



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Barnet, J Coles, 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: Cllrs Browne, Cottle and Cousins.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillors Leyshon and Napper, Town Clerk, and twenty-three members of 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:

- Parking infringements at Stonedown
- Bretenoux Road parking concerns
- Covid-19, in particular distribution of misinformation.

172. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

173. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

The police report provided by PC Moyses had been previously circulated by email to Councillors. PC Tom Miller presented the Beat Team report which identified that much police activity has been spent on dealing with incidents associated with parking, camping and infringements of public space protection issues. The full report has been uploaded to the town councils website.

174. TO RECEIVE A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Paul Manning, acting Chair of the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce and Tourism informed that there have been no meetings due to the covid-19 pandemic. He informed that efforts have been made to support retailers with the preparation of risk assessments to assist with managing the pandemic legislation. The Tourism Symposium planned for this year will be held by virtual means. It is anticipated that the agm of the Chamber will take place during March, on a date yet to be decided. It was acknowledged that there was a difference of opinion over the effectiveness of the one-way system, with some retailers preferring and others wishing to see removed the road closure.

Questions to Paul included a request to try and ensure that retailers only serve customers who are either wearing face masks, or have an exemption. In response it was acknowledged that this is difficult to enforce, yet there appears to be a will among most shoppers to conform, which in turn will expose those who choose to disregard the legislation.

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

The minutes of the December 8th meeting of the Town Council were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Deputy Mayor in due course.

176. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on both 15th December 2020 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Cllr Smyth. The minutes were considered accurate and were accepted by the Council.
- b. The minutes of a meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 4th January 2021 following two minor amendments were accepted and approved by the Council.

177. TO RECEIVE THE SUMMARY OF RESIDENTS CONSULTATION OF REDLANDS ESTATE

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the recent events which resulted in the need for consultation with residents. He informed that the issue of roadside vehicle accommodation was raised in 2017 during consultation associated with the Neighbourhood Plan, with many attending a public meeting to raise concerns. For many reasons, including the restrictions on travel, festivals and more recently movement, the number of vehicles located on Bretenoux Road has grown, together with the associated concerns of sanitation, smoke, noise etc.

The council were reminded that at many previous meetings during public participation, often issues relating to vehicle accommodation were raised by members of the public, including Bretenoux Road. A chance conversation with a Highways Officer identified possible solutions in the form of the creation of a Park and Ride facility. It was agreed that a questionnaire would be provided to each residence on the Redlands Estate, seeking guidance and consensus on the preferred way to proceed. Unfortunately, this consultation identified numerous solutions and responses, yet failed to provide clear guidance on a preferred route. This resulted in a second questionnaire being prepared, the results of which proved by a clear majority of support for a park and ride over the alternative of leaving the situation as it currently is. Cllr Lund reported his liaison with residents and relayed their broad acceptance for a Park and Ride facility.

During the debate on this item, the Clerk informed and was supported by Cllr Leyshon that having identified a possible course of action, much more needed now to be done to compile the detail in the form of both drawings and statements. Further consultation will be required and residents can expect to receive more information from the town council in due course. Cllr Smyth proposed, seconded by Cllr MacDougall and **RESOLVED** by majority to further pursue a solution to the problems of roadside parking through a park and ride scheme.11-0-1

178. TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF UNAUTHORISED PARKING AT STONEDOWN LANE

This item having been raised during public participation had in fact been discussed in length at an earlier meeting of Stakeholders, including the National Trust, Town, District and County Councillors. The Police having called the meeting chaired it with PCSO Freya Clarke taking the lead.

It was widely accepted that to resolve the issues at Stonedown, a highways solution was required. Many ideas have been and continue to be considered. One being the provision of a car park in the vicinity of the Tor, although identifying suitably accessible land has not identified a preferred location. Cllr Leyshon informed that the preference of the Highways Authority is to introduce and Urban Clearway and rather than introduce a hurriedly prepared Traffic Regulation Order, to apply

for an 'experimental' Traffic Regulation Order. By not being temporary, it is probable that signage would not be removed and the implementation would therefore be easier and more effective. Further, Cllr Leyshon informed that there is a requirement to create a new Tor Bus stop, set back off the highway and that the Town Clerk had agreed to undertake this work as a contribution towards finding solutions. The District Council's Equalities Officer is comfortable with the removal of disabled parking bays.

Ashwell Lane residents had previously raised concerns that the postcode for the Tor directed people to Ashwell Lane and this needed amending. Google Maps for example directs people to a cul-de-sac off Ashwell Lane which is untenable. An approach to Google from two directions including the County Council is attempting to rectify this issue.

The problems of the double yellow lines being covered by mud and detritus was mentioned and it was requested that the Town Council staff visit the Stonedown Lane to clear the yellow lines of mud etc.

Action: Town Clerk

Cllr Keery proposed that Glastonbury Town Council support the idea of Stonedown being an Urban Clearway. This was seconded by Cllr Smyth and unanimously **AGREED**. The police have offered to continue supporting NSL with parking enforcement, which it is hoped will become easier once the staff are able to wear body cameras. 12-0-0. Cllr Leyshon would not be drawn on a timescale for this implementation, although it is anticipated it will be delivered prior to the spring equinox.

179. RESPOND TO A REQUEST FROM SOMERSET HIGHWAYS ON FUNDING CONTRIBUTION OF A ONE-WAY SYSTEM IN THE HIGH STREET

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the temporary one-way system and road closure in the High Street has been funded by Somerset County Highways. Public Health England had raised concerns about social distancing and encouraged the introduction of measures to make it easier for people to walk two metres from each other. Cllr Keery informed that the closure had not delivered exactly what was originally agreed, as the idea was to remove the car parking at the bottom of the High Street, which was never implemented.

Should the council wish to continue with the one-way system, the council was informed that the expectation would be for the Town Council to have to pay approximately £100 per day for use of the temporary signs and the checking of the barriers by the Carnival Club. Cllr Tucker raised a concern that during the pandemic, the amount of income to the Town Council has dropped considerably and available funds to pay for projects such as this are tight. Cllr Coles proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and **AGREED** by majority to instruct Somerset Highways to remove the road closure. 8-2-2.

180. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Napper informed that he was anticipating an amended Traffic Regulation Order which will permit the Fire Service to use Northload Street without concerns of retribution. He also respectfully asked that those feeding the birds are asked not to do so, as the waste is attracting vermin. In response, Cllr Henderson informed that he has challenged those who feed the birds and received verbal abuse.

Cllr Leyshon informed that she has been involved with brokering an appropriate way forward with the Football Club and Fusion for future consideration of Tor Leisure Field. The small works programme, including the installation of a 20mph zone throughout the town and the safe crossing point at the junction of Bere Lane and Chilkwell Street is still scheduled for delivery this year.

Cllr Coles reported the broken road surface in Magdalene Street.

181. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr MacDougall had previously prepared a report which had been distributed by email and placed on the town council's website. In summary, Cllr MacDougall had attended Full Council and Planning Board, observed the council's intention to support the Local Electricity Bill and the move towards 100% reliability on renewable energy. She had inputted to the Growth and Recovery Plan and informed that the Scrutiny Committee has now merged with the Climate and Ecological Emergency Group, which is thought to be a temporary measure to support the re-deployment of staff to assist with the vaccination programme.

Cllr Henderson informed that he continues to liaise monthly with the Police. He acknowledged Cllr Leyshon and Cllr Tucker's input to the Fusion/Football Club brokering. 24/7 monitoring of the CCTV cameras continues to be an aspiration.

182. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Having received the budget monitoring report, it was widely accepted the need for an additional meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to address the shortfall of income. This is to be called for late February when it is hoped that the effects of the pandemic are better understood.

183. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments was presented and there being no questions and was duly approved

184. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

a. Housing and Homelessness

Whilst this group has not met recently, the Chair Cllr Outten has asked that the Clerk and he identify appropriate actions to introduce the Community Land Trust as a delivery partner to support Glastonbury's housing shortcomings.

- #### **b. Climate Emergency**
- Cllr Roney-Dougal informed that the appointment of Melissa Taylor as the Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer was welcomed by the committee. The meetings will change to be mid-month which will allow for ideas to be presented to the Town Council when appropriate.

185. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

- #### **a. Town Deal Fund**
- Cllr Tucker shared his appreciation of Mendip DC Officers in bringing forward the opportunities of the Town Deal Fund. The submission of the outline plan has to be made by 29th January and contains three detailed and specific themed areas. Community Hub, Sports Cluster and Beckery Village. The accelerator funding programme has produced some fine outcomes and Councillors were encouraged to visit the Red Brick Building to see what works have been delivered at this location. Herbies Field event parking is almost completed and the works in the town centre are well underway. The Glastonbury Way circular walk is now making progress and should also be delivered on time.

186. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the absence of the Mayor due to illness, there were no announcements

187. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Town Clerk informed that the refurbishment of the Tennis Courts had now been completed.
- The amount of litter and rubbish at Porchestal Drove was reported by Cllr Smyth
- The gates previously located at Morlands are now erected at the entrance to Herbies Field

- Large number of tyres dumped near the entrance to the skate park. Cllr Napper enquired on their removal.

188. CORRESPONDENCE

In response to a letter received from the head teacher at St Benedicts school seeking funding to pay for the services to deliver mental health support, it was considered this requires a detailed analysis. It was suggested that this request is considered at a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee.

In response to a letter from the Town Clerk to the CEO of Mendip DC Stuart Brown on the subject of Norbins Road car park development, a response from Sara Skirton has been received. In summary her email which was read to the the meeting informed that the car park is to be retained in part and that the building of 6 units of affordable properties will bring a larger community benefit to Glastonbury than the retention of the entire car park. The correspondence further informed that the consultation process is under way and a full application is expected in the spring.

189. NEWS RELEASES

Lifting of the one-way system in the High Street

Statement that misinformation contained within the recent publication distributed on covid aims to undermine the seriousness of the pandemic. (The clerk was asked to prepare a statement supporting the recommendations of Public Health England)

190. ACTIONS

Clearing of detritus at Stonedown

The meeting close at 10.09pm.

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
9th February 2020