

## **Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 7pm in the LARC building.**

**Present** – Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. White; Cllr. Whiteway; Cllr. Jess; District Cllr. Moore; Cllr. Williams; Adam Pagett; 9 Members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk) Lewis Clarke (Press)

To elect a chairman for this meeting – Cllr. N. Bull proposed by Cllr. White, all agreed by show of hands.

**1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:** Cllr. Fouracres. Cllr. L. Bull. County Cllr. Chesterton. Cllr. McHenry. Cllr. Weston. 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 expressed concerns about the proposed planning application, agenda item 13c. Several points were raised including a lack of benefit to the town.

Parishioner expressed views on glamping stating this would not fit with Bampton as tourism. It is not an appropriate place because there is little to do adjacent to the proposed area.

Parishioner (living adjacent) did not receive the supposed leaflet drop from the agents. The community consultation stated in the plan does not appear to have taken place.

Parishioner objects to this planning application, citing discrepancies in their statements. Flooding issues and a proposed access into Frog Street. This street is exceptionally narrow, without pavements and without lighting at night.

Judi Thomas with an update regarding the Wellbeing Bampton project – planning a small group of volunteers to use the LARC perhaps 3 times a week offering a free warm place to come in for a chat/drink/share any issues. Would like to run from November to March; have support from Exeter Energy, who will come to Bampton during the colder months with hints and tips regarding energy. To encourage people to come. Cllr. Bull offered full support from the Council.

Parishioner regarding signage at Newton Court – cars come in, turn around and go out. This is a Highways issue and District Cllr. Moore will raise this with the County Cllr. Richard Chesterton. Council will write to Devon County Council. Another parishioner supported this, living in Newton Court. Also mentioned speeding through the town.

Parishioner further reported that trying to reduce speed throughout the town has been ongoing for over 8 years, particularly South Molton Road down past the Spar Shop.

### **Agenda item 13) (c) moved up by the Chairman.**

- (c) 22/00915/MFUL Change of use of agricultural land for the siting of reception and welfare cabins, 8 log cabins and 30 glamping pods for holiday purposes, formation of new vehicular access and associated works, land at NGR 295546 122741 North of Frog Street, Bampton.

## **Council unanimously objects to this application**

### **Reasons**

- 1) The site is outside the defined settlement area of Bampton.
- 2) The applicant cites Mid Devon District Council's policy DM22 with regard to engagement with the community by leaflet drop. It is unclear where these leaflets were dropped, certainly not in Frog Street or Castle Street, both of which would be impacted by this development.
- 3) Council express concern about the considerable increase in traffic from FORTY accommodation units in the plan, that this proposal would create, particularly with access through the town using Castle Street, Brook Street and the South Molton Road.
- 4) There would be an increase in the flood risk related to the Shuttern Brook which runs along the back of Frog Street. The water run off from a built up site would considerably increase the flow of water to the Shuttern Brook.
- 5) No mention in the application has been made of how the applicant proposes to dispose of foul sewage from the site – this would be considerable should all pods and lodges be occupied. Council feel it is unlikely that there would be space to join any sewage pipes to the current system in place – this system is already overloaded.
- 6) Council do not feel that the applicant has addressed 4.68 of policy DM22. An unacceptable impact to traffic would be generated. There does not appear to be either a marketing strategy or a business plan submitted.
- 7) There are no pavements or street lighting along Frog Street, the proposed pedestrian access to the town, neither is there pavement access along the Morebath Road from the proposed site entrance. This is considerably unsafe for pedestrians.
- 8) Rare species of flower, the Cowslip is found on this site.

District Cllr. Moore suggests that concerned residents write to the planning officer. He is concerned about this application and should the planning officer be minded towards approval, he will call it in to the planning committee.

**4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – none received.**

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

County Cllr. Chesterton forwarded a written report which will be attached to these minutes.

District Cllr. Moore – the district are on the threshold of starting the 3 weekly rubbish collections, there are some teething troubles. Finance; general inflation pressures are starting to bite; also the forthcoming pay awards which are likely to cost the council more than originally budgeted for.

Ukrainian rehoming – currently there are some 215 guests in 92 properties in the district, this is expected to rise to about 236 guests, including children. He considers the housing team have done an excellent job. Cllr. Moore announced that he is stepping away from being a conservative aligned councillor locally and becoming an independent with no political alignment.

Cllr. Williams asked about the finances and whether central government could do more to support local projects. Cllr. Moore informed that they regularly 'bid in' to Government for monies for projects.

**6) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**7) Millennium Green –** further update to be received. To resolve to approve the balance of the architect's fee in order to progress to planning. Adam Pagett circulated the costs required to move this forward. The balance payable is £2,750. Resolved to pay, proposed by Cllr. White, all in favour by show of hands.

**8) Bampton Traffic –**

- a) The 20mph request for roads throughout the town submitted to Highways in March 2022 has not been allowed at this time. To be noted. Noted.
- b) Cost of repairing the potholes in Station Road car park is £980 + VAT. To agree actions and expenditure. Resolved to progress these repairs, proposed by Cllr. Whiteway, all in favour by show of hands.

**9) Bampton Hall –** further progress report to be received. Cllr. White has met with a planning agent to look at the proposed site. Agenda for November for a further update.

**10) Charter Fair –** Council to be updated on actions for the Charter Fair 27<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr. White reported all going well so far, signs and banners are up. A few stewards short and would be very grateful for any help. Adam Pagett has offered to be one of the 'cones' team. Cllr. Bull expressed thanks to Cllr. White for all the hard work that he consistently puts in on behalf of the Charter Fair.

**11) Open Spaces –**

- i. Single toddler and double junior swings available from Playdale @ £2276 + installation. Agenda November for 2 more quotes. Clerk to source and circulate.

**12) Grant Application from the Community Hall –** deferred as awaiting up to date accounts.

**13) PLANNING:**

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

- a) 22/01643/FULL Change of use of agricultural land for the siting of a shepherd's hut for use as holiday let, land and buildings, Hayne Barton, Shillingford.  
**Neutral view/no comment**
- b) 22/01807/FULL Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 16/00047/FULL (variation of condition 2 of planning permission 15/00437/FULL to allow the substitution of previously approved plans) to modify the floor plans and elevations of Plot 55, Scotts Business Park, Woodland Close, Bampton.  
**No comment**

**Planning Decisions:**

- a) 22/01451 Notification of intention to fell 1 larch tree within conservation area, 22 Frog Street, Bampton.  
NO OBJECTION
- b) 22/01218/FULL Change of use from storage/office space to residential dwelling, The Old Stables, Wonham House, Bampton.  
APPROVED

#### 14) FINANCE:

<b>Expenditure:</b>	Employment September	£785.84	BACs
	PAYE + NI Q2	£597.64	BACs
	Clerk's expenses Q2	£305.19	BACs
	Planning for Rec Field (Clerk)	£263.20	BACs
	JRB dog poo bags (Clerk)	£297.60	BACs
	BCW Road Signs (Clerk)	£162.95	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans	£300.00	BACs
	Four Seasons – grass cuts	£670.79	BACs
	LARC Room Hire	£40.00	BACs
	Marvellous Eventures (Fair)	£650.00	BACs
	Dutch Landscape Architects	£2,750.00	BACs
	Quarterly bank charges	£42.30	DD

<b>Income:</b>	Second half precept recd.	£33,592.50
	Car park & Toilets banked	£538.00 (Sept)

Charter Fair receipts will be totalled after the event and published as a whole.

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

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

**15) Pre-budget calculations** – circulated prior to this meeting; for consideration and for action at the November meeting. Noted and a request to re-circulate the papers.

**16) Dignity at Work Policy** – to replace the Bullying and Harassment Policy as Council has taken the Civility and Respect Pledge – circulated to councillors prior to this meeting. Council resolved to adopt this Policy.

**17) Christmas** – to receive an update. Cllr. White stated that battery powered lights would be better to use than the solar powered ones. November agenda.

**18) Tree Policy** – attached to the agenda for information. Suggest a walking survey with a report is carried out on all trees on Council owned land. For action. Discussed the policy and whether a proper tree survey should be carried out. No further actions at this point.

#### 18) Clerk's Report (for information only)

- Further to the Chairman's report of September, a letter of support has been sent to the Bampton Scout Group 13<sup>th</sup> September by email.
- Civility and Respect Pledge has been registered; actions to create a training programme for both councillors and staff is continuing.
- Mid Devon Council have announced that unpaid carers can have free access to leisure centre for the time being. See the website for details. Poster for noticeboard.
- Changes to some bus services from the end of October – see Devon County Council website for details. <https://www.traveldevon.info/bus/bus-services-in-devon/>

**EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED:** reports from Councillors

#### Items for Information

Meeting closed at 8.18pm

Signed.....

Date.....

The next Council meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

**Email circulations during the past month**

DALC Newsletter 44 (sent 14/09)	NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 20/09)
DALC Newsletter 46 (sent 23/09)	ConnectMe Devon update (26/09)
ConnectMe Devon update (sent 03/10)	NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 03/10)

**Devon County Report – October / November**

Financial monitoring and budgeting. Following the turbulent start to the year, especially with the situation in Ukraine have knock on effects on the worldwide energy supply and creating inflationary pressures, our July Cabinet meeting received an unprecedented report from the director of finance predicting the county council could overspend by more than £40 million in the current financial year if no action was taken. The figure was made up of some £30 million resulting from spiralling demand for our services for vulnerable children and adults, big increases in contract prices for such services as school transport because of the soaring cost of fuel and the shortage of drivers and similarly rising costs in building and road projects because of the runaway cost of materials. A further £10 million was likely to be spent in extra costs from inflation, particularly wage costs. Towards the middle of summer events dictated that our Cabinet was left with little choice but to take immediate and decisive action and although only a few months into the financial year. A task force of senior officers from every department across the council was set up and asked them to go through the budget line and identify every possible area where we could generate extra income and make savings. This is ongoing work and has identified around £20m of additional income and savings or delayed spending we can do. Aside from the immediacy of this work, there is a parallel channel of work that is looking at how we work as a Council, processes that must be improved and service changes, in order to put DCC on a sustainable footing going forward, with 2023/24 likely to be as challenging as the current year.

Chief Executive Recruitment Jan Spicer (formerly Shadbolt) is now in place as Interim Chief Executive and has made a strong start, being given the full operational backing, alongside the Cabinet's political backing, to change and transform our services. The advertisement for the permanent Chief Executive will go live in early October, closing date is 20th October. Longlisting and shortlisting will take place in November, overseen by the Appointments Committee. Interviews will be in the week commencing 21st November. As part of the process, we will also include a presentation from the shortlisted candidates to a cross section of Cllrs from across the Council. We hope to appoint and have a new Chief Executive to start from the new financial year.

Scams awareness Our scams lead Janet Quinn spoke about rogue traders and doorstep crime on Radio Devon. She used the opportunity to promote 'Buy with Confidence' and raise awareness of emerging scams around the cost of living, investments and Government refunds. "Fraud has grown hugely in recent years and now accounts for 39% of all crime. Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed there were 4.6 million fraud offences in the year ending March 2021. This compares to 3 million incidents of theft and 1.6 million incidents of violent crime. From March 2020 to March 2021, the volume of fraud incidents increased by almost a quarter (24%), in part due to a boom in Covid-related scams."

Made in Devon success Made in Devon now has 65 members. In August we received 24 requests to join the scheme, which is a great result for the usually quiet summer period. The new creative 'You'll be amazed what's made in Devon' features on billboards and posters on 30 bus stops around the region. Made in Devon members are now included on Devon County Council's employee discounts portal Devon Discounts to promote them to staff.