



# Glastonbury Town Council

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

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

**APOLOGIES:** None received

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillors Leyshon and Napper, Town Clerk and thirteen members of the public

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

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

Subjects raised included: Update on Glastonbury youth cricket teams  
Protecting our children from adult wrong intent  
Glastonbury Road Closure programme

### **40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs McDougall and Cottle declared an interest in item 13a as they are both members of the Planning Board at Mendip DC.

### **41 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN POLICE REPORT**

A written report has been received from PC Katie Moyse and has been distributed to all councillors. In addition, the report features on the town council's website. In summary, PC Moyse informed that actions are on-going with the engagement of persons involved with an unauthorised encampment of travellers off Porchestal Drove. The virtual summer solstice event had proved useful as the attendance is believed to have relieved attendance of people visiting Glastonbury and not conforming to safe distancing legislation. Similarly, being prepared for the traditional festival weekend enabled the police to attend and resolve issues before they became out of hand. Incidents of dangerous driving on the High Street are being followed up, including the intentional damage to signage. Various individuals have received anti social behaviour warnings.

### **42. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**

Following one small amendment on the recording of detail relating to the Community Fridge project, the minutes were considered a correct record and presented for signing.

### **43. UPDATE ON ROAD CLOSURE PROGRAMME IN SUPPORT OF COVID-19 RECOVERY**

Paul Manning, acting Chair Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce) presented information which showed the background and impact of the current road closure. He explained that what was requested of the District and County Councils was not the programme that was subsequently delivered. He continued and informed that the safety of shoppers, residents and retailers was

paramount and the current restricted traffic system has resulted in too many near misses where vehicles have been travelling too fast. Somerset County Highways have acknowledged that changes to the current system could be implemented, although the cost would have to be carried by others as the funding previously allocated to support road closures has been spent. Glastonbury Carnival Ltd has quoted £9,240 to undertake this work. Cllr Leyshon informed that a resurfacing programme has been announced for Bere Lane and Fishers Hill which will require a road closure, adding more pressure on the existing network.

Councillors in response held a long and meaningful debate, which included lifting the road closure, implementing a one-way system or keeping in place the current programme. Cllr Smyth proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and **AGREED** by majority that a one-way system is implemented as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to contact the partners involved with the closure to obtain the required funding and seek the implementation of a one-way system as soon as possible.

14-0-1

#### **44. TO DISCUSS THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMERGENCY POWER.**

The Clerk currently has the devolved powers to manage the daily affairs of the council, sharing any decisions required with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This power has been reviewed on numerous occasions. Cllr Smyth proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **AGREED** that the current arrangements are to continue, with a further review at the August meeting of the Council

15-0-0

#### **45. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:**

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June were presented by the Chair, Cllr Browne and approved by the Council
- b. The minutes of the Property and Assets Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June were presented by the Chair, Cllr Keery and approved by the Council

#### **46. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Napper informed that he has been less engaged with the town council recently and shared his reasons. He announced his commitment to increasing his dialogue and involvement in the future.

Cllr Leyshon informed that the Covid-19 meeting notes which have been circulated weekly will soon be finishing. Focus within the County Council will be averted from reporting and managing the pandemic towards the delivery plan to support the economy. Mention was made of the report on roadside encampments which has been considered by the Living Spaces Group. A summary document of this report is currently being prepared and will be circulated to the town council in due course. Concern was expressed about the closure of Bere Lane and Fishers Hill for resurfacing for two weeks in August. Cllr Leyshon has contacted the CEO of the County Council to share the concern.

#### **47. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr MacDougall's report had been previously circulated and a copy placed on the town councils website.

Cllr Henderson informed that he had attended a meeting of the Living Spaces and would ensure the report commissioned on roadside encampments would be circulated at the appropriate time.

Cllr Cottle reported that the recent Cabinet meeting discussed Electric Vehicle charging points, weeding and verge maintenance. He observed that some signs in Glastonbury would benefit from being cleaned.

Cllr Cousins informed that he has involved with ensuring Glastonbury is a recipient of a proportion of the High Street Safety Fund. He expressed concern that the requests identified through local

consultation had not been adequately implemented. The Virtual Solstice event that he was involved with had been well received and had a following of approximately 2,000 people.

Questions raised included a concern about the current state of the bus shelters in Glastonbury, absence of glass, cleanliness etc. Also the concern that the licence application for The Crown Hotel has been approved, despite objections being raised locally of the length of permitted trading hours.

#### **48. TO RECEIVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2019/2020**

Copies of the Income and Expenditure Account had been previously circulated to councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Tucker seconded by Cllr Coles and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts which are to be signed by the Mayor. 15-0-0

#### **49. INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT**

The clerk shared with Councillors the Internal Auditors report. Five invoices have been questioned by the auditor, requiring further explanation. The response submitted was accepted and the signed acceptance statement presented to the council.

#### **50. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/2020**

The Annual Governance statement was completed and unanimously approved by the Full Council and presented for signing by the Mayor following a proposal by Cllr Barnet, seconded by Cllr Coles 15-0-0

#### **51. ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2019/2020**

The accounting statements for 2019/20 were presented to the Council. Cllr Keery proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the statement which was presented for signing by the Mayor and Town Clerk. 15-0-0

#### **52. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The budget monitoring report was presented. His Worship, Cllr Cousins referred to the Civic Hospitality Fund which currently contains £2,300. As there is not to be a Mayor's Sunday parade, service and reception this year and the Mayor's fund is unlikely to be able to generate much income due to restrictions, Cllr Cousins proposed that the fund is redistributed in the following way. £500 to be allocated to the programme of support being implemented by retailers towards hanging basket displays. £400 towards the Glastonbury People's Trust, £400 to be donated to the Glastonbury Food Bank appeal and the remaining £1,000 to be reallocated into the general reserve. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **AGREED**

#### **53. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The schedule of payments was presented. A few questions were asked of the clerk following which it was proposed by Cllr Barnet, seconded by Cllr Outten and unanimously **AGREED** to accept. 15-0-0

#### **54. TRUESPEED – ULTRAFAST BROADBAND CONNECTION**

The Clerk informed that together with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, he had attended a session organised by representatives of Truespeed who informed of their programme to provide Ultrafast broadband in Glastonbury. This was raised as an item to note as no recommendation or conclusion had been reached.

## 55. NOTICE OF MOTION

- a. Proposer: Cllr. Jon Cousins  
Seconded: Cllr. Sue Barnet

In light of the overwhelming and continued opposition to the development of land on Wearyall Hill, and in recognition of the Special Landscape Feature (dramatic hill forming the setting to Glastonbury with historic and cultural associations):

This council proposes Mendip District Council moves the Development Limit Boundary so that all undeveloped land on Wearyall Hill is outside the Development Boundary.

The debate that followed the introduction of this motion concluded that here remains a 'live', unresolved planning application in the area within the proposed development boundary. If allowed to proceed, the town council could be considered to be trying to influence the outcome of a planning application. Therefore, the proposer and seconder **RESOLVED** to withdraw the motion.

- b. Proposer: Cllr. Jon Cousins  
Seconded: Cllr. Sue Barnet

This council recognises the dreadful significance of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the use of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As members of Mayors For Peace, the council will hold an remembrance event on the anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – to be arranged by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor – with a view to this remembrance becoming an annual event in the town's Civic Calendar.

Cllr Tucker proposed an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Cllr Cottle which reads: This council recognises the dreadful significance of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the use of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As members of Mayors For Peace, the council will hold an remembrance event on the anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – to be arranged by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This amendment was **RESOLVED** by majority 12-2-0

## 56. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- a. **Homelessness and Housing** Cllr Outten provided a summary of the first meeting of the recently formed advisory committee which aims to research, consult and recommend solutions to issues relating to housing and homelessness. The Terms of Reference have been agreed and many interested individuals have expressed an interest in helping to support the work of this committee.
- b. **Climate Emergency** Cllr Roney-Dougal informed that the committee had recently met and were keen to progress with the implementation of the Community Fridge project within the Town Hall pavement entrance area. The committee is also keen to progress with the employment of a Climate Emergency Resilience Officer which will be considered by the Staffing Committee at their next meeting. Cllr Roney-Dougal proposed, seconded by Cllr

Cottle that £500 be allocated to the committee to enable them to meet with overheads such as access to Zoom conference calling facilities. This proposal was **AGREED** by majority 10-4-1

## **57. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

- a. Glastonbury Information Centre – Cllr Ian Tucker informed that the expansion of the GIC into the ‘garden room’ within St Dunstan’s House has been completed. He encouraged others to visit the new facility and see for themselves the improvements that have been made.
- b. Fairtrade – Cllr Prior informed that there has been recent activity, with a call for members to contact the CEO of Nestle who is proposing to stop using Fairtrade cocoa beans in the Kit Kat chocolate bar. The Worshipful Mayor informed that he has already written on behalf of Glastonbury Town Council expressing his concern over this decision.

## **58. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor has circulated previously his announcements.

## **59. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. The Clerk received communication from the current Chair of the Bloom committee informing that he was standing down from the committee at the next meeting.
- b. Paul Brunsdon had written to thank the council for the card and good wishes extended to his father Alderman John Brunsdon who has recently spent time in hospital following a fall.
- c. It was announced that there are vacancies on the staffing committee due to the passing of Cllr Michell. Cllr Cousins proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Keery fills this vacancy.
- d. The Town’s Fund is to reconvene with a Board meeting on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Chair Robert Richards has been shown around the town by Cllr Tucker and is now conversant with the opportunities and challenges that Glastonbury has to address.

## **60. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Bruton Town Council has prepared a walking and cycling manifesto in an attempt to identify locations for the improvements of routes throughout the county. Following a summary presentation by the Town Clerk, councillors endorsed the proposed manifesto.
- b. Email correspondence has been received informing that Bere Lane, Fishers Hill and part of Street Road are to be closed or resurfacing from 3<sup>rd</sup> August for two weeks.
- c. Sgt Matthew Slade who has now left working in Glastonbury sent an email thanking the town council for the support that it has provided him over recent years.
- d. Susannah Clemence has written to all councillors asking that a noticeboard be considered in high footfall areas of the town, also that hand washing facilities are provided.
- e. A letter has been received from a resident complaining about the state of the town’s bus shelters. Cllr Cottle is to follow this up as the cleanliness is a responsibility of the District Council

## **61. NEWS RELEASES**

The Clerk is to prepare a news release on the proposal to change the road closure to a one-way system only.

## **62. ACTIONS**

- The clerk is to inform Cllr Cottle on the bus shelters which have received attention in recent months
- Cllr Cottle is to discuss with the Licencing team at MDC about the application to amend the licence at The Crown Inn
- The Clerk is to approach the Carnival Club, County Highways and Mendip DC in anticipation of revising the road closure programme.

The meeting close at 11.05pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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