



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the World Heritage Status Advisory Committee held on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7pm	
Councillors Present	Cllr Jon Cousins (Mayor), M Oakden, I Donfrancesco, Lokabandhu, L MacDougall, P Manning, T Napper, S Roney-Dougal, Z Price, M Smyth and M White
Apologies	Cllr N Cottle & S Henderson
In Attendance	Sarah Marks (Committee Clerk)

1. TO ELECT A CHAIR

Cllr J Cousins was proposed by Cllr S Roney-Dougal and seconded by Cllr L MacDougall. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr J Cousins as Chair.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Henderson & N Cottle were absent without giving apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Councillors on the committee have Glastonbury Abbey memberships. Cllr M Oakden is a member of the National Trust, Cllr Lokabandhu has a small field by the Tor and Cllr M White is a member of the RUCN.

4. TO ELECT A DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr S Roney-Dougal was proposed by Cllr T Napper and seconded by Cllr J Cousins. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr S Roney-Dougal as Deputy Chair.

5. TO CONSIDER THE COMMITMENT AND TIMESCALES FOR A WORLD HERITAGE STATUS APPLICATION

Cllr J Cousins explained to the committee the plans for Glastonbury Abbey and the Tor, to apply for these sites to have World Heritage status. He confirmed that the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and the World Heritage Office representative from Bath would be invited to join the next meeting to give the committee further information to go forward with the application. It is only the Abbey and the Tor that are being considered for this status. Cllr J Cousins went through the information that was provided, he advised them that after the next meeting when they had listened to these invited guests the committee was decide whether to proceed with the application. Cllr J Cousins warned the committee that the application will not proceed if do not an agreement from the Glastonbury Abbey.

Cllr Lokabandhu confirmed that 1 new site is acceptable every 2 days and the planning stage could cost an average of £76,000.00. Funding would have to be sourced and this could not be provided by the Government. Cllr P Manning confirmed that the earliest we could be accepted is 2026 and the committee had to consider that this would be a 5-year process. Cllr J Cousins added that the prelist stage will take at least 2 years work and consultants would need to be hired to help us with

this process. The committee continued to discuss other cities/towns that they could consult. Cllr Lokabandu found some information that could help the committee and will forward to the Committee Clerk to distribute to the committee members. The committee discussed why Glastonbury Abbey and the Tor should receive the status and the advantages that it would have to the Town.

Cllr I Donfrancesco left the meeting at 8.00pm

The committee agreed that during the course of the meetings that further people that can help with the process will be invited to join the committee.

The committee spoke of what could de rail the project, the current economic financial situation anti-social behaviour and climate change that are affecting the sites.

Cllr Z price left the meeting at 8.35pm

6. TO CONSIDER THE AREA FOR ANY FUTURE APPLICATION

Cllr S Roney Dougal proposed the committee proceed with the application. Seconded by Cllr T Napper. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the application.

7. TO SET THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Cllr J Cousins will advise the date of the next meeting.

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

Information Sites

USEFUL LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_the_United_Kingdom

- list of all current UK World Heritage sites AND all on the Tentative List. Very usefully, it includes links to many of the actual documents submitted as part of the various applications. Here's a specific link for the Derwent Valley Mills, for instance: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1030/documents/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/unesco-world-heritage-sites-uk-tentative-list-review/unesco-world-heritage-sites-uk-tentative-list-review-information-for-applicants#the-approach-to-reviewing-the-uks-tentative-list>

- includes guidance on what the UK is currently seeking to prioritise in the next batch of nominations, eg "In consideration of the current 33 UK World Heritage Sites, we particularly welcome applications from sites that are classified as natural or mixed sites, or are situated in the Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies"

AND

"Recent UK practice (since 2012) has been to adopt a biennial approach and therefore only present 1 nomination every other year. The only exception is where a UK site is part of a transnational bid (such as Bath Spa as part of the Great Spa Towns of Europe – listed in 2021 and led by the Czech Republic). For the next decade, the UK will continue to follow this biennial approach to nominations, excluding any nominations that are part of a transnational bid"

https://whc.unesco.org/en/compendium/action=list&id_faq_themes=962

Some information from UNESCO on what they mean by "Outstanding Universal Value"

And last but not least...

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2018/jun/22/glastonbury-town-festival-druids-pagans-travel-holidays>

A nice article detailing Glastonbury's 'cultural' attractions and vibe...

and an excerpt from an old manuscript describing Glastonbury as "Roma Secunda":

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/bac8387.0065.388?node=bac8387.0065.388:19&view=text&seq=463>

St. Pauline, previous to his apostolic labors, dwelt within Glastonbury's walls, and St. Dunstan gave it fame by his virtue and learning. There was a succession of great and influential abbots, among whom are especially known Herlewine, from 1101-1120, who laid the foundations for the majestic abbey buildings of a later period, and Henry of Blois, from 1126-1171, who built the bell-tower, chapter-house, etc. Glastonbury was always considered by the pious inhabitants of the Isle the "Roma Secunda" for its many relics, pious traditions, and great influence in religious affairs, even prior to the arrival of St.

Augustine. King Arthur and St. Dunstan were buried in the vaults of the abbey church, which was dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and usually known as the "Virgin of Glastonbury."

The sixtieth and last Abbot of Glastonbury was the illustrious, now blessed, Richard Whiting...

Glastonbury as the 'Second Rome' *Adrian Pearse*

[This is one of six reports covering past Antiquarian Society lectures for which the Consoc newsletter had no space at the time. We caught up in Newsletter 141. —Ed.]

A talk by Tim Hopkinson-Ball

Glastonbury is often viewed in terms of esotericism and independence in terms of the connection with the mother church, but there are also strong strands of dependency and orthodoxy running to its very origins, Tim Hopkinson-Ball said in his lecture to Glastonbury Antiquarian Society.

The earliest evidence from the Abbey site shows occupation in the Roman and sub-Roman periods and maintenance of contact with the Byzantine world. When the original British lost control, the Saxon king Caedwal was baptized in Rome.

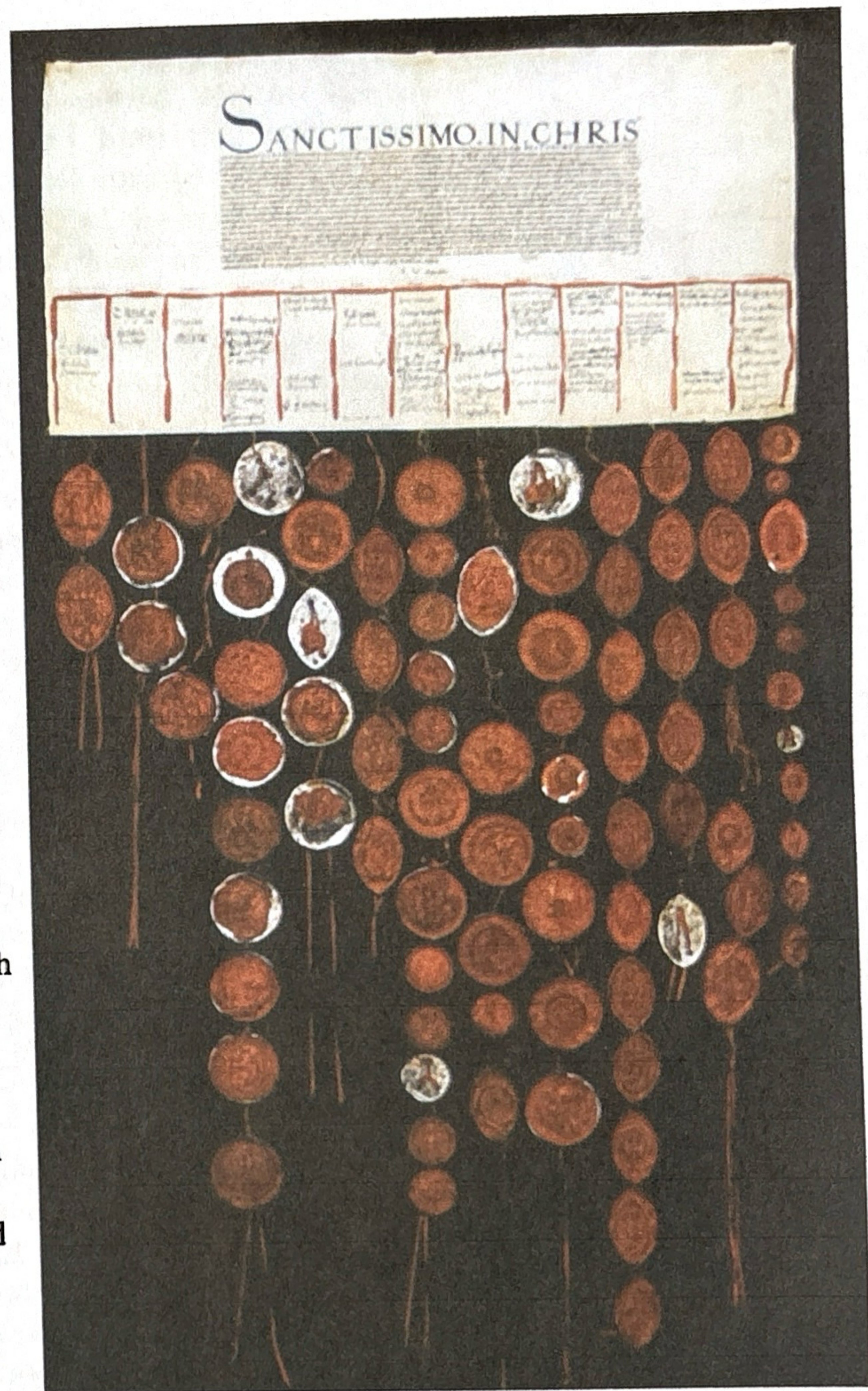
Ine, the King of Wessex 696–726, also went to Rome. He became an enthusiast for the cult of St Peter and founded a hospice in the Saxon quarter, the *Schola Saxona*. The hospice had a church of which St Mary was patron. King Ine built the first stone church at Glastonbury, dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. It is conceived as very much an outpost of the Roman church.

In the early middle ages, the journey to Rome took six weeks to three months and could be hazardous. But many, such as Dunstan, and later abbots and monks, made the journey. Papal letters and privileges show that contact and business between Rome and Glastonbury was commonplace.

The connection with Rome and dependence on the Roman church continued the heritage of an origin in Romano-British Christianity. The role of Rome in the liturgy was absolute, and seen in the great store of relics at Glastonbury, one of the largest collections in England. Many of the relics directly connected to the city, so that a pilgrimage to Glastonbury was seen as almost a form of pilgrimage to Rome itself. Glastonbury was called *Roma Secunda* by William of Malmesbury. Glastonbury did not produce any heretical books, and rather had a very impressive library containing many orthodox works. Contact continued until the Reformation.

Rome provided inspiration to visitors from Glastonbury such as Abbot Beere. He saw the architecture and works such as Michelangelo's *Pietà* [which was made in 1498–99, so it was new when Beere saw it in 1503]. On his return to Glastonbury, Beere embarked upon a building spree including the Loretto and crypt chapels.

In the political struggles of the age, Glastonbury's origins and status were used to bolster England's independence. But in fact Glastonbury never challenged Rome's authority, and was perhaps rewarded by the beatification of three of its martyrs in 1895. [2013 May 17]



This is the document sent in July 1530 asking Pope Clement to annul Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Tim Hopkinson-Ball was able to view it in the Vatican archives while on a pilgrimage to Rome. The parchment is three feet wide, and red silk ribbons attach 81 wax seals, including that of Richard Whiting, the last Abbot of Glastonbury. Ironically, only 26 years earlier the previous abbot, Richard Beere, had travelled to Rome to see the pope to arrange the marriage.

of St. Patrick; here St. Gildas, the historian of the British; here St. David, Bishop of Menevia; and here the holy hermit Indractus with his seven companions, all sprung from the royal race. Here rest the relics of a band of holy Irish pilgrims who, returning from a visit to the shrines at Rome, turned aside to Glastonbury out of love to St. Patrick's memory, and were martyred in a village named Shapwick. Hither, not long after, their remains were brought by Ina, our glorious king."

ROMA SECUNDA.

St. Pauline, previous to his apostolic labors, dwelt within Glastonbury's walls, and St. Dunstan gave it fame by his virtue and learning. There was a succession of great and influential abbots, among whom are especially known Herlewine, from 1101-1120, who laid the foundations for the majestic abbey buildings of a later period, and Henry of Blois, from 1126-1171, who built the bell-tower, chapter-house, etc. Glastonbury was always considered by the pious inhabitants of the Isle the "Roma Secunda" for its many relics, pious traditions, and great influence in religious affairs, even prior to the arrival of St. Augustine. King Arthur and St. Dunstan were buried in the vaults of the abbey church, which was dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and usually known as the "Virgin of Glastonbury." The sixtieth and last Abbot of Glastonbury was the illustrious, now blessed, Richard Whiting.

HIS EARLY LIFE IN THE MIDST OF WAR.

At the birth of Richard Whiting civil strife between the Houses of Lancaster and York was desolating the broad acres of "Merrie England." Carnage and all the attendant evils of war, and the varied fortunes of Edward IV., plunged the country into the wildest excitement, the Red Rose now being in the ascendant and again the White triumphing. The day and the exact year of the birth of Richard are not known. However, he opened his eyes to light in the second half of the fifteenth century. His boyhood, therefore, must have been passed as a spectator of the vicissitudes of party principle, and the dangers of civil contest stamped themselves indelibly upon his youthful mind.

His family were West Cuntry in their origin, and distant relatives of Bishop Stapledon, the generous founder of Exeter College, Oxford. Its principal member held extensive estates in Devon and Somerset, but the younger branch of the house,

Extracts of Minutes (with comments) – Full Text is in PDF Format

Minutes of the World Heritage Status Advisory Committee held on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7pm

Councillors Present

Cllr Jon Cousins (Mayor), M Oakden, I Donfrancesco, Lokabandhu, L

MacDougall, P Manning, T Napper, S Roney-Dougal, Z Price, M Smyth and M

White

Apologies Cllr N Cottle & S Henderson

In Attendance Sarah Marks (Committee Clerk)

JC Chair, SRD D Chair elected. Agreed to proceed with proposal re Tor & Abbey for WHS

23 Jan 2023

PRESENTATION FROM TONY CROUCH, CITY OF BATH WORLD HERITAGE APPLICATION

Agreed to contact NT & Abbey Trustees

30 May 2023

CONSIDER DR. ADAM STOUT'S STORY OF GLASTONBURY

The committee went through the article from Dr Adam Stout "The Story of Glastonbury, Ancient Isle of

Avalon" and were extremely pleased with the article.

Cllr J Cousins proposed a thank you letter be sent to Dr Adam Stout, seconded by Cllr M Smyth and

RESOLVED unanimously.

Cllr S Roney-Dougal confirmed that A Stout would be willing to assist with the application, she had been

approached by other people that would like to join the World Heritage Status committee. The committee agreed that 6 non-councillors should be invited to join the committee.

REVIEW AND REFLECT ON MEETING WITH ABBEY TRUSTEES AND NATIONAL TRUST

The committee gave their opinions on the meeting with representatives from the Abbey and National Trust. The general opinion was mainly the Abbey thought Glastonbury Town Council was unprepared and didn't have all the information required. They had concerns on increased number of visitors

especially the National Trust and how the sites would cope.

4 July 2023

Cllr Napper proposed to recommend to the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee that a Park and Ride be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. This was seconded by Cllr White and RESOLVED unanimously.

16 Aug 2023? No minutes

7 Oct 2023

23. RESPONSE FROM CHAIR OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY TRUSTEES TO WHS BRIEFING

Concerns were raised that the response from Glastonbury Abbey was disappointing – and may indicate that they might not wish to proceed. Some members questioned if other locations in and around Glastonbury might be considered as having 'Outstanding Universal Value'.

Cllr M Smyth suggested that the Committee ask for a meeting to be put on the agenda of the next Abbey Trustees' meeting. However, Cllr S Roney-Dougal replied that the letter from the Trustees was positive and drew committee members' attention to the Abbey's request for the WHS Committee appoint a Consultant.

Initial: Date: 5

It was suggested the committee appoint a World Heritage Consultant to undertake the technical examination as part of the Pre-tentative List process, which would demonstrate the Council's commitment to the project.

Initial: Date: 6

Members noted that in order to undertake the Pre-Tentative List stage in the lifetime of the current council, the WHS Committee would require a budget of £30,000-a-year for the next four years (total established using PCW Report figures and the Bank of England's Inflation Calculator)

2 Nov 2023

T Crouch advised the committee the first step of the process would be to research 'the story of Glastonbury' – considering and evidencing those aspects of Glastonbury that have 'Outstanding Universal Value'; aspects that transcend national boundaries and would be of importance for future generations. T Crouch agreed to send the Committee Clerk a link to a video showing the city of York's World Heritage process. Cllr J Cousins asked if a budget of £30,000.00 was a realistic amount for a consultant; T Crouch agreed. Cllr J Cousins asked if T Crouch had any suggestions of suitable consultants who might be able to help the committee begin the process. T Crouch will send the Committee Clerk this information. The committee discussed the role of a Site Manager, and it was confirmed this appointment would be later in the process. T Crouch highly recommended that the committee should advertise that Glastonbury is looking for a World Heritage Consultant as soon as possible.

The Committee Clerk advised that, immediately after leaving the video link, T Crouch had emailed to suggest a meeting with Christopher Pound and Paul Simons from Bath's World Heritage team, who would be able to give the committee more advice.

14 Dec 2023

36. TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING WITH WHS CONSULTANT PAUL SIMONS AND CHRISTOPHER POUND ON THE 1ST DECEMBER 2023

Initial: Date: 5

Cllr J Cousins outlined to the WHS committee details about of an encouraging meeting with the Bath-based WHS consultants P Simons and C Pound. Cllr P Manning commented that he was very impressed by their knowledge and experience, and the research they had already done on

Glastonbury. Cllr S Roney-Dougal had the impression that they were very keen for Glastonbury to achieve World Heritage Status and would enjoy the challenge.

The Committee Clerk provided members with a breakdown of costs for each of the stages in the application process, as kindly supplied by P Simons and C Pound. The committee discussed the document, and considered each stage and what the consultants were offering. It was noted that their quote was under the budget that had been originally estimated by the WHS Committee.

Following the discussion it was agreed to appoint C Pound and P Simons to undertake the first phase in the World Heritage nomination development and to advise them that they will be hearing from the committee in due course.

Cllr S Roney-Dougal proposed that – subject to the approval of the budget by The Finance and General Purposes Committee – the WHS committee should accept the proposal from the consultants. Seconded by Cllr M White and RESOLVED unanimously.

37. THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMMITTEE

ACTION: The Committee Clerk to ask P Simons and C Pound for a formal contract before the January Full

Council meeting (9th January 2024).

RECOMMENDATIONS: to January Full Council meeting

1. that the World Heritage Committee be allocated £7,200.00 from current available budget for the first phase of the Consultants proposed tender.
2. to approve £42,080.00 tender for the first phase for the World Heritage Consultants over a 2-year period.
3. that an annual budget of £30,000.00 be allocated to WHS Committee for duration of this Council's term.

ACTION: The Committee Clerk to arrange a financial report from the Responsible Finance officer once the consultant start on the project.

The local community and stakeholders (landowners) to be kept informed of each phase of the project as they too could derail the process. It was agreed that a communication strategy should be drawn up.

The consultants reminded the committee it is the UK Government who consider who is placed on the tentative list which will be every 10 years.

To help Glastonbury be nominated for the tentative list it was recommend we build awareness of Glastonbury and build good public relations. The consultants will work on bringing the place, the history and the culture and the significance of Glastonbury to the correct people's attention. The consultants recommend having everything ready just in case one on the tentative list drops out and we would be ready to take the place.

The consultants suggested a comparative analysis comparing Glastonbury to other WHS sites not just the United Kingdom but the rest of the world.

Cllr S Roney-Dougal asked how the committee could help the consultant communicate with the various networks in Glastonbury for example the Goddess and Druids. It was suggested that we contact them and ask how a World Hertiage Status would affect them and or their business and report the feedback.

54. TWO 'MIND MAPS' TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE TO INSTIGATE A DISCUSSION
CONCERNING THE BROAD ELEMENTS AND VALUES THAT WE SHOULD BE REFLECTING UPON

C Pound went through the mind maps with the committee. During the consultation period the main focus would be getting ideas together and then preparing questions for UNESCO. C Pound recommend to the committee looking at the UNESCO website for more information.

The consultants asked if there is any amendments or extra information that they are advised as soon as possible. It was agreed that all correspondence will go through the Committee Clerk. Cllr J Cousins asked the committee to make any lists that should be considered and email them to the Committee Clerk.

It was agreed that Glastonbury has a great wealth of myth and legends and will have a good case

55. THE CONTENTS OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURE HERITAGE (ICH) QUESTIONNAIRE FROM DCMS

The Consultants discussed the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention questionnaire. Cllr M White proposed the consultants answer the questionnaire on the behalf of the Glastonbury Town Council and submit by 29th February 2024. Seconded by Cllr S Roney – Dougal and RESOLVED unanimously.

P Simons added that submitting the questionnaire will not impact the application for World Heritage Status.

56. AGREE THE APPROACH TO OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Cllr I Donfrancesco asked if the Abbey Trustees had been approached. Cllr J Cousins confirmed that the Abbey Trustees had been made aware of the consultants appointment and they would make contact with the Trustees directly.

P Simons guided by the committee how to develop a relationship with the stakeholders/local residents. All agreed that a press release to be written. The first two priorities are to contact the National Trust and the Abbey Trustees. Group meetings with a short presentation to be made available to the different faiths in Glastonbury.

Initial: Date: 9

Cllr J Cousins to send the Committee Clerk a list of all faiths that are in Glastonbury. Cllr M Smyth asked how the consultants will deal with the scepticism of local residents especially with the cost. Pound went through various ways that this can be dealt with. P Simons mentioned that contact would have to be made with Somerset Council as their support will also be required.

It was confirmed that DCMS and Historic England have been advised that Glastonbury wishes to be added to the tentative list.

57. AGREE THE NATURE OF ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND WHEN

Cllr J Cousins suggested that a video be made asking people in the town World Heritage Status questions and used this on social media platforms. A second video to be produced to record the journey of the process (podcasts) which would include the consultants being interviewed for updates on how the application was progressing these need broadcasted on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Cllr M Smyth suggested an open day launching the World Heritage. Contacts were suggested for helping the committee produce a video.

Committee Clerk to discuss dates with consultants when could launch a promotion later in the year.

Drop ins were suggested and cards for local residents to fill in giving feedback. This would help prove support from local residents during the application process.

58. AGREE THE DATES OF THE QUARTLEY REVIEW MEETINGS THROUGH TO MARCH 2025

The committee agreed on the below dates for the World Heritage Committee meetings

Tuesday March 26th 2024

Tuesday July 2nd 2024

Tuesday September 24th 2024

Thursday December 19th 2024

Dates for 2025 to be agreed at the September meeting.

P Simons agreed to draw up a statement for the council, local media and contacts and will send to the Committee Clerk.

26 Mar 2024

The consultant gave the committee a quarterly report on the progress. It was recommended that the quarterly reports are uploaded on to the Glastonbury Town Council website.

They confirmed that they had a positive meeting with the Abbey Trustees and had spoken to the National Trust. They discussed that they may need to extend the draft boundaries of the current Parish boundary lines to include key attributes for example the Lake Village. They are still investigating the 12 Hides and asked the committee if they could help, Cllr J Cousins suggested a book called 'Beating the Bounds with Abbot Bere' by Dom Thomas Sutton and Cllr S Roney-Dougal said she would email the Committee Clerk with some information.

Initial: Date: 9

ACTION The Committee Clerk to upload quarterly report on the Glastonbury Town Council website. To send report to the Abbey Trustees. UNSECO and DCMS have been both been contacted, and they have recorded and logged the information as requested by the committee. The Consultants will be able to report back in September when the feedback has been received. First impressions that the interest in Glastonbury was positive and it had raised the profile of Glastonbury.

The consultants proceed to advise the committee of their meetings with the Abbey Trustees and the National Trust. A good response from the Abbey, the National Trust was a little more guarded and the consultants have a meeting arranged with them in May. There would be implications for both sites, Abbey were happy to accept more visitors while the National Trust is more wary. The committee was reminded that communication is the key.

The consultants went through the key points that they had received from their meeting with the Abbey Trustees. They have been invited to a Strategy Day in July where they have been asked to address the trustees. The Abbey do have concerns of the increased workload on existing staff and would need support from Glastonbury Town Council. The consultants confirmed that they had contacted the Bishop of Bath & Wells as well as the Glastonbury Pilgrims and the British Pilgrims organisations.

67. APPROACH TO OTHER KEYHOLDERS

The consultants went through a draft brochure that they had created, the committee discussed, and changes were advised. The committee discussed who within Glastonbury should received this brochure to "spread the word". The committee thanked the consultants for putting together the brochure.

The committee discussed the list of faiths that had been drawn up, it was agreed that there was not enough time to see all of them and for the members to agree on which 5 to 10 faiths would be a priority for the consultants to contact. The consultants went through a list of places in Glastonbury that they will be contacting in September 2024.

68. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF GLASTONBURY'S QUEST TO BECOME A WHS

The committee agreed that both Glastonbury Abbey and the National Trust should be consulted on the drafting of the Press Release, which should be issued before Open Day on Saturday, 12th October.

Initial: Date: 9

Cllr J Cousins asked about the National Trust's concerns around increased visitor numbers and parking. The consultants said they would help with the concerns, but reminded the committee that even without attaining World Heritage status, traffic problems would still have to be dealt with, as Glastonbury was becoming busier with tourists. As part of the WHS process, a management plan would be required, which would include measures to address the increase of tourism.

Now meetings are not minuted!