

Meeting of Glastonbury Town Council held on Tuesday 7th August 2007 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: A Andrews, C Barry, T Billing, J Brunson
MBE, J Coles, S Cox, M Free, E James, W Knight, P
Preston, H Sharp, I Tucker, J White

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

At the Mayor's request the Reverend Mudie said a prayer prior to commencement of proceedings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Sig Lonegren spoke regarding the resignation of Nick Cottle
- b) Sarah Switzer spoke regarding a dispute between residents of Manor House Road and St Dunstan's School over use of footpath. As the item had been too late for the agenda, Ms Switzer asked Councillors to support the residents and object as individuals
- c) Zoé d'Ay spoke regarding Patmos, Greece and her proposal that Glastonbury should twin with the Greek island of Patmos. She presented the Mayor with two icons, gifts for St John's Church and St Mary's Church, from the Abbot of the monastery on Patmos
- d) Anthony Ward spoke regarding the Low Impact Buildings Group (part of the Transition Towns network)

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk, with the agreement of members, to write to Mr Nick Cottle expressing thanks for his work as a Town Councillor.

26. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Councillor Browne (family reasons) and Councillor Keery (annual holiday).

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Preston – Item 13d – Personal.

28. TWINNING OF GLASTONBURY WITH PATMOS

Zoé d'Ay had circulated her proposal to Councillors (attached to the official minutes) which explained that she had recently visited Patmos where she had met with the Abbot of the Monastery, Father Antipas. Following her explanation to him that she had a mini revelation that Glastonbury should be twinned with Patmos, he had asked that she be an ambassador for the proposal to create a formal bond between Glastonbury, the Ancient Isle of Avalon and the Holy Isle of Patmos.

Councillor White reminded members the Twinning Committee for Bretenoux, France had now disbanded and the Town was now twinned with Lalibela, Ethiopia and had formed a friendship link with Timbuktu, Mali. As well as these links the Abbey has twinned with the Abbey in Maillezais, France.

Councillor Sharp was happy to support the proposal, which would in no way conflict with the present twinning.

Councillor Tucker left the meeting at this juncture (7.30pm).

Councillor Barry was concerned about the Council being seen to be promoting air travel.

Councillor Free was supportive of the suggestion to twin with a European country which was easily accessible.

Councillor Billing pointed out that the relationship could be developed by communication via the internet.

Councillor Knight was supportive of a link with a World Heritage Site as Glastonbury, along with the Somerset Levels, was a prospective candidate for WHS status.

RESOLVED to welcome the initiative of Zoé d’Ay and to request a more concrete proposal of how she envisages the link developing before the decision to twin is made.

29. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PCSO Mel Hunter informed members that she had just returned to work following maternity leave and therefore there were now 4 PCSO’s in Glastonbury including newly appointed Guy Dury. She confirmed that there would eventually be 5 PCSOs.

She reported and took questions on the following:

- Community Speed Watch
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Up-to-date contact details for Police – This will be sent to the Town Clerk

Councillor Preston handed the PCSO a letter pointing out potential problems within the Town.

30. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) The Mayor announced that all Councillors had been invited to the Burma Star Annual VJ Service at St John’s Church on 15th August 2007. Councillors attending should inform the Town Clerk.

b) The Town Clerk announced that following the resignation of Nick Cottle that a by election for the seat both Town and District Councillors would be

taking place on 13th September 2007 with close of nominations on 17th August 2007.

- c) Councillor Sharp informed members that he had visited the following two local organisations and had been impressed with their activities.
 - i) Children's Centre
 - ii) West Mendip Credit Union
- d) Councillor Billing informed members that a fund raising event would be taking place in aid of the Mayor's Charity 'Martha Care Trust' on 6th October 2007 at the Town Hall.
- e) Councillor Sharp invited members to an illustrated talk on Glastonbury's twin town, Lalibela by himself and Mrs Sharp at the Town Hall on 12th September 2007 at 7pm.

31. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

A copy of the report had been circulated to each member.

Questions and comments were taken regarding:

- Litter in St Dunstan's School grounds
- Barriers erected on footpath – Should these remain for safety reasons.

Councillor Gloak confirmed that a meeting of all parties concerned regarding the footpath from Manor House Road to the school was being scheduled.

32. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor James and Coles reported on:

- Failure of Unitary bid
- Illegal encampments

33. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

It was pointed out that, following the resignation of a Councillor, the Council would need to appoint replacements on those bodies which the Councillor had served. The Town Clerk suggested that these appointment should be made after the election.

34. MINUTES

a) The minutes of meeting of the Council held on 3rd July 2007, which had been circulated to each member with the agenda, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor J Coles as being present.

Councillor Barry asked that the public attending the meeting were supplied with copies of the minutes.

- b) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th July 2007 were received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the Burial Board meeting held on 17th July 2007 were received and noted.

d) The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th July 2007 were received and noted.

Councillor Tucker returned to the meeting.

35. TRANSITION TOWNS

Following an invitation from Transition Town Glastonbury for the Council to be involved it was agreed that Councillor Sharp and Councillor Barry should be the representatives of the Town Council on that group.

The Mayor hoped that the Councillors could keep the Town Council informed of other initiatives including the activities of the Sustainable Environment Company who would be holding a climate change meeting on Wednesday 24th October 2007 at the Town Hall in response to their first meeting held in February 2007.

36. HOMELESS AND ITINERANT VISITORS TO GLASTONBURY

Councillor Barry informed members that at present in and around Glastonbury there are 190 people living on unauthorised sites, 23 people living homeless as a direct result of evictions from an unauthorised site in 2005. Some have been housed in social housing. She asked that consideration be given to providing a night shelter within the town to assist homeless people and for the provision of travellers' sites. She pointed out to the District Councillors that there is £34 million of government money ring fenced specifically to be used for the provision of travellers' sites.

The Mayor explained that a group has discussed this matter with the findings passed over to the Social Committee but agreed that there was a need to resolve the problem.

Councillor Tucker was concerned that a night shelter could degenerate and become a nuisance if not run correctly, as has happened in a property within Glastonbury where the owner tried to assist those in need and whose good nature was abused.

Councillor Cox said that the Council needs to address the situation and suggested that he and Councillor Barry carry out some research into successful solutions which have been found elsewhere in the Country.

RESOLVED to request that Councillor James requests that the District Council reconvenes its discussion on investigating the need for travellers' sites.

Councillor Barry informed the Council that the Robert Barton Trust AGM would be taking place on 8th August 2007 at 7pm.

Councillor White reminded members of the problems caused by unauthorised travellers' sites in and around Glastonbury in the past and did not want to see the problems return.

37. PROVISION OF A LAUNDERETTE FOR GLASTONBURY

Councillor Knight and Barry highlighted the need for a launderette in Glastonbury following the closure of the final facility at Windmill Hill and suggested that the Unit in St Dunstan's Car Park may be suitable. The Town Clerk reported that she had contacted the owner of the launderette in Street who had looked at the unit and found it unsuitable. He would be interested in opening a facility in Glastonbury but pointed out that set up costs would be approximately £40,000 and that he would have to establish there was a need and that the income would be sufficient to run the business.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town does not have a statutory duty to provide a launderette but has the power to provide one.

38. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted. Copies of b, c,d,e,f,h and i had been circulated with the agenda.

- a) Somerset Highways – Temporary Road Closure impacting Glastonbury. Temporary closure for 10 weeks of A371 Wells Road from Shepton Mallet.
- b) Somerset Highways – Letter to Mayor regarding Highway Inspections.
- c) Somerset County Council – Information from the Somerset Freight Quality Partnership.
- d) Letter from Andrea Preston regarding anti-social behaviour in Glastonbury.
- e) Somerset Association of Local Councils – Items of interest to Councillors and Clerks – July 2007 – Please note new Planning White Paper item.
- f) Somerset County Council – Highway Lighting – Unit 1 Northload Terrace, Glastonbury – The Town Clerk to write to confirm that this Town Council does not take responsibility for highway lighting.
- g) Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau – Annual Report and Accounts 2006/2007.
- h) Mendip District Council – Letter from Team Leader, Development Control regarding decision to approve reserved matters for residential development on land North of Wells Road, Glastonbury – Councillor Coles informed members that he has raised the matter of dangerous access with the District Council.
- i) Letter from Mr D Odam – Illegal parking in St Edmund's Road – The Town Clerk was asked to write to Mr Odam to advise him that the Police have been reminded of the situation and asked to patrol the area and deal with offenders.

39. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, now tabled, 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 payments.

40. NEW TOWN SIGNS FOR GLASTONBURY

RESOLVED that this item should be added to the agenda for the Planning Meeting, to be held on 21st August 2007.

Mayor, 4th September 2007