



# Glastonbury Town Council

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Barnet, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, S Henderson, P Lund, L MacDougall, I Mutch, S Roney-Dougal M Smyth and I Tucker

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Keery, Browne, Prior and Outten

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillors Leyshon, Town Clerk and one member of the public

This meeting was held through electronic virtual means due to the Covid-19 lockdown

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 7.00 AND 7.15PM**

No member of the public requested to speak

### **63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Henderson and Cousins declared an interest in the Red Brick Building. Cllr Roney-Dougal declared an interest in Brides Mound. All councillors declared an interest in Herbies Field for which the clerk gave a dispensation (as no decisions were taken). Cllrs Mutch and Smyth declared an interest in Glastonbury Conservation Society. Cllrs Henderson and Tucker declared an interest in the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust. Cllrs Cottle, Cousins, Tucker and Roney-Dougal declared an interest in St Edmunds Hall. These organisations were mentioned under item 7 (minute 68) for which standing orders were suspended.

### **64. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July were considered accurate and presented for signing.

### **65. ST DUNSTAN'S CAR PARK**

#### **a. Recommencement of parking charges**

Cllr Cottle informed that Mendip District Council intend to recommence parking charges in all their car parks from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. It is their intention to operate a 'light touch' for the first few days to allow people to reacquaint themselves with the revised charging programme. Cllr Henderson proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnet and unanimously **AGREED** that Glastonbury Town Council recommences charging in St Dunstan's car park on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. 11-0-0

#### **b. Continuation of the weekly market currently held in the car park**

The weekly market was relocated to St Dunstan's car park enabling the recommencement of the market after the Covid-19 lockdown. The new location has been well received and the number of market stalls has increased considerably, with a 'community spirit' evident between stall holders and the public they serve. Councillors recognised the benefits to the town through having a compact location for the market, rather than a linear roadside market previously held. There is however a loss to the council as half of the car park is used by the market each week which equates to an average of £150 in lost income. Cllr Tucker proposed, seconded by Cllr Coles and **RESOLVED** that a three month trial is to be entered into with Mendip District Council. In return for allowing the use of the car park, Mendip DC are to be asked to enforce the parking in St Dunstan's car park on behalf of the Town Council. 10-0-0 (Cllr Cottle abstained)

## **66. TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED UNITARY AUTHORITY**

The Town Clerk provided an overview of the current situation, informing that Somerset County Council have submitted a request to the Secretary of State together with their business case requesting consideration as a unitary authority. The four District Councils are preparing their own business case which has not yet been published. The Clerk continued by informing that this council had contributed to a fund enabling research into opportunities that may be open for consideration by town and parish councils. Three examples were provided; play park maintenance, running the market and managing toilet facilities.

Following discussion, it was concluded that until such time as the future of the unitary is determined, there is little scope for engagement, other than recording and sharing the thoughts of councillors on work programmes that could be considered. Councillors were asked to forward their thoughts and ideas to the Town Clerk who will collate a list for consideration at a future time. In conclusion, the Council are to remain open-minded to the opportunities for change, although the emphasis should be on the improvement of services to the residents of Glastonbury.

## **67. TO CONSIDER THE 'LIVE STREAMING' OF COUNCIL MEETINGS BY YOU TUBE OR A SIMILAR PLATFORM**

Cllr Cousins introduced this item by informing that to uphold the Nolan Principles of engagement, that Council meetings should where possible be conducted openly and shared with as many who are able to attend as possible. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, child and adult caring requirements many people are restricted from attending council meetings. By 'live streaming' the meetings, more people will be able to observe the work of the council. Some reservations were shared by councillors who expressed concerns that the alteration of content may put at risk the town councils reputation. Further, it was clarified that the proposal to 'live stream' meetings is to be from the time of meetings being reconvened in the council chamber. Cllr Barnet proposed, seconded by Cllr Coles and **RESOLVED** by majority to 'live stream' meetings when the council meets again in the Town Hall. 8-2-1

## **68. DISCUSSION ON THE SUPPORTING CLLR TUCKER WHEN REPRESENTING THE TOWN COUNCIL AT THE TOWN FUND MEETING WHERE PROJECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED**

This was not an agenda item and Cllr Cousins proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to allow a discussion and conclusion on how to best support Cllr Tucker, the councils representative on the Town Fund Board. Cllr Tucker informed that he had taken the opportunity to accompany Christina McEwan (projects coordinator) around Glastonbury to help her understand the locations of ideas presented and to be discussed at the next meeting. The previously compiled list of potential projects was endorsed with the addition of three new ideas, including Herbies Field, St Edmunds Hall and a circular walk to be known as John's Path. Cllr Barnet proposed, seconded by Cllr McDougal and **RESOLVED** that the Town Council supports Cllr Tucker by providing scope to endorse and approve projects that are considered appropriate and of benefit to the town. 10-0-0

## **69. TO CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF FUSION CLOSING TOR LEISURE AND DELIBERATE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.**

Cllr Barnet having become aware that Fusion were considering their future involvement in Tor Leisure requested that the item be considered by the Town Council. Cllr Henderson was able to provide an update on the current situation informing that the Sea Cadets lease for the premises used by them has now been resolved and that whilst the Bowls Club lease is a little more complicated, progress is being made. It is understood the facilities are to reopen on 24<sup>th</sup> August, although confirmation of this has not yet been shared. Cllr Henderson reported a rise in fly tipping in the vicinity of Tor Leisure and asked everyone to be vigilant. In conclusion, it was considered

that no action or involvement is required at this time by the Town Council. The clerk was asked to distribute the completed and signed Fields in Trust agreement.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor  
11<sup>th</sup> August 2020