

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8th December 2015 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: G Avalon, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, J Cousins, N Cottle, E George, S Henderson, J Keery, L MacDougall, D Michell (Mayor), P Sander-Jackson, S Thurgood, I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillor D Abbott
County Councillor A Gloak MBE

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Gary Knight – Macebearer
Terry Dowden – Macebearer
PCSO S Bishop
County Councillor T Napper

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

Public Participation

Laiqa Browne asked the Town Council to consider providing half an hour free parking in St Dunstan's Car Park on the day of the by-election.

David Willis reported that Somerset County Council gave the boxing club notice to leave 12 months ago. They hope to relocate to a new building at Tor Leisure Centre and are in discussions with Fusion. The new build will double the capacity and they will open 3 nights a week. They will be looking for funding of £20,000.

John Dando spoke on behalf of Glastonbury Chilkwell Carnival Committee at their disappointment that the Mayor declined to escort the Carnival in the open car which they had organised. The Mayor said that she had been present at the Town Hall during the Carnival and thanked the Committee for the flowers. She apologised for any offence which may have been caused which was not intended.

Paul Lund informed the Town Council that Glastonbury FM had recently carried out a survey in the town when 80% of people asked did not want to see the closure of all banks in the town.

104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Cousins – Personal and prejudicial interest – Neighbourhood Planning.

105. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Spencer Bishop said that there have been several drugs seizures at properties in Glastonbury over the past month. He reported that the Police will be carrying out drink/drinking checks over the Christmas and New Year period.

106. CLOSURE OF BANKS IN GLASTONBURY

Councillors Avalon reported that he had visited all traders in the Town and invited them to a public meeting to discuss the matter at the Town Hall on 16th December 2015 at 7pm. The MP and representatives from the banks to attend. After research, he has discovered that Glastonbury will be the largest town in the Country, not to have a bank. It was **AGREED** that the Mayor should chair the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor G Avalon, seconded by Councillor I Tucker and unanimously **RESOLVED** that this Council, being extremely concerned that Glastonbury is set to lose all of its retail banking services by 2016, engages with traders and concerned parties in the Town to lead a campaign for a resolution to the issues this will cause.

Councillor Tucker said that if the Town Council it putting together a business case for at least one bank to remain in the Town, the Town Council will need the assurance that individuals and businesses will move their business to that bank.

It was **AGREED** that Glastonbury Town Council should lead by example and move banks if required.

Councillor Keery suggested the Town Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer pointing out that as the taxpayers own a substantial part of Lloyds Bank, they have a duty to provide a branch in the Town. This was unanimously **AGREED**.

107. REPORT FROM LOCAL PLAN PART II WORKING GROUP

The report from the Local Plan Part II Working Group was reissued to Councillors, for information.

It was **RESOLVED** to add the Local Plan response to the next Planning Agenda to allow for final amendments or additions to be made before the consultation deadline.

108. REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL SANDER-JACKSON ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAFFING REQUIREMENTS TO CARRY OUT A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A briefing paper to support a motion to approve the appointment of a part time officer was circulated.

109. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor P Sander-Jackson, seconded by Councillor D Michell and **RESOLVED** that in line with the report from the Planning Committee's Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, this Council employs a member of staff for the combined position of Neighbourhood Plan Planning Officer and Deputy Town Clerk.

110. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Napper reported:

- The opening hours of Glastonbury library will be reduced to 34 hours from 36 whilst the building is being altered to accommodate the Glastonbury Hub.
- Somerset Waste Partnership proposal to introduce a 3 weekly refuse collection to combat cuts of £136,000.

Councillor MacDougall asked for consideration to be given to recycling PET's and joining forces with other Councils.

Councillor Brunsdon reported water seeping through the tarmac along Chilkwell Street.

- Jeff Bunting of Somerset Highways had asked him to arrange a meeting with the Town Council to discuss objections to the Traffic Regulation Order. The Town Clerk suggested that the County Councillor should arrange for Mr Bunting to send through the objections for the Town Council to consider.

Councillor Tucker reported that there is still water pouring down Basketfield Lane which will be extremely dangerous in freezing conditions. Councillor Napper said that he had been informed by Bristol Water that the work is scheduled to be completed during January.

Councillor Cottle asked the County Council to speak to Bristol Water again about maintenance of their land at Leg of Mutton Road.

111. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Brunsdon reported on Street and Landscape Services and their obligation to maintain closed churchyards.

Councillor Coles provided a written report.

Councillor Henderson provided a written report.

He also reported on the following matters:

- Unofficial traveller site on the Morland's site - Mendip District Council have decided to develop the site which is currently an unofficial travellers site. Mendip District Council officers will be holding an advice drop-in on 10th December 2015 at the Town Hall between 2 and 5pm.

Councillor Cousins said that Elim Connect have non bricks and mortar support workers who may be able to help.

Councillor Avalon said that if the residents are evicted, Mendip District Council has a duty to house them.

- Refused planning permission for mural on listed building in Northload Street – As District Ward Councillor he had been consulted on the application. He had recommended the application was considered by the Planning Board and also

recommended approval. Unfortunately, due to a failure in email communications between himself and the planning officer his recommendation was not considered.

Councillor Cottle reported:

- His attendance at a meeting with Stuart Finney of Street and Landscape Services who informed him that they would be continuing with the use of glyphosate for weed control in the rest of the Mendip area.
- Solar Farm planning application at Wick.
- Due to pressure of work he would have to resign from the Town Council Finance and General Purposes and Town Hall Committees and the Burial Board. It was therefore **AGREED** that the Mayor should take the place of Councillor Cottle on the Burial Board.

112. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th November 2015, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The notes from the Communications Committee held on 12th November 2015 were accepted.
- c) The minutes of the Town Hall Committee held on 17th November 2015 were accepted.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 17th November 2015 were accepted.
- e) The minutes of the meeting of the Promoting Glastonbury Committee held on 19th November 2015 were accepted.
- f) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th November 2015 were accepted.
- g) The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 24th November 2015 were accepted.
- h) The minutes of the meeting of the Burial Board were noted.

113. PRECEPT RECOMMENDATION 2016-2017

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and set the precept for 2016-2017 at £260,000.

114. PORTRAIT OF EX MAYOR

The following motion was proposed by Councillor G Avalon and seconded by Councillor A Black

‘That in the light of the conviction and jailing of a previous mayor of this town, this Council, with immediate effect remove from display, in the Council Chamber, the portrait honouring his term of office.’

Councillors Avalon and Black spoke in support of their motion, stating that they did not feel it appropriate to continue to honour a man, who is now a convicted criminal.

A recorded vote was taken:

Councillors Michell, Cousins, Avalon, MacDougall and Black voted for the motion.

Councillors Brunsdon, Coles, Henderson, Cottle, Keery and Tucker voted against the motion.

Councillors George, Thurgood and Sander-Jackson abstained.

The motion was not carried.

115. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – DELEGATED POWERS

At the October 2015 Council meeting the Town Council **RESOLVED** to form a Communications Committee to meet once a month, after the Council meeting.

The aim of the Committee was to give the Council a greater element of control over the reporting of their proceedings and activities; encourage greater participation through proactive communication; promote best practice, consistency and accountability in council communications.

As the Committee does not have delegated powers, the Town Clerk said that legally the Committee minutes and any decisions should be ratified at the following full Council meeting before any action is taken.

A number of Councillors were concerned about granting delegated powers to the Committee.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a regular item be added to the Council agenda to consider and approve the subject(s) of press releases etc. arising from the meeting. These will then be written by the Communications Committee and cleared by the Mayor and Town Clerk before release.

116. YOUTH COUNCIL

Discussion took place regarding the relationship between the Youth Council and the Town Council. It was hoped that in future the Youth Council would be an advisory body for the Town Council.

It was **AGREED** to investigate the possibility of formalising the arrangement by contacting the Youth Council of Great Britain and other Councils which work closely with their Youth Councils.

Theo Wilson from the Youth Council said he had been disappointed to hear that the Town Hall Committee had only granted a 50% remission for the Battle of the Bands evening at the Town Hall.

He reported on the last meeting the minutes of which had been previously circulated to the Council.

117. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

It was **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.

118. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor attended the following events on behalf of the Town since the last meeting: Remembrance Day Parade, Brunel Care Home, YMCA Sleepout when she raised £500 for the homeless, Civic Service at Croscombe for the Dean of Wells, Glastonbury Carnival, Glastonbury Frost Fayre, Pride of Somerset Award, OBOD's Conference, Wells Cathedral Children's Choir concert.

119. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Thurgood reported that the Glastonbury Poppy Appeal had raised over £9000. The Town Council thanked Mr J Barron and his team for all their hard work.

Councillor Henderson said that he had received several complaints about the condition of the shop Christmas trees. The Town Clerk said she was yet to receive any complaints but will speak to the supplier.

120. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Austin Memorial Homes Trustee meeting – Councillor Keery reported that the buildings are in good order and the 4 residents were granted the usual Christmas bonus.

121. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) Request from Glastonbury resident for a kissing gate on footpath by mini roundabout at the bottom of Feversham Way – It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should arrange for the Community Warden to discuss the matter with the Footpath Officer at Somerset County Council.

The following correspondence was noted:

- b) Letter from Martin Campbell regarding traffic problems along Street Road – The Town Clerk was asked to arrange for information from the A361 Committee to be forwarded to Mr Campbell and to invite him to join the Committee.

122. REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK ON TENDERS FOR NON-TOXIC WEED CONTROL

The Town Clerk provided a report with a copy of the quotation from Weedingtech for the supply of the unit to administer Foamstream. For comparison two further quotations were obtained from Enviro Weed Control for the treatment of weeds with a) Foamstream and b) hot water only. The Town Clerk had been unable to identify a company prepared to undertake hand weeding on the scale required by Glastonbury Town Council. The offers from Weedingtech were based on publicising the Town Council's adoption of Foamstream.

123. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed: Councillor E George

Seconded: Councillor A Black

'That following research by Councillors George and Black, into non-toxic weed control and the subsequent request for tenders on non-toxic weed control by the Town Clerk, according to protocol, this Council will formally accept the offer from WeedingTech for a Foamstream unit, as discussed.

Councillors George and Black amended their motion to include the following:

'on the proviso that there is a formal memorandum of understanding between the Town Council regarding public relations and a 12 month warranty is provided for the unit.'

A recorded vote was taken.

Councillors Michell, Cousins, Sander-Jackson, MacDougall, George, Black, Avalon voted for the motion.

Councillors Brunsdon, Coles, Henderson and Thurgood voted against the motion.

Councillors Cottle, Keery and Tucker abstained from the vote.

Mayor, 12th January 2016