



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 10th August 2021 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Barnet, C Bishop, 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: County Cllr Napper

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Leyshon, Town Clerk, two Mace Bearers and twelve members of public.

Public participation: Five members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects covered included:

Trillion Trees project
Travellers Land Rights
Seeking a Queen's Pardon for Richard Whiting
Lowerside Allotments
Unity and Continuity

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Coles declared an interest in agenda item 11 (b) as he is an allotment holder
Cllrs Cousins, Barnet and Roney-Dougal declared an interest in agenda item 15 (a) as they have an involvement with Avalon Community Energy which is part of the Town Deal Fund.

60. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN- COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JULY 2021

The minutes of the July meeting of the Town Council were approved by council and presented to the Mayor for signing.

61. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The clerk informed of the four actions arising from the previous meeting which have all been completed.

62. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

PC Upshall compiled a police report and sent to the clerk by email. Unfortunately, the attachment could not be opened and on requesting it be resent, established that PC Upshall was on annual leave until 23rd August. Cllrs Lund and Henderson had recently held a briefing session with PC Upshall and provided a summary of that meeting. Items included were Telephone access to Beat Officers, pavement chalking, additional officers to support the Beat Team.

Cllr Tucker requested that a single mobile telephone contact be provided and it was **RESOLVED** that the clerk is to research both the logistics and the cost implications of this idea and report back to the Town Council.

63. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM GLASTONBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Unfortunately, the Chamber were unable to be represented at this meeting. The Clerk informed that the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce has organised a summer event on Thursday 19th August at the Abbey House when they will receive a presentation from Janet Bell on the subject of tourism.

64. TO RECEIVE THE RESOLUTIONS OF:

Planning Committee meeting held on 20th July 2021

Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27th July 2021

Property and Assets Committee meeting held on 3rd August 2021.

Each of the resolutions were accepted by the council. Cllr Tucker requested that the clerk be given the authority of the council to represent them with identifying solutions on Stonedown Lane, particularly in trying to pursue the National Trust to lead the work programme on unauthorised encampments at this location. This proposal, seconded by Cllr Henderson was unanimously supported.

65. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Leyshon provided a report which was tabled and subsequently placed on the Town Councils website. The key areas of report are:

- The Town Deal Board and Town Investment Plan.
- The Multi Agency Group work on Glastonbury encampments
- Single Unitary Council for Somerset
- Housing and Homelessness update
- Changing Places toilets
- Neighbourhood policing
- National Trust in conjunction with Stonedown and the Tor. In summary of this element, Cllr Leyshon is questioning why seemingly Glastonbury Tor is not being treated in the same way as Avebury in Wiltshire.

Questions to Cllr Leyshon included Manor House Gardens as a possible location for allotments. The transition from SCC/DC's and unitary, Signage that needs replacing, overgrown foliage on the pavement adjacent to the A39. Changing placed toilet provision and disabled parking and passing bays at Stonedown Lane.

66. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr MacDougall previously submitted a report which has been circulated to councillors and placed on the councils website. The key areas of report are:

- Attendance at a Multi Agency Group meeting with district and county councillors
- Waste and recycling issues arising from a shortfall in drivers and loaders
- Update on the phosphates issue in relation to residential development
- MDC's survey on electric car and bike sharing schemes
- MDC ecological emergency declaration
- The encouragement of tree planting

Cllr Henderson also presented a written report which was both tabled and placed on the councils website. He informed that he had attended a Planning Board meeting. A development of 350 dwellings was deferred to allow more time for the developer to incorporate more sustainable and ecological ideas.

In addition, Cllr Henderson has brokered a meeting with the cricket club and Fusion on the future development of Tor Leisure Field. He has also attended a discussion with the police Beat Team. Cllr Cousins reported that he has attended meetings of both the Standards and Audit committees. Cllr Cottle reported that he has attended a meeting of the Licencing Board. He spoke also about social housing provision and pending issues arising from the change to a unitary.

67. TO RECEIVE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE OFFICERS REPORT

The Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer presented a draft paper which outlined the need to refresh the ecological emergency plan. The previous plan prepared in 2014 requires a refresh. The following Councillors offered their time to input to the revised plan: Cllrs Coles, Barnet, Roney-Dougal, Mutch, Smyth, Outten, Henderson, Lund, Cottle, Keery, Tucker and Browne. It is hoped that the revised draft will be presented to the next Town Council meeting in September.

Melissa Taylor also reported on the work programmes that she is currently involved with.

68. MOTION (a) Proposed by Cllr Browne, Seconded by Cllr Cousins:

That this council writes to the Secretary of State for Housing and Communities, copying in our MP James Heapey with the following request. 'The British Government was the first nation to declare their intent to lower carbon emissions, as early as 2008. Scientists announced only last week, July 29th, 'that we are now IN Climate Change'. This Council urges this Government to reform Building regulations to build only sustainable housing, that use less energy and save the expense of retro-fitting. Additionally, both residential and industrial buildings must be built to ensure the comfort and safety of occupants, as climate change increases the incidence of high temperatures, heavy rainfall, flooding and water scarcity'.

Cllr Keery sought a change in the wording of the motion to incorporate specific reforms required in Building Regulations. The amended motion proposed states.

That this council writes to the Secretary of State for Housing and Communities, copying in our MP James Heapey with the following request. 'The British Government was the first nation to declare their intent to lower carbon emissions, as early as 2008. Scientists announced only last week, July 29th, 'that we are now IN Climate Change'. This Council urges this government to reform building regulations to include the statutory provision of electric car charging points, high quality insulation, solar panels and renewable energy heating sources. Additionally, both residential and industrial buildings must be built to ensure the comfort and safety of occupants, as climate change increases the incidence of high temperatures, heavy rainfall, flooding and water scarcity'. It was unanimously resolved **RESOLVED** to accept the amendment. The amended motion was then unanimously supported by Councillors.

(b) Proposed by Cllr Keery, Seconded Cllr Tucker:

That this council endorses its existing strategy to move the Lowerside Allotments to alternative sites and to use the Lowerside site to build carbon neutral social housing to help meet the towns housing needs.

Following a long and protracted debate on the subject of developing Lowerside Allotments for social and affordable dwellings, the proposer and seconder withdrew their motion.

69. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The budget monitoring report was presented to the council. Whilst councillors were pleased with the additional information provided, there was a problem with the numbering of the explanations which is to be resolved.

70. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The schedule of payments was received without any questions being raised.

71. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

a. Climate Emergency

Reference was made to the work of the Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer, which had been previously reported. Cllr Roney-Dougal had previously circulated a draft of a banner to be displayed on the front of the town hall informing of the endorsement of Sunlit Solar. The resolution to work with Sunlit Solar had been previously supported. Councillors voted by majority to display the banner. 9-5-0.

Sunlit Solar have offered a contribution of £50 to be donated to a charitable cause. It was **AGREED** by majority to donate the funds to Avalon Community Energy, who operate a Community Benefit Fund, often referred to by the Citizens Advice Bureau. 12-0-3

The clerk was asked to circulate to all councillors the response he had previously sent to Mr Wickham who has demonstrated his displeasure of the town councils involvement with a single solar panel company.

b. Glastonbury in Bloom

Cllr Prior informed that the next town clean-up day was planned for Sunday 29th August. She thanked all who have involved with making the floral displays so beautiful and informed that the outcome of the SW in Bloom competition will be known in September.

c. Youth. Provision

Cllr Barnet informed that there has been a solid start to the study of additional/replacement play equipment at Abbey Park. A small band of people are completing this work and will make recommendations to the Youth Provision committee on the suggested appropriate ways to spend the remaining Section 106 funds.

72. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. Town's Fund

Cllr Tucker informed that the twelve identified projects are now working up a business case to demonstrate that they are viable and worthy of investment. The Town Deal Fund Board had rejected a recommendation to lose the Travel and Transport project. Therefore, each of the projects will have to absorb a shortfall of 3.6% off their original financial forecasts.

Jane Sharp has been appointed the full time Project Manager. An Officer of Mendip DC, Jane has both experience and knowledge on regeneration programmes and will be a good asset to the Town Deal Fund.

A Public Relations company has been appointed – Dome Marketing. After a difficult start, it appears that they are now getting to grips with their role. Where possible, the clustering of projects will be encouraged to ensure that there is an efficiency generated from using the same architects etc. The Abbey project and St Dunstan's Community Hub project are examples of areas where working in partnership will be of benefit.

b. Multi Agency Group

The Clerk reported that he was confident that the required solutions to the numerous issues previously identified are close to being delivered. The preferred scheme, together with identifying the source of finance are currently being worked up, with an expectation of a presentation to councillors at the next meeting in September.

73. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The clerk informed of an invitation to attend the Somerset Medal awards ceremony at Taunton Rugby Club on the 15th September. Cllr Browne indicated her wish to attend this event.

74. CORRESPONDENCE

.Correspondence has been received from Susannah Clemence which requires additional Officer time before a response can be provided.

75. NEWS RELEASES

No items of news were identified.

76. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING.

Actions from the meeting included

1. To circulate the Sunlit Solar response to all councillors
2. To research the costs and logistics of providing a dedicated mobile phone for use in the police post by the Glastonbury Beat Team.

The meeting closed at 10.45pm.

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
14th September 2021