

Notes of the Public Forum. Tuesday 8th January 2013.

Mr Terry Knagg drew the Council's attention to Mr Les Hartley's letter of the 6th January 2013 which had been signed by previous members of the Council, viz. Les Hartley, Lucie Moore, John Wescott, Celia Hicks, Kate Millen and Terry Knagg, and the previous Clerk Ann Guilfoyle. The letter alleged that Cllr Keith Pitt had conducted a campaign of rumour and innuendo which undermined what the (then) Council was trying to achieve. The letter went on to request a public apology from Cllr Pitt and asked for a reply from the Council.

The Chairman said that members of the Council had been circulated with a copy of the letter prior to the meeting and were thus aware of its contents. The letter would be discussed by the Council and a reply formulated under any other business. A copy of the letter and the Council's reply would be sent to the MD DC Monitoring Officer.

Mr Terry Brown said that his property had two boundaries with the Millennium Green and he was concerned that people exercising their dogs on the Millennium Green were disturbing his horses. When he purchased the land he had entered into a verbal agreement with someone (he did not know who) that the Town Council would plant a hawthorn hedge to screen the Millennium Green from his property. He did not know who was responsible for maintaining the boundary and it was suggested that he should look at his deeds which would show who was responsible. Mrs Joan Fagg said that an attempt had been made to establish a hedge but the boundary was overhung by trees and the horses had grazed off the young plants. There had also been a determined effort to control ragwort which was poisonous for horses. It was agreed that representatives from the Council would walk the boundary with Mr Brown to determine whether it was reasonably possible to improve the screening.

Mrs Bass of Ashley Park drew the Council's attention for the need to lodge any objections to the appeal against refusal of planning permission for the development at Ashley Park with the inspector by 17th January. Three copies of the letter were required. The Chairman said that the item was on the Agenda.

Mr Allen was concerned that the report on the Bampton fair by Peter Beckwith appeared to be negative whereas there were no negative reports from elsewhere. Payment for the report was discussed under Item 5 of the Agenda.

Mr Steve Temple complained that the time of the Town Council meeting had been shown as 7:30 pm in Signposts and he thought that this referred the start time for the Public Forum. He had arrived just before 7:30 expecting to be able to speak only to discover that the Public Forum started at seven. The chairman agreed that Signposts did not make it clear that the Public Forum started at seven. However, the Agenda for the council meeting which was posted on the Council's noticeboard did so. The Clerk would ask the editor of Signposts to include the time for the start of the Public Forum. Mr Temple said he would raise the points that he wished to make at the next meeting.

Minutes of the Bampton Town Council Meeting held on the Tuesday 8th December 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Albert Fowler room, Riverside Hall.

In the absence of the acting town clerk due to illness Mrs Pat Ward agreed to take the minutes.

1 Members present were Brian Smith (Chairman), Rodney Baker, Rachel Gilmour (part-time), Jean Pope, Edward Turner, Jack Ward and William Weston (part-time). District councillor Stanley (??) was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from District and County Councillor Polly Colthorpe. Cllrs Gilmour and Weston arrived after the start of the meeting.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2012

Notes of the Public Forum. Amend the first sentence of the last paragraph to read, 'Representatives of the Millennium Green Trust attended and the Council confirmed that a grant of £2,000, which would be match funded by the PCC, would be available for the next financial year.'

Minutes of the Meeting. These were accepted as true record with the following correction. Para 8b first line – delete 'Hall' and insert 'Lockup'.

It was agreed that in future the draft minutes would be circulated by e-mail so that councillors could propose any amendments to the Chairman who would agree them (or otherwise) before the Clerk published the draft minutes.

3 **Matters Arising.** A preliminary discussion on the appointment of a Town Clerk is minuted under Item 7d together with discussions that took place under that item. There were no other matters arising.

4 **District Councillor's Report .** Cllr Colthorpe was unable to attend due to illness.

5 **Finance.**

Payments

BTC Payments Made in December 2012

Payee	For	Amount	Cheque No
M Morgan	Toilets	300.00	1879
J Eyre	Acting Clerk	129.99	1880
Community First	Insurance premium	127.99	1881
RGB	Pumphouse tiles	132.00	1882
Constant Radio	Fair	111.60	1883
Cost Cutters	Postage stamps	30.00	1884
Riverside Hall	Hire	50.00	1885
Community Council	Parish Plan	2340.00	1886
K & S Fire	Extinguisher servicing	30.00	1887
MDDC	Election	2439.05	1888
St John's Ambulance	Fair	400.00	1889
Exmoor Loos	Fair	548.40	1890
Riverside Hall	BTC meeting	30.00	1891
Speedy Asset	Mats for Fair parking	1440.00	1892
N Stevens	Xmas trees	264.00	1893
Bampton Heritage Centre	MDDC grant	1580.00	1984
F Stoner	Key cutting	15.00	1895

Bank Statements

8.12.12	HSBC	23569.58
1.10.12	Scottish Widows	36343.74

Invoices Outstanding as of 8.01.13

MDDC	11 th Oct & 15 th Nov elections	5572.08
Riverside hall	Parish Plan meeting	25.00
P G Beckworth	Fair assessment	448.00

The Council discussed the invoice from Mr Beckwith for the Public Environmental Awareness Report on Bampton Charter Fair 2012. They agreed that items such as protective clothing and boots were not chargeable to the Council and that Mr Beckwith should be requested to resubmit his invoice.

Receipts

The car park 'Honesty Boxes' are now emptied on a fortnightly basis. The receipts since October were:-

8th October	£58.41
12th October	£16.79
16th October	£38.24
29th October	£90.80
5th November	£33.12
16th Nov	£40.95
3rd Dec	£36.80
14th Dec	£33.87
28th Dec	£40.55

The e-mail from Julia Mayer regarding the arrangements for charging mobile homes and camper vans for the "after the (Bampton) fair" events was noted. In future they will have to pay for parking and tickets will issued which will have to be displayed.

6 Planning

Applications

12/01745/FULL No objections

12/01484/LBC No Objections

12/01766/FULL No objections

12/01735/FULL (Extension to Bampton Primary School) This was not on the agenda, however, the pack had been circulated as a response was required by the 11th January if the Council was going to comment. After discussion it was agreed that the school and the LEA must know what was required so there was no need for the Council to comment. However, it did demonstrate the need for better liaison between the school and the Council. This was discussed under Item 7f. of the agenda.

Appeals

12/00201/FULL. The Clerk was directed to write to the Inspector by the 17th January reiterating the Council's previous objections. Three copies of the letter are required

Refusals

12/01295/FULL Noted

12/01275/FULL Noted

7 Ongoing Business

a. Flood Plan. Concern was expressed that the Flood Plan was out of date. It was agreed that Mr Fxxx and Mr Martin Wyler from the Environment Agency would be asked to give a presentation on Flood Plans at the next meeting.

b. Insurance. Cllr Pitt said that the limit for public liability has been raised from £6M to £10M without an increase in the premium. Everything was now covered except for the Ball Park at the Millennium Green.

c. Grass Cutting & Grounds Contact. Cllr Gilmour said that her husband who was a solicitor had reviewed the documentation and thought that it could probably be interpreted as a contract. The Council expressed unease that the contractor had proposed a three-year contract with annual increases and also that the contractor was employing a subcontractor to carry out the work which meant that the council were paying them they needed to. The Council felt that it would be wiser to invite tenders based on a specification prepared by the Council and let the contract on an annual basis. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the contractor saying that the Council were in the process of reviewing all existing contracts and would be inviting tenders.

d. Appointment of Clerk. Cllr Gilmour reported that she had been unable to finalise the job description, terms and conditions for the position of Town Clerk due to pressure of work. However, she had e-mailed a link giving a standard job description for a Town Clerk to the Acting Clerk and had drafted a person description to go with it. It was agreed that Cllr Gilmour would finalise the person description, add the link to the Job Description and forward the document to the Chairman. If he approved it would be circulated to members for their comment so that a final version could be prepared. There was considerable discussion on whether the Clerk should be paid an hourly rate based on time spent or a salary. In the end it was agreed that the Clerk would be paid a monthly salary based on 30 hours/month at the rate recommended by NALC plus reasonable expenses.

e. Election of Chair of BTC

Cllr Smith was elected as Chairman (proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Tanner)

Cllr Tanner was elected as Vice-Chairman (proposed Cllr Baker and seconded by Cllr Ward)

It was agreed that Cllr Baker should continue as the Treasurer.

f. Nominated Liaison with Bampton School and MDCC Planning.

It was agreed that better liaison with the school was required. However, in order to prevent a proliferation of working parties or liaison groups it would be desirable for the Council to be represented on the Board of Governors. Cllr Ward agreed to talk to the Chairman of Governors to see whether this was possible.

The attachment to Cllr Gilmour's e-mail of 8th January on planning in Bampton was discussed and agreed with some minor amendments. It was agreed that the document would form the basis of the Council's position in responding to future Strategic Plans.

g. Post Office Relocation.

Concern was expressed over the accessibility of the proposed site at the SPAR store and the problems which will be incurred by increased traffic and the desire of customers to park nearby. However, as the existing post office and premises could not be sold as an entity it was difficult to think of an alternative site. It was very important to retain a Post Office in Bampton particularly as it served not only Bampton but the surrounding villages. The Clerk was asked to write to the Post Office expressing the Council's concerns over access and parking.

h. Hire Out of Council Marquees. A letter had been received from the Rotary Club asking whether the Council would be prepared to hire out two of their marquees for Uffculme Show. After discussion the Council agreed that they were not prepared to do so because of the difficulty in ensuring that the marquees were not damaged or any of the parts lost.

i. Music Festival Proposal. Mr Richard King had asked whether the Council would allow the use of the Football Field on August bank Holiday for a music festival. The Council had no objection in principal provided Mr King liaised with the Chairman of the Football Club over a mutually convenient date and that Mr King looked after all the administration such as licencing and insurance.

Cllr Gilmour left the meeting

8 Any Other Business

Mr Les Harley's letter of 6th January 2013

Cllr Pitt left the room.

The remaining members agreed that with the election of a Council which was overwhelmingly composed of new members there was a need to move on. As far as the Council were aware no evidence of malpractice had been uncovered and to become involved in discussions over the allegations made by the parties to the dispute was a waste of the Council's time. The Council, as an entity, were not involved in the dispute and any apology was a matter for Cllr Pitt and the complainants. The Chairman said that he would reply to Mr Harley and, as indicated during the Public Forum, send a copy of Mr Hartley's letter and the reply to the MDDC Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Pitt returned to the room.

8 Date of Next Meeting. 5th February 2013 at 1930 in the Albert Fowler Room, Riverside Hall. The meeting will be preceded by a Public Forum starting at 1900. The meeting closed at 22:30