



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at Glastonbury Town Hall at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Abbott (Mayor), A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, S Henderson, J Keery, W Knight, I MacDougall, D Michell, T Napper, S Thurgood, I Tucker. Cllr Gabriel Avalon joined the meeting following Agenda item 143

APOLOGIES: Councillor E George

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk. Somerset County Cllr L Leyshon. Cllr N Taylor MDC and both Mace Bearers

Public participation – 9 members of the public took the opportunity to speak.

Topics raised included:

- Residents parking – Silver Street
- 5G concerns on residents health
- Removal of wreaths from the war memorial
- Locations for a herb garden
- Planning consultation concerns off Rowley Road
- Climate Change
- Unauthorised encampments on Cinnamon Lane
- Dog waste removal – Bushy Combe

The Unity candle was lit, followed by a minute's silence prior to the meeting.

142. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

143. NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR

The Mayor read a statement that due to Gabriel Avalon's failure to attend meetings of the authority for a period of six consecutive months, a casual vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for the Town Council. Section 89 (3) of the LGA Act 1972, informs that as the vacancy occurs within six months of the next election for the position, there is not a requirement to hold an election. Guidance has been provided, informing that a Co-option is permissible. Proposed by Cllr Michell, seconded by Cllr Thurgood and **AGREED** that Gabriel Avalon be reinstated as a Town Councillor. There was one abstention.

144. NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION

Cllr Nigel Taylor, Portfolio for Neighbourhoods with Mendip District Council presented to the town Council his observations of the issues of unauthorised encampments in Glastonbury. His message was well received, particularly when he mentioned identifying a dedicated site for the traveller's use. The response from Councillors was persistent, informing of the suitability of the Morlands site which is owned by Mendip DC. Other initiatives which Cllr Taylor promised to consider included – height restriction on the car park at St Edmunds Hall, fencing at Pomparles Bridge and potential sites for a traveller site.

145. REPORT FROM A MEMBER OF THE GLASTONBURY POLICE BEAT TEAM

PC Moyse prepared a report which was read. There is clearly much happening in Glastonbury which through partnership working with many organisations has resulted in many successes. In response, a Councillor considered the response from the Police since the public meeting last summer has been very positive. Cllr Cottle shared his personal experiences following a vehicle theft.

146. MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th December 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record. The Clerk used the opportunity to share with Councillors the detail of the Youth Provision Study. The Clerk was asked to write to the Probation Service to thank them for their regular input and activities in Glastonbury
- b) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18th December 2018 were **NOTED**. Following comments raised under public participation, it was **RESOLVED** that the agendas of the various committees of the council will be displayed on the notice board and on the website.
- c) The meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 2nd January 2019 were **NOTED**.

146. REPORT ON THE FROST FAYRE

The previously distributed report on the Frost Fayre was discussed. Cllr Tucker endorsed the conclusions of the report and speculated that new councillors following the May elections may wish to become involved with the organisation of the fayre.

147. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Coles tabled a report which was noted. In addition, he informed the council that the current waiting list register for housing in Mendip DC is 1,476, of which 92 are listed as wanting accommodation in Glastonbury. Cllr Coles informed that he has received correspondence from the Planning Officer with regards to the Herbies Field application and was assured that it would be determined very soon. Cllr Tucker asked for clarification that the application will be determined by the planning committee and not Officer recommendation. Cllr Coles confirmed that the application will be considered by the Planning Board.

Councillor Brunsdon verbally reported he has been involved in the Planning Boards site visit and subsequent discussions on the property on Bove Town known

as Woodlands. The conclusion was that due to complexity of highways issues, the problems are not easily resolved. He added his disappointment that there was no local presence when the matter was discussed.

Councillor Henderson verbally reported that due to Christmas, pressure of work and some family issues, he had not been quite so proactive as he normally is. He did however inform that the Section 106 request for contributions from Premier Inn needed clarification, particularly being more specific where the monies would be spent and how they are addressing issues arising as a result of the development. Cycle racks, yellow lines and electric car charging points could be supported, yet it is difficult to justify the clearing of the Mill Stream for example. The Fields in Trust involvement in Tor Leisure is progressing, albeit slowly. There is a need to be cautious to ensure that between the transfer of the asset to the Trust doesn't create a void where the field is not protected.

Councillor Cottle informed that he had also been involved in the Bove Town planning meetings. He also praised Mendip DC for their involvement with the Elim initiative and how this was positively portrayed on the BBC Countryfile programme.

148. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Leyshon provided a written report which was **NOTED**. The key messages were the ongoing concerns of the removal of caravans, unauthorised encampments and van dwellings on the highway. The closure of the 1610 facilities at St Dunstan's School, Highways issues, including the resurfacing of Chilwell Street and part of Bere Lane. The transporting of aggregates to Hinkley Point C.

Councillor Napper tabled a written report which was **NOTED**. The key points included were the Counties financial situation, a major road upgrade at Jnc 25 of the M5 and the Somerset Wood project at Cheddon Fitzpaine.

Cllr Thurgood raised a concern of the highways access from the new residential development off the A39 and the current absence of any speed restrictions. In response, Cllr Henderson added that he understood the current access being used by the developers is not the proposed access on completion of the development.

149. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The schedule of payments was presented and duly signed by the Mayor and countersigned by Cllr Black.

150. BUDGET REPORT

The budget report to 8th January 2019 was circulated to Councillors and duly **NOTED**.

151. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATED REPORT ON THE CHARTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Cllr MacDougall presented the revised Charter for the Environment and sought its approval by the Council. Cllr Napper expressed a concern on the opening statement. Cllr Henderson provided clarity on the types of plastic waste that is currently being recycled. Further, he asked if a report on the Weedtech system of weed control could be brought to an appropriate meeting for analysis and discussion. Cllr Tucker informed that a number of the proposed outcomes were

identified as being the responsibility of the Bloom Committee. He suggested the annual review of the Charter should take place in September, enabling any financial recommendations to be included in the budget setting meeting in November. He continued by asking councillors to consider if it is appropriate to transport passengers to the Tor, using a vehicle, rather than encouraging people to walk. Proposed by Cllr Thurgood, seconded by Cllr Michell and **Agreed** that the Environmental Charter be adopted and signed by the Mayor. Cllr Napper abstained.

152. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the last meeting The Mayor had represented the Town on occasions including the Civic Carol Service in St Joh's Church and the Christmas Lunch held in the Town Hall on Christmas day.

153. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Cousins informed that he had attended Glastonbury FM with councillors from other towns on a live broadcast. Cllr Coles was pleased to inform that Glastonbury has been positively portrayed in a cutting taken from the Daily Mail.

154. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

The Clerk informed that there has recently been discussions on the future viability of the Tor Bus service. Whilst the future funding has not yet been resolved, there is no indication if Somerset County Council will continue to support the programme. Councillors emphasised the importance of the Tor Bus service to support the residents of Windmill Hill. The Clerk mentioned that the review was part of the work of the Property and Assets Committee and that councillors are encouraged to input to this work at this relatively early stage.

Work is also underway to understand the complexities of managing the enforcement of car park fees in St Dunstan's car park. A small working group has met with Britannia Parking and are waiting a more detailed report. However, it should be clearly understood from the outset, there is no intention to charge for parking after 6.00pm. A summary of this work will be submitted to the next meeting of the Property and Assets committee in February

155. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor read a letter of appreciation received from a resident who attended the Christmas Day lunch. Volunteers are used effectively to cook and present the lunch which is widely appreciated.

156. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Email from the SCC Public Rights of Way Officer informing that he considered a prosecution was pending to the landowner of the closed footpath off Windmill Hill.
- ii. Letter received from the Leader of Mendip DC inviting Glastonbury to consider applying for funds to regenerate the High Street. The Clerk has read the application form and considered the support for Heritage may be more appropriate, particularly with the Tribunal refurbishment in mind.
- iii. Report from Dr Hugh Sharp updating on the Lalibela programme. The Clerk was asked to write to Dr Sharp to thank him for his continued involvement with this project.

- iv. Avon and Somerset Police newsletter
- v. Report from SCC on the major works programme proposed for Chilkwell Street and Bere Lane in February.

157. PRESS RELEASES

- i. Herbies Field tree planting programme
- ii. Update of the Glastonbury Environmental Charter

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Mayor, 12th February 2019