

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. Brooker; Cllr. White; Cllr. Grabke; Cllr. Boyles; County Cllr. Chesterton; District Cllr. Adcock; Cllr. Brock; Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. Bull; Penny Clapham (Clerk). Two members of the public.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: District Cllr. Gilmour. 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. 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 on behalf of the Legacy Group – explained the reason behind the Sheila Howells Legacy. A sum of £10,000 was left to improve access around Bampton for those less able: Exmoor Rotary to administer same. Meetings and consultations have been instigated to determine priority. The possibility of an island opposite Spar has been identified as a key priority.

Also here as Chairman of the Heritage & Visitor Centre and the walking festival.

Judi Thomas mentioned a bid document – grants towards quality visitor attractions/trails/enhance the rural to the visitor. Currently there is a gap in the information put out on walks; books are out of date and out of print; the Exe Valley way could be used more advantageously to deflect into the town. The own trail is largely guided; looking to make the trail unguided by using QR codes at points around the town. This would make the trail available 24/7 and throughout the year. A combination of these themes would make much more information available to the visitor.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – Police horses in the town on the 12th July. They visited the school and Castle Grove nursing home. Would like more response from the police and a further town meeting would be helpful.

5) County & District Councillor reports:-

County Cllr. Chesterton – On 7th August quite a lot of road repairs and patching in Bampton with road closures in place. Black Cat road repairs should be done in September. The review process is continuing within the county council.

District Cllr. Adcock – mentioned the School Close housing and the briefing on 3rd August in Tiverton. As a new council there is still a lot of training being done. Roads and potholes were brought up – please report to Highways on the Devon County Council website.

Cllr. L. Bull brought up renters being made to leave the area due to homes being re-possessed by landlords, the lack of affordable housing, lack of public transport. School Close in particular.

Cllr. Brock asked if more homes are being built to replace the ones in School Close which will not last for much longer. There is a rebuild due in School Close.

Cllr. White expressed disappointment at the first response from Mid Devon Council regarding the consultation and no presentation being made within Bampton about School Close.

Cllr. Fouracres updated on School Close. The district council should be leading on publicity.

Cllr. Chesterton considers that the District Council should hold an event to notify parishioners in Bampton of what is going on. This is a major planning application and a full consultation should be held.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Bampton Charter Fair – Cllr. White little to report this month. Please woo as many stallholders as possible to the Fair in October. Birds of prey as an attraction was mentioned.

8) Devon Community Resilience Forum – to receive a report from Cllr. Brooker.

Attended a meeting as flood warden. All the agencies were represented with talks as to how and what to do to improve resilience. Westcounty Rivers Trust with a project to do with micro catchment and flooding, being run in partnership with the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP). The Bampton stream runs down from the dam before joining the Bathern. This stream has flooded in the past. The idea is to put in natural flood management and engagement with the local community to assist in alleviating flooding and holding the water back from the Bathern. This is one in ten of such projects in Devon. Hopefully they may set up a stall at the Fair to publicise this project.

9) Open Spaces –

- i. Overgrown footpaths and actions being taken; Scotts in particular. Scotts has now been cut, and the broken fence reported to Highways.
- ii. Definitive Map modification – agreed that Restricted Byways Nos 26 & 27 do exist and that the Map shall be modified accordingly – to be noted, no action required. Noted.
- iii. Bike Rack – Seddons have given permission for a bike rack to be sited on their paved area between the olive tree and the bin. The site needs to be measured so that the correct size can be ordered. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Funding agreed for the bike rack, all in favour by show of hands.
- iv. Community Ownership Fund application – Council’s application to this fund has been turned down for the present time. Cllr. L. Bull reported on this and Council will apply again agreeing to match funding.

10) Pump Track update – all ecology reports have been completed. The planning application has now been put in to Mid Devon Council.

11) Mid Devon Walking Festival 14th to 29th September 2024– a series of walks being arranged by the District Council to promote leisure and tourism in the area. To be noted and actions reviewed. To agree a councillor to liase both with Mid Devon and with Judi Thomas (Heritage Centre).

Standing orders suspended for Judi Thomas

Organising walks to raise the profile of the town – Cllr. Brooker will be the liase with Judi Thomas.

Standing orders resumed.

12) Traffic in Bampton –

- i. Confirmation from Highways though no date that the faded lines in front of the dropped kerb by the disabled toilet are to be re-marked.
- ii. Speedwatch campaign update. Clerk to get in touch with Tim Williams.
- iii. Sheila Howell’s Legacy Project – to receive a report from the meeting held with the Legacy Project Co-ordinators. To discuss the traffic island project. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Overview already received from Judi Thomas. Cllr. White asked who would maintain the island if it is smashed into. Cllr. Fouracres informed that traffic coming down the South Molton road would see the island and slow down. Cllr. White also mentioned the people who park in this area and

shop and the cars parked there make traffic slow down. An island could make a bottleneck with endless traffic jams.

The Spar delivery lorries should use Newton Square and the back entrance.

Cllr. Boyles considers that those parking in the middle of the road would have to park elsewhere.

Cllr. White questioned why private money is being spent on a public road. Cllr. Chesterton responded. This could be public money used, but it would take many years before any crossing point would be put in place. Work has not yet been done as to the precise spot where any island might be sighted. This would go to our Highways officer.

More points were raised, mainly that there needs to be a safe space for those crossing this road.

Actions – proposed by Cllr. Fouracres to consult with Highways to inform Council what can be done in this area. Resolved by show of hands. 6 in favour, 2 against. Motion passed.

13) Lengthsman/Handyman – In Signpost for July – to receive any updates and agree further actions. Received an application for this post – to be followed up. Clerk to check the cost of Chapter 8 training.

14) PLANNING:

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

- i) 23/01002/LBC Listed building consent for reinstatement of verandah, Bowdenhays, South Molton Road, Bampton.

NO OBJECTION

- ii) 23/00696/FULL Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 17/01543/FULL (erection of 2 prefabricated holiday units) to allow revised plans for the 2 units of holiday accommodation, land at NGR 295379 121464, New Park, Bampton.

OBJECTION

Given the history of the site where previous planning permission has been granted for holiday lodging purposes only, which has since been contravened with longer term letting, the council is concerned that any permission granting a condition of holiday use is not the long term aim of the development.

Planning Decisions:

- a)

14) Petroc Application 23/00073/MFUL – Cllr. L. Bull to update Council on this major application in Tiverton put in by Petroc. Cllr. L. Bull – Petroc have made an application to convert a building for 24hour storage. Tiverton High School have raised objections. Council feels they should have been consulted as children here go to Tiverton to school. This will mean a reduction in training facilities, together with an increase in traffic along the main shared drive with the increased risk to the safety of students, staff and carers. Council are also raising safeguarding issues if unmonitored access is allowed for day/night storage. Cllr. Fouracres proposed an objection to the planning application is put forward and a letter is sent to the CEO of Petroc with our concerns. Resolved. All in favour by show of hands.

16) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Tozers Solicitors payment on account	£729.60	BACs 21/06
	Devon & Somerset Marquees – deposit	£334.24	BACs 21/06
	Heritage Centre (error payment recd.)	£25.00	BACs
	Employment June inc overtime 5 hours	£891.09	BACs
	HMRC – PAYE & NI Q1	£716.74	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans June	£300.00	BACs
	Clerk's Expenses Q1	£447.78	BACs
	Visionict – Google Analytics upgrade	£48.00	BACs

LARC room hire	£108.00	BACs
Mid Devon DC – VAT left off invoice	£78.00	BACs
Rupert White Interiors – cards for Fair	£50.40	BACs
Countrywide – grass cuts June	£582.38	BACs

Income: Public Sector Deposit Fund – interest June £344.05 reinvested.

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

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

17) First Quarter finance report – actuals vs budget to 30th June. Viewed and approved.

18) Replacement Bench – a request has been received to place the memorial bench for Lilian Edworthy somewhere other than the Orchard path to mitigate future vandalism. The bench will be placed at Shillingford as agreed with the Edworthy family.

19) Policies – to adopt the following policies

- i) Social Media Policy – number the points in the policy for ease of reference. Bcc should be in the last paragraph.
- ii) Charter Fair Committee Terms of Reference

Policies adopted.

20) Clerk’s Report (for information only)

- i. Email request to Cllr. Davis at Devon County Council regarding a Devon-wide implication of a 20mph speed limit has been sent. Keeping traffic issues to the fore in Bampton.
- ii. Bampton Surgery are going ahead with their extension and the pharmacy will be relocating to the new building once it is completed.
- iii. Clerk has requested a town meeting with the Police Community Support Officer in light of recent vandalism around the town.
- iv. Updated Terms of Reference for Committees circulated to Committee holders for their information.
- v. Clerk’s absence due to foot operation extended for 1 week’s holiday to Thursday 17th August.
- vi. Clerk has been in touch with Caroline Anderson who has a new role in Highways as a customer relations officer. Her role is to flag up to stakeholders/local businesses/public transport/school bus teams when there are works to be done in order to minimise the impact on the community.

PART II

21) 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.

22) Clerk’s Salary – review of Clerk’s salary following annual appraisal. To consider uplift one grade from SCP31 to SCP32 backdated to 1st April 2023. Resolved to agree the upgrade. Clerk to implement.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors Cllr. White and Cllr. Boyles attended the Sheila Legacy Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on 14th September 2023 at 7.00pm in the LARC building.
There is no Council meeting in August.

Email circulations during the past month

Devon Climate Emergency news July (sent 03/07)