

Meeting of the Council held on 3rd April 2007 at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

APOLOGIES: Councillors: D Allen, E James

• PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gill Booth spoke regarding the Children's Millennium Books and her disappointment that they still needed to be professionally bound.

121. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Glastonbury Abbey – Councillors J Brunsdon and J White – Personal and prejudicial
- b) Beckery Island Regeneration Trust – Councillors E Higgins and I Tucker - Personal

122. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

Acting Inspector Andy Pritchard attended the meeting. He explained that Inspector Paul Richards was promoted at the beginning of March but effectively left mid-February due to leave. The Constabulary was keen for a degree of continuity and therefore looked for a replacement who would be in post for a reasonable period of time. Andy Pritchard was drafted back to act as a stop gap as he knows the community and is aware of local issues. A new Inspector has now been appointed and will take up the post on 16th April 2007. He is Ray Hulin, is newly promoted and should not move for at least 18 months to 2 years. He is from a community policing background.

Acting Inspector Pritchard explained that the local Beat Team consists of PC Mark Pople, PCSO's Lawson and Bulpit and Mel Hunter (presently on maternity leave). This team will be increased by two more PCSO's by June/July.

Councillors asked the Police to consider the following matters:

Speeding vehicles along Wells Road and Coursing Batch – Request that PCSO's be asked to man sites once or twice a month.

Skateboarders in Northload West Car Park – As there is now a skatepark in Glastonbury there should be no need to use the car parks.

Underage drinkers in underpass at the Thorndun Estate during the evenings.

PC Pople reported that he was keen to get Community Speed Watch going again. He said that the team were gearing up for the busy time around the Glastonbury Festival.

123. REPORT FROM AREA REGENERATION OFFICER

Ros Wilkins reported on the following:

- Skateboard park was being well used although the limited access due to road closures was becoming a deterrent for some youngsters.
- Signage - She had met with Jeff Bunting regarding signage within the town.

Councillors complained that the signage in the Town is conflicting and causes problems for visitors to the Town. They were disappointed that this problem had not been dealt. Ros pointed out that signage was a County Council matter. She had met with Jeff Bunting regarding signage within the town. He had confirmed that the A361 around Glastonbury would be re-signed by next year and the Tor roads and disabled parking bay would be re-lined. Jeff Bunting was in the process of retrieving a signage plan from archives which was created for Glastonbury by Warren Hastings several years ago.

A meeting had taken place regarding moving coach parking to St John's Car Park between Mendip District Council, County Council, Highways and Town Council representatives. Highways and the District Council had agreed to go away and investigate the feasibility.

Councillors posed the following questions:

- Councillor J White asked why the alterations to the taxi ranks in Archers Way and Magdalene Street had not yet taken place after a wait of two years. Ros Wilkins agreed to investigate the matter.
- Market – What is the current thinking regarding the lay out of the market. Ros confirmed that the linear system was working well and would remain at present.
- Cleaning of Youth Shelter at Windmill Hill – When the shelter was erected the
- Youth Service undertook to clean and maintain this.
- Would the green area lost in Benedict Street be replaced? Ros Wilkins reported that this would be addressed in the current Play Review which is to be published during the next 3 months.

Councillor Tucker proposed, seconded by Councillor Barron that a working party should be set up to look at the erection of temporary signs as the other Authorities were taking so long to agree a plan of action. Councillors were concerned that the Council could be seen to be acting illegally if it were to erect signs without permission. At the suggestion of Councillor White it was **AGREED** that a meeting for Councillors to discuss this matter further would take place at 6.30pm on 5th April 2007.

Ros reported that she would speak to the District Council Car Park Manager who had intimated that she was in the process of improving signage to

Mendip District car parks etc. and report back to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

124. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Coles reported that:

- He would be opening the new hotel on 19th April 2007.
- He would be unveiling the plaque for Charles Heal which has been placed on Heaphys building on 23rd April 2007. It was agreed that the Council would pay the postage for the item of £40 as the cost of the plaque was met by public donation.

125. CHRISTMAS FESTIVE LIGHTING SCHEME

Councillor Knight had circulated a letter to members outlining a proposal for a new Christmas lighting scheme for Glastonbury Town Centre and requesting permission to look into the feasibility of the project.

Councillor Knight felt a new scheme, with strings of lights across the High Street, would benefit the town immensely and help draw people to the town over the Christmas period.

Concern was shown regarding the cost to taxpayers to set up the scheme, the number of lights and energy required to run the displays and Councillor Tucker suggested that a lit procession to the Tor, similar to that which took place at the Millennium, would be preferable.

Ros Wilkins reported that under future EU regulations the present method of connecting the Christmas tree lights outside the shops to domestic supplies inside the shops will become illegal. This problem will have to be addressed and could cause problems with the conservation officer who may not be open to junction boxes being placed on the front of the buildings.

Councillor Gloak mentioned that he was Chairman of the Frost Fair Committee which is organising the Frost Fair and other Christmas events. After discussion it was **AGREED** that Councillor Knight should liaise with the Frost Fair Committee to discuss the matter further and report back to the Council at a later date.

Councillors Brunsdon and White left the room for the following item

126. GLASTONBURY ABBEY – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An application for grant aid had been received from Glastonbury Abbey asking for financial support for the Abbey Centenary Service which is to be held in the Abbey Grounds on 26th May 2007. The Councillors asked the Clerk to request further information regarding the event and to place the item on the next Council agenda.

Councillors Brunsdon and White returned to the room.

127. CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

At the last meeting Councillor James had requested that the Clerk identified monies which could be used to grant the CAB £3000 as the Council had not provided financial assistance for the year 2006/2007. The Clerk advised that the money could be taken from surplus monies and therefore it was **RESOLVED** to grant the CAB £3000 over and above the £3000 granted for 2007/2008.

128. BECKERY ISLAND REGENERATION TRUST

Councillor Tucker explained that the Trust had been offered a grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund of £7500 towards the feasibility study. The listed buildings and red brick buildings had now been purchased by Urban Splash but SWERDA had informed the Trust that they would be inviting proposals for reuse of the Mill Cottage, which was to include community use. The Trust had registered its interest in the Cottage and was waiting to hear from SWERDA. The Trust was not yet able to draw down the grant as this depends on a complete feasibility study which could not be finalised until the specification for the Mill House is received. Councillor Tucker asked on behalf of the Trust for a loan of £2500.

RESOLVED that the Town Council loans the Trust £2500 until such time as the financial assistance is received.

129. MINUTES

The following minutes had been circulated with the agenda.

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 6th March 2007, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 22nd March 2007 were received and noted. An alteration from 'front' to 'back' was made on item (o).

130. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Brunsdon reported on the following matters:

- Land at Bove Town – Owners have been identified
- St John's Car Park – Ongoing investigation as to whether coach parking could be accommodated
- Cleaning of Youth Shelter – Youngsters are using the shelter as a second goal post
- Vehicles parked in Gypsy Lane

Councillor Coles reported on the following matters:

- The granting of a licence for Glastonbury Festival
- Drainage problems at Old Wells Road – District awaiting information from the Environment Agency.

131. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Councillor reported that he had attended the ceremony of the lowering of the flag on the Somerset Fire Brigade and the amalgamation of Somerset and Devon Brigade.

Questions were raised regarding:

- Priority in Benedict Street
- Yellow lines in Northload Street
- Central line near Wellhouse Lane

132. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mitchell reported that 80-90 children had attended GAP during the Easter Holidays and that the Council's grant money continues to benefit Glastonbury families.

133. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted. Copies of items a, b and c were circulated to members with the Agenda.

- a) Somerset County Council – Area Working Panel
- b) Somerset County Council – Invitation to discuss Somerset County Council's Unitary Proposals
- c) Somerset Highways – Proposed traffic orders
 - i) The County of Somerset (A39 Street Road, The Causeway and Westway)(Glastonbury and Street)(Restricted road and 40mph speed limit) Order 2007
 - ii) The County of Somerset (Beckery Old Road and Beckery New Road)(Glastonbury)(Prohibition of Driving) Order 2007-
- d) Somerset Trading Standards – Weight limits on local roads – Request for information on illegal use of roads
- e) Mendip Community Support – Letter introducing first newsletter

134. 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 payments.

Mayor, 15th May 2007