



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors: C Bishop, J Coles, N Cottle, J Cousins, S Henderson, J Keery, L MacDougall, S Roney-Dougal, M Smyth and A White

APOLOGIES: Cllr Tucker. County Councillor Leyshon

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk, Transitional Town Clerk. Police and Crime Commissioner Mark Shelford. Curtis Lakin (Mendip DC)

173. TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MENDIP DC ON THE PSPO DRAFT

A proposal for the introduction of a public space protection order (PSPO) to assist in the regulation of unauthorised encampments had been previously circulated to councillors by email and hard copy. At the January meeting of the town council, it was agreed that a separate meeting was required to ensure the paper was given sufficient time for a full discussion.

The Mayor introduced the paper and asked if the sentence under the heading *Why are the Council considering the introduction of this PSPO* was incomplete? In response, it transpired that the sentence describing the purpose of the report was incomplete and should read: *'Due to the unsustainable volume of van dwellers who can create **issues and community tensions**, the council are wanting to take back control and be able to reduce the impact on local communities'*.

Councillors discussed the context and concluded that some of the language used in the report was inappropriate e.g. 'to take back control' (which it was suggested could be replaced with 'to restore a balance'); with recommendations that this is revisited prior to wider circulation. Some Councillors felt that the PSPO appeared to imply that a) all van dwellers were a public nuisance and b) that the act of living in a van was in itself somehow perceived as anti-social behaviour. There were four suggested outcomes for the report and the majority of Councillors supported the statement that 'more information is required' before they are able to make a recommendation. In summary, the response to Mendip DC will suggest that the paper needs to be amended to provide more information, tone down some of the statements and language used. Curtis Lakin was asked if he had received sufficient guidance from the council on the suggested next steps and he replied that he had. It is intended that the comments of the council will be considered and the report amended prior to wider circulation.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
8th February 2022

