



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 11th February 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:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Claire Crumpton, Terry Dowden – Macebearers
County Councillors Leyshon and Napper

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TOOK PLACE FROM 7.00PM

Subjects raised included:

Bretenoux Road unauthorised traveller encampments
Highways
Closure of the parent and child Sure Start programme in the library
West Mendip Hospital consultation regarding its future
Refuge Centre closure and potential funding through the Town Deal

155. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Barnet declared an interest in agenda item 15b Avalon Community Energy. Cllrs Michell and Cousins declared an interest in item 17 Beltane as they participate in the celebrations.

156. APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14th January 2020.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January were considered an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

157. POLICE REPORT

A written report was tabled for councillors. In summary, PC Moyses informed that various incidents of anti-social behaviour in the High Street are continually being responded to with the support of the Mendip CCTV coverage. Various youths have been apprehended and issued with ASB warning letters. An increase in burglaries has resulted in additional police patrols in the town. Continued involvement with pupils at St Benedict's school with their mini police programme, including a visit to the Bridgwater Police station custody unit.

158. TOWN DEAL FUND

Cllr Tucker represents Glastonbury Town Council on the Town Deal Board. A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting with a list of possible projects that could be further explored for their suitability. Cllr Roney-Dougal requested that Brides Mound visitor centre was expanded to include education. Mendip DC are the

lead council and will be setting the agenda. Whilst all places on the Town Deal Board have not yet be filled, it is obvious to Cllr Tucker that very few members will understand Glastonbury and it is imperative that Councillors and residents use every opportunity to identify potential projects for consideration. An extraordinary Town Council meeting has been called for Tuesday 3rd March to discuss ideas for inclusion in the Town Deal Fund application. Councillors were encouraged to visit the clerks office and view the terms of reference and the prospectus map, which is neither the town boundary nor the development limit. Correspondence received earlier from Mendip DC informed that people identified as reserves to the Board are entitled to attend meetings. Cllr Cousins is the reserve Town Council representative.

159. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:

- a. **Planning committee held on 21st January 2020** – Cllr Browne presented the minutes which were noted.
- b. **Youth Committee held on 28th January 2020** – Cllr Barnet presented the minutes which were noted. The Clerk informed that the gross takings for the recently held concert was approximately £800, although the full breakdown of costs and profit has yet to be calculated.
- c. **Property and Assets Committee held on 5th February 2020** Cllr Tucker presented the minutes which were noted. The key development recently is the early stage discussions with Mendip DC regarding the transfer of land ownership in the vicinity of Pomparles Bridge.
- d. **A361 Committee held on 6th February 2020** Cllr Smyth presented the minutes which were noted. The Clerk informed that there are amendments to the Terms of Reference which reduced the total membership to 16, of which 6 will be Town Councillors, plus a County and District Council representation. Cllr MacDougall was nominated by Cllr Smyth, seconded by Cllr Cousins to be the District Council representative on this Committee. Councillors Leyshon and Napper will inform who is to take the position representing the County Council
Cllrs Browne, Cottle, Cousins, Keery, Lund, Smyth indicated their willingness to represent the Town Council on the A361 Committee and being unopposed were duly selected.
- e. **Report from the Staffing Committee** The Clerk informed of progress on a number of appointments since the last Council meeting as the Staffing Committee has not met recently.
 - i. Appointment of weekend cover for Glastonbury Information Centre – Scarlet Schaffer has accepted this position.
 - ii. Report on the appointment of a Regeneration Officer – The Clerk is currently in discussions with Mendip DC seeking a contribution towards the consultation processes of the Town Deal Fund.
 - iii. Report on awarding a short-term contract to determine the base-line position in preparation for employing a Climate Change and Resilience Officer. The Clerk informed that he was currently exploring the award of a short-term contract to help understand the current carbon footprint of the Town Council. In the new financial year, the part-time position will be advertised.

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

Having collated the responses from Councillors to the questionnaire circulated by the Home Office on the subject of unauthorised encampments, it became evident

that it would not be possible to arrive at a consensus. The recommendation to Councillors is that they submit individual responses to the Home Office consultation which can be accessed on the Town Council website.

161. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Napper's report was tabled. The main points raised included:

- I. Unitary Council progress where a reshuffle of the Cabinet might identify a new lead member with the portfolio for further explore this subject.
- II. Climate Emergency Strategy, in particular the upcoming event at Mendip DC on Saturday 15th February
- III. The financial position of the council is improving with possibilities that the adult and social care budget may be increased.
- IV. Free health checks to assist identifying heart disease, diabetes etc to people over 40 years of age.
- V. Pomparles Bridge unauthorised encampments.

Cllr Leyshon's report was tabled. The main points being:

- a) Small Improvement Scheme for 20mph zones to be included across much of the centre of Glastonbury. Clarification is required on the extent of the regulation in Chilkwel Street and Coarsing Batch.
- b) Improving Lives Fund, the application for an oak bench to be placed in St Dunstan's Garden has been successful
- c) 5G Scrutiny meeting. It has been confirmed that the SCC Scrutiny Cttee will meet on 5th March to consider 5G. The level of interest in this subject has required moving the meeting to a bigger venue.
- d) Glastonbury Living Spaces panel will meet again on 13th February.
- e) Major Road Network, there has been no update recently.
- f) Local Government Review emphasising the stance taken by the District Councils not to support a unitary in Somerset.

163. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Henderson's report was tabled, the key points being the lack of a five year land supply in Mendip and how this may impact planning applications in the future. He also raised the outcome of recent research which identified approximately 1,000 empty residential properties within the Mendip DC area.

Cllr MacDougall's report was tabled, detailing the meetings attended. She also informed of the shortage of a five-year land supply with a requirement for a further 604 houses per year. Applications for the remaining places on the Town Deal Fund Board are to be advertised. Ownership of Pomparles Bridge was mentioned together with a proposed tree planting schedule. Information on the revised recycling programme being rolled out across Mendip this year was mentioned.

Cllr Cousins informed that he had attended an evening with Simon Pickering from Stroud District Council who have been able to reduce to zero within three years their carbon footprint. He continued by sharing the detail of meetings and training sessions attended.

Cllr Cottle spoke about the stance currently being adopted from Mendip DC with regards to the future of local government in the county. He informed that together with the lead officer for Neighbourhoods, he had attended a meeting with the town Clerk to consider ideas for the planting of trees at Pomparles Bridge and the enforcement of parking in St Dunstan's car park. Cllr Cottle informed of the climate change drop-in event being held this Saturday, 15th February in Mendip DC offices.

164. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

165. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The budget monitoring report was presented and following a few points of clarification were initialled by the Mayor. The Town Clerk drew attention to two miscellaneous incomes recently received, one a donation for £250 from Bristol Water for the inconvenience caused prior to Glastonbury Carnival, which was duly donated to the carnival committee, the second from an insurance claim of £1,131.14 following vandalism of the parking meters in St Dunstan's car park. The total of this miscellaneous income is £1,381.14.

166. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposer Cllr Cousins; Seconder Cllr Cottle

'In response to Glastonbury Town Council's Climate Emergency declaration and commitment for 'Glastonbury to be carbon neutral by 2030', this council resolves to change its energy suppliers to purchase gas and 100% renewable electricity from a UK green tariff company that is building renewable energy capacity. This motion was unanimously **AGREED** 16-0-0

167. GLASTONBURY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Town Clerk informed that nominations for the annual Glastonbury Citizen of the Year award were now open and encouraged councillors to promote the award.

168. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Town Clerk informed that he has met with clerks from other towns, including Frome. An initiative being further considered is to explore the devolving of responsibilities to the third tier of local government during the current review. A contribution of £1,000 towards consultants fees has been awarded by the Somerset Association of Local Councils, which has been match funded by Frome Town Council. The Town Clerk sought guidance from the Council as to whether his involvement in this initiative is to be encouraged and if so, a contribution be made. In response, the clerk was thanked for following this initiative and Cllr Cousins proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and unanimously **AGREED** that a contribution of £300 per annum be made to support the work of the consultant. 16-0-0

169. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- a. 5G – The most recent meeting was addressed by Mr Frank Du Vocht from Bristol University. The next meeting on 12th February will receive a presentation from Mr Mark Swann entitled 'Electromagnetic radiation, what it is and how it interacts with matter'. The work of this group is nearing the end when it is hoped to present to the April meeting of the Town Council a summary of the research and any conclusions.

- b. Climate Emergency – Cllr Roney-Dougal informed of the success of this second event held in the Town Hall on 26th January. Various speakers highlighted methods of reducing the amount of carbon generated including Wedmore who as a village are now carbon neutral through the installation of community owned solar panels. Ideas gathered at the event which require further research included a Community Fridge, Community Kitchen and a Community Land project. A recommendation to endorse the Solar Streets installation project was encouraged by Cllr Roney-Dougal. Concerns were raised that this endorsement of a single company required additional understanding and it was proposed by Cllr Henderson, seconded by Cllr Tucker that the Town Clerk to further research this programme and to report back to the next meeting. **AGREED** 11 – 4 - 1

170. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- a. Glastonbury Community Partnership. Cllr Henderson informed that the meeting discussed providing an opportunity to meet with licence holders and inform them of the issues associated by alcohol to some of the anti-social behaviour in the town. Also, the introduction of a test purchasing programme for retailers.
- b. Cllr Lund tabled a summary of the Well Wessex Day held at the Royal Bath and West showground that he had attended representing the Town Council.

171. BELTANE ROAD CLOSURE

At the November meeting of the council, a motion was passed instructing the Town Council to take responsibility for applying for a road closure in support of the Beltane celebration on May 1st. The Town Clerk informed that an application has been submitted to Mendip DC and that he has been working closely with the police to ensure all safety aspects have been considered. The cost of implementing the road closure had not previously been taken into consideration and a quote for £400 has been received from Glastonbury Carnival Club to Marshall the closure and provide signage. Cllr Tucker proposed, seconded by Cllr Smyth and **AGREED** that the cost of £400 is met by the council and taken from the Frost Fayre fund. 13-2-0. Councillors Michell and Cousins abstained from voting as they are involved with the event.

172. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor informed that she had attended the recent performance of Johnny Mars, Glastonbury Brass and Glastonbury Male Voice Choir.

173. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Certificate of Lawfulness application for Herbies Field has been approved by Mendip DC. A full application will now be submitted for work to complete the trackways and drainage.

Glastonbury Information Centre has been Highly Commended in the SW Area Tourism Excellence Awards

174. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Wessex Community Assets are holding an event on Tuesday 10th March at the Elim Connect Centre in Wells to review the community-led housing sector.
- b. Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce tabled a summary of their work since the last meeting. This included the 4th annual tourism symposium on Thursday

12th March and a lecture entitled 'The Art of Being Brilliant' to be held on Wednesday 11th March.

- c. Mendip DC Local Plan. The clerk had previously circulated the post hearing advice received following the Local Inspectors report associated with the Local Plan II revision. No changes were required.
- d. An email was received regarding the imminent closure of the Parent and Child group sessions at the Library held on Thursday mornings. Cllr Leyshon responded that the closure is part of a budget saving programme agreed by Somerset County Council in 2018 which has taken a while to implement.
- e. A request has been received asking if Glastonbury wished to be considered as a location for a weather observing station. Cllr Lund showed an interest in the subject and offered to respond to learn more of the offer.

175. NEWS RELEASES

It was agreed to produce a news release on the progress with the Town Deal Fund

176. ACTIONS

- a. To contact the NHS regarding the consultation considering the closure of West Mendip Hospital and raise the Town Council objection.
- b. To circulate to all Councillors the Town Deal Fund portal inviting suggestions for the money.
- c. To contact the Mendip DC Climate and Resilience Officer to enquire the processes used to appoint IDDEA as the preferred suppliers of solar panels.

The meeting closed at 10.35pm

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
10th March 2020