

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd June 2008 at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
PC Pople, PCSO Day, District Councillor Barron, County Councillor A Gloak, David Cornish (Connecting Somerset)
55 members of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jane Sanders provided Councillors with a copy the results of a survey of 64 Town Centre businesses who were asked whether they were consulted, whether the Wifi is beneficial for their business and whether their staff have noticed any possible adverse reactions to working within the Glastonbury Wifi zone. A copy of these results are attached to the original minutes.

She asked the Councillors to listen to those residents whose health is affected by Wifi and switch it off.

Andrew Johnson pointed Councillors to a report by Sir William Stuart of the Health Protection Agency.

Jacqui Roberts had sent a letter to Councillors objecting to the Wifi stating that she attributes her recent unusual headaches to the implementation of the system.

Wendy Martin said she had written to the local MP regarding the lack of local consultation prior to installation of the system and had received his assurance that he would look into the matter.

Jackie Edwards read a poem protesting against Wifi in Glastonbury.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer

17. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Councillor S Cox

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

19. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) The Mayor announced that since the last meeting he and the Mayoress had attended the Mendip Mallard Swimming Gala and presented the prizes.
- b) The Mayor announced that he had met with representatives of St John's

Church regarding parking difficulties.

- c) Councillor James announced that he and a contingent would be visiting Patmos and a report would be given at the next meeting.
- d) Councillor Barry announced that the next Brook Farm Open Day would be taking place on 28th June 2008.
- e) The Town Clerk reminded members that at the last meeting it had been agreed to set up a Town Plan working party. Councillors Barry, Brunsdon, Hull, Knight, Keery expressed interest in joining the working party.
- f) Councillor Knight reported that the opening of Marchant's Yard would be taking place on 19th July 2008.

20. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 6th May 2008, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 13th May 2008, were received and noted.

Councillor Tucker made Councillors aware of the proposal to acquire the Northload Street toilets from Mendip District Council and the suggestion that these could be converted into a Police Post for Glastonbury.

- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20th May 2008, were received and noted.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 20th May 2008, were received and noted.

21. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PC Mark Pople reminded Councillors of the PACT meeting which would be taking place at the Town Hall on 9th July 2008.

He reported on:

- Anti-social behaviour at Heritage Court
- Illegal parking at Dod Lane
- Anti-social behaviour in the Market Place and his visits to establishments with the licensing officers from Mendip District Council

Councillor Free reported dangerous parking by commercial vehicles along Wells Road and anti-social behaviour from children towards families visiting graves in the green burial site at Glastonbury Cemetery.

Councillor Sharp asked why the mobile speed watch vans do not come to the A361 Coursing Batch, Bere Lane.

Shelly Day, the new PCSO for Glastonbury informed the Town Council that they should register their request on the Camera Safety Partnership website.

Councillor Knight asked PC Pople to look into the parking problem at Sedgemoor Way where people were parking vehicles on the junction of Sedgemoor Way and Northload Street due to the yellow lines in Northload Street and also the double parking which occurs in the High Street.

Councillor James asked PC Pople about the value of CCTV in his work. PC Pople confirmed that CCTV is a great asset to the Police in detecting crime.

22. GLASTONBURY WIFI

The County Councillor explained to the meeting that the Wifi project was reported to the Town Council in August 2007 without comment.

The County Councillor asked David Cornish from Connecting Somerset to provide a technical safety report, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes.

He concluded by saying 'for information, there are at least 15 other operators of Wifi systems currently in Glastonbury's main street. Some of these appear to be operated by local businesses, others by private individuals. They all operate to the same standard as the Glastonbury Wifi project - the technology is no different.'

Councillor Hull asked about the Steering Group which had been mentioned in Councillor Gloak's report of August 2007 and questioned the amount of public money involved.

Councillor Gloak said that the original steering group never met and the County Council were now in the processes of forming a new group.

He confirmed that the project was funded from central government with a contribution from SWERDA.

Councillor James put forward the following motion:

'In the light of present evidence this Council proposes to accept the Wifi safety report of the County Council'.

This was seconded by Councillor Preston and passed by a vote of 11 for, 2 against and one absention.

23. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The County Councillor supplied a written report to Councillors.

Councillor James asked the County Council to find out when Highways visited 12a Higher Actis to assess the parking and access, in order to respond the planning application.

Councillor Brunsdon asked whether Glastonbury could have a review of traffic management in Town.

Although not a County Council matter, Councillor Andrews mentioned he was concerned that the Avalon Vintage Vehicle Run appeared to have moved to Burnham on Sea.

Councillor Gloak thought it was a matter of funding and lack of local support. The Town Clerk was asked to contact the organisers to see whether they would consider returning to Glastonbury.

Councillor Free said he had been disappointed to hear that the Windmill Hill Post

Office would be closing on 8th July 2008. The County Councillor confirmed that there was to be a judicial review.

24. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) District Councillor Brunsdon had looked into the status of St John's Churchyard and what would be involved in the Town taking over the maintenance. He discovered that the District has a duty to carry out grass cutting and general maintenance. For this a special expenses rate is levied.

b) District Councillor James believed that the District Council would agree to the Town taking over the maintenance of St John's Churchyard.

It was **AGREED** that this should be placed on the agenda for the next Property and Assets meeting.

Councillor Preston reported that the Scouts do not know what is going to happen to their lease of the Hall, which has just come up for renewal.

c) District Councillor Barron reported that he had attended a meeting at Long Sutton as a representative of the licensing board where underage drinking was discussed.

Councillor Andrews reported indiscriminate dumping at Butt Close.

Councillor Tucker asked whether the District Council could put in measures to deal with illegal camping on the balancing pond at Wirral Park.

Councillor Barron confirmed that Mendip District Council had no plans to build on the Tor Leisure site.

25. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a) Councillor Hull reported that the second Harvest Show would be held at the Town Hall on 20th September 2008. A local food map will be launched as part of the day to inform the public.

b) Councillor Browne said how she is impressed with the Talking Newspapers and is pleased to be the Town Council representative.

26. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD BY CHARITY

The Mayor suspended standing orders in order for a member of the public to speak.

Elahn, a representative from Shekinashram, informed the Council that they distribute free food to all outside St John's Church on a Wednesday between 5 and 6pm. The food is prepared on their premises and brought down by vehicle. They have complied with all laws and hold a hygiene certificate. They attract people from all walks of life and estimated that no more than 30 people attend.

PC Mark Pople explained that he had no problem with the act of giving free food but questioned whether outside St John's Church on the High Street was a suitable place for this activity. He also explained that the Police had spent time reducing

the anti-social behaviour in that area and stated that this activity does attract some people who cause anti-social behaviour.

The Mayor reinstated standing orders.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should arrange a meeting between Shekinashram, the Police, the Chamber of Commerce, St John's Church and Councillors Barry, Billing, Brunsdon, Coles, James, Keery, Preston to discuss the matter in an effort to work out a mutually acceptable plan for the future.

27. AREA REGENERATION OFFICER REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that Ros Wilkins had been unable to attend the meeting but had written informing the Council of the intention of BT to remove telephone boxes at Chilkwel Street, Wells Road and Tor View Avenue.

RESOLVED that this Council should inform the District Council that it wishes BT to retain all boxes mentioned ie. Tor View Avenue, Wells Road and Chilkwel Street.

Councillors were concerned that as well as the social need the red boxes are a welcome addition to the Town and enhance the street scene.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and noted.

- a) Mendip District Council – Mendip Play Strategy 'Back out to Play'
- b) Somerset County Council – Speed Indicator Device – Acknowledgment of receipt of suggested locations
- c) Talking Newspapers – Letter of thanks for free use of the Town Hall

29. 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.

Chairman, 1st July 2008