

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D. Abbott, G. Avalon, A. Black, J. Brunsdon MBE, J. Coles, J. Cousins, N. Cottle, E. George, S. Henderson, J. Keery, L MacDougall, D. Michell [Mayor], P. Sander-Jackson, S. Thurgood, I. Tucker

APOLOGIES: The Police representative
The Town Crier

IN ATTENDANCE: Interim Town Clerk
County Councillor A. Gloak
County Councillor T. Napper
Terry Dowden Macebearer
Gary Knight Macebearer

A candle was lit and a short time of silence was held for reflection by those present

Public Participation [7pm]

Laiqa Brown spoke to the council in support of the **Citizen's Advice Bureau** [CAB] and the additional support that will be required for people who will be impacted by the introduction of universal credit and the digitization of the application process for benefits. Council was asked to note that further funding for the CAB was essential

Hugh Sharp spoke with regard to the A361 and the approximate 54 HGV's passing through every hour. [12 x 1hour counts carried out between 8am to 4pm – during which 646 HGV's were counted] "Six axil" lorries pass every five minutes. Reported that over the last six months there had been a real increase in the "heavy" traffic. 36 HGV's were counted every hour for the A39. A big increase in quarry traffic was also reported.

Mr Sharp also spoke with regard to the Town Signs. Mr. Paul Dinsdale has requested to be advised of the design that the Town Council wants and the appropriate sign type required. It was suggested that a site visit would assist.

Mr. Sharp then expressed his delight at the new Youth Club in Benedict Street.

Patricia Ackroyd spoke with regard to the success of the annual sheep run through the town in August.

Information was also provided with regard to a living history project about iron age wool textiles that was planned for the May bank holiday weekend at the tourist information centre in the Tribunal. Archaeological tie in to the local Iron Age Village site. Each Saturday further workshops will take place.

An enquiry was also made with regard to the funding application for the Wool projects that was submitted in October 2015 with no response having yet been received.

- The Mayor apologised for the lack of response to the application and advised that all outstanding matters would be caught up with as soon as possible.
-

HoneyBees and Playaways Nurseries - a representative spoke with regard to concerns about the proposed expansion to St. John's Local Authority Nursery. The issues raised were the lack of consultation, no tender opportunities, safety & planning and the general lack of transparency and openness about the expansion, which figures illustrate may not be required.

- The Mayor acknowledged receipt of the information and expressed her appreciation for this item being brought to the Council's attention and that council would look into it.

Angela Friend formally requested a sign for the bottom of Manor House Road that prevented lorries from entering. There had been many occasions when "6 Axil" lorries have attempted the road and then been obliged to reverse back.

Youth Representative - expressed disappointment that Council have not included the motion to consider the Youth Council within the agenda.

- The Mayor accepted that this was an omission by the council.
- Councillor J. Keery suggested that, as per current standing orders *[23. Resolutions moved without notice i) To adopt a report]* the report on the Youth Council previously submitted to council, could be considered for adoption later in this meeting. No objections were raised.

The Mayor expressed her intention, on compassionate grounds, to delegate the chairing of the meeting to her Deputy. No objections were raised and Councillor J. Cousins took over as Chairman of the meeting.

136. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

137. POLICE REPORT

None provided as had been intending to attend and report direct to the meeting.

- **Councillor J. Brunson** reported that the occurrence of thefts from vehicles parked at the Tor should now cease as an arrest had occurred.
- **Councillor S. Thurgood** advised that the Street PACT [Police and Community Together] meeting was arranged for tomorrow night at 7pm in the Parish rooms.
- It was **AGREED** that a formal letter be sent from Glastonbury Town Council welcoming and congratulating the New Chief Constable Andy Marsh on his appointment.

138. MINUTES

- The minutes of the Glastonbury Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016, which had been circulated to each member were signed by the Mayor as a correct record following the clarification of the schedule of payments as requested:
 - Lift switch - additional staff security - previously approved by Town Hall committee
 - Litter bins - 6 in total purchased -1 has been allocated to Bere Lane recreation ground
 - HMS Heron Band Fees – these were low due to the nature of the event
 - Transport Expenses – The allocation of these to the Mayor’s allowance was questioned, it was considered that these should be allocated as an expenses refund.
- The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26th January 2016 were noted.
 - It was reported by the Chair of this committee, Councillor P. Sander-Jackson, that the application regarding the hub had been considered at this meeting however the implications of the effect on the nurseries of the St. John’s expansion had not. These would be followed up on.
- The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 26th January 2016 were noted subject to the addition of the apologies of Madam Mayor.
 - Councillor J. Keery requested that the condition of the Councillor’s chairs be put onto the agenda of the next meeting of the committee.

139. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

It was **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 / Acting Town Clerk’s, authority to make the payments subject to ratification of item voucher 533 by the **Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk**.

140. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor A. Gloak reported:

- Chilkwell Street Zebra crossing will be in for the second round of consideration.
- Jeff Bunting – update on lining and signing. No new works until the next financial year and the lining at Leg of Mutton Road will fall into that category.
- Noted the residents request for signage at the bottom of Manor House Lane
- Banking - cash dispenser at the new hub
 - Palliative letter from Lloyds bank Group not stating anything new.

- Bove Town works feasibility report received providing potential solutions and this matter is therefore now in progress.

The following concerns were raised for the attention of the county councillor:

- **Councillor N. Cottle** expressed his thanks for the news about proposed works at Bove Town and went on to express concerns with regard to the double yellow lines proposed for Leg of Mutton road.
- **Councillor E. George** also expressed safety concerns with regard to the lining of this road and the joint request was made for lining from Wells Road to Hamlyn and Wells road to Rowley Road.
- **Councillor N. Cottle** expressed concern at the proposal to delegate the repair of fingerpost signs to Parish & Town councils as some smaller parishes may not be able to afford repair. **County Councillor T. Napper** proposed that the intention was to delegate general upkeep and maintenance only – not major repairs. **County Councillor A. Gloak** agreed to raise the issue at the next Somerset County Council Meeting.
- **Councillor P. Sander-Jackson** requested that the concerns raised by the independent Glastonbury nurseries with regard to the consultation & methodology of the proposed expansion of St. Johns Nursery be looked into.
- **Madam Mayor** requested further investigation into the Glastonbury Nursery proposals.
- **Councillor E. George** advised no formal targeted consultation had taken place other than press adverts and requested clarification re the proposed expansion of nursery provision as the latest sufficiency report that stated that there were currently vacancies within existing provision.
- **Councillor G. Avalon** requested that if no appropriate community engagement had occurred could Council please be advised what action they were able to take. It was noted that individuals' livelihoods could be at risk.
- **Councillor J. Keery** reported that the Leg of Mutton yellow lines and works to Bove Town would be appreciated and expressed concern over the length of time it took County Council projects to be actioned.
- **Councillor S. Henderson** requested clarification re the HGV restricted signage in the area at the top of the high street.
- **Councillor J. Coles** requested double yellow lines be installed at Wells Road to clear the blind spot at Underwood & Austin Roads where 2 accidents had occurred during the last year.
- **Councillor J. Keery** queried the timescale of further white lining
- **Councillor J. Brunsdon** reported that sign for Silver Street Car Park was pointing the wrong way.
- **Councillor I. Tucker** reported that the 5 thousand signatures required to trigger a debate had been obtained and requested that it now be presented to the County Council. It was also requested that the proposed new hub contain a night safe and provision to dispense cash.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the item Bank Closures Update be taken at this point of the meeting.

141. BANK CLOSURES UPDATE

Councillor G. Avalon reported on the success and media coverage of Flash Mob 1 and advised about the Flash Mob 2 “Spaghetti Western” planned for Saturday 20th February which it was hoped would be broadcast live.

Council was also advised that the data collected by campaign members standing outside Lloyds bank for an hour contradicts the usage statistics provided officially by the bank. Volunteers were requested for further data collection of this nature and for Flash Mob 2. The Councillor confirmed that the 5 thousand signatures on the petition had been achieved and the question that Somerset County Council will be asked to debate is:

“In view of the severe difficulties businesses and people who don’t bank online or ‘phone will face, when all banking facilities are withdrawn from the community, we call upon our County Council to actively engage with the banks to ensure their adherence to the banking protocol. “

This is in light of the fact that there are other towns such as Dulverton in Somerset, like us, loosing all their banking services making this a County wide issue.

The petition will be delivered to County Councillor Gloak first thing in the morning – 10th February.

Crowd Funding is being set up to fund the campaign – however they need to open a bank account first and Lloyds has been approached with regard to this.

It was noted that both the Federation of Small Businesses [FSB] and the British Banking Association [BBA] have been in contact with regard to the campaign, as have Age UK and the Worshipful Company of Bankers.

ATM’s have opened at the Co-op in the High Street.

Next campaign group meeting will be tomorrow evening – 10th February - in the Council Chamber.

The meeting then continued with concerns raised for the attention of County Councillor A. Gloak

140. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS [CONTINUED]

- **Councillor E. George** pleased to see that County are considering an increase to the range of materials being recycled.

County Councilor A. Gloak left the meeting at this point.

County Councillor T. Napper reported:

- Mendip District Council have been approached for possible funding toward the last bank standing campaign.

- **Pot Holes** in Old Wells Road have been repaired.
- **Lipyatt Road** is on the schedule to be done
- **Paving stones** requiring attention at the Mural – reported to Mendip to repair.
- **Tree planting** will require a ‘permission to plant license’ which costs \approx £500
- **Signage** at school – the issue is still ongoing.
- **Water leak** on the Tor. Works proposed for February 29th with a six-week delivery period that will involve a footpath closure. Council **AGREED** that they were in favour of this.
- **SID** [speed indicator device] set at 34mph
- **County Budget** – Considering the first council tax rise in six years, however Somerset County Council will still have the lowest Council Tax in the country.
- **The Beckery** – Funding in the region of two million pounds being voted on for the Mendip partnership school building
- **Zika Virus** – advice provided

The following concerns were raised for the attention of the county councillor:

- **Councillor N. Cottle** raised the issue of the impact of occasional but high increases to Council Tax at the same time as loss of services. The concern re Water at Gypsy Lane was also raised -possible damage to pipe or culvert.
- **Councillor P. Sander-Jackson** raised the issue of the footpath at Windmill Hill Road to Rowley Road closed for the last eighteen months due to a collapsed retaining wall. Council was advised that this was currently at the enforcement stage with fines being imposed.
- **Councillor J. Cousins** raised the issue of a water leak in Butleigh Road close to Tor View Avenue.

141. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillor J. Brunsdon

- The Tor – other access routes are available when one is closed for the proposed repairs
- Neighbourhood Plan – Rode recently attempted to invoke the emerging neighbourhood plan in a planning application objection and again it was declared not to be developed enough.
- Local Plan part two – The number of comments submitted during the consultation period currently causing a delay.
- Beckery Island Regeneration Trust – briefing and consultation ongoing
- West Country Councils currently proposing devolvement of powers
 - Councillor J. Cousins advised that until a neighbourhood plan had been taken to a vote by the local community it will not be taken into account.
 - Councillor G. Avalon commented that it was good that Neighbourhood plans were being invoked even if they were not yet complete.

- Councillor E. George requested further information with regard to the alignment of West Country Councils.

Councillor J. Brunsdon responded that this was still in its very early stages.

District Councillor J. Coles

Report had been tabled and provided to all councillors.

- Councillor J. Cousins stated that a written report was appreciated

District Councillor S. Henderson

- PACT - speeding in the town police considered that the actual speed is lower than perceive speeds – but still looking into.
 - Parking on Leg of Mutton Road was raised
 - The New Memorial on the Market Cross – signage being put up to highlight this.
- Quarterly count at Traveller site – 27 occupied caravans and 30/40 unoccupied caravans
- New welfare questionnaire being developed in consultation with the travellers.
- Scrutiny Board had a joint meeting with the Cabinet & discussed a contract involving corporate services with Mendip and four other councils looking at entering into a group contract. Mendip voted yes to the proposal and are now awaiting responses from the other councils involved.
- Councillor G. Avalon raised concerns with regard to safeguards being maintained for people in hardship if a group contract were to be obtained. Councillor S. Henderson responded that Mendip has a very robust strategy in place with regard to hardship and quite a lot of safeguards are in place. Mendip officers generally had a positive attitude toward people in hardship.
- Councillor J. Brunsdon advised that people in hardship needed to be advised to seek advice and assistance as early as possible.
- Councillor J. Coles commented on the low level [1.5%] of default

District Councillor N. Cottle

- A working group was looking into the hardship issue and it was noted that officers at MDC do sway toward compassion. Councillors were requested to contact him direct to obtain figures and information from the latest working group report [non confidential].
- Joint Councils Procurement should prove workable and effective. Meetings should rotate around the councils involved.
- Mendip District Council Finances – just over twenty million was being held but these were all allocated funds
- Ethical Investment of funds had been proposed but not acted on.
- Bribery & Corruption Report – general perception of the public is negative however the reality is very different.

- Public space protection orders – initiative between councils and police with regard to drinking on streets and other issues of concern, for example dog fouling. Please contact him if you would like to read the relevant white papers.
- Councillor J. Cousins advised that a report on ethical investment with advice for local authorities was available, produced by “Move your money”
- Councillor J. Keery raised concerns with regard to group service procurement following the experience of ‘S W One’

Councillors N. Cottle and S. Henderson were both able to advise that this concern had been fully discussed and debated.

142 . YOUTH COUNCIL

It was reported that there were two new additions at the last meeting. Several items were discussed including –

- Possible funding available for the area from Section 106 ones for use on such areas as increased grass cutting and upgrading local facilities available for young people.
- Concern re the price of local facilities available for young people, for example high cost of room hire.
- Lack of lighting in local parks and the adjoining alleys
- Concern that there were local facilities for boys in some sports but not for girls
- Next meeting was arranged for 10th March 7pm here in the council chamber.

Councillor S. Thurgood thanked Theo for his report.

**Proposed by Councillor S. Thurgood
Councillor N. Cottle**

Seconded by

that a Resolution moved without notice [Standing Order 23. Resolutions moved without notice i) To adopt a report] to adopt the previously circulated report that recommended that the Glastonbury Youth Council be adopted as an official advisory committee of Glastonbury Town Council.

Councillor J. Keery read out standing order number 46 to clarify to those present what an advisory committee was:

46.1 The Council may create advisory committees, whose name, number of members, and the bodies to be invited to nominate members shall be specified.

46.2 The Town Clerk shall inform the members of each advisory committee of the terms of reference of the committee

46.3 An advisory committee may make recommendations and give notice thereof to the council

46.4 An Advisory committee may consist wholly of persons who are not members of the council

The Town Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the report and create an official advisory committee consisting of the members of The Glastonbury Youth Council.

The Town Clerk will advise on the terms of reference of the advisory committee in due course.

143. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor S. Thurgood Seconded by Councillor E. George

“ That following formal discussions with the YMCA and the Scouts it is proposed that Glastonbury Town Council agree to a pilot scheme for a second youth club for 11-18 year olds at the Scout Hut in Benedict Street”

Councillor Thurgood advised that the Windmill Hill group was going strong and the Scout Hut was an excellent location for a second group. The trial would run for 18 weeks and consist of two hours on a Tuesday night. Funding was in place for the trial.

Councillor E. George had nothing to add to this information.

The Town Council RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the proposal

144. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor G. Avalon Seconded by Councillor E. George

“That this Council formally acknowledges that the motto ‘Floreat Ecclesia Anglicana’ is an important and significant part of the Town’s history and adopts the additional motto ‘Floreat Glastonia’ to acknowledge Glastonbury’s contemporary wider community”

Councillor G. Avalon drew council’s attention that the proposal was for an additional motto to foster inclusiveness within Glastonbury’s diverse community.

Councillor E. George advised that the last census had recorded that over one third of the community did not identify as Christian.

Considerable discussion followed to which the majority of councillors contributed.

First Amendment proposed by Councillor I. Tucker Seconded by Councillor J. Keery

“adopt the additional motto ‘ Glastonbury the Spiritual heart of Somerset”

In light of the second proposed amendment this amendment was withdrawn

Second Amendment proposed by Councillor E. George Seconded by Councillor G. Avalon

“adopt the additional motto ‘ May Glastonbury Flourish’ “

This amendment was carried unanimously which negated the need to vote on the proposed third amendment.

Third Amendment proposed by Councillor J. Brunsdon

Seconded by The Mayor

“adopt the additional motto ‘ May Glastonbury Flourish’ with the ‘spiritual heart of Somerset’ in parenthesis underneath“

The Motion before council now reads:

“That this Council formally acknowledges that the motto ‘Floreat Ecclesia Anglicana’ is an important and significant part of the Town’s history and adopts the additional motto ‘May Glastonbury Flourish’ to acknowledge Glastonbury’s contemporary wider community”

The Town Council RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the proposal

It was noted that the Blue Shield and additional motto could be brought into use simply by the Clerk’s office and that stationery could be replaced on a rolling basis as required.

145. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave her apologies for missing the January full council meeting and expressed her thanks to Councillor J. Cousins for chairing it.

The following were reported:

- 16th January Wassail event at the Red Lion
- 26th January visit of Green Party leader Natalie Bennett in support of Last Bank Standing Campaign
- Meeting with Town Clerk to agree tonight’s agenda
- 3rd February attended installation of ATM at the Co-op
- By Election on Thursday – Councillor J. Coles advised that political posters are not permitted on lamp posts or sign posts.

146. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor E. George

- Staff have attended training on foam stream
- Advert for the Deputy Clerk/Neighbourhood plan officer were up and enquiries had already been received.
- Feed Avalon had received a ‘go wild’ grant and would now be moving ahead with the gardening project.
- Enquiries had been received as to the date of the next ‘in bloom’ meeting

Councillor J. Coles

- Has been invited to take part in the Valentines Day Live Radio Quiz and will be in the radio van at the market cross.

Councillor J. Brunson

- Conservation society will be working to tidy up the oaks on the Street Road

The Mayor

- The date of the litter pick has been changed to 20th March and will meet at 10am at the town hall

147. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Food Bank

Councillor S. Thurgood reported that this had been very busy and was receiving many referrals with 7 and 9 boxes going out in the last two weeks. People are starting to fall into the benefits gap

Health & Wellbeing

Councillor E. George advised that funding was available for a local event. It was proposed to promote the new youth club with a family fun day – offers of assistance had been received.

Unanimous agreement was received from the Town Council to take forward this proposal

148. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence brought forward for consideration:

- **Letter from Mendip District Council re Heritage at Risk Register**
The Crown Public House [back packers] should be added to the list. It was **AGREED** that Councillor J. Brunson liaise with the Clerk's office re additional entries.
- **Letter from Harriet Baldwin, HM Treasury in response to letter from Town Council to Chancellor of the exchequer regards to Lloyds Banking Group**
General disappointment at the response was noted. Following discussion, it was unanimously **AGREED** that a strongly worded reply should be sent requesting that the situation be looked at again and providing data collected during the campaign. **Councillor J. Keery** agreed to assist the Clerk's office with the drafting of the reply.
- **Letter from Co-operative Bank regarding closure of the Street Branch – noted**
- **Email from Mendip District Council notifying Town Council of Council Tax support Grant for 2016/2017 - noted**

149. PRESS RELEASES

Communication Committee – time changed to tomorrow evening at 6pm

Councillor J. Brunson requested that a letter be written to Geoffrey Ashe with thanks for his input and to advise of the changes agreed with regard to the town motto. Council unanimously **AGREED**

MEETING CLOSED AT 10.15pm

The Mayor, 8th March 2016