

Meeting of the Council held on 9th January 2007 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Allen, J Barron, T Billing, J Brunsdon MBE, E Higgins (Deputy Mayor), J Keery, W Knight, A Gloak, E James, K Mitchell, H Sharp, I Tucker, J White

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Ros Wilkins, Area Regeneration Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillors: A Andrews, J Coles, N Cottle.
PC M Pople

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr S Gay spoke regarding planning application for 59c Benedict Street .
Mrs Hillard spoke regarding Benedict Street.

Councillor Higgins took the Chair in the absence of the Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

85. POLICE REPORT

Members were disappointed that a member of the Community Beat Team was not available to attend the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Police regarding:

- PCSO provision within the Town
- Problems with communications via Portishead
- Travellers
- Vandalism at Cavendish Lodge as indicated in letter to Mayor from Churchill Homes

86. REPORT FROM AREA REGENERATION OFFICER

Ros Wilkins reported on the following matters:

- Draft ARO budget which she will present to the next meeting.
- Signage in Town – Councillors asked about progress on this following meetings with interested parties. Councillor Keery suggested that a sub-committee could be formed to discuss signage.
- Vandalism to St John's toilets – Councillors pointed out that the lighting in

the car park needs improvement and according to the cleaner the direction of the CCTV camera needs altering. Ros Wilkins advised that she would be meeting with the Community Safety Officer and the Car Parks Manager to discuss the problems.

- Winter Fayre – Some Councillors were disappointed about numbers. A post event meeting would be taking place to discuss how things can be improved for next year.
- Northload Street toilets – Councillors were concerned that the Northload Street toilets remain closed. The Clerk reminded the Council that it was the decision of the District Council to close all the public conveniences in the Town and build a new facility in St John's Car Park which would be maintained to a high standard. The Town Clerk was asked to contact the District Council regarding the financial implications of taking over the running of the block.

87. PRESENTATION BY CARL BUDDEN, HEAD OF OPERATIONS SOMERSET, SOUTH WEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Mr Budden confirmed that the demolition on site was now well advanced and should be ready for development. The site had presented many challenges including the remediation of contaminated land.

He informed the Council that they have recently announced proposals for the 1st phase which is a 7 acre area acquired by Priority Sites Ltd, a private/public partnership. They will be providing 30000sqft of light industrial/office space. The premises will be for either for purchase or let, designed and built to a high standard and energy efficient. The first building will be ready for occupation for the early part of 2008.

Urban Splash, a private sector developer specialising in conversion of historic buildings has acquired the listed buildings and other heritage buildings on the site. The emphasis will be on flexible workspace and developing a pleasant environment to work. They will cater for new and small businesses in the converted listed buildings, the Bauhaus building and new build units.

The Councillors were invited to meet the developers at a SWERDA public meeting at the Town Hall on 18th January 2007 with presentations at 1pm and 6pm.

Mr Budden answered questions regarding:

Quality of jobs on offer – The plan is to create well paid jobs in high quality businesses. Examples of companies being invited onto the site area advanced engineering, hi-tech and creative industries. Jobs should start appearing on the site in Spring 2008.

Traffic Flow – Councillors were concerned about the use of traffic lights at the entrance/exit of the site and felt that the Council was ignored when it flagged up the problems that traffic lights would incur. Traffic delays have been acute when the temporary lights have been in operation. Mr Budden was sorry that the Town Council was not happy but was confident that the scheme, which was approved by County Highways, was a sophisticated system and should not interfere with traffic flow.

Skateboard Park – Mr Budden confirmed that the skatepark was a welcome guest on the site.

Avalon Plastics – Negotiations are ongoing.

Cottages in Mill Lane – Councillor Brunsdon was disappointed that the houses

were still not in use. Esther Croft (Nee Scott) confirmed that negotiations with a developer were ongoing but she was confident that once work began it would be completed within 6 months.

88. PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR AND MRS H SHARP REGARDING LALIBELA, ETHIOPIA

Councillor and Mrs H Sharp gave an informative presentation explaining the background of their involvement in Lalibela. They showed photographs of the Town, the surrounding area and children who have been helped by schools and organisations in the Glastonbury area. They told the Council that they now work closely with PLAN, a non government, grass roots organisation which is working in Lalibela. This means that any financial aid goes specifically for projects in and around Lalibela and really makes a difference.

89. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposer: Councillor H Sharp
Seconder: Councillor J Keery

'That Glastonbury Town Council agrees to twin the towns of Glastonbury and Lalibela in Ethiopia'.

Councillor Sharp stressed the importance of developed countries helping developing countries and hoped that the Council would feel it a beneficial exercise for both Towns to twin.

Councillor Keery spoke in support of the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.

Councillor Sharp thanked the Council and urged Councillors to visit Lalibela.

90. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th December 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 December 2006 were received and noted.

91. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been received from the District Council since the last Planning Meeting.

- a) 034957/015 – St Benedict's Nursing Home, Benedict Street – Demolition of building – Mr D White – FULL APPLICATION
RESOLVED to recommend approval.
- b) 034957/014 – St Benedict's Nursing Home, Benedict Street – Erection of 18 bed care unit and felling of tree – Mr D White – FULL APPLICATION
RESOLVED to recommend approval.

c) 026488/004 – 59c Benedict Street – Conversion and extension of existing storage/workshop building to 2 flats – A Davies and D Powell – FULL APPLICATION

RESOLVED to recommend refusal of permission due to the detrimental impact this development would have on adjoining properties and the general street scene. The Council is concerned about the loss of light to a neighbouring property and would ask the officer to check the legality of the application as regards 'right to light'.

92. WEST MENDIP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The Town Clerk advised that the proposal for a 'Tolerance Garden' for Glastonbury was to be discussed at the next District Council West Mendip Partnership meeting to be held at the Town Hall on 10th January 2007 at 6.30pm. Councillor J Barron agreed to attend the meeting and voice the Town Council's objections to the proposal.

93. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brunsdon reported on:

- Planning Board's approval of Norwood Park Farm application
- Litter etc. – Request to report problems within Town to District Council
- Local Development Plan

94. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Councillor reported on the County Council bid for Unitary Authority status and provided answers to questions regarding:

- Northload Street double yellow lines – Now with developer as part of Section 106 Agreement.
- Road markings in the vicinity of Wellhouse Lane – The contractor has been instructed to repaint as soon as possible.
- Provision of lighting of footpath by the Library – Confirmed that it is not responsibility of the County Council.
- St John's Car Park and closure of exit necessitating use of one way entrance for two way traffic – Will discuss possibility of temporary traffic lights with Highways.

95. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Keery resigned as Council representative for the Chamber of Commerce due to work commitments and proposed that Councillor Knight should replace him.

RESOLVED that Councillor W Knight should become the Chamber of Commerce Town Council representative.

96. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted. Copies of a,b and c had been circulated to members with the agenda.

- a) Mendip District Council – Letter from Electoral Services Manager regarding elected representatives' entitlement to request a full copy of the electoral register with application form attached

- b) Churchill Retirement Living – Problems at Cavendish House, Magdalene Street
- c) Somerset County Council – Application to stop-up a part of the highway known as land off Sedgemoor Way
- d) Avon and Somerset Constabulary – Letter to Councillors from Chief Superintendent N Watson
- e) Mendip District Council – Parish information bulletin

97. 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, 6th February 2007