

Notes of the Public Forum Held
on January 7th 2014.

Maurice Fitzgibbon wished to make the Council aware of a potential planning application for 49 acres of solar factory off the Shillingford Road. Mid Devon District Council had undertaken an environmental assessment and considered that the site may be suitable. This is the first proposed project to lie within the Bampton boundaries. Mr Fitzgibbon was asked to keep the Council informed as until a formal planning application has been submitted BTC cannot respond to the proposal.

A lady from Scott's estate commented on the walkway from Woodland Close. She thought the fencing along the straight length of path would benefit from panelling to improve safety as currently there is only a single rail. Below the path on both sides is a sheer drop into a very marshy area. Cllr Smith suggested a site visit. The lighting along there also needs improving. The Parish Lengthsman is expected to visit on 29/1/14 for two days.

Mark from the Quarryman's attended the meeting to comment that a number of sandbags had been removed from his cellar which had caused flooding which caused his electric to trip and jeopardised his stock. In the three months he had been in residence he had never been flooded before. He wanted to know what the situation is regarding sandbags, whether businesses have priority over private houses. Cllr Pitt told him that the sandbags are for the use of the community and generally kept in the lock up by the bridge. Cllr Smith confirmed this point. There had however been a quantity of sandbags left piled up on the road outside the Quarryman's for some time which he had advised Mark to move as they were rotting and losing sand and needed to be returned to the lock-up. There are still plenty of sandbags left in the lock-up but all sandbags should be returned to the store after use. Cllr Smith could not condone sandbags being moved. Cllr Weston noted that this problem with flooding at the Quarryman's had been happening for years despite efforts to stop it. Mr Les Hartley felt that there should be advertising telling people where to get sandbags from and giving contact details as although this information has been available through the minutes he felt people did not read the minutes. Notices will be made available. Cllr Stoner asked whether the drains had been looked at on the Old Tiverton Road and Cllr Pope noted that a huge weight of water had been running out of Ashleigh Park onto the Old Tiverton Road. Councillors were asked to meet at the lock up on Saturday morning to make more sandbags.

Charlie Beeden of Court Grove told the meeting that before Christmas the leat was running quickly but filled up and crossed the pavement and went under his gate. He now knows how to deal with the situation thanks to Cllr Stoner but wished to know whether he was covered by BTC insurance when lifting manhole covers to deal with the situation? He was advised that he needs to be working as a part of a BTC sub-committee to be insured. Cllr Pope suggested that the Flood Group and the Snow Group join forces to ensure cover.

He went on to say that there is a blockage in a pipe on Frog Street near to Riverview. Cllr Pope has asked Steve Leigh of Highways for a cctv survey of the pipe. There is a possibility that rubble from collapse of a wall further up Frog Street in the summer may have fallen into the water course.

Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council
Held on 7th January 2014.

1. Members present: Cllrs Brian Smith, Edward Tanner, Rodney Baker, Rachel Gilmour, Jean Pope, Francis Stoner, Keith Pitt, William Weston and Jack Ward.

Cllr Ray Stanley attended and gave apologies for Cllr Polly Colthorpe.

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Cllr Pitt asked that it be noted that he had offered 'to have a word' regarding the catering van on Silver Street but not that he would 'see him immediately'.

The minutes of the meeting of December 3rd 2013 were agreed as a true and correct record.

3. Matters arising. Cllr Smith announced that he had received a letter from Katrina Munroe of the Bampton Heritage and Visitor Centre stating that the loan of £3,000 would be accepted according to the terms of the agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund, specifically that the amount would be claimed in full by December 31st 2014 and was liable for repayment should the project cease to operate within ten years. In the case of the loan from BTC it was suggested by Cllr Gilmour that the Terms of Reference should state that the parties to the loan should be specified as the Trustees, or those calling themselves Trustees until a constitution is adopted, as the partner to the grant from HLF is named as Bampton church. However, the accepted minutes of the meeting of 3/12/13 which stated that a properly drawn up constitution would be required and that this decision could not be reversed as it was the finding of the Monitoring Officer for Mid Devon District Council. Cllrs Baker and Tanner felt that the BHVC was a good thing for Bampton and that the money should be made available. Cllr Tanner proposed that the money should be made available as per the letter from BHVC without terms or conditions and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Weston. The Clerk advised the council that the minutes which had just been signed off stated that appropriate supporting paperwork and a recognised constitution would be required, as recommended by the findings of the Monitoring Officer and in keeping with the statement made by Cllr Smith in the previous minutes. Cllr Smith still felt that the loan should be given without terms and that the letter should be taken as 'gospel'. Cllr Gilmour said that although she supported the BHVC she was concerned that BTC would consider giving £3,000 of taxpayers money to a group without a formerly constituted committee or trustees or legal framework in place. There is an obligation on the council to protect taxpayers money. Cllr Smith then proposed that the letter from BHVC was taken as an agreement to the loan as he felt that the matter had gone on for too long. The Clerk asked if he was rescinding on the previous minutes? Cllr Pope and Cllr Smith stated that they could not remember him making that statement and suggested that it be 'scrubbed off' the minutes. Cllr Smith then suggested they were offered the loan with named trustees. The Clerk then asked if this was with or without constitution and Cllr Smith said with constitution and the money would be ring fenced until such time as that was received.

Alan Woolley then interrupted the meeting to say he was leaving the meeting and had left copies with the Clerk. The Clerk asked for the name of a contact on the Steering Committee as her name had been used although she hadn't seen a copy before that evening. Mr Woolley suggested that his contact details as Chair of the Steering Committee be supplied.

Cllr Pitt informed the meeting that the catering van on Silver Street had now been moved. He went on to say that at the previous meeting Cllr Smith had said that the publication of the Parish Plan was nothing to do with BTC. Cllr Pitt was unhappy with the published plan as so many points were wrong. Neither had a draft copy been supplied to BTC prior to publication for approval but the published version states that BTC had agreed to work on many of the action points. Cllr Smith stated that he hadn't received a draft copy either. Cllrs Ward and Tanner said they knew about it but that it should be discussed as an agenda item later.

* Cllr Smith interrupted Cllr Pitt at this point and called a halt to the meeting, saying he had the authority to do so, in response to a note from Cllr Pope and adjourned the meeting to invite Mr Derek Webster to speak on behalf of the BHVC. Mr Webster informed the meeting that a constitution had already been supplied to BTC. The Clerk pointed out that the copy supplied was for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was dated April 2012. Applications to become a CIO were not accepted by the Charity Commission until January 2013. It would also have had to be supported by a Declaration of Trustees which ensured that those people wishing to become trustees were allowed to do so. They also would have been supplied with a charity number to confirm the status of the project. BTC has made its requirements clear but the BHVC had not yet supplied the appropriate paperwork. Mr Webster then said that the BHVC would apply to become a registered charity and provide a full constitution to support their application for the funds.

Following this interruption Cllr Pitt was allowed to continue. Cllr Pitt observed that the Chairman had stated at the last meeting that the Parish Plan was nothing to do with BTC and that many of the points had been considered unworkable in a discussion in council last year. One of the errors in the Parish Plan was that Signpost magazine was free and delivered to all households. The Cllr Smith suggested that it had all been left to the Steering Committee to arrange. Cllr Pitt then referred to the point about supporting local businesses and the value of the local pound and asked, as there are no printer's details on the publication, where it was printed? No-one at the meeting knew, although from Cllr Tanner added that he knew it was the cheapest possible place.

Cllr Pitt then moved on to the recent funding meeting with Paul Tucker of MDDC, this was specified in the minutes of December's meeting as a discussion between BTC and the Riverside Hall committee about the possibilities of accessing Lottery grants. He was surprised that the Riverside Hall committee didn't come after saying they would and felt that others were aware of the change when the meeting started. Cllr Smith had then decided, against advice from the Clerk, that he would make it a council meeting in order to decide between the tenders to fit security to the Pump House and ordered the Clerk to stay and minute the decision. He stated that he was allowed to do this according to Standing Orders, however no notice of it being a public meeting or agenda was published in respect of this. Cllr Smith acknowledged that he was out of order on this point.

4. Cllr Stanley was happy to report that there would not be any reduction in frontline services next year. There is a proposal to downgrade Bampton from a town to a village and the public consultation on the Mid Devon Local Plan begins with a meeting in Bampton on January 29th and will continue for six weeks. An officer of the council will visit Bampton to give a presentation if requested. The applications to create solar factories at both Keenes and Buckhayes have both been sent to appeal against their refusal. As the tariff for solar energy is to be reduced by the Government at the end of the year many developers will be making applications now to benefit from the current rates. Parking enforcement in en-

enforcement will cease as of March. This is due to the revenue raised from parking fines being less than it costs to employ the enforcement officers.

5. Finance. Cllr Stoner asked that the access details to the Scottish widows account be checked.

There needed to be a donation to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath Cllr Pope pressed that £25 be given, seconded by Cllr Pitt.

The car park donations collected on 20th December 2012 totalled £113.58 giving a total of £2,042.38 so far.

December receipts.

4.12.13 Bampton Fair Working Group £1,970.84

4.12.13 Riverside Hall Film £83.00

4.12.13 Scout Hut Rent £60.00

10.12.13 Car park £39.00

24.12.13 Car park £104.00

Cheques not cashed as of 24.12.13 101902 £100.00 101906 £51.97

Bank statements @ 24th December 2013

HSBC £30,550.20 cr Scottish Widows £36,531.39 cr

January 2014 Payments Due.

D/d MDDC Rates for toilets and car park £77.00

D/d EW Management £436.63

Clerk's salary £652.36

Clerk's expenses (Nov & Dec) £44.00

M.Morgan Toilets £300.00

Filmbank Distributors (Two films) £199.20

Flogas Britain (Riverside Hall) £115.50

HMRC Nics £2.56

H. Burrige Bampton Website £100.00

Caxtons Printers £12.99

6. Planning. Ref: 13/00253/FULL Wind turbine at Rifton Barton. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the failure of the Local Planning Authority to give a decision within an eight or thirteen week period of the application for permission of approval.

7.a. The Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Gilmour noted that there was a lot to be considered as although the Parish Plan may offer some support it is an operational plan whereas the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be a strategic document which fits in with the plans of both the district and county councils. Also that the village/town consultation will not be complete until the end of March 2014 and the final decision on that situation will have implications for the future of Bampton. Cllr Stanley thought that it was a fair bet that Bampton would become a village. Cllr Gilmour suggested that there should be an appeal to the people of Bampton, especially the younger people, to find out what they want it to become in the future and their thoughts as to planning and how funding should be spent. Cllr Weston agreed with this point. To be discussed further at the next meeting and a public meeting to be arranged.

b. The Parish Plan was said to have been adopted by BTC in April 2013 but that the adoption had never been agreed with a formal vote. Cllr Ward proposed that the Parish Plan be adopted by BTC and this was seconded by Cllr Baker. Cllr Pitt asked how it could be proposed and adopted when it has already been published and asked that it be minuted that he had had no input into or sight of this document prior to its distribution. Cllr Gilmour also

wanted no part of this document as it was out of date and had not been agreed by the committee of Bampton Town Council.

c. Precept. Cllr Tanner suggested an increase of 2% to cover the cost of making improvements to the toilets and to cover other jobs, such as leaf sweeping. Cllr Pitt pointed out that these things are the responsibility of MDDC. Cllr Stanley suggested that it was unlikely that MDDC would find the money to refurbish the public toilets. Cllr Gilmour felt that the district council should be made to fulfil their responsibilities and BTC should take care of its own. Cllr Stanley informed the meeting that there would not be an increase in council tax next year. Cllr Ward felt that BTC should create a budget and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Stanley informed the meeting that the Government were planning to cap the precept soon and that councils should hold a the equivalent of one year's precept as a reserve. Cllr Ward proposed that the precept should be applied for without any increase, this was seconded by Cllr Pope and agreed unanimously.

d. Millennium Green. Tenders had been received to remove a hedge and supply a post and rail fence. Cllr Pope proposed that the quote from Simon Ellicott be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Gilmour, agreed unanimously. Cllr Smith to confirm with Simon Ellicott.

e. Standing Orders. Cllr Stoner informed the meeting that BTC do have Standing Orders, the ones now being put forward for consideration are the most recent version supplied by DALC. A meeting to agree Standing Orders will be held on Thursday 23rd January at 7pm in the Albert Fowler Room.

f. A review of the funding meeting of 10th December 2013 with Paul Tucker of MDDC and the follow up letter from Mr Tucker.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has a grant which would allow for significant improvements to be made at the castle. Cllr Stoner was able to confirm that the motte and bailey site belongs to BTC and was registered as such with the Land Registry. Mr Tucker had been very taken with the possibility of using the grant to improve this site and felt it could be one of the most exciting projects he had seen in a long while. Cllr Smith suggested that he would ask for a quotes to remove the brambles etc from the castle site to reveal the whole site before requesting a site visit from the HLF.

There was also the possibility of applying for Viridor Credits to renew the changing rooms on the recreation ground and gave the example of Willand had received £100,000 for a new clubhouse/changing rooms from Viridor Credits.

Another fund, called Reaching Communities, was also available and this could be used to completely refurbish the Riverside Hall. It would pay for literally every aspect of the refurbishment project from the feasibility study through to the employment of a caretaker when the rebuild was completed. The next deadline for the first round of funding for this at the end of February but there was felt to be some confusion over whether the Riverside Hall committee were willing to go forward. However this was not a fund that one group could apply for; it had to be a community based application. It is a three stage application which requires a cohesive approach that proves the whole of the town supports it and which Paul Tucker would be happy to support and assist with. It was understood that an amount had been applied for from Awards for All by the Riverside Hall committee for a feasibility study but nothing was known of the details. The great risk was that the opportunity would be lost. But until further information was forthcoming it was difficult to take it forward.

It had been suggested that the TAP fund be joined with Morebath's to create practice nets for cricketers on the Recreation Ground. However a message from their Clerk stated that no application had been received from Morebath Cricket Club or Bampton Town Council and that there were other considerations for the TAP fund. Cllr Smith agreed to take the application form to a meeting with the cricket club and discuss where to get quotes from. The Clerk to contact Jeff Gregory, the Clerk for Morebath.

g. The Clerk suggested that it may be appropriate for the town council to have a dedicated laptop for the use of the Clerk. This would ensure that all records pertaining to the council are kept in one place and are easily accessed. Proposed by Cllr Pitt and seconded by Cllr Tanner all in agreement.

h. A metal bin is to be bought for the gate at the Recreation Ground to replace the dog waste bin and to provide a litter bin for the Rec. Clerk to get prices of metal bins.

i. Information had been sent out to all Councillors regarding a Transport Review being carried out by Devon County Council. Although it may not directly affect Bampton services it was felt that a response should be sent acknowledging the poor public transport services that Bampton residents currently have and the difficulties created in trying to get to work and college, as well as the impossibility of reaching Tiverton for social outings in the evening.

j. Confirmation has been received from the Post office that the post box in Brook Street will be retained and the metal post which used to support the stamp machine will be removed.

Any other business. Cllr Pope has contacted Highways regarding the drains and will contact them again to ask for the drains above Castle Grove and on Mary Lane to be checked. The Clerk to ask for the paving stones along Brook Street to be checked as they are becoming uneven.

Cllr Smith will be away for the meetings in February and March 2014.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 4th 2014.