

## **Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 7pm in the LARC building.**

**Present:** Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. McHenry; District Cllr. Moore; 4 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk); Lewis Clarke (Press); County Cllr. Chesterton.  
Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. Weston.

**1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:** Cllr. White. Cllr. Williams. Cllr. Whiteway. 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. L. Bull as Co-chair of Governors of Tiverton High School, agenda item 18.

**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.

Judi Thomas updated Council on the Well-being Walks around Bampton which now has around 38 members walking every Monday and this membership is likely to continue to grow. Thanked Council for their support. Working to re-fresh the 'Wellbeing' after the last three years; just a reminder to people that this is here for everyone. A note will be put into Signpost.

Cllr. L. Bull suggested this could go to the paper via Lewis Clarke who agreed.

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

An oak tree has been planted to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The cracked stone on the South Molton road been repaired. Attended a meeting of Morebath Parish Council to discuss the possibility of Morebath joining Bampton – this will be further discussed by both district and county councils.

Requested Cllr. Stanley to look at the S106 funding available which is currently pointing towards the recreation field. Council have plans at the Millennium Green and would appreciate the monies being re-directed there.

More problems at the toilets – possible changes to access such as a radar key for the disabled toilet.

Cllr. Weston arrived.

Cllr. N. Bull arrived from work at 7.07pm.

### **5) County & District Councillor reports-**

County Cllr. Chesterton does a comprehensive report bi-monthly – any questions. Locality fund starts again in May should Council wish to apply for any funding.

District Cllr. Moore – District finances are on track to be on target despite the covid problems. Signed off the playing field strategy. Discussion about devolution from central to local government. Team Devon are working together district/county/Plymouth and Torbay. This is being seen as a big opportunity for the region. Cllr. Moore has recently dealt with concerns about the Three Rivers building site (from residents), enquiry about the Shillingford development, misuse of some properties being holiday lets, Ashleigh Park, dog poo.

Question asked as to how long can the fence be left as it is at Ashleigh Park. The answer is as long as they like it would seem. There is history to this area.

**6) Minutes** – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Chairmans discretion item 12 was taken next.

**12) Litter Picking** – consideration to purchase litter pick requirements for new litter group (name) who will pick around the parish on a regular basis. 14 active members so far: costs for 12 pickers/rubbish bags/orange hi-vis tabards = £148.44 approx + VAT. To include disposal gloves.

As car park rates were included in the budget – Clerk’s request that litter picker monies come from this budget head. Actions agreed to increase the purchases to 20.

Resolved to take the required monies from the car parks budget and vire to miscellaneous.

Cllr. Moore suggested close contact with Mid Devon – who would then collect the bagged rubbish. Cllr. L. Bull will forward a risk assessment for volunteer litter picking.

Possibly purchase a case to keep the equipment in.

Standing orders suspended.

Parishioner suggested it would be a good idea to get a group of teenagers together for litter picking. To co-ordinate with Judi Thomas

Standing orders resumed.

**7) Bampton Charter Fair** – to receive the latest update from the Fair Committee. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Resolved to action the quotation for a hired marquee priced at £1198.16.

Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, all agreed by show of hands.

Cllr. Fouracres updated council with the final accounts now received with a surplus of £890.50. This will be ring-fenced for any further requests for grants. The Committee are Interested in a bike display and will be inviting them to come and look at Bampton to see if this is a possibility.

**8) Bampton Hall** – to receive latest update on the progress of a new hall. To agree actions and associated expenditure.

Cllr. Fouracres reported on the first consultation held two weeks ago – 40+ people came with good conversations concentrating on how people would use the hall; ideas of usage would define the style of hall. Some of the ideas mooted are listed below -

Keeping safe; Fire doors; Alarms; Lift; Accessibility for elderly and disabled to all areas; Decent changing table for babies; Space for drawing; The building must make as much energy as it is using; Don’t put the mens’ loos near the boiler; Changing places facility; Storage space for individual groups - a broom width; Easy to deliver goods into if delivering activities; Fully accessible; Sprung Floor; Solar panels; Use local materials in construction - building to be energy saving design Passivhaus; Meeting rooms; Build to minimise running and maintenance costs; Renewable energy; Performance space/ cinema space; Climate change ready - the building may last 100 years; Gym; Room for classes and activities; Good enough quality to use for wedding receptions; Art Exhibition space; Tourist information space/kiosk; Interactive info touch screen; Wifi - very fast; Relaxation space ... place to chill without having to buy a coffee; A room that is soundproof - for use as a meditation space or as a music room and no one is disturbed; Flexible stage facilities; Storage for props, lights and scenery; Better quality heating/insulation; Space for toddlers group with facilities for toy storage; Warm and comfortable meeting rooms; Shooting facilities; Decent Sound system; Yoga; Vending Machine;

Outdoor garden space with pond (must) Flexible spaces for various uses; Energy efficient.

A further consultation is being held on Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 9-12 at the Riverside Hall.

Cllr. L. Bull thanked all who stayed there for many hours.

**9) Drone flying at the Recreation Field** – follow up from March minutes. The requestor does not have insurance, but the drone is registered. Cllr. L. Bull considering the feedback received about the possibility of CCTV Council should not condone the use of a drone with a camera. Cllr. Fouracres expressed concerns about the lack of public liability insurance and a camera. Proposed by Cllr. L. Bull that drone flying should not be done from the recreation field, all in favour by show of hands.

**10) Platinum Jubilee** – to receive an update on Jubilee actions – brief report from the Clerk.

- i. Medals for school children as previously discussed – numbers to be advised. 120. This does include nursery children. Resolved and Clerk to order the medals from the grant received budget.
- ii. Awards for All grant for £5150 has been awarded to Council to support the Jubilee.

**11) Rates levied for 2022/2023** –

- Former public convenience (Old Store) £334.33
- Tolls of Fairs £598.80: Clerk is appealing against this levy.
- Toilets Station Road – now free due to Act of Parliament.
- Car Park £1746.50 amount due 0 as small business rate relief in action.

Noted.

**13) Open Spaces** –

- i. Lengthsman/handyman duties for discussion. Continually have a problem getting someone to do work around the parish. There is now a lengthsman, it is the capacity of the council to give a weekly or monthly list. Line management issue/open spaces to sort the list. Assist to create a regular job list.
- ii. Dog poo as a continuing problem. The dog bin has been removed from the town end of Mary Lane but not by the Council. This has been noted by parishioners who have asked what has happened to the bin. This bin belongs to Mid Devon and the loss is being investigated.

Standing orders suspended for parishioner to speak about the issue of dog bins.

Cllr. Moore responded being a member of Mid Devon Council.

Standing orders resumed.

Cllr. L. Bull stated that dog poo continues to be an ongoing issue throughout Bampton. Cllr. Fouracres was thanked for replenishing poo bags in the provided dispensers. Most bins now have the sticker “Any bin will do”, so there is no excuse for anyone not to pick up after their dog(s).

**14) Grant Applications** –

- i. Bampton in Bloom £100 towards hall costs for the Hidden Gardens weekend. Resolved.
- ii. Bampton Netball Club £150 from Charter Fair funds, for balls and bibs. Resolved.

Cllr. L. Bull proposed both grants, all in favour by show of hands.

**15) PLANNING:**

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

- i. 21/02267/OUT Outline for the erection of 5 holiday lets with provision of access and associated works, land south of Scotts Quarry, Bampton. **Revised drawings and additional information.** Cllr. McHenry considers the issues are the same as before – an access drawing has now been submitted, though there is still no access to pavements for pedestrian access to the town.

**OBJECTION**

- 1) The application is outside the settlement line of Bampton Parish.
- 2) Part of this proposed application is within the flood plain.

- 3) There is no access outlined in this application.
- 4) Any access onto the road from this proposed location would be extremely hazardous due to the narrowness of the road at this point and the bends limiting vision.
- 5) There is no pedestrian provision for persons to access the town of Bampton other than by walking along the road at least to Scotts.
- 6) Council consider there is no requirement for further 'holiday' lets within the parish.

Note original objection above and further **OBJECTION BELOW.**

- 1) The location is outside the settlement line of Bampton Parish
- 2) Mid Devon District Council Tree Officer expressed concern about loss of tree cover, the revisions do not acknowledge this problem.
- 3) Although Devon Highways have no objection to the proposed access they still emphasise that there is no pedestrian access into the town centre or to bus stops.
- 4) The business case is not proven. The holiday lets are described as high end lodge-stay with bolt on activities and are compared with the applicants other business, Exmoor Retreats which is advertised as having "eleven acres to roam in and guests can easily walk in to the village promoting going car free." The site at Scotts Quarry has very little space to roam and because pedestrian access is poor most journeys to bolt on activities would involve car use.

Council request this application to be 'called in' so that the application can be discussed in committee at Mid Devon Council.

- ii. Received after agenda published.  
22/00626CAT Notification of intention to fell 4 birch trees within Conservation Area, Bowdenhays, W. Molton Rd., Bampton.  
No objection

**Planning Decisions:**

- a) 21/01688/OUT Outline for the erection of a dwelling with all matters reserved, Copperleigh, Bampton.  
REFUSED
- b) 22/00222/CAT Notification to fell a willow tree in conservation area, Community Hall  
NO OBJECTION
- c) 22/00175/FULL Erection of replacement dwelling, use of the 'Bothy' for incidental use, installation of package treatment plant, erection of garden building and repair/renovation of existing residential outbuildings, The Walled Garden, Bampton.  
APPROVED

**Appeal Lodged**

20/01686/CLU Certificate of lawful use of the building as a dwelling at Pixton Woodlands.  
Dated 18<sup>th</sup> March after refusal from the Planning Authority.

**16) FINANCE:**

<b>Expenditure:</b>	Stags land valuation March	£636.38	BACs pd 22/03
	Employment March	£911.56	BACs
	(includes back-dated national pay award increase)		
	PAYE Q4	£627.38	BACs
	Clerk's expenses Q4	£298.44	BACs
	LARC room hire April	£50.00	BACs
	SLCC Regional training seminar (shared)	£21.00	BACs
	Clerks & Councils Direct subscription	£12.00	BACs

Viking Direct – items for parish meeting	£164.18	BACs
J. Caunter March toilet cleans	£310.00	BACs
SW Water first half Church water rates	£123.12	DD
SW Water first half car park water rates	£37.10	DD

<b>Income:</b>	CCLA Interest for year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	£45.46 to the account
	Locality Budget for Fair signage	£950.00 DD
	Monies received and banked for the car park	£660.00 Cash

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

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

**17) Unacceptable Actions Policy** – to resolve to adopt this policy. Resolved. Policy adopted.

**18) Tiverton High School** – to agree to support the request from the School (Ian Fraser) to bring pressure to bear for a new High School under the School Rebuilding Programme.

Cllr. L. Bull stated Tiverton is a good school but the building and infrastructure needs updating. It is the only school that the children from Bampton and Shillingford attend. Council support this initiative and will write to Ian Fraser.

**19) Clerk’s report –**

- i) Internal audit for Bampton booked 9<sup>th</sup> April
- ii) PAYE finalised for the tax year and Clerk’s P60 submitted.
- iii) Re-instate ‘open to the public’ in the LARC from 3pm on council meeting days.
- iv) Computer (purchased 2016) is to be upgraded from Windows 8.1 to Windows 10 for security reasons + a larger hard drive to speed it up. Hard drive £125 + IBIS UK costs for upgrade and installation works.

**EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED:** reports from Councillors

**Items for Information**

The next Council meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm in the LARC building. This is the Annual Council Meeting where councillors elect a Chairman for the year.

Meeting closed at 8.13pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

**Email circulations during the past month**

DALC Newsletter 14 (sent 09/03)	Roadmap Highways newsletter (sent 09/03)
ConnectMeDevon food waste info (sent 14/03)	NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletin (sent 14/03)