



## GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Minutes of Resilience Committee held on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 7pm</b>	
Councillors Present	Jon Cousins, Indra Donfrancesco, Lokabandhu, Paul Manning, Lindsay MacDougall, Mike Smyth, Michael White.
Apologies	
Absent	
In Attendance	Conor Ogilvie-Davidson, Town Clerk Melissa Taylor, Clerk for this committee
Public Participation	No members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects raised included: 1.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Smyth, due to another meeting. He arrived towards the end of the meeting. This was duly **NOTED**.

#### **41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

JC declared that he is a member of the Axe & Brue Internal Drainage Board, and a founding director of Plotgate. LD declared that she is working with Reimagining the Levels.

#### **42. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> 2023**

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed as a correct record and signed.

The following updates were noted:

- Following up on the recommendation made at the December meeting, an action was identified for Mike Smyth to draft a letter from GTC to government detailing a call for a *National Planning Policy for Food Resilience, to build resilience based on regenerative farming practices to protect the environment and ecology*.
- Matters relating to the transfer of assets from Somerset Council have been discussed in other meeting, so do not need to be covered again here.  
It should be noted that the subject of assets came up with Cllrs Leyshon and Shearer at the LCN on January 29<sup>th</sup>. They took a special interest in how they could 'fast track' the carpark transfer and asked that the Town Clerk communicate with them about this. Conor agreed to email them.
- Melissa will ask Philip Brewin to speak to this committee about the Nature Recovery Strategy, and follow up on previous questions raised by this committee.
- Lindsay noted that Chilkwell St. was also flooded, and the December minutes were amended to include this.

Initial:

Date:

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- Jon Cousins reported that a long term 20yr strategy was started by Somerset Council and others in 2010, and a draft flood response plan was developed for the winter just passed. JC will forward documents to Melissa, so that they can be referred to in the development of GTC's Emergency Response Plan.

#### **43. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE PLANS FOR RUNNING A TEST EXERCISE FOR THE DRAFT EMERGENCY PLAN**

Michael White suggested that the committee runs an exercise to test the draft Emergency Plan. Based on his experience of this in other countries, it is a useful process to go through.

There was a discussion about clarification on whether the plan should relate to the community or the operations of the town council. It was agreed that while there is some overlap if the town hall is used as a refuge or centre for operations, we should start with a GTC plan and then develop a wider version to cover the community.

Therefore, as a first step the exercise will test the responses of the town council, limiting the plan to what the council has within its control.

Decisions will need to be made about whether and to what extent GTC can still function during an emergency. What is the best use of the chamber? A rest centre, organisational hub, security needs? Different plans will probably need to be prepared for each different scenario.

It was agreed that the committee dedicate the whole of the next meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to an exercise that will test the draft emergency plan, but initially addressing only what will happen within GTC and the town hall. We will follow the procedure set out by Somerset Prepared in their slide pack: *Communities 'Exercise in a box'* <http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Communities-exercise-in-a-box-Somerset-Prepared-13th-Oct-2022.pdf> Melissa will prepare materials needed and set up the room.

Other resources:

- Michael W shared a website Flood Mary, which provides resources for residents at risk of flooding <https://floodmary.com/help-and-resources/>
- Indra shared a booklet produced by Communities Prepared called *Utility Volunteer Training*. Melissa will register and download the pdf version of this and other booklets, for use by this committee. <https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk>
- Indra shared a book *Retrofitting for Flood Resilience* <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9780429347986/retrofitting-flood-resilience-edward-barsley>
- Indra suggested that the Carnival operations and use of the town hall would provide valuable lessons and skills for use during an emergency. It was suggested that operations during Frost Fayre would also provide lessons.

#### **44. TO CONSIDER SOMERSET COUNCIL'S LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY**

It was suggested that we invite Steve Mewes of SWT to speak with the committee about this. It seems that they are looking for areas in need of protection or restoration. Are there any areas of GTC owned land, or land within the parish, that could be considered. It was agreed that Melissa

will take the survey and share her responses. The committee can decide whether to respond as one or do it individually.

Melissa will ask how they are funded and whether they have sufficient funds to carry out works in Glastonbury.

**45. TO CONSIDER A FUNDING APPLICATION TO SOMERSET COUNCIL FOR URBAN TREE PLANTING**

This item started with a discussion about the existing urban trees in metal planters which were funded by the Town Deal fund and have been so unpopular with residents. Although many consider them unsightly and not suitable for the town centre, it was observed that a plan to dispose of them would be wasteful, and an alternative could be to have them decorated with mini murals or clad them with timber. It was decided that a home for them would be considered as part of the Red Brick carpark redevelopment.

As they each weigh around one tonne, for the planters to be moved anywhere, the entire high street will need to be closed to sufficient space for a large removal vehicle to do the job in one go. The cost of the vehicle and the road closure will need to be covered by GTC.

RECOMMENDATION to the Property & assets Committee: JC proposed, PM seconded, majority vote, LM and MS abstained.

*That the Property & Assets Committee considers moving the planters to the Red Brick Building and elsewhere.*

A discussion identified options for land where trees can be planted, including Archer’s Way, an area near the hospital, Old Wells Road, Green area South of the Cemetery, Fisher’s Hill.

It was agreed that the most suitable area is a field identified for allotments, next to the Carnival Sheds, would be the most suitable area. And that trees could be planted along the northern and western boundaries, including fruit and nut trees, preferably some Walnut if suitable.

The possibility of pavement trees to replace the planters was raised, with the need to identify land ownership and how to deal with utilities. The question of additional costs for this work was raised. Will the contribution from the fund cover all costs, or will GTC need to provide more? It appears that GTC can provide the 20% match-funding in the form of labour rather than money.

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

The date of the next meeting is set for April 2nd 2024, at 7pm.

This meeting will be devoted to an emergency plan testing exercise.

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