

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 1st March 2023, 7pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. White; Cllr. Whiteway; Cllr. N. Bull; County Cllr. Chesterton; 5 members of the public; Cllr. Jones; District Cllr. Stanley; Cllr. Williams; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. L. Bull. Cllr. Weston.

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. Fouracres agenda item 14 i.

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. Note handed to the Clerk.

Parishioner regarding the proposed development behind Newton Court, this is an agenda item tonight. Parishioner requested any updates on Speedwatch and potholes. Cllr. Chesterton asked that they report the potholes on the Devon County Council website. Cllr. Williams informed that there is an insurance problem currently with the Speedwatch campaign (he is the organiser) so he still needs to complete the training.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – An excellent meeting with our new highways officer today. Highways are working through potholes which is an improving situation. Black Cat will be scheduled this year. Pothole repairing machines such as the dragon patcher are out all the time and there is a smaller version coming to Highways shortly. Crab apple tree from Devon Wildlife Trust planted on Castle Lawn; 4th May election day voter ID is now required if voting in person; Bampton needs councillors this year to make the complement up to 9. Please consider standing for Council at the elections.

5) County & District Councillor reports –

County Cllr. Chesterton submitted a written report; in brief, potholes being sorted even though a lot more gritting has been done this year, which means taking people off pothole repairs. £2m slight increase from Govt into the roads budget. New chief executive to the County Council. Ofsted report has some promising elements to it. Published on the website for information.

District Cllr. Stanley – there is a new cabinet in post for the three months until the elections in May, all of whom are independents. This is his final meeting as not standing for election in May.

Cllr. Fouracres thanked Cllr. Stanley for his regular attendance at meetings, his unstinting help and all information he has provided to Bampton Council over the years.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st February 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Council approved Item 12 brought forward for parishioner to speak.

12) Grant Application – Application from Bampton Allotments Association for £200 to go towards new allotment land in Frog Street. Council were informed that allotment holders have grown from about 5 to

20 and have been looking for additional land. This land would provide a further 14 small allotments. Further explanations were given with regard to the grant application. Commented that the area in question was once a garden. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres. All in favour by show of hands.

Council approved Item 14i brought forward for the benefit of members of the public.

14)

- i. 23/00209/FULL Erection of two dwellings and associated works, land and buildings at NGR 295663 122384 Frog Street, Bampton.

Cllr. Fouracres left the room having declared a pecuniary interest. Cllr. White took the Chair.

OBJECTION – for the following reasons:

- The area of Frog Street is shown as a HIGH RISK for flooding.
- Access to the proposed development is considered to be inadequate based as it is on a sharp bend in a narrow street.
- Traffic levels: additional vehicles serving the proposed development would increase already over-crowded traffic issues on a narrow street with no pavements for pedestrians.
- The two proposed properties are jammed into one corner of the site and would then cause overlooking and a loss of privacy for those in Newton Court.
- Being so close to properties in Newton Court will also incur loss of light and overshadowing.
- Bats are known to roost in Newton Court and this area is also known as a fly zone for the protected species.

7) Bampton Charter Fair – Cllr. White to report. Meeting earlier this evening committee. For discussion was the agreement that Council have with Rotary sharing work and surplus if any. 2022 are hovering around £900 loss which is covered by the Council's budget. Rotary are circumspect as to whether they wish to continue with the agreement in its current format with the Council. Cllr. Fouracres expressed surprise with the attitude of Rotary as they had been involved with the planning of the Fair all year. Rotary gave the impression that the primary function of the Fair was to make money to hand out to good causes in the parish. Cllr. Whiteway declared an interest as a member of the Rotary club.

Rotary stated that their prime function is to raise funds. Cllr. N. Bull state his surprise at no prior warning of this and expressed disappointment with the attitude from Rotary. Rotary members always attended every single meeting and agreed with all decisions made. We would have made different decisions if we had been aware of their financial concerns earlier in the year. Rotary have done a brilliant job of scooping the Fair of its knees in the past and thank you. From the Information given today, Rotary wish to be reassured that money will be made from the fair – it never used to be like this; requiring a business plan to return to profitability; Council cannot guarantee the Fair makes a surplus in any one year.

This is frustrating as Rotary do a lot of good work – further, Cllr. N. Bull thought we had a symbiotic relationship. If 6 months ago there had been a warning regarding the idea of surplus.... Cllr. N. Bull reiterated that he thought the relationship was between Rotary and the Council was good and strong. it now appears that Council may have an arrangement with the Church though there is no written agreement to hand. Cllr. N. Bull says we cannot fulfil the Rotary requirement for a business plan to make a surplus. Cllr. Whiteway's worry, that as the Fair is the of the season stall holders do not come. The impact of covid has made itself felt. There is a social profitability with the Charter Fair.

Resolved that as a Council we cannot present a business plan and will write to Rotary to inform them of this decision.

8) Millennium Green – update on the proposed pump track to be received. Clerk informed Council that a planning application has been submitted to Mid Devon Council. There is a requirement for an ecology survey and the application is on hold whilst this is sought. Further updates if available in April.

9) The Stage – quotes received to repair the wall and fix the paving on the Stage estimated at £540 plus some material. Bed on north corner facing Castle Street also requires works to remove the base of a large tree and create a raised bed. Estimate tba. Resolved to action on receipt of a detailed quote. Cllr. Whiteway has a pile of unwanted stone which may come in useful. Caveat that the correct colour mortar to be used on the Stage.

10) Licence for agreement – Licence between the Trustees of the Riverside Hall and Bampton Town Council to site a storage container at the back of the car park, in order to have both flood and snow equipment in the town centre. Draft licence circulated to councillors prior to this meeting. There is room for a 20’ container to take the snow equipment and other items. Resolved to sign the agreement. Proposed by Cllr. White, all agreed by show of hands.

11) Grant Application – Application received from Bampton School for £300 to go towards the laying of a concrete base for two new sheds for childrens play equipment. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. Whiteway, all in favour by show of hands.

13) Blue Badge Parking in Bampton – Council have received a request for a blue badge space to be created in Station Road car park, as well as better signage for the spaces already available in Brook Street. Aware of one on each side of the street in question. Council resolved to designate a space in the car park as disabled and consult with Highways regarding signage for the spaces currently in Brook Street - copy to Cllr. Chesterton.

14) PLANNING:

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

2. 22/02377/HOUSE Erection of a granny annexe for residential use associated with the main dwelling following demolition of existing outbuilding.

No objection

3. 23/00272/CAT Notification of intention to remove 5 young silver birch trees from a group of 10, remove damaged and deadwood branches from within canopy and lift the crown of 2 beech trees, and fell 1 beech tree within a conservation area, The Old House, Frog Street, Bampton.

No objection

Planning Decisions:

- a) 23/00066/NMA Non material amendment for 16/00047/FULL to allow modification of footprint and elevations relating to plot 55 Scotts Business Park
GRANTED

15) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Big Cheese – litter bag holders	£69.90	CARD
	Reach – advert for groundsman	£62.78	CARD
	SW Hygiene – annual renewal for toilets	£404.77	BACs
	XL Planning – planning fee	£348.00	BACs
	Mid Devon Council – Fair bins	£660.00	BACs
	Devon & Somerset Marquees – Fair	£1078.34	BACs
	C. Fagg – P3 co-ordinator annual expenses	£17.50	BACs
	Employment February	£827.24	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans February	£280.00	BACs
	LARC – room hire	£60.00	BACS
	Four Seasons – grass cuts	£527.99	BACs

	Clerks & Councils Direct – subscription	£14.00	BACs
	SW Water Old Store estimated Nov-Feb	£33.00	DD
	SW Water Toilets estimated Nov to Feb	£112.61	DD
Income:	CCLA Dividend January (reinvested)	£221.86	
	Car park & toilets	£110.00	

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors at the meeting.
Council to resolve to accept the receipts and payments account.

16) Councillor Training after Elections – a bespoke evening session can be made available here in Bampton by DALC trainer Elise. This would cost £200 for up to 10 people and £250 for 10-16 people. Hall hire and refreshments would be provided by Bampton and other parish councillors can be invited. Council to consider this training opportunity as booking needs to be made as soon as possible. Resolved to instigate the training once dates have been agreed for June.

17) Policies & Documents for update check –

- i. Asset Register
- ii. Scheme of Delegation Policy
- iii. Internal Control Policy
- iv. Financial Regulations – to agree to updates on 11.1h and 14.2
- v. Standing Orders – revised page 24 with regard to contracts.
- vi. Terms of Reference for Committees
 - a. Bampton Hall Committee
 - b. Finance Committee
 - c. HR & Appeals Committee
 - d. Open Spaces Committee

Council resolved to accept all the presented documents.

18) Coronation Activities – currently there is no lead identified for activities for the 7th/8th May. The Riverside Hall committee are considering showing a live stream of the coronation on the 6th May. Cllr. Jones considers that a picnic on the recreation field on the Sunday could be a good idea. She will contact the school. For the big help out on the Monday, there has been a suggestion of a mass litter pick.

19) Clerk's Report –

- i. The piper who played at the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee would not accept a fee for himself; he kindly donated the £100 the Council sent him to Hospiscare, who have thanked the Council by email.
- ii. Active Places data platform audit for the Recreation Field completed 8th February and submitted.
- iii. Citizens Advice have thanked Council for the received donation of £300. Much appreciated.
- iv. Mid Devon Mobility have sent a letter thanking Council and all the parishioners for the grant recently sent to them.
- v. Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Friday 14th April at the Community Hall, 6pm start.

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.

20) Report from Bampton Hall Committee – to resolve to consider the report. To resolve on actions and associated expenditure from this report. Cllr. White updated Council on actions to date. Council resolved to go forward with the next steps. All in favour by show of hands.

21) Contractor to Council for Grounds Maintenance – to discuss quotes received. Two quotes received and discussed – Countrywide Grounds Maintenance are the chosen operator for 2023.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on 5th April 2023 at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

Meeting closed at 8.32pm

Signed.....

Date.....