

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Abbott, G Avalon, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, E George, S Henderson, J Keery, D Michell, S Shepherd, S Thurgood, I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillors: L Macdougall and P Sander-Jackson
PC Neil Wolstenholme
County Councillor A Gloak

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
County Councillor T Napper
Gary Knight – Macebearer
Terry Dowden – Macebearer
David Greenway – Town Crier

Public Participation

Katerina Sonntag said she was pleased about the resolution of the Town Council to ask for a traffic order to introduce a 7.5 tonne weight limit along the A361 through Glastonbury. She addressed Councillor Osman on the matter as she felt that the plight of the residents along Bere Lane and other affected routes was being ignored by the County Council. Councillor Osman undertook to request that the new portfolio holder for Highways, Councillor D Fothergill walks the route in order to get more of an understanding of the situation.

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the Unity candle and a moment for quiet reflection.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

16. PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR JON OSMAN, LEADER OF SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Osman had been invited by the Council to explain the situation at County Hall in relation to Children's Services.

He said that since Ofsted in February 2015 achievements have been made. The new Director is now in post and the County Council is confident in his ability to improve the service to the satisfaction of the inspectors. He said that the £6 million budget for social care should be sufficient and that expensive locum staff will be phased out and replaced with well supported permanent staff.

Councillors asked Councillor Osman why he had not felt the need to resign following the consistently poor Ofsted results and the subsequent removal from post of the interim Director who had been employed as a self-employed person at £300,000 per annum. He said that the Ofsted report had stated that leadership is

good and therefore he did not feel the need to resign and was committed to improving the service.

17. POLICE REPORT

Concern was shown about the non attendance of Police at Town Council meetings since April. The Town Clerk was asked to contact Inspector Nicholson on the matter and to report drug dealing on the Market Cross which continues.

18. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 19th May 2015, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26th May 2015, were received.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 26th May 2015 were accepted. Councillor Cottle to be removed from the list of those present.

19. 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 Tucker noted the payment for the placing of boulders to protect verges around the Tor and reported that the initiative has been successful.

20. ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS FOR 2014/2015

Copies of 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 Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2015, be approved and adopted.

21. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposer: Councillor A Black Seconder: Councillor E George

'With regard to the health and environmental risks associated with glyphosate, this Council requests that the subcontractors employed by Mendip District Council discontinue the use of 'Glyfos' and all products containing glyphosate in this town, in favour of a more environmentally friendly product or other solution, in line with our Environmental Charter'.

She said that a resident had noted the decline in wild flowers and plants on the Tor due to the National Trust using the weed killer and had arranged a hand weed of the Tor instead, in negotiation with the National Trust.

Councillor Brunsdon said that the HSE label for the product is clean and read out a statement supporting the use of glyphosate.

Councillor Henderson said that although there would appear to be inconclusive proof of the danger, the Council should err on the side of caution and push for change.

Councillor George presented a paper to Councillors detailing the strong correlation between the use of glyphosate and a variety of health problems in humans including cancer.

She reminded Councillors that at the Annual Town Meeting on 7th April 2015, a show of hands demonstrated that most people present were in favour of a ban on the use of glyphosate-based products in the town.

Councillor Black said she had noticed the use of weed killer in the Abbey Park and other play areas.

A vote was taken on the motion which was carried with 12 votes for and one abstention.

Councillor Shepherd had left the room and did not take part in the vote.

The Town Clerk will inform the District Council and invite representatives to the next Town Council to discuss alternative weed control.

22. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported he had been appointed to the Planning and Licensing Boards. He said that the District Council is embarking on the second part of the Local Plan and suggested the Town Council makes sure it takes every opportunity to influence the document. The next meeting of the Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust would be held in Glastonbury on 15th June 2015 with a visit to the Rural Life Museum.

Councillor Black asked how many of the 1000 new homes for Glastonbury have been built. Councillor Brunsdon confirmed that none have been built yet.

Councillor Coles provided a written report. He confirmed that the Furniture Factory site on Wells Road has been sold to Tinknells.

Councillor Cottle said that the refused solar farm application at Wick is going to appeal.

Councillor Henderson provided a written report.

23. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Napper thanked the Mayor for the invite to Mayor's Sunday.

He reported

- That the 668 bus is probably going to be discontinued. Councillor George was concerned about the loss of the service and wondered how the Shipham residents were feeling about it, as she understood the bus terminates there.
- He had arranged for a new drain in the High Street to alleviate flooding at private residence.

- A hydrotherapy pool is being installed at Avalon School, Street.

Councillor Cottle reported a pot hole along Old Wells Road.

Councillor Black reported that the bus stops on Windmill Hill have no information displayed.

Councillor Keery said that the proposed Ridge Road is now needed more than ever to limit the heavy traffic through Glastonbury and asked Councillor Napper to work with Councillor Gloak to raise the matter at County Hall.

24. 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT FOR GLASTONBURY

The matter was referred to the Planning Committee. County Councillor Napper said he would support the introduction of a 20 mph limit throughout the town.

Councillor Thurgood reported on a meeting between the Head of St Benedict's School and Councillors following the injury of a child by a drunk driver outside the school. Traffic wardens will be asked to ticket those parking on double yellow lines and the Highways will be asked to mark 20mph on the road. The Head Teacher had investigated installing flashing 20mph signs at a cost of £2000. Councillor Thurgood reported that the Town Council may be approached for funding.

Councillor Avalon mentioned that he had visited the shops in the High Street and the consensus was that they would like to see the traffic slowed down. The matter of possible pedestrianisation of the High Street was mentioned. It was **AGREED** to refer the matter to Promoting Glastonbury Forum.

25. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced:

- Her attendance at Bath Mayor Making
- Her attendance at the Sea Cadet AGM.
- Mayor's Sunday on 14th June 2015.
- Town Clean up on 12th July 2015.
- Avalon Energy Group evening on 10th July 2015 at 5.30pm at the Town Hall when Molly Scott-Catoe MEP would be in attendance.

26. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Councillor Thurgood said that the Youth Council would be meeting next on 2nd July 2015.
- Councillor Keery announced the Save the Children Choir concert being held at the Town Hall on 3rd July 2015.
- Councillor Henderson asked whether tourist guides need a licence. It was suggested he checks with the Tourist Information Centre.

27. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted.

- a) Neighbourhood Policing Awards – Nomination form
- b) Mendip District Council Parish Bulletin – June 2015
- c) Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan 2015-17