



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th October 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: Cllr Cousins in his capacity as Mayor attended a function prior to this meeting and arrived during agenda item 4.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

Subjects raised included:

- Town Council communications (Frost Fayre, 5G, Summer Solstice)
- Low traffic Glastonbury campaign
- Tor leisure facilities
- Glastonbury Cricket Club and Tor Leisure
- High Street enhancements.

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declared interests: Cllrs Barnet, Cousins, Keery and Roney-Dougal declared an interest in item 17 as they have each donated to the Library of Avalon and would not be participating in the debate on this subject.

113. TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN POLICE REPORT

A written report has been received from the Beat Team. Of particular concern was the recent parade organised by the Hari Krishna organisation which attracted approximately 200 participants. Social distancing and masks were not worn and the clerk was asked to liaise with the Police at the regular councillor discussion forum to enquire why the parade was allowed to take place and not dispersed with appropriate fines in line with government legislation.

Action – Town Clerk

114. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the September 8th meeting of the Town Council were approved as a correct record.

115. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR TO GLASTONBURY AND SHARPHAM BURIAL BOARD

Cllr Cousins was proposed by Cllr Barnet, seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **AGREED** to fill the vacant position brought about by the passing of Cllr Michell, 15-0-0

116. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15th September were presented by the Deputy Chair, Cllr Smyth and approved by the Council. An item to consider the recently published Planning White Paper was requested to be added to the next agenda of the planning committee.
- b. The minutes of the Property and Assets Committee meeting held on 21st September were presented by the Chair, Cllr Keery and approved by the council.
- c. The minutes of a meeting of the Youth Committee held on 23rd September were accepted and approved by the Council.

117. TO CONSIDER TWO ROAD NAMES FOR THE OLD WELLS ROAD RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

An involved debate concluded that names associated to the land on which the development is to be built were considered appropriate. Cllr Cottle proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson that one of them is called **Cullen Farm Road**. Cllr Henderson proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker that the second one be called **Uppingstock Road**. Both of these suggestions were unanimously **AGREED** 15-0-0

118. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE VISION STATEMENTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH REGARDS TO TOR LEISURE FIELD

At a recent meeting between Councillors and Fusion, a request was made that Glastonbury Town Council should give some consideration to a vision statement for the Tor Leisure Field. A draft list of suggestions had previously been circulated which were then considered by the council. Cllr Lund raised a concern that the statements were lacking in any environmental vision and asked that this be considered. He continued by suggesting that a statement to ensure future collaborative working also be included. The clerk was asked to circulate the statements to all councillors with a timeframe of when amendments should be received. Further, it was acknowledged that Tor Leisure is owned by Mendip DC and the vision statement on completion should be forwarded to them and not Fusion.

Action – Town Clerk

119. TO CONSIDER THE REFURBISHMENT OF TENNIS COURTS AND OTHER HARD STANDING ON TOR LEISURE USING SECTION 106 FUNDING PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED TO GLASTONBURY

The Clerk informed that both he and the Mayor had recently been made aware of a substantial amount of Section 106 money that having not been spent is in imminent danger of being returned to the developer. A plan to refurbish the tennis courts and hard pitch area off Benedict Street has been considered with three quotes received for the relaying of the surface and replacement fencing. The preferred quote is circa £37,000 and an agreement has been reached with the Section 106 Officer at Mendip DC to use some of the funds derived from the Watts Corner development.

Cllr Tucker proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnet and unanimously **AGREED** that support is given by Glastonbury Town Council to the refurbishment of the hard areas at this location. 15-0-0.

120. TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE THE DESIGNATION OF LOWERSIDE ALLOTMENT: STATUTORY OR TEMPORARY?

The clerk, having recently notified allotment holders of the previous decision of the council to include Lowerside Allotments in the expression of interest application to the Town's Deal Fund for affordable housing provision was challenged. An allotment holder asked for clarification as to the status of the allotments, statutory or temporary. Cllr Roney-Dougal informed that she had contacted the National Allotment Association who confirmed that the allotments at Lowerside are statutory. Any future change of use of the land to other purposes therefore requires the consent of the Secretary of State.

121. TO DISCUSS A TEMPORARY ONE-WAY SYSTEM IN THE HIGH STREET

Cllrs Leyshon and Napper had recently met with County Highways and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the introduction of a partial traffic closure on the lower end of the High Street. If implemented, the suggestion is that traffic would only be able to travel up the High Street and restricted from coming down the High Street at Archers Way. The idea for a partial closure is at the suggestion of Public Health England and the Environmental Protection team at Somerset County Council in response to the recent spike in cases of coronavirus.

A long a protracted debate on the merits of the suggested temporary closure followed, with many councillors expressing concerns regarding the potential increase of traffic on Archers Way, Butts Close and Benedict Street. The suggestion, which is totally dependent on funding being secured is to try and reduce the effects of the pandemic is to be temporary for a period expected to be approximately three weeks. Proposed by Cllr Mutch, seconded by Cllr Roney-Dougal and **AGREED** by majority to support the proposed initiative. 13-0-2

122. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Napper had circulated a report prior to the meeting in which he raised concerns regarding unauthorised encampments, incidents of coronavirus and the passage of the fire engine through Northload Street.

Cllr Leyshon provided a verbal report in which she raised the Small works improvement scheme, in particular the safe crossing point at Chilkwell Street roundabout. Other projects that she is involved with include identifying affordable housing opportunities, improvements to the cycle path and the Town's Fund expressions of interest and delivery of the circular ordnance walk.

123. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr MacDougal had circulated a report prior to the meeting highlighting the Communities, Climate and Ecological Emergency Fund. Somerset County Council have published a draft Climate Emergency Strategy, the rolling out of additional kerbside recycling and the publication of the District Council's tourism strategy.

Cllr Henderson attended the recent Full Council meeting.

Cllr Cottle informed that he is now the Deputy Chair of the council and no longer holds the portfolio for Neighbourhood Services. He was pleased with the outcomes on the removal of vans from Pomparles Bridge and endorsed the recently published tourism strategy.

Cllr Cousins circulated a report prior to the meeting

Cllr Cottle was thanked for his efforts in delivering solutions to Pomparles Bridge in his recent District Council role.

124. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The budget monitoring report was received and any questions raised duly answered. The clerk informed that the Councils request for financial assistance from Mendip DC is to be considered on 19th October.

125. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments raised no questions and was approved

126. REQUEST TO AMEND THE BANK MANDATE AND ALLOW THE TOWN CLERK TO BE A CO-SIGNATORY ON THE TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNT

The clerk explained that it has proved impossible to obtain a credit card on the town council bank account due to the complexity of the number of signatories. Having resolved this issue, another came to light – the fact that the clerk is not a signatory to the account, yet would have access to the proposed credit card. Cllr Henderson proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **AGREED** that the clerk becomes a signatory on the account. The existing signatories of Cllrs Coles, Cousins and Responsible Financial Officer Jane Czornij are to remain, with the clerk being an addition. 15-0-0.

127. GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Grants – general

A request for financial support has been received from the Library of Avalon. It is understood that they are currently experiencing financial difficulties due to being unable to host events, restricted marketing and lower footfall. Cllr Smyth informed that he understood a crowd funding request to the wider public had resulted in generous gifts of money, sufficient to meet their current overheads. The Clerk was asked to contact the Secretary of the Library of Avalon to clarify the situation. Meanwhile the decision to support the organisation was deferred until further detail has been obtained.

128. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

a. Housing and Homelessness

An expression of interest has been submitted to the Town's Deal Fund for the provision of additional affordable housing on difficult sites throughout the town. Jan Eggerton an Officer within Mendip DC has provided information on the processes involved with delivering housing support which was well received.

b. Glastonbury in Bloom

Bulb planting is planned for two locations on Sunday 18th October. Moneybox field at the base of the Tor and Jubilee Park.

c. Climate Emergency

At a recent meeting, the use of disposable cups by cafes was presented as an environmental concern. The Clerk was asked to write to all café's in Glastonbury to encourage the use of conventional crockery, rather than disposable cups. Extinction Rebellion have undertaken the clearing of cycle paths in and around Glastonbury and will be undertaking similar tasks again on 25th October. The group consider delaying the appointment of a Climate Resilience Officer detrimental as funds have been identified which could be applied for.

129. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. Community Networking

A wider discussion is planned for Wednesday 14th October when it is expected numerous organisations will be represented. The group has identified the need

for organisations to share information and broadly support each other and residents.

b. Town Deal Fund

Cllr Tucker informed that approximately 60 expressions of interest had been received and they had been placed in various sub-groups. The project board have the unenviable task of working through the appropriate projects for which a detailed project plan will have to be created.

The Conservation Society enquired if the Town Council were prepared to administer the grant for the ordnance path. In response the Clerk informed that he would seek direction and guidance of the reclaiming of VAT on projects of this nature and providing it was acceptable, would be prepared to project manage the ordnance walk grant.

130. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A paper previously circulated was referred to. The Mayor informed of the weekly meetings with the Town Clerk, his involvement with providing guidance on the Town Fund Deal and shared the detail of his Mayoral commitments since the last meeting. He was particularly pleased that the High Sheriff had recognised the value in the input of Kama McKenzie, Tanya Moore and Mark Swann with the delivery of coronavirus support to residents of Glastonbury.

131. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Information on virtual meetings with the Leader of Somerset County Council to discuss One Somerset have been previously distributed.

Cllr Coles reported that Tor Fair was considered a success even though the attendances were lower than previous years.

Strode Theatre has received an emergency financial package to the value of £246,000 which it is hoped will provide long-term stability for the future of the organisation.

132. CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk had previously circulated information on the number and location of unauthorised encampments.

A letter of appreciation from Ruth Morland for the work of the council during this difficult year was received and shared.

133. NEWS RELEASES

Tennis court refurbishment

One Way system on the High Street (if funding application approved)

Voluntary weeding in residential areas

Towns Deal Fund expenditure programme

134. ACTIONS

All the required actions have been identified and noted throughout these minutes.

The meeting close at 10.25pm.

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
10th November 2020