

Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council
Held on Tuesday 5th August 2014.

Notes of the Public Forum.

Janet Crabtree spoke about the situation regarding the future of the library. Please see the attached notes.

Mrs Kenny of Castle Grove attended the meeting to speak regarding the Moutray Read Memorial Stone, she has offered to meet the cost of the memorial stone and mentioned that next year would be the centenary of his death. The gentleman was a holder of the Victoria Cross who once lived at Castle Grove.

Mrs Lunell reported that engineers had been working at the site on the corner of Morebath Road and Frog Street/Lane. She asked BTC to be aware that this may mean that there is an application on the next planning schedule. Cllr Colthorpe was not aware of an application as yet and said it usually takes eight weeks, with major applications taking longer. Cllr Smith asked that Cllr Colthorpe keep the Council informed should she hear anything.

Mr Paul Edwards asked if the removal of sandbags from the Quarryman's by a member of the public, in December 2013, had been discussed. He felt that this was not in keeping with the Nolan Principles. The Chairman felt that he had dealt with this.

Mr Edwards went on to ask the Chairman if he would like to discuss the details of the Part Two agenda meeting? The items discussed are a matter of confidentiality but Cllr Smith informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Cllr Deeds, Chairman of the Standards Committee at MDDC, which was copied to all Councillors, advising him of proper procedures that must be followed. Mr Edwards said he would be pleased to see these being followed in future.

Mr Hartley asked the Chairman whether there would be repairs to the pavements in Bampton. Cllr Pope advised that the workmen had been out and carried out repairs. It was thought that the paving stones outside the former post office were still bad and Cllr Stoner noted a deep pothole on Castle Street that he felt should be reported.

Mr Beeden informed the meeting that six sets of drain rods had been purchased for the Flood group to use and presented the Finance Officer with the invoice.

The Meeting of Bampton Town Council.

1. There were no apologies for absence.

2. Cllr Tanner declared an interest in Point 8g Libraries.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

4. Cllr Pope wished to have the minute 8d regarding the Open Day altered. She now said that it is 'Bampton Open Day' who is arranging the Open Day and insurance for the event, not Bampton Business Group as she previously stated. Also, Cllr Pope wished it to be noted that she had not pursued alternative funding for Barnhaven as minuted as she had been waiting to hear the outcome of a possible take-over of the service. Cllr Gilmour informed the meeting that there had been twelve applications to DCC from companies wishing to take over service provision, two of which applied directly to Barnhaven, all of which had been refused by DCC.

5. Councillor's reports. Cllr Colthorpe reported that the decision taken by DCC regarding the future of residential care was about the provision of service and not the future of the properties. DCC took the decision not to provide residential care services and Barnhaven will close in the Autumn. Charlton Lodge will close in the Spring. Overall numbers of residents in the homes have already fallen by one third since people became aware of the imminent closures. The reduction of Youth Services in Devon will see Tiverton Youth Centre remain as the hub for services, but not necessarily providing the same services. Regarding day services; Charlton Lodge has already closed in this respect whilst the services provided at The Old Bakery and Old Bartho's will continue but not necessarily at those venues. Workshops have been held for groups and individuals interested in providing services at the buildings involved in the closures. There will be some difficulty in that groups taking over premises with staff and residents in place would have to establish their own Care Quality Control Accreditation. Officers have been in attendance at these workshops, which have been very well attended, to provide seminars and answer questions and it is hoped that preferred alternatives will be in place. Cllr Gilmour noted that Cllr Stuart Barker had stated that people who were too frail to be moved would not be moved from their homes. She added that the whole process seemed to be the wrong way round; if there are people interested in taking over these services then these discussions should be a priority. Would Cllr Colthorpe ask Cllr Barker that question please? Especially with regard to Barnhaven. Specifically, at the request of Bampton Town Council, would Devon County Council please prioritise discussions with alternative care providers who have expressed an interest in continuing existing care, in order to secure the future of residential care homes?

Cllr Stanley told the meeting that the Housing Service at MDDC, as a provider of care in sheltered housing previously with DCC funding, will continue to fund the provision of care despite the reduction of £150,000 in funding.

6. Finance. All figures given as at 22nd July 2014.

July receipts.

24 th June	HMRC VAT repayment	£3,672.60
9 th July	Car parks	419.00
9 th July	Riverside Hall films	194.00

Cheques not presented.

8 th July	Chq 101981	Society of Local Council Clerks	53.50
8 th July	Chq 101988	Costcutters	30.00
21 st July	Chq 101989	Mason Kings	395.00

Bank statements.

HSBC	£43,399.36	Scottish Widows	£36,710.40
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August payments due.

D/d MDDC Bridge Terrace	£32.28
D/d MDDC Tolls of Fairs	48.00
Costcutters Stamps	30.00
Mason Kings Picnic table	395.00
J Eyre Clerk's salary	672.48
HMRC & NICs	4.07
M.Morgan Toilet cleaning	310.00
MJF Contractors Grass cutting	418.72
Filmbank Distributors Riverside Hall	116.40
Just the Job Hollett Garden	20.00
Jean Pope Printer ink	10.99
Hi Line Tree work at Station Road	1,800.00
M.N.R. Play ground repairs	2,901.00
J. Eyre Overtime and expenses	172.00
Weston Farms Drain rods	169.56

Cllr Baker felt he had done as much as he could regarding the questions asked by Grant Thornton of the audit document supplied to them. The Clerk was asked to look at what they require. He added that he would be stepping down as Responsible Finance Officer at the end of this financial year. The Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked him for all his work.

The Clerk presented three quotes for accountants who would be able to scrutinise the payroll documents and it was decided to ask Wheelers to carry out the work. Proposed by Cllr Gilmour and seconded by Cllr Pope with all agreed. Cllr Smith to deliver appropriate documents on Wednesday 6th August.

Planning.

Ref: 14/01169/FULL 1B Ashleigh Park. Erection of garage. No objections.

Ref: App/Y1138/A/13/2204410 Solar factory at Buckhayes Farm. The Inspector for the Secretary of State has dismissed the appeal on this application. The Council was pleased to learn that this development would not go ahead.

MDDC had sent copies of a Scoping Report to assess the effects of renewable energy applications on the environment and requested comments. Cllr Smith to action.

- 8.a Moutray Read Paving stone. The Council acknowledged Mrs Kenny's generosity in offering to pay for the stone. The placement of the stone will be agreed when its dimensions are known. It will be the centenary of Captain Moutray Read's death in action in September 2015. The cost of siting the stone will be considered when the site is decided.
- b. Marquee loan agreement. A document has been drawn up which must be completed for the loan of the marquees. All applications to borrow the marquees to be made to the Clerk.
- c. CCTV registration. Cllr Pope will be the responsible person regarding the CCTV system. The relevant documents are with her for completion and return to Tom Jones at MDDC.
- d. Open Day market. BTC to approach the Markets Officer for further advice and an assessment of the requirements and obligations, which fall to BTC, are to be considered. Cllrs Tanner and Pope cannot be considered to be council representatives on the Bampton Open Day committee, as was suggested in a letter received by the Council, as this had not been agreed by BTC.
- e. Bampton Fair. The application for road closure has now been made. A meeting has now been arranged to discuss signage for the event.
- f. There had been a request to establish the dates the Parish Lengthsman will be working in Bampton. Information to be sought from Highways with Cllr Colthorpe to chase up if no response received in a fortnight.
- g. Cllr Tanner declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting. DCC had suggested that they would support libraries that were seen to be helping themselves. The costs of maintaining Bampton library were discussed and it was agreed that it is important to retain a qualified librarian for some of the hours that the library would be open. Cllr Gilmour said that the library is a recognized resource and suggested that BTC should state a set financial donation to support the cost of running the library, perhaps using some of the money collected from the car parks. She also hoped that the landlord of any new library premises would not charge a commercial rent for the premises. She continued that a commitment from BTC would allow Miss Crabtree and the action group to go back to DCC with a proposal, working on the expectation that the total annual running costs would total £15,000. Cllr Gilmour proposed that BTC agree in principle to support the library with a fixed annual sum. Seconded by Cllr Weston with all in agreement.

Cllrs Pitt and Gilmour left the meeting at this point due to illness and family commitments respectively.

- i. St Michael's Community Hall. A letter had been received requesting a donation towards the refurbishment project. Cllr Stoner proposed a donation of £250 to be used specifically in the improvement to the outside area and a request to be kept in touch with the progress of the project. Cllr Pope seconded this with all in agreement.
- j. The Clerk requested a copy of the agenda and notes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Council records. Cllr Pope told the meeting that she had the notes of the public meeting but would not be making them available for legal reasons. The reason was not given.
- k. Repairs to the Lock-up roof. Cllrs Smith and Tanner told the meeting that they were thinking of reinstating the public toilets on the bridge. The building is

deteriorating and requires work. They were also of the opinion that the toilets in the Riverside Hall may not be available for use on Bampton Fair Day and toilets would have to be hired. Cllr Smith asked the Council whether quotes should be requested to repair and reopen the toilets. Cllr Tanner suggested creating a specification so that all quotes refer to the same works. He and Cllr Smith stated the works would cost in the region of £10-15,000. Cllr Tanner proposed that architects be asked to prepare drawings and quote for the reinstatement of the toilets. Cllr Baker seconded this. It was also suggested that Ernie Blake, the builder, be asked to repair the roof. Highways are to be asked to mend the fence at Station Road car park. The Flood group is to be asked to remove the trees from the stonework by Riverside Terrace. Councillor Weston will also ask the Devon Rivers Authority about the maintenance of the course of the River Bathern.

I. Due to ongoing concerns and reports of near misses from pedestrians trying to cross Newton Square another letter will be sent to Highways requesting a crossing. The situation is exacerbated by motorists parking on the chevrons outside the library and immediately outside Spar. The speed of motorists on High Street was also discussed. Although there had been SLOW signs on the road these had been tarmacked over and not reinstated. It was felt that traffic calming measures need to be considered and following previous requests to DCC that responsibility for the situation be given over to Highways at DCC before the inevitable accident happens. Copies of the letter to be sent to Cllr Colthorpe and Neil Parish MP in the hope of having the seriousness of BTC's concerns properly acknowledged.

Correspondence.

Sue Leach had written to ask about the possibility of having a church picnic on the recreation ground. There would not be a problem with this but it would be appropriate to ask the football club first.

A letter had been received from Mr Keith regarding plans for the Riverside Hall. Cllr Stoner to reply as the Council's representative on that committee.

The meeting ended at 10.25pm

The next meeting of Bampton Town Council will take place on Tuesday 2nd September 2014.