

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held in the Riverside Hall on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. Weston; County Cllr. Chesterton; District Cllr. Moore; Cllr. Hopkinson; Cllr. White; 15 members of the public; Cllr. McHenry; Lewis Clarke (Press); Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. Whiteway. Cllr. Williams. 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. None declared.

3) 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.

A reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

Parishioner with reference to Castle Street, traffic and parked cars. Stated there has been little consideration of the residents of Castle Street.

Parishioner - does not consider any double yellow lines in Castle Street are a good idea. Considers the decrease of parked cars will increase the number of lorries coming up and down the street. Considers a solution would be to unify all residents and support all.

Parishioner - stated that this is the third time she has had to speak against double yellow lines in Castle Street. Mentioned the Nolan principles and attempted to deliver them to members of the Council who refused acceptance as these items would need to be isolated first (Covid advice).

Parishioner - has noted an increase in speed since scaffolding has been erected outside one property in the street. Considers that yellow lines will decrease the value of homes in the street, on both sides. Speed and heavy traffic are the problem.

Parishioner stated she agreed with all that has been said so far. Parking on the street acts as a buffer to speeding traffic.

Parishioner stated this is a complex issue, with the biggest problem being HGV's – the optimum solution would be to have a 7.5ton weight limit, with 3 number plate recognition cameras capturing lorries coming into a non-permitted area, except those who are delivering within the town. However, lorries on pavements must be stopped. Would like to thank both Chairman and the Council for taking a grip on this situation.

Parishioner – the trucks just have to stop riding the pavement as I cannot come out of my front door without the option of being killed.

Parishioner – also does not consider yellow lines to be the best solution.

Parishioner - supports these thoughts and also has widespread concern regarding traffic in general being aggressive in the Town. Considers calming methods overall would be of benefit.

Parishioner – this is the easiest route across country, as historically the bypass was created to avoid Bampton. Systems have not been updated and there is no desire to do so with the freight association.

Parishioner - considers there is a need to see if there is correspondence by Council (County) to freight companies.

Parishioner – recent disaster at Bickleigh Bridge was caused by an HGV from Manchester going to Marsh Barton, probably via Bampton. It must therefore have come through Castle Street.

Parishioner- on a 'b' road which had a weight limit on it – is that an option?

Parishioner – recently had a confrontation with a driver and considers this will happen more often.

Chairman Cllr. Fouracres having made notes, answered generally to the comments made.

Firstly, Council met with those people who had come to council meetings with concerns about traffic in Castle Street. A working party was formed as a way of addressing these concerns. This Council is not stopping parking but is attempting to stop the mounting of the pavement. Council took the initiative to employ a traffic consultant, and his conclusion was that this street is too narrow – there is nothing anyone can do to make this street wider, so there is a need to attempt to solve problems in another way, as in order to make enough space where the road is narrow, there has to be room to move. Consulted with the Highways Officer and the Safety Strategic Officer on the subject of weight limits, restrictions, and no one has come up with a solution that is viable. Taunton to Bampton and vice versa, there is not another viable alternative route. Weight restrictions are down to Highways at County level. So let's turn our energy to solving problems. For instance, why do HGV's not have legislation that forces them to use HGV satnavs instead of car ones? Speed having been mentioned, is not an issue that Council can address in terms of the width of Castle Street.

This is on the agenda this evening. Cllr. Fouracres would encourage all levels of councillors, the residents and political parties to work together as far as HGV's are concerned.

Further comments were made by some of the members of the public as they left the meeting.

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

Please to receive a letter from Liz Redfern thanking Council for their support of the publication of the Out of Bounds booklet

5) County & District Councillor reports:-

County Cllr. Chesterton recently elected, considered it good to hear all the opinions on Castle Street. He is going through a lengthy induction process at present. Devon remains a Conservative council with leader John Hart. Eventually he will be on various committees. Welcomed by the Cllr. Fouracres.

District Cllr. Moore introduced himself to the members of the public, re-stating his committees as waste, leisure and planning services .

Cllr. Moore said it was really great to see a lot of people together again; this has been missed, the ability of people to meet their councillors. A rumour has been heard about District Cllr. Stanley owning some land in Bampton – it has in fact been bought by Mid Devon District Council and is nothing to do with Cllr. Stanley. Development company owned by MDDC and any profits made will go to the council.

Mid Devon Council have been allocated monies from the Re-opening High Streets fund and just over £2,000 has been allocated to Bampton.

6) Minutes – the Minutes of the virtual meeting held on the 5th May 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Bampton in Bloom – to discuss methods of encouraging others to volunteer in caring for the gardens and baskets in Bampton.

- i. Riverside Walk. Cllr. McHenry has weeded the walk and looked to see what can be done to put it back as a number of trip hazards have been identified. Sand, membrane and pebbles could be put down to bring the Walk back to standard. This would have to be done carefully, as drains from car park above empty onto the Walk. Belongs to the Riverside Hall.

Cllr. L. Bull has asked a builder to look at both the Walk and the Stage so that generalised costs could be considered. There would need to be work done to underpin the car park.

To encourage others – approach the Scouts and the School who are keen to do some community outreach. Cllr. McHenry, anything that brings younger people in to help can only be a good thing. Social media mentioned as a method of communicating more widely. Cllr. L. Bull will try to do more on Facebook.

Cllr. Hopkinson – shortage of volunteers in general – perhaps a volunteer fair? There is a lot of talent just waiting to be asked.

Proposal to approach Clare Fynn to see if she would do the admin for social media

July agenda - some sort of volunteering aspect for discussion.

ii. The Stage

Council own the Stage and it is not in a great state. Builder has been asked to quote for (1) fix and make good (2) rebuild it.

Note previous to the Stage, there was a house there and previous to one of the wars, this was removed because it was being hit by lorries.

8) Bampton Fair – to receive the latest update on the progress for this year’s Fair. Cllr. White reported planning is going well. Exmoor ponies have confirmed they are attending/agreed a food court area/a completely re-look fair/working hard for sponsorship. The Fair will start later, 11am and finish at 9pm, with activities and music into the evening. Well done to Cllr. White for chairing the Fair committee throughout last year and going forward this year. Thanked by Cllr. N. Bull. All agreed.

9) Bampton Hall Project – Cllr. White to report. A meeting held about 2 weeks ago; possible ownership of R. Hall car park. There is enthusiasm for the idea.

10) Bampton road safety report – Cllr. Fouracres to report.

Castle Street has already been covered. The neighbourhood officer may make a proposal to HATOC and then it is all with the County Council. Council do not know what the proposal may be at this moment in time.

The Traffic consultant came up with other ideas within Bampton; (his report will be published on the Council website as an attachment to minutes). Cllr. Fouracres having recently met with the Safety Officer, some ideas have been suggested. At the entrance to the recreation field it was suggested that whilst painting white lines at the entrance could help, the Safety Officer would prefer to have a kerb so that those waiting to cross the road have better visibility; this is being recommended to the highways officer. On the difficulty of crossing the road outside the Spar shop the Safety Officer suggested a refuge in the middle of the road. This would give room for traffic coming up Fore Street and around Back Street, also a view of traffic coming down the hill. This would divide the hazard in half for those on foot crossing the road.

Supported the idea of village gateways. This is to be pursued.

Cllr. N. Bull – the issue outside the play area is a pressing one, an issue of safety.

Cllr. Chesterton is more than happy to take a walk around the town with the Chairman.

Cllr. Fouracres proposed collecting data on speed in Castle Street with the use of a camera. Cllr. L. Bull requested if Council could consider buying a camera. This idea was not followed up. Cllr. White suggested Council hire one for 3 weeks and involve the Castle Street residents. A camera would not be available for the time required and the calibration is not up to standard.

Clerk to check out Community Speedwatch.

The whole issue of HGVs and their access to towns and villages needs to be actioned at Government level.

Cllr. Fouracres proposed a letter to Neil Parrish MP, copy to Meg Booth (Highways) and Cllr. Chesterton.

11) PLANNING:

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

- i. 21/00912/HOUSE Conversion of garage and store to ancillary accommodation, Higher Barn, Bampton.
NO COMMENT
- ii. 21/00826/HOUSE Erection of extensions and pump room; replacement of window with French doors and glazed canopy and installation of solar panels on NW facing roof, Whittenhays, Bampton.
NO COMMENT
- iii. 21/00784/FULL Erection of a distribution network operator building ancillary to solar farm, land East of Bowdens Lane, Shillingford.
NO COMMENT
- iv. 21/00857/HOUSE Conversion of store above garage to ancillary accommodation, Higher Barn, Bampton.
NO COMMENT
- v. 21/00865/HOUSE Erection of single storey rear extension, Petton Villa, Shillingford.
NO OBJECTION
- vi. 21/00729/HOUSE Erection of single storey extension and hip to gable roof extension for loft conversion, North View, Cove.
NO COMMENT
- vii. 21/00876/HOUSE Erection of single storey extension and alterations to roof (revised scheme), 2 Moat View, Bampton
APPROVED
- viii. 21/00957/CLU Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of land as residential garden associated with Wonham Cottage for a period in excess of 10 years. The Walled Garden, Bampton.
NO COMMENT
- ix. 21/00960/HOUSE & 21/00961LBC Erection of an extension, Westbrook Farm Tiverton.
NO OBJECTION
- x. 21/00719/FULL Erection of 5 dwellings, Five Levels. Revised drawings.
SUPPORTED

Planning Decisions:

- a) 19/01804/FULL Erection of replacement agricultural building, Lower Rill, Shillingford.
APPROVED
- b) 20/01867/ARM Reserved matters for the erection of single storey building and detached garage, The Vicarage, Barnhay.
APPROVED
- c) 21/00591/FULL Erection of an agricultural barn, Woodland (Cats Castle), Shillingford
GRANTED
- d) 20/01019/FULL Conversion of barns into 2 dwellings, Kersdown Barton, Bampton
GRANTED
- e) 20/01686/CLU Certificate of lawful use for the present use of the building as a dwelling, Pixton Woodlands, Bampton.
REFUSED

12) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	ICO annual subscription	£35.00	DD
0612/01	SW Water – toilets	£152.39	DD
0612/02	S. Fouracres – keys to Pumphouse	£11.30	BACs
0612/03	N. Page – approved footpath works	£160.00	BACs
0612/04	Clerks & Councils Direct subscription	£12.00	BACs
0612/06	Employment May	£587.40	BACs

0612/07	Fours Seasons May grass cuts+painting (painting bus shelter)	£650.39	BACs
0612/08	J. Caunter – toilet cleans, May	£310.00	BACs
0612/09	IONOS Bampton heritage domain name	£4.80	CARD
0612/10	N. Page P3 new gate as per quote	£150.00	BACs

Income: Wayleave Western Power £4.64 Cq

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors at the meeting. (Not available by 2nd June).

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

The Visionict invoice has been removed pro tem whilst discussions take place as it needs amending.

12) Open Spaces report –

- i. Station Road car park – to receive a report on the current play equipment. Due a play inspection on 25th June. Some items have been made good, but safety of some pieces is in doubt. One swing has been removed. Dragon Play is going to be coming out to check possible areas for play equipment. There could be better use of the MUGA at the Millennium Green.
- ii. The Orchard – to request a start date from Four Seasons for these previously agreed works. Cllr. L. Bull is meeting with Four Seasons next week to progress.
- iii. Any other open spaces items requiring consideration. Cllr. White together with Cllrs. N & L Bull cleared the leat so the water now flows better.
- iv. Roof at the pumphouse has now been repaired.
- v. Bike rack has been ordered to be installed at the Millennium Green for the children to park their bikes.

13) Remote Meetings – to consider requesting the Neil Parrish MP and County Councillor Chesterton to lobby Government to allow flexibility with hybrid and face to face Council meetings.

14) Clerk’s report –

- i. Welcome Back Fund – to bring this fund to the Councillors attention for July meeting.
- ii. Notice of Public Rights to inspect the unaudited accounts 14th June – 23rd July published.

15) PART II

Council are excluding members of the public and the press to progress a matter of a confidential nature. Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960.

Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102.

16) To receive the report from the HR Committee -

To consider the Clerk’s appraisal and increase in salary as per her contract of employment on achieving a BA (Hons) degree in Community Governance. Approved.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on 7th July 2021 at 7.00pm in the LARC building. (tbc)

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Email circulations during the past month

DALC Newsletter 22 (sent 10/05)

DALC newsletter 24 (sent 24/05)

Highways Spring Newsletter (sent 17/05)

NALC Chief Executive's bulleting (sent 24/05)