

## **Meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at Glastonbury Town Hall at 7pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk

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### **113. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors L Browne and M Free.

### **114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

### **115. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the PACT meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

He invited Councillors to the following events:

- Cutting of the Holy Thorn on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Councillors wishing to attend should meet at the Town Hall at 9.30am to process to the church.
- St John's Civic Service - 21st December 2008 6.30pm. Councillors should meet at the Town Hall at 5.45pm.

### **116. MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the following additions; page 27 Councillor Preston asked the County Council about new signage for the school in Benedict Street.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Burial Board held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008, were received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008, were received and noted. It was noted that Councillor White had given her apologies and had not been present.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008, were received and noted.
- e) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008, were received and noted.
- f) The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008, were received and noted.

## 117. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PCSO Gemma Lawson reported on:

Graffiti - She is tackling graffiti in the town and circulated a file of photographs of graffiti that she has compiled. She is talking with the Head of St Dunstan's School in an attempt to arrange for the Art Department to paint a mural on walls in the Town which are susceptible to graffiti and the underpass. She is contacting property owners to ask for permission to paint the murals.

Community Speed Watch – 1500 have been reported in the past year. Volunteers are out twice a week but more are required.

Councillor Andrews asked whether 'airlines' could be placed on Wells Road to give a true picture of the prevalence of speeding.

Regarding graffiti on building site hoardings, Councillor Cox suggested contacting the building companies to discuss urban artwork.

Councillor White suggested that after the success of the graffiti clean up day in November that another should be arranged. It was **AGREED** to hold the next clean up day on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and that Councillors should meet outside the Town Hall at 10am.

## 118. CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO THE MARKET CROSS

The Town Clerk reported that she had obtained a quotation for removal of the graffiti on the Market Cross by Strachey Conservation at the cost of £250 per day.

**RESOLVED** to accept the quotation and for the Town Clerk to arrange for the work to be carried out immediately.

## 119. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Gloak had circulated a report which is attached to the official minutes.

## 120. AREA REGENERATION OFFICER

In the absence of the officer Councillors were unable to ask about the success of the Yuletide Celebration.

Councillors were concerned about the lack of support for the event which was funded by the District Council and would have been interested to know how the budget was spent and how the town benefited.

It was suggested that Town Councillors form a group to discuss the merits of holding such a celebration in future. Councillors Barron, Billing, James and Knight volunteered to form a working party.

## 121. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported regarding:

- Civil parking
- Poor signing to St John's Car Park

- Parking Strategy
- Consultation paper – Time to Plan

Councillor James reported that the Skateboard Park application would be considered at the next Planning Board.

Councillor Barron reported that he has been appointed Chairman of Glastonbury Tribunal Ltd and that the PCT have received the go ahead for a new Glastonbury Surgery. He had attended the PACT meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 where the emphasis was on tackling underage drinking, concentrating on drunks gathering near the Market Cross.

He also reported that he had met with Sara Skirton to discuss play areas in Glastonbury.

Councillor Coles reported that he filmed the Emergency Planning Flood Talk on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008 and lodged copies at the Town Hall should Councillors wish borrow copies. He also reported that he would be meeting with Mr Marsh, owner of the Fairfield to discuss the possibility of registering it as building land.

## **122. REPORTS FROM APPOINTED COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

a) Councillor White reported that the Chairman and Treasurer of St Edmund's Hall Committee would be resigning in March 2009 and asked for The Town Clerk to write a letter of thanks. Laura Kavanagh is in the process of setting up an art and craft Youth activity to be held in St Edmund's Hall. Mendip Housing have provided details for Councillors regarding Estate Inspections.

b) Councillor Hull reported on local Energy Audits carried out by Mendip Energy volunteers which are identifying that some pensioners have no insulation in their houses. She informed the Council that the over 70's qualify for District Council grants for insulation and Npower provide grants for the over 60's on an income of £14,000 or less.

She also reported on the success of the Transition Town initiative and that Somerset is now the first Transition county with 23 potential groups in the county.

c) Councillor James reported a difficult year for Mendip Citizens' Advice Bureaux. The main funding is from District and County Council and as the County is due to pull funding there will be a £25,000 shortfall next year. Enquiries have escalated due to the current economic climate.

d) Councillor Barron reported that he has been appointed Chairman of Glastonbury Tribunal Ltd and that the PCT have received the go ahead for a new Glastonbury Surgery.

e) Councillor Brunsdon reported that Knightstone House, managers of Austin Memorials Homes, are recommending to the Trustees that the registration system is placed with the District Council.

### **123. PLANNING APPLICATION**

Application number 022525/017 - Quayside Developments – Demolition of buildings and erection of block of 27 flats including formation of access and associated parking (DEL) – Avalon Tyres, Street Road.

The application was considered and it was **RESOLVED** to forward the following comments.

'Recommend refusal'.

This new application goes no further in addressing the concerns of the Town Council. It remains totally inappropriate to the street scene at this important entrance to Glastonbury, within the Conservation Area and situated opposite a prestigious Victorian terrace.

There are concerns regarding the increase in the number of units, the proximity to commercial enterprises and unsuitable access.

The Town Council would wish to see a quality development, complementary to its surroundings as seen in other Mendip Towns and villages such as Street and Wells.

### **124. PRESENTATION FROM DAVID ORCHARD REGARDING PETITIONING FOR A GRANT OF ARMORIAL BEARINGS FOR THE COUNCIL**

David Orchard informed the Town Council that the Arms used by the Town of Glastonbury have never been officially granted, their use is therefore unofficial and they do not have the sanction or protection of the College of Arms.

Mr Orchard had been informed by the College of Arms that the Town Council would be open to the College to petition for a grant of Armorial Bearings. The fee payable upon a such a grant of Arms and Crest is £8,575.00. The Town Council acknowledged that the Arms are not official but thought it would be unfair to use tax payers money for this grant of Arms.

Councillor Andrews felt it was important to petition for the grant for historic reasons and suggested that public sponsorship could be sought.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to look into the possibility of forming a sponsorship fund for registration.

### **125. VISIT TO LALIBELA – REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR H SHARP**

Councillor Sharp provided a report on his recent visit to the twin town of Lalibela.

### **126. ANNUAL RETURN**

The Town Clerk reported that she had not yet received the Annual Return and report from the external auditor.

### **127. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted.

- a) Mendip District Council - Parish Information Bulletin – December 2008
- b) Somerset Highways – Guide to Winter Service in Somerset
- c) The Playing Field – Somerset Playing Fields Association Newsletter
- d) Somerset Matters – Campaign to Protect Rural England – Autumn 2008 Newsletter
- e) Somerset Association of Local Council – Items of interest for Clerks and Councillors – December 2008
- f) Somerset Link – Your Voice of Local Health and Social Care
- g) Emails received requesting provision of dog bins and litter bin at Sedgemoor Way and dog bin outside veterinary surgeons at Wirral Park – **AGREED** to consider the matter at the January 2009 Planning Meeting
- h) Copy of letter to David Heathcoat-Amory MP from Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform and copy of letter from David Heathcoat-Amory MP to National Audit Office regarding Morland's Enterprise Park

## **128. TOUR OF BRITAIN**

Following the presentation at the last Town Council by Graham Bagley, Tour of Britain Project Manager, consideration was given to the request that the Town Council contributes £5000 to the event costs to ensure that the race will pass through Glastonbury.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should decline to contribute the sum of £5000.00 to ensure the race will pass through Glastonbury.

## **129. 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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**Chairman, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009**