

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors: J Barron, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, J Cousins, S Henderson, W Knight, J Keery, D Michell, H Sharp, S Thurgood, I Tucker

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors: N Cottle, M Free, I Forster and S Shepherd

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
County Councillor A Gloak  
County Councillor T Napper  
PSCO S Bishop  
David Greenway, Town Crier  
Terry Dowden – Macebearer  
Gary Knight - Macebearer

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### Public participation

Matthew Witt explained that, with the permission of the building owner/s he would like to paint a mural on a passage wall which suffers continual graffiti. The Town Council supported the idea.

In the absence of Morgana West and the Glastonbury Peace Candle, the Mayor opened the meeting with a minute of silence. Councillor Brunsdon MBE asked people to remember Trevor Adams, ex Vet and Church Warden who had recently passed away.

### 91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

### 92. REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE GLASTONBURY BEAT TEAM

Sgt M Spikes, Cadet Leader for Glastonbury and Street introduced members of the local Police Cadets and explained their voluntary role. They were pleased to have recently won a Pride of Somerset Award for the Police and Crime Commissioner for help given to flood victims, earlier in the year.

PCSO Bishop asked for Councillors to be involved in a meeting to discuss busking in the Town centre.

Councillor Brunsdon MBE asked about the graffiti on signs. The Police said that they have not been able to identify the 'tags'.

Councillor Sharp asked for a speed device to be placed at Coursing Batch on the brow of the hill for vehicles leaving Glastonbury.

### **93. MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

In relation to the A361 Petition for weight restrictions on vehicles coming through Glastonbury, Councillor Keery suggested that the Town Council writes to the Leader of Somerset County Council to ask why they cannot route the traffic for Hinkley Point via A37 to A39. He had noted that Cannington have yellow signs rerouting the traffic. This was AGREED and that copies should be sent to the Chief Executive of Somerset County Council and Eric Pickles MP.

The Mayor had confirmed with Councillor Napper that a trip to the anaerobic digester is being arranged.

- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved. The Town Clerk was asked to note that Councillor Thurgood was on the working party and Councillor Michell was not.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved.
- d) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved.
- e) The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were approved which included the recommendation that the precept request for 2015/2016 should be £245,000.

### **94. 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.

Councillor Cousins pointed out that the Town Council is charged full non-domestic rates on the Town Hall.

### **95. BUDGET REPORT**

A budget report to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 was circulated to all Councillors and noted.

### **96. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Brunsdon MBE said he has arranged for the Homelessness Officer to assist a homeless person who has been living in a doorway in Silver Street and explained that there is no need for anyone to be sleeping rough.

He spoke about the traffic congestion in the High Street and hoped that the Highway Committee could be reconvened to address the problems and to discuss the possibility of pedestrianisation.

Councillor Cousins asked for the Town Council to write to Elim Church in Wells to thank them for the outreach work they carry out in Glastonbury with homeless people which was **AGREED**.

Councillor Coles provided a written report.

Councillor Henderson provided a written report.

## **97. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

County Councillor Gloak provided a written report.

Councillors were pleased to hear that Ashwell Lane will be reopened.

Councillor Black asked for the diversion signs at the B & Q roundabout to be removed as she is sure that they are discouraging people from coming into the town.

## **98. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

Councillor Keery reported on the meeting held with Somerset Highways to discuss road marking and signage in the Town and the amendment of certain Traffic Orders to include the addition of double yellow lines at Stonedown Lane, Sedgemoor Way and the bottom of Manor Road Road. It is hoped that the new signage to the coach parks will be in place before the tourist season starts.

## **99. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Proposed by: Councillor H Sharp                      Seconded by: Councillor J Barron

Councillor Sharp had spoken to the local newspaper editor who said he would be happy to accept the Town Council report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Town Clerk, within 10 days of the previous Town Council meeting, send the Editor of the Mid-Somerset Series of Newspapers a written report recording the major issues discussed at the meeting.

## **100. GLASTONBURY IN BLOOM**

The Mayor and Councillor I Tucker attended a meeting with the Head and Friends of the School when Glastonbury in Bloom was discussed. The school and parents were interested in being involved and the Mayor and asked for the Town Council to consider supplying St Benedict School with plants to enhance school grounds. It was **AGREED** that this would be considered at the next Glastonbury in Bloom meeting. It was suggested that the District Councillor allowance may be used for this purpose.

## **101. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Since the last meeting the Mayor reported his involvement with the A361 road Petition and his attendance at the successful Frost Fayre. He was disappointed that Avalon Leisure had not won the contract for the District Council leisure centres but is confident that the charity, Fusion, which has been appointed, will preserve

and develop the sports facilities at Tor Leisure. He has asked Fusion to attend a future Town Council meeting to meet the Council and address any concerns Councillors may have.

He reminded Councillors that Tessa Munt MP would be attending the Town Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 between 6 and 7pm to discuss the TTIP.

He was pleased to announce that the Poppy Appeal collection for Glastonbury had exceeded £11,000 and thanked those who had helped him with the Appeal.

He encouraged Councillors to attend the Mayor's Charity Dance on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 7pm.

He would be attending the cutting of the Holy Thorn on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am at St John's Church.

Councillor Sharp asked for the Town Council to write to Rob Taylor of Avalon Leisure to thank Avalon Leisure for their involvement which was **AGREED**.

## **102. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk had received a reply from the Police Commissioner about The recent non attendance of Police Officers at the Town Council meeting due to a change in shift patterns. The Commissioner confirmed that the new operating model still allows flexible shift working for Police Officers and that the majority of meetings will have police attendance. On the occasions when it is not possible to provide a representative, the Constabulary will then provide a written report.

Councillor Thurgood reported that she and Theo Wilson had recently attended a St Dunstan's School Assembly to promote the Youth Council. She mentioned her attendance at the Air Cadets evening when the squadron was handed over to Alison Tolson on the retirement of Bill Hamlin. Bill Hamlin has challenged the Town Council and Youth Council to a tug of war and is in possession of a 'St Dunstan's Cup' which can be used as the trophy. 8 people are needed for a team which must include at least two women.

She said that Speed Watch is now up and running and asked for more volunteers to come forward.

Councillor Coles mentioned that this year's Carnival collection had been lower than last.

Councillor Cousins was pleased to have been able to attend the open day at Glastonbury FM along with other Councillors.

Councillor Sharp spoke in support of the St Benedict's church Free Christmas lunch and Bridging the Gap food bank. He hoped that the Town Council would be in a position to provide financial aid. The Town Clerk was asked to send the organisations application forms for grant aid.

### **103. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Glastonbury Tor - Councillor Brunsdon MBE reported that sheep were withdrawn from the Tor this summer as the owner could not sustain the losses from dogs but that the sheep are now back on the Tor. He also reported that a hedge is being traditionally layered by volunteers along the main path from the top entrance. Councillor Black suggested that there could be signs on the Tor warning dog owners about the sheep.

Austin Memorial Homes – Councillor Keery reported that the homes have been fitted with new boilers and fires. The annual Accounts were approved at the last meeting and the charity is in a healthy financial position.

### **104. CORRESPONDENCE**

**The following correspondence was considered:**

- a) St Dunstan's House – Letter accepting Town Council offer to purchase the building

Councillor Keery explained the situation regarding the offer from the Town Council and said that as Glastonbury Abbey had accepted the provisional offer from the Council, public consultation could now take place. An open day will be held where the public can view plans of both sites, submit their ideas for future use of the building and make comments.

**The following correspondence was noted:**

- b) Somerset County Council – Consultation of review of bus services – Councillors commented on the number of buses which pass through Glastonbury and the possible need for a bus station
- c) Wessex Water – Advance notice regarding works to sewers
- d) Somerset County Council – Temporary Road Closure – Old Butleigh Road

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**Mayor, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**