

## **Meeting of the Council held at Glastonbury Town Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk

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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public spoke regarding:

- Proposed closure of Windmill Hill Post Office
- Danger of change of priority at junction of Benedict Street and Garvins Road
- Green Day at Town Hall held by the Sustainable Environment Company Ltd
- Objections to the planning application from Glastonbury Abbey

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

### **143. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Councillor L Browne and Councillor J White.

### **144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J Brunsdon – Glastonbury Abbey planning applications – Personal and prejudicial interest

### **145. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor L Hull reported that Transition Glastonbury would like to invite all Councillors to the Transition Towns all day event being held at Glastonbury Town Hall on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

### **146. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The report was tabled for all Councillors at the meeting and a copy is attached to the official minutes.

The County Councillor took note of questions and comments and undertook to reply at the next Town Council meeting.

### **147. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT**

PCSO Spencer Bishop reported to the meeting that PCSO Hugh Bulpitt retires in two days time and his replacement, PCSO Becky Smith started two weeks ago.

**AGREED** that the Town Clerk sends a card of thanks to Hugh Bulpitt. He also reported that PACT priorities are being addressed and the next PACT meeting will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 at 7pm.

Comments were made regarding:

- Parking problems in the High Street
- Cars being broken into at Tor
- Councillor Free thanked the Police for their hospitality on the Councillor visit to Headquarters at Portishead and suggested that the National Property Register, whereby the police mark and record peoples valuables in case of theft, should be publicised.
- Speeding traffic in Benedict Street
- Visits to Windmill Hill
- Youths letting out sheep from Wearyall Hill at Hill Head
- Beggars in the High Street

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to discuss the proposed closure of Windmill Hill Post Office.

Councillor Free asked that people consider a united front on this matter and drop any political stance.

It was **AGREED** that a working party should meet, made up of Councillors and members of the public, to address the matter.

Councillors J Brunsdon, M Free, E James, S Cox, J Coles volunteered. Stephanie Morland was asked to join the working party on behalf of the Over 50's club.

The meeting was arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7pm at Glastonbury Town Hall.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

#### **148. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following planning applications were considered after residents of Silver Street spoke to object to application no. 012153/024.

- a) 107185/002 & 107185/003 - Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey – Demolition, realignment and reconstruction of listed building wall (DEL) – St Dunstan's House, Magdalene Street – LISTED BUILDING AND FULL APPLICATION

**RESOLVED** to recommend approval.

- b) 012153/024 – Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey – Erection of 4 mews dwellings and garaging and new access (DEL) – FULL APPLICATION

After discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend refusal on the following grounds:

- The development will be on Abbey ground, inside the line of the listed wall
- The development creates a new access to the Abbey from Silver Street
- The visual impact would be detrimental to the adjacent outstanding listed buildings of Glastonbury Abbey and would include the masking of the view of the Abbey Arches
- The development is totally inappropriate for this Conservation Area
- Disturbance from households would be unacceptable to visitors to the Abbey who expect a tranquil experience.

- The Abbey is considered to be the jewel in Glastonbury's crown and an important heritage site, therefore the Town Council would not wish to see any further development within the existing Abbey walls.

Councillor E James did not vote on this item.

Councillor J Brunsdon returned to the room and took the chair.

#### **149. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Barron reported that Mendip District Council officers have been allocated time and money to investigate problems at Tor Leisure.

Councillor Coles reported on:

- The breach of planning law at Bartlett's Farm and the dismissal of the appeal.
- Proposed repair of road at Old Wells Road.

Councillor James reported:

- Mendip District Council increase in Council tax of 3%.
- Mendip District Council opposition to post office closures.

Councillor Brunsdon asked that the Town Council considered providing a litter bin at Hill Head.

#### **150. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

a) Councillor Hull reported that the Energy Efficiency Assessors have now started their training and the joint meeting held by Transition Towns and the County Council had raised some important questions on how the County Council were tackling climate change.

b) The Mayor reported that he had attended the Tourist Information Centre Annual Meeting when a deficit budget had been set. He learnt that by March 2009 they will have run out of reserves. A letter had been sent to Mendip District Council from the Board.

c) Councillor Barry reported that on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the Pilgrims Reception Centre would be opening in the Town. She also reported that the Robert Barton Trust, Community Café would be closing down due to lack of funding. There had been a threat of riot last week due to the closure.

d) Councillor James reported that Glastonbury Freemasons would like to donate a sum to Glastonbury Town Hall to mark their 275 year anniversary.

District Councillors were asked by Councillors to find out how much 106 agreement money is available for Glastonbury.

#### **151. MINUTES**

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008, 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 Planning Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were accepted.  
**(Copies enclosed)**

Due to Councillor Brunsdon's declaration, it was **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Mayor should chair the meeting for the following item.

Councillor J Brunsdon left the room for the following item.

## **152. EMERGENCY TOWN PLAN**

Councillor L Hull reported that she had attended the Civil Contingency Unit 'Flood Fair' along with the Town Clerk and her assistant on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008.

At the meeting it was highlighted that in emergency situations people look to their locally elected representatives for assistance. She also pointed out that there is no agency, which deals with fluvial flooding.

Councillor Free reported that he had been the emergency advisor for Glastonbury in the past.

**RESOLVED** that a working party should be instructed to formulate an Emergency Town Plan for Glastonbury.

The following Councillors volunteered to join the working party; Councillors Tucker, Free, Barry, Cox, Hull and Knight.

## **153. CCTV SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

Copies of the agreement for Mendip CCTV for 2008 through to 2012 had been circulated to members with the agenda.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to accept the Agreement.

## **154. ST JOHN'S CLOCK**

The Mayor reported that the clock had needed emergency repairs.

**RESOLVED** to allow the Town Clerk to settle the invoice of £150 plus VAT.

## **155. INSURANCE SCHEDULE**

The Town Clerk reported that Somerset Association of Local Councils had recommended that Councils carefully review their insurance schedule for the coming year to make sure the Council is fully covered for any eventuality.

The Town Clerk was asked to speak with Peter Lacey on the matter.

## **156. COUNCIL INVESTMENTS**

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should seek professional advice regarding investment of Council funds.

Councillor James undertook to speak with the Finance Director at Mendip District Council on the matter.

## **157. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted. Copies of A,D,E & F had been circulated to members with the agenda.

- a) Mendip District Council – List of Buildings of Local Historic or Architectural Importance – Invitation to discussion forum – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008, 6.30pm
- b) Mendip Community Transport – Thank you letter for grant
- c) Somerset Highways – Temporary Road Closure – A39 Hartlake Straight and Glastonbury to Wells Road, St Cuthbert Out and Glastonbury

- d) Mendip District Council – Local Guidance on the Validation of Planning Applications - Consultation
- e) Somerset County Council – Validation of Planning Applications - Consultation
- f) Somerset County Council – Invitation to participate in a Community Engagement Workshop – Councillor L Hull expressed an interest and it was **AGREED** that she attends on behalf of Glastonbury Town Council

#### **158. 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.

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**Mayor, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008**