



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Barnet, L Browne, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, S Henderson, J Keery, P Lund, L MacDougall, D Michell, I Mutch, B Outten, C Prior, M Smyth, S Roney-Dougal and I Tucker.

APOLOGIES: Alderman John Brunsdon

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Claire Crompton, Terry Dowden – Macebearers
County Councillor Leyshon
Cllrs Napper and Goater
Jenny Pitcher – Economic Development Officer – Mendip DC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 7.00 AND 7.15PM

Subjects raised included:

Overview of the Smart Communities study of Travellers
Cricket Club update
Bride's Yard concerns about parking, unauthorised encampments
Reported death of a travelling resident

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

138. APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December were considered an accurate record and signed by the Mayor. Councillor Coles requested an update on the removal of a bus shelter from Street to Glastonbury.

139. UPDATE ON THE TOWNS FUND

Cllr Goater – Economic Development Portfolio from Mendip District Council supported by Jenny Pitcher, Senior Economic Development Manager gave an overview of the Town Fund and the opportunities a successful outcome could provide. The Town Readiness check list has been completed and submitted resulting in the transfer of £140,000 to Mendip DC as a contribution towards the preparation of a detailed proposal for the redevelopment of sites and locations in Glastonbury. There is to be a Project Board which will consist of representatives from the four tiers of authority plus the MP James Heapey. Representation from the commercial sector, health, tourism and education are also to be considered. Vacant positions may be advertised and a process of selection implemented. The time scale is incredibly tight with the first Board meeting planned for 31st January, with

the submission expected by September. The Clerk was asked to circulate the Towns Fund prospectus to all councillors.

One member of the Town Fund Board is to be a representative from the Town Council. Cllr Cousins was proposed by Cllr Smyth and seconded by Cllr MacDougall. Cllr Tucker was proposed by Cllr Keery and seconded by Cllr Henderson. Councillors voted Cllr Tucker to fill the position by majority. It was agreed that in the event that Cllr Tucker is unable to attend any meetings, Cllr Cousins would stand in as a substitute. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

140. POLICE REPORT

PC Moyle submitted a written report which was read out by the Mayor. The holiday period resulted in less delivery of initiatives such as Cuppa with a Copper and engagement with schools. Delivery is now back on schedule with a programme of awareness raising with schools, particularly on the impacts of knife crime, drugs and gangs. Gift boxes were packed with the support of pupils from St Benedict's School and distributed at the regular soup kitchen just before Christmas. Details of arrests, execution of warrants etc were also shared in the report. Observations which followed including the increasing concerns of people camping in the doorway of the former William Hill premises on the Market Cross. The Clerk was asked to inform the police of the concerns raised, in particular, the late-night disturbances emanating from this location.

141. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:

a. Planning committee held on 17th December 2019 Cllr Smyth presented the minutes of the planning committee which were accepted as being a correct record. Application No 2019/1574/FUL was recommended for refusal by the Town Council yet was approved. Cllr Henderson informed that he had omitted to respond to the planning officer for which he has shared with neighbours to the application location. The Clerk was asked to record on the minutes of the Planning Committee applications that have been either approved or refused which are contrary to the views of the Town Council.

b. Staffing Committee held on 20th December.

Cllr Tucker provided a verbal update on the work of this committee. He informed that the Staffing Committee have discussed and approved the appointment of three new positions. He continued by informing that getting the timing right for these appointments was key, particularly in light of the pending work in support of the Town's Fund. Further research is being conducted on understanding the baseline from which the Climate Change and Resilience Officer can work to. Applications for the position of a Weekend Administration and Reception Officer located within the Information Centre are now invited. The funding for this position is to be taken from the budget allocated for a Regeneration Officer, which the staffing committee agreed to withhold advertising for until there is a better understanding if a contribution from the Towns Fund may be forthcoming.

142. HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION – STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

Councillors broadly agreed that the consultation on unauthorised encampments from the Home Office was not good. The wording was considered ambiguous and the questions don't help those who live in temporary accommodation, nor the police for whom new powers are being considered. Contributory factors to the problems of

unauthorised encampments include the increase in AirBNB and the continued roll-out of Universal Credit. The clerk is to summarise the individual returns from councillors and present to the next meeting of the Town Council in February.

143. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Leyshon submitted a written report which included updates on the small improvement scheme for the introduction of 20mph zones in most of central Glastonbury. An omission of the extension of the zone to include the whole of Chilkwell Street is being pursued.

An application from the Town Council to the County Councils Improving Lives Fund has been successful with £1,260 being awarded for a new oak bench in St Dunstan's garden.

The future of local government in Somerset has been in the news recently, which has resulted in the four District Councils agreeing to work closer together in an attempt to save costs, rather than adopting a unitary approach of combining the work of two tiers of authority.

Cllr Napper made a verbal report informing of his delight that the unauthorised encampments at Pomparles Bridge is being reduced in size. He identified a concern though of other encampments, particularly on Baltonsborough Moor. His underlying message was a call for all councils to work collaboratively to resolve the problems.

144. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr MacDougall had submitted a written report which was noted.

Cllr Cousins informed of the recent outcome of the debate regarding a Unitary Authority for Somerset, with the four district councils agreeing to work closer together, yet retain the current two tier system. He also emphasised that within Glastonbury, we have to 'sell ourselves' loudly if we are to make progress with attracting additional spend.

Cllr Cottle informed that the removal of 3.5 tons of waste had cost the authority in excess of £700. A review of provisions of toilets and waste collection was being considered. He also emphasised the problems of unauthorised encampments on Kennard Drove.

Cllr Henderson mentioned the pending Fields in Trust application and the progress that appears to have been made. He also asked for consideration be given for the removal of the boulders at Pomparles Bridge.

145. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The schedule of payments was presented and following questions, signed off by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

146. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The budget monitoring report was presented and following a few points of clarification were initialled by the Mayor.

147. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE ASSET REGISTER AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2020

The Clerk has updated the Town Councils asset register which was circulated. A few amendments were required, including the inclusion of the new audio visual equipment in the small hall. The clock on St John's church tower was also raised as an asset.

148. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- a. 5G – Cllr Cousins informed that the group were continuing to meet, have hosted some very informative and interesting speakers and are working towards a summary recommendation on the findings of the group.
- b. Climate Emergency working group. The event taking place on Saturday 25th January has been publicised with this event taking place in the Main Hall. Cllr Roney-Dougal circulated a paper on Solar Streets proposal and an opportunity to involve with the promotion of solar panels. This item is to be included on the next agenda for wider discussion. It was **RESOLVED** that the Climate group are permitted to use headed paper to record the minutes of meetings etc.

149. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- a. Citizens Advice. Cllr Lund has discussed with the CEO Ian Byworth the additional contribution of £2,000 which has been offered by the Town Council. It was resolved at the November meeting of the Town Council to offer an additional contribution to assist individuals who are threatened with bailiff action due to the non-payment of their community charge. Cllr Lund reported that the CA will ring fence the additional funding for this purpose. It was unanimously **AGREED** based on this additional information to provide the CA with the additional £2,000

150. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Cllr Prior has recently been escorting the Mayor to various functions. In December the Mayor attended a performance of Gawain and the Green Man in the Town Hall. She also visited Glastonbury Care Home on Christmas Day

151. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Cllr Coles reported the passing of Daisy Bastin who at 112 years of age was the UK's second oldest citizen.
- b. Somerset Rural Community Council – wellbeing event to be held at the Royal Bath and West Showground on Tuesday 21st January
- c. A call for volunteers to join Community Speedwatch
- d. Bristol Water, receipt of a cheque to the value of £250 for inconveniences caused at Glastonbury Carnival. It was **AGREED** to transfer this to Glastonbury Carnival Club.

152. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Somerset County Council Improvement Schemes Team have requested guidance on the signage to be placed at the proposed new road crossing on Chilkwell Street. Councillors unanimously **AGREED** that the new finger post should be of a similar design to the finger posts in the town centre
- b. A report from Hugh Sharp on Lalibela Hospital
- c. Request from Meare Parish Council for a representative from Glastonbury Town Council to attend a meeting with the Environment Agency.
- d. Sea Cadets letter of appreciation for funding contributions
- e. Glastonbury Community Christmas Lunch, letter of appreciation for the support received from the Town Council
- f. Invitation to attend a Multifaith Service at Wells Cathedral on 9th February

153. NEWS RELEASES

The presentation from Cllr Goater, the appointment of Ian Tucker to the Town Fund Board and the opportunities for public participation.

154. ACTIONS

- a. To circulate the Towns Fund prospectus to Councillors
- b. Report the anti-social behaviour in William Hill to the police
- c. Include in the planning minutes applications that are decided which contravene the recommendation of the Town Council
- d. To collate the responses to the Home Office consultation and report to the next meeting of the council
- e. Include a statement on the bus shelter on the town councils website
- f. To include on the next agenda the Solar Streets proposal
- g. To include a regular agenda item on the Towns Fund

The meeting closed at 10.35pm

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
11th February 2020