

**Meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at Glastonbury Town Hall at 7.15pm**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
PCSO Jemma Lawson

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Andrea Preston spoke regarding anti-social behaviour in Glastonbury.
- Matt Day from Somerset Market Towns Forum spoke about how the Glastonbury Town Plan could be utilised to the benefit of the town and suggested that a working party formed by the Town Council to discuss the plan.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

**37. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Councillors: L Browne (holiday), Linda Hull (Work), I Tucker (holiday).

**38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Barron, Brunsdon, Coles and James – Personal and prejudicial interest – Tor Sports and Leisure Centre.

**39. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had represented the Town Council at the following events since the last meeting: St John's Infant School Fun Run in the Abbey Grounds; Austin Memorial Trust Meeting; Millfield Junior School Open Day; Opening of new shop in the Market Place; accompanied Bishop Peter on his final diocesan walk from Butleigh across the fields and along the river Brue to Glastonbury and attended the 1100 year celebrations in the Abbey Grounds; attended Civic Services in Weston-Super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea and Yeovil; Somerset Girl Guides Annual Presentation at Compton Dundon; St Benedict's Church Patronal Service; Roman Catholic Pilgrimage.

**40. UPDATE OF TWINNING WITH THE HOLY ISLAND OF PATMOS**

A report was provided by Zoe d'Ay updating Councillors on the programme for the visitors from Patmos including the dinner on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

#### **41. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT**

PCSO Lawson reported on the activities of the Beat Team. She said would be organising a car washing day for the youth at Windmill Hill and also approaching Tor Leisure about the possibility of youth sport provision on Friday nights.

#### **42. MINUTES**

a) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the addition of Councillor Billing as being present and the replacement words 'Councillor Gloak' instead of 'he' at the beginning of para.4, item 28.

b) The minutes of the Security Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 with the addition of Councillor Billing as being present.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were received and noted with the addition of Councillor Knight as being present.

#### **43. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

A written report was circulated to all members and noted.

#### **44. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Barron on his appointment to the District Cabinet.

Councillor Barron reported that:

- Wells Road Surgery now has permission for the new build.
- Avalon Plastics will begin their development on the Morland's site in four weeks time
- He would like to encourage the formation of a Youth Council through the Somerset Youth Volunteering Network in Silver Street

Councillor Brunsdon reported that the matter of the grant for the Mill Cottage had been deferred to the next West Mendip Community Partnership meeting, when a member of the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust would be asked to make a presentation. Councillor Brunsdon suggested that the Town Council writes a letter of support to the Partnership Board, which was **AGREED**. At the Partnership Meeting he had been able to report several issues to the Highways Officer including the damaged railings along Chilkwell Street.

Councillor Free was disappointed that the play equipment at St Brides Close play park had not yet been replaced. He was concerned to learn that the Duty Planning Officer will not now speak with planning application agents.

Councillor White asked District Councillors to consider altering the wall of the Silver Street car park to deter those people who sit behind the wall, in the car park, and cause anti-social behaviour.

#### **45. LANDLORD CONSENT CONSULTATION – TOR LEISURE CENTRE**

Copies of the papers previously circulated to the West Mendip Community Partnership had been copied to members, explaining that the leaseholder of Tor Leisure had applied for Landlord's Consent. This Consent is required in order for the leaseholder to go ahead with the extension and refurbishment of the main building. As part of the consultation process the District Council were seeking the views of the Town Council.

Councillor Barron made the following declaration. 'I have predetermined this application due to the decision made at the West Mendip Community Partnership Meeting. It was unanimous at the Partnership Meeting that the application should not be granted and I support this position. I have decided therefore to take no part in the consultation process and am now going to leave the room whilst this consultation process takes place.' Councillors Coles, James and Brunsdon also left the room for the same reasons.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor White should take the Chair in the absence of the Mayor.

Councillor Sharp was concerned as it would appear that there have been no significant changes in respect of improvement to sport facilities since 1998.

Councillor Preston said that the buildings need refurbishment and fields need major work and by adding bed and breakfast accommodation, thereby encouraging away teams this could increase the income, therefore allowing the leaseholder to improve facilities.

Councillors were concerned that if the Landlord's Consent were granted, the tenant would be able to sell the lease on at a higher value and therefore put the sport centre in possible jeopardy.

Councillor Keery said it would appear that Mendip District Council have not enforced the lease and the Town Council is partly to blame.

It was proposed by J Keery, seconded by H Sharp that this Council supports the views of the West Mendip Community Partnership to refuse the application for Landlord's Consent.

Councillor White was concerned that the Town Council were not in possession of all the relevant facts and asked Rik Cook to clarify some points. He explained that improvements to the sports facilities would be part of the development and commented that the drainage problems with some of the pitches are historical and not due to poor maintenance on his part.

Councillor White proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Cox

That whatever decision is made on this matter, that the District Council ensures that the sports and recreational facilities are retained for the use of the community and that a robust monitoring system is in place to guarantee that the sport facilities are well maintained and improved as per the conditions of the lease.

The original proposal was withdrawn, a vote was taken on the amendment which had become the substantive motion and was carried 5 for, 3 against with one abstention.

The Town Clerk will make the comments known to the District Council.

#### **46. NOTICE OF MOTION – RISK OF FLOODING**

As previously notified, it was proposed by Councillor M Free and seconded by Councillor I Tucker

" That this Council writes to the Environment Agency and any other interested parties, requesting that they carry out urgent repairs to the banks of the River Brue where it passes through Glastonbury especially at Coldharbour Bridge. Also that they inform us of when the works will be carried out so that we can ensure that the residents of our Town are not at risk this coming winter."

Councillor Free explained that through his capacity as Chairman of the Glastonbury Planning for Emergency Group he had attended a meeting called by Godney Parish Council to discuss drainage matters. At the meeting it had come to light that urgent repairs were needed to the banks of the River Brue to prevent flooding of areas of Glastonbury.

Councillors asked for the banks of the Millstream adjacent to the Meare Road to be included which was **AGREED**.

**RESOLVED** that this Council writes to the Environment Agency and any other interested parties requesting that they carry out urgent repairs to the banks of the River Brue where it passes through Glastonbury especially at Coldharbour Bridge and also to the banks of the Millstream, adjacent to the Meare Road. Also that they inform us of when the works will be carried out so that we can ensure that the residents of our Town are not at risk this coming winter.

#### **47. NOTICE OF MOTION**

As previously notified, it was proposed by Councillor P Preston and seconded by Councillor W Knight

"That in order to assist in the preservation and presentation of the Market Cross that the Market Cross be enhanced with decorative railing designed to provide supports for floral decorations, to be supplied by Glastonbury in Bloom, along with floor level mounted floodlights and that the Town Council will in principle support the funding."

Councillor Preston said that there had been several acts of vandalism to the Cross which, as well as permanently damaging the stonework, has cost the Town a substantial amount of money. He hoped that railings would deter people from climbing or defacing the Cross.

Councillor Knight, although sure that the affect would be pleasing to the eye, doubted whether this would actually stop people sitting around the Cross.

Councillor Brunsdon reminded members that the Cross did have railings in the past.

Councillor Billing was concerned that there could be a health and safety risk in placing railings around the Cross and that the Town Council should take professional advice before making a decision.

Councillor Keery, seconded by Councillor Free proposed the following amendment to the motion 'that in order to assist in the preservation and presentation of the Market Cross that the Town Council, in conjunction with Glastonbury in Bloom, explores the possibility of placing flower troughs on the Cross steps, along with floor level mounted floodlights and that the Town Council will in principle support the funding'.

The amendment became the substantive motion and was carried.

#### **48. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Cox reported that he had been contacted by Ben Came from Mendip Housing regarding concrete frame properties on Windmill Hill.

Councillor Preston invited members to the Air Cadets open evening on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 7.30pm. He was pleased to announce that the Glastonbury Shooting Team came 15<sup>th</sup> in the National Finals and a Glastonbury Cadet won the Javelin at the National Athletic finals.

Councillor Brunsdon reported that the Conservation Society had enjoyed their trip around Bridgwater arranged by Bridgwater and District Civic Society on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Councillor Keery reported that Liz Leyshon, Strode Theatre manager, was in the process of raising funds to make a film about Glastonbury through the years.

#### **49. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a) Mendip District Council – Tourist Information Centres  
**AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write back stating that the Council notes that the funding has been reduced, not cut completely, but still regretting the decision made by the District Council
- b) Somerset County Council – A39 Red Route Exhibition Forum – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 3pm-7pm Coxley Memorial Hall
- c) Glastonbury and Street Talking Newspaper – Letter thanking Town Council for free use of Council Chamber for meetings and recording tapes
- d) Mendip District Council – Letter from Development Control Team Leaders re changes in Development Control
- e) HM Revenue and Customs – VAT: Off Street Car Parking provided by local authorities – Result of appeal – The implications of this are the Town Council is required to continue charging VAT on car park income

#### **50. WEST MENDIP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

It was **AGREED** to request the following items are placed on the next Agenda.

Police Station for Glastonbury - The Town Council would like the support of the District Council in their endeavours to regain a Police Station for Glastonbury.

Tor Sports and Leisure Centre - The Town Council would like the assurance of the District Council that Tor Leisure Centre will be monitored and the conditions of the lease enforced in order to ensure good sports facilities are provided for the people of the Town.

**51. REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009**

The contents of the report were noted by members.

**52. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT**

**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.

The press and public were excluded for the following item.

**53. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

The Town Clerk reported on a recent insurance claim against the Town Council.

Councillor Andrews reported that he had spoken to a member of the Police Authority regarding the lack of Police Station facilities in Glastonbury.

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**Mayor, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009**