



# Glastonbury Town Council

**Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Glastonbury Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: A Black, J Brunson MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, E George (Mayor), L MacDougall, D Michell, T Napper, S Thurgood, I Tucker

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor D Abbott, G Avalon, S Henderson, J Keery, W Knight

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
Terry Dowden – Macebearer  
Gary Knight - Macebearer  
Liz Leyshon, County Councillor

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Clive Bishop thanked the Councillors for visiting the Beckery Day Centre and hoped they would support the facility. His concern is that 'Discovery', the new company which the centre has been outsourced to by Somerset County Council, does not run day centres anywhere else in the country.

Stephen Bower questioned a Councillor on the outcome of a complaint he made against her to the Monitoring Officer at Mendip District Council regarding a possible breach of the code of conduct. The Town Clerk advised the Councillor not to converse with Mr Bower on the matter, as he informed the Council that he had made a further complaint therefore the matter was sub judice.

Malcolm Allen reported that the Cooperative Land Trust is looking for space in St Dunstan's House.

Angela Friend reported on the poor management of Strode Pool since the take over by Fusion. The Mayor asked the District Councillors to look into the matter.

Earl Bramley-Howard spoke on behalf of residents who have concerns about the management and finances for St Dunstan's House and the formation of the Glastonbury Information Centre CIC. He was concerned that the CIC would allow the Board members to be paid.

## **103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **104. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Mayor reported that during half term an artist worked with members of the Youth Council and the Windmill Hill Youth Club to repaint the youth shelter. She also reported that plans for the skate park garden and shelter, including consultation with the skate park users, are moving quickly.

The following agenda item was brought forward at the mayor's discretion.

#### **105. NOTICE OF MOTION**

It was proposed by Councillor E George, seconded by Councillor J Cousins (In the absence of Councillor Keery – the original proposer - Councillor George became the proposer of the motion and Councillor Cousins seconder) and **RESOLVED** that this Council regrets Somerset County Council's (SCC) ill conceived and mismanaged decision to transfer the Beckery Disability Centre to the Discovery company. It calls on SCC to ensure that this transfer leads to no reduction of services, care or conditions for the Centre clients and staff. Retaining this Centre is vital for the most disadvantaged people in the community and their families to whom it offers invaluable care and support.

Councillor Napper abstained.

The County Councillors said that the County Council is revisiting its decision regarding the Centre and they will take the comments back to the portfolio holder. They undertook to regularly report back the findings of the scrutiny committee to the Town Council.

#### **106. REPORT FROM GLASTONBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Paul Manning reported that the Christmas party is being held on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Chamber will be holding workshops to help with small businesses and continues to investigate a radio link for shops to keep in touch. The chamber will be supporting small business Saturday on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

#### **107. MINUTES**

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with amendments on page 29, item 91 – Councillor Cottle 'had' met with the Deputy Town Clerk and page 30 bypass should read 'relief road'.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Glastonbury in Bloom Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were received. Councillor Tucker encouraged Councillors to join in the town clean up on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were received.

Councillor Tucker confirmed that directors of the new Glastonbury Information Centre have not received remuneration for their services.

d) The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Provision Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were received.

e) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were noted.

## **108. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillors Coles provided a written report.

Councillor Brunsdon said that the contractors who resurfaced St John's Car Park inadvertently covered over the 'Tribunal sets'. He has complained to the relevant officer at Mendip District Council who has assured him that these will be reinstated. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write to Mendip District Council, regretting the situation and asking for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Councillor Thurgood asked what Mendip District Council's stance is on the A361 and A39. Councillor Cottle said that there is no official stance.

Councillor Tucker asked Councillor Coles why the A39 planning application is being dealt with through delegated powers. It was pointed out to Councillors Coles that he should declare an interest in the application. Councillor Cottle said that in the past, when a ward Councillor declares an interest, another Councillor would be appointed. Councillor Coles said that he would speak with the planning officer in an endeavour to have the application heard at the planning board.

## **109. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Leyshon provided a written report on traffic regulation orders, small improvement scheme for 2017/2018, A361 and HGV count, libraries consultation, learning disability services for Somerset. She reported that the Policies, Adults & Health Scrutiny Committee received a report and presentation updating members on the first 6 months since the transfer of Learning Disability Service to Discovery and, following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a monthly report, showing key performance indicators for the contract should be brought to the next four scrutiny meetings.

Councillor Napper provided a written report on winter road treatment, Somerset Rural Life Museum, A303 update, The Great South West, Glastonbury Library Consultation and Learning Disability Services.

Councillor Cousins asked whether Glastonbury library is safe. Councillor Leyshon said that the service has been instructed to make £500,000 cuts but Glastonbury library is in a good position as the hub provides so many services and has low running costs compared to others. Conclusions of the consultation will be reported in July 2018. The Mayor pointed out that there is no Friends of Glastonbury Library. The Chamber of Commerce Chairman said that he would contact the previous organisers to warn them of the possible cuts. The Mayor hoped that the library could be utilised by the Dementia action group.

## **110. NOTICE OF MOTION**

It was proposed by Councillor E George, seconded by Councillor J Cousins (In the absence of Councillor Keery – the original proposer - Councillor George became the proposer of the motion and Councillor Cousins seconder)

'That this Council aims to become a 'single-use-plastic-free' council by phasing out the use of unnecessary and unrecyclable 'single-use-plastic' (SUP) products such

as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council activities by April 2018 and to encourage local businesses to do the same by championing alternatives.

A recorded vote was taken. Councillors E George, J Coles, S Thurgood, J Cousins, D Michell and A Black (6) voted in favour of the motion, Councillors Tucker and Napper voted against the motion (2) and therefore the motion was carried. Councillors J Brunsdon and N Cottle abstained.

#### **111. 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 had recently attended the AGM of the Somerset Association of Local Council, where he discovered that other Councils have been questioning the ethics behind being charged for non domestic rates charges on council buildings and therefore thought it might be worth this Council investigating the matter further.

#### **112. BUDGET REPORT**

The budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 was circulated to Councillors and duly noted.

#### **113. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor provided a written report of her activities on behalf of the Town Council since the last meeting.

#### **114. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Councillor J Cousins reported that the group had met weekly since the last meeting to formulate a town wide survey with questions which came out of the focus groups. He said that the group is considering a request to the Town Council to extend the role of Neighbourhood Planning officer for six months from May 2018.

#### **115. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a) Strode College – Invitation for Councillors to attend opening event for the new All weather pitch on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from 6pm.
- b) St John's Church – Notification of the annual 'Cutting of the Holy Thorn Ceremony' at St John's Church, Glastonbury on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 10.30am.

#### **116. PRESS RELEASES**

- Day care centre

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**Mayor, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**