

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Monday 6th November 2023 at 7pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. Brooker; Cllr. White; Cllr. Brock; Cllr. Grabke; Cllr. Boyles; County Cllr. Chesterton; 3 Members of the public; Cllr. Whiteway; District Cllr. Gilmore; District Cllr. Adcock; Penny Clapham (Clerk). Cllr. L. Bull. Cllr. N. Bull.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: None

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

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 put forward a proposal to Council. She explained that prior to Covid a meeting was held with doctors talking about well-being in Bampton. There has been and still is excellent community spirit in Bampton especially during the covid pandemic. LARC is now becoming a well-being venue, along with the pharmacy and there is a well-being coach at the surgery. To keep this going, Judi proposes an open event in Bampton so all groups can come together – perhaps one or two councillors could join with Judi to create this open event. District Cllr. Gilmore has volunteered, as has Cllr. Whiteway, Cllr. Boyles Cllr. Brock.

Ryan Standford from Bampton Football Club. Mentioned the hedge trimming that damaged the pitch. The roller has been damaged by the hedge cutting, so the club are currently unable to make the field fit for use. The roller is probably beyond repair. There are holes in the pitch probably made by dogs and dog mess has increased. Cllr. Fouracres requested some idea of cost for a replacement roller. The roller was bought second-hand at auction many years ago. Cllr. White suggested a price is sourced for a second-hand roller and come back to Council.

Parishioner from the Scout group attended with a view to offer help to the council as a part of the King's Scout award which she is working towards. Help with the Christmas trees was asked for and agreed to.

Cllr. N. Bull arrived at 7.10am.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – Almost universal positive responses regarding the fair. The pothole in Castle St has been filled. Met with the Somerset Bus Partnership on zoom – Bampton's bus 25 is under threat. Could pressure be put on to stop cuts to bus services. Only £2 to use the bus held until the end of 2024. Need to publish the buses – use it or lose it. There are several Somerset buses that come through parts of Devon.

5) County & District Councillor reports –

County Cllr. Chesterton – emergency closure on road south of Tiverton last week was caused by a huge chamber created underground from water bursting out of a large old pipe. A possible sink hole, now fixed.

Castle Street closure 4/5 December for investigation works. There is a dwindling pot of locality budget funds available; groups could make a claim.

District Cllrs. reports are attached to these minutes. Mention was made of flash flooding and Bampton's emergency plans. Cllr. Brooker informed all that he is the flood warden and that the plan is up to date.

6) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October 2023. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with one small amendment.

7) Bampton Fair – to receive a brief report. Cllr. White expressed thanks to Cllr. N. Bull who came up with the idea of Titan the Robot and thanked everybody who helped to pull it all together resulting in a very positive fair. Meeting next week for a debrief. Hope 2024 will be even better. Cllr. Grabke thanked Cllr. White for organising it so well.

8) Open Spaces – report from the Committee meeting held at 5pm 6th November to include email from Bampton AFC and the concerns raised (email circulated). Cllr. Boyles and Cllr. L. Bull will co-chair the Open Spaces Committee. A walk round is to take place on Thursday 16th November so all members can familiarise themselves with the amount and variety of open spaces that need caring for in and around Bampton.

9) Pump Track – to receive latest update. To agree actions. Still awaiting the result of the planning application.

10) Petanque at the Millennium Green – to discuss email received from the Twinning Association. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Help has been requested with the costs involved in setting this up, however there could be issues at the Millennium Green with additional pathways and surfaces that could be put down. On hold for the time being. Clerk to email Twinning with this update.

11) Delivery lorries and pavement parking – to receive concerns about this matter. Cllr. Boyles showed a video of a lorry reversing on a blind corner towards the play park. Also mounting the kerb and parking on the pavement. This is happening when children are being picked up from school. Cllr. Fouraces has been down and spoken to the owner of Ark – the access is narrow. If they are delivering can they not deliver during school hours rather than when the children are coming out ie between 10 and 3pm. Council will write to Ark reporting the parking incidents and requesting them to consider delivery during school time.

12) Traffic Island – to receive a progress report and approve a supplier. Cllr. Fouraces reported on a local supplier who has supplied a quote; this will be followed this.

13) Toilets doors – to receive a further update on the toilets. Cllr. White met with a person who runs public facilities, who commented that Bampton had too many toilets to serve the village and visitors. Considered one toilet would be sufficient, possibly with contactless entry. Have just one toilet available and the others locked up. Suggest that this goes to the finance committee meeting for talks on funding.

14) Christmas – to receive any further updates and agree cost of trees. Cllr. Grabke, Sunday 19th November to put up the trees. Willing volunteers needed please. Meet at Courtyard car park at 9am. Over 70 trees to put up. The big switch on to be Friday 1st December together with the PTFA Xmas fair, with a parade down to the big tree at 6pm.

15) PLANNING:

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

- i. 23/01614/FULL Erection of a dwelling (revised scheme), land at The Vicarage, Barnhay,
No objection
- ii. 23/01618/HOUSE Erection of a single storey extension following demolition of existing, alterations
to front door/window, erection of front porch and wrought iron railings, North Hayne Farm,
Shillingford.
No objection
- iii. 23/01558/LBC LBC for internal alterations to ground and first floor layout and installation of
secondary glazing in kitchen window, Chainbridge Lodge, Bampton.
No objection

Planning Decisions:

- a) 22/02196/FULL Erection of 5 dwellings following demolition of agricultural building using Class Q
fallback position, Higher Grants, Exebridge
APPROVED

16) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Adventure Okehampton – Fair	£450.00	BACs
	Castle Grove – pasties for Fair	£121.28	BACs
	Specialist Medical – Fair	£475.00	BACs
	Employment October inc. overtime	£1233.70	BACs
	LARCS – 5 th October meeting	£72.00	BACs
	Contact Radio – Fair	£231.60	BACs
	Lucy Tune – Fair bubbles/face painting	£425.00	BACs
	Ken White Signs x 3 invoices – Fair	£1230.60	BACs
	S. Fouracres – cash for music acts – Fair	£800.00	BACs
	Edge It – computer and set-up costs	£848.40	BACs
	Carlypress – leaflets – Fair	£139.00	BACs

Paid 30th October 2023, all by bank transfer.

	Countrywide – grass cuts October	£582.38	BACs
	Tozers Solicitors – balance for searches	£78.22	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans October + fair day	£510.00	BACs
	Community Hall hire – fair	£10.00	BACs
	Exmoor Luxury Loos – fair	£600.00	BACs
	Play Inspection Co – annual check	£297.00	BACs
	LARC for 6 th November	£48.00	BACs
	Bampton Com Hub – fair hire of car park	£240.00	BACs
	Mid Devon Council – fair bins & clean up	£1190.00	BACs
	Punch & Judy – fair	£250.00	BACs
	Four Seasons – hedge cutting	£816.00	BACs
	Four Seasons – trees cut/fair signage	£888.00	BACs

Income: Public Sector Deposit Fund – interest October £527.61 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) Citizens Advice request for a grant – letter requesting grant support emailed to councillors 26th September. Clerk to send a grant application form.

18) Speedwatch – a co-ordinator is required for this role; to agree actions. Cllr. Whiteway suggested a name and will follow this up. Cllr. N. Bull suggested that those concerned about speed could be involved in a speedwatch scheme.

19) Ride Across Britain – Sunday 8th September between 6.30am to 1pm. To consider use of the Recreation field. Yes please. Copy Ryan in to email.

20) Polling Review – circulated to councillors 3rd October – for comments if necessary. Noted, no comments.

21) Clerk's Report –

- i. To agree a date for the finance committee to meet prior to 4th December. 5pm 16th November at Cllr. Fouracres home.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on MONDAY 4th December 2023 at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

Email circulations during the past month

NALC Newsletter (sent 19/10)

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Report from District Cllrs Chris Adcock and Rachel Gilmour

Emergency Planning & Flood Plan: MDDC Councillors received a briefing on Emergency Planning from Simon Newcombe (Corporate Manager) and the new Emergency Response Officer Lewis Dyson. Lewis Dyson plans to work with Parish Councils to help ensure their emergency plans are up to date and can be implemented promptly when needed. We are aware of concerns about the weedy leats in Bampton and the risk of flooding, the level of concern is raised due to recent wet stormy weather.

State of the District Debate: This is likely to take place around March. Rather than a presentation/Q&A format, the aim is to involve Town and Parish councils to work closely with MDDC councillors and officers. More information to follow.

Local Planning cases: Rachel is still on the case with regards to Frog Street, Tiverton Road (near Mount Pleasant), Stoodleigh barn extension and Spurway Mill. She has repeatedly asked for a meeting with John Millar and expects to see him this Wednesday.

MDDC Governance: This was discussed at length at Full Council on 1st November, following a resolution in February to look at changing to a 'modernised committee' system next year. Since the current system (enshrined in the Constitution) is working well with a high degree of openness under the new administration and change would be a costly distraction, Council decided to retain the current Cabinet/strong leader system.

Over – development in woodland: This is a concern in several parishes surrounding Bampton as woodland is being cleared, built on and used for accommodation, we are looking into it. We went on a site visit today to Stoodleigh and Oakford.

Oakford sewage works: This has been raised at the Environment PDG and officers are following up with SWW and the EA. Rachel also raised it at Full Council and advised the Director of Place that both these organisations are impossible to contact and he needs to impress upon them how this impacts badly on their reputations and ability to provide a good service to residents.

EV Chargers: DCC has some government funding (£7M) and is consulting Town Parish Councils on regarding sites models for siting EV chargers on their land including car parks. They need to apply to the Government by the end of November. Hopefully, BTC has been invited to take part and is able to respond.

Decisions made regarding 3 Rivers Developments Ltd.: The Scrutiny Committee has set up a sub-group to study the history of 3RDL and produce a report on 'Lessons Learnt' from the experience. Rachel is Chair and is determined that this report will come to the Committee by Christmas, before going to Cabinet very early in the New Year.

Full Council Motion on Roads: At the full Council meeting on 6th September, Motion 596 from Cllr Gilmour was passed:

1) Mid Devon District Council call on Devon County Council to fulfil their statutory obligations under Section 41 of the 1980 Highways Act, that requires them to maintain Devon's roads and to keep them safe. Further, to explain the financial position regarding the funds promised by HMG, and received to date, the proposed remedial actions for the roads in Mid Devon District Council to be undertaken before this winter and the spending/budget allocations between 2022/3 - 2025/6.

2) Mid Devon District Council agrees to establish an on-line petition to include the following: Our roads in Mid Devon have become dangerous and a liability to drivers, passengers, other road users and pedestrians. Now, we the electorate of Mid Devon District Council are calling on Devon County Council to fix our dangerous roads and if they do not have sufficient funding to demand this from Central Government.

The communication to DCC has been made and the Petition is now live.