

Meeting of the Council held on 6th March 2007 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: A Andrews, D Allen, J Barron, T Billing, J Brunsdon, J Coles, N Cottle, E Higgins, E James, J Keery, W Knight, K Mitchell, H Sharp, I Tucker

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

APOLOGIES: Councillors: A Gloak, J White
Ros Wilkins, Area Regeneration Officer

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Paul Lund spoke regarding the success of the Green Day held at the Town Hall on 23rd February 2007 and the County Council's wish to see a carbon neutral High Street for Glastonbury.
- Laiqa Browne reported that the twinning with Timbuktu had been unsuccessful but felt that the Friendship Link now formed would allow more flexibility when distributing funds etc. and working with organisations in Timbuktu.
- Councillor Sharp suggested that Glastonbury should now add the Lalibela twinning and Timbuktu friendship link to the Glastonbury Town signs.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer and the Council stood for a minute's silence in recognition of Mr Hugh 'Vic' Jones, Mace Bearer who passed away on 10th February 2007.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Andrews back to the Council following a period of ill health.

110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor E Higgins – Planning applications

111. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

PC Pople informed the Council that new PCSO Gemma Lawson was now on independent patrol and that as Inspector Richards had now moved on, Sergeant Andy Pritchard would be filling in until a suitable replacement was found.

He reported on the following:

- Illegal parking on verges at St Edmund's Road
- Window break at Four Seasons shop was not caught on CCTV
- Culprit of recent spate of hoax calls to Fire Brigade had been apprehended
- Provision of Police duty rota to the Town Clerk
- Youth Club at Windmill Hill – Concerned that the present youth worker would be finishing and that the Club may have to close

He took questions regarding:

- PCSO's – Councillor James was not happy to hear that the other Towns have more PCSO's than Glastonbury despite Glastonbury having funded a PSCO via the SRB fund. PC Pople advised the Council to contact Acting Inspector Pritchard for advice. The Clerk was asked to invite him to the next Council meeting.
- Potential hazard at Morrisons garage – AGREED that the Clerk should write to the Manager asking him to investigate the complaint.

112. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been received from the District Council since the last Planning Meeting and were considered by the Council.

Councillor Higgins left the room and took no part in any decision made.

The Mayor suspended standing orders to allow the Developer to speak on the following matter.

- a) 119678/000 – Thornycroft Developments – Conversion and extension of existing dwellings to form 4 flats (DEL) – 113 Benedict Street – FULL APPLICATION

The Mayor reinstated standing orders to allow a vote to be taken.

It was **RESOLVED** by a vote of 8 for and 2 against, to refuse the application on the grounds of over development and lack of parking as there would appear to be an opportunity to provide parking provision on this site.

- b) 101141/007 – Ms A Stephenson – Retrospective single storey rear extension (DEL) – Cordis Mundi, Bove Town – FULL APPLICATION

RESOLVED to recommend approval.

Councillor Higgins returned to the room.

113. AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

A letter and consultation document received from the Department for Communities and Local Government had been circulated to all members. It was **AGREED** to respond with the replies recommended by the Somerset Association of Local Councils. (Copy of response attached to official minutes).

114. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) The Mayor listed the events he had attended on behalf of the Town Council since the last meeting.
- b) The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that there would be an drop in Council information evening at the Town Hall on 13th March 2007 for people interested in standing in the next local elections.
- c) The Town Clerk read an e mail she had received from the Mayor of Lalibela thanking the Council for the decision to twin Glastonbury with Lalibela and looking forward to the Council visiting their town and rock hewn churches.

- d) Councillor Mitchell reported
- i) the 26th Glastonbury Road Run would be taking place on 6th May 2007.
Councillor Billing was concerned about safety at the start of the run and coaches leaving St Dunstan's car park during the run. Councillor Mitchell confirmed that this problem had been addressed but that lack of police presence in past years had not helped the situation.
 - ii) GAP would be taking place during the Easter Holidays from 2nd-5th April 2007
- e) Councillor Sharp announced that he and his wife were planning to hold a presentation on Lalibela in the small hall at the Town Hall during May of this year.

115. MINUTES

The following minutes had been circulated with the agenda.

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 6th February 2007, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 6th February 2007 were received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 22nd February 2007 were received and noted.

116. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brunsdon reported on the following:

- Ownership of bank at Old Wells Road – Referred matter to Paul Plenty
- Breynton Road – Litter situation not too bad but would urge people to continue reporting problem areas.
- Mendip District Council shortlisted for Cleanest District Award.
- St John's Car Park – Spoke to members of cabinet and portfolio holder responsible for public conveniences. There would appear to be Highways problem but a car park working group has been set up to investigate the possibility of moving coach parking to St John's car park.
- West Mendip Community Partnership – Coach parking and better internal signage for Glastonbury to be discussed.
- Devolution of on street parking responsibilities – All existing traffic orders need to be inspected and amalgamated into one order. Mendip is now complete but the other Districts are yet to be done.

Councillor James reported that the District Council budget had been set with an increase of 2.9% and pointed out that it was now £2 cheaper to live in Glastonbury than Wells.

Councillor Andrews complained that following a meeting with Mendip District Council, the Environment Agency and other interested parties last year, he had still not had a reply regarding the water run off from development at Watts Corner. Councillor Coles agreed to follow up the matter.

District Councillors were asked to find out who was responsible for cleaning the Perspex on the youth shelter at Windmill Hill.

It had been noted by Councillor Barron that Browning's Yard was in a messy state. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Browning regarding the yard.

Councillor Cottle pointed that the A361 recently appeared in the Top 10 traffic blackspots.

Councillors reiterated that it was imperative that the Local Development Framework plan consultation was followed up, that the issues were strongly represented and that the present and future traffic problems for Glastonbury were emphasised as being a major problem.

117. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The reported was tabled and noted.

118. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor James highlighted that the Town Council had not offered financial support to the Citizens Advice Bureau during the 2006/2007 financial year. It was **AGREED** that consideration should be given to this and placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

He emphasised that the need for funding was now more important as the County Council funding has changed from needs based to per capita therefore decreasing the annual grant.

119. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted. Copies of a and b had been circulated with the agenda.

- a) Mendip District Council – Parish Information Bulletin
- b) Glastonbury Abbey Friends Association – The Estates and Wealth of Glastonbury Abbey – Talk at Abbey on 30th March 2007 at 7pm
- c) Mendip District Council – Acknowledgment of letter from Glastonbury Town Council regarding coach parking in St John's Car Park
- d) Somerset County Council – Local Government Pension Scheme – Invite for personnel/payroll staff to meeting on 23rd March 2007 to discuss the 'New Look Local Government Pension Scheme'. **AGREED** that the Clerk and her Assistant should attend.
- e) Somerset Highways – Temporary Road Closure – Ashcott Road and Station Road, Meare and Ashcott – One week from 12th March 2007 for resurfacing and associated works – Diversion through Glastonbury

120. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

Mayor, 3rd April 2007