



# Glastonbury Town Council

**Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Barnet, L Browne, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, P Lund, J Keery, I Mutch, B Outten, S Roney-Dougal, M Smyth and I Tucker

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Bishop, Cottle, MacDougall, Prior and County Cllr Napper

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor Leyshon, Town Clerk, two Mace Bearers. 17 members of the public were in attendance. A further 4 viewed the live streaming of the meeting.

**Public participation:** Five members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects covered included:

Pardon for Abbot Richard Whiting  
Travellers Land Rights  
Rough sleeping  
Tor Leisure and Glastonbury Cricket Club

## **94. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Cousins declared an interest on item 14a, as he is a member of the Town Deal Fund Board. Cllrs Tucker and Henderson declared an interest in item 20, as they are both Trustees of the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust.

## **95. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN- COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

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

## **96. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The clerk informed that the only action to be followed up was to include on the current agenda an item on traffic calming on Old Wells Road.

## **97. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT**

The police report prepared by PC Karen Upshall had been previously tabled. There were no questions or comments arising from the report.

## **98. TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON OLD WELLS ROAD**

Cllr Mutch informed that traffic calming and inappropriate signage is an issue causing frustration on the junction of Benedict Street and Garvins Road, resulting in much correspondence with the highways department.

Cllr Leyshon added that Old Wells Road had not been included in the current 20MPH zones recently incorporated in and around Glastonbury. She offered to engage with the department in an attempt to identify the appropriate measures required to improve the situation

#### **99. TO RECEIVE THE RESOLUTIONS OF:**

- a) The meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021
- b) The meeting of the Property and Assets Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- c) The meeting of the Youth Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

A summary of the resolutions had been previously distributed, although the detail of the recent youth committee meeting had not been distributed. Cllr Barnet provided an update on the three actions from the recent meeting:

- Change of worker within the YMCA delivering youth support at the Windmill Hill youth club.
- That a grant to support post covid activity in the form of family counselling had been received.
- The grant offered to the Tor Theatre group has been withdrawn as they were unable to deliver the project which funds had been applied for.

No additional questions were raised.

#### **100. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Leyshon informed that many organisations are currently digging up the roads to gain access. Therefore, passage around the town was particularly slow in some areas. Bristol Water, Wessex Water and Truespeed are all undertaking ground works. Truespeed are inviting people to join them for a walk around the key locations in Glastonbury where improvements to broadband speed are being installed. This will be followed by a light lunch to which all councillors have been invited to participate.

One.network is proving an informative site for all things relating to highways works. Councillors are recommended to visit this site for updates on events in and around Glastonbury.

Questions to Cllr Leyshon included a concern about a damaged bollard on Chilkwell Street and the broken wicket gate between the Paradise estate and the by-pass. The Clerk is to meet with Cllr Leyshon to review the most appropriate ways to reinstate a safe path at this location.

#### **101. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr MacDougall submitted a report which was previously circulated and placed on the councils website. From within this report, it was noted that the Local Plan II has recently been adopted by Mendip DC. Cllr Cousins informed that there was now a need for the Neighbourhood Plan group to reconvene and he sought additional volunteers. Cllr Smyth, Roney-Dougal, Browne and Barnet all volunteered to join the Neighbourhood Plan group.

Cllr Henderson reported that he had attended a meeting of the sports cluster, the project within the Town Deal fund. The English Cricket Board (ECB) were present and had proved incredibly helpful with signposting the team appropriately. The football club have asked if they can present to the Town Council at the November meeting.

#### **102. MOTION (a) Proposed by Cllr Roney-Dougal, Seconded by Cllr Barnet:**

*This Council supports the petition requesting that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant a formal pardon for Abbot Richard Whiting on the Jubilee celebration of her reign.*

This motion was approved by majority 7-0-5

#### **(b) Proposed by Cllr Mutch, Seconded Cllr Smyth:**

*Glastonbury Town Council would welcome the observance of protocols to make public the identity and banking arrangements of all private companies that are awarded NHS contracts. We feel the public would be hugely reassured to know that only those companies that bank and pay taxes in the British mainland are considered for such contracts.*

Cllr Keery proposed an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Cllr Smyth. The amendment now reads as follows:

*Glastonbury Town Council would welcome the observance of protocols to make public the identity and banking arrangements of all companies that are awarded NHS contracts. We feel the public would be hugely reassured to know that only those companies that bank and pay taxes in the British mainland are considered for such contracts. The Council is to write to James Heapey MP and ask him to support the request for additional information.*

The motion was approved by majority 11-0-1

### **103. 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. The clerk was asked to contact the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO Jane Czornij and thank her for the explanations that accompanied the report.

### **104. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

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

### **105. EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2020/2021**

The External Auditor has contacted the council to inform that an amendment is required on the Annual Return. This amendment has been advertised and needed to be formally presented to the town council to record the action taken.

*The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) was informed by the auditor that the insurance claim of £1,131 received for repair to the car park ticket machine due to vandalism, should not have been recorded as 'total other receipts'. Including it as income could artificially inflate both the income and expenditure of the council, which would be misleading to readers of the accounts. The figure was therefore amended by the RFO.*

Further, it was noted that an error in reporting the total borrowings needed an adjustment in the presentation. *The auditor identified an error in reporting which was subsequently amended by the RFO. This matter had been previously raised by Councillor Tucker at the June 2021 Council Meeting.*

All amendments were signed by the Mayor, Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

### **106. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

#### **a. Frost Fair.**

All of the pitches for the Frost Fair have been taken. Mandie Stone has offered to organise the lantern parade and Cllr Roney-Dougal will involve with Archers Way and the churchyard activities. Cllr Henderson has offered to organise the music stages at the different locations around the town. It was suggested that the garden of St Dunstan's House be used as a display for the 12 projects of the Town Deal Fund.

#### **b. Glastonbury in Bloom**

The Town Council were delighted to learn that they had been awarded the Gold award in the Champion of Champions class in the recent SW in Bloom competition. Further, the town hall was identified as the best floral display on a municipal building and were awarded the Abbis cup for this achievement. The clerk was asked to get the signage changed at the various points around the town. Cllr Cousins requested that all staff are thanked for their part in delivering the successful bloom exhibits.

**c. Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The colour scheme for next year's SW in Bloom entry will likely include the patriotic colours to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Any trees planted between now and next June are to be recorded as they will feature on the 'canopy cover plan' that the Queen is supporting.

**d. Climate Emergency**

An evening of presentations is planned on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to coincide with the COP26 programme and will take place in the main hall. An event is organised for the entire day on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the small hall. The Repair Café initiative located at St Edmunds Hall is proving to be a great success, with the next session planned for 16<sup>th</sup> October. A banner advertising the involvement of the Town Council with Sunlit Solar has been received and will be displayed.

**107. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

**a. Town's Fund**

The presentation by each project lead to the town fund project board on 1<sup>st</sup> October had been well received. There continues to be much to do to bring forward the business case for each project, which is on-going. The two projects directly involving the town council are both on track with a second consultation planned for health professionals on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

The clerk was asked to circulate to all Councillors the detail of each of the project leads and also the summary of the consultation gathered from St Dunstan's House.

**108. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor informed that an evening with Street Parish Council recently identified two key areas where further collaborative involvement could be considered, youth provision and support for people struggling with their mental health.

Cllr Coles informed that the location for landing the air ambulance in an emergency was becoming overgrown and is needing attention. This has been reported to Mendip DC for their attention.

Cllr Smyth informed that the current industrial action at Clarks in Street unfortunately affects many Glastonbury residents.

**109. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received was for the Truespeed event on 4<sup>th</sup> November which has been circulated to all Councillors.

**110. NEWS RELEASES**

The success in the SW In Bloom competition was suggested as a news release. Also, the town councils support for the petition to pardon Abbot Richard Whiting was also identified.

**111. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING.**

Actions from the meeting included:

- A site visit between the clerk and Cllr Leyshon to identify a solution to gates on footpaths off the by-pass.
- To contact the Responsible Financial Officer and thank her for the explanatory notes accompanying the budget statement.
- To contact Sol-Electrical and inform that one of the EV charging points is not working.

- To contact the Town Deal Communications team and make them aware that one of the accelerator projects (purchase of self-watering hanging baskets) contributed to the success in the SW in Bloom competition.
- Draft a letter from the Mayor to council staff involved with the bloom displays to thank them for their efforts.
- To make the necessary arrangements to change the signage informing of our bloom success.
- Circulate the information on Town Deal project leads to all councillors
- Contact the Town Deal team and enquire if they would permit a display of projects in St Dunstan's garden during Frost Fair week.

**112. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

The press and public were excluded from the council chamber and the recording equipment was disconnected.

The Clerk read out an email received from Mendip DC asking if the land the Town Council owns on Common Moor Drove could be considered as a temporary travellers transit site. Cllr Smyth proposed, seconded by Cllr Barnet that the Town Council supports the temporary location of approximately 11 units of accommodation on to land owned by the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust (BIRT). Councillors Tucker and Henderson abstained from voting as they are members of the BIRT Trustees. This amended motion was approved  
9-0-1

The original request by the District Council to consider the use of Common Moor Drove land was then discussed and a vote taken. The motion was rejected by majority 4-6-2

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2021