



# Glastonbury Town Council

## Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7pm

- PRESENT:** Councillors S Barnet, C Bishop (until 8.10pm), J Coles, J Cousins, N Cottle, S Henderson, P Lund (from 7.45pm), J Keery, L MacDougall, I Mutch, S Roney-Dougal, M Smyth, I Tucker and A White
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr Prior. County Councillor Napper
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk, two Mace Bearers, Transitional Town Clerk. 12 members of the public were in attendance. A further 10 viewed the live streaming of the meeting. County Councillor Leyshon.
- Public participation:** Three members of the public spoke during public participation. The subjects covered included:
- Public Space Protection Orders and the travellers community
  - Litter picking and the impact on visitors
  - Chalking the High Street and other issues that impact tourists

### **211. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllrs Tucker, Cousins and Roney-Dougal declared an interest in item 15 as they are involved in delivering various Town Deal projects.

Cllrs Cousins and Barnet in item 14c as they are involved with Avalon Community Energy

### **212. TO PRESENT THE 2021/22 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR CERTIFICATE**

The Mayor was pleased to present the Citizen of the Year award to Liz Leyshon for her tireless efforts, drive and determination in helping the residents and council to overcome issues.

### **213. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN- COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March required minor amendments and having made the changes, were considered accurate and then duly signed by the Mayor.

The minutes of a special meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March were considered accurate and were signed by the Mayor.

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

There were two actions from the previous meeting:

- a. for the clerk to contact Mendip DC and enquire what future support was planned following the reduction in financial support for Elim
- b. To fly the Ukrainian flag from the town hall

Both actions have been completed and were shared with the council

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

PC Upshall had previously submitted a written report which was placed on the town council website. The key points were the increase in the number of beggars and the increase of anti-social behaviour in and around St Johns Church.

The clerk as asked to enquire why there appears not to have been an opportunity provided for a 'meet the police event' in Glastonbury, as other towns in Mendip had this opportunity provided.

Cllr Barnett reminded the council that the success of the mini police engagement came as a result of a youth grant awarded to St Benedicts school at the end of last year.

Councillors expressed support for the police involvement with the Multi Agency Group (MAG) and their part in resolving the issues at Stonedown.

#### **216. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE RESOLUTIONS OF:**

Planning Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and the Property and Assets Committee held on 23rd March 2022. The resolutions had been tabled.

#### **217. RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Napper submitted a written report which expressed his disappointment at not being able to be present at this his last meeting representing the County Council in the Glastonbury and Street Division.

Cllr Leyshon provided a verbal report which covered the following:

- The recent Tor Leisure open event that was part of the consultation associated to the Town Deal fund. The project has been described as being part building rebuild, part playing fields provision, and part providing open access space for recreation. Cllr Leyshon informed that there are posters that accompanied the event which will be circulated. The intention is to provide recreational football and cricket facilities. Currently awaiting revised architect drawings before another round of consultation.
- The Multi Agency Group (MAG) has revised its plans for Bretenoux Road which now includes two way traffic down the entire length, together with a cycle and footway for pedestrians. Double yellow lines will feature on both sides of the road.
- The MAG group continue to work on identifying appropriate sites both temporary and permanent for travellers. A health outreach worker has been appointed to work with the travelling community. There is no more consultation as the recently announced project is final.
- Concerns were expressed about the purchase of second hand caravans and the issues associated with non-payment of rent.

Councillors enquired why the Beckery Road has not been appropriately blocked off, to prevent a new encampment of travellers vans. Cllr Leyshon referred to the situation a cyclical evictions, when people keep moving on due to authority intervention

The clerk was asked to write to both Councillors Napper and Leyshon to thank them for their hard work over recent years for the good of the town and residents.

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

Cllr MacDougall had prepared a written report which has been placed on the councils website.. Her report focussed on the planning decision to refuse consent for an IT mast, Wessex Water discharge levels into rivers and streams, Somerset bus partnership and the low satisfaction rates of this, the Community Development Trust are looking for volunteers, an opportunity to apply for carpets and curtains through Avalon Community Energy and appropriate housing provision.

Cllr Henderson had nothing to report.

Cllr Cottle informed that it was a relatively quiet period. He also spoke about the need for appropriate housing on land in appropriate locations. A concern was expressed about the width of the Stonedown verge, which may be big enough for a small tent.

Cllr Cousins informed that he has attended the Standards Board and the Axe and Brue Drainage Board. He clarified that District Councillors remain in position until 2023.

Cllr Keery enquired if any progress has been made with the transfer of the St Dunstons car park asset to the town council. The clerk informed that there has been no more progress, yet would follow this up and report to a future meeting.

#### **219. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

The budget monitoring report was presented and approved. The Responsible Financial Officer is to be applauded for the way the budget is presented.

#### **220. TO RECEIVE THE SCHEULE OF PAYMENTS**

The Schedule of Payments was presented and approved.

#### **221. TO RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE RESPOSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER TO EXTEND INSURANCE COVER WITH ZURICH FOR THREE YEARS**

A paper detailing the current insurance costs, together with a three year plan was presented to the council. By agreeing to a three year plan, the premium remains at a constant fee, some £700 lower than the annual fee. The recommendation from the Responsible Financial Officer is to accept the recommendation. Cllr MacDougal expressed a concern about the investment by insurance companies in to fossil fuels and proposed that further research is taken before commitment, seconded by Cllr Smyth. This motion was defeated 12 – 0 – 1. Cllr Barnet proposed, seconded by Cllr Tucker and **RESOLVED** that the offer from Zurich insurance is accepted 12 – 0 – 1.

#### **222. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE THAT THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING IS RESCHEDULED TO TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

The Standing Orders inform that council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The Clerk requested that the May meeting of the council is held on the third Tuesday – 17<sup>th</sup> May as this will give a little more time for training and familiarisation of the role of a councillor, as well as ensuring the first meeting is held within 14 days of an election. Proposed by Cllr Cottle, seconded by Cllr MacDougal and **AGREED** by majority. 10 – 0 – 3

#### **223. REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

##### **a. Glastonbury in Bloom**

Cllr Cousins informed the meeting that a request for a 1,000 litre IPC container be placed on Fishers Hill to enable regular watering of the many new plants placed in the area. Cllr Roney-Dougal supported the idea. The clerk interjected and raised a number of concerns that have to be resolved prior to the placement of any structure at this location. Assurances on the safety of a container is required, knowledge that legionnaires disease will not be an issue and confirmation that insurance is available, as the land is not owned by the Town Council. Cllr Keery raised a subsequent motion, seconded by Cllr Henderson that the Fishers Hill plants are watered with the use of the mobile watering system until such time as the issues raised are resolved. This motion was **RESOLVED** by majority 10 – 2 – 1

Concern was raised regarding the uneven pavement near the Co op store on the High Street. Cllr Leyshon offered to photograph the area and report to the appropriate Highways Officer.

##### **b. Climate Emergency**

Cllr Roney-Dougal reflected on the progress the council has made in the last three years on

matters relating to climate emergency. She identified the employment of a Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer in Melissa Taylor as being a major achievement. The purchase of an electric vehicle, resolving of the solar panels issues on the town hall roof, the open day organised in support of COP26, two People's Assemblies, the introduction of a community fridge, installation of two water fountains, left luggage facilities, community notice board, cycle racks, a partnership with Sunlit Solar to install solar panels on residential properties and progress on creating a third allotment site.

The opportunity to borrow a thermal imaging camera to help identify where heat is escaping from properties is encouraged. There remains an opportunity to organise a Citizens Assembly once the next council has been identified.

#### **c. Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Cousins reported that there are a number of celebrations planned to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II platinum jubilee. The planting of a pencil oak was the first celebration. Other activities include the recital of a mummings play, a celebration of St Dunstan, a pilgrimage walk on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the lighting of a beacon on the Tor in the evening, which it is understood the BBC are to run an outside broadcast from. A pageant in the High Street on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June will conclude with a street tea party.

#### **d. Neighbourhood Plan**

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm, where all are welcome to attend.

### **224. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **a. Town's Fund**

The business plans have been completed for the five projects in cohort one. All of these projects will progress to the submission stage of the application process. Applications will have to be scrutinised within Mendip DC and the Section 151 Officer before being submitted. The second cohort of applications includes the Community Hub and Wellbeing Centre. Cllr Tucker then used the opportunity to reminisce on almost 50 years as a town councillor. He encouraged the next generation of councillors to have vision and plan strategically the long-term vision of the council

### **225. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor attended a vigil at the peace pole for Ukraine on 19<sup>th</sup> March  
A service in Wells Cathedral on 20<sup>th</sup> March to welcome the new High Sheriff of Somerset  
The launch of an exhibition at Heart of the Tribe on 7<sup>th</sup> April  
The judging of the Easter Bonnet competition with the Forget Me Not club on 12<sup>th</sup> April

### **226. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The reception to reward Michael Eavis with the Freedom of the town of Glastonbury is to take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May commencing at 7.00pm. No partners invited, except John Keery, Ian Tucker and John Coles who are each retiring from the council.

Cllr Keery recited a closing presentation where he remembered his years as a councillor, in particular the visit to Glastonbury in Connecticut USA which 80 people from Glastonbury attended. He urged the next council to be open minded about addressing the issues of the shortage of housing and encouraged the council to consider owning housing stock, as it did many years ago.

## 227. CORRESPONDENCE

A petition has been received regarding the flying of the Ukrainian flag over the Town Hall. The clerk has sought guidance from NALC and can confirm that the correct procedures have been followed.

## 228. NEWS RELEASES

Recognising that we are currently in a period of purdah, the only news release is the retirement of three long serving councillors after a total of more than 100 years between them.

## 229. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING.

To resolve the watering requirement at Fishers Hill

To attend to the uneven pavement at the Co-op.

To determine if our insurance provider invests in fossil fuels

To pursue the asset transfer of St Dunstan's car park to the town council

To formally write to the two County Councillors and thank them for their support during their term of office.

To circulate the poster recently used at the Tor Leisure consultation event

To understand why there are no advertised police activities in Glastonbury.

### CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

## 230. TO CONSIDER A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND MOTION

A confidential paper had been circulated prior to the meeting where a representative from the Tutu Foundation had met with the Mayor and Clerk. Prem Rawat is an ambassador for estranged people and has over his life time raised millions of pounds to help deliver support and services to many oppressed people in desperate communities. Prem Rawat will be attending the Glastonbury Festival in June and the Mayor would like to host a civic reception to welcome him to Glastonbury. The cost is anticipated to be £250 and will be taken from the civic fund which has sufficient funds to cover the costs of the proposed reception. Cllr Cousins proposed, seconded by Cllr Cottle and **RESOLVED** by majority that the council is to host Prem Rawat to a civic reception in June. 10 – 0 - 2

Finally – the clerk read a statement of appreciation to the councillors for the support provided over a very challenging three year period. Council responded by thanking the clerks office for a vibrant period in the history of the council. A glass of wine and a piece of cake were used to celebrate the occasion.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Worshipful Mayor  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2022