



**Glastonbury Town Deal Board
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Held on 5 September 2025
from 14.00 – 16.00 hours in person and on Teams**

In Attendance:

Rob Taylor	Chair and Business Representative (appointed on 5 September 2025)
Michael White	Vice Chair and Mayor of Glastonbury
Emily Bunn	Community Representative
Jon Cousins	Community Representative
Jacqueline Cross	Community Representative with NHS background
Sarah Dyke	MP for Somerton and Glastonbury
Paul Knight	Business Representative
Cllr Liz Leyshon	Somerset Council, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Resources and Performance
Cllr Lokabandhu	Glastonbury Town Council
Paul Manning	Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce
Louise Rowley	Department for Work and Pensions
Ian Tucker	Business Representative
Richard Winterbottom	Business Representative

Apologies:

Paul Hickson	Somerset Council, Service Director for Economic Development, Skills & Climate
Cllr Mike Rigby	Somerset Council, Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Transportation

In Attendance:

Lara Bell	Somerset Council, Head of Regeneration and Major Projects
Jackie Gill	Somerset Council, Business Support
Conor Ogilvie-Davidson	Glastonbury Town Council, Town Clerk
Jane Sharp	Somerset Council, Regeneration Lead Specialist (East)
Sophie Trott	Somerset Council, Project Manager (Regeneration)
Amelia	Assistant to Sarah Dyke MP

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
<p>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p>	<p>Michael welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all that the meeting was being recorded.</p> <p>Everyone introduced themselves.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Paul Hickson and Cllr Mike Rigby.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interests and Gift Register</p>	<p>Michael asked if there were any changes to the Declaration of Interests and Gift Register.</p> <p>No changes were declared.</p>	
<p>3. Acting Chair's Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Michael explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Board positions and voting to elect a new Business Representative and new Chair.</p> <p>Michael then mentioned the Local Regeneration Fund that Government had just announced and said it would be good to understand the details.</p> <p>Lara confirmed this was not new money and no new funding was available. Rather previous funding streams, including Towns Fund grant, had been consolidated into a single pot. Existing commitments would be honoured allowing projects to be completed.</p> <p>It was agreed to bring a paper explaining the Local Regeneration Fund to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Paper on Local Regeneration Fund to be added to next agenda.</p>
<p>4. Board Positions</p>	<p>In his role as Acting Chair, Michael explained the process and that there would be two elections.</p> <p>(a) Election of new Business Representative</p> <p>Michael said there was a Business Representative vacancy on the Board. We have a nomination from Rob Taylor who is a Regional Manager at Fusion Lifestyle. He asked Board members to discuss the nomination and make a vote.</p> <p><i>Rob Taylor was asked to leave the meeting. Rob Taylor left the room.</i></p> <p>Board members voted and unanimously accepted Rob Taylor joining as a Business Representative.</p> <p><i>Rob Taylor rejoined the meeting.</i></p>	

	<p>Michael asked Rob if he accepted.</p> <p>Rob Taylor confirmed he was happy to accept the role of Business Representative.</p> <p>(b) Election of new Chair</p> <p>Board members were reminded that the Chair needed to be an independent private sector Chair in accordance with MHCLG guidance and the Board's Terms of Reference.</p> <p><i>Rob Taylor was asked to leave the room. Rob Taylor left the room.</i></p> <p>Liz reminded the Board that Fusion Lifestyle has not received any Towns Fund grant for the Glastonbury Sports & Leisure Hub project. She said that Somerset Council, as freeholder of Tor Leisure, had paused the lease with Fusion Lifestyle whilst the project was completed and handed back to Fusion Lifestyle to operate it.</p> <p><i>Sarah Dyke joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>Michael nominated Rob Taylor to be the new Chair and Liz seconded the nomination.</p> <p>Board members unanimously voted to accept Rob Taylor as the new Chair.</p> <p><i>Rob Taylor returned to the room.</i></p> <p>Rob Taylor confirmed that he accepted the role. He said he would look to draw on the diverse skills around the table to deliver the programme and get the best outcomes for the town. Adding we have the skills to complete the Programme and create a legacy for the town and its community.</p>	
<p>5. Projects – Verbal Update</p>	<p>Jane provided a verbal update on projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baily's Buildings <p>A meeting had taken place to discuss the RRI specifications. A revised List A was expected soon which Somerset Council would need to approve. Jane confirmed she had received a grant claim from BIRT for grant in advance to cover List A items. She had reminded BIRT that the RRI contribution was not at risk, we now needed to confirm the List B items.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Brigid's Chapel & Field <p>Jane made Board aware of the Custodians of Sacred Brides Mound [This group is <u>not</u> the same as or connected with the Friends of Brides Mound]. The Custodians had threatened taking action saying there was a lack of permission (note: permissions and consents are in place). Somerset Council had also received a couple of FOIs on the same topic.</p> <p>Project partners had agreed to reduce the hard standing at the top of Brides Mound, re-grass where needed and to relocate the old interpretation board. This will be done circa end of September in parallel with marking out the chapel.</p> <p>Paul asked if we had received correspondence.</p> <p>Jane said there had not been any formal notification from a solicitor or the high court.</p> <p>It was agreed we should let the Custodians know when the revision of works would be done.</p> <p>Liz said whilst this had taken up an enormous amount of time and was in sympathy with concerns about the amount of hard standing on the top of the Mound, she agreed the removal of the old Board was an improvement.</p> <p>Jane added she had also received three emails against World Heritage Site status and had asked the senders to contact Glastonbury Town Council as they are exploring this.</p> <p>Michael said GTC had received such emails.</p>	
<p>6. Any Other Business</p>	<p>There was no other business.</p> <p>Lara explained that Sophie works to Jane and will be supporting the GTD going forwards.</p>	
<p>7. Date of the Next Meeting</p>	<p>The date of the next meeting is 16 October.</p>	
<p>8. Confidentiality and Feedback</p>	<p>Michael reminded everyone that information shared with the Board is not to be shared more widely.</p>	
<p>9. Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Rob thanked everyone for their attendance.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 3.30pm.</p>	