

**Meeting of Glastonbury Town Council held at Glastonbury Town Hall on
Tuesday 8th January 2008 at 7pm**

PRESENT: Councillors: A Andrews, C Barry, T Billing (Deputy Mayor), L Browne, J Brunsdon MBE (Mayor), J Coles, S Cox, M Free, L Hull, E James, J Keery, W Knight, P Preston, H Sharp, I Tucker, J White

APOLOGIES: Mr M King, Macebearer
Mrs R Wilkins, Area Regeneration Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

112. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Councillor Barry announced that there would be a benefit gig featuring 'Seize the Day' in aid of rebuilding at Brook Farm at Tor Leisure on 18th January 2008.
- b) Councillor J White announced that there would be a concert by Wells Cathedral School Choir concert at St John's Church in aid of St Margaret's Hospice on 18th January 2008.

113. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PCSO Jemma Lawson reported on:

- The appointment of new PCSO Becky Smith who would be starting in Glastonbury during April 2008.
- The issuing of 67 fixed penalty notices since the last meeting
- Speed Watch – Twice weekly during January – She invited anyone who was interested in joining to contact her

Councillor Knight reported that 5 caravans were blocking the pumping station and Bannell Engineering's entrance at Mill Lane, Glastonbury. The County Councillor confirmed that the Gypsy Liaison Officer was dealing with the matter.

114. AREA REGENERATION OFFICER REPORT

Mrs Wilkins had provided the following report via the Town Clerk due to her required attendance at the Central Mendip Community Partnership meeting.

'After the last Council meeting an order was issued for the lights at the

skateboard park to be turned on, but due to a fault which the Quadron electrician was unable to deal with it is now in the hands of EDF. As yet the fault has not been rectified. She wished to assure the Council that this is utmost in their minds and she is in contact with the electricity board regularly in order to hurry the situation.

Councillors asked Councillor James to speak with Ros Wilkins about the matter.

115. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The report which was circulated to members with the agenda is attached to the official minutes.

Councillor Hull asked whether a meeting had been called between Mendip Housing, Planners, Highways and the Bus Company.

Councillor Gloak was unaware of any such meeting.

116. YOUTH PROVISION IN GLASTONBURY

Mark Holden (Area Youth Co-ordinator) and Gale McCarthy (Senior Youth Worker, Glastonbury) updated the Council on changes in the Somerset Youth Service. It is hoped that more joined up working with all the social care agencies will avoid youngsters 'slipping through the net'. They will provide a written report to be circulated to members.

Councillor White was disappointed that the Youth Building is not being used more regularly for youth provision and that the St Edmunds Hall second youth night still is not operational. Gale confirmed that the provision has not reduced.

Gale confirmed that at present they run 2 'open door' sessions at the Benedict St Youth Centre on Monday and Thursday nights, with a senior members friendship group on Wednesdays. They have jointly won, with the Somerset Volunteering Network £35,000 of IT equipment but at present do not have any more staffing capability. They piloting a youth café on Saturday mornings and would be willing to talk with any groups interested.

Councillor Hull has spoken to parents who would be willing to become volunteers at youth nights and mentioned that the Rifleman Pub's youth night seems to work well.

Councillor Barry circulated a Youth Activity Directory which she had compiled. It was noted that Friday and Saturday nights are scarce on activities.

117. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor James reported on the finances of the District Council.

Councillor White complained that there is litter on Wearyall Hill which has been left there since carnival night and asked Councillors to join her in a litter pick on Saturday 19th January.

Councillor Coles reported that he had received a letter from Mendip Housing reporting on their five year development strategy which will see them building around 350 – 400 new homes in Mendip by 2012.

Councillor Cox asked whether the hot water systems in Mendip Housing properties were safe following the tragic death of a child in social housing in Taunton. Councillor Coles assured him that Mendip Housing did not use the system of which he spoke.

118. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- a) Councillor Hull reported the following from Transition Towns
- Involvement in Mendip Environment Community whereby people are trained to carry out energy audits on their own and friends and neighbours homes.
 - 2 members employed by Mendip Community Food supporting local producers
 - An all day event being held at the Town Hall on 16th March when Rob Hopkins, founder of Transition Town Totnes will be present.
- b) Councillor Tucker reported on that the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust are in the process of signing an agreement with SWERDA to allow BIRT to access the site and start work on a major clean up. SWERDA are not prepared to hand over the building to the Trust until planning and funding are in place. It was **AGREED** that BIRT could make the planning application in the Town Council's name in order to gain a 50% reduction in fees.

119. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th December 2007, which had been circulated to each member with the agenda, 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 18th December 2007 were received and noted.

120. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

To avoid confusion in the selection process for Town Mayor it was **RESOLVED** to make the following addition to Standing Orders:
'In the event that the position falls to a former Mayor, then the candidate with the fewer times in office will have precedence over the other candidates'.

121. ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008 AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that the Council had received the following report from the external auditor that in their opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting their opinion which they wished to draw to the attention of Glastonbury Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2007

were internal controls in that the Parish Council should ensure that internal financial controls are fully documented and periodically reviewed. The Town Clerk reminded Councillors James and Sharp that they had been appointed by the Council to undertake internal controls. She will arrange for the Councillors to carry out an audit prior to the end of the financial year and quarterly thereafter.

122. PATMOS TWINNING

A report from the Patmos Twinning Group had been circulated with the agenda updating Councillors on their progress.

Councillor Knight proposed that the Council accepts the invitation of Father Martinianos to engage in formal negotiations to twin with Patmos', Councillor Billing seconded the proposal and a unanimous vote of approval was taken.

123. COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS

Councillor Browne explained that she was in the process of researching this subject but had discovered that some Parish Councils have obtained funding to buy land to provide affordable housing in their parish. She felt that this could be a possibility for Glastonbury and asked for interested Councillors to contact her to discuss the matter.

124. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted. Copies of b,c,d & e had been circulated with the agenda.

- a) Somerset Highways – Temporary Road Closure – Middle Drove, Glastonbury from 4th February 2008 for 6 weeks to carry out edge support to the road
 - b) Somerset County Council – Mendip Area Working Panel – Invitation for bids – **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should make a joint bid with West Pennard, Meare, Street and Walton for the provision of Speed Indicator Devices within the Town
 - c) Glastonbury Radio.Net – Request to broadcast Council meetings live on Glastonbury Radio and Television – **AGREED** for this item to be placed on the next Town Council agenda and to invite Mr Hemsworth of Glastonbury Radio.Net to that meeting
 - d) Somerset County Council – Safer Somerset Awards
 - e) Somerset County Council – Review of tendered bus services in Mendip
- (Copies of b,c,d & e enclosed)**

125. 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.

Mayor, 5th February 2008