

Meeting of the Council held on 13th October 2009 at Glastonbury Town Hall at 7.15pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

Public participation from 7pm-7.15pm.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

83. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Browne, Hull and Keery.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

85. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on:

- a) The success of the 4 days visit of the Patmos contingent.
- b) The Somerset Art Week exhibition at Gallery 8
- c) The High Sheriff's Service
- d) Mendip in Bloom Presentation and his pleasure at Glastonbury receiving the award for best Town and best public building
- e) The opening of Domino's Pizza Parlour

86. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

Police Volunteer Mr Antionello thanked the Town Councillors for their support regarding taking strong alcoholic beer from the shelves of local shops. He said that most shop owners were now on board with others seriously considering following suit. He confirmed that the MP has given the project his 100% backing and that the scheme is permanently ongoing.

PC Pople reported on the PACT priorities being illegal parking in St Edmund's Road and Archers Way, uncontrollable dogs and lowering of car park charges to encourage people to park in the car parks. The team had seized 109 alcohol vessels over the past month.

Councillor White had met with a local pub landlord who felt that the Police are not doing enough to investigate the tags or prosecute the culprits.

PC Pople confirmed that the Police prefer to deal with these matters by using Restorative Justice.

Councillor Billing reported that community Speed Watch team had resigned en bloc but that the Co-ordinator would like to start up again.

Councillor Andrews was concerned about the speed of vehicles going past St Dunstan's School where there is a 20mph advisory sign.

Councillor Brunsdon asked whether vandalism occurring last weekend in the Town would be on CCTV. PC Pople said that a time and place would be needed and then the tapes could be searched.

Councillor Coles complained that he had seen a pony and trap speeding down the High Street in a dangerous manner and asked whether anything could be done. The Police confirmed that they would be treated in the same way as any speeding traffic.

87. PRESENTATION FROM MENDIP ATHLETICS CLUB

David Wright reported that the Glastonbury Road Run would now be organised by Mendip Athletics Club and that Glastonbury Leisure Centre would no longer be involved. He asked for a Town Council representative to sit on the Board, to help with distributing the money raised to worthy causes in and around Glastonbury.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Cox be nominated.

The Town Clerk was asked to retrieve the presentation cups from the Glastonbury Leisure Centre and return them to the Town Hall.

88. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Glastonbury and Sharpham Burial Board held on 3rd September 2009 were received and adopted.
- b) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8th September 2009, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- c) The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 22nd September 2009 were received and adopted.

Councillor Tucker wished it recorded that he had declared a personal interest in item 69d.

It was **RESOLVED** to make the amendment.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Barron should join the Committee.

- d) The minutes of the Town Hall Committee held on 29th September 2009 were read and adopted but for the item regarding wifi. Councillor Billing requested the opportunity to present further information regarding the wifi and that the vote should be taken again as he had proposed an amendment at the meeting, which was seconded but not voted on.

Given the circumstances it was **AGREED** that further information should be presented to the Council and a vote taken as to whether the wifi antennae should remain on Town Council property.

Councillor Billing explained that it would be a waste of the £32,000 of public money spent so far to remove the antennae from the Town Hall as the project would not be able to continue.

He reported that the number of users is increasing and after 2 years it should be paying for itself. He proposed that the Council rejects the recommendation of the Town Hall Committee.

Councillor White asked for clarification on the benefits of wifi.

David Cornish of Somerset County Council reported the system benefits the tourist trade, websites and the Town webcams but as yet the economic case has not been proved possibly due to the fact that they have been unable to advertise due to the bad publicity. He confirmed that the system conforms to UK and European Standards and they brought a safety report to the Town Council last year which was accepted.

Councillor Tucker had read that fibre optics would soon replace wifi. Somerset County Council confirmed that there were no plans for it to come to Somerset in the near future.

Councillor Cox asked about Vietec. Dave Cornish confirmed that Vietec is a private company specialising in wifi systems and working with Wifi Spark. Somerset County Council chose Vietec to run the service for the Connecting Somerset project.

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Billing and seconded by Councillor Knight 'That this Town Council, as a corporate body, continues to allow the siting of the wifi antennae on the Town Hall for the remaining period of the three year pilot.

A recorded vote was taken. Those for the proposal - Councillors Billing, Knight, Preston, Cox, White, Andrews, Free and Sharp; those against the proposal – Councillor Tucker and those abstaining – Councillors Brunsdon, Barron, Coles and James. The motion was carried with a vote of 8 for, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

89. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Gloak sent his apologies.

90. AREA REGENERATION OFFICER REPORT

Ros Wilkins sent her apologies.

91. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Barron reported on:

- Avalon Plastics
- Playpark equipment
- Beckery Cottages restoration and delays in funding
- Section 106 Agreement connected to the Tesco's application of £150,000 to be split between Glastonbury and Street to be used to improve High Street/Town Centre retail.

Councillor Tucker asked how the Section 106 agreements were allocated and asked for the District Council to allocate the money directly to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk said that she had put forward the new Police Station and enhancement of the Market Cross area as projects which she felt fit the criteria.

Councillor Cox said that in his experience the Section 106 monies usually ended up being used for street furniture.

Councillor Tucker asked about the Tor Bus. The District Councillors confirmed that the District Council had removed the funding.

The Town Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Somerset County Council to discuss the matter.

Councillor Sharp was concerned that the surveyors report on Tor Leisure highlighted that certain fire doors were not accessible. Councillor Barron confirmed the matter was in hand and he had been told by District Council officers that although it is a potential danger it is the responsibility of the tenant to put it right.

92. ST BRIDES CLOSE PLAYPARK

Councillor Free was unhappy to see that the play park was still unequipped and suggested that the Town Council could consider including a figure for play equipment in the next budget.

The District Councillors undertook to investigate the situation.

93. OUTSIDE BODIES

- a) Councillor Knight reported on the plans for the Frost Fair to be held on 12th December 2009.
- b) Councillor Sharp reported that over the past 5 years £65,000 has been raised locally for projects in Lalibela including £6000 from the J A Clark Trust for an Empowerment of Women project. The Children's World Charity in Glastonbury has expressed an interest in helping, along with a Water Charity. There will be an article in the Central Somerset Gazette detailing the work.

94. MULTI-AGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF STREET DRINKING IN GLASTONBURY

Councillor Sharp had spoken to Turning Point and the Robert Barton Trust on the matter who confirmed that they do not have outreach workers to work with street drinkers. He expressed concern that the needs of these people do not seem to be being addressed.

The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Social Services to ask them what their policy is on outreach workers for this type of work.

Councillor Preston suggested that the Town Council contacts the Society of Voluntary Associates who may be able to help.

95. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor White reported that she, other Councillors and John Davis, who organises the schools sports in Glastonbury, had met with David Hartman from Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA to discuss a cultural and sporting exchange called Glastonbury Connections. Mr Hartman will be bringing over his Baroque music group next year and has booked to play in the Abbots Kitchen on 3rd July 2010 with a concert in the Town Hall on 4th July 2010. She explained that this would not be a Twinning exercise but she will be looking for families to act as hosts for the visitors.

96. A361

Councillor Sharp reported on the A361 Red Route Exhibition Forum held at Nunney Village Hall on 30th September 2009, which he had attended on behalf of the Town Council.

He explained that for the Town Council to get Speed Indicator Devices in Chilkwell Street and further along the A361 they would need to contribute financially.

97. USE OF ST DUNSTAN'S CAR PARK BY TOR FAIR FOR AMUSEMENTS DURING CARNIVAL

Councillor Knight reported that he had been asked by the organisers of the Tor Fair if they could use St Dunstan's Car Park for fairground amusements during Carnival night.

Councillors felt that the Carnival Club would need to be consulted.

Councillor Coles **AGREED** to bring the matter up at the next Carnival Committee meeting.

98. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Somerset County Council – Invite to Twinning Conference on 21st October 2009 - Noted
- b) Community Policing Awards – Invite to submit nominations – It was **AGREED** to nominate PC Mark Pople
- c) British Telecommunications plc – Invite to adopt local red telephone box at Wells Road, Glastonbury – The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of adopting the box for £1

- d) Mendip Community Transport – Dial a Ride Community Cars – Noted and **AGREED** that this item should be added to the Council website
- e) Mendip District Council – Consultation regarding naming of access track at the Globe Inn adjacent to Abbey Park – It was **AGREED** to recommend the name ‘Abbey Park Walk’

99. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

It was **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.

Mayor, 10th November 2009