

Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 13th August 2013 at 6.15pm

PRESENT: Councillors: J Barron (Deputy Mayor), A Black, J Brunsdon MBE, J Coles, N Cottle, Cousins, I Forster, M Free, S Henderson, W Knight, D Michell, H Sharp, S Shepherd, S Thurgood (Mayor), I Tucker

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Keery
County Councillor A Gloak

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk
County Councillor T Napper
Gary Knight – Macebearer
Terry Dowden – Macebearer

Public participation

The Mayor opened the meeting with a silent moment.

David Laney spoke in support of his application for village green status for Benedict Street Playing Fields. (Copy of report attached).

At the request of the Mayor Morgana West lit the Unity Candle.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As members of the District Council Planning Board, Councillors J Brunsdon MBE and N Cottle wished it known that they would abstain from voting in relation to deliberations regarding the Benedict Street Playing Field site.

42. NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND KNOWN AS BENEDICT STREET PLAYING FIELD AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

The Town Council had been invited to comment on this application. Laurence Smith, Rights of Way Officer, Somerset County Council was present to explain Town Green status and to answer any questions. (Question and answer sheet attached to minutes).

43. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was proposed by Councillor H Sharp, seconded by Councillor I Tucker and **RESOLVED** that Glastonbury Town Council totally opposes and rejects all residential and industrial planning applications on the Benedict Street Playing Field site.'

44. APPLICATION FOR TOWN GREEN STATUS FOR BENEDICT STREET PLAYING FIELD SITE

It was proposed by Councillor Tucker, seconded by Councillor Forster and **RESOLVED** that this Glastonbury Town Council delays its decision about the

village green application for Benedict Street Playing Field site pending negotiations with Mendip District Council and Avalon Leisure with regard to the future lease.

45. REPORT FROM MEMBER OF THE GLASTONBURY BEAT TEAM

In the absence of the PC Pople comments were made which will be forwarded to the team.

Councillor Knight complained about Saturday and Sunday night disturbances in Northload Street and asked whether the CCTV had been consulted.

Councillor Brunsdon asked whether the Police have been able to identify the perpetrator(s) of the recent graffiti.

Councillor Black said that the Police Van being parked in the church grounds gave the wrong impression and asked for it to be removed. Councillor Brunsdon said that it had been put there as a deterrent for drug dealers.

Councillor Cottle asked about the barbeque at Windmill Hill. The Mayor said that this had come about following the last PACT meeting and was intended to bring the community together. As well as a barbeque run by the youth club, a skip will be ordered for people to dump their bulky rubbish.

46. SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Jo Mickens, Asset Manager, Somerset County Council updated the Town Council about Asset Management and the proposed Community Hub at Orchard Court (Library Building) in Glastonbury. She said that the County Council is working with partners to come up with ways to bring services together, if possible, in one space ie. Orchard Court. She explained that Social Services would be relocating to Shepton Mallet which will free up space although they will retain a drop in hub for Social Service staff.

Councillor Cousins suggested that the Mendip District Council information point be moved from the lobby of the library into a room for privacy.

Councillor Michell asked for a police post. Ms Mickens confirmed that she is talking through possibilities with the police.

Jo Mickens undertook to send a link to the County Council Asset list for Councillors and said that there would be another working group meeting towards the end of September.

47. MINUTES

a) The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th July 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

b) The minutes of the meeting of the Town Hall Committee held on 16th July 2013 were received. Councillor Free objected to a decision made by the Committee to appoint an architect to draw up plans for remaining work at the Town Hall. He asked for a month to deal with the matter. A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Town Hall minutes without amendment.

c) The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23rd July 2013 were received and approved.

d) The minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 30th July 2013 were received and approved.

e) The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 30th July 2013 were received and approved.

48. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments, now submitted, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes be approved and signed by two members as the Town Clerk's authority to make the payments.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the CCTV cameras were all now in working order. It was **AGREED** to pay the CCTV invoice to Mendip District Council.

Councillor Cousins said he remained surprised that the Mendip District Council charge the Town Hall non-business rates. ie. The Town Council precepts the District Council and then pays a high percentage of that precept back in non-domestic rates.

49. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Coles provided a written report detailing his attendance at the Licensing Board. He also reported that Mendip Care and Repair has won a government grant of £850,000 which will be used to bring empty homes back into use.

Councillor Brunsdon reported that Kilver Court continues to be used by Mendip District Council for certain meetings during the remodelling of the District Council offices.

Councillor Tucker suggested that the District Council may wish to use the Town Hall for planning meetings.

Councillor Henderson reported that he had further discussion with officers regarding the signage for car parks. The issue of the planning application for solar panels on the Town Hall is in hand.

With regard to directions and signposting, Councillor Cousins suggested putting an app map on the website so that coach drivers and visitors could download the map. The Town Clerk was asked to put this on the next Promoting Glastonbury agenda.

Councillor Cottle reported that Mendip District Council would be thoroughly cleaning all the car parks on Windmill Hill. He had also arranged for the grassy area near Wessex Water at the top of Leg of Mutton Road to be cut. He also reported on the Mendip District Council play strategy which is of importance to the Town Council.

50. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Napper reported on:

- The MMR outbreak which now seems to be under control. Councillor Cousins said that he thought more people would take up the vaccine if Somerset could have the measles vaccine and not the MMR. He also said he was unhappy about the Hinkley Point application.
- Road Closure at Ashwell Lane – He has contacted Andrew Turner who informed him that a geotechnical report is in progress.
- Drains in Basketfield Lane – Councillor Tucker said this is a different issue in the same area in that huge amounts of water are coming down the Lane

and he wondered if is the reservoir on the Tor leaking rather than spring water. If so any work at Ashwell Lane would continue to be undermined.

- Car Parking at Manor House Road – Councillor Napper will contact SCC Highways on the matter.
- Councillor Michell and Councillor Shepherd volunteered to join a working party regarding parking at Manor House Road.

51. OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Cousins said that the Harvest Show would be taking place at the Town Hall on 14th September 2013 and encouraged members to enter the Councillor Challenge.

Councillor Michell said that at the Promoting Glastonbury forum it was **AGREED** that the Town Council should take over the organisation of the Frost Fair and that it would be held on 30th November 2013 which was the preferred date for the traders. It was hoped it could be combined with the lighting of the Christmas tree.

52. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said she had attended 12 functions on behalf of the Town since the last meeting including the flypast on Armed Forces Day. She announced that the Commodore from Yeovil has invited Councillors to see the historic flight and museum on Friday 18th October 2013. Interested parties were asked to inform the Town Clerk should they wish to attend.

The Mayor reported she had ordered a Somerset Flag for the Town Hall and one as a gift for Michael Eavis on behalf of the Town to say thank you for providing the Extravaganza.

Councillor Michell said that she felt the Town Council should have been asked whether they wished to gift the flag to Michael Eavis. She was aware of some negative feedback regarding the festival ie. at the Promoting Glastonbury Forum, shop keepers reported that the town is dead during the festival period which is no good for business and due to deliberate road closures.

Councillor Cousins suggested that the Town Council should try and get more for the Town from Glastonbury Festivals as he felt the townspeople do not benefit directly.

The Mayor said that she had an undertaking from Glastonbury Festivals for the Town Council to be involved in the planning for next year.

She reported she will be joining the Friends of Glastonbury Abbey on their 10 year anniversary visit to Maillezais, France later in August.

53. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor I Forster invited members to a hog roast at his home on 17th August 2013 at 6pm.

Councillor Cottle reminded members that he would be taking part in a sponsored zip wire challenge on 22nd September 2013.

Councillor Tucker was pleased to announce that Beckery Island Regeneration Trust had signed a tenancy agreement for Northover Mill with a natural cosmetic company.

Councillor Sharp reported on the twin town of Lalibela and the receipt of a grant to help 5 spring improvement projects. The charity has now raised £150,000 in total. Councillor Cousins asked if the Town Council could please address matters raised at the Town Meeting sooner.

54. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was considered:

- a) Email from Claire Kelly and note from PCSO James Higgins re parking problems in Manor House Road – County Councillor Napper said that he was arranging a meeting to address the matter.
- b) Email from Rupert Heygate-Browne re traffic congestion in Glastonbury High Street – It was **AGREED** to discuss the matter with Highways and to look at creating more loading bays in an effort to minimise double parking of delivery vehicles.
- c) Request from Somerset County Council – Chairman’s Award for Service to the Community – Request for nomination of one person from the Town – Nomination forms to be in by 16th September 2013 – **RESOLVED** to commend Graham Coles for a posthumous award for Services to Glastonbury.
- d) Email from Ben Hepworth regarding sale of land at Bushy Coombe

Ben Hepworth spoke about the imminent sale of land at Bushy Coombe. The land went up for sale on 1st August 2013 and the surrounding residents are extremely concerned as the details mention the possibility for planning permission in the future.

The owner of the land said that he did not ask the land agent to mention planning permission and he thought it was just the way land agents advertise land. The District Council have confirmed that planning permission has not been applied for or granted for the piece of land in question.

Ben Hepworth confirmed that the local residents are trying to buy the land and should the Town Council wish to contribute they would need to contribute £25,000.

The Town Council were unable to consider financially supporting the resident’s group as a request for money had not been received in order for it to appear on the agenda.

Councillor Brunsdon said that he does not think that the development risk is real as the land is in an area of outstanding beauty and is a registered nature reserve and in that case the Town Council would be bound to object to any development on the site.

The following information was noted:

- e) Letter of thanks from Glastonbury Pilgrim Reception Centre
- f) Email from Somerset County Council regarding ongoing road closure at Ashwell Lane
- g) Letter of acknowledgement of letter from Mayor to Prime Minister re Amazonian Rainforest