



# GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Minutes of Town Centre Crime Reduction Advisory Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm</b>	
Councillors Present	I Donfrancesco, P Manning (Chair), M Oakden (Deputy Chair)
Apologies	Cllr S Henderson, Martin Hicks and Paul Kenny
Absent	Cllr, Nick Cottle (County Councillor), Chloe Forfitt, Susannah Hart (County Councillor),
In Attendance	S Hallam (Committee Clerk), Abigail Gibbs, Sgt S Lancey, J Sparkes (Labyrinth Books)
Public Participation	N/A

## **26. Apologies.**

Cllr S Henderson (childcare), Martin Hicks (holiday) and Paul Kenny (sickness). These apologies were duly **NOTED**.

Cllr Nick Cottle (County Councillor), Cllr Susannah Hart (County Councillor), Chloe Forfitt, were absent without reason.

## **27. Declaration of Interest.**

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

## **28. To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

## **29. Police Report.**

Sgt Lancey provided the below crime figures which are a 12-month year-on-year comparison: -

### Crime: Overall

+11.1%

Public order +20% (37 incidents)

Theft +45% (87 incidents)

Burglary +54% (12 incidents)

Sexual offences -23.5% {12 incidents}

Vehicle Crime -24% {-16 incidents}

Anti-Social Behaviour  
+6.3% (1 incident)

Other Notes:-

- PC Charlotte Bradley is joining the team and is a welcome addition to support the town.
- Beltane and the Dragon Parade will be supported by the team as always.
- The summer solstice will be here shortly, and we again will be on duty to support the town.
- The new government pledge will be introduced and will mean that the town should see more visibility of officers over the summer.
- The town continues to benefit from continued hotspot patrols, and this will continue through the summer.

### **30. Business Improvement District – Chamber of Commerce – Town Ambassadors.**

Cllr Donfrancesco and Jim Sparkes have been working on this project together.

Cllr Donfrancesco introduced Graham Baker who is a Glastonbury resident and has taken the initiative of becoming of a Street Ranger. He has been a presence and is interested in being a part of this scheme.

A general discussion took place about how this would work etc.

It was agreed that the next steps would be for Cllr Donfrancesco and J Sparkes to get together and produce a staged report and feed back into this Committee.

**Action: Cllr Donfrancesco/ Jim Sparkes**

### **31. Additional CCTV**

Cllr Donfrancesco advised that Rev. Rowley was concerned about what would happen after he left St Johns Church. Rev. Rowley was the presence in the Church Yard and was worried about what would happen with nobody to replace him.

A general discussion took place about finding a suitable place to put up CCTV camera. Rev. Rowley had advised at a previous meeting that a camera could not be fitting on the church building itself, but said it is worth investigating where a suitable location could be. Sgt Lancey advised that he was happy to look at it.

### **32. St Johns Church Yard**

Jim Sparkes advised the Committee that at the last PCC Meeting it had been decided that the only course of action the Church could take against ASB/Drug Dealing etc in the Church grounds was that from 1<sup>st</sup> May the Church and Church yard would be closed for 30 days. All

events planned would be postponed, including the Talking Café, but Church Services as advertised on the church website will continue as planned.

J Sparkes wanted to reiterate that the Church does not want to do this, but feels it has no choice. Once the Church and grounds are re-opened; any further breaches will result in another closure of 30 days and so on.

J Sparkes added that the Church now has to take bold steps to combat this problem. J Sparkes also asked if the Police could be present and include the Church in their patrols. Sgt Lancey asked J Sparkes to email the Church's statement to himself, and he will circulate to the whole team as he is keen to support to Church with this.

I Sparkes advised that the Church will not be doing banning letters anymore, didn't really work and they don't have the admin capacity to keep that going.

A general discussion took place about when the Church and grounds are open again that maybe a rota of some members of the community could be organised to help. Cllr Donfrancesco added that some mental health training could be arranged for the Talking Café etc.

Jim Sparkes also advised that the advert for a main vicar is now live and hoping to have a new vicar as soon as is possible. In the meantime, The Revd. Pamela Heazell has stepped in to conduct services during this time.

### **33. Agenda Items and Date of Next Meeting.**

- Town Ambassadors – Cllr Donfrancesco to provide update.
- Church Yard review.
- Beltane / Town Events.
- Festival impact.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7pm.

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