

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8th July 2014 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: J Barron, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, M Free, I Forster, S Henderson, J Keery, W Knight, D Michell, H Sharp, S Thurgood, I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillor S Shepherd

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
County Councillor A Gloak MBE
County Councillor T Napper
Police Inspector Mark Nicholson
PCSO Spencer Bishop
Gary Knight – Macebearer
Terry Dowden – Macebearer
David Greenway – Town Crier

Public participation

Hazel Pegg asked the Town Council to consider another solution than parking the police van in St John's Churchyard as it currently spoils the view of the church and gives the wrong impression to people who are concerned that the churchyard may be a crime scene.

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the Unity candle and a moment for quiet reflection. Rev David MacGeoch asked Councillors to remember Ellie Clare and George Stott young people from the Town who tragically lost their lives in an accident last month.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

34. REPORT FROM INSPECTOR MARK NICHOLSON

Inspector Mark Nicholson reported that from 28th July 2014 the Force would be rolling out a new police operating model and Glastonbury will have three beat managers instead of one. Sergeant Justin French will remain as Sergeant and PC Mark Pople and two other officers will be attached to the same team. This should ensure that there is an officer on duty at all times. He said that shift patterns had been altered to cover pub/club closing times.

Councillor Free asked the Inspector to comment on the placing of the police vehicle in the churchyard. The Inspector said that in his experience the van reassures the public. He confirmed that police volunteer, Gary Knight has a police radio but no Police powers.

Councillor Cottle asked whether Street and Wells Police Stations are closing. The

Inspector said that they are staying but in future the force may sell them and open appropriately situated new fit for purpose facilities.

Councillor Thurgood reminded Councillors that the police van continues to be supported at the PACT meetings.

Councillor Michell said that earlier in the year she met with PC Pople and Rev David MacGeoch and it was agreed that the hedge behind the memorial could be removed by the Town Council. This was so the Police van could park in the dedicated Police space across the road allowing a clear view of the churchyard and any anti-social behaviour which may be taking place. She said that now the hedge had been removed there did not seem to be any reason for the van to remain in the churchyard.

Councillor Cousins suggested the PACT meeting open a Facebook page to encourage attendance.

35. PRESENTATION BY MR ROB MITCHELL, VICE CHAIRMAN OF CROHN'S IN CHILDHOOD RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Mr Mitchell thanked the Mayor for selecting CICRA as his charity for the year and gave a presentation to the Council about its work. Written information will be sent to the Town Clerk for distribution to the Councillors.

36. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th June 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the addition of the following excerpt from Mendip District Council Leisure Portfolio to the Tor Leisure item:
'This portfolio represents a considerable land holding in well-positioned urban locations and hence offers the bidder various opportunities (subject to planning permission being available) for future gain from alternative uses of part of the portfolio – any such gain to be shared with Mendip District Council on a basis to be agreed.
It should be noted however that Mendip District Council's prime aspiration is to secure the long term delivery of a sustainable range of popular sport and leisure activities'.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th June 2014 were received and approved.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Burial Board held on 26th June 2014 were noted.

37. 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.

38. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported on the Local Plan and said that the Inspector is satisfied with the progress but has made a few modifications which do not affect the overall plan. Consultation for the changes ends on 4th August 2014.

Modifications are shown on the Mendip District Council website.
Councillor Coles provided a written report.

Councillor Henderson provided a written report.

Councillor Cottle reported that he was in contact with Wessex Water about the maintenance of their land at Leg of Mutton Road.

Councillor Sharp congratulated Councillor Henderson on organising a successful Glastonbury Fringe.

Councillor Black reported overgrowth at Jacob's Ladder.

The District Councillors agreed to meet with the team leader from the Landscape Group to talk about their responsibilities in the town.

39. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Gloak provided a written report.

Councillor Keery said that it had come to light recently at a meeting with Chris Betty that the County Council had decided to reduce applications for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) to once a year. He said that it is unacceptable to have to wait for November each year to make application and asked the County Councillors to investigate the matter.

Councillor Tucker said this was causing a problem around the Tor as TRO's are needed for the Clearway markings.

Councillor Coles said that the removable bollards behind Tescos were allowing illegal encampments on County land. Councillor Tucker again suggested that the County Council dispose of the land.

Councillor Napper said that the County Council had plans to put in a more permanent barrier to the land.

Councillor Napper reported that he had attended a presentation about loan sharks and that it is the County Council's intention to produce pop-up warning banners. Councillor Cousins suggested advertising the services of the Mendip Credit Union as a safe alternative to obtain loans.

40. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the last meeting the Mayor had represented the Town at Wells Cathedral Folk Dancing Festival, several concerts and visited the Glastonbury Festival site.

41. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Michell reported on her duties as Deputy Mayor over the past month. She announced that the judges for South West in Bloom would be in town on the morning of 9th July 2014 and thanked people for joining the clean up on 6th July 2014.

Councillor Thurgood reported on the success of the Youth Drama Club, funded by the Youth Council via Somerset County Council, which is being held at Avalon Constitutional Club which will break for the summer but will start again in September on Monday evenings.

Councillor Cousins advertised the Avalon Marshes Day at the Red Building Buildings which is the start of the Avalon Marshes Festival on 12th July 2014. He also encouraged Councillors to attend the meeting about the Lisbon Treaty and implications to UK at the Assembly Rooms on 19th July 2014 from 1.30 to 4.30pm.

Councillor Sharp reported on recent fund raising for Lalibela and that £200,000 has been raised in total. Further details are available from the website.

Councillor Knight reported on a successful joint NGS Open Gardens weekend with Jacob's Loft and St Margaret's Chapel held on 6th and 7th July 2014.

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors they are invited to attend the Catholic Pilgrimage on 13th July 2014.

42. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Brunsdon said that the Lake Village is owned by Glastonbury Antiquarian Society and as an Iron Age settlement English Heritage have agreed to fund scientific work in conjunction with the National Trust.

43. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Councillor Free reported on the events planned for WW1 celebrations from 10th-17th August 2014.

Councillor Brunsdon has privately funded the publication of his mother's diary written whilst she was serving as nurse for the VAD during WW1. Profit will go to the Red Cross.

44. BUDGET FOR WW1 COMMEMORATIONS

The Town Clerk said that £3000 had been allocated in this year's budget for the commemorations. The Mayor said that £1500 would be required to underwrite the events but it was hoped that ticket sales mean that the concert on Friday 15th August 2014 should break even. The remaining £1500 will be kept in reserve for cleaning of the Town War memorials should grant aid not be forthcoming. Councillor Free has obtained sponsorship from two local companies.

45. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:

- a) Mendip District Council – Mortgage Rescue Scheme ends
- b) Somerset County Council – Temporary closure of footpath WS 15/68
- c) Off the Streets – Summer Activities for Youth in Glastonbury. Councillor Sharp said that the Youth Provision Committee have subsidised the scheme which replaces the Children's Festival by providing holiday activities.

Mayor, 12th August 2014