



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

| Minutes of Full Council held on 10 January, 2023 at 7pm | |
|--|--|
| Councillors Present | R. Cook, J. Cousins, I. Donfrancesco, Lokabandhu, P. Manning, I. Mutch, T. Napper, M. Oakden, L. Osborn, Z. Price, S. Roney-Dougal, M. Smyth, M. White |
| Apologies | Cllrs Cottle, Henderson, County Councillor Hart and Alderman Keery |
| In Attendance | Town Clerk, 2 Macebearers, a representative from Mendip District Council and 3 members of the public |
| Public Participation | 1 member of the public spoke during public participation. The subject raised included: 1. Fisher's Hill Recreation Ground |

184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Henderson, Cottle, County Councillor Hart and Alderman Keery gave their apologies owing to family and personal commitments.

185. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cousins declared interests as a member of the Town Deal Board and as a Director of the Glastonbury Information Centre and Avalon Community Energy. Cllr Oakden declared an interest as a Director of the Glastonbury Information Centre. Cllr Manning declared an interest as a member of the Town Deal Board and as a Trustee of the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust. Cllr White declared an interest as a member of the Town Deal Board. Cllr Roney-Dougal declared an interest as a member of the Friends of Brides Mound.

186. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER 2022

Cllr Osborn raised a matter arising regarding a breach of planning condition, this is to be passed to Mendip District Council.

The minutes of both meetings were duly **SIGNED** as a correct record by the Mayor.

187. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Town Clerk updated members regards actions raised at the last meeting. The feedback received regarding Remembrance Weekend had been passed on to the Projects and Events Officer who would liaise with the Mayor and Vicar for 2023's arrangements. The Police's recommendations regarding planting at the War Memorial were passed to the Glastonbury in Bloom Advisory Committee to consider. The Unitary Authority was written to regarding the charging of business rates between precepting Authorities and an update had been subsequently

circulated to members. The consultation on the Manor House Road/Wells Road telephone kiosk is underway between the Glastonbury in Bloom Clerk and Cllr Manning. The Warm Space has been agreed in terms of dates and times and will be advertised using the Town Council website, social media, the local Somerset War Spaces Map and the National Map. The Use of S106 funding from Mendip District Council had been clarified and investigations were ongoing as to a piece of land offered to Glastonbury Town Council as part of another development in the parish.

188. TO NOTE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM UPDATE AND LATEST CRIME STATISTICS REPORT

Members **NOTED** the latest update and asked the Town Clerk to liaise with the Police regarding the categorisation of crimes.

189. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL REGARDING THE 'ENABLING PROJECT' AS PART OF THE GLASTONBURY TOWN DEAL AND CONSIDER ISSUING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

Members received an update from the Head of Service for Planning and Growth at Mendip District Council on the status of the 'Enabling Project' which is providing a combined permanent and transit traveller's site in Glastonbury.

Cllr White proposed that a letter of support is written to Mendip District Council for the project. This was seconded by Cllr Roney-Dougal and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

190. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Cllr Roney-Dougal raised a query on the report which was forwarded to the Responsible Finance Officer.

Members extended a vote of thanks to the entire Frost Fayre team, volunteers and officers who collectively made the day such a success and for the net surplus it made to ensure the event is sustainable.

The report was **NOTED**.

191. TO CONSIDER THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Members considered the schedule of payments and following clarification from the Town Clerk to queries from Cllrs Donfrancesco, Roney-Dougal, Manning and Cousins, was duly **SIGNED** by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

192. TO CONSIDER AND SET THE BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

Cllr Smyth proposed that the budget for Footpaths and Rights of Way be increased from £150 to £1,000 and that the budget then be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr White and **RESOLVED** by majority.

193. TO CONSIDER AND SET THE PRECEPT DEMAND FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

Since the last meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 6 December 2022, the 2023-24 Tax Base figures had been received from Mendip District Council. The Tax Base increase of 3.49% had an impact on the budget and Precept for 2023-24.

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk on this impact with several options to consider. Finance and General Purposes previously agreed to recommend a 52% increase to the budget and therefore a 52% increase to households. However, the increased Tax Base meant that the Town Council could both increase the overall budget and simultaneously reduce the burden on individual households because more households were paying Council Tax.

Cllr Price raised that the Council should distribute a leaflet to all households explaining the increase to the Precept and signpost to ward the available relief from the new Unitary Authority which increases from 80% relief currently under Mendip District Council to up to 100% relief.

Cllr Roney-Dougal proposed that the Town Clerk's recommendation and set the precept at £650,924 for 2023-24. This represents an income of £650,924 and Band D precept of £200, a 50% increase in financial terms to households, but an increase of 55% to the Town Council budget owing to the increased tax base. The financial burden on households is less than was previously agreed without the updated tax base figures for Glastonbury. However, as the overall income is increased because of the tax base, it offers an opportunity for the Town Council to become more financially resilient than previously forecast with a lesser burden on residents. Glastonbury Town Council is projected to have the second-lowest precept of a large parish (Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street and Wells) in Mendip for 2023-24. This was seconded by Cllr Lokabandhu and **RESOLVED** by majority.

In light of the accepted budget and the precept demand set, Cllr Cousins proposed that Glastonbury Town Council seek to take out a Public Works Loan Board loan of £100,000 to undertake the suite of works in St Dunstan's car park. This was seconded by Cllr Oakden and **RESOLVED** by majority.

Cllr Price requested that the vote of thanks be extended to the Town Clerk for his work helping members understand the financial situation of the Town Council and all of the options regards setting the Precept.

194. TO CONSIDER SETTING A DATE FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THIS COUNCIL ON THE SUBJECT OF HIGHWAYS WORKS

Members considered dates including 19 or 25 of January to hold an extraordinary meeting. The Town Clerk is to liaise with the County Councillors and set the best date.

195. TO NOTE THE RESOLUTIONS OF DELEGATED COMMITTEES

The following resolutions were **NOTED**:

a) Resilience Committee held on 12th December 2022

- It was proposed, seconded, and agreed unanimously, to invite a reputable solar installer to visit the town hall, and advise the best viable way to install solar power. Then to plan and cost this, and submit a planning application.
- With a priority of energy efficiency, it was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously to get quotes for secondary glazing, insulation improvements, and door closers.
- After reviewing the draft terms of reference for the Climate & Ecological Emergency Committee, some minor changes were made, and have been approved by this committee, once reviewed by the CEEAC.

Cllr White, as Chair of the Resilience Committee, further added that the Climate Emergency and Resilience Officer is investigating energy saving measure for the Town Hall.

196. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION

No advisory committee meetings had been held since the last Full Council meeting.

197. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Cottle advised the Town Clerk before the meeting that a written update was delayed but would be circulated after the meeting.

County Councillor Hart had not circulated a written report and was not present at the meeting.

198. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors Cousins and MacDougall gave updates to members about meetings attended on behalf of the District Council.

199. TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Lokabandhu gave an update to members on behalf of St Edmund's Community Hall and the work being undertaken by the Board of Trustees, including all St Edmund's Ward Members, to see that the works to the Hall are completed and the year-end finances are signed off.

200. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked those who worked toward and those who were present at the Holy Thorn Cutting Ceremony. He also reflected on the remarkable effort undertaken to organise the community Christmas lunch in the Town Hall. Cllr Donfrancesco raised that thanks should be given to the team of Caretakers at the Town Hall who assisted with the event setting up and down. Cllrs White and Price reflected that there was a feeling of joy around the event, and that there were many people to thanks including the 'army' of volunteers and mass of donations.

201. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk updated members on the progress of works at Abbey Park. Cllr Cook raised a broken manhole cover and this is to be raised with Mendip District Council.

202. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk raised that the Police Inspector had asked if a member of Glastonbury Town Council would wish to be involved in the interviews of a PCSO Supervisor for the Neighbourhood Team. Cllr Osborn indicated her availability and wish to take part and the Town Clerk would put Cllr Osborn and the Inspector in touch to arrange details.

203. NEWS RELEASES

Works at Abbey Park will be promoted as will the opening ceremony of the new Basketball and Netball Practice Court.

204. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

The Town Clerk had captured the actions arising from the meeting, including: seeing that Cllr Osborn's allegation of a breached planning condition is passed to Mendip District Council, that queries are raised with the police as to the categorisation of crimes, various financial points for clarification be passed to the Responsible Finance Officer, that a draft Precept Leaflet is brought to the next meeting, arranging the extraordinary meeting on the subject of highways, ensuring a link between Cllr Osborn and the Inspector for the PCSO Supervisory Interviews, raising the broken manhole in Abbey Park with Mendip District Council and advertising the Warm Space in the Town Hall.

205. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 February 2023

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| SIGNED: | DATE: |
|----------------|--------------|