

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 11th January 2023, 7pm in the LARC.

- 1) **Present** – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. White; Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. Jones; Cllr. Whiteway; Lewis Clarke (Press); Cllr. Williams; Penny Clapham (Clerk); 4 members of the public.
- 2) **Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:** Cllr. Stanley. Cllr. Weston. Cllr. Chesterton. Apologies accepted.
- 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.

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 reported that the litter picking last year went very well indeed – monthly picks this coming year. A request please for hoops to hold the bags open. Clerk to action.

Judi Thomas also reported that it is the Heritage Centre's 10th anniversary this year; there are to be a whole range of activities organised for this year. An increase of the profile of the visitor information role is planned as it is very important in keeping visitors in the town. An offer from Visit Mid Devon is a free listing on a business website. Contact <https://www.visitmiddevon.co.uk/advertise-your-business-with-us/business-listings/>

4) **Chairman's Report (for information only)** – An issue about the proposals with Mid Devon Council and School Close; some homes are going to be demolished and rebuilt because they have been condemned – all under control if not well communicated. Numbers 1-29 are the possible homes in question.

5) **County & District Councillor reports** –

Cllr. Stanley has offered councillors a guided tour of the 3 Rivers development in West Street. Could he have a couple of dates please. Councillors mentioned Saturdays 21st and 28th of January.

Cllr. Chesterton reported about Tiverton High School. There will be a new school, out of the flood plain on the other side of the road, however there is no time line for the build as yet. He is also aware of the road surface at Black Cat. Cllr. White stated that all roads are bad at the moment. Report a pothole on this website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

6) **Minutes** –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) **Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme** – Colin Williams has kindly agreed to outline the purpose, structure and value of this scheme. Information can also be found by clicking the link below.

<https://www.middevonwildlifewardenscheme.co.uk/>

The Wildlife Warden scheme is working with many other wildlife trusts, training volunteers so that they have the knowledge, skills and resources so they can identify what needs to be done in any area. The idea

is to achieve goals that benefit wildlife in the local environment. It is about collaboration with numerous local groups.

Projects thoughts for Bampton such as monitoring soil health; better hedge management; concerns about the swift population; swallow and house martin populations too as they appear to be very low.

Judi Thomas mentioned that there are a lot of little green areas around town and it would be really good if junior wardens could investigate what is in some of these areas. There could also be an issue with the timing of strimming of some of the grass areas.

Cllr. Williams mentioned the felled ash trees due to die back and that these are making a good habitat.

Cllr. Fouracres mentioned the Millennium Green and the proposals for a pump track; there are still concerns from a couple of people about this plan. Council propose to create a plan for the Millennium Green going forward.

Cllr. L. Bull suggested a contact with the school reference junior wildlife wardens; also talked about hedgehogs and the correct information as to how to care for them. Also nest boxes for birds.

Colin Williams, John and Sonja Francis were thanked for coming to the meeting and bringing this scheme to Council's attention.

8) Bampton Hall – to receive updates on the pre-planning progress for the proposed site, should it be viable. The pre-app is going in to Mid Devon Council this week by XL Planning.

9) Climate Emergency – this was declared by Bampton Town Council, January 2020 – to receive updates and actions to date. Cllr. L. Bull – February agenda.

10) Bampton Charter Fair – Clerk to present the final agreed accounts for the Fair. To note if there any monies available for grants to be made; if so, grant requests made on the appropriate application form to be presented to Council at the meeting on 1st March 2023. To sign the cheque for the Fair landlord's rental of £100. The accounts have not been finalised as there are some payments still to be made. Currently the Fair has not made a profit in 2022 so there will be no grants available.

Council thanked Richard Brooker and all the others who helped with the recent clearances during the heavy rains/flooding

11) Bampton Traffic – Council's request for 20mph throughout the town is up for consideration in 2023 by Highways along with some 100 other requests. The submitted traffic plan is attached to this agenda. Any amendments to this plan can now be submitted – to be considered. No amendments were made so the traffic plan is as it stands (for most roads in Bampton).

To receive any updates on the community speedwatch scheme. Cllr. Williams has done the theory training and is now awaiting practical training. He has 2 volunteers and needs 2 more.

12) Open Spaces reports –

- i. To receive the report from Green Trees regarding the trees surrounding the car park in Station Road. Message to Four Seasons to chase.
- ii. Cllr. Williams to report on the Windwhistle bench. Carpenter will be repairing this bench.
- iii. To receive updates on the toddler swings in the Station Road play area. The swings will be done in February and the bird nest swing will be repaired at the same time.
- iv. Locking bike rack for the car park – progress so far. Cllr. Fouracres circulated pictures - Clerk to action. To be sited in the station road car park.
- v. To consider the annual safety report received from the Play Inspection Co. A need to address those items marked red. Action, Open Spaces Committee.

13) PLANNING:

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

- a) 22/20250/FULL Installation of 72 ground mounted solar panels, land at Whittenhays, Bampton.
Revised plans.
No objection

Planning Decisions:

- a) 22/02024/FULL Change of use of land from agriculture to dog walking and exercise area, land at High Cross, Bampton.
APPROVED
- b) 22/01881/HOUSE Installation of log biomass boiler, Wonham House, Bampton
APPROVED

14) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Ionos – annual website charge	£30.00	Council card January
	Mid Devon – garden waste permit	£50.00	Card December
	Amazon – noticeboards	£387.28	Card November
	SLCC Clerk’s annual membership	£181.50	BACs
	West of England Fire Protection	£33.60	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans	£310.00	BACs
	Visionict – email for Cllr. Jones	£21.60	BACs
	N. Stevens – Xmas trees	£1191.00	BACs
	Clerk’s expenses Q3 (31 st Dec)	£291.18	BACs
	Four Seasons – grass cuts	£527.99	BACs
	LARC room hire January	£24.00	BACs
	Walkers are Welcome annual sub	£50.00	BACs
	Citizens Advice – grant	£300.00	BACs
	J. White – Lord of the Manor - Fair	£100.00	Cq
	SW Water – Old Store (read)	£57.73	DD
	SW Water – Toilets (read)	£144.10	DD
	Quarterly bank charges	£42.60	DD

Income:	CCLA income October	£122.82
	CCLA Income November	£147.39
	CCLA income December	£189.08

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors at the meeting.

Council to resolve to accept the receipts and payments account. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. L. Bull, all in favour by show of hands.

15) Budget 2023/2024 – Council to resolve to approve the budget as circulated for the next Council year. Toilets gone up due to ongoing vandalism. Also a requirement for a lengthsman/person. Cllr. L. Bull proposed an increase of £348 to £1000 under computer/website charges. All in favour by show of hands. Resolved to set the budget at £84,962. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, all in favour by show of hands. All budget items have to be estimated.

16) Precept 2023/2024 – Council to resolve to approve the precept as circulated for the next Council year.

Resolved to set the precept at £73,693. This together with estimated income produces nett balanced accounts. Proposed by Cllr. L. Bull, all in favour by show of hands. The budget will now be published on the Council website.

17) Internal Auditor – to agree to appoint Hania Lee of Lee Accounting to be Council’s internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2023. Agreed and proposed by Cllr. Fouracres.

18) Christmas – to receive a brief report on the Christmas activities hosted by the Council. To check on SumUp and its workings. Trees putting up – need more volunteers; looked lovey especially those on the bridge. Would be good to make more of a splash of the switch on in 2023. Need better lights for the big tree. Taking the trees down – very grateful that Four Seasons were able to help. Consider that this could be outsourced in future. A brief report will be available March as to dates and actions for 2023. Thank you Castle Grove for your kind donation of the big tree on the Stage.

19) Coronation – The coronation of King Charles is on 6th May – Council to consider how to celebrate this event. Approach community if they would like to do anything. School and Sam Stokes. Possible event on the 7th or 8th May.

20) Grant – request for a grant received from Exmoor News. No amount specified and no application form currently sent for completion. Council decided not to award a grant.

20) Clerk’s Report –

- i. Charity annual return for year ending 31st March 2022, Bampton Recreation Ground, submitted 5th January 2023 (deadline 31st January 2023)
- ii. I am not attending the Practitioners Conference 1st/2nd February as it clashes with our next council meeting, nor do I intend to get a recording at £100.
- iii. Clerk’s annual appraisal is due this month – do the personnel committee wish to set a date. 1st February at 6.30pm. Clerk to complete her part of the form in advance of this date.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed..... Date.....

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on 1st February at 7.00pm 2023 in the LARC building.

Email circulations during the past month

NALC open letter – local leadership DALC bulletin 01 – mentioning elections.