

Meeting of the Council held on 13th January 2009 at Glastonbury Town Hall at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a) Hazel Pegg spoke on behalf of the protestors who had occupied the red brick buildings on the Morland's site. She thanked Carl Budden of SWERDA and Councillor Tom Billing, Mayor of Glastonbury for agreeing to arrange a meeting and confirmed that due to this the protestors had agreed to vacate the building from midday on 12th January 2009. She asked SWRDA to hold off demolition of the red brick buildings for six months while an alternative plan for the buildings is formulated.

b) Julie Patterson gave a short presentation about the Somerset Community Foundation.

c) Jamuna Fisher updated Councillors on the progress of the Glastonbury Planning for Emergencies Group which meets monthly and is formulating a plan for use in the event of any emergency. A leaflet is being produced for householders and Councillors were asked to assist in the distribution of a leaflet to the residents of their wards.

d) Ros Wilkins presented the Mayor with a cheque for £1000 from the Mendip District Council West Mendip Community Partnership, as a contribution towards graffiti removal within the Town.

e) Patricia O'Carroll spoke regarding the planning application for land at Maidencroft Lane.

130. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Cox who was absent due to work commitments.

131. MORLAND'S ENTERPRISE PARK

The Mayor invited Carl Budden, Head of Regeneration (Somerset), SWRDA to speak. Mr Budden thanked the Mayor. He said that following the recent occupation of the red brick buildings SWRDA are looking at how improvements could be made regarding communications between SWRDA,

the Town Council and the general public. He explained that up until now the main vehicle used was the Morland's Executive Group, which is a forum for discussion and the local newspapers. There is a review going on at present of the members of the Morland's Executive.

The Mayor stated that SWRDA had agreed to attend a Council meeting to answer questions. The Mayor clarified that the meeting would be an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting, not a public meeting but that he would use his discretion to allow members of the public to speak.

RESOLVED that an Extraordinary Town Council meeting should be held in the Main Hall of the Town Hall at 7pm on 21st January 2009 in order for SWRDA to answer questions and to explain to the general public the situation regarding the red brick buildings on the Morland's Enterprise Park.

To give SWRDA the opportunity to answer questions fully it was **AGREED** that questions should be delivered to the Town Clerk by midday on 19th January 2009.

Mr Budden went on to update the Council on other matters relating to Morland's. He explained that SWRDA announced, before Christmas, that the demolition of the red brick buildings would be taking place on 5th January 2009 due to health and safety reasons. Subsequently, before contractors were able to start work, the buildings were occupied by local people protesting against the demolition and calling for the buildings to be put to community use. Mr Budden thanked the group for vacating the building following a meeting with SWRDA and the Mayor.

132. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor I Tucker – Prejudicial interest – Planning application no. 117893/001.

Councillor Brunsdon – Prejudicial interest – Planning application no. 117893/001.

133. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Council that he had recently attended a meeting regarding Restorative Justice and how this may be implemented in Glastonbury.

134. MINUTES

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th December 2008, which had been circulated to each member with the agenda, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the following additions; page 30, item 120, Paul Preston volunteered to be part of the working party; page 31, item 122b. Npower provides a social tariff discount of £250 per year for anyone over 60 with an annual income of less than £14000.00.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16th December 2008, were received and noted.

135. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PC Pople reported that Jemma Lawson is convalescing after a knee operation and that PCSO Rob Nail is now a member of the team. Chief Inspector Paul Richards is now at Wells and Sergeant Ray Hulin is at Street Police Station. He also reported on Operation Relentless, anti-social behaviour in Magdalene Street and the High Street which seems to peak on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Councillor White thanked Councillors for assisting with the graffiti cleanup in the town on Sunday but was extremely disappointed to see that on Monday more graffiti had appeared.

Councillor Knight asked about private CCTV footage. PC Pople confirmed that private CCTV should only look onto ones own property and that footage could be used for evidential purposes.

Councillors Brunsdon and Tucker left the room for the following item and took no part in the decision made.

Prior to leaving, Councillor Tucker spoke in support of the application.

136. PLANNING APPLICATION

The following planning application was considered:

Planning application no. 117893/001 – Mr J Attwell – Land at Maidencroft Lane – Use of land for motorcycles trials practise – Application for Certificate of Lawful Existing Use.

A letter from Mr J Caswell, objecting to the application, had been circulated to all members.

It was **RESOLVED** to refuse the application for the following reasons:

This is an environmentally sensitive area and the Town Council has received numerous complaints from neighbouring property owners regarding disturbance caused by the riding of motorcycles on the land in question, especially at the weekend. Any noise emanating from this site, as well as disturbing neighbours, also impacts upon the Tor where local people and visitors alike wish to visit in peace.

The Town Council would like the planning department to also address the concerns of residents regarding tree felling, tipping and the erection of the barbed wire fence which it believes is unlawful.

Councillors Brunsdon and Tucker returned to the room.

137. REPORT FROM AREA REGENERATION OFFICER

Ros Wilkins reported that the contractors for the skatepark arrived on site on Monday 12th January 2009. The deadline for completion is mid March 2009.

Councillor White asked for consideration to be given to providing a graffiti wall on site.

Questions were taken regarding the Frost Fair. Ros Wilkins undertook to provide the Town Council with costings when received from the organisers. Jon Cousins, who had acted as treasurer, pointed out that he had not yet provided final figures as he was awaiting a bill for the hire of the Town Hall.

Ros reported that the Chamber of Commerce would be holding a meeting to discuss future Fairs on 19th January 2009 at 6pm at Tor Leisure.

Councillor Tucker asked about the outcome of the applications for grant funding from the Area Regeneration Budget. She confirmed that decisions would be made soon for the 2009-2010 budget.

138. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Councillor Free informed members that the Town Council finally received listing building consent for the alterations to the Town Hall on 6th January 2009. He was concerned that it would appear that the hold up had been with the Government Office of the South West.

139. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported that the stone path at Bushy Coombe had been washed away during December rains and that volunteers were helping to restore the path.

Councillor James reported that the Council Tax increase for 2009-2010 would increase no more than 3%. He also reported that interest rate cuts, increased energy costs and loss on car parking revenue of £350,000 had affected the budget and would lead to a loss of jobs.

Councillor Barron added that the bus concessionary fares would be costing the District Council £1m.

140. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

The report had been circulated to members.

Councillor Gloak reported that he would be meeting with Councillor Andrews and representatives from the Post Office tomorrow to discuss the possible reinstatement of a Post Office Counter service at Windmill Hill.

Questions were taken regarding:

- VISOR signs
- Drainage – Wellhouse Lane
- Wifi
- Turning Point
- A303
- Pavement outside West Mendip Hospital

- Pothole in Old Wells Road

141. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Transition Town Glastonbury – Councillor Hull reported that the District Council have opted into the Sustainable Communities Act. Transition Glastonbury will be responding to the Sustainable Community Strategy and LDF Core Strategy consultation in respect of climate change and energy that the District needs to plan for uncertainty, not business as usual.

Councillor James reported on Mendip Crime and Disorder Partnership. Every crime is now logged on the website and statistics can be downloaded. At present Glastonbury has a lower crime rate than the rest of Mendip Towns.

142. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor James reported on the multi-Council Question Panels taking place in Mendip. Dates can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

Councillor Hull reported that the Paddington Farm Trust would be holding a public meeting on 28th January 2009 at 7pm at the Town Hall to encourage people to grow their own food and buy locally grown food. Dan Keith of the Soil Association will be present.

Transition Somerset Day is being held at the Town Hall on 30th May 2009. Jeremy Leggitt, founder of the Transition Movement will be speaking.

143. TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE ROUTE 2009

A letter had been received from Graham Bagley, Somerset County Council asking the Town Council whether Glastonbury would be willing to host part of the race.

RESOLVED to accept the offer to host part of the Tour of Britain race in 2009.

144. MARTHA CARE TRUST

Maggie Mickshik, Chair of the Trust, attended the meeting to request support from the Town Council for a town-wide fundraising day entitled 'Glastonbury Yellow Day' involving local schools and businesses on Friday 3rd April 2009. She has contacted the Chamber of Commerce and hoped that if successful this could be an annual event.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council should support the Martha Care Trust Glastonbury Yellow Day.

145. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted.

- a) Letter from Knightstone Housing regarding a change in the way that all future vacant properties at Austin Memorial Cottages will be let

- b) Avon and Somerset Constabulary – Letter to Councillors from Chief Superintendent Nikki Watson – December 2008
- c) News from Mendip Housing Ltd – December 2008
- d) Letter from Mendip District Council – List of Buildings of Local Historic or Architectural Importance – Progress Report
- e) Mendip District Council – Bulletin – January 2009
- f) News for the Upper Brue and Lower Brue Drainage Boards - Water Management in the Brue Valley
- g) Letter from Somerset NHS Primary Care Trust – Publication of Somerset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- h) Letter from Katie Marsh regarding land to western side of the Glastonbury Bypass
- i) Letter from Phillip Bayles, District Explorer Scout Commissioner – Request for support for 2009 Ten Tor Challenge – The Town Clerk informed Councillors that she will forward Mr Bayles a grant application form.
- j) Energy Saving Trust - Newsletter

146. 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 payment.

147. RISK ASSESSMENT – TOWN COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

The Town Clerk issued a short report detailing current Town Council investments which is attached to the official minutes.

It was **AGREED** that the money should remain in situ and monthly assessments be made.

Councillors Hull and Browne suggested that due to low interest rates that the Town Council money should be spent to benefit the Town. Councillors Hull and Browne were asked to come back to the Town Council with proposals on how the money could be spent.

Councillor Tucker suggested that investment with mutual societies could be the safest option at present. The Town Clerk agreed to investigate.

148. ANNUAL RETURN 2007-2008

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to note the last minute on the Planning minutes reported receipt of the Annual Return for 2007-2008 from the external auditor prior to the end of December 2008. There were no matters of concern from the external auditor.

Councillors thanked the Town Clerk.

Mayor, 21st January 2009