

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7pm in the LARCS Building.

Present: Cllr. Hicks (Chairman); Cllr. Edwards; Cllr. A. Mares; Cllr. Weston; Cllr. Tanner; Cllr. Leach; Cllr. Gregory; District Cllr. Moore; County Cllr. Colthorpe; Penny Clapham (Clerk); 9 members of the public.

- 1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:** Cllr. Baker. Cllr. C. Mares. Apologies accepted.
- 2) Declarations Of Interest:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Mid Devon District Council within 28 days of the change. Cllr. Tanner for agenda item 12c.
- 3) Public Discussion –** To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting. Representations can be made from our County Councillor, District Councillor and Community Police Officer. **The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 30 minutes. Standing Order c,d,e, page 3 refers.**

Herbie Cleverly – showed Council the inefficient locks removed from toilet doors. More robust locks have been fitted to 2 of the toilets.

Mr. Hill from Ashleigh Park with regard to the stopping up order and his reasons for objecting to this order. Parishioner also from Ashleigh Park agreed with the objections previously raised.

Mr. & Mrs. Weeks concerning her planning application agenda item 12b.

Sheila Howells informed Council that a planter on Riverside Walk has been moved recently to a safer place. Derek Webster - the planter has replaced a rotting tub. The flood barriers now have a trolley for ease of movement; there will be a test run very soon. Showed the signs that have been made to go alongside the barriers when they are in situ, and prevent them being moved at the time.

4) Proposed Stopping Up Order, Ashleigh Park. NATTRAN/SW/S247/3148 ref.

Proposed stopping up of Highway at Ashleigh Park, Bampton, draft order. Any person may object by stating their reasons and writing or emailing the Secretary of State. nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk
Cllr. Edwards noted Council's actions regarding the proposed stopping up order. Three points were raised.

Bampton Town Council OBJECTS to the Stopping Up application :-

- a) Pulling the building line forward to the edge of the new footpath will reduce the sight line along the main Ashleigh Park roadway to an unacceptable level.
- b) There is significant amenity value to the highway land which provides a pleasant open feel to the existing development. The applicant's contention in paragraph 2:1 of the supporting design & access statement that his proposal would "provide a more pleasing appearance" is refuted. The street scene does not require further enhancement.
- c) The principle reason for this application is to enhance the value of the plots by increasing the garden size.

Council resolved to submit the above points to the Secretary of State. All in favour by show of hands.

5) Chairman's Report (for information only) –

Read by the Chairman and attached to these minutes. Congratulations to the Swan and the Ginger Peanut for their various awards recently achieved.

6) County & District Councillor reports:-

County Cllr. Colthorpe supplied a written report attached to these minutes. Added to the report is the fact that the final financial settlement figure only came to the County Council late on Tuesday 6th February. Fairer funding is being requested for Devon. There is a pothole fund again for the year 2018/19.

District Cllr. Moore – ref: Ashleigh Park and the current planning application. There is some concern about the stability of the site. The Frog Street planning application has had an extension of time to 16th February. Drains in Briton St. hopefully to be completed in this financial year. Now becoming very difficult to find further savings at the district council. There is £18.2m from central government to support 2 major schemes in the Mid Devon area.

7) Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd January 2018, having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. All agreed by show of hands.

8) Handyperson – Cllr. Hicks to report on the proposed documentation. To agree to advertise this requirement locally. Quote application form circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. Council resolved to agree the application form – Clerk to action as soon as possible.

9) Toilets –

- i. To receive an update from the Clerk with regard to the PHS Group. Having not actioned their contract with Council, PHS are no longer the preferred supplier. There is a credit to come from them as their services had been paid for in advance. The Clerk is getting quotes for sanitary and nappy waste removal from other companies to be discussed at the March meeting.
- ii. Toilet doors. Chairman thanked Mr. Clervly for purchasing and repairing the locks.

10) Fair Grants – to consider applications received.

- i. Morebath Cricket Club towards provision of a disabled toilet at the cricket clubhouse. £250 requested and agreed.
- ii. Bampton Netball Club towards replacement kit. £200 requested and agreed.
- iii. Bampton Community Hub (Riverside Hall) towards automating the front doors. £431.46 agreed.
- iv. Shillingford & Petton Village Hall towards replacement of the ‘over the sink’ electric water heater. £200 agreed.

Council resolved to distribute the grant requests as listed. This completes the Fair grant monies from 2017.

11) Flood meeting held on 15th January at Ashleigh Park– report circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. Noted.

12) PLANNING:

Planning Applications - Mid Devon District Council has asked for comments from the Town Council on the following planning applications:

- a)
- b) 18/00015/FULL Change of use from commercial property (class A1) to physiotherapy clinic (class D1), Rupert White Interiors, 3 Brook St., Bampton.
Council resolved to support. All in favour by show of hands.
- c) 17/02062/HOUSE Retention of balcony area above existing extension and repositioning of external staircase. Highwood, Bampton.
Council observe that it is regrettable the correct procedures were not followed in the first instance. The issue of privacy enjoyment is a concern with regard to over-looking.

Planning Decisions:

- a) 17/01533/House Erection of two storey extension, Haynemoor, Shillingford.
Permitted with conditions.
- b) 06/02335/FULL Land and buildings at Venmans, Bampton. Conversion of 2 redundant buildings to 2 live/work units – non material amendment granted with conditions.

- c) 17/01963/PNCOU Notification of change of use of agricultural building to dwelling under class Q, Quartley Farm, Shillingford.
Approved with no amendments.

13) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Employment January	£435.00	BAC s
	LARCS meeting room hire x 2	£40.00	BACs
	Adams & Ellicott Xmas tree base	£220.80	BACs
	J. Caunter toilet cleans	£310.00	BACs
	C.Hicks misc expense	£27.50	BACs
	Green Reapers (D.Webster)	£84.99	BACs
	Design Shop (D.Webster)	£60.00	BACs
	Local World Newspaper Ad.	£598.80	BACs Pd.
Income:	Car park	£255.33	
	Toilets	£102.00	
	Over-payment on insurance	£3.48	

Bank Reconciliation and Statement: Reconciliation and bank statement circulated to all councillors at the meeting.

Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account. All in favour by show of hands.

14) Budget – to agree to publish the budget for 2018/19, in accordance with the Transparency Code. Agreed.

15) Internal Audit – to confirm Lee Accounting as Council’s internal auditors for the year 2017/18. Agreed.

16) Internal Control Policy – has been updated for 2018. Council resolved this policy is fit for purpose. All agreed by show of hands.

17) Riverside Hall: to agree to support The Riverside Hall’s application for TAP funding.
Standing orders suspended for parishioner to speak.
Standing orders resumed.
Council resolved to support this application.

18) King George V bench – situated in Windwhistle Lane – to consider repairs to this bench. Resolved to consider repairs to this wooden bench.

19) To receive a report from Cllr. Weston – land behind a property opposite Windwhistle Lane. The land behind Tanglewood has been given to the Devon Wildlife Trust.

20) Clerk’s Report:

- i. Preliminary telephone training for the new accounts system has been booked for Monday 5th March for an hour.
- ii. Advertisement for a grass cut contractor for Bampton parish has been placed both in the local paper and on the Devonlive portal.
- iii. Litter bin in the small car park off Briton St. is being replaced by Mid Devon Council.

Part II

21) To resolve to exclude the public and the press to progress a Personnel matter. Resolved so to do.

22) Clerk's Annual Appraisal – report received.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on 7th March 2018 at 7.00pm in the LARCS Building.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed..... Date..... Position.....

Email circulations during the past month

War Memorials News	DALC latest news	Devon Funding News
Connectme Devon	More DALC news	SLCC news updates

Chairman's report for the Bampton Town Council meeting of 7th February 2018.

For Friday, happy special birthday to our clerk, Penny Clapham!

Following a residents meeting at Ashleigh Park, I must thank Jeremy Marriot for being willing to assess the Flood risk and to be the first in a chain of residents willing to deploy the flood barrier. Once again Derek Webster, our volunteer chief Flood Coordinator has been involved, procuring on behalf of BTC, a suitable trolley to make that deployment easier.

In the Town, Chris Pestaille has taken on the Flood assessment role to alert other volunteers to any dramatic change in river levels. Any resident who is at risk and who might like to be on the EA alert telephone system, please see the contact details in the BTC display box in Brook Street.

Highways have responded to our need to have drains cleared on the S. Molton Road and the Dulverton Road. Our thanks to Cllr Poly Colthorpe and Steve Leigh at DCC.

We will continue to monitor closely the building process at Ashleigh Park.

A mention must be made of Chris Knowles-Fitton who valiantly volunteers to keep the Taunton road verges free of litter. Thank you, Chris.

Alison Hernandez, our Police and Crime Commissioner will be visiting the Community Hall for a coffee morning with Bampton people from 10am until 12noon on Saturday, 24th February.

Congratulations to the staff of The Swan for winning yet another award and welcome to another business for Bampton in the shape of The Ginger Peanut restaurant.

And finally, thanks to Angela Short and her stalwart Bampton in Bloom volunteers who have already been working, ready for the season ahead to make our town look so good. Please help them by offering to water, weed and dead --head the old blooms and to keep the whole town as free of litter as humanly possible.

County Councillor's Report

Christmas seems a long time ago now but I hope you all enjoyed it and a Happy New Year to you.

News of the government settlement arrived at County Hall just before Christmas but , as expected, brought little joy to D.C.C. as it announced core funding of £115.2m – a reduction of £13.1m (or 10.2%) on last year's figure. Councils will be able to increase council tax by an additional 1% (from 2 to 3%) without the need for a local referendum, which may have afforded a modicum of relief to our beleaguered county treasurer but will probably be somewhat less welcome to the country's residents. Despite heroic efforts over the past few years to manage the necessary cuts without impacting on front line services, the continuing reductions in government funding cannot but be felt.

As usual, in January the 'Scrutiny' committees looked at the budgets proposed in their service areas in advance of the County Council meeting in February (next Thursday, 15th). Children's Scrutiny met on Tuesday 23rd January;

Health and Adult Care on 25th and Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory on 31st but this year there was no 'joint scrutiny day' as there has been for the last several years.

In December also came news that Devon's bid to become one of ten pilot authorities for the 'Business Rate Retention' project – government's proposed method of making good some of the reduction in funding it has imposed on local authorities – has been successful. It is estimated that, for 2018-19, there could be a benefit of just under £17m to the county as a whole but the pilot – and the money – is initially at least intended only to last for one year.

A briefing note for M.Ps has been put together in light of the review of the National Funding Formula (for education) and funding allocations as notified to local authorities in December. In Devon, funding still remains £268 per pupil below the national average and is failing even to keep pace with rising costs. Additional funding of £7.5m for the year 2018/19 fails to meet even the cost of 'non-inflation' factors which include the apprenticeship levy (0.5%); uplifted pensions (4%) and an increase in teachers' pay and, since these increases are unfunded, will result in schools having to make further reductions where there is now no flexibility to do so. Under the new 'illustrative' N.F.F., Devon will receive an additional £13.2m – the equivalent of £148 per pupil; however, comparisons have been drawn to schools with similar catchment index areas in London and, even stripping out the London weighting, the differences **per pupil** range between approximately £1,500 - £2,000 at primary level and from £2,000 - £3,000 at secondary. Even in Cornwall pupils benefit from higher levels of funding (approx.£100 per pupil) than do children in Devon.

To date, Devon has only received formal confirmation from the 'Education Skills and Funding Agency' of an increase of £312,000 to the 'High Needs Block' for 2018/19 – nowhere near meeting the real increase in costs resulting from the increased age range and numbers of children requiring alternative provision. It is calculated that Devon needs an additional £4m for the High Needs Block to sustain provision at current levels.

For those of you who might have been wondering - D.C.C. has minimal exposure to Carillion. Previously, but no longer, involved with the Exeter Schools P.F.I. contract, Carillion is, however, currently a named, joint venture partner delivering some civil engineering elements of the full-fibre Gigaclear broadband network for the Connecting Devon and Somerset partnership. D.C.C. is assured that Gigaclear has a range of available options to 'deal with any change in circumstances affecting its contractors and is working to ensure that the publicly-funded broadband network is delivered on time and on budget'.

And finally, the latest national 'league tables' for recycling have Devon in third place (behind Oxfordshire and Surrey) with Devon's residents sending the lowest average weekly figure to landfill. Typically, in 2016/17 the 'black bag' waste per household averaged 4.94kg – a reduction of nearly 20% on the 2012 figure of 5.94kg.