

Bampton Fair...Chairman's Statement to the Special Council Meeting

of Thursday January 19th 2017

- May I remind Cllrs that it was last Spring, following the very critical external audit of the Town Council's finances for the year 2014/15, when the then locum-clerk became aware of a perceived lack of safeguarding of the position of BTC finances relative to the Fair. There was therefore the consequent need to review the relationship set up in 2009 for a three-year period between the Bampton Fair Working Group and ourselves.
- Cllrs involved in that agreement had not seen the Lease.
- Cllr Edwards and myself were asked by Council to instigate talks with the members of the Group and Cllr Edwards produced an agreed Governance document which was published.
- We made some progress with Terms of Reference for both parties but over time, as a new member of the WG, I was unable to fulfil what I saw as Council's further obligations as tenant of the Lease from the Lord of the Manor, specifically clauses 2.5 and 2.8. I stepped down from my role after the Council's informal Fair de-brief meeting on 14th November last year. Cllr Carol Mares kindly agreed to replace me.
- I trust members of the WG will acknowledge that in spite of our differences, I worked wholeheartedly with them to contribute to the success of the 2016 Fair.
- The clerk and Cllr Carol Mares held a meeting with members of the Working Group and Mrs Kelley Beeston on 20th December 2016. From that meeting the clerk has made some suggestions of ways forward which will be discussed tonight.
- I hope that the conclusions reached by Cllrs tonight will safeguard any future Council, fulfil the Terms of the Lease and enable the well-being of future Fairs.
- It is now my wish to vacate the chair and to leave the meeting.