

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7pm

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors: N Cottle and S Henderson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
County Councillor A Gloak  
County Councillor T Napper  
Sergeant J French and PC M Pople  
David Greenway, Town Crier  
Terry Dowden – Macebearer  
Gary Knight - Macebearer

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### Public participation

Stuart Chadbourne, Chief Officer of Mendip Citizens Advice Bureau had come to the meeting to explain the situation regarding the office in Glastonbury which has been closed since September 2014. The staff had been used to start a new local telephone enquiry service. Statistics had shown that Glastonbury was the office with the lowest user numbers. He said that there are currently no volunteers from Glastonbury. As soon as the volunteers are realigned, the Tuesday session will be reinstated with the addition of a Thursday later in the year. Councillors made it clear that they wanted the office reopened as soon as possible.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a silent moment. Morgana West lit the Unity Candle.

### 105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

### 106. REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE GLASTONBURY BEAT TEAM

PC Pople said that the next PACT meeting would be on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7pm. He was pleased to report that Gary Knight, Police volunteer is back on duty. PC Neil Wolstenholme has now started a graffiti project. Councillor Sharp mentioned a property along Chilkwell Street which suffers from graffiti. Councillor Brunsdon MBE was concerned about people driving out of Archer's Way (one way street) onto the High Street. There is ongoing work from the Beat Team regarding Busking and it is hoped that the Town Council can work with the Police to tackle nuisance buskers with the introduction of a bylaw or a code of practice.

## **107. MINUTES**

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were taken as read and signed as a true record of the meeting

The Town Clerk said she had not yet received a reply from the Leader of Somerset County Council regarding the Hinkley Point traffic issues. Councillor Keery said that a statement had appeared in the Press from the Chairman of Somerset County Council, stating that it was beyond the County Council's capability to deal with the matter. He suggested that a copy of our letter should be sent to the Transport Minister. This was **AGREED**.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were accepted.

## **108. 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.

Councillor Cousins presented the latest accounts from Glastonbury Tribunal Ltd. to the Town Clerk to comply with the grant application.

## **109. BUDGET REPORT**

A budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 was circulated to all Councillors and noted.

## **110. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Brunsdon reported that the A361 group spoke at cabinet regarding the campaign and damage to their properties from heavy goods vehicle movements. Although the District Council felt it was not their remit, the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair had advised the group on how to proceed. Councillor Barron thanked Councillor Brunsdon for speaking so eloquently on the matter at the meeting.

Councillor Brunsdon confirmed that there is a Mendip dog warden but he is only called out to deal with particular problems. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Mendip District Council regarding the dog fouling problem in Benedict Street, especially near the school.

Councillor Black asked for the metal guard which was placed around the newly planted Holy Thorn on Wearyall Hill to be taken away as it is dangerous.

Councillor Coles provided a written report.

Councillor Henderson provided a written report.

## **111. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Gloak had provided a written report.

Councillor Napper said that the boxing club and football club need financial assistance.

Councillor Free asked when the priority road markings at Underwood Road were to be painted and queried the cost of repairing potholes.

Councillors hoped that now the decision to reopen Ashwell Lane had been made that the work would be carried out shortly.

Councillor Tucker suggested that a meeting is convened between the Town Council and Tessa Munt MP to discuss whether there is any way to influence how the EDF haulage contracts are written ie. in order to stipulate that stone does not come through Glastonbury as the route is not suitable.

## **112. ST BENEDICT'S CHURCH – GRANT APPLICATION**

An application from St Benedict's Church for a grant of £250 towards the free Christmas meal they provide was considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant £250 from the 'Other grant' budget towards the project. **(LGA 1972, Section 137)**

## **113. ST DUNSTAN'S HOUSE**

Councillor Keery said that 40 people attended the consultation on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and viewed the house. Most people realised the boundary issue was important. Those attending were asked to complete comment forms. A Property and Assets Committee meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 at 6.30pm to discuss the matter further.

Councillor Sharp said he was in the process of scrutinising the financial side. He said that the cost of the loan to purchase the property of £350,000, over 20 years with interest at 3.15% would be £463,006.25. The estimated initial repairs are £40 – 60,000.00.

Councillor Cousins said that we should review the finances but if we can find a good anchor tenant maybe the cost would be less.

Councillor Brunsdon said that to sort out the boundary issues and sell the property could be another option.

## **114. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had attended a Highway meeting with the A361 group since the last meeting.

## **115. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Thurgood had attended a community meeting at the Camino Centre and also completed Community Speed Watch training.

## **116. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Black reported that Avalon Community Energy Group has obtained a grant to carry out a feasibility study for a community energy co-op.

## **117. CORRESPONDENCE**

**The following correspondence was noted:**

- a) Mendip Society – Newsletter no. 142
- b) Avon and Somerset Constabulary – December 2014 Newsletter

The following correspondence was considered:

- c) Mendip Health and Wellbeing Board – Invite to meeting of the Board. Councillor Thurgood will attend, a Town Council representative on the Board.

## **118. PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 2014/2607/LBC & FULL**

An application for conversion and change of use from offices (B1) and flat (C3) to 6 flats was considered.

The application was **REFUSED** as the Council would like to see the ground floor used for commercial purposes in order to maintain a working High Street.

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**Mayor, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015**