

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 6th January 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

- PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor A Gloak)
Councillors: D. Allen, A. Andrews, T. Billing, J. R. Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N. Cottle, E Higgins, E N James, J. S. Keery, H Sharp, I C Tucker and A Willis
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Mrs J Billing, K Mitchell, Mrs J White
Sergeant Halliwell

The meeting opened with a moment's silence.

129. REPRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

District Councillors Brunsdon, Coles, Higgins and James left the room during the following item and took no part in any decision made.

The Mayor varied the order of business to deal with the following planning applications.

- i) 104907/003 - Mendip Housing – Demolition of existing garages and miscellaneous structures (not including existing dwellings)(amended description)(CAT A) – Rear of Benedict Street – CONSERVATION AREA
- ii) 104907/002 – Mendip Housing – Erection of 4 dwellings & 8 flat for affordable housing (CAT B) – Rear of 41 Benedict Street – FULL

Mr S Gay and Zena Haworth represented the residents in opposition to this planning application. They were disappointed that the Town Council had not responded to the District Council regarding this application. The Chairman of the Planning Committee Councillor Allen and The Clerk confirmed that the Council had responded with an objection but the District Council planning office report that they did not receive such a response.

RESOLVED unanimously to object to the applications and forward the following response to the District:

‘Glastonbury Town Council, unanimously agreed to ‘OBJECT’ to the above applications and now duly forward the following comments to Mendip District Council Planning Department:

The Council is concerned over the application, which seems a desperate measure to provide much needed social housing for Glastonbury. The Council recognizes the need but must recommend this application for refusal due to the compactness and overlooked situation of the site and the poor standard of living this would provide for the prospective residents.

The access to the site is very poor, causing danger to pedestrians in an area with schools and clubs where pedestrian safety is paramount. The new application does not address this problem. The loss of parking spaces in the new application causes more concern in that further parking will occur in the surrounding streets. This street already has well documented parking problems.

The site is surrounded by largely retired neighbours which is likely to give rise to a conflict of lifestyles and the loss of yet another green space and associated wildlife, in this already densely populated area would be unacceptable.

We would remind the District Council of its duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1999 when considering this application and would suggest a site visit by all District Councillors who will be making a decision on this application.'

The District Councillors returned to the room.

ii) Written representation from Sheila Martin, Chair of St John's C of E Infants' School regarding problems of intimidating crowds with dogs outside the entrance to St John's School – Letter previously circulated.

AGREED to write to the Robert Barton Trust for advice, liaise with the Police and the proprietor of the free food van and write to St John's Governors to offer the support of the Council.

130. REPORT FROM POLICE OFFICERS

PC Barraclough reported on

CCTV – Damage to Christmas Tree, perpetrator caught on film
Extra weekend patrols – High visibility foot patrols when arrests were made

Inspector Dean:

- Reported overall decrease recorded crime April – Dec.
- Introduced 2 new Community Support Officers.
- Confirmed that the Speed Watch equipment would be arriving soon.
- Encouraged people to report incidents of disturbance.

- Offered the attendance of Assistant Chief Constable Steve Otter at a future meeting.

AGREED to invite the ACC to the March meeting.

131. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th November 2003, copies of which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

132. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

i) The report of the meeting of the Morland's Sub-Committee held on 17th December 2003, copies of which had been circulated to each member, were noted and agreed.

ii) The report of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18th December 2003 copies of which had been circulated to each member was noted and agreed with the addition of Dennis Allen as Chair.

133. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Website – Councillor Billing circulated a letter from Shepton Mallet Town Council stating that they are impressed with Glastonbury.gov and request that Councillor Billing makes a presentation to their Council regarding the setting up of the Website. Councillor Tucker thanked Councillor Billing for his efforts so far and the obvious success of the site. The Council **AGREED** that Councillor Billing and the Town Clerk should liaise with the Clerk of Shepton Mallet Town Council to offer them help.

134. GRANT REQUEST FROM GLASTONBURY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

RESOLVED not to grant monies at this time due to the apparent non-viability of the Business Plan.

AGREED that the Clerk should write to the Glastonbury Community Development Trust asking them to submit a revised plan for consideration in six months time and offering to meet with them to discuss the matter.

135. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Councillor reported on:

- Proposals from Steve Otter, Assistant Chief Constable re possible amalgamation of Basic Command Units in Bristol and Somerset – Copy of paper to be circulated to Councillors.
- Benedict Street – Somerset Highways will visit the site to see what can be achieved
- Double yellow lines in Northload Street
- Bove Town/Old Wells Road – Possible speed restrictions
- Market Cross to form part of the LTP for Glastonbury

- Speed camera signs along Coursing Batch – Work to start in the next few days

And took questions regarding:

- Irregular pavements in the High Street – Problems being caused by lorries mounting pavement and slabs are laid in sand and not concrete.
- Vacation of County Council farm
- Market Cross – Illegal parking
- Graffiti in underpass – Relief road
- Pruning of trees to provide CCTV camera with clear view

The County Councillor will contact the Somerset Highways with regard to these matters.

The full transcript of the County Councillor's report is attached to the official minutes.

136. REPORTS OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillors reported on and took questions regarding:

- Toilets Working Group
- Betrothal Couple (stone carving in Market Place) – District would like to see both restored - total cost will be slightly increased
- 1 Bove Town – Appeal allowed
- Government working party regarding car parks and new developments
- Bartletts Farm – Matter finally dealt with
- Floodlights at Rugby ground
- Motor bike scrambling

137. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Billing reported that the film show at the Town Hall on 19th December 2003 was a success and Wells Film and Filmair have now undertaken to work together for a trial period of 5 months showing two films a month.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Billing.

138. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence, which had been copies to Councillors, was noted:

- i) Gordon Woodend, Director of Operations, SWRDA – Response to letter from Mayor regarding the Morland's site
- ii) Glastonbury Tourist Information Centre – Notification of transfer of ownership and maintenance of Visitor Information boards to Mendip District Council.
- iii) St Edmund's Community Hall Management Committee – Letter of thanks for second instalment of Grant (£3000).
- iv) Vale of Avalon Vintage Road Run – Letter of thanks for grant of £250.
- v) Mendip District Council – Re: Public Convenience Provision for Glastonbury.

vi) Mendip District Council – Notification of Parish Forum 19th January 2004.

139. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Mayor and Chairman Committee of the Five Towns are to arrange a skateboard competition.
- Hepworth Building on the Morland's site to be demolished on Thursday
- The RDA agreed that the wording in the Consultation Document stating that the Town Council is unco-operative was inappropriate.
- Methodist Church Service on 11th January 2004, 10.30am – All Councillors welcome.

Mayor and Mayoress engagements for December 2003:

- Carol Service Wells Cathedral
- Creation of Mayor's Cadet in Able cadet Frankie O'Neill
- Thorn Cutting
- St Dunstan's School carol service
- Millfield Junior School carol concert
- Mass at St Mary's Church
- Mayors Supper
- Frost Fayre
- Wells City Band concert
- Chalice Well Solstice service
- Mayor's tea party for senior citizens at the Town Hall
- Christmas Day visit to Butleigh Hospital, Sedgemoor Way Nursing Home and sheltered housing groups

140. GLASTONBURY AND STREET AREA BOARD

Next meeting to be held at Crispin School at 6.30pm on 21st January 2004.

141. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments now submitted, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes, be approved and signed by two members as the Town Clerk's authority to make the payment.

Mayor _____
February 3rd 2004