

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8th June 2010 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: A Andrews, J Barron, T Billing, J Brunsdon MBE, L Browne, 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
PC M Pople

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

19. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Council of events he had attended on behalf of the Town since the last meeting.

20. COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER REPORT

PC Pople reported that the next PACT meeting would be taking place at the Town Hall on 1st July 2010 and informed Councillors of a new initiative with schools to tackle antisocial behaviour.

21. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 11th May 2010, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the addition at Item 1 of 'The Town Clerk also signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.
- b) The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 25th May 2010 were received and adopted.
- c) Town Hall Committee held on 25th May 2010 were received and adopted

Councillor Free reported the grant application to Viridor for £20,000 had been successful and phase one of the work to the Town Hall should start shortly.

22. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The County Councillor congratulated Councillor Tucker on his retirement as the longest serving Fire Officer in the Country and presented him with a pair of Somerset Fire service cufflinks.

The County Councillor circulated a report to all members.

Councillors were disturbed to hear that the County Council may not be proceeding with the application for World Heritage Status for the Levels and Moors. The Town Clerk was asked to write for more information.

23. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were considered and it was **RESOLVED** to forward the following comments to the planning authority.

- a) 2010/0824 - Mr R Smith – Change of use of land to retain existing mobile home and creation of another pitch – Charous, Gypsy Lane – Full Planning Permission

‘No objection’.

- b) 2010/1158 – Mrs T Ely – Formation of off road parking by creating new driveway with hard standing (DEL) – 88 Tor View Avenue – Full Planning Permission

‘Recommend approval’.

- c) 2010/0632 – Mr P Manning – Change of use from play centre (class D1) to café and gallery/showroom with office and store (A3/D1)(DEL) – 3a Silver Street – Full Planning Permission

‘Recommend approval’.

- d) 2010/1006 – Mrs E Rice – Change of use from A1 to A1 and A3 (DEL) – 12 Market Place – Full Planning Permission

‘Recommend approval’.

24. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported on planning applications for three new supermarkets for Wells.

Councillor Barron reported that he believed SWRDA would be disbanded shortly and therefore he was unable to report anything further at the present time regarding the Morland’s site.

He had also noticed that a piece of land above Avalon Estate and another off Fairfield Gardens appear on the District Council asset register. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Barron should investigate the possibility of purchasing the land.

Councillor Cox asked whether Flourish Homes intends to renovate the concrete houses at Whiting Road.

Councillor Sharp asked whether the District Council are attempting to find the required travellers site as laid down in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Councillor James understood that the new coalition would be removing the Local Development Framework requiring Mendip to provide 87 pitches but was unsure of how this would affect the District’s policy.

Councillor Keery asked for a timetable regarding the removal of travellers from the Beckery site. The Town Clerk will ask the relevant officer at the District Council for an update.

Councillor Hull reported that wheelchair users are unable to access the toilets in St John's Car Park.

Councillor Tucker asked what the policy is regarding the loan scheme for travellers' sites following the new legislation.

The District Councillor undertook to answer questions at the next meeting.

25. ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Knight suggested that the electorate should be made aware of how often their Councillor's have attended Council meetings during their term of office, in the form of a table, which could be posted on the notice board and website.

After discussion it was **AGREED** that a league table was not required at this time.

Members were reminded that they must send apologies with reasons to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting, which they are unable to attend.

26. NORTHLOAD STREET TOILETS – POLICE STATION CONVERSION – OFFER OF LEASE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Barron confirmed that the District Council had offered to lease Northload Street toilet block to Glastonbury Town Council for 99 years with the first five years free of charges and thereafter charged at the market rate.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she was still waiting for the offer in writing from the District Council and for a firm commitment from the Police that they wish to use the building as a Police Station.

Councillor Andrews hoped the project would go ahead a much work has gone on over the years to get a Police Station back in Glastonbury.

27. GLASTONBURY CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND REVIEW

The Conservation Area Appraisal and review had been made available to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Brunsdon explained that Mendip District Council was seeking comments from the Council regarding the appraisal and proposed changes. Councillors asked whether Tor Sport and Leisure Grounds could be included. Councillor Tucker said that this had been suggested but the consultants had informed the group that it was unlikely that it would be approved and could jeopardise the rest of the scheme. Essentially the scheme dealt with the built environment. Councillor Brunsdon recommended approval of the document.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Conservation Area Appraisal and Review and proposed changes ie. an extension to include the whole of Benedict Street (as far as, but not including, Wollens Close) and the majority of Fairfield Gardens, to recognise further well detailed, late-19th and early-20th-century, red-brick and stone houses and an extension along the south side of Street Road to include the well detailed, large Edwardian Houses.'

28. BUILDINGS AT RISK REGISTER

A request had been received from a Mendip District Council Conservation Officer asking for the Town Council to identify 'at risk' listed buildings in Glastonbury which do not currently appear on the register.

The Town Clerk was asked to enlist the help of Neill Bonham of the Conservation Society in this regard and to inform the District Council of the poor state of the well along Old Wells Road which is considered a 'heritage asset'.

29. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Councillor Hull thanked Lisa Williams, Administration Assistant for completing a survey regarding allotment provision in Glastonbury.

She also informed Councillors of an Adult Skills and Learning workshop dealing with the 'Future of Food' being held on 17th June 2010.

- b) Councillor Billing reported that he would be attending a local area SALC meeting next Thursday.

- c) Councillor White reminded Councillors that musicians from Glastonbury Connecticut would be performing in the Abbot's Kitchen on 2nd July and at St Dunstan's School on 4th July 2010 and the importance to attend.

- d) Councillor Knight suggested that Town Council invites the Queen to the cutting of the Holy Thorn in 2012. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the matter.

Councillor Knight asked Councillors to think about holding Mayor Making as a separate ceremony to the Town Council meeting.

- e) Councillor Sharp asked that the Town Council write to thank the organisers of the Road Run for holding a successful event and to write to Liz Leyshon congratulating her and her team for producing the 'Glastonbury' film recently shown at Strode Theatre. He also reported that £83,000 had been raised locally for projects in Lalibela since 2006.

- f) Councillor Tucker encouraged Councillors to support the Harvest Show on 18th September 2010 and challenged Councillor Barron to compete to grow the longest runner bean.

- g) Councillor Browne asked the Town Council to call a Disability Committee meeting to discuss access in the Town Centre. Councillor Andrews said that the Committee had managed to lobby to improve access in the past but the problem of cars parking in front of dropped kerbs still remains. It was **AGREED** to reform the Committee.

30. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was considered and noted.

- a) Somerset County Council – E mail detailing Environmental Maintenance Programme for 2010
b) Flourish Homes – News from Flourish Homes
c) Avon and Somerset Policy Authority – Policing Plan 2010-2011

Document can be seen at the Town Clerk's office or accessed online at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

- d) Talking Newspapers – Letter of thanks for use of Council Chamber
- e) Request to place Planet Aid clothes container in car park – The Town Clerk was asked to inform the organisation that the Council is unable to accommodate a container in the car park

(Copies of a,b,c & e enclosed)

**31. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET
2009/2010, ANNUAL RETURN AND STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE FOR
APPROVAL**

Copies of the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet and the Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement had been circulated to members for approval following a satisfactory inspection by the internal auditor.

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance sheet and the Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2010, are approved and adopted.

**32. SUITABILITY OF PROBUBINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES TO CARRY
OUT INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Town Clerk confirmed that Probusiness is independent of the Council and is not involved in the process of accounts preparation or the implementation of financial controls and maintains knowledge through regular contact with involved parties such as Clerks, NALC, SALC and the external auditors.

It was therefore **AGREED** that Probusiness remains suitable to carry out internal audits for the Town Council.

None of the Town Council members, nor the Town Clerk declared an interest in Probusiness Financial Services.

33. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2010-2011

RESOLVED to appoint Probusiness as internal auditors for 2010-2011.

34. 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.

**35. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – PUBLIC BODIES
(ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

The following resolution was passed:

'That pursuant to the provisions of section 1(2) of the Admission to Meetings Act 1960 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the following business because publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the **confidential** nature of the business'.

The Press and public left the room.

36. APPLICATION TO PURCHASE SURPLUS LAND

A letter had been received from the District Council with draft conditions following the Town Council's application to purchase surplus land adjacent to Northload Bridge, Glastonbury.

The Town Council reviewed the conditions and noted that they preclude any use of the land for commercial gain. It was also noted that the application would be subject to a minimum charge of £500 before any legal costs were incurred. It was therefore **RESOLVED** not proceed with the application.

Mayor, 13th July 2010