

Annual meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12th May 2009 at 7pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
PSCO Spencer Bishop

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a) Gillian Booth brought important information to the attention of the Town Council regarding the treatment of a seller of the Bigger Issue newspaper in Glastonbury.
- b) Hazel Pegg spoke regarding the red brick buildings and informed the Council that the community group that had occupied the building were working on a serious proposal for a sensible use for the buildings.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by the Reverend David MacGeoch.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor T Billing, seconded by Councillor J Brunsdon MBE and unanimously

RESOLVED

that Councillor E N James be elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor E N James read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Councillor L Browne who was absent due to ill health.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor W Knight and unanimously

RESOLVED

that Councillor J Coles be elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

5. APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANTS-AT MACE

The Mayor appointed Messrs Michael King and Leslie Morse as his Sergeants-at-Mace for the ensuing year.

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAIN TO THE MAYOR

The Mayor announced that the Reverend David McGeoch had agreed to act as his Chaplain for the ensuing year.

7. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CRIER

The Mayor announced that Graham Coles had agreed to act as Town Crier for the ensuing year. The Town Crier was pleased to report that he had raised a total of £390 for the Mayor's charity, Martha Care Trust during the year.

8. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Spencer Bishop reported that the PACT priorities for the past month had been anti-social behaviour in Benedict Street, Magdalene Street and the High Street and by modified car users. There were 162 alcohol seizures and the Beat Team have been issuing an average of 50-60 penalties for traffic violations per month. PCSO Bishop confirmed that PC Pople had applied for the mobile CCTV camera for Benedict Street. PCSO Bishop was asked to keep an eye out for underage drinking on Tor Leisure Playing Fields.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

AGREED that the following appointments be made for the ensuing year.

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|------------------------------|--|
| Town Hall | Councillors: T Billing, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, M Free, E N James, W Knight, P Preston, I Tucker and J White |
| Finance and General Purposes | Councillors: T Billing, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, M Free, E N James, J Keery, P Preston, H Sharp, I Tucker, J White |
| Property and Assets | Councillors: A Andrews, T Billing, L Browne, J Brunsdon MBE, S Cox, M Free, E N James, J Coles, J Keery, W Knight, P Preston, I C Tucker, J White |
| Planning | Councillors: T Billing, L Browne, J Brunsdon MBE (Advisory), S Cox, W Knight, P Preston, I Tucker and J White |
| Security | Councillors: T Billing, J Barron, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, E N James, J Keery, H Sharp, J White and Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the Police, Community Watch and the District Council |

10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

AGREED that the following appointments be made for the ensuing year.

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|---|-----|---|
| Glastonbury Tribunal | (1) | Councillor T Billing |
| Glastonbury and Sharpham Burial Joint Committee | (8) | Councillors: L Browne, J Brunsdon MBE, Coles, M Free, E James, P Preston, I |

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|--|-----|--|
| | | Tucker and one representative from Sharpham |
| Chamber of Commerce | (3) | The Mayor and Councillors: Coles and Knight |
| Citizens' Advice Bureau | (2) | Councillors: James and Sharp |
| Somerset Associations of Local Councils | (3) | Councillors: Billing, Browne and Hull |
| Glastonbury Charities | (4) | The Mayor and Councillors: J Coles, L Browne and P Preston |
| St Edmund's Community Hall Management Committee | (5) | The Mayor and Councillors: Cox, Hull, Tucker and White |
| St Dunstan's Leisure Centre Management Committee | (2) | Councillors: M Free, S Cox |
| Talking Newspaper for the Blind | (1) | Councillor L Browne |

11. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The draft calendar of meetings for 2009/2010, copies of which had been circulated to each member, was **APPROVED**.

12. SIGNATORIES TO BANK ACCOUNT

RESOLVED that Councillors: Andrews, Brunsdon and Coles remain as signatories to the HSBC bank accounts along with the Town Clerk and that Councillors Brunsdon and Sharp should remain as signatories to the Alliance and Leicester and Bank of Ireland accounts.

13. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th April 2009, 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 Planning Committee held on 22nd April 2009, were received and noted.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 28th April 2009, were received and noted with the addition of Councillor Sharp having stated that he wished to see the Northload Street toilets reopened and not converted into a Police Station.

15. MORLAND'S SITE

- a) **Report from Town Council representatives on Morland's Executive Panel**

Councillor Billing reported that the Mayor of the day holds a position on the Morland's Executive Panel and therefore he would no longer be involved.

Councillor Barron reported that Urban Splash would no longer be involved with the

red brick buildings and the Bauhaus building and **SWERDA** would be putting those buildings on the open market. He also reported that work would begin on the Avalon Plastic site on 25th May 2009.

b) Red Brick Buildings

Councillor Tucker was concerned to have heard that SWERDA may be under the misapprehension that the Town Council wished to see the red brick buildings demolished. He had been informed by Urban Splash that SWRDA had requested that they concentrate on the Baily's Buildings.

Several Councillors stated that they felt that the buildings were not worth keeping and would have liked to have seen them demolished and replaced with new buildings.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a resolution to that affect had not been made by the Council.

Councillor Tucker drew the attention of the Council to a preliminary report carried out by Nick Maclean, Structural Engineer on the state of the buildings with the Town Council as his client. Mr Maclean stated that the building should be looked upon as a substantially complete building shell, needing only the roof finishing off, new windows and some areas of timber repairs in rafters and floors. The full report with costs of repair would be forwarded to the Council when complete.

Following his experience renovating historic buildings in Bristol Councillor Cox saw no reason why the buildings should be demolished.

Councillor Hull was concerned that if the red brick buildings were demolished there would be no guarantee that anything new would be built.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should contact SWRDA to inform them that at present the Town Council is waiting for professional advice regarding the red brick buildings and favours retention until such time as a future use is decided.

16. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a) Councillor Knight reported on progress in planning for the Frost Fair to be held on 12th December 2009.

b) Councillor Barron reported that Street Tourist Information Centre was now independent of Glastonbury and that the annual financial assistance from Mendip District Council had been cut.

c) Councillor Hull reported that Transition Glastonbury had recently met with officers from the County Council and Mendip District Council for a mapping exercise which identified which activities are transitional including local food, security and energy efficiency.

d) Councillor Keery suggested that the Mendip District Council had made an error of judgement in cutting funding for the Tourist Information Centres and also in removing the Tourism Officer post. Councillor Barron said that Mendip TIC's operate as limited companies and other TIC's are fully funded by their Councils. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the District Council to ask them to review the situation.

e) Councillor Tucker thanked Mendip District Council for delivering the new skatepark in time for the holidays and was pleased to see how well used the facility has been since opening. An estimated 800 people had visited the park on the open day. He thanked Councillor Barron who worked so hard on the project and also Ros Wilkins, Area Regeneration Officer. Councillor Knight had been aware of skateboarders still using town car parks etc. despite the skatepark being open. Councillor Cox suggested there could be a problem developing with youths hanging around the skatepark drinking etc. who were not involved in skateboarding or BMX and generally causing a nuisance. The Town Clerk was asked by the Council to send a letter of thanks to Ros Wilkins.

Councillor Hull suggested that the red brick buildings could be used as a building for the youth, to complement the skatepark.

Councillor Brunsdon reported that Glastonbury Conservation Society had hosted a successful guided tour of Glastonbury for Bridgwater Civic Society on 9th May 2009.

Councillor Sharp praised Glastonbury Leisure Centre for the excellent organisation of this year's Road Run. It had been a well-marshalled, successful event with 1600 runners taking part. It was **AGREED** that a letter of thanks should be sent.

17. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Councillor Coles announced that the Heritage Food shop in the High Street had been bought by the Co-op Group.

b) Councillor Hull announced that the Transition Day was to be held at the Town Hall on 30th May 2009 from 1pm.

c) The Town Clerk had received a letter that day from Mendip District Council regarding the Town Council's request to take over the maintenance of the closed churchyards in Glastonbury. It was **RESOLVED** to refer the matter to the Property and Assets Committee.

d) Councillor Keery proposed a vote of thanks to County Councillor Alan Gloak for his excellent work over the years as County Councillor and all that he has achieved for the Town. The Town Clerk was asked to pass on the thanks of the Town Council to Councillor Gloak.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted.

- a) Community Council for Somerset – Invitation to subscribe to the Community Council for Somerset for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 for the sum of £30 – **AGREED** to subscribe
- b) Glastonbury Tourist Information Centre – Letter regarding Complimentary guides for members of Glastonbury Town Council – A guide was provided for each Councillor by the Tourist Information Centre
- c) Somerset Market Towns Forum – Briefing – At the suggestion of Councillor Hull it was **AGREED** to invite Matt Day to talk to the Town Council about how to pursue the Glastonbury Town Plan.
- d) Information Commissioner's Office – Letter regarding Freedom of Information Act Instructional DVD

- e) Somerset County Council – Letter regarding Glastonbury and Street Walking and Cycling Map
- f) Mendip District Council – Letter regarding maintenance of St John’s and St Benedict’s Closed Churchyards – **AGREED** that matter be referred to the Property and Assets Committee
- g) S.C.S.N. Somerset’s Community Safety Newsletter
- h) Glastonbury Abbey – Letter requesting nomination of Councillor J White to the new Trust Board – **AGREED** to nominate Councillor White to the new Board
- i) Mendip District Council – Parish Bulletin

19. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, now submitted, 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, 9th June 2009