



# Glastonbury Town Council

**Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 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, 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 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:

- Norbins Road and the proposed development on the car park
- Proposed closure of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to close St Andrews ward in Wells
- Glastonbury Cricket Club (fielding a senior team this season)
- Parking infringements at Stonedown
- Bretenoux Road parking concerns

### **191. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **192. REFLECTION OF ALDERMAN JOHN BRUNSDON MBE**

Cllr Ian Tucker led a tribute to Alderman John Brunsdon who had been a Town Councillor for 44 years from 1975 to 2019. Various Councillors shared anecdotes and stories of John and it was evident that he held an enormous love for Glastonbury and was respected by a great many people. A minutes silence was then observed allowing time for all to reflect on the life of John Brunsdon.

### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

*Cllr Keery proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker that Standing Orders be suspended to allow for a debate on the issues of parking at Stonedown. This request was unanimously supported by the council.*

Cllr Keery informed that Council that the situation of parking on double yellow lines and the overnight parking of motorhomes at Stonedown has unfortunately portrayed the council and other stakeholders as being weak. Cllr Keery proposed the writing of a letter from the Town Council to the most senior people within numerous organisations including the Police, County Council, MP, County Council and NSL (parking enforcement). The suggested message contained within the proposed letter is to include

frustration that action by the police and limited enforcement by the county council has failed to solve the problem. Emphasis of the importance of the Tor to the Glastonbury economy through tourism is also to be relayed. A suggestion of narrowing the road through the introduction of boulders preventing the parking of vehicles without blocking the road was suggested.

Councillors unanimously supported the sending of a letter to numerous stakeholders and the Clerk was instructed to liaise with Cllr Keery to compile it.

*The suspension of standing orders ceased at this point in the meeting and the previously distributed agenda was then again referred to.*

**193. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING LOCALISED SUPPORT SERVICES**

**a. Community Fridge**

Gina Ty-Wharton provided a short presentation supported by a slide which informed of the success of the Community Fridge project.

- Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> Month of operation
- Average of 2 tons of food distributed each month (+ additional 6 tons at Christmas)
- Total equivalent meals = roughly 48,000
- Just gained 5 star environmental health rating
- Open 8-4pm every day of year
- Town council opens/closes and donates space and power
- 21 supermarket pickups per week & additional donations
- Cleaned and checked daily
- 25 volunteers
- 150+ visitors per day, minimal incidents and zero damage

**b. Bridging the Gap Food Bank**

Rev Rowena Francis presented on the work of the Bridging the Gap Food Bank. Set up in 2003, the distribution of essential items to individuals is done through referral. Demand since the pandemic has increased, thankfully along with the donations received from retailers. The Town Council were thanked for their continued support of the Food Banks programme. An issue which Rev Francis requested support with is identifying ground floor premises from which to store and distribute produce to users.

**c. Coronavirus support group**

Tanya Moore presented on the work of the support group set up in response to the Covid pandemic. The work of this group has extended beyond help with shopping and prescription deliveries and now includes transporting vulnerable people to vaccine clinics. Provision of a telephone support service has been well received by those who use it and has helped ensure loneliness is addressed.

The Mayor thanked each of the contributors to the meeting and acknowledged the enormous amount of work that volunteers are delivering on behalf of Glastonbury residents.

**194. LAUNCH OF THE 2021 GLASTONBURY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

The Clerk informed that nominations are now open for the Glastonbury Citizen of the Year award. A news release will be circulated this week with a request for nominations to be received by 9<sup>th</sup> March. Councillors will then deliberate during a closed session at the April meeting and the winner announced and presented with a certificate at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

**195. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT**

PC Tom Miller talked through the previously distributed police report prepared by PC Moyse. This report has been uploaded to the Town Councils website. The regular monthly opportunity for the Clerk, together with Cllrs Henderson and Lund to discuss police matters has proved to be of benefit in the sharing of knowledge.

**196. 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. A small grant from Somerset Chamber of Commerce to support the work of the Glastonbury Chamber to identify ways to support business affected by the pandemic has been extended to June. Visit Somerset are encouraging engagement through their business agency for all businesses involved in supporting the tourism sector. It was reported that the agm of the Chamber will be held via electronic means this year, although no date has yet been set.

**197. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

The minutes of the January meeting of the Town Council required an amendment to capture the local discussions Cllr Lund has held with residents of the Redlands Estate. The minutes were then approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Mayor in due course.

**198. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:**

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on both 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 were presented by Cllr Keery and considered accurate and approved by the Council.

**199. INTRODUCTION OF MELISSA TAYLOR (Climate Emergency Resilience Officer)**

Melissa Taylor has been in post for three weeks and has met with members of the Climate Emergency Group. She shared with Councillors the work programme that she has been tasked to deliver in ensuring that the Town Council is Carbon Neutral by 2030 (with an advanced target of 2025) The scoping work that Melissa presented is aimed to be completed by the autumn with anticipation that this will lead to an identified action plan created in time to be included in the budget setting discussions in November.

**200. RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST TO REVIEW CCTV PROVISION IN GLASTONBURY**

During the December meeting of the Council, the Clerk was asked to enquire of Mendip DC why the response times from the cctv monitoring unit is taking much longer than usual. The reply received informed that the cctv personnel have been redeployed to support the vaccination programme. The Clerk has had an email exchange with the clerks of other Mendip towns and it appears there is a thread of frustration on the level of support being provided. It was **RESOLVED** that a review of the cctv camera support should be discussed at the next meeting of Property and Assets . Meanwhile, the Clerk has been encouraged to continue dialogue with the other councils and to report his findings to the next meeting. It was suggested that the £9,000 contribution towards the cctv monitoring service be withheld until a recommendation has been identified.

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

Cllr Liz Leyshon had previously circulated a detailed report which outlined the numerous issues affecting Glastonbury. Included were unauthorised encampments, roadside parking, parking infringements and the absence of adequate housing. Cllr Barnett proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the report compiled by Cllr Leyshon be included on the Town Councils website and circulated through social media.

Cllr Napper endorsed the work of Cllr Leyshon in addressing these issues and offered his support to helping identify solutions. Cllr Napper enquired if the Council would like him to pursue the removal of travellers from land at Brides Mound. In response, Cllr Roney-Dougal informed of the aspirations for creating a visitor centre at this location, with the inclusion of this idea in the recently submitted Town Deal Fund application. She further explained that the land is owned by Somerset County Council through the South West Heritage Trust. Due to covid restrictions, it is proving challenging to be able to vacate the area of the travellers who have set up camp on the land.

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

Neither Cllrs Henderson or Cousins had anything to report.

Cllr Cottle raised the issue of inadequate housing provision and informed that additional work was underway at Mendip DC to resolve this issue.

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

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

The budget monitoring report was received. Confirmation of an additional Finance and General Purposes committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February was shared.

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

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

## **205. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

### **a. Climate Emergency**

At their recent meeting, it had been resolved to fund the training of two volunteers to become qualified at Chapter 8, qualifying a presence to work on the highway. Litter picking continues and the clearing of cycle ways. Rewilding verges through a planting programme is being considered. Melissa Taylor attended the recent meeting and shared her work programme.

### **b. Glastonbury in Bloom**

It was confirmed that there is not to be a SW in Bloom competition this year. Cllr Lund asked to be removed from the committee due to the absence of available time due to other commitments. A planting programme of roadside verges is being considered.

## **206. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **a. Town Deal Fund**

Cllr Tucker informed that the submission to government in support of the Town Deal Fund has been completed. The uncertainty of the council elections in Somerset may have a bearing on the speed the application is reviewed. Each Councillor is encouraged to read and digest the content of the application which is considered extremely comprehensive. The Clerk was asked to write to the Mendip Officers Julie Reader-Sullivan and Tina McEwan to thank them for their input in supporting Glastonbury.

## **207. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**208. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Coles informed that a film entitled Living on top of the world, which is about Windmill Hill has recently been released and he encouraged others to watch it.

The Clerk was asked to contact Wells City Council with regards to the pending closure of St Andrews ward and then to contact the CCG in Yeovil to share the concerns of this council.

**209. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs Elizabeth Lloyd has contacted the council regarding littering on Porchesta Drove and Beckery. The clerk reported that since receipt of the complaint, a clearing team had been deployed to this location.

**210. NEWS RELEASES**

Support for retaining the mental health support facility at St Andrews Ward in Wells.  
Communication to numerous authorities regarding the parking issues at Stonedown.

**211. ACTIONS**

- Letter to acknowledge the support of Julie Reader-Sullivan and Tina McEwan with the Towns Fund.
- To ensure the Towns Fund submission is available on our website
- To publish Cllr Leyshon's report on our website
- Write to senior personnel of all the stakeholders involved with Stonedown and the ineffective removal of vehicles.
- Write to the CCG to raise the concerns of Glastonbury Town Council to the proposed closure of St Andrews Ward in Wells.
- To liaise with the clerks of Mendip towns with regards to the CCTV camera coverage.

The meeting close at 10.29pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2020