



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 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, S Roney-Dougal, M Smyth and I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Cllr Prior

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillors Leyshon and Napper, Town Clerk, PC Tom Miller and seven 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:

- Traffic diversion during Chilkwell Street road closure
- Request for Town Council meetings to be recorded
- Slow ways – citizen action opportunity
- Living streets, traffic reduction

212. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

213. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

PC Tom Miller presented a previously distributed report which has been added to the town council website. In addition to the report which identified a number of incidents which the police have attended to in the past month, he informed that requests for police intervention are at the same level now as at the beginning of the pandemic. PC Miller informed that the police are supporting NSL with parking enforcement at Stonedown.

214. TO RECEIVE A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT

Paul Manning, acting Chair of the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce and Tourism informed that additional resource has been identified to ensure the numerous messages of support for businesses, particularly retailers is widely known. Support for the My Mendip initiative is being encouraged. Network meetings whilst not yet permitted again are being planned. A refresh of the mural trail is being worked on, which brought many people into Glastonbury. Post covid and Brexit support has been identified and is being shared among businesses. A promotional video is being considered, which if implemented will aim to encourage people to visit Glastonbury and support the local economy.

Questions which followed enquired about the stance of retailers to anti-mask demonstrators and the need to curtail Beltane celebrations for the second year.

215. ELECTION BRIEFING

The Clerk has prepared a paper which was circulated prior to the meeting. The content informed councillors that there are currently two applications being considered by the Secretary of State for a unitary in Somerset. The County Council are leading on a programme entitled One Somerset and the four district councils have conjoined and are leading on a programme entitled Stronger Somerset. He informed that due to these applications being considered that the elections for County Councillors have been postponed for a year and will take place in May 2022. Meanwhile, in May 2021, the position of Police Crime Commissioner and the vacancy to be filled within St Benedict's ward for a Town Councillor will be contested on 6th May 2021.

The paper commissioned with the support of Frome Town Council had also been previously distributed. This paper has been previously supported by the Council was for information. Having agreed the desire to strengthen community engagement and deliver some services ourselves, there is now a requirement to create a 'long list' of assets currently managed by others that the town council may wish to apply to have transferred. It was **RESOLVED** that the next Property and Assets meeting on 7th April will include an agenda item where the asset register can be further discussed.

The opportunity for responding to the debate on unitary remains open for comments until 19th April 2021. Cllr Barnet proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that an extraordinary meeting of the council is held on Monday 22nd March 2021 to learn more about each of the two options and if it may be considered appropriate to respond to the consultation. This meeting will commence at 7.00pm.

216. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes of the February meeting of the Town Council required an amendment to inform of the ownership and issues affecting Brides Mound. The minutes were then approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Mayor in due course.

217. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on both 16th February 2021 were presented by the Chair, Cllr Barnet. The minutes were presented and accepted by the Council.

The presentation of these minutes identified a concern regarding 'permitted development' as a two storey property in an area of predominately bungalows has been approved by this method. The Clerk was asked to contact Mendip District Council and seek their guidance on the process being followed with regards to permitted development.

- b. The minutes of a meeting of the Youth Committee held on February 24th 2021 were presented by the Chair, Cllr Browne
- c. The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes committee held on 23rd February 2021 were presented to the Council by the Chair Cllr Barnet
- d. The minutes of the Property and Assets Committee held on 1st March 2021 were presented by Cllr Keery to the Council.

218. TO RECEIVE UPDATED REPORTS ON PROGRESS WITH FINDING SOLUTIONS TO UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

The clerk provided as much of an overview as he was able in response to the various letters and meetings that have taken place, attempting to address the concerns of unauthorised encampments and parking infringements. An action from the previous meeting to write to senior personnel within the Police, County and District authorities resulted in a meeting of Redlands Estate residents and

the MP and SCC leader. The Clerk was unable to obtain an invitation to this meeting. The correspondence to senior officers regarding parking at Stonedown received a response from each, although it has been clearly stated that it is NSL who are responsible for parking infringement. In response to the request for support in narrowing the road with boulders, the Highways Authority have responded informing that this is not legal and will not be accepted.

Cllrs Napper and Leyshon had attended the discussion on Bretenoux Road and summarised the outcomes as being complicated. Those present received a commitment from the County Council Leader to resolve the issue of roadside encampments at Bretenoux Road. As Cllr Leyshon highlighted, this is likely to move the issue of roadside encampments to other areas of Glastonbury. Cllr Leyshon continued and informed that since parking violation had been decriminalised, the responsibilities for enforcing parking on yellow lines is with NSL. During the debate that followed this update, Cllr Tucker proposed, seconded by Cllr Keery and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the clerk is to write to Cllr Fothergill, Leader of the council informing that Glastonbury Town Council are frustrated by the situation and have no confidence in NSL as a parking enforcement organisation.

Cllr Leyshon continued and informed that the problems of unauthorised encampments is not unique to Glastonbury. Bristol and many south coast resorts also have concerns. Whilst Morlands has been identified as a potential solution to the problem of unauthorised encampments, it will only address one part of the issue if delivered, with a second site required to address the needs of transient community. The need to vacate the Morlands site whilst works take place was also noted, with the need to identify a 'meanwhile' site. Cllr Cousins was keen to emphasise that the provision of any additional facilities in Glastonbury should not be the only response from Mendip DC, as it is hoped that other areas of the District will also be considered and take some travellers.

219. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Liz Leyshon had previously circulated a detailed report, much of which had been covered in the preceding agenda item. She did however raise a concern about the number of care home assistants who have chosen not to receive the Covid vaccination. This is causing an issue, as vacancies, as they occur for new residents cannot be filled if staff have not been vaccinated.

Cllr Napper had nothing further to add to this item.

220. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Henderson had little to report other than attendance at Full Council

Cllr Cottle informed that he is dealing with numerous complaints associated with the building of new homes at Uppingstock Farm. Hours of working, noise, mud on road and inappropriate parking have all featured. He further raised the issue of Sam's Yard at Sharpham which he is working with Mendip Officers to resolve. He suggested two sites where it was considered appropriate to locate dog waste bins.

Cllr Cousins had previously prepared and circulated a written report in which he informed that he had joined the scrutiny committee of the Somerset Rivers Authority.

Cllr MacDougal had previously submitted a report which has been placed on the Town Councils website.

Collectively, District Councillors were asked what response they were able to provide with the smell zone at the sewerage works and the raising of the land level on land at Dye House Lane.

221. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The budget monitoring report was presented to the council. A concern was raised as to why the actual amount in the budget was so different than the budgeted amount and therefore a large

variance appears. The Clerk considered this due to the amount of grant funding that had been provided which had not been included in the budget. As the Responsible Financial Officer was not at the meeting, the signing off of the budget was deferred until an explanation could be provided. Cllr Roney-Dougal asked for the previously deferred training programme to be reinstated.

222. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

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

223. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

a. Climate Emergency

A recommendation was tabled suggesting that Melissa Taylor the Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer takes the lead role in resolving the solar panels issue on the Town Hall roof. The clerk informed that he had already set up meetings with Melissa and an independent provider as requested by the Property and Assets Committee. It is intended to provide a detailed report to this committee at their next meeting in April.

The suggestion of supporting the Solar Street initiative met with some concern as it was considered that the endorsement for one business over another would contradict the independent stance of the council. It was proposed by Cllr Roney-Dougal, seconded by Cllr Cousins and **AGREED** that Cllr Roney-Dougal would undertake further research on this matter and share with the council.

224. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. Town Deal Fund

Cllr Tucker informed that the accelerator funding was on track to be delivered before the end of March. This programme of funding which amounts to £200,000 has proved complicated to deliver, not supported by the recent wet weather. The installation of the Glastonbury Way walk has been well received. The refurbishment of the toilet block is the biggest expenditure programme and is almost completed.

Cllr Tucker had raised a concern during a recent Board meeting of the Town Deal Fund that if a unitary authority emerges, the continuity of the projects may be lost. He had suggested that the town clerk joins the management team within the District Council, which had been agreed. He further emphasised how positive he felt towards the successful outcome of this fund to address the numerous opportunities identified for Glastonbury.

225. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had previously circulated a list of the engagements that he has involved with in the past few weeks. The list is somewhat restricted due to the current covid legislation on meetings and gatherings.

226. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were neither communications nor announcements to share

227. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence has been received by the council that has not already been shared.

228. NEWS RELEASES

Councillors raised a concern regarding Beltane and the need to ensure the message suggesting that people do not visit Glastonbury needs to be considered. Cllr Cousins offered to contact

Mendip DC and enquire if there may be support again this year to discourage physical attendance, engaging instead by virtual means.

229. ACTIONS

- Property and Assets committee to discuss the asset register and identify a long list of assets that potentially could be transferred from other authorities.
- To organise an extraordinary meeting of the council to understand the impact the different unitary proposals may have on the town council
- The Clerk to write to the County Council and inform that confidence with NSL as a parking enforcement organisation was low.
- Reorganise the previously postponed finance training for councillors.
- The Mayor to contact Mendip DC and enquire if any support may be available to relay the Beltane message.

The meeting close at 10.55pm.

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
13th April 2021