



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors S Barnet, L Browne, J Coles, J Cousins, S Henderson, J Keery, P Lund, L MacDougall, I Mutch, B Outten, C Prior, S Roney-Dougal M Smyth and I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Cllr Cottle

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillors Leyshon and Napper, Town Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and six members of public.

This meeting was held through electronic means due to the Covid-19 lockdown

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

Subjects raised included:

- Glastonbury Cricket Club
- An understanding of the hardships endured by those living in vans.

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. Cllr Roney-Dougal asked for guidance on when interests should be declared and when it would not be appropriate to speak, or vote on a matter.

153. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

The police report provided by PC Moyse had been previously circulated to Councillors. It is evident that the Beat Team have been incredibly busy and effective in their resolve to ensure the law is upheld and the safety of people in Glastonbury. Cllr Lund raised a concern over the increased presence of beggars in the High Street. Cllr Henderson informed that this concern was identified in the police report and the appropriate place for the continuance of this debate would be with the Police at the regular monthly meeting. Cllr Cousins asked that the Clerk contacts the police beat team and thank them for their commitment and resolve.

154. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the November 10th meeting of the Town Council were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Mayor in due course.

155. TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF:

- a. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on both 19th October and 17th November 2020 were presented by the Chair, Cllr Browne. Both sets of minutes were considered accurate and were accepted by the Council.
- b. The minutes of a meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 30th November 2020 were accepted and approved by the Council.

- c. The meeting of the Youth Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2020 were accepted and approved by the Council. Cllr Barnet asked that it be noted the continued delivery of youth services during the covid lock-down and how in particular the youth leaders have responded so positively during a difficult period.
- d. Whilst the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24th November had been circulated with the agenda, yet the item had not been included on the agenda. The Mayor suspended Standing Orders and received the minutes which were considered an accurate recording of that meeting.

156. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Leyshon informed that most of her involvement in Glastonbury at present are on matters that feature already on the agenda. She did however inform that it is known that there are six apps which identify places for free motorhome parking. Bretenoux Road features on each of them, scoring a five star rating due to the provision of both water and toilets. Engaging with the Highways Authority on continued issues on the High Street associated to the one-way system and road closure has proved a little more difficult recently. It is understood that the authorities priority at this time is setting up a vaccination centre at the Royal Bath and West showground. Cllr Leyshon drew attention to 43 vehicles that were parked on double yellow lines at Stonedown on the previous Sunday. The frustration that NSL, the parking enforcement contractors to the County Council were seemingly unable to ticket vehicles due to concerns of intimidation. Finally, Cllr Leyshon spoke of the concerns relating to the sports cluster of associated organisations trying to engage with the Town Deal Fund and the impending meeting to try and resolve known issues. Cllr Cousins thanked Cllr Leyshon for her tireless work in support of the residents of Glastonbury.

Cllr Napper had submitted a report which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Within his report, he drew attention to various issues including the chalking of pavements, anti-social behaviour, lack of social distancing, and parking on double yellow lines not being enforced. Cllr Tucker asked for clarification on who should take responsibility for administering the enforcement of vehicles that are parked on double yellow lines at Stonedown. In response, Cllr Napper informed that the contract was with NSL and due to the absence of a mandate from the town council to direct the county council, he was unable to be effective in resolving this issue. Cllr Tucker then proposed, seconded by Cllr Keery that Glastonbury Town Council agrees that a mandate in support of enforcement action for parking infringements. This was unanimously **RESOLVED** and supported by councillors. Cllr Tucker also enquired why the issue with access by the fire service through Northload Street in the event of an emergency had not been resolved. Cllr Napper will continue to make representations with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue service and County Highways.

157. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr MacDougall had previously submitted a report which had been circulated to councillors and placed on the councils website. This report was taken as read. Cllr Henderson had previously submitted a written report which had been circulated. He drew attention to the difficulties being encountered between the Football Club and Fusion (Tor Leisure) in respect of their involvement with bidding for the Town Deal funds. A subsequent meeting is to be chaired by Cllr Leyshon in anticipation that a harmonious and workable solution can be found. Cllr Cousins had previously submitted a report which had been circulated and placed on the website. He emphasised his concern that the proposed development of Norbins Road car park his being conducted without adequate prior public consultation on the effect the loss of this parking provision will have on residents and visitors.

158. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2019/2020

Copies of the report and certificate had been circulated with the agenda.

The Auditors reported that except for the matter mentioned below, on the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

- Assets worth £70,000 purchased during the prior year have not been included in Section 2, Box 9.

As the AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review, the auditor instructed the Town Council to ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR.

The Responsible Financial Officer explained that this refers to Herbie's Field and that although it appears in the Council assets register, she had neglected to include it on the Annual Return form. She assured Councillors that the omission did not affect the Income and Expenditure Account for 2019-2020 and as instructed by the Auditor, the error would be corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR. The report and actions to be taken were noted by the Councillors.

159. BUDGET 2021-2022

The RFO reported that the Staffing Committee had accepted the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and postponed the appointment of a Regeneration Officer for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. The costs for that position had now been removed from the budget, along with cost of the Tor Bus for 2020-2021.

The amended budget of £404,539 was considered. It was noted that the amendments had increased the predicted carried forward balance (general reserves) from £48,539 to more acceptable figure of £95,123.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree a budget figure for 2021-2022 of £404,539.

160. PRECEPT 2021-2022

Cllr Browne proposed, seconded by Cllr Colesand unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and set the precept for 2021-2022 at £414,002. This equates to an estimated charge for the parish component of the Council tax as £129.42 per 'D' band property, no change from the previous year.

161. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) presented the budget monitoring report. This report was noted, together with appreciation extended to the RFO for the clarity in the presentation

162. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments was presented and there being no questions and was duly approved

163. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2019/2020

The RFO had previously distributed the external auditors report. There is one item contained within the recommendations that needs to be addressed – inadvertently, Herbies Field had been missed off from the register of assets. This amendment had already been made and the auditor informed.

164. MOTION

Proposed by Cllr Keery and seconded by Cllr Tucker.

Recognising the detrimental impact of Covid-19 on the Town Councils budget and the finite limits of the Town Councils carbon footprint, the appointment of a Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer should initially be made on a one-year contract. Cllr Keery spoke in support of this motion and shared his concerns that a long-term financial commitment could have on the council. Cllr Roney-Dougal and Mutch spoke against the motion, informing that a qualified and experienced officer should be able to attract significant funding to the council through grants and savings. Cllr Keery asked for a named vote which was agreed.

In support of the motion: Cllrs, Browne, Henderson, Keery, Tucker, Lund (5). Against the motion: Cllrs, Roney-Dougal, Barnet, Cousins, Outten, Mutch, MacDougall, Smyth, Prior (8) Cllr Coles abstained. The motion was defeated 8-5-1

165. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

a. Housing and Homelessness

The committee had met the previous evening and the minutes had been distributed. There are a few key actions which the group is looking into including the provision of prefabricated dwellings.

b. Glastonbury in Bloom

This committee had also recently met and whilst it is the closed season for planting, were able to confirm that an order has been placed for 125 self-watering hanging baskets.. More work is required on the quotes from nurseries for the provision of plants before an order can be placed.

c. Climate Emergency

Cllr MacDougall spoke to this group, enquiring if there were any concerns that needed to be considered from the minutes previously circulated.

166. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

a. Community Networking

Cllr Cousins informed that this group had not recently met, yet was encouraged by the suggestion of MIND becoming involved with tending to various flower beds around the time, in support of people struggling with mental illness.

b. Town Deal Fund

Cllr Tucker informed that he was very impressed with the quality of Officers involved with the Town Deal Fund, in particular Tina McEwan and Julie Reader-Sullivan. He continued by informing that the sports cluster had hit a bit of a concern that needs to be addressed. Other clusters, including the community hub and Beckery village are making good progress, with an expectation that the information and detail of each cluster will be included in the bid to be submitted very soon. Cllr Tucker informed that he considered this to be the best opportunity for investment in Glastonbury in a very long time.

167. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A paper previously circulated by the Mayor informed of his actions and activities since the last meeting.

168. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Coles informed that the British Legion poppy appeal raised in excess of £15,000.

Cllr Lund suggested that the Town Council should release a Christmas message relaying the need to work better together, with improved communication. He offered to produce a draft for wider

circulation. Further, it was suggested that the Coronavirus Support group may have contacts which would benefit from the sharing of the Christmas message.
It was reported The Crown Hotel opens again on Wednesday 16th December.

169. CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Browne informed that the CCTV user group is due to convene again soon. She invited comments on the suitability of the current system to enable the sharing of information at the next meeting. The clerk informed that he had received correspondence from CL Planning who are consulting on the building of residential properties on Norbins Road car park. In response to a question raised with the Somerset Waste Partnership, the clerk informed that they would be pleased to consider a trial with Glastonbury Town Council for the collection of recycled materials, although this would have to be done in conjunction with Mendip District Council.

170. NEWS RELEASES

The refurbishment of the tennis courts is to be the focus of a news release once the fencing has been erected.

171. ACTIONS

To invite the Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to speak at the next meeting.
CCTV coverage to be included as an item on the next agenda.

The meeting close at 10.19pm.

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
12th January 2020