

Minutes of the virtual meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. Whiteway; Cllr. Hopkinson; Cllr. White; County Cllr. Colthorpe; District Cllr. Moore; 1 member of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. Weston. - Accepted

2) Co-option to Council to fill a Vacancy – Tim Williams was unanimously voted onto the Council and signed the acceptance form. Welcome Cllr. Williams.

3) 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. None declared.

4) Public Discussion – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting or any matters the public would like the Council to consider on a future agenda. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 30 minutes. Standing Order 3 (e,f.) refers. No member of the public shall speak for longer than 3 minutes. 3(g). A reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

5) Covid-19 & Bampton's Response Group report – Cllr. L. Bull reported.

Cllr. Fouracres expressed Council's appreciation for the enormous efforts of Cllr. L. Bull and Cll. Hopkinson. Cllr. L. Bull thanked everyone involved both in the setting up and the running of the response groups. There is a street warden scheme; volunteers have a ward each they look after with points of contact; delivery driver scheme; phone buddy system to attempt to minimise social isolation and loneliness. The phone buddy system are able to make approaches to people; it is hard sometimes for people to say they need help. Buddies are being trained with protocols and guidance. Newsletter coming out to be delivered to everyone.

6) County & District Councillor reports:-

County Cllr. Colthorpe – County Hall very busy at present, virtually as many people are working from home. Concerns were expressed over re-cycling centres having been closed – these will be opening on Monday for essential items only. On call firefighters are driving other blue light vehicles at present, thus helping out particularly with the ambulances.

District Cllr. Moore – key points. Budget for this year is likely to be in the region of £2 to £3 million down. Loss of income from leisure centres and car parks, plus additional costs. Mid Devon are getting into video conferencing so meetings will take place within the district council. Credit to all officers working very hard within the district council. Decision due on 11th May for the Frog Street planning application.

Clerk thanked Cllr. Moore, Cllr. Stanley and Ruthie in the planning department for obtaining the S106 money so quickly to guarantee our grant from Viridor.

7) Minutes – to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4TH March 2020. Signing of the minutes will take place at the next open council meeting, when back in the LARC building. Approved as a true record.

8) Bampton Charter Fair – deferred to June.

a) To discuss the rental charge for the Fairground

- b) To discuss the involvement agreement between Exmoor Rotary Club and Bampton Town Council for 3 years 2020/2021/2022.

9) Bampton Play Park at the Motte – to receive updates.

Cllr. Williams gave an update. Earthwrights have been instructed to proceed and this instruction has been accepted. Anticipate being able to start work in August – takes Council quite close to the first drawdown of the Viridor grant. Liased with Cllr Moore and Stanley about the planning process that needs to be completed – PR programme can take place. Clerk will ask Viridor for an extension on the drawdown of the monies.

10) Bench request – to consider the request from the Lee family for a memorial bench. A recycled bench with a plaque was agreed by Council – suggested the new play park, as there are a number of benches that will be being installed. Perhaps on top of the Motte, subject to English Heritage approval.

11) Temporary Covid-19 radio station – Cllr. N. Bull reported.

Ideas for a radio station based in the old Natwest building in Dulverton, as the valley down from Dulverton through to Bampton is not well served radiowise, were outlined by Cllr. Bull. However a radio station will not be happening soon due to a lack of funding.

There could be an online stream, called Exestream, aimed at the Covid situation which could be set up with less overall funds, if there are some grants available. Clerk will send a grant application form, which could then be considered at the June meeting.

Cllr. Fouracres asked if anyone could listen in to this similar to a radio station? Yes, provided they can access the internet. There would be podcasts, with a range of information. Until funding is known, it is difficult to know what and how much can be put in place.

Cllr. L. Bull, from Covid information point of view, this would provide an additional useful service. Cllr. N. Bull elaborated on the project to Council, and discussion took place. County Cllr. Colthorpe offered £1,000 through her locality budget applied for through the Council. The updated forms will be emailed to the Clerk for completion. There are other funding streams available for Covid activities.

12) PLANNING:

Planning Applications - Mid Devon District Council has asked for comments from the Town Council on the following planning applications: emailed to councillors on 9th April so now outside the 21 days.

- a) 20/00146/FULL Revised drawings for erection of 9 dwellings at Elizabeth Penton Way.
No comment.
- b) 20/00556/FULL 17 West St. Bampton – erection of 2 storey side and single storey rear extensions, removal of conservatory, boiler room, replace retaining walls & steps to rear garden.
No comment.

Planning Decisions:

- a) 19/01804/FULL Erection of replacement agricultural building, Lower Rill, Shillingford.
APPROVED
- b) 19/01768/FULL Conversion of redundant farm building to a dwelling with associated works following demolition of existing masonry extensions, pole barn and dutch barn, Lower Rill Shillingford.
APPROVED. LBC approved also.
- c) 19/01855/LBC Conversion of farm building to self contained annexe/holiday let in including demolition of leanto, land and buildings, Lower Rill, Shillingford
APPROVED 01854/full APPROVED
- d) 20/00196/FULL Erection of extension to cover existing yard, Lords Meadow Lane, Bampton
APPROVED

- e) 20/00083/FULL Variation of condition 2 to allow the substitution of previously approved plans, Frogs End, Frog Street, GRANTED
- f) 20/00219/FULL Retention of garage with storage room above, external staircase, part change of use of land to domestic (revised scheme) Higher Barn, Bampton APPROVED

13) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	KG & S Middleton – taps in toilets	£417.50	BACs
	Four Seasons – April invoice	£479.99	BACs
	These items paid 16 th April by bank transfer.		
	Employment April	£559.80	BACs
	Zoom sub payable to Clerk	£143.88	BACs
	Hedgerow Print to Clerk	£331.20	BACs
	B. Littlewood toilet cleans	tba	BACs
	Four Seasons grass cuts	£479.99	BACs
	Four Seasons Orchard (1 Of 2)	£504.00	BACs
	BHIB annual insurance premium	£781.47	BACs
	DALC sub for the year	£400.89	Off precept
	IONOS web charges for town website pa	£129.44	CARD
	Assorted Covid spend to date	£606.87	Noted
	Viridor Waste Management – S106	£9919.50	Cq130
Income:	First half precept received	£29,474.11 (DALC sub deducted)	
	Covid grant from Devon CC	£495.00	
	S106 monies for the Play area	£9919.50	DD

Unity Trust is no longer giving interest on the deposit account due to the bank rate being dropped to 0.25% by the Bank of England. For information.

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors at the meeting.

Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account. Proposed by Cllr. White, all agreed by show of hands.

14) Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for external audit – to read and resolve to agree this statement. Council resolved to agree and sign the annual governance statement. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, signed by him as Chairman. All agreed by show of hands.

15) Accounting Statement 2019/20 for external audit – to resolve to approve this statement. Council resolved to agree and sign the accounting statement. Proposed by Cllr. White, signed by the Chairman. All agreed by show of hands.

16) Insurance renewals – to discuss the quotes received. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Comparisons were made with 3 different companies. Cllr. Hopkinson proposed BHIB Council Insurance for a fixed 3 year term. All agreed by show of hands.

17) Budget –

- i. to confirm the Pumphouse as a separate budget heading for 2020/2021 with an allowed budget of £500, taken from the Misc. budget so reducing that budget to £1500 for the year. Confirmed.

- ii. To note that home working allowance from HMRC is now £6 per week from 1st April. Noted.
- iii. To confirm agreed annual increase to Clerk's salary from 1st January from SCP29 to SCP30. Confirmed and proposed by Cllr. N. Bull. All agreed.

18) End of Year Final Accounts – to agree the final accounts for 2019/2020 and for the publication of same. Balance sheet and receipts & payments final accounts emailed prior to this meeting. (24/4/20). Agreed.

19) VAT report – Claim for refund for VAT has been submitted for £6,446.23 (received 22/4/20). Noted.

20) Clerk's report:

- i. Monthly charge for the Clerk's mobile phone increased by Vodaphone by 2.5% from £10 to £10.25 + VAT.
- ii. Coast to coast challenge postponed to the summer of 2021 due to the impact of the virus.

Items for Information

Meeting closed at 8.08pm.

The next Council meeting is on 3rd June 2020 at 7.00pm. This is also likely to be a virtual meeting.

Agreed at next virtual meeting dated.....

Signed.....

Date.....