

## Notes of the Public Forum

Held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

A Mr Garside of Garside Planning Services acting as agent for Mr Clark in respect of the Planning Application for four bungalows at Ashleigh Park made a presentation to the Council. He informed the council that the site was within the settlement boundary of the LP3. The application includes a proposal to remove a mound which has trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Mr Garside stated that his arboriculturist had surveyed the site and found that sixteen of the nineteen trees were dead or dying and suggested that they should be removed. Mr Garside added that the new bungalows would have a rainwater storage facility which would reduce run-off from the site.

Sally Jackson, speaking as a relative of a resident of Barnhaven, brought notice of Devon County Council's intention to close Barnhaven and all residential care homes in Devon. Mrs Jackson felt that Barnhaven has a special position in the community, both as a home and an employer of thirty local people. There were concerns regarding the fact that staff had been told not to speak to anyone about the situation. Neither had a practical solution been offered as to where the five hundred residents of DCC residential homes will go to live, the only priority seemed to be to cut costs. Cllr Gilmour had suggested in an earlier conversation with Mrs Jackson that a public meeting should be arranged. A response to the proposals can be made up until March 26<sup>th</sup>. There has been huge spending on Barnhaven in the last few years. Cllr Pope stated that there were not enough care workers to meet the needs of people already living in the community.

Mrs Ward declared an interest being the wife of Cllr Ward, but said he knew nothing of the question she was about to ask. She wished to know who made audio recordings of the meeting and asked why the other councillors didn't know about this. Cllr Pitt responded that he made the recordings and that the other councillors were aware of this. Cllr Ward said that he had not been told of this. Mrs Ward asked Cllr Pitt whether he cut anything he didn't like out of the recordings and was assured he did not. A vote on the matter had been taken at a recent council meeting as the recording of meetings is part of the Governments initiative to ensure transparency.

Mr Martin Baker wished to speak on behalf of a group of fifty objectors to the retrospective application for function rooms at Duvale Barton. He asked that BTC object to the appeal to the application by writing to the Planning Inspectorate.

Mr Woolley felt that the minute regarding the adoption of the Parish Plan by BTC was inaccurate, he felt that the minute of the 4/2/14 was not accurate in that it did not reflect that the Parish Plan had been adopted. The Clerk advised that the minute had been written exactly as it took place in the meeting and that there had not been any objection to the minute from the councillors. She offered to listen to the tape again to confirm the details. Cllr Pitt noted that the minute had been signed off as a true record by Cllr Tanner as Acting Chairman.

Jess Jones asked what was the exact role of the Millennium Green ? Mrs Fagg, who was attending the meeting, responded that it is a public open space, a wildlife site and a part of the Millennium Green Trust. Jess said that it was popular with children but asked if a bench could be provided for parents and to make it more people friendly generally? Cllr Tanner agreed that this would be looked into.

Mrs Fagg asked if the public may stay to ask questions of Mr Peter Williams following his presentation and this was agreed.

## Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council

Held on Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

1. Present were Cllr Tanner (Acting Chair) Cllrs Stoner, Pitt, Pope, Baker and Ward. Cllr Polly Colthorpe was also present.  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Smith, Gilmour and Stanley. Cllr Weston was absent.
2. Cllrs Tanner and Stoner declared an interest in any business pertaining to the Riverside Hall.
3. Regarding point 8g in the minutes of the previous meeting. The insurance available constitutes £20,000 of personal accident cover until the policy expires in May 2014.8i. Cllr Pope offered to cut back the scrub to find the roses in the Rose Garden but did not say that she would ask the Bampton in Bloom group to help with this. The minutes were agreed as a true record.[The Monitoring Officer for MDDC also asked, via email, that it be made clear that although MDDC did record meetings 'live streaming' does not take place, as was recorded in the minutes for February].
4. Cllr Pope will be making a start on the weeds in the Rose Garden. Cllr Ward had looked into the relationship between the PCC and the Heritage Centre. The PCC had agreed to abide by the terms of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The PCC and BHVC were joint guarantees on condition of there being a licence between the two parties. The licence states that BHVC will be allowed to use the church for ten years for £10 per year and that there will be a contribution towards heating, lighting and broadband. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification of the partnership situation between the two bodies from HLF. The meeting was adjourned at this point at the suggestion of the Chairman to discuss the situation regarding BHVC with Dr K Mills who was in attendance, Cllr Pitt pointed out that this was not an agenda item and should not be discussed, Cllr Tanner stated that it was the Chairman's right to adjourn the meeting, proposed by Cllr Stoner seconded by Cllr Baker. Dr Mills stated that the paperwork to formally register BHVC was with the Charity Commission. Their recommendations were being taken on board and he looked forward to receiving confirmation of charity status. The meeting recommenced.

5. Mr Peter Williams of Forward Planning at Mid Devon addressed the meeting about the consultation on the Local Plan Review. As the old plan dated from 2007 it needed to be brought up to date, there needs to be a fifteen year supply of housing sites available in the local plan. The review will take the plan forward to 2033. There is no current figure as to how many new houses will be required in Mid Devon. This will come from the Strategic Market Assessment which is currently being carried out. The question is as to whether these new houses should be built in existing towns or whether to move to other options. Each of the options for housing contains an element of rural housing. Between 700 and 1200 houses need to be built in rural areas for each area. The Public Consultation is effectively a 'shopping list' of possible housing allocation. Some areas do want more housing, others do not. Bampton particularly asked not to be a main settlement and consequently the town maybe reduced to village status. There are four sites in Bampton, including Bouchier Close, and BTC has to offer recommendations as to which sites it would prefer to see used and how many houses should be on each. Cllr Tanner asked whether the change from town to village would have any effect on the allocation for Bampton. Mr Williams replied that it would may have been the case with the previous plan but it was following the Taylor Report it was now recognised that some villages would welcome some development. Cllr Tanner noted that the infrastructure support really needed addressing but Mr Williams reminded the council that 700 houses was for the whole of Mid Devon and that BTC had the chance to say how many houses should be built and where. Cllr Tanner suggested adjourning the meeting to allow the public to ask questions; proposed Cllr Stoner and seconded by Cllr Pope. Mrs Fagg asked a question regarding the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. This, she thought, could be a complex and time-consuming project although it may be supported by MDDC. If the aspirations of the local community could be met through the Local Plan Review it may save the expense of a Neighbourhood Plan. Had Mr Williams any suggestions on this point? The important point here was that any comments had to be in reference to planning. As far as Bampton was concerned this may lend itself to the suitability of road networks outside the settlement area and the protection of the undeveloped Bathern Valley.

The meeting was reinstated. Cllr Ward asked if there would be social housing within any new developments? Mr Williams responded that this would generally be 35% but would not apply beyond settlement limits unless it was an Exception Site. There were also considerations in respect of viability; a site that was more expensive to develop would not necessarily be able to carry the cost of social housing. Mr Williams was thanked for his time and left the meeting.
6. Cllr Colthorpe asked whether the council was keeping up with its responses to the various consultations in progress at the moment? She particually referred to the Care Home consultation having been a Councillor when a private care provider planned to take over Barnhaven. She believed that a current problem is that the rooms are not big enough to satisfy the regulations that govern the

care sector eg for hoists and other equipment. Cllr Colthorpe reported that the need for care homes was dropping as people managed personal care budgets to buy 'care services' and this makes the ownership of care homes unviable so DCC was looking to see where cuts could be made. Cllr Tanner felt that Cllr Hart, speaking on Radio Devon had made the whole thing sound cut and dried and Cllr Pitt agreed with this opinion. Cllr Pitt asked how many cuts were being made in County Hall? Cllr Colthorpe said that cuts are running into millions of pounds and have to be accommodated. The budget will be reduced from £600 million to £400 million over the next three years. Residential youth and day care services are seeing usage changing. Cllr Pope, who works in care in the community and in hospitals, disagreed with the comments about the space in Barnhaven and the use of equipment; there is more space in residential homes than in a domestic home and the need to use equipment would remain. She also informed the meeting that there are beds in care homes that are kept free so Social Services can make referrals for short respite care. This results in elderly people living in the community being sent into hospital for further support. This policy had recently created a red alert situation which meant that there were no beds available in hospital for even seriously ill people to be referred to. As far as the care home consultation was concerned Cllr Pope was very firmly of the opinion that the right people had not been spoken to. Cllr Stoner thanked Cllr Pope for her insights and he was supported by everyone at the meeting in this. He recalled that the issue regarding room sizes had been raised before and a way had been found around the situation. He also noted that all the housing around Barnhaven is allocated to elderly people. Cllr Colthorpe continued that as a result of the youth services consultation youth services would now be provided on a targeted basis rather than as a universal service. Mid Devon had not requested an increase on the council tax but both DCC and the fire services had requested increases of 1.99%

7. **Finance.** Cllr Pitt proposed with-holding the payment to Mr Adams as the cameras were not yet working. Seconded by Cllr Baker.

Car park takings: 18/2/14 £131.76 28/2/14 £61.45

The total for the financial year so far is £2,363.58.

**March payments due.**

J.Eyre Clerk's salary	724.36
M.Morgan Toilet cleaning	280.00
Daw refrigeration Riverside Hall	246.00
Filmbank Distributors Riverside Hall	116.40
Performing Rights Society Riverside Hall	106.80
Riverside Hall Hire of A.Fowler room	10.00
Office Overload Computer	469.00
Nash & Co Solicitors Shilling ford Park	420.00
Society of Local Council Clerks Membership	126.00
HMRC NICS	2.56

**February receipts.**

2/2/14 Football Club rent	400.00
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6/2/14	Car park	230.00
19/2/14	Riverside Hall	89.00
19/2/14	Riverside Hall	97.00
19/2/14	Riverside Hall	205.00
19/2/14	Parish Plan Steering Group	612.37
19/2/14	Car park	125.00

**Cheques not presented 19/2/14**

7/1/14 No 101915 HMRC £2.56

4/2/14 No 101925 HMRC £2.56

**Bank statements @ 19/2/14**

HSBC £29,884.40cr Scottish Widows £36,531.39cr

A letter had been received from Mr Beeden suggesting the purchase of sufficient drain rods to keep the Frog Street stretch of drain clear. Proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Ward. All in favour.

Cllr Pitt suggested that the money raised from the car parks be kept in an interest-earning account. Cllr Pitt to bring more information to the next meeting.

There had been six applications for funds from the profits of Bampton Fair. From a total of £2,001.50 available Cllr Pitt suggested that the amount be split equally between all applicants, giving them £333.50 each. Proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed.

8. Planning.

Ref 10/01505/Full Sent in error.

Ref 14/00140/Full Four bungalows at Ashleigh Park. No objections.

Ref 14/00264/LBC Internal alterations at Combe Head. No objections,

Ref 14/00701/Full Duvale Barton. Cllr Pope proposed not to support the change of use seconded by Cllr Stoner with all in agreement. Cllr Tanner declared an interest.

9. TAP Fund. As no formal proposal had been received from Morebath Cricket Club or any acknowledgement from Morebath Parish Council regarding the combining of the TAP Funds to install cricket nets on the Recreation Ground it was very difficult to pursue this proposal. Cllr Pope stated that the approach had been made by Morebath Cricket Club a long time ago but that they had not done anything that was required of them. Cllr Colthorpe suggested it may be worth pursuing the possibility as the TAP Fund did favour partnership working. Cllr Stoner commented that a representative of English Heritage has recently visited the site and there may be a place for nets but any work had to be confirmed with them first as there may be the need for an archaeological survey. To be discussed on the next agenda.

Public toilets. Cllrs Pitt and Gilmour had attended a meeting with Andrew Busby at MDDC and can confirm that this year's money is secure. The district council are looking for ideas to save money although Bampton toilets are the second cheapest in Devon. Bampton has adopted lighting that is movement sensitive to save money but this hasn't been taken up by any other councils. It seemed that Mr Busby wanted BTC to carry the cost of cleaning the toilets.

Clerk to write to cleaners stipulating that all cleaning materials should be requested through BTC so costs can be recorded. At the moment people know that the toilets are open 24 hours a day and are used by bus drivers and the police.

Environment Agency Agreement regarding Manor Mill. A new copy of the agreement had been received but Cllr Pitt felt that the new wording may leave the Bampton taxpayer with a bill in future. The gates may well last but there could be problems with the pump. Cllr Pitt proposed that the matter be carried over to next month's meeting. Cllr Ward then proposed that the agreement be signed seconded by Cllr Pope four for and Cllr Pitt against. Clerk to request two copies from EA.

Trees by the playground. SW Tree Fellers, Nigel Payne and Barle Forestry asked for quotes but none yet received. Held over to next meeting.

Pump House. A tile has blown off the roof and needs replacing. Cllr Pitt was not happy that the cameras were not working and the electricity board needed contacting regarding the bill.

Walkway to Scott's. A quote for £350 had been received to fit fencing along the walkway by Scott's. Proposal to accept from Cllr Pope seconded by Cllr Baker all agreed.

Play park and Rec inspections had identified repair work required at both sites including fencing, removal of rubbish and improvement of surfaces. MDCC to be asked whether they can recommend a contractor who can deal with all these jobs, otherwise to be put to tender.

Sub-committees are to be brought to bear as and when required. Cllr Stoner suggested that it would be useful to revive the committee structure which covered Finance, Property and Planning. Planning could become a Scrutiny Committee to look at Planning Applications as necessary and the activities of other public bodies which are likely to affect the well-being of the people of Bampton. Property to become Infrastructure and to cover all aspects of the built environment as well as property for which the Town Council has a responsibility, with a sub-committee to cover volunteers dealing with Flood, Snow, Ice and other emergencies. Proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Pope with Cllr Pitt abstaining.

Marquees. Cllr Tanner informed the meeting that it now appeared that the marquees did not belong to BTC but actually belonged to the Bampton Fair Working Group who applied for the funding, according to Kelly Beeston and Sheri Webber. Cllr Stoner observed that the working group were accountable to BTC who had the licence to arrange the fair. Cllr Tanner noted that this theory was also supported by Humphrey Berridge. Cllr Pitt asked why BTC were paying the insurance for the marquees? The matter was further confused by the fact that the BFWG are accountable to BTC. Cllr Tanner adjourned the meeting to discuss the hire of the marquees with Rotarian Dr Ken Mills who asked that his request to hire the marquees for Uffculme Fete be honoured. Cllr Pitt asked why BTC is insuring the marquees if it does not own them and should he take them off the list? Further to this BTC still had not been paid by Mr Woolley. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Brown signs. Information had been provided regarding a request for numerous brown signs to be erected around Bampton by BHVC. Due to the late arrival of this information further detail was requested of DCC by the Clerk of James Anstee of DCC Highways. He had sent an email which was read to the Councillors in which he stated it was his understanding that BTC had been consulted regarding, and were in support of, these new signs and was rather taken back to learn it was on that evening's agenda. Mr Anstee was aware that the church could be seen from all parts of the town and said that the amount of signage must be agreed by BTC. He had been made aware, as had the Clerk, that a notice had gone out on the Bampton Business Group website intimating that signage had already been agreed and would be erected later this year.

The proposals were for signage on every route into Bampton plus town centre signs, which would duplicate the existing car park signs, or for signs which would simply provide continuity of signage from the Exeter Inn or for none at all. A map was supplied showing the extent of the possible signage and Mr Anstee felt that a sign at the Exeter Inn would be sufficient. Councillors observed that the new brown signs at the Exeter Inn failed to show that the town had public toilets. Cllr Tanner adjourned the meeting to allow Dr Ken Mills to speak on the matter. He felt that Katrina Munroe had informed BTC at a previous meeting, the BHVC were going to pay for the signs and felt that the church was not visible to anyone walking along the street. The meeting recommenced. Cllr Tanner asked whether the Council supported the signs and were supporting the BHVC in their work. Cllr Baker proposed accepting the signs. Cllr Tanner asked if there were any amendments? Cllr Pitt said he felt that there were too many signs but Cllr Tanner said the discussion was past that point and asked for a second to Cllr Baker's proposal. Cllr Pope also felt there were too many signs and asked if public toilets would be included on the signage as she felt people needed this information. Cllr Stoner said that if Cllr Pope proposed the signs with additional information about public toilets he would second it but he also wanted an amendment that BTC should have been consulted from the beginning and should have had some say on the placement of signs. At Cllr Stoner's request the Clerk read Mr Anstee's email in full which contradicted the intimation in the email supplied by BHVC that the application had been received and approved by DCC. Cllr Baker again proposed that all the signs should be accepted with Cllr Pitt again asking for an amendment that there were too many as there would be eight signs in all. Cllr Pope again agreed with this. Cllr Tanner asked for a second to Cllr Pitt's proposal for amendments, Cllr Pope alone supported this. He then asked for a vote on what BHVC were proposing with WC signs and it was carried with three for and two against. He then confirmed at the Clerk's request that the vote had been for all the signs.

Bampton Castle. A meeting had been held with Andrew Crabb of English Heritage regarding the Recreation Ground which also a scheduled monument. There is a considerable amount of work to be done in removing brambles from the whole site and in hedge laying and generally weeding out sapling. Devon Hedgelink had expressed an interest in helping with this as 2014 is 'The Year of the Hedge' and this may provide a good opportunity for them to demonstrate their skills. Paul Tucker the Funding Officer of MDDC is also very supportive and willing to support the bid to HLF to have the site improved. HLF have invited a pre-application to see the extent of the work and to see what monies are available. It was also felt it might be useful to begin clearing brambles but English Heritage would need to be informed of this prior to work commencing. Mr Crabb thought there was the need for a great deal of work apart from clearance work there was the possibility of making access to the top of the mound easier, renewing and improving the changing room and increasing the public use, the potential for a picnic site and opening up the orchard. An approach to be made to EH regarding beginning to get the brambles cleared and to make the initial application to the HLF. All in favour of this proposal.

Care Home Consultation. An open meeting to be arranged. Cllr Pope said that many of the people in Barnhaven could not live independently.

10. Correspondence. Neil Parish informed the council that funds were available for the maintenance of the War Memorial.

Mrs Whincup asked whether funds could be made available to remove one tree and top another in the Hollett Garden. All agreed.

The letter from BHVC requesting funds as they had now applied for charitable registration was refused as they had been told that they needed a formally recognised constitution.

Date of the next meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.