

Meeting of Bampton Town Council Held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013

Notes of the Public Forum

Wendy Lunel reported on her attendance at the MDDC Planning meeting regarding further development at Scott's. The Planning Officer was not able to change the specification of the industrial units to workshops only. Although Devonshire Homes did state that warehousing would not be built unless houses were also built and that it intended to appeal for housing to be allowed on the site.

Ms Lunel went on to express her annoyance that a CPSO and a traffic warden had been present in Bampton on Easter Saturday morning moving traffic on and handing out warning notices. This seemed particularly harsh when the shops had only until 2pm to trade and there were plenty of visitors in the town. She felt a letter should be sent to the Police Commissioners regarding the detrimental effect such measures has on trade and tourism in Bampton. The Council agreed this. CPSO Follett then arrived at the meeting. Further to the earlier discussion Cllr Gilmour remarked that the Easter Saturday initiative was very badly timed. CPSO Follett felt that it was a necessary response to twenty-eight complaints over a six-month period, although it was generally felt that this figure in relation to a population of sixteen hundred was not significant. Ms Lunel added that the parking in Bampton serves to slow traffic and as a result there were no accidents. CPSO Follett concluded by adding that three people had acted in a way that she felt was threatening and abusive and that, if it were to happen again it would constitute a public order offence. Cllr Tanner noted that it was a great pity that Bampton no longer had a regular police presence and that it was missed.

He went on to say that he had been approached by several people regarding the need for a crossing on Newton Square now the post office had moved to the Spar. It was decided that Devon County Council should be asked to provide a crossing by the telephone box, this being the point with greatest visibility in both directions. CPSO Follett stated that the Police Collisions team had already visited the site.

A complaint was made regarding radio-controlled aeroplanes being flown from the football pitch by the Castle Mound. A low flying plane had almost hit the gentleman from the adjacent farm and his livestock had been frightened. There was also a risk to people using the Public Footpaths in the area. Despite several requests and a police warning the problem continues. Cllr Colthorpe agreed to speak to the Enforcement Office at DCC to see what could be done.

Mrs Ward asked if the minutes of Town Council meeting could once again be published in the Signpost magazine. Cllr Smith responded that the problem had arisen due to the change in the date on which the magazine needed to receive copy but that he was discussing the matter with Editor.

Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council
Held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013

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

Cllr Polly Colthorpe was also present.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Francis Stoner, Bill Weston and Ray Stanley

2. Amendments to the previous minutes were: that the excess monies from the Fair were being held over until next year and that the cost of grass cutting had been reduced by one third overall. The minutes were then signed off as a true record.

3. Business arising from those minutes included: the dog waste bins had all been installed apart from the one at Woodland Close and that a map of the new sites had been sent to MDDC.

Further to the first mowing of the season a letter had been received the contractor regarding the extent of dog fouling and discarded bottles around the football pitch. A copy of this is to be sent on to the club. It was decided to extend the DCC Byelaws regarding dog fouling to all BTC grounds, making fines applicable at all sites.

The hedge trimming at Mr Browns property adjacent to the Millennium Green had been done and two shallow rooted trees removed from by the Pump House.

Thanks to Tony Weiss for all his work, more volunteers are now available to help with such tasks.

With regard to the Parish Plan it was felt to be very important to thoroughly read through and identify which points are relevant as actions for BTC to undertake. A lot of the suggestions are actually the responsibility of MDDC and DCC. It was also felt that the original questionnaire was rather skewed towards the choice of answer. There being no 'status quo' response which allowed people to state they were happy with things as they were. Cllr Tanner proposed BTC meet with Alan Woolley and Judy Thomas regarding the Parish Plan and hold a full discussion afterwards. Seconded by Jack Ward. The meeting to take place on Tuesday 16th April at the Scout Hut.

Bampton in Bloom has a new Chair and Committee including two members from BTC (Cllrs Baker and Tanner). There is £600 in the kitty with a dinner and auction arranged as a further fundraiser. A request had been received for funding from BTC and it was agreed to discuss this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

4. Cllr Colthorpe reported that MDDC would now be maintaining the use of apostrophes in all its writings. The Tourist Information Centre will also be maintained although possibly not in the same building. Cllr Gilmour observed that the TIC building was built for that purpose with EU funding and it was shocking that the facility could be lost for the want of £4,000. Cllr Tanner added that he had

been moved to write to the Tiverton Gazette regarding the dilemma, as he believed that Bampton would be affected by its loss.

The debacle regarding incorrect Council Tax bills was also raised. The members of BTC would rather see the extra amount held on this year's bill and corrected in the next financial year. Cllr Colthorpe was asked to report this fact to Full Council at MDDC. It was noted that the cost of reissuing bills would be £16,000; this would fund the TIC for the next four years.

5. Finance. Cllr Pitt advised the meeting that the Council tax on the Lock Up were now £314.16 p.a. The building was been bought from MDDC for £1.00. The building is listed as the old jail. He suggested that the items stored there should be moved and he would make a request of MDDC that the rates are lifted.

Cllr Tanner proposed that all other council tax bills for BTC properties be paid. Seconded by Cllr Pope.

The Church needs to be billed for half of the water rates due, as minuted by the previous council.

The work on the Pump House is now complete. Further to the agreed work was time spent removing ivy from the roots up which had not been done previously and the replacement of dry ridge tiles. It was agreed to pay this bill in full. Proposed by Jack Ward and seconded by Keith Pitt.

The car park money collected on 18th March was £46.19 and on 2nd April £57.63 This gives a total of £1,240.04 between 9th September 2012 and 31st March 2013.

Cllr Baker provided a breakdown of expenditure for March 2013.

Outgoings:

5/3/13	J.Eyre (Acting Town Clerk)	£220 including expenses.
5/3/13	M.Morgan (Toilets)	£280.00
5/3/13	Viridor (Skip)	£453.94
5/3/13	C. Fagg (P3)	£29.40

Bank accounts at 20th March 2013

HSBC	£9,658.13
Scottish Widows	£36,457.72

6. Planning.

Cllr Pope declared an interest in application 13/00391/CAT and Cllr Tanner in 13/00143/FULL and they left the room whilst those applications were discussed.

13/00143/FULL The creation of a window that has been redundant since the 1920s will give a view into three other properties. The use of clear glass was not thought appropriate.

13/00297/FULL No objections.

13/00373/FULL No objections

13/00391/CAT No objections

7. a. Cllr Colthorpe agreed to check whether MDDC would continue to pay for the sand for the sandbags. Cllr Pitt has ordered further sand. Sandbags do need to be returned to the sand bag store so that both the sand and the bags can be reused. Otherwise they are being left outside where they eventually split and the sand escapes into the drains where it causes blockages and, subsequently, flooding. Questions were raised regarding the unwillingness of the Flood Group to work with all BTC members. Concerns were also raised regarding the fact that the Flood Group had never been minuted as being a sub-group of BTC. In light of this it was felt that the Environment Agency should have direct dealings with BTC. It was felt that a Flood group serving Bampton should serve all the taxpayers in the town and not just a small group on the main streets. There had not been any cover at Christmas as various volunteers were away on holiday and BTC were not apprised of the situation.

c. Reference to the Pump House is under point 5. Finance.

d. Cllr Ward felt that a greater element of control could be achieved through Standing Orders and that there should be two councillors on the recognised sub-committee, which Cllr Smith thought, should have its members appointed at the AGM. The Terms of Reference created for the Millennium Greek trust could then apply to all sub-groups.

e. There was only a marginal profit from last year's Fair due to the cost of the car park matting at £1,600. It was not felt that it would be worthwhile in investing in matting but it was thought that Cllr Stoner should be asked to ask the police representative at the next SAG meeting that parking on one side of the access roads be allowed as has always happened in the past. It was suggested that a meeting with the steering group of the fair be arranged after the AGM. Cllr Pope advised that the steering group will meet in June/July and that she and Cllr Stoner will attend.

f. A job description will be circulated to all applicants with an interview date now set at 23rd April 2013.

The new PAYE scheme to support the post will be dealt with by Cllr Ward.

g. Access for the Twinning Association coach to the car park will be arranged.

h. Please see point 4.

i. Enquiries had been received as to when there might be another large rubbish skip on the car park. It was not felt that this is something that BTC can facilitate on a regular basis. The next date is speculatively given as September 2013.

j. The Council discussed an article regarding funding for Neighbourhood Plans, which are likely to be, beneficial when responding to or challenging large planning applications.

k. Parts of the Bampton website which provide information about the Town Council need editing. It was agreed that this should be the responsibility of the Clerk, working with the Webmaster, on behalf of the Town Council.

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, which will take place on May 7th 2013 in the Albert Fowler Room beginning at 7pm.

Please note there will not be a Public Forum at this meeting.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Monday May 20th in the Riverside Hall, commencing at 7pm.

This is an open meeting that provides an opportunity for groups and organisations working in the Bampton area to offer information about their work to both BTC and the public.

If you would like to take advantage of this please contact the Acting Town Clerk at Bamptownclerk@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 331726. Alternatively, speak with one of the Town Councillors.