



# Glastonbury Town Council

**Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7pm in the Council Chamber at Glastonbury Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: D Abbott, A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, E George (Mayor), S Henderson, J Keery, W Knight, L MacDougall, D Michell, T Napper, S Thurgood, I Tucker

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor G Avalon, J Cousins

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk  
Terry Dowden – Macebearer  
Gary Knight - Macebearer  
Liz Leyshon, County Councillor

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Stephen Bower highlighted the poor condition of the Tor Leisure tennis courts. He asked whether there is a code of conduct for Councillors using social media. The Town Clerk confirmed that Councillors are expected to conform to the code of conduct. Any complaints are dealt with by the Monitoring Officer at Mendip District Council.

Clive Bishop reported traffic issues on Wells Road near Merrick Road. Double lines are needed near the junction. He also reported on Beckery Adults and Learning Centre which provides a great service and is invaluable to parents and carers seeking respite care. He asked County Councillors to investigate whether there is any truth in rumours that the centre may have to close and invited Town Councillors to visit the centre.

Bruce Garrard and Anthony Ward spoke about the A361 and related issues. They are concerned that if the only answer is to build a new road along the old railway line and financed by development along the route, that the cost to the town and landscape is too great.

## **87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

## **88. REPORT FROM POLICE**

PCSO Mel Rowlands gave a verbal report. She undertook to provide monthly statistics at future Council meetings.

Councillor Brunsdon reported that graffiti and tagging seems to be prolific at the

present time. PCSO Rowlands said that she visits youth clubs for help identifying tags. The Mayor said that the Youth Council is working with local artists on the graffiti wall and other Street art projects which hopefully will deter illegal graffiti.

## **89. REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Mayor reported that the Council meets regularly. They are working on the motto competition and the group will judge entries next month. They are working in partnership with Windmill Hill Youth Club on the youth shelter project with 2 workshops being held at the hall by the local artist involved and the painting of the shelter taking place during half term.

## **89. REPORT FROM GLASTONBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Paul Manning, Chairman, reported that unfortunately James Heapey MP had been unable to attend the last breakfast meeting as he was called to London for an emergency meeting. The Community Savings Bank Association made up of investors and customers have chosen Glastonbury to host their first meeting to discuss starting a new bank for the South West. Representatives from the Red Brick Building will be speaking at the next Chamber meeting.

## **90. MINUTES**

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were received.
- c) The minutes of the meeting of the Promoting Glastonbury Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were received with an amendment on page 7 to read 'Leader of Mendip District Council'.

## **91. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillors Coles and Henderson provided a written report.

Councillor Brunsdon has been contacted by a family who would like to form a Trust to open a memorial wood in memory of a deceased family member. The family are directly talking to officers at Mendip District Council about the possibility of using the piece of land adjacent to the cemetery and Avalon Estate. He is talking to the Landscape group about the deteriorating standard of refuse collection from litter bins.

Councillor Cottle said he is meeting with the Deputy Town Clerk to discuss future uses for the land referred to by Councillor Brunsdon and will talk to Mendip District Council about combining the ideas of the Town Council with that of the family interested in the land.

## **92. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

County Council Napper provided a written report on repairing potholes, National Adoption Week, Integrated Family Support Services, special schools, Hinkley Point Partnership, winter flu jabs and residents parking schemes.



It was **RESOLVED** to grant the CIC a grant of £1000 instead of a loan which the Council hopes will help with match funding when applying to other organisations for grants.

The members of the CIC did not take part in the vote.

Councillor Tucker confirmed that the Town Council members of the CIC will report regularly to the Town Council on the progress of the new Information Centre.

#### **95. ANNUAL RETURN AND EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

The Town Clerk reported that except for the matters detailed below, on the basis of the External Auditor's review of the annual return, in their opinion the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters came to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Matters reported were that the Responsible Financial Officer (Town Clerk) had not signed section 2 of the Annual Return before approval and publishing of public rights. In future, the Authority must ensure that the Accounting Statements in section 2 of the Annual Return are prepared in accordance with the Regulations and proper practices. In relation to public rights, in future, the Authority must ensure that it complies with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and leaves one working day between the publication of the announcement and the commencement of the notice period. The external auditor noted that the internal auditor considered that the Authorities risk assessment was not acceptable.

The Town Clerk has advised the external auditor that she is working on a more complete document and said that the full risk assessment will be ready for the November Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

#### **96. 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.

#### **97. BUDGET REPORT**

The budget report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was circulated to Councillors and duly noted.

Councillor Henderson highlighted that for the safety of wheelchair users using the new disabled access between the Town Hall and St Dunstan's House, there needs to be another bollard at the top of the Town Hall steps. The Town Clerk said that Deputy Town Clerk is dealing with the matter.

#### **98. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor provided a written report of her activities on behalf of the Town Council since the last meeting. She had represented the Town Council at 12 occasions including meeting with Inspector Mark Nicholson to discuss the future of the multi-

agency group which has been held monthly over the past year to address the issue of anti-social behaviour in the town. The outcome of the meeting is that the group will amalgamate with the Town Centre working group to form the new Town Centre Partnership.

## **99. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

Neighbourhood Plan - Councillor Tucker said that it has become apparent that there is confusion over the possible routes for bypasses for the Town and that the general public are not sure what the MP is working on in relation to road improvements.

Councillor Tucker suggested putting out a press release with a clear statement including a map marking out what routes have been on the table in the past and the history of why the plans were not taken further.

The Mayor said that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is working towards carrying out a full and comprehensive consultation on the plan and that traffic problems including relieving the problems on the A361 will be part of the consultation. Full details of previous plans will be included for the information of the public.

## **100. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted:

a) Email from Susan Santilhano re Fracking asking the Town Council about their current position on the shale gas industry, also known as fracking. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council declared itself 'frack free' in 2013 and that as that decision has not been challenged, still stands.

It was **AGREED** to contact other Town Council's in Somerset to remind them of Glastonbury Town Council's decision and to encourage them to do the same.

b) Letter from Chris Lavis – Update re Morrison's bund, Tor Leisure and Glastonbury Bypass. Matters are being dealt with by District and County Councillors.

## **101. PRESS RELEASES**

- South West in Bloom results including the award for Art in the Landscape won by St Benedict's School and being presented by the Mayor and Councillor Tucker on Thursday.
- Glastonbury in Bloom planting of crocus bulbs.

## **102. ACTIONS**

Town Clerk to contact James Vincent to ask whether he would be able to provide a water supply to the skate park for a drinking fountain.

Councillor Tucker to talk with the Neighbourhood Planning Officer about the previous bypass plans.

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**Mayor, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**