

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd October 2006 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Allen, A Andrews, J Barron, T Billing, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles (Mayor), N Cottle, A Gloak, E N James, J Keery, H Sharp, I Tucker, J White

APOLOGIES: Councillors: E Higgins, K Mitchell
Ros Wilkins, Area Regeneration Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
PC M Pople

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T Billing – Personal interest – Glastonbury FM.

70. REPORT OF COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople gave a short report and took questions regarding:

- Graffiti
- Young people climbing on roofs in the Town
- Double parking in Manor House Road and Northload Street
- Lack of police presence on Windmill Hill
- Bypass and Street Road being used as a race track
- Caravan parked at Tor View Avenue
- Fight in St John's Churchyard

71. PRESENTATION BY CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

Sonia Pike, Manager of Mendip Citizens Advice Bureaux provided the following information regarding the Glastonbury Office.

She informed the Council that the Office provides free, independent advice for all. Although last year 1200 people visited the office there were actually 8000 contacts ie. telephone calls, letters and those visiting direct. Visits to people in the home are also carried out.

Debt is the highest enquiry and results in 33% of all enquiries in Mendip and 55% of all enquiries in Glastonbury. The CAB helps people to manage their situation, ie helping them to rearrange payments. Averages debts are £16000.00 and many people with these debts appear to be the victims of irresponsible lending by financial institutions.

The CAB also assists people to apply for benefits. 16% of enquiries in Glastonbury are regarding benefits and as Social Services are not allowed to apply for benefits for clients, they are referred to the CAB.

Funding is always an issue and 4 years ago the County Council were questioned by the Audit Commission on CAB funding. This unfortunately resulted in a decrease in funding from the County Council.

Sonia confirmed that any financial assistance which comes from the Town Council goes directly to the running of the Glastonbury office.

To counteract the lack of funding The CAB has taken on lottery funded projects to help fund the core service ie. Domestic Abuse project.

Sonia confirmed that a scheme to provide a CAB worker was in abeyance due to lack of funding. Councillor Sharp suggested that CAB posters could be placed on the notice boards in the Doctor's surgeries.

There are 87 fully trained volunteer advisers and the Bureaux are always looking for more.

72. TOLERANCE GARDEN FOR GLASTONBURY

Councillor James read the following extract from the minutes of the West Mendip Community Partnership (formerly the Area Board) which took place on 12th September 2006. 'The chairman of Glastonbury Community Watch, Chris Wickham presented the report from the Community Safety Focus Group. The Group had taken the view that the Alcohol Restriction Zone in Glastonbury had moved the problem of street drinking to other areas and a tolerance garden was proposed as a compromise.

The Area Regeneration Manager said that this idea had been around for over a year and has worked well in Brighton. The people who currently drink on the streets have been consulted and they are enthusiastic about the prospect.

Inspector Richards said that the police are enforcing the Alcohol Restriction Zones and have issued Acceptable Behaviour Contracts but these are not working. He felt that a tolerance garden would enable the police to be more robust in their enforcement.

The Chairman of the Partnership proposed that the Area Regeneration Manager work with the Community Safety Focus Group to look at possible sites in consultation with Glastonbury Town Council. This proposal was carried'.

Graham Coles, a drug and addiction Counsellor, gave a presentation explaining to the Council why, in his opinion, this idea would not be in the best interests of the addicts.

Councillor James was concerned for the young people in the Town and on the information available at present he would not support the idea. He was also concerned that the purchase of alcohol by the street drinkers was funded by drug dealing.

Councillor Cottle was concerned that this subject was being debated at all at this time as he felt the full facts had not been made available.

Councillor Tucker said that he had been approached by many concerned Glastonbury residents who asked the question 'why Glastonbury'?

Councillor Gloak suggested that the seats were removed from outside St John's Church, as had happened previously. He felt that there must be a different way of managing the situation. He said that the Council had a duty to protect its young people, some of whom were spending time with the drinkers.

Councillor Andrews said that taxpayers were not happy to support the project and felt the Police were doing well seizing alcohol and dealing with the problem.

Councillor T Billing pointed out that this would be a significant health hazard and likely to give rise to a fatality.

Councillor Keery reminded the Council that the group of drinkers does blight the High Street and that there must be a way to improve the situation, democratically.

Councillor Sharp felt the idea was totally inappropriate. He would like the Council to pursue meeting with the owner of an establishment in the town which appears to continue to serve alcohol to the inebriated.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** unanimously apart from 2 abstentions to reject outright the principle of a Tolerance Garden in Glastonbury.

73. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) The Mayor announced that since the last meeting he had attended the following events on behalf of the Council:

- Civic Service at Highbridge – 10th September 2006
- Carnival Draw – 14th September 2006
- Battle of Britain Service at St Cuthberts, Wells – 17th September 2006
- Presentation to Stephanie Morland on her retirement as Chairman of St Edmund's Hall Management Committee – 27th September 2006
- Mendip in Bloom Presentation where he was presented with a cup on behalf of Glastonbury for first prize in the Best Town category in Mendip in Bloom. He thanked Councillor Gloak for all his hard work.
- Glastonbury in Bloom Presentation – 29th September 2006
- William Stanstell Awards where he received a commendation on behalf of the Council for the work to the Market Cross.

Councillor Brunsdon said that the panel of judges remarked on how vibrant Glastonbury Market Cross area appeared when they visited the town on market day.

The Mayor also mentioned that he would like to provide a plaque to be placed in Heaphy's Café in memory of Charles Heal of the show family who originated in Glastonbury.

b) Councillor Tucker announced that it was 25 years since the new fire station opened and in celebration the Brigade would be holding an Open Day on 14th October 2006 from 12 noon-4pm.

74. PRESENTATION BY GLASTONBURY FM WITH REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Steve Bilsborough updated the Council with regard to a community radio station for Glastonbury. He confirmed that only 50% of funding can come from commercial sponsorship and that annual costs would be £64,000.

Trials last year were successful and Glastonbury FM is now ready to apply for a licence and is looking for funding from the community. At present he has identified 5 funders who may be able to help.

Councillors agreed that it could be a good opportunity to promote the Council.

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to support the idea of a community radio station for Glastonbury, in principle.

75. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposer: Councillor A Gloak

Seconder: Councillor N Cottle

'That this Council wholeheartedly supports the policy of saving energy and to that end resolves to investigate, at the earliest opportunity, the possibility of installing photovoltaic panels on the Town Hall roof and or solar panels to augment the power and/or hot water supply for the Town Hall'.

Councillor Gloak said that County Hall has the largest photovoltaic bank on a public building, in the Country and that the Town Council would be eligible for a 50% towards the cost of installation of such a system.

Councillor Cottle spoke in support of the motion.

The Clerk was advised to contact the Carbon Trust and register the Council's interest in applying for a grant.

The motion was passed unanimously.

76. MINUTES

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th September 2006, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21st September 2006, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

77. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) 104682/013 – Reynolds and Hayward Ltd – Extension to car park approved as part of 104682/010 and 104682/001 – Land at Sedgemoor Way

'Recommend refusal'.

78. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brunsdon reported on:

- His involvement in the visit of Princess Anne to the Blue School as the Vice-Chairman of Mendip District Council
- The Almshouses off Magdalene Street are in the ownership of Mendip Housing and dialogue is taking place with the diocese regarding a possible takeover.

Councillor White left the meeting at this stage.

As the District Council are partners with SWERDA on the Morland's site, Councillor Tucker asked the District Councillors to enquire as to why all the reclaimed building grade blue lias on the Morland's site had been crushed by the contractors to be used as spoil on site. He estimated that there would have been about 3000 tons. Current price for this would be approximately £160 per ton. The Council had been led to believe that building materials would be recycled to blend in with the listed buildings and other buildings on site.

It was **AGREED** to invite Clive Budden, the new Director of SWERDA to a Council meeting to discuss progress on the site.

79. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Gloak reported on the following:

- Forthcoming paper on local government reforms due out in October.
- Traffic Order for Sedgemoor Way and change of priority in Benedict St
- The introduction of white lines in Palmers Road
- No through road sign for Fairfield Gardens

80. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted. Copies of items a, b, e, f had been circulated with the agenda.

- a) Somerset County Council – Somerset Levels Potential World Heritage Site – Progress update – Public meeting to be held at St Mary's Church Hall at 7pm on 13th October 2006
- b) Somerset County Council – Steps for a new single water management partnership
- c) Glastonbury Chilkwell Guy Fawkes Carnival Ltd – Letter of thanks for donation of £250 for services provided for Mayor's Sunday parade
- d) Somerset Highways – Temporary road closure for 3 weeks starting from 16th October 2006 – Middle Drove, Glastonbury
- e) Somerset Highways – The County of Somerset (Various roads, Glastonbury)(Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2006 – Sedgemoor Way, King Street and Northload Street
- f) Somerset Highways – Tuesday Market Road Closure (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2006

81. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, a copy of which had been circulated to all Councillors and which is attached to the official minutes, to be approved and signed by two members as the Town Clerk's authority to make the payments.

Mayor, 7th November 2006