

BTC Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting of 25th April 2018.

Thank you for coming...I hope you will enjoy a glass of wine and later in this meeting will take the opportunity to raise any issues you wish.....

On your chairs you should find a draft Financial statement and, something new, a Mission Statement which I hope will be adopted by Cllrs at our next meeting. After the meeting do let me know what you think.

Achievements this year include

- continuing to get the Council governance compliant with our legal responsibilities. We have instituted a new accounting system which will allow the clerk, at the press of a button, to avoid struggling with VAT claims.
- Under the clerk's guidance we have adopted the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011/12). This enables a council to work with others to provide cost-effective services and facilities to meet the needs of its community... e.g. it can lend or invest money, set up a company or co-operative society to trade or run a community shop or post office...all the things that an individual could do.
- We are lucky to have a dedicated and hard-working clerk and we have been pleased to support her financially with the costs of all the courses which lead to her further professional development.
- We have re-organised the responsibilities for Bampton Fair. From this year, it is now part of the Bampton Town Clerk's paid role to book and organise the street stalls and to arrange all the legally required cover and road closures. In partnership with Rotary via a Working Party the Bampton Charter Fair should be secure for the future.
- The night time availability of Air Ambulance is up and running with a generous donation from the Oliver Croker Fund for the necessary new lighting.
- After much nagging and not before time, Brook Street has been resurfaced and some of the damaged pavement replaced but there is still much to do.
- Some pot-holes have been filled. Please use the Highways web-site to report any that you notice.
- We have appointed a new grass-cutting contractor, Oliver Vernon from Four Seasons at Tiverton to replace Mark Sealey who has served the town so well for a number of years. We wish Mark well in his newly focussed career.
- A concerted effort has been made to influence dog-owners of the need to clear up after their animals. We so appreciate the many who do and ask you to be vigilant to spot the few who spoil our environment. It is actually an offence to allow an animal to foul in public places.
- John Wescott has generously allowed a defibrillator to be installed at his butchers' premises. Will anyone who would like to join me in getting some confidence in using this please sign a list before leaving. The Council is happy to fund some basic training for us so do take advantage of a hands-on opportunity.
- Last years' updating of our public toilets has been much appreciated. Janice Caunter and Herbie Cleverly continue to treat them as an essential part of Bampton's welcome to everyone! We thank them for that.

Work in progress:

- A war on the untaxed and SORNed cars which pepper our streets and car parks! Contact *DVLA/ Get vehicle information*.
- White-lining of the Station Road car park is on the May Agenda.
- The complex and unacceptable planning problems at the Ashleigh Park development are being monitored.

- A safer road crossing at Spar. If you agree with me that the visible stopping distance is inadequate even on a fine day.....please sign the petition
- The possibility of a regular Police surgery.
- A formalised agreement with the Football Club for its use of the Recreation field.
- The repainting of the Hollett Garden railings and the bollards in Silver Street. If you can help Guy French by preparing the surfaces please let me know.
- Confirmation of a handyperson role for Janice Caunter and Herbie Cleverly....to help keep drains clear, the town tidy and weed free.

Thank You's

Councillors are all volunteers who give of their best. Owing to a health problem we have missed Cllr. Rodney Baker from several meetings. Hopefully he will be re-joining us very soon.

MDDC Cllrs Andrew, Ray Stanley and DC Cllr. Polly Colthorpe faithfully turn up whenever they can and respond to our demands as much as they can. They go into shock when they do not receive an e-mail from me!

I am conscious of how many more volunteers we have in this Community: The Signpost team, the Bellringers and the PCC, the Riverside Hall Committee, the PTFA, B in Bvolunteers including Arthur Tucker and Pam Whincup, the M & Bailey Group; the Heritage Centre group, the LARCS trustees and their supporters, the P3 co-ordinators Colin and Joan Fagg and their volunteer helpers and the Youth Group as well as Humphrey keeping the Bampton web-site.

We also have our Flood Wardens and the new flood barrier helpers at Ashleigh Park!

Thank you also to the Fair W/P and the many Rotary members and other townsfolk who give time to respond to our need for Stewards to continue the old-age tradition of Bampton Fair.

The future

Next year, in May there will be elections and I shall stand down as a Councillor having been around since 2007 in one guise or the other. In fact, I've been around so long I've even been mentioned at least a couple of times in the pantomimes! We shall need new Councillors who are a bit younger and computer literate, as most communication is done that way now and they will have new views on how Bampton progresses as a community. I have found working with fellow Councillors rewarding, most people appreciative and I've learned a lot! So, do consider standing. Spread the word...we need you! And we have a well-qualified clerk to guide you.

Thank you.