

Notes of the Public Forum 4th June 2013

With reference to the intended building works at 33 Ashleigh Park a resident of Old Tiverton road asked that there be no left turn into Bampton from the site. It is expected that approximately three thousand lorry loads of soil and gravel will have to be removed from the site before building can commence and these lorries will have to pass the cottages and the Quarryman's Rest. This is likely to result in parking restrictions in the town to allow access. It was also requested that there be restrictions on the working practices as previous work to build houses at Ashleigh Park had required pile driving; this is a significant element of the work needed to stabilise the site but the noise it creates is excessive and the residents of neighbouring houses, particularly the more elderly people who are likely to be at home all day are likely to find this very difficult to suffer. A letter has been sent to MDDC to ask for these points to be considered.

Wendy Lunel commented on the letter from the Forward Planning at MDDC, which calls for local landowners to put forward land available for development.

Ms Lunel asked BTC to confirm whom the assessors for this process will be and that they are independent and not allied to any organisation or individual with an interest in development. An email has been sent to Dean Titchener, Forward Planning Officer at MDDC to request this information.

Mrs Fagg asked for an amendment to the previous minutes in that the cutting season for hedgerows is actually August 1st to the end of February and not as stated. Also that if sheep were to be used to trim the grass at the Millennium Green tree protectors would be required.

With regard to her role with the P3 group which works to maintain Public rights of Way Mrs Fagg informed the meeting that there had been a number of complaints from landowners about walkers leaving gates open; the P3 group is advocating the use of a dual purpose gate which allows access to individuals without jeopardising the safety of livestock. Further to this, there had also been problems regarding dogs not being kept under close control when crossing fields and unwormed dogs fouling pasture land. When livestock becomes infested with the types of worms carried by dogs their carcasses are not suitable as food for people. The farmer still has to carry the cost of disposing of the animal and this is an expensive side affect of public footpaths running across farmland. Mr Rowlands, who farms locally, observed that no matter how many signs are put up to educate the public there is no guarantee people will take notice. Cllr Gilmour acknowledged this point but suggested that the NFU had signs to address this issue and may still be able to supply them. The P3 group was considering a campaign to highlight the matter through the local media.

A resident of the High Street informed the meeting of a noticeable increase in the amount and speed of the traffic and also in the size of vehicles using that road. The possibility of changing the speed limit to 20mph was considered. It was also reported that vehicles are ignoring the 'no entry' sign by the bus stop is being ignored. This seems to have become a short cut for earth moving lorries, which have taken to using what is a very small lane, and as there is no pavement on High Street, it is very difficult to get out of the way. PCSO Follett offered to spend some time there with a speed gun and Cllr Colthorpe offered to discuss the matter with Steve Leigh of DCC Highways. As a result of this it was agreed that some extra signage at both ends of the High Street might be appropriate.

A complaint was made that model aircraft are still being flown from the Recreation Ground across farmland and livestock. Cllr Weston saw this happening and went to the Rec where he found the owner with the plane, which was also fitted with a camera. The complainant had recorded sixteen flights in thirty days with six flights in the six days prior to the meeting and had been advised by his solicitor that the practice was unlawful. It also creates a dangerous situation regarding livestock who are frightened and stampede away from the noise. The police officers present said they had previously spoken to the individual concerned. It was agreed to look into changing the byelaw and posting a notice against the flying of model aircraft from the Recreation Ground.

Mr Rowlands requested that the Quarryman's be served with a request that a polite notice be displayed outside asking that cars are not left outside overnight as these prevent access for large farm vehicles. He went on to comment on the recent letter from BTC to the NFU with regard to NFU policy on farmland being used to create solar factories. Mr Rowland felt that he should have been telephoned to discuss this matter. The reply from the NFU indicated that it doesn't have an issue with farmers turning land over to the use of solar factories but Mr Rowlands stated that he does not feel he has to support NFU policy in respect of this. The Chairman apologised to Mr Rowlands should any offence have been caused; the purpose of the letter was simply to ascertain NFU policy regarding solar factories as recorded in the Notes of the Public Forum of 5th March 2013.

Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council held on June 4th 2013.

1. In attendance were Councillors Brian Smith, Rodney Baker, Rachel Gilmour, Jean Pope, William Weston, Edward Tanner and Jack Ward. Apologies were received from Councillors Keith and Francis Stoner. Also in attendance were Councillors Colthorpe and Stanley.

2. There were no declarations of interest.

3. An amendment to the dates given in point 7 of the previous minutes was agreed (as referred to in the Notes of the Public Meeting). Also Cllr Colthorpe was re-elected to Devon County council and also sits on MDDC since the recent by-election. The minutes were then agreed as a true record.

4. Since the last meeting repairs had been carried out on the pavements and drain covers that were causing problems. The repairs on the Shillingford Road just beyond Castle Grove are scheduled to take place on the 20th and 21st June. The road will be closed on those dates. It was suggested by DCC Highways that the road crossing that had been requested for Newton Square, to facilitate safe crossing to the post office and the Spar, might be too expensive. Cllr Colthorpe agreed to suggest a site meeting with Steve Leigh of DCC with Cllrs Smith, Gilmour and Tanner also willing to attend.

5. Cllr Stanley reported that all was quiet at Mid Devon District Council. The accounts had been received and showed that the Housing Dept had run under budget allowing £500,000 to be transferred to the reserves.

Mid Devon is now the solar panel capital of the UK with the greatest number installed.

Westminster has the least number of solar panels nationally.

Cllr Colthorpe now holds new posts within Policy and Corporate services, Health and Well-being and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority.

Mid Devon District Council recently won the 'Library of the Year Award'. The judges were particularly impressed with fact that no libraries had been closed in Devon and that the range of services available through the library was exceptional.

6. Finances. Cllr tanner proposed that all outstanding accounts are paid as soon as possible. Cllr Pope seconded this. It was also proposed that BTC continue to pay the VAT for the Riverside Hall. Agreed unanimously.

May Payments.

May 1 st	D/D	MDDC	Rates for toilets	£31.00
	D/D	MDDC	Rates for car park	£46.00
	M.Morgan		Toilets	£300.00
	J.Eyre		Clerks salary & expenses	£323.00
			St Michaels community Hall	£10.00
			MJF contractors – grass cutting	£209.36
			Hire of Albert Fowler Room	£180.00
			Bouquet	£15.00
			Grass cutting Hollett Garden	£20.00
			Caxtons Stationery	£31.03

All cheques to the 31st May have been paid.

May receipts.

VW management. Repayment	£453.94
Car park	£249.65
Scottish Widows Interest	£73.67

Account balances @ 29th May 2013

HSBC	£23103.35	Scottish Widows	£36531.39
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7. Planning. Ref 13/00572/LBC 2 Castle Street. No objections.
Ref 13/00689/FULL Bampton Primary School. No objections.

8.a. A fence is required next to the stream at the Millennium Green. It was decided that should be attended to as a matter of urgency and that Nigel Payne would be asked to meet with Cllrs Smith and Baker to discuss the best solution with a view to carrying out the work immediately..

There are funds available from the Church to put towards the creation of a mountain bike track. It was thought these funds might not be available next year; Cllr Ward agreed to check the status of this year's funding.

Due to the absence of Cllr Pitt it was agreed to discuss the specifications of outstanding works and requirements for tender at the next meeting.

b. Local Plan 3. Cllr Gilmour agreed to contact Liz Pickering at MDDC to discuss amendments to the plan.

c. Flood Plan. The Chairman noted the need to appoint volunteer co-ordinators to manage the Flood Plan. Some of the previous volunteers are still available and willing to help and an up-to-date list is now required. Cllr pope to distribute and edit the existing list and all volunteers are to be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the Flood Plan at the Scout Hut at 7pm on Tuesday 9th July 2013.

The Environment Agency is also to be invited to meet with BTC to discuss ongoing problems with flooding in Bampton.

d. Parish Plan. BTC to meet on June 10th to highlight the ten main points for action from the Parish Plan.

e. With regard to the letter from Mid Devon and the call to identify new land for development (also discussed in the Public Forum) it was thought important that BTC define it's Neighbourhood Plan in respect of further building and development in Bampton. Cllr Gilmour to liase with Liz Pickering and Peter Williams at MDDC in reference to this.

f. Shillingford Play Park. Steve Densham to be contacted again and asked to set date for meeting to discuss the future management of the park.

9. AOB. The play park at Station Road requires more work and a meeting with the parents and children will be arranged to discuss adaptations to the existing park.

Cllrs Tanner and Pope agreed to attend the training courses for new councillors on July 4th.

10. A letter had been received from the Commissioner for Police in reply to a letter from BTC regarding the detrimental effect on trade the almost constant presence of a PCSO and a council parking attendant were having on the town. The response was felt to be not wholly satisfactory.

The next meeting of Bampton Town Council will take place on Tuesday 2nd July 2013, commencing at 7.30pm and preceded by the Public Forum at 7pm.

