



# GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Minutes of A361 Committee held on 22 August 2023 at 7 pm</b>	
Councillors Present	J. Cousins, I. Donfrancesco, L. MacDougall, M. Smyth, S. Roney-Dougal, M. White.
Apologies	Cllr Nick Cottle
Absent	None
In Attendance	Scarlet B. Shaffer (Committee Clerk)
Public Participation	None

## **1. ELECT A CHAIR**

Cllr I. Donfrancesco was proposed by Cllr M. Smyth and seconded by Cllr S Roney Dougal and **RESOLVED** unanimously with no abstentions.

## **2. ELECT A DEPUTY CHAIR**

Cllr L. MacDougall was proposed by Cllr S. Roney-Dougal and seconded by Cllr J. Cousins and **RESOLVED** unanimously with no abstentions.

## **3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTE THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies were received from Cllr N. Cottle These apologies were duly **NOTED**.

## **4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr J. Cousins proposed to accept the amendments for the Terms of Reference and seconded by Cllr M. White and **RESOLVED** unanimously with no abstentions.

## **5. TO CONSIDER THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS COMMITTEE**

Cllr J. Cousins proposed to accept the amendments for the Terms of Reference and seconded by Cllr M. White and **RESOLVED** unanimously with no abstentions.

## **6. TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES ARISING ALONG, AND AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC ON, THE A361**

- Pedestrians waiting a long time to cross the road due to excessive volume of traffic.
- Sat Nav routes traffic through Glastonbury as oppose to the motorways
- No 7.5 tonnes weight restriction applied for HGV's
- Articulate matter- Cracked pipes from Victorian era under the roads causing a tar like substance to be released and coat the nearby houses which people are breathing in. Excessive noise levels affecting the wellbeing of residents living alongside the A361.

Initial:

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- Drivers not adhering to the new legislation that pedestrians have the right of way crossing the roads.
- Not enough pedestrian crossings in the area. Bere Lane congestion due to the Chicane and lorry length being extended to 18 metres.
- Footfall of 80,000-100,000 people at the pinch point at the base of the Tor.
- No speed cameras on the route
- Pollution and damage to the fabric of listed buildings on Chilkwell St.
- A361 is designated as a freight route- built today it would be seen as a single track
- Lobbying road stone companies being allowed to use the road
- Narrow road
- Ltd companies have more influence than residents
- Political will
- An issue that there is a vested interest of existing members of Somerset Council and former members of Mendip District Council in favour of the quarries and road haulage industry. Their support of the lobbying of quarries stone companies to access the route to Hinkley point for their most cost-effective way, outweighs the impact on the community.

#### **7. TO CONSIDER THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS ARISING ALONG AND AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC ON, THE A361**

- This is a narrow road and cannot be widened with a severe pinch-point at the bottom of Wellhouse Lane. The road is not suitable for the purpose it now has. It is unsuitable as a designated freight route.
- Pedestrians have a right to a safe and accessible crossing on the road.
- Lobbying power of politicians for the freight companies and haulage businesses on national and county level has an impact that is disproportionate to the impact on the Glastonbury Community and a root cause because the quickest route is through Glastonbury
- A well know national and county freight route. Environmental considerations are not considered.
- Tourism has increased four-fold since 2015. Near miss accidents for public on foot.
- The financial increase on the vehicles transporting goods via other routes
- Taking into account other points of view impacts on actions and stops progress - e.g. environmental and cost to transport companies
- Community cannot agree on a singular argument. E.g. economic, environmental
- Damaging the infrastructure, buildings and health of the community.

#### **8. TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS ARISING ALONG, AND AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC ON, THE A361**

**Recommendation to Full Council to put forward a motion for Glastonbury Town Council to request installation of a permanent speed camera to be installed at Coursing Batch. Proposed by Cllr S. Roney Dougal and seconded by Cllr J. Cousins.**

- Consult with B. Garrard on previous history of the project.
- Source the door to door survey previously presented to the Council.
- Determine who is responsible for granting permission to remove the Freight route to DE designate it

- Adhere to a singular purpose and not take into account other issues from other sources. E.g. expense increase to rerouting the vehicles.
- Resolving the issues for the Glastonbury communities. Safety and Community wellbeing. Looking after the residents of Glastonbury
- There is an existing petition of 5,000 signatures. Focus on the subjects of economics and health
- Not reducing the road to a **B** status Remove the heavy traffic by removing freight route status and bring in a 7.5 tonne weight limit from Cannard's Grave to B&Q roundabout with signs displayed
- Research and decide issues to raise and how the resolutions will be implemented. Research who can remove the decision on freight route. Research 7.5 tonne weight limit legislation.
- To rectify the mistake of applying the freight route and the weight
- GTC conduct a survey to research the impact of the A361 being used as a 7.5 tonne vehicle route. Then research whether Glastonbury Town Council can implement a temporary reroute to measure the impact on the environment.
- Strategy to be determined at the next meeting

### **Actions**

#### **Cllr Roney-Dougal**

Alert Coursing Batch group to Bruce Garrard's link on history of A361 and advise the A361 committee are now an operational group. Source the original online petition with 5,000 signatures

#### **Cllr MacDougall**

Consult with The Speed Watch group on progress of having a speed camera permanently installed at Coursing Batch by SCC. Report findings at the next meeting.

#### **Cllr Cousins and Cllr White**

Locate the research on the 7.5 weight restriction for HGV's

#### **Cllr Donfrancesco**

Locate the door to door survey

#### **Cllr Smyth**

Locate the 1960's surveyors report (possible Bruce Garrard will have information.)

#### **Cllr Donfrancesco and Cllr MacDougall**

Formulate the agenda items for the next meeting and send to the Town Clerk

#### **Action for all**

Who to lobby? Who has the power to permanently remove the freight route and add the 7.5 weight restriction?

**9. TO SET THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

<b>SIGNED:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>
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