

Notes of the Public Forum. December 4th 2012

The Forum commenced with a brief talk from Phil Lloyd of Unite Carers in Tiverton. He spoke of the isolation of carers living in rural situations, this had led Unite Carers to combine forces with Age UK. They have received funding from MDDC to support a project they intend to cover ten areas, beginning with Bampton and the surrounding area. Initial meetings are planned to introduce the project to people who either act as carers or are elderly and living in an isolated situation, and to inform them of the services they will be able to access through the project as well as to ascertain areas of need. This will include information and advice, befriending, relief support and practical support such as gardening. They will also be looking for volunteers willing to help to provide such services in their community. The project does not intend to liaise with 'professional' care agencies or to offer services to them. One lady who was already in receipt of the Unite Carers newsletter commented that their meetings are held at Crediton and Tiverton which is not practical to a lot of people, especially for those who use public transport. Mr Lloyd acknowledged this difficulty and reiterated the need for volunteers living locally to add greater support in this area.

Two volunteer snow wardens (Tony and Steve) attended to establish what the plans for the Snow Project were. The hand gritter may now be kept in the Fruit and Veg shop with a good supply of salt. The towed gritter is to be kept at the Pump House, also with a good quantity of salt. Cllrs Pitt and Stoner hold keys to this building. It was thought important that this gritter was kept on BTC property and one with good access to the school, doctors, fire station etc. A specific route is to be planned. The pavement gritter is covered by through Devon County Council and personal insurance by BTC. The towed gritter cannot be covered in this way, the volunteers must advise their insurance companies that their personal vehicles are being used for towing. There is no public liability on this machine at the moment. A full risk assessment has been started and Tony is willing to take charge of the gritting when it is required.

Cllr Tanner suggested a meeting between all the gritting teams to agree a definite plan of action. There was general agreement that a team of 'hands on' people should take the lead on this and agree further training. Tony and Steve agreed to see to this.

The Environment Agency had visited the village and met with representatives of the Flood Group. An overhaul of the pumps at Manor Mill House was agreed and this should provide greater protection to New Buildings and the surrounding area. The possibility of liaising with the Highways Dept regarding further works to divert the water entering Mill Lane. The town council was thanked for supplying sandbags and ensuring that supplies of sand were reordered.

BTC is still trying to find a company to supply a skip as the previous arrangement no longer stands, MDDC having decided not to deal with provision. They only offer kerbside collection of bulky objects and charge £18 an item. The only company willing to meet the need would only provide the facility between 8am and 11am.

Representatives of the Millennium Green Trust attended and acknowledged the grant of £2000 made by BTC which will be match funded by the PCC for the next financial year. It is intended to use the money to repair the neglect of previous years and to secure the site.

Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council
Held on 4th December 2012

1. Members present were Brian Smith, Rodney Baker, Keith Pitt, Rachel Gilmour, Jean Pope, William Weston, Jack Ward and Edward Tanner.

District Councillors Colthorpe and Stanley had advised that they may be late or absent due to another commitment. Also in attendance was Jane Eyre, Acting Town Clerk.

2. Councillors Gilmour, Weston, Ward, Pope and Tanner all made their Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Councillors for Bampton.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record with the note that Item 5 be amended - it was too late to request a guarantee on the work carried out on the wall of Station Road car park. The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th September 2012 were agreed by Cllrs Pitt and Stoner, with the exception of one date to be amended.
4. There were no matters arising from the last minutes
5. Cllr Colthorpe was absent from the meeting at this point.

Declarations of interest were made by Cllrs Weston and Tanner in respect of items regarding Planning Applications.

6. Finance. A payment of £1750 was received from Anderton & Rowlands fair, further to £80 which had been paid to the Tolly on Fair Day.

Communication had been received from HMRC about a PAYE liability pertaining to the former clerk. Cllr Gilmour agreed to contact HMRC to provide new contact details.

Cllr Stoner produced a single copy of the Assessment of Bampton Fair 2012 from Peter Beckwith, which he passed to Cllr Pope. This will be distributed to all Councillors before payment of the associated invoice is discussed.

Payments made to: M.Morgan for Toilet Cleaning	£300
Town Clerk	£321
Stevens for Christmas Trees	£264

Bampton Business Group have agreed to reimburse the cost of the Christmas trees through the collections made from local businesses to pay for them. Cllr Tanner thought this should be part of the work of BTC, but it was agreed that businesses should pay for their own trees through Bampton Business Group.

Glasdons for dog waste bins	£751.35
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Collection of waste to be arranged with MDCC once new bins are in place. Cllr Pope is to confirm where the new bins are to be located, including those used to replace old bins.

The Allotment Association had received a payment of £356.00 twice; once through BTC and again directly from DCC. Repayment is to be arranged.

7. Planning.

Ref: 12/01440/FULL No objections

Ref: 12/01638/FULL No objections

Ref: 12/01624/TPO No objections

Ref: 12/01573/FULL Cllr Tanner left the room having previously declared an interest. No objections.

Ref: 12/01567/FULL and 12/01522?FULL. BTC felt it would be useful for MDCC to develop a policy regarding applications for wind and solar farms in the area. These applications were noted but fell outside the Bampton area.

Ref: 12/01625/FULL This application related to further development at Scott's.

The Council were had been advised by Wendy Lunel during the Public Forum that MDCC would be reviewing the inclusion of Scott's development in the third stage of the Local Plan in a Public Inquiry to be held in the Spring. Thanks to Ms Lunel's advice, Bampton Town Council hope to represent the interests of the town at this Inquiry.

There were many objections raised about this application by Councillors, in particular, that infrastructure services were already at capacity, the threat of further flooding and inconsistencies in the reports supporting the application. It was agreed to send a letter objecting strongly to this proposal.

8. Ongoing business.

- a. Cllr Weston noted greater levels of floodwater on his land than ever before. From the former railway embankment at Scott's, trees by the Bathern can be seen, which could obstruct the course of the river. Cllr Stoner said the Environment Agency have agreed to walk the river, and have powers to clear obstructions. It was agreed to send a letter to the EA requesting a further visit to inspect the river Bathern from the parish boundary at Hukely Bridge, all the way to its junction with the River Exe. The existence of the Flood Response Group as a recognised sub-group of BTC is to be researched, as without a formal acknowledgement, they cannot be covered by BTC insurance.
- b. Current insurance on BTC properties was insufficient, with both the Riverside Hall and the Pump House needing further consideration, although Cllr Pitt had now covered most of the insurance requirements that were previously lacking. A full valuation of the buildings was required in time for new policies in June 2013. It was proposed and agreed to extend the insurance to cover all buildings. The lease on Bampton Fair has been agreed for a further ten years and insurance for this event also needs to be guaranteed on a yearly basis.
- c. It appeared that the grass-cutting contract had been offered on a three year basis. The council thought it would be prudent to review all aspects of this agreement.
- d. The prices for flag-pole holders had been requested in September and a rate of £40 each + VAT had been quoted. It was agreed that BTC would make a bulk purchase but that residents would be required to pay for as many as they required for their property. Proposed by Cllr Tanner and seconded by Cllr Pope.
- e. Cllr Gilmour agreed to draw up a job description and terms and conditions for the position of Town Clerk. New applicants may still apply, and the appointment of a Clerk will be on the Agenda for January's meeting.
- f. It was agreed to keep the Precept at the current rate for the next year. Proposed by Cllr Tanner and seconded by Cllr Pitt.

The date of the next meeting has been set to 7.30 pm on Tuesday, January 8th 2013

Jane Eyre
Acting Town Clerk