



# GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Minutes of Town Centre Crime Reduction Advisory Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm</b>	
Councillors Present	I Donfrancesco, Lokabandhu, P Manning, M Oakden
Apologies	Susannah Hart (County Councillor), Rev. Kieron Rowley
Absent	Nick Cottle (County Councillor), Cllr J Cousins, Chloe Forfitt
In Attendance	Abigail Gibbs, Martin Hicks (Curtain Pole), Insp. Matthew Reed, J Sparkes (Labyrinth Books), Matt Cloke (Somerset Enforcement), Nick Ryder (Somerset Enforcement), S Hallam (Committee Clerk)
Public Participation	N/A

**1. Apologies.** Susannah Hart and Rev. Kieron Rowley sent her apologies.

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

Jim Sparkes – now a member of the Parochial Church Council and Trustee at St Johns Church

**3. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

It was noted that Simon Lancey is a Seargeant and not a PC.

Matt Cloke added that on page 10 in reference to Dogs and the PSPO – dogs do not need to be on a lead if they are not causing distress and/or out of control and only Authorised Officer (i.e. the Police or Authorised Officer of Somerset Council) can approach the dog owner. He added that if anyone sees an out-of-control dog/causing distress to report it Somerset Council.

The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

**4. Police Report.**

Inspector Matthew Reed shared the Police Report with the Committee, as below:-

1. As expected, incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre have remained relatively low and stable through the winter period. There have been sporadic incidents which we have dealt with accordingly.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team are planning a period of enhanced, visible activity in the Town Centre from Easter. This will likely include support from other departments, such as the Mounted Section. We know that street crime and anti-social behaviour

increases as the weather warms up and want to 'set out our stall' for the summer ahead. We will consult with further information as our plans develop.

2. Although not formally linked to the Town Centre Crime Reduction Committee, a recent situation on Porchestral Drove is worthy of mention due to likely tension, lack of reporting to the police and displacement, all of which could have a knock-on effect for the wider town.

A privately owned field on Porchestral Drove has been used recently as an encampment. The site became flooded which meant occupiers were forced to leave, leaving caravans and campervans in situ. We were alarmed to hear that these accommodations were severely damaged, possibly with a chain saw, making them uninhabitable. We are working with the council to understand the situation. This incident will cause concern amongst the community, but nothing formal has been reported to the police. We stand ready to listen and advise any members of the community who wish to speak to us. We will discuss issues of sensitivity and concern before agreeing on any action.

3. Avon & Somerset Police continue to support Somerset Council in its enforcement action connected to the Zig Zag Building. Our stance is that we have significant concerns over safeguarding of individuals and broader public safety. I will be providing information to the Planning Inspectorate's Public Inquiry. We recognise that this work will cause concern amongst some communities. We will maintain a listening and supportive stance, and are happy to discuss concerns anyone may have.
4. In previous years, the Mendip Neighbourhood Policing Team (including officer from Glastonbury) have been utilised to police the festival itself, taking them away from local community policing. For the first year, I have been authorised to 'ring fence' my team so that they will not be utilised at Worthy Farm, but instead be highly visible in the community to mitigate any impact at this busy time. I will be writing to all City, Town and Parish Councils asking for feedback and suggestions as to how the team can best be used during this period.
5. Staffing on the Neighbourhood Policing Team remains challenging. Avon & Somerset Police have announced cuts to PCSO numbers (reduction of 80) which is about a third of the total. Constable numbers are unaffected and we hope to recruit into vacant posts this year.

Insp. Reed advised the Neighbourhood Policing Team are planning to increase their patrols from Easter in the town centre.

A general discussion took place in respect item 3 regarding sanitisation at the Zig Zag Building. Matt Cloke talked about water contamination. Cllr Donfrancesco added that a number of changes had been made on site.

**Action: Cllr Donfrancesco and Abigail Gibbs to look into this and report back to the Committee.**

## 5. Buskers Code.

J Sparkes advised that the sub-group had met and discussed the Buskers Code and how they can update/improve the document. He updated the Committee of the changes/edits he has made to the Buskers Code document.

Matt Cloke asked if he could see the code before it is re-launched? And added that he could look at our draft code and make suggestions with use of language, laws etc. Firstly, that “must” to be replaced with “shall” or “should”.

Nick Ryder also added that he does engage with buskers. Some can be confrontational and it takes time but does look to work with buskers and shop owners to find a balance.

A general discussion took place regarding the Noise App and how we can promote the new revised code.

**Action: JS to look at edits and email code to Matt Cloke/report back to Committee**

## 6. Town Ambassadors.

This will be discussed in depth at the next meeting, however a general discussion took place regarding having Town Ambassadors in Glastonbury. There are various aspects for consideration, for example funding, training, volunteers?

Insp. Reed advised that Bristol has a similar scheme and he will email his colleagues there and ask how theirs work.

**Action: Matthew Reed**

A more general discussion took place regarding the drinking on the High Street and why it cannot be banned from the High Street. Matt Cloke added that the PSPO covers this.

The PSPO signs which have now been put up states that the following activities are prohibited:-

- failure to stop consuming intoxicating substances
- failure to surrender intoxicating substances as directed by an authorised officer
- failure to remove dog faeces
- Failure to put a dog on a lead as directed by an authorised officer

Nick Ryder advised that signs had been delivered to the Town Council. The Committee Clerk did not know this and stated she would find out.

Martin Hicks added that signs would help with the issues on the High Street.

Matt Cloke said that whilst enforcement is appropriate in certain situations, enforcement alone is not the solution. The behaviour/culture needs to change. Cllr Donfrancesco added that people are lonely. There used to be the Robert Barton Trust which was place individuals

could go for help, support and access services/mental health services but it was closed down – would be great to have a place like that again.

Matt Cloke agreed that there should be provision for mental health issues, as long as their mental health isn't improving, then drinking on the High Street will continue.

CLlr Oakden added that we will have the Wellbeing Centre once the St Dunstons Refurbishment is completed which could provide a safe space for mental health services, counselling etc, but that is 2 years down the line. CLlr Oakden added we just need the "will" to put it in place.

**UPDATE** – since the meeting PC James Higgins has informed the Committee Clerk that the PSPO signs have now been put up in the following places:

- Benedict Street
- Wells road
- Chilkwell Street
- High Street
- Market Cross.

The Committee Clerk has noticed that these signs expire in July 2024!

**7. Agenda Items and Date of Next Meeting.**

- Buskers Code (final edits)
- Town Ambassadors
- PSPO Signs Expiry

Date of next meeting – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

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