



## GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Minutes of Resilience Committee held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm</b>	
Councillors Present	Jon Cousins, Lokabandhu, Paul Manning, Mike Smyth, Michael White.
Apologies	Indra Donfrancesco, Lindsay MacDougall
Absent	
In Attendance	Melissa Taylor, Clerk for this committee.
Public Participation	No members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects raised included: 1.

### **22. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOT THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Donfrancesco and MacDougall, due to other commitments. This was duly **NOTED**.

### **23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

JC declared that he is a member of the Axe & Brue Internal Drainage Board, a director of Avalon Community Energy, and on the Town Deal board. MW declared that he is on the Town Deal board.

### **24. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON June 6<sup>th</sup> 2023**

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed as a correct record. MT needs to print a copy and arrange for MW to sign them.

The following issues were noted:

- MT has emailed Philip Brewin, to invite him to speak with the committee, but has had no response. JC offered to speak with him.
- Item 18, the term 'Heat Officer' needs to be explained more fully, as an officer who will check on vulnerable people during extreme weather. NHS Community Agents (Mendip Health Connectors) in Glastonbury already check on vulnerable people. But they would need additional support in cases of extreme weather, or disasters. The community Council for Somerset has agents running the talking cafes at St John's church. This committee to know about all of these organocations so that they can be supported during times of crisis. Debbie Slater and Fen Bagias are contacts.
- Also, item 18, regarding rest centres for each ward: this is a more complete list:
  - **St Benedict's ward:** The Town Hall and St John's Church – Cllr Donfrancesco and Cllr White
  - **St Edmund's ward:** St Edmund's Hall, Cllr Lokabandu
  - **St John's ward:** St Dunstan's School and Mendip Hospital - Cllr Manning

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- **St Mary's ward:** St Mary's Church, Red Brick Building, and Rural Life Museum - Cllr MacDougall, Cllr Smyth

Each building will need its own Emergency Plan, and adapt to any specific emergency. Other building can be added to this list. Eg United Reform Church.

## **25. TO CONSIDER A BUDGET FOR THIS COMMITTEE FOR NEXT YEAR**

This committee has a budget of £5,000 for this year. So far, £450 of this has been spent on training for three Rural Link Facilitators.

PM suggested that the Resilience committee spends £500 of its budget to help the town to respond to the lack of pharmacies, following the closing of Boots. To support volunteers who will travel to Boots in Wells, 2-3 times each week, to pick up prescription medication, and then distribute it from a central location. This would require spending on printing a flyer to inform residents, and submitting DBS checks for volunteers.

**Resolution:** Proposed by Cllr Manning, seconded by Cllr Smyth, voted for unanimously.

*The committee agrees in principle to support the newly forming prescription delivery service, and awaits further updates from Cllr Manning.*

**Recommendation:** Proposed by Cllr Cousins, seconded by Cllr Manning, voted for unanimously.

*That any moneys from the Resilience committee budget not spent this year, is put into a discrete dedicated reserve fund for the resilience committee.*

**Recommendation:** Proposed by Cllr Smyth, seconded by Cllr Cousins, voted for unanimously.

*That the Resilience committee budget for next year be set at £5,000.*

## **26. TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE ON THE SWT CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORKSHOP**

Due to a clash with another vent, this has been rescheduled for Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm. All councillors have been sent an invitation.

## **27. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN HALL**

MT reported that a planning application has been submitted for solar panels on the town hall roof. It was suggested that the Town Clerk should request that Somerset East planning department formally notify Glastonbury Town Council of the agenda for each planning meeting before it is held. And that Cllr Smyth should be copied on this request, as chair of the planning committee.

It was also suggested that a councillor should speak in support of the application with a statement detailing carbon saved, running costs saved and other benefits. It should stress that GTC declared a climate emergency in 2019, and have followed up by signing up as an Earth Protector town, and declared an ecological emergency. S part of GTC's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030 at the latest, they need to install as many PV panels as possible, and the Town Hall roof is the best place for them. It is GTC's duty, as public servants, to serve future generations by mitigating the

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rise in global temperature of 1.5C above 1990 levels. GTC recognises that there is a tension between conservation and the climate emergency. However, the climate emergency takes precedence, and additionally the climate emergency will threaten the heritage buildings that conservationists are trying so hard to protect.

**Recommendation:** proposed by Cllr Cousins, seconded by Cllr Smyth, voted for unanimously.

*That Cllr Lokabandhu speak at the planning meeting, presenting a statement in support of the application to install solar panels on the Town Hall roof.*

The opportunity for GTC to benefit from Avalon Community Energy providing the panels free of charge, as part of their town deal commitment, was discussed. The panels would be owned by ACE and would need an agreement covering roof space rental, and a reduced charge for electricity use. This would need to have a clause ensuring that if ACE failed, the panels would revert to GTC. The committee agreed that this sounds good in principle, but they would need to the figures. Surplus income from generated electricity would go to a the community benefit fund.

MT shared a summary of the plans for retrofitting the Town Hall.

**Recommendation:** proposed by Cllr Cousins, seconded by Cllr White, voted for unanimously.

*That work recommended in the Retrofit Plan be commenced, and that the offices and corridor are stage 1, using this year's decarbonisation budget. And that the kitchen and stage corridor be stage 2, using next year's decarbonisation budget. This should be reviewed, once the St Dunstan's atrium is built, and it's impact on the retrofit plan has been reviewed.*

## **28. TO CONSIDER SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

ACE has not managed to buy land for their solar panels, and if they do, the grid does not have the capacity to take the extra load generated. They are now looking for an alternative, where community buildings can be supplied directly from the panels. The Town Hall roof is one option already being considered. Are there other GTC buildings or land that could be supplied in this way if the panels can be installed there? For instance, Herbie's Field, the 3<sup>rd</sup> allotment site, land behind the cemetery, chapel roofs, carnival sheds. If this opportunity is not fully realised, ACE's Town Deal money will go back to the government. Another option would be to contact James Heapey and ask for a change to the Town Deal boundary, to include land that is viable for solar panel fields.

For Neighbourhood Plan committee

**Recommendation:** proposed by Cllr Smyth, seconded by Cllr Lokabandhu, Cllr Cousins abstained, voted for by majority.

*That the Neighbourhood Plan committee consider whether any of the areas of land considered for development might be suitable for solar panels.*

## **29. TO CONSIDER A TREE STRATEGY AND RECOMMENDATION**

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Plans to develop a tree strategy for the parish were discussed. The draft Neighbourhood plan contains policies, and the appointment of a volunteer warden would be part of a national drive from the Woodland Trust. Baltonsborough have a job description and person specification that we could use.

For the Staffing committee

**Recommendation:** proposed by Cllr Smyth, seconded by Cllr Cousins, Cllr Lokabandhu abstained, voted for by majority.

*That the Staffing committee consider the merit of appointing a volunteer tree warden(s), to inform the council about tree matters, advise on suitable actions, and lead on the creating of an inventory of ancient and significant trees and hedgerows within the parish.*

### **30. TO REVIEW THE DRAFT EMERGENCY PLAN**

Due to lack of time, this item was deferred to the next meeting in December.

### **31. TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL RESILIENCE, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CONFERENCE**

The committee agreed to fund MT's attendance at this event, in order to get up to date information on policy and support for local resilience measures. It will also provide valuable staff development and training for the climate emergency and resilience officer.

### **32. TO SET THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is set for December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7pm.

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