



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14th February 2017 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Abbott, G Avalon, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, J Keery, E George, S Henderson, W Knight, T Napper, L MacDougall, D Michell, I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillor S Thurgood
County Councillor A Gloak MBE
PCSO N Burge

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
Gary Knight - Macebearer
Terry Dowden - Macebearer

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Larry Schenk informed the Town Council about the planned renovation and reordering of St John's Church and asked for a letter of endorsement to accompany their grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Viridor. He will contact the Town Clerk to arrange a suitable date for a full presentation to the Council about the project and to organise a launch date, to include the attendance of the Mayor.

Angela Wittleton complained about the lack of consultation with her and other residents about the building of the Boxing Club on Tor Leisure land and was disappointed to hear that the Planning Committee recommended approval.

Angela Friend reported that that Somerset Highways have put a sign for no heavy vehicles at the top of Manor House Road but not at the bottom.

Heather Hall from Glastonbury Cricket Club said they were not consulted by Fusion about the Boxing Club and is concerned as they have two storage containers on the proposed site.

Prior to the meeting the Mayor presented Sandra Booth with the Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for Service in the Community for her involvement with the Free Christmas lunch and Friday Soup Lunches.

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the Unity candle by Sandra Booth and a silent moment.

154. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Napper and Tucker – Planning application no. 2016/3032/FUL
Councillor Tucker – Planning application no. 2016/3032/FUL

155. REPORT FROM GLASTONBURY POLICE BEAT TEAM

The Police had sent a written report which the Town Clerk read to the Council.

A number of burglaries around Glastonbury High Street had been reported in the last month. The CCTV camera captured footage of one of the burglaries and a suspect has been identified. He is currently wanted for this along with other connected crimes. A burglar was arrested in Woking in a stolen vehicle and found with items from a Glastonbury burglary.

Criminal damage has been committed in the High Street including to the Market Cross. Three males were arrested for this as well as for assaulting a Police Constable. Antisocial Behaviour patrols are regularly conducted around the High Street and St Johns car park, with a proactive approach to street drinkers congregating. Questions can be put to the Police at the new beat surgery which is held in Glastonbury Library Glastonbury from 14:30 every Wednesday.

156. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10th January 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Promoting Glastonbury Committee held on 12th January 2017 were accepted.
- c) The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 24th January 2017 were noted. Councillor Henderson and Napper wished it to be recorded that they had declared personal interests in the Boxing Club.
- d) The minutes of the Town Hall Committee meeting held on 31st January 2017 were accepted.
- e) The minutes of the A361 Committee meeting held on 7th February 2017 which included a recommendation from the Committee to contact the Ombudsman re lack of response from the County Council since the site meeting in August 2016, were accepted. County Councillor Napper abstained.

157. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Gerard Tucker provided an executive summary on the Glastonbury Housing Needs Assessment provided by AECOM, an internationally renowned government funded organisation. Councillor George, at the request of Gerard Tucker, highlighted one of the conclusions of the report i.e. that the increase in numbers of older people and falling numbers of younger adults does not present a sustainable future for Glastonbury. She stressed that this is a real issue which will need to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan and elsewhere.

Councillor Tucker said that the Town should not be constrained and needs to re-think building on the Levels. Councillor Brunsdon said that modern techniques for building on flood plains should be considered and that it is vital new housing is appropriate to keep young people in the town.

Councillor George said she had recently been talking to the Fire Service about the rise of dementia in the general population and the need for towns to consider how they can be more 'dementia friendly'.

158. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Napper reported on the following:

- The County Council recommendation for Bretenoux Road is for no overnight parking
- Work to the drainage system at the bottom of Wellhouse Lane is in progress
- A £1m Small Improvement Scheme for Highways comes into effect on 22nd February. Councillor Abbott asked whether the previously submitted request from the Town Council for a 20mph limit along the A361 through Glastonbury and zebra crossing for Chilkwell Street would be reconsidered under this new scheme. Councillor Napper confirmed that the request would need resubmitting by the Town Council.

Councillor Cottle reported potholes in Old Wells Road caused by a spring.

159. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITTEN REPORTS

Councillor Brunsdon reported that a balanced budget with a planned small surplus had been agreed along with a Council Tax increase of 1.99%. Landscape maintenance at the Millstream Estate will return following a meeting between the developer and District Officers. The Tree Officer has been tasked with replacing the concrete surrounds of several trees in St John's Car Park and Councillor Brunsdon has taken the opportunity to suggest engineering bricks (as found elsewhere in the car park) would be preferable to the concrete piping previously utilised.

Councillor Henderson had attended a site visit to the travellers' site. He reported that Mendip District Council issued an eviction notice last August but has not yet set a date for eviction. David Clark is now the officer in charge and the Town Clerk has asked him to attend a Council meeting to explain the situation and the exit strategy i.e. where are the vans to go if there is no official site. Councillor Cottle reported that vans have been removed from Chinnock Road car park and are now illegally occupying private land as there is no official site. The District Council maintains that a traveller site cannot be accommodated or other residential use due to the smell zone from the sewage works. Councillor Tucker said Beckery Island Regeneration Trust recently met the MP to discuss the fact that their planning application for affordable housing was refused due to the objection from Wessex Water over the smell zone. The MP undertook to contact Wessex Water to request current data on the smell zone, as £1m of taxpayers money via the SWRDA was used to mitigate the problem. He was also asked to contact the Chief Constable to investigate rumours that an Emergency Centre is planned for the site. Councillor Tucker pointed out that there is an area which used to be playing fields which is not contaminated and taking into consideration the size of the site, suggested that a traveller site could comfortably be accommodated along with other development.

Councillors continue to be concerned about the contamination on the travellers' site and that the District Council allowed people to live there in the first place. Councillor George said it would be useful to have details about the contamination. Councillor Tucker said that Beckery Island Regeneration Trust have full details.

Councillor Keery asked District Councillors for sight of the cost benefit analysis which led to the decision to evict the travellers and to allow the site to be disposed of for commercial gain in the future.

Councillor Coles reported that Somerset Care and Repair are still working with the District Council to bring empty homes up to rental standard. Councillors reported long term empty properties in Wells Road and Bere Lane. He had attended a Cabinet meeting where it was reported that new companies are being set up within Mendip and are struggling to find suitable employees.

Councillor Cottle reported that he has been appointed to the new Market Advisory Group. The Town Council asked Councillor Cottle to continue negotiations with Mendip District Council to obtain the land behind Folliot Road, adjacent to the cemetery. The Town Council is aware that there is Section 106 money which could be used for that and other play provision. Councillor Coles and Cottle will liaise regarding this.

Councillors were concerned that there appears to be stale mate between the Friends of Tor Leisure and the District Council re the Fields in Trust application. Councillor George said Mendip District Council had cancelled a meeting until March.

Councillor Keery complained that the unsightly, un-permitted development at Coldharbour Bridge is worse and needs to be dealt with immediately by the enforcement team from Mendip District Council.

160. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was proposed by Councillor J Cousins, seconded by Councillor E George and **RESOLVED** that this Town Council introduces the status of Glastonbury Citizen of the Year, to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

It was **AGREED** that nominations should be directed to the Town Clerk under confidential cover and that the nominee should not be consulted.

161. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was proposed by Councillor T Napper, seconded by Councillor J Cousins and **RESOLVED** that this Town Council requests a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce double yellow lines or a clearway around the hammerhead at the end of Turstin Road to prevent the parking of vehicles.

Councillor Michell abstained from the vote.

162. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was proposed by Councillor J Cousins, seconded by Councillor E George and **RESOLVED** that the framed Grant of Arms is moved from its current position and placed in the centre of the wall above the Mayoral Thrones, in place of the Nixon watercolour.

Councillors Napper and Tucker declared a personal interest in the following item and left the room while it was considered.

163. PLANNING APPLICATION

2016/3032/FULL – Unit 1 Beckery Enterprise Park, Beckery – Change of use of Unit from light industry to D2 (gymnasium).

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval of the application with an additional comment from the Town Council that there is concern as to whether the parking allocation is sufficient.

Councillor Tucker returned to the room. The Mayor excused Councillor Napper from the meeting.

164. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Paul Manning, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce spoke at the discretion of the Mayor. He reported that the next meeting has been arranged for 16th March with a speaker from the Valuation Office re business rates. The next Business breakfast meeting will be on 13th March. Current membership is 62.

Councillor George reported on the St Edmund's Hall meeting. Councillor Keery said that there could be scope for the Town Council to offer an administration service as they do for Austin Memorial Homes. It was **AGREED** to convene a staffing meeting to discuss the matter.

165. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL

Councillor George said that Theo Wakeling is keen to attend future Council meetings. Talks continue with the District Council about the graffiti wall and it is hoped that permission will be given by the District Council to erect it at the skate park in time for the Street Art event in late August 2017. Currently the Council is focusing on the Battle of the Bands event taking place on 12th May 2017 at the Red Brick Buildings. Work has started on a competition for a Youth Council logo and motto. A local artist is helping with a project to paint the Youth shelter on Windmill Hill. Members have clear ideas about Section 106 funded play provision and in future would like to be involved in any decisions.

166. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Councillor Coles reported that he is waiting for further information from Chipperfields re Tor Fair.

167. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, now submitted, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes be approved and signed by two members as the Town Clerk's authority to make the payments.

168. BUDGET REPORT

The budget report was noted.

169. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had represented the Town at the following events since the last meeting:

Local Policing Awards evening for volunteers; Nationwide Building Society conference call with other stakeholders, to discuss the development of the Society's public/community engagement process; Multi-agency meeting convened to help address the anti-social behaviour and other issues that impact on the community; Chard Civic Reception; Carnival Presentation Evening; Meeting with Tesco re tree planting project; Footprint at the Abbey Exhibition.

He invited Councillors to attend the Mayor's Charity Concert in aid of the Abbey Ruins Appeal featuring local music acts on 24th March 2017.

170. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor George reported that Feed Avalon had been successful with their application for funding from Grow Wild for their Avalon Fantastic Fungi Trails which will include the creation of trial Kingstropharia Mushroom/Mycelium beds in order to show the impact on the plants, trees and bees and the ability of fungi to remove and transform toxins from soil on the Morland's site.

Councillor Keery said that he hoped that in future the Carnival Club could be persuaded to return to the Town Hall for their presentation night.

Councillor Tucker reported that the Deputy Town Clerk and Community Warden have arranged ditch maintenance works and pollarding of willow trees at the Common Moor land and now have permission from the Drainage Board to install a culvert to allow ease of access to the storage shed. It is planned to use hard core from St Dunstan's House to create a hard standing by the shed for storage of grit etc.

(Power to deal with ponds and ditches - Public Health Act 1936, s.260)

171. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) Letter from Elizabeth Lloyd re travellers and yellow lines on Bretenoux Road – The Town Clerk will write to inform Ms Lloyd of the Town Council decision on the matter.
- b) Letter from Gerald Morgan re maintenance of Jacob's Ladder, Windmill Hill Road – The Town Clerk reported that since receipt of this letter, Mr Morgan had written again thanking the Town Council for arranging to clear the steps. Councillors were concerned that there could be a health and safety issue if the steps are not regularly checked and cleaned. Councillors also highlighted a piece of land near the shop which is overgrown and a litter trap. Councillor Cottle said that he would take the matter up at the District Council.
- c) Email from Basis magazine with offer to run a monthly article for Glastonbury Town Council – It was **AGREED** to accept the offer and for the Communications Committee to deal with the matter.
- d) A letter inviting Councillors to join the Forget-Me-Not Club Committee was noted.

172. PRESS RELEASES

Citizen Award and Traveller Site.

173. ACTIONS ARISING DURING MEETING

- Contact Ombudsman re lack of response following A361 site visit in August 2016.
- Town Clerk to reapply for zebra crossing and 20 mph limit and to request TRO for Turstin Road.
- Councillor Henderson to contact MP re Morland's.
- Staffing Committee meeting to be arranged to discuss Town Council involvement with admin for St Edmund's Hall
- Councillor Cottle to talk with Mendip District Council Assets Manager about transferring land adjacent to cemetery to Town Council ownership.
- Councillor Coles to speak to Landscape Group about lack of provision in outlying areas of town

Mayor, 14th March 2017