



# Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7pm

- PRESENT:** Councillors S Barnet, L Browne, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, P Lund, L MacDougall, I Mutch, B Outten, S Roney-Dougal, M Smyth and I Tucker
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Bishop, Henderson, Keery, Prior and County Cllr Napper
- IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor Leyshon, Town Clerk, two Mace Bearers. Officers present: Michelle Cousak, Tom Rutland, Alex Russell and twelve members of public. A further 17 viewed the live streaming of the meeting.
- Public participation:** Five members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects covered included:

Travellers Land Rights  
Recreation space at Wyrral Park  
Cycling access to the High Street  
Walking Glastonbury  
Traffic calming – Old Wells Road. (It was agreed that this subject is raised formally at the next meeting of the Council)

## 77. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Cousins declared an interest on item 14a, as he is a member of the Town Deal Fund Board.

## 78. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE MULTI AGENCY GROUP (MAG) ON THE SUBJECT OF UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS.

Officers Michele Cousak, Alex Russell and Tom Rutland gave a presentation on the work of the Multi Agency Group. They specifically identified the reasons behind the number of unauthorised encampments, the locations and suggested solutions to reduce their impact. Bretenoux Road, Stonedown Lane and Kennard Moor Drove have benefitted from an enormous amount of research, with recommendations. The presentation provided the various options, together with costings and sources of funding.

Questions and observations raised with the Officers by councillors following the presentation included;

- The need to address the shortfall in housing provision
- The urgency to identify meanwhile, temporary and permanent sites
- That the manufacture of concrete uses a lot of CO2 and to conform with climate and environmental policies, other forms of barrier should be considered.
- Additional signage in the form of *tow away* and *no parking* should be installed.
- When creating a bund at Stonedown, to use the soil on the top of the bunds, to encourage the native plants to regenerate.
- A better understanding of the needs of travellers should be commissioned, particularly supporting ex-service personnel with mental health concerns.
- Sites in other parts of Somerset should also be considered, so that Glastonbury does not carry the burden of encampment provision for the whole county.

- Additional consultation is suggested with travellers and the Gypsy and Romany sector.
- Are there any measures in place to deal with the short-term issues associated with the autumnal equinox?

In his summary, the Mayor thanked the Officers for their hard work and dedication and informed that the Town Council is fully supportive in helping to identify the appropriate solutions to resolve the identified issues.

**79. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN- COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021**

The minutes of the August meeting of the Town Council were approved by council and presented to the Mayor for signing.

**80. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The clerk informed that:

- The Police have declined the offer of a dedicated mobile telephone.
- The National Trust are to take the lead responsibility for responding to activities on and around the Tor.
- That the idea of supporting walk in and around Glastonbury has concluded with a grant application being submitted to Mendip DC for £5,000 to produce promotional material.
- The response compiled in response to Sunlit Solar's involvement with the town council was circulated to Councillors.

**81. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT by Sgt Lancey**

Sergeant Lancey was present and started by acknowledging the level of support the Glastonbury Beat Team receive from the town council. He provided examples of the work that the team are leading on, which includes engaging with the Multi Agency Group, supporting NSL with parking management and safeguarding citizens. During questions, specific incidents were cited which were to. In summary of the complicated policing requirements in Glastonbury, Sgt Lancey stated that whilst it is acknowledged that Glastonbury is a very special place, people are not outside of the law. He also endorsed his commitment as a police officer to support the Beat Team in the resolve to tackle crime and disorder in the town.

**82. TO RECEIVE THE RESOLUTIONS OF:**

- a) The meeting of the Planning Committee on held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021
- b) The meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

A summary of the resolutions had been previously distributed. No additional questions were raised.

**83. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Leyson informed that an enormous amount of the work that she is directly involved with in Glastonbury has been previously reported. In addition, she will follow up with County Highways why the introduction of the 20MPH zone around the town has not been delivered. It was suggested that the concerns of Old Wells Road as identified during public participation are discussed more fully at the next meeting of the town council.

**84. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr MacDougall submitted a report which was previously circulated and placed on the councils website.

Cllr Cousins informed that he has attended an audit committee meeting.

Cllr Cottle raised a concern of rats near the reservoir at the top of Leg of Mutton Road. He has attended meetings of the scrutiny committee and planning committee in the past month. He has also involved with the engagement of a bailiff and acknowledged the support provided by the District Councils housing team in resolving the matter. He expressed a concern that housing debt may increase due to the pressures of lower incomes and covid restrictions.

**85. MOTION (a)** Proposed by Cllr Roney-Dougal, Seconded by Cllr Cousins:

*This Council resolves to declare an Ecological Emergency – recognising that the planet is experiencing an Ecological as well as a Climate Emergency – and will take this into account in any decisions made.*

Cllr Roney-Dougal spoke in support of this motion, referring to the paper circulated by the Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer.

The motion was unanimously **AGREED** 12-0-0

**(b)** Proposed by Cllr Smyth, Seconded Cllr MacDougall:

*That Glastonbury Town Council writes to the Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick MP. To request that Glastonbury is an exception to the proposal of 2022 elections and that our town council election remains on the original date of 2023.*

Cllr Smyth presented the motion, informing that to introduce a date change for the next elections by bringing them forward to May 2022 could have an impact on Glastonbury. The reasoning for this concern is due to the progress being made with resolving the issues associated with unauthorised encampments and the work of preparing the business cases for twelve projects within the town deal fund. In response, a councillor expressed a concern that being out of synchronisation with other councils will cost the town council more and that turnout would be lower.

Cllr Coles proposed, Cllr Lund seconded that this decision be deferred for one month and presented again at the October meeting of the council. This proposal was **DEFEATED** by majority. 0-6-6.

The original motion was then voted on and it was **RESOLVED** by majority that the clerk is to write to the Secretary of State expressing Glastonbury Town Councils vies on this subject. Cllr Leyshon suggested that the monitoring officer at SCC Scott Wooldridge should also be informed. 5-1-6

**86. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The budget monitoring report have been previously circulated and raised no questions. The summary document was signed by the Mayor

**87. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The schedule of payments was received without any questions being raised and then duly signed by the Mayor.

Cllr Oaten left the meeting at this point

**88. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

- a. **Frost Fair.** Cllr Tucker informed that a positive meeting had recently been held with many positive outputs resolved and implemented. He added that the intention is to have signage informing when the Car Parks are full which will hopefully deter people from parking dangerously. It is intended to place some stalls in Archers Way and to relocate the fire engine to the top of the High Street.
- b. **Climate Emergency** Cllr Roney-Dougal Informed that the group is behind the encouragement improvements to signage and information relating to walks around the town. The litter picking campaigns have been well attended and received. Cllr

Keery is to attend the next one. A *Repair Café* has been set up in St Edmunds Hall for one Saturday per month between 10.00am and noon. Cllr Smyth enquired the availability of the Town Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> October to support COP26. (*The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26.*)

#### **89. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

- a. **Town's Fund** Due to the length of the meeting, Cllr Tucker provided a brief summary of the work of the Towns Fund. He informed that Cllr Jon Cousins was now a member of the Board. A summary of a news release had been tabled and Cllr Tucker pointed out the need for each of the twelve projects to involve with wider consultation in preparation for the writing of a business plan in support of each application. The council were reminded of the consultation event planned for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for the St Dunstan's House Community Hub and Well-being centre.

#### **90. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Browne had previously tabled a summary of the work in preparing for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration in June 2022. A wider community engagement programme is taking place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October in the Town Hall

#### **91. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to bring to the attention of the meeting.

#### **92. NEWS RELEASES**

No items of news were identified.

#### **93. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING.**

Actions from the meeting included

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor  
12th October 2021