, Graham Baker, Jim Sparkes (Labyrinth Books) and Sarah Hallam (Committee Clerk)
Public Participation	N/A

13. Apologies.

Cllr S Henderson (prior commitments), A Gibbs (holiday) & M Hicks (holiday). These apologies were duly **NOTED**.

14. Declaration of Interest.

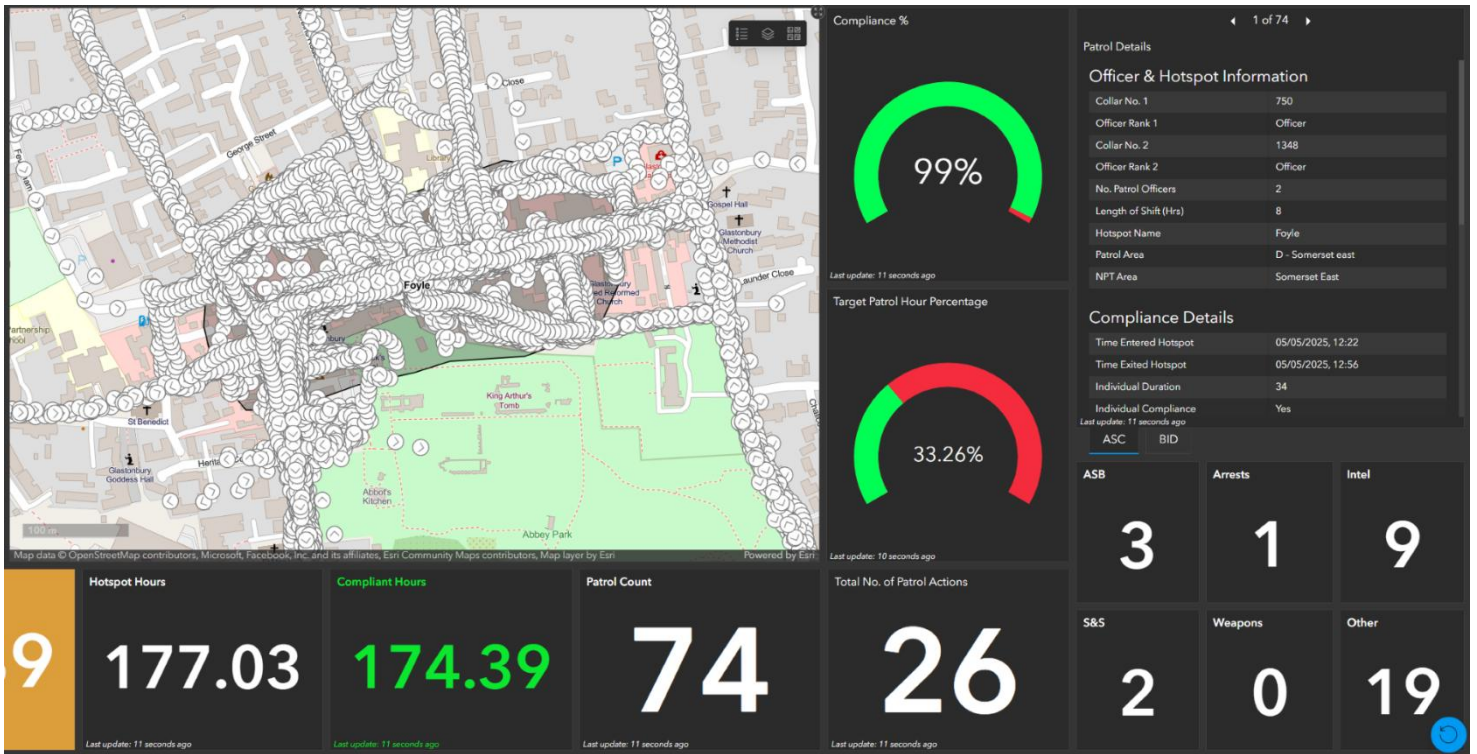
Cllr Manning – Member of Town Deal Board & Director of Beckery Island Regeneration Trust.

15. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2025 were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

16. Police Report.

Sgt Lancey presented the up to date figures:-



Insp. Rachel Clarke talked about new Policing Initiative and the Committee did agree that the town does feel better since this happened.

Both Insp. Clarke and Sgt Lancey talked about the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. As part of this, every neighbourhood in England and Wales will have dedicated teams spending their time on the beat, with guaranteed police patrols in town centres and other hotspot areas at peak times such as Friday and Saturday nights. 2-3 months ago it was challenging in the area for the police, but it is hopefully now starting to feel better. Investment has been put into this area and the Team has been looking at priorities coming out of the summer season.

The Police would like locals and visitors to feel safe when in town and the Neighbourhood Policing initiative will help and that Team will never lose their staff.

Hot Spot Policing continues with extra patrols at particular times in key areas. These targeted patrols are focused on reducing crime, increasing visibility and making sure the community feels safe and supported. This is provided by Officers working overtime.

Insp. Clark advised that they have entered into discussions with Somerset Council regarding the new PSPO signs, but these discussions are ongoing. Insp. Clark couldn't share details, but did say the meeting was very positive.

Sgt Lancey enquired whether the Town Council would consider reviewing the current benches outside the Church, with a specific suggestion to explore the installation of a Camden Bench. This style of bench is designed to influence public behaviour by discouraging certain activities and ensuring the structure is used solely for seating.

After brief discussion, it was agreed to potentially table the matter for consideration at a future meeting.

17. Anti -social behaviour – Feedback from Sarah Dyke MP meeting with Retailers.

J Sparkes provided feedback from a recent meeting with Sarah Dyke MP and local business owners. He expressed his surprise at the level of distress and fear among retailers due to ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the High Street. The meeting aimed to explore further actions to address the situation. J Sparkes is hopeful that improvements in consistency and changes within Neighbourhood Policing will lead to positive outcomes. Sarah Dyke MP is expected to return in the autumn to review progress.

Sgt Lancey acknowledged that the meeting took place during a period of heightened ASB in the town. J Sparkes agreed, but emphasised that a variety of factors influence local trading conditions, including ASB, weather, shoplifting, and the wider economy. He highlighted that businesses will require ongoing support.

Sgt Lancey confirmed that shoplifting remains a policing priority. He encouraged businesses to report any dissatisfaction with outcomes or investigations directly to him.

The meeting also addressed concerns regarding alcohol misuse and drug dealing in the town. Insp. Clark noted that the local Tasking Team has a strong background in tackling drug-related issues, but police action relies heavily on information and reports from the community. Sgt Lancey added that drug investigations are ongoing, though not always visible to the public.

Cllr Oakden raised a past instance in which she submitted video evidence of drug dealing but felt no action followed. Sgt Lancey responded that all reports are reviewed, but it is not always possible to update those who report incidents on the outcomes. Insp. Clark reinforced the importance of reporting, stating that the police are a data-driven organisation, and crime must be officially recorded to guide response and resourcing.

18. Illegal Street Trading.

J. Sparkes raised concerns about the increase in illegal street trading within the town.

All instances of suspected illegal trading should be reported directly to Somerset Council. The Licensing Team is responsible for investigating these reports and will take appropriate action where necessary.

19. Church Yard review.

J. Sparkes expressed deep concern that the Church grounds are once again at risk of closure due to ongoing issues in the churchyard, including drinking, drug use, and anti-social behaviour by a small group of regular offenders. Whilst the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is reluctant to close the grounds, they are committed to ensuring the space remains peaceful and respectful.

Sgt Lancey offered to speak with the Church directly about these ongoing concerns and how they might be addressed collaboratively. J. Sparkes noted that the newly appointed vicar, Rev. Watson, may also wish to be involved in any forthcoming discussions.

Insp. Clark confirmed that she would liaise with the Hot Spot Team to request increased visibility and patrols in the area during their rounds to help deter unwanted activity.

20. Agenda Items and Date of Next Meeting.

- Church Yard
- Frost Fayre

If anyone has an Agenda items to email the committee clerk.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 7pm.

SIGNED:	DATE:
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