



# Glastonbury Town Council

**Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 7pm**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Coles, Cottle, Lund.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk, Cllr Liz Leyshon

**N.B – This meeting is the first following a change in legislation permitting councillors to meet and conduct the business of the council through electronic means. The format used for this meeting was Zoom**

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**203. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**204. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AND TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

Cllr Smyth requested a small amendment to minute 191b where reference was made Solar Streets. This amendment was accepted and agreed. There were no further amendments and the minutes were approved – although not signed due to the distancing format used.

**205. DISCUSS THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMERGENCY POWERS WITH A FURTHER REVIEW ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

Since the last meeting of the council, legislation has been amended which allows for the business of the council to be conducted at a distance through electronic means. At an extraordinary meeting of the council held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, it was agreed to delegate certain powers to the Town Clerk with consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Councillors raised no concerns on the processes introduced and recognised that the introduction of electronic meetings has not yet been fully mastered. It was proposed by Cllr Michell, seconded by Cllr MacDougall and **AGREED** for the continuation of emergency powers. Further, councillors have requested that this is reviewed again at an electronic meeting to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April and that the Planning Committee meets on 21<sup>st</sup> April using electronic communication.  
12 – 0 – 0

**206. REVIEW THE REPORT AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5G ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Cousins informed the meeting of the work conducted over the past seven months by the 5G Advisory Committee. There is an opportunity to submit a summary of the conclusions of the group to a government committee which is undertaking an enquiry

on 5G. In his presentation, he stressed that the final report is not yet ready for publication, although the opportunity to participate in this timely enquiry should be taken up. Therefore and in summary, he presented to the meeting the conclusions of the study and asked for guidance if the council was comfortable in these being submitted to government. In response, councillors acknowledged the enormous amount of work the Advisory Group had conducted and thanked Cllr Cousins for his input. It was proposed by Cllr Keery, seconded by Cllr Browne and **RESOLVED** that the conclusions as presented are to be sent to UK Parliament. 11 – 0 – 1

## 207. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Napper had previously submitted a summary of conference call meetings that he had attended at the County Council. These notes had been previously distributed to Councillors.

Cllr Leyshon had previously circulated a report which she was able to expand upon due to her presence at the virtual meeting. The key points made were:

- That the number of infections and deaths in Somerset is lower than the averages for other counties. There remains capacity at the two hospitals of Yeovil and Taunton which may be required should the number of incidents rise, which is possible due to the higher number of retired residents in Somerset.
- The Covid 19 support groups in Street and Glastonbury are working well together.
- It is understood that the food banks in both towns are struggling with donations. Cllr Henderson is to check this out and will share his findings with councillors.
- The Glastonbury Town Council website is proving to be a good source of information both local and national.
- Government food parcels are being distributed by Brake Bros. Those entitled to free school meals are either receiving meals at school or vouchers to spend locally.
- There is an indication of a rise in domestic violence. Cllr Browne informed that for those being abused, if the call 999 followed by 55, police will be automatically called to the address where the report is raised from. This information is to be shared on the town council website.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor