



# Glastonbury Town Council

**Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 7pm**

- PRESENT:** Councillors S Barnet, L Browne, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, S Henderson, J Keery, L MacDougall, B Outten, C Prior, S Roney-Dougal, M Smyth and I Tucker.
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Lund and Michell. The Clerk provided a short update on Cllr Michell who is currently in Yeovil hospital with suspected pneumonia.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk, Cllr Liz Leyshon and five members of the public
- N.B – This meeting follows 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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**208. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**209. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020**

Cllr Coles informed that his apologies had been forwarded, yet not recorded.

**210. TO DISCUSS PLANNING APPLICATIONS 2020/0641/TPO AND 2020/0720/FUL**

**a. 2020/0641/TPO Walnut tree (T5) crown lift or fell – 24 The Roman Way**

Two members of the public spoke in support of the application. After deliberation, Councillors unanimously recommended that the suggested crown lift was acceptable, yet the suggested felling of the walnut tree was refused. It was recommended that the Tree Officer from the Local Authority be involved also.

**b. 2020/0720/HSE front, rear and side extension – 6 Wyrall Close**

A member of the public spoke against this application. Councillors unanimously agreed that this application should be recommended for refusal for the following reasons:

Overdevelopment

Visual impact

Lack of privacy for the immediate neighbours through overlooking.

Councillors considered that this application contravenes the National Planning Policy Framework guidance (section 127) b, and c. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

(b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping; (c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting.

**211. DISCUSS THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMERGENCY POWERS WITH A FURTHER REVIEW ON 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

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 until 14<sup>th</sup> April. At the last meeting, it was agreed to continue with this arrangement until 28<sup>th</sup> April when it is to reviewed. As previously agreed, due to the absence of the Mayor, the Clerk and Deputy Mayor will now liaise with the Deputy Mayor Elect, Cllr Barnet. Councillors raised no concerns on the processes introduced and recognised that the introduction of electronic meetings has enabled participation by all. It was proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Henderson and **AGREED** for the continuation of emergency powers until 12<sup>th</sup> May. 13 – 0 – 0

**212. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 5G ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A resolution was passed in in June 2019 *‘This council has a social responsibility to protect the public and environment from exposure to harm, albeit unpredictable in the current state of scientific knowledge, and therefore opposes the roll-out of 5G in the Parish of Glastonbury based on the precautionary principal – until further information is revealed from a newly convened 5G advisory committee (working group)’.*

The following recommendations presented to the council were discussed.

- writing to MPs asking them to establish an inquiry into the safety of 5G;
- calling for the UK Government and Public Health England to undertake an independent scientific study into:
  - a) The non-thermal effects of 5G, and
  - b) Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity;
- and lobbying the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) to take into account the non-thermal effects of radiofrequency EMFs in their Guidelines on Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields.

Cllr Browne proposed, seconded by Cllr Cottle and unanimously **AGREED** to accept all four recommendations of the report and to continue the adoption of the Precautionary Principle; opposing the roll-out of 5G until further information is made available on the safety or otherwise of the technology, as per the recommendation from the Advisory Group.

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Cllr Cousins added “The Town Council is greatly indebted to the members of the 5G Advisory Committee, who have met regularly; collected and studied a large volume of literature – and received presentations from a number of academics and professionals, including the Director of Mobile UK, the organisation overseeing the roll-out of 5G in the UK. As chair of the advisory committee, I have been impressed by the number of councils and local authorities who have been in contact, requesting copies of the committee’s report and recommendations... However, I must stress that a Town Council, such as Glastonbury, has absolutely no power to stop the roll-out of 5G, which is why it is so important to bring our report to the attention of MPs, the Government, Public Health England, and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.”

In response Cllr Tucker thanked Cllr Cousins for the enormous amount of effort, patience and understanding that he had personally undertaken chairing the 5G advisory group.

The Full Report and Recommendations from Glastonbury Town Council's 5G Advisory Committee is to be placed on the Town Councils website.

**213. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

There were no questions or comments arising from the presentation of the schedule of payments

**214. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The Clerk presented the budget monitoring report identifying that the 'lockdown due to Covid-19 was going to impact on the income and expenditure of the council. There remains some uncertainty if HMRC will recompense the Town Council for the furloughed staff. Also, within the budget is the cost of employing a part-time Climate Change & Resilience and a full-time Regeneration Officer. These changes to the payroll need to be reflected in a revised budget which is to be presented at the next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May. In addition, any savings or additional expenditure needs to be considered in the same report.

**Cllr Cousins proposed, seconded by Cllr Cottle and unanimously AGREED that the next two items were discussed in confidential session**

**215. TO INFORM AND REPORT ON DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER.**

The Clerk informed that 9 complaints had been received against the actions of the Mayor, Cllr Michell following inappropriate messages relayed on social media. He has forwarded the complaints (with the consent of the complainants) to the Monitoring Officer at Mendip District Council. Notification has been received informing the Clerk that the Monitoring Officer has informed the Mayor that her actions are under investigation.

**216. TO INFORM AND REPORT ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ACTING INSPECTOR JASON SIMS**

A meeting was recently convened by the Clerk which included Cllrs Cousins and Leyshon in which the Acting Inspector Jason Sims attended. The purpose of the discussion was to ascertain the actions the police and authorities are currently undertaking to reduce the impact on Glastonbury of unauthorised encampments, particularly on Kennard Moor Drove (other locations were also considered). The meeting extended to discuss infringements to the guidance and legislation associated with social distancing and the incident on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April when a small gathering took place.

Councillors voiced many concerns about the seemingly inappropriate actions of the police regarding the two incidents on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, both in the Market Square. The Clerk was asked to contact the MP James Heappey to ask him to support the Council in trying to get the police to adopt a stronger stance with these issues. Further, the Clerk was asked to write to Dame Louise Casey, Stephen Greenhaugh (Minister of State) C/Inspector Sharon Baker and Leader of Somerset County Council asking what they are proposing to do to prevent unauthorised travel and the gathering of people in Glastonbury.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor