



Glastonbury Town Council

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7pm

- PRESENT:** Councillors S Barnet, L Browne, J Coles, J Cousins, S Henderson, J Keery, P Lund, L MacDougall, D Michell, I Mutch, B Outten, M Smyth, S Roney-Dougal and I Tucker.
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr Cottle, Prior and County Councillor Napper
- IN ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk
County Councillor Leyshon
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177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk approved a dispensation on all councillors to allow them to speak on property and land owned by the Town Council. Cllrs Tucker and Henderson declared an interest as trustees of BIRT. Cllrs Barnet and Roney-Dougal declared interest in Brides Mound.

178. TOWNS FUND

Cllr Tucker informed of the opportunity the Town Deal Fund provides to regenerate Glastonbury. He called upon the Town Clerk to update the council on progress since the first Board meeting which was held on 31st January. This summary included:

- Progress on appointing additional board members, including interviews held on 2nd March for two community and youth representatives.
- Cllr Leyshon informed that neither she nor Cllr Napper are to represent the County Council on the Board. (Subsequently, Cllr Keery proposed, seconded by Cllr Henderson and unanimously **AGREED** that the clerk is to write to the SCC Leader requesting Cllr Leyshon represents the County Council on the Board).
- An emphasis that the £25m funding was the maximum available and is most definitely not guaranteed.
- A statement that the full detailed prospectus with guidelines on the processes involved with researching and submitting a prospectus are still awaited.
- The scoping study submitted to Mendip DC requesting £32,900 funding for the consultation, research and reporting of the subject areas of employers, environment, tourism and events was unlikely to progress as Glastonbury Town Council is not on the list of preferred consultants.
- Having discussed with Health Service professionals, it was considered there was insufficient expertise within the council to research and consult on the health sector.

- The attendance of 'shadow representatives' at the Board is permitted, although the decision on those people who are 'double hatted' remains unclear.

Cllr Tucker informed that a list of potential projects was being compiled and encouraged Councillors to apply some lateral thinking to projects which may be considered. He emphasised that regeneration, employment, education and training to provide a sustainable community should be the theme which runs through each of the suggestions. As an example, Cllr Tucker suggested the covering of sewerage treatment tanks with permanent roofing, installing solar panels above and capturing the methane in a bio-digester to form two sources of energy generation.

Other initiatives and ideas presented included:

- An innovative transport solution which included the introduction of electric vehicles.
- The creation of a University with an ecological focus, perhaps with a spiritual dimension.
- A sustainable environment centre in the form of a Green College.
- Electric bike hire
- Organising a Somerset Festival for the Environment.
- Arts involvement as a creative thread throughout each project suggested.

Members of the public in attendance were asked to present any ideas and suggested the creation of a Life Skill Centre on the Beckery.

During discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that the four Glastonbury District Councillors are to meet with the lead Officer Jenny Pitcher at Mendip DC to inform that a more inclusive approach is required to ensure that Glastonbury is fully engaged with the opportunity the Town Deal Fund offers. Cllr Cousins informed that a tremendous amount of energy had been applied to the Neighbourhood Plan which demonstrated that Glastonbury does respond to consultation providing the appropriate methods of engagement are used.

A concern was expressed that external consultants may not necessarily understand the extent of the opportunity and 'under sell' Glastonbury. It was suggested that the District Councillors mention the importance of obtaining quality consultants who can apply a vision for Glastonbury.

A discussion on Glastonbury applying for World Heritage status was inconclusive, with a few councillors agreeing to undertake additional research to understand the complexities and cost involved with an application.

The last part of the meeting focussed on the buildings owned by Glastonbury Town Council which include the Town Hall and St Dunstan's House. Proposed by Cllr Keery, seconded by Cllr Henderson and unanimously **AGREED** that the Town Clerk enters into discussions with the architects to research ideas best placed to connect the two buildings through the installation of a glass atrium, additional facilities in support of the visitor centre and the creation of a conference centre.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed _____

Worshipful Mayor
10th March 2020