

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7pm

- PRESENT:** Councillors: D. Abbott, G. Avalon, A. Black, J. Brunsdon MBE, J. Coles, J. Cousins, N. Cottle, E. George, S. Henderson, J. Keery, L. MacDougall, P. Sander-Jackson, S. Thurgood, I. Tucker
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor D. Michell [Mayor]
County Councillor Alan Gloak MBE
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Interim Town Clerk
County Councillor T. Napper
PC Wolstenholme
-

In the absence of the Mayor the meeting was chaired by Councillor J. Cousins.

Public Participation [7pm]

Paul Lund spoke on behalf of “Clean for Queen” with a proposal to arrange a kick start of this national event in Glastonbury on 26th January 2016. Councillor E. George invited Mr. Lund to join the relevant Council committee as a non Councillor representative as Council was intending to organise events.

Laiqa Brown thanked the Council for providing free short term parking in St Dunstan’s car park for the by-election and went on to report concerns with regard to damage to telegraph poles caused by larger vehicles mounting the kerb on the A39. Laiqa Brown also expressed the concern of another resident with regard to voting in pencil at the by election.

Toni Hall spoke on behalf of CAP [Christians against Poverty] - a charity offering practical advice about debt and money problems. The free courses are open to all and are being run at the Street Baptist Church on the 9th, 16th and 23rd February at 7.30pm. A resident in attendance spoke positively about her experience of attending the course and now being debt free for three years. Councillor G. Avalon suggested that the course should be promoted on the Council website.

Tony Thomson spoke to raise the concerns of the Somerset Gypsy & Traveller Community Land Trust. Council was advised of the good links between gypsy and travellers and the local community. Morlands had been resorted to as a local base and the group had been in ongoing liaison with Mendip District Council regarding the potential purchase of the land. It appeared to the SG&TCLT that a decision had recently been taken at MDC to purchase the land without prior consultation with either the travellers or the Town

Council. Meetings had occurred with Enforcement giving very little notice to leave to people and families who have been in residence over a long period of time. SG&TCLT have had a recent meeting with MDC and intend to submit a planning application in the near future. Councillor J. Coles advised that there was a national scheme in place where travellers can obtain interest free loans for land purchase.

Jamuna Fisher spoke for Street Care to request that if the purchase of St. Dunstan's House by the Council were to occur, a small drop-in office be provided in order to assist with building links between individuals and agencies offering the services that they required.

Chris Reeves from Mendip CCTV provided information on the project. Glastonbury Town Council is currently a stakeholder in the service level agreement. An information sheet was provided to all Councillors.

Kevin Redpath had arranged for a film of the flash mob and general protest at the proposed bank closures to be made and this was played for those in attendance to view. Councillor G. Avalon expressed his hopes that the film will promote and encourage the campaign.

Hugh Sharp spoke to voice concerns with regard to the lack of communication over the installation of the new town entry signs. Councillor G. Avalon advised that this issue had been signed off by the promoting Glastonbury committee prior to Christmas.

The meeting paused for the lighting of a candle and a minute's silence was held for reflection

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

125. POLICE REPORT

PC Wolstenholme submitted his apologies for previous non-attendance and advised that:

- PCSO Higgins had left the Glastonbury Police Beat Team in order to train as a police officer.
- 2nd Beat Officer was due to be appointed in the near future.
- The Room in St Dunstan's car park was much appreciated and well utilized.
- PACT meeting arranged for Wednesday 20th January 7pm at the Town Hall
- 999 Fun Day 16th April 10am to 3pm in Morrisons car park

County Councillor T. Napper enquired about the Coursing Batch incident and was advised that care had to be taken in these weather conditions.

Councillor J. Brunson MBE enquired as to whether the quality of the current CCTV images was of a good enough standard and was advised that the images at present were clear enough.

Councillor N. Cottle enquired about the broken glass at the Tor. It was noted that reports of illegally parked cars being broken into and theft had been received.

Council formally expressed wishes of good luck for the future to former PCSO Higgins.

126. MINUTES

- The minutes of the Glastonbury Town Council meeting held on 8th December 2015, which had been circulated to each member were amended as follows:
Item 111. District Councillor Report
Page 42 report from Cllr N. Cottle – third point starting “due to pressure of work ”
Was amended to read:
“Due to the pressure of work he would have to resign temporarily until May from all working groups except the Town Council Finance and General Purposes and Town Hall Committee and the Burial Board.”

With the final sentence originally following the above being completely removed.

The Chairman of the meeting Councillor J. Cousins, then signed the minutes as a correct record.

- The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15th December 2015 were accepted
- The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 15th December 2015 were accepted
- The minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 21st December 2015 were accepted

127. 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 / Acting Town Clerk’s, authority to make the payments. [13/0 with Cllr. J. Keery abstaining]

Clarification having been requested / provided by Councillors with regard to lift switch, litter bins, band fees & transport expenses.

128. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor T. Napper reported:

- Water run off at Basket Field and Gypsy Lane has still not been resolved.
- Recycling costs – Mendip District Council contributes just over £3m per year to the Somerset Waste Partnership and recycling raises about £418,000.00. This reduces the overall net cost. A detailed paper report was provided to Councillor J. Cousins.
- Installing yellow Lines on unopposed roads to be carried out in March with four roads currently remaining an issue.
- Asset Disposal – Glastonbury Town Council will be consulted.
- Water discharge at Bere Lane and Chilkwell Street has been stopped.
- County Devolution Exercise – County will be going into partnership with Devon, and may be appointing a Mayor.

The following concerns were raised for the attention of the County Councillor:

- Councillor N. Cottle reported that Old Wells Road, which is a bus route, was in a bad condition and in urgent need of repair with regard to surface maintenance and potholes and a discharge of water seeping through the tarmac.
- Councillor J. Brunsdon reported that the surface of Lyppiatt Lane is also in need of repair.
- Councillor I. Tucker reported two hazardous paving slabs located under the mural on Mr Knight’s building need to be attended to.
- Councillor A. Black spoke with regard to tree planting in the area of the end of Benedict Street or the other side of the by-pass. Have been in liaison with Highways and advised that a permission to plant license is now required. It was noted that the Mendip District Councillor Tree Officer had been in consultation.
- Councillors G. Avalon and S. Thurgood requested clarification and an update with regard to the siting of School signage in Benedict Street. The concern being that the proposed locations of the signs are not as requested.

County Councillor Gloak had tabled a report.

The following concerns were raised for the attention of the County Councillor:

- Councillor N. Cottle raised concerns re the continuing lack of progress with the alterations at the bottom of Bove Town.

129. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Cllr. J. Brunsdon

- Expressed disappointment at the failure of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the solar park.
- Advised that an enforcement action was in place with regard to the deteriorating condition of windows on a prestigious building at the bottom of the High Street. Millennium Trail plaque 2 has been removed from the building and as this is part of the listing of the building, enforcement action is now in place.
- Post Office – Enforcement action has secured the replacement of the original sign above the door.
- General condition of the listed buildings on the High Street is good on the ground floor however some of the upper stories are in urgent need of maintenance. The closure of the banks could also become a concern with regard to the standard of maintenance of the buildings.

Councillor G. Avalon advised that the new owners of the Nat West premises had undertaken a great deal of repair and maintenance work. The Barclays and HSBC premises had both been leased properties with the ownership remaining unchanged. Currently no information was known about the Lloyds building.

Cllr. S. Thurgood enquired about Abbot's Court, although not itself a listed building, is within a conservation area and being renovated. The issue had been raised that other local residents had replaced windows up to the listing standard and why the same conditions were not being imposed on Abbots Court.

Cllr. J. Brunsdon responded to advise that the conservation section had been notified with regard to this concern and were currently looking into the issue – the rules applied to everyone.

Councillor S. Henderson advised that no planning application(s) had been submitted for the works at Abbot's Court. The Mendip District Council Planning and Conservation Departments are both currently investigating what permissions would need to be applied for.

District Councillor J. Coles

Tabled a report and advised re Street Trading:

- Restrictions need to be imposed as to what items can be sold in order to reduce direct competition with shops who are paying business rates.
- Annual fees per pitch will be imposed.
- Street trading will be restricted to certain locations within the town, for example designated pitches on the High Street or Market Cross.

District Councillor S. Henderson

Nothing further to add to what has already been mentioned.

District Councillor N. Cottle

- Street trading – had been concerned with regard to the level of fees but now reassured that they will be set at a more appropriate level.
- Councillors need to register if they wish to express their opinions to the Planning Board about the travellers site at Wick.
- NHS and County Partnership had advised Mendip District Council Cabinet that over the next 10-15 years the average age of people within the county would rise by 25% [up to 50% in some areas] and Council needed to be aware of the increasing pressure that this would place on the local infrastructure with regard to Hospitals and care provision.

Councillor Henderson advised that Glastonbury Town Council had recommended refusal of the planning application referred to.

County Councillor T. Napper advised that County is looking into the possibility of a University of Somerset again, which if progressed could assist in reducing the average age within the region. The Technical colleges would need to be amalgamated and it is not currently known if this would be a viable option.

129. YOUTH COUNCIL

Councillor S. Thurgood advised that the Youth Council had not met in the last month.

Theo Wilson from the Youth Council then spoke on the following:

- Looking forward to the upcoming by election taking place in his Ward.
- Praised everyone involved with, and expressed support for, the Last Bank Standing campaign.
- Motion to debate about formal recognition.

Councillor E. George advised that although the debate had been agreed at the last meeting, due to the illness of the Town Clerk, this meeting had been streamlined.

The Chairman advised that any items removed from this Council Agenda would now be placed on the agenda of the February meeting.

130. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

131. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

132. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Health & Wellbeing

Councillor E. George advised of an upcoming meeting about Health & Wellbeing events within urban parishes within Mendip District Council and asked for ideas for events that could be arranged within Glastonbury.

Carnival Committee

Councillor J. Coles advised of an offer for any Councillor to have an escorted tour of the carnival shed in the Spring. If Councillors were interested, please could they leave their name with the Council office staff.

133. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:

- Letter from Geoffrey Ashe regarding the civic motto

134. BANK CLOSURES

Chairman noted the showing of the film by Mr. Redpath during the public participation time.

Councillor G. Avalon provided the following update:

- Flash mob was attended by around 500 people.
- Thanks expressed to the core team of people who assisted in organising the event
- Lloyds Bank were still refusing to communicate. James Heapey MP was also attempting to initiate communications with the Bank.
- Barclays were considering trialling two proposals within Glastonbury –
 - The introduction of an Ipad / tablet system to book a ‘Skype’ style conversation with a member of staff
 - A single bank officer within a room at some location in town
- Will be meeting with Barclays again next week however the branch will categorically close.
- Next working group meeting arranged for 28th January at 6pm Rainbows End café.
- Following on from the success of the Flash Mob the campaign now had to progress onto a national level
- Kevin Redpath thanked for the creation of the film. Councillor G. Avalon requested that a refund, [solely for the reimbursement of expenses re camera men and studio production time] of £200 [two hundred pounds] be made by the

Town Council to Mr. K. Redpath as no further funds were available within the campaign budget.

- Councillor N. Cottle advised that the Daily Mail had a small piece in today's paper.
- Councillor D. Abbott advised that abroad several banks share an office. She was advised proposal had already been put to Barclays
- Councillor S. Henderson asked if contact had been made with anyone at Ivybridge [the only town to date that had persuaded a bank to remain open.] He was advised that the Mayor had been contacted and are awaiting a response.
- Cllr. E. George enquired re remaining previously approved funding and asked if Council had to formally approve the film in order that it could be used in the campaign going forward.

It was advised that the last of the approved funding had been spent on printing costs. All receipts and records of the expenditure will be submitted in due course.

Council formally **AGREED** that the film as shown earlier in the meeting, be approved.

It was noted that a range of feedback had been received by Councillors while out leafleting for the Last Bank Standing campaign.

It was noted that the Last Bank Standing group were not required to pay a fee for the room booking.

- Proposed by Cllr. G. Avalon, Seconded by Cllr. E. George and **RESOLVED** unanimously by Council that the reimbursement of £200 [two hundred pounds] be made to Mr. K. Redpath upon presentation of an invoice in the normal manner.
- Proposed by Cllr. N. Cottle, Seconded by Cllr. S. Thurgood and **RESOLVED** unanimously by Council that the Bank buildings be placed onto the Mendip Community Asset Register.

Councillor J. Cousins to liaise with the Council office re the above.

135. PRESS RELEASES

It was **AGREED** that Glastonbury Town Council create a press release about the Community Flash Mob event and the proposal to add the bank buildings to the Mendip Community Asset Register.

A meeting of the Communications Committee was arranged for immediately after the closure of this council meeting.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM

Mayor, 9th February 2016