



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: A Black, D Abbott, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, E George (Mayor), J Keery, W Knight, L MacDougall, D Michell, T Napper, S Thurgood, I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillors G Avalon and S Henderson
Gary Knight – Macebearer

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Terry Dowden – Macebearer
Liz Leyshon, County Councillor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sara Clay updated the Town Council on the activities of Glastonbury Community Development Trust.

Angela Friend complained that two of the benches had been taken away from outside St John's Church. She also complained about Methodone users in the Town and Special Expenses rates detailed on the Council Tax bills. The Town Clerk explained that Mendip District Council removed the benches for repair and they would be returned shortly. Councillor Cousins explained that the Special Expenses rates cover maintenance of play areas and closed churchyards.

Reg Cohen complained that the new weeding system employed by the Town Council was ineffective. The Mayor said that there is a work schedule for the weeding and asked people to report overgrown areas to the Town Hall.

Claire Murphy complained about the removal of a Holy Thorn from the bin store area behind the Town Hall. The Town Clerk confirmed that the removal of the tree was done with the knowledge of the planning authority and that the tree was a Blackthorn and not a Holy Thorn.

The Mayor asked Liz Leyshon to light the Unity candle which was followed by a minute's silence prior to the meeting.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

18. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL

The Mayor reported on a successful Battle of the Bands event. Work continues on the project to build a graffiti wall at the Skate park and the new project to hold a competition to design a logo and motto.

19. REPORT FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Paul Manning, reported that there are now 68 members. There was a breakfast meeting held on 12th June with a speaker from the Glastonbury Symposium. The next meeting has been scheduled for 10th July when Mike Jones will be speaking about Glastonbury Trust and the Goddess Conference. Paul explained that some members of the Chamber objected to the Brocante Fair as they had previously made it clear that they would prefer the Fair to be held at quieter times of the year to improve trade, not during peak season.

20. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 9th May 2017, which had been circulated to each member, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
Councillor Sue Thurgood said that she had been informed that the Child Contact Centre closed as there was a lack of clients due to the removal of legal aid.
- b) The minutes of the Promoting Glastonbury Committee held on 17th May 2017 were received.
- c) The minutes of the Glastonbury in Bloom Committee held on 23rd May 2017
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th May 2017, were received.
- e) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 30th May 2017, were received. Councillor Thurgood asked for a more detailed analysis of the finances relating to St Dunstan's House for the next meeting.

21. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported that the District Council through the Town Council has received reports about a proliferation of rats in Bere Lane. The matter has been reported to Mendip District Council Environmental Health Department and to Wessex Water as after heavy rain rats are driven out of the sewers and drains and it is thought that this may be causing the problem.

Councillors Coles and Henderson provided written reports.

Councillor Keery asked whether the District Councillors have seen the papers given to cabinet re clearing the traveller site. He said that the decision seems to have been made without any regard to what the impact on the town will be.

It was **RESOLVED** to again request that Mendip District Council takes no further action until the Town Council has seen the papers.

The Town Clerk was asked to inform the MP that the Town Council is severely concerned.

Councillor Tucker said that if Mendip District Council takes no action about the the encampment at Meare Road there will be a similar situation whereby the occupants will have permissive rights if it goes on much longer.

With regard to the traveller site, Councillor Brunsdon said that Mendip District Council offers considerable loans to gypsies and travellers who wish to purchase land for residential purposes.

Councillor Alyson Black said that this may be the case but that it is almost impossible to get planning permission for caravans.

Councillor Keery said as there is a currently tolerated site, Mendip District Council could assist the occupants to get loans and sell the site to the travellers.

Councillor Henderson reminded Councillors that the odour zone precludes residential development on the site.

Councillor Cousins said that a proper odour test on the site is required.

22. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Liz Leyshon, newly elected County Councillor for Glastonbury and Street provided a written report which had been circulated to Councillors. She is dealing with a number of outstanding highways issues, as follows:

- The problem with the tree roots raising paving slabs in the High Street should be resolved this week.
- Taxi rank – The change to the taxi rank for Tuesday market day should be in place for 17th July.
- Small improvement scheme at Bove Town – Current planned completion date is October 2017.
- Residents Parking Permits – Scheme on hold at present. Areas keen on residents parking are asked to nominate a champion. At least 60% of residents need to be in agreement of introduction of a scheme.
- Yellow Lines – Requests for Watts Corner and Turstin Road are already in the process.
- Potholes and parking – Potholes can be reported online to www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport . To merit attention the hole needs to be at least 400mm deep.
- A361 – The cabinet member for Highways and Transport is now John Woodman.
- Chilwell Street will be closed to traffic during the October half term week for work to be carried out on water pipes.
- Bretenoux Road parking issues

Councillor Cousins said that there is a Neighbourhood Plan consultation with the residents of Redlands estate at 4pm on 17th June 2017 at Actis Road to discuss the issue of overnight parking and travellers.

She recommended the website www.trafficchoices.co.uk/somerset/Index to Councillors which includes a flowchart for Small Improvement Schemes.

Councillor Coles reported the untidiness of the relief road and said that hedges are growing over the path.

Councillor Brunsdon reported a problem with overgrown hedges at Hill Head near the entrance to Wearyall Hill.

Councillor Keery suggested inviting John Woodman to the next A361 meeting.

Councillor Napper provided a verbal report and said that he was looking into what safety measures could be put in place at the junction by Brewer's Fayre and the zebra crossing at Street Road.

Councillor Abbott asked that the zebra crossing at Chilkwell Street be reintroduced as a possible small improvement scheme as well as the 20 mph limit through town. Councillor Leyshon said that she had been informed that the problem with a zebra crossing in that area is the accessibility due to the raised pavement but she will continue investigations.

23. 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.

24. BUDGET REPORT

The budget report to 31st May 2017 was circulated to Councillors and duly noted.

25. BANK RECONCILIATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that the audit regime now requires a Councillor to be appointed to check bank re-conciliations on a quarterly basis.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the Mayor, Councillor Emma George to carry out the necessary checks during this financial year.

26. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was proposed by Councillor Cousins, seconded by Councillor Cottle and **RESOLVED** to approve the release of a grant of £3600 to Glastonbury Community Development Trust.

As members of the GCDT board Councillors Coles and Councillor L MacDougall took no part in the vote.

27. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor provided a written report of her activities on behalf of the Town Council since the last meeting, including Mayor's Sunday and talks with Inspector Mark Nicholson and Sergeant Matt Slade about maximising the potential in our current recruitment drive for a dedicated PCSO for Glastonbury.

28. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Thurgood reported that the Methodist Church was broken into through the stained glass windows. Avalon Club are holding a quiz to raise money for Meningitis Now at 7.30pm on Sunday 18th June.

Councillor Napper reported on a successful mouse racing event when £1300 was raised for the Beacon Centre in Taunton.

Councillor Cousins reported that Chris Britten, ex Mayor of Wells, recently passed away and that the funeral will take place at Mendip Crematorium at 12.30 on 16th June.

29. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Cousins reported on the excellent work of the Neighbourhood Plan Focus Groups which have all now met.

Councillor Knight reported that he and Councillor Avalon attended the Sustrans group meeting discussing the feasibility of a cycle path linking Walton, Street and Glastonbury.

30. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) Email from representative of Morland's Traveller Site requesting help or advice from the Town Council in relation to the possession order issued by Mendip District Council. The Town Clerk was asked to reply stating that the Town Council will do everything within its powers to assist.
- b) Email from Gerry Urch re restricted parking at Bretenoux Road – The matter was referred to the Planning Committee.
- c) Email from Chief Executive of Wessex Water re Glastonbury Sewage Treatment Works. Due to the complexity of the report, the Town Clerk was asked to invite the Chief Executive to the next Town Council meeting to explain.

The following correspondence was noted:

- d) Street Parish Council – Notification of Street Parish Council's application for the area of the Civil Parish of Street to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan
- e) Mendip District Council – Parish Bulletin – June 2017
- f) CSW Group – Email re new transport project
- g) Glastonbury & Street Talking Newspaper – Letter of thanks

31. ACTIONS

Town Clerk to:

- Invite Chief executive of Wessex Water to the next meeting to explain the odour report.
- Contact Mendip District Council about the proposed eviction from the traveller site and ask them to hold off any action until the Town Council have sight of the papers provided to cabinet prior to the decision to evict.

Councillor Cottle commented on the report received from Hugh Sharp about activities in Glastonbury's twin town, Lalibela over the past year. He suggested organising a trip to Lalibela. Councillor Thurgood said it would be prudent to check with the Foreign Office before arranging a trip. Councillor Cottle agreed to investigate.

32. PRESS RELEASE

The Mayor will include the following in her next report to the local newspaper: Proposal to include a Holy Thorn next to the Peace Pole in St Dunstan's Car Park; rats and how people should be careful not to leave food outside in unsealed containers.

Mayor, 11th July 2017