

## Notes of the Public Forum

### 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Mr Banks asked whether a charge could be imposed on those vehicles which stay in the Station Road car park for the 'After The Fair' event. £10 per vehicle was suggested with signs to be displayed and a steward on hand to check that the parking had been paid for. To be discussed.

Carol Burns asked that Bampton Town Council contribute £700 towards this year's Bampton in Bloom. To be discussed.

Mr Woolley asked again for information regarding the adoption of the Parish Plan. He felt that the minute was not recorded properly. The Clerk advised him that the minute was written as recorded and was agreed and signed off as being a true record by the Chair. Cllr Gilmour suggested that as the Monitoring Officer intended to visit BTC in the near future it might be appropriate to begin a list of queries regarding the legal status of the Parish Plan. Cllr Stoner, referring to his records, said he believed that the Parish Plan had been adopted in April 2013.

Dr Ken Mills wished to record his thanks on behalf of the people attending the Military Wives concert at the church, arranged by Cllr Tanner. Cllr Tanner wished to thank everyone who had helped in the arrangements.

Dr Mills also wished to complain about the overhanging trees on Packhorse Way that also reached over his garden. He had been advised previously that due to an excess of work the Parish Lengthsman was taking his work directly from DCC. Further to this he had been advised of the contact details for the Parish Lengthsman at DCC in order to further his request but had only received an automated response. Mrs Fagg added that the P3 group also keeps an eye on the situation and the problem had been ongoing for some time. The trees that are in need of trimming are on private land but do overhang the highway. As such the Highways Dept can send a letter requesting that the branches are removed or undertake the work and send the bill on to the landowner. Cllr Pitt offered to contact the landowner to speak about the matter but Cllr Smith wanted it to be referred directly to DCC. The Clerk to contact Devon County Council.

Mr Penny of Ford Lane wished to speak regarding a planning application to build a house on Ford Lane. If approved the new build would compromise the Right of Way into his garden and come very close to the Right of Way at the side of his house. The current plan would see a path of 130cm wide reduced to 86.4cm wide at which point the path would not be fit for purpose. Cllr Stoner asked for confirmation that the Right of Way was shown on the deeds to his house, which was confirmed, and that Mr Penny had advised the Planning Dept at Mid Devon of his concerns, which he had.

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council  
Held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.**

1. In attendance were Cllrs Smith, Tanner, Baker, Gilmour, Pitt, Pope, Weston, Stoner and Ward.  
Also Cllrs Ray Stanley and Polly Colthorpe.
2. Cllr Weston declared an interest in Item 7 Planning.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true record.
4. Cllr Ward stated that he was 100% confident that the church held no liability should the Heritage Lottery Fund grant the Heritage Centre be recalled. Cllr Pitt informed the meeting that the cheque for the installation of the video system at the Pump House had now been released. The system had been replaced by the manufacturers and two extra cameras provided to compensate for the inconvenience. Notices had also been displayed to inform the public that video cameras were being used. He also suggested that funds be moved into the Scottish Widows account to benefit from better interest rates.
5. Cllr Stanley informed the meetings that a total of twenty-two new social housing scheme houses were built in Mid Devon last year and a further twenty are currently planned. The rents are fixed for fifteen years in order to avert the possibility of Right to Buy. There are four hundred people in sheltered housing in the district provided by Devon County Council through £250 -£300,00 in funding. As of March 2015 this funding will cease. Many of the people in sheltered housing require a significant amount of support in the future. If DCC also cut their funding for the coming year it will create a very difficult situation indeed. There will also be cuts in funding to services for young people, which may create further difficulties. Current funding only provides a service for 16 to 18 year olds. Again consideration needs to be given to vulnerable people whose needs cannot be forgotten and who cannot be thrown on the scrap heap. He added 'There is a moral obligation to look after these people.' Cllr Gilmour thanked him for his considerate account of the situation and acknowledgement of the vulnerable people involved. Cllr Colthorpe informed the meeting that the Local Plan Review had now closed with over 1,000 responses received which may serve to delay the conclusions. Birchen Lane Children's Home in Tiverton has now closed despite the staff at the home receiving an A1 rating for their work there. The location was considered to be in a difficult place and Ofsted have a preference for children in care to be housed in groups of two or three whereas Birchen Lane housed eight children and so was closed. Devon County Council has recently received a further £7 million from central government to spend on road repairs. Cllr Colthorpe had recently attended a Community Safety Partnership meeting regarding drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and crime prevention. She left a newsletter with the council, which will be left in the library, with a list of contact numbers but reassured the meeting that such problems had a very low incidence rate in the local area. The Youth Service review does not conclude until next month and a group of children had made their feelings known to Cllr John Hart of DCC. The Library service is also now under review, again driven by the need for budget cuts although it is hoped to keep all libraries open at some level.

**6. Finance.**

**March receipts.**

5/3/14 Bampton PCC (Millennium Green)	£1529.25
5/3/14 Car parks	£68.00

**Cheques not presented @ 2/4/14**

7/1/14 101915 HMRC	£2.56
3/3/14 101932 Riverside Hall	£10.00
3/3/14 101934 Nash & Co Shillingford Play Park	£420.00

**April payments.**

D/d MDDC Bridge Terrace rates	£32.28
D/d MDDC Tolls of fair.	£48.00
Clerk's salary	£652.36
M.Morgan Toilets	£310.00
MJF Contractors Grass cutting	£209.36
PHS Group Riverside Hall	£206.95
Filmbank Distributors Riverside Hall	£128.65
SWWA Services of Parish Church	£114.80
SWWA Services of Station Rd car park	£26.50
HMRC Nics	£2.56
Riverside Hall Tiverton Police (Have your say)	£40.00

Nigel Payne Hollett Garden and walkway to Scott's £365.00  
Town clerk expenses (Two months) £37.35  
**Bank statements @ 2/4/14.**  
Scottish Widows £36,531.39cr HSBC £28,759.97cr

Cllr Baker asked to instruct Mr Richard Evans to carry out an internal audit. Proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Tanner with all agreed.

MDDC had requested £471 for the Tolls of Fair for the car parks. This is to be taken off next years sum total of fair profits.

#### **Car parks.**

For the w/e 31/3/14 £230.14. The total collected for the year is £2,593.72; this is the best total in five years of records and gives an average of £51per week in donations.

The Fair Tolls for 2013 were shared equally between the six applicants who received £333.50 each. The recipients were Petton PCC, Shillingford and Petton Village hall, Bampton Riverside Hall, St Michael's Community Hall, Bampton Twinning Group and Bampton Netball Club.

#### **7. Planning.**

Ref: 14/00296/FULL Retention of workshop. 46a Brook Street. Cllr Gilmour felt that the warning from the Environment Agency regarding the increased flood risk if this building were to be built should be heeded. An objection to the application based on this was proposed by Cllr Gilmour and seconded by Cllr Ward. All in favour except Cllr Tanner who abstained from the vote as he felt an objection would affect employment on the site.

Ref: 14/00397/FULL Not relevant to the area; sent in error by Planning Dept.

Ref: 14/00136/FULL Erection of dwelling at 6 Ford Road. Cllr Weston left the room whilst this application was discussed. Cllr Gilmour stated no objection to the house being built but the neighbours' Right of Way should be left as it is – wide enough to be useful. Cllr Baker also felt that the plans should not affect the existing Right of Way. The proposal reduces the path to only 86.4cm wide. The decision was that there was no objection to a property which does not impinge on the existing Right of Way in its entirety (130cm). The effect of the new building blocking daylight from adjacent houses should also be considered.

#### **8. Ongoing business.**

- a. The agreement for the management of Manor Mill has been returned to the Environment Agency. Volunteer contacts are to be confirmed.
- b. There has still not be any confirmation or requisite paperwork received from either Morebath PC or Morebath Cricket Club to support a joint TAP Fund application for practice nets on the Recreation Ground. The cricket club needs to specify exactly what they would wish to see on the site and provide appropriate quotes. Further to this information is awaited from English Heritage regarding a suitable area for the work to be carried out on a Scheduled Monument site. Cllr Smith to make enquiries.
- c. The work required on the trees along Station Road was referred to Western Power due to the number of power lines. They in turn referred it to Hi-Line who have carried out a site visit. Quote awaited.
- d. Cllr Tanner, in the company of Cllrs Baker, Stoner and Colthorpe along with Mr and Mrs Walsh, presented the petition inspired by Sally Jackson and a letter from BTC to Cllr John Hart, Leader of DCC, in relation to the future of Barnhaven. Cllr Gilmour asked for it to be noted that not all Councillors had been invited to this meeting and was disappointed that the opportunity was missed. Cllr Gilmour also thought it disappointing that Cllr Colthorpe had made it clear at the public meeting that she would not support the campaign. Cllr Colthorpe disagreed with this assessment and felt she had made it clear that it would be much more difficult this time to justify opposition to the closure. Despite this Cllr Colthorpe had been invited to the meeting with Cllr Hart to present the petition opposing the closure. Cllr Colthorpe thought she was allowed to facilitate such a meeting and the final decision lay with Cllr Tanner who felt that it was appropriate for Cllr Colthorpe should be there. Cllr Gilmour also expressed disappointment that the Signpost magazine would not publish the letters from BTC showing support for Barnhaven and that no response had been received from their Chair in response to a request to publish this information. The Town Clerks for Tiverton, Crediton and Cullompton had been contacted to ask their councils to support the campaign to save residential care homes. Cllr Gilmour continued that DCC state that this is a financial not an ideological decision but there has still been no sight of any financial report regarding the consultations including the audits for each home. Cllr Colthorpe said the information is on the DCC website. Cllr Gilmour stated that a policy statement and financial accounts of the situation to show what the decision is based on should support policy decision. Cllr Colthorpe suggested that Cllr Gilmour contact DCC and tell them how to go on. Cllr Stoner stated that he had found it disturbing to learn, in the course of the public meeting, that the County

Council representative did not know who would make the final decision on the future of residential care homes. The Council was later informed that it would be Cllr Stuart Barker, the Policy Holder, and not the full committee. Equally disconcerting was that the County Councillor was not willing to say at that meeting whether she supported the campaign to save Barnhaven. It was hoped that Spotlight would arrange an item on the future of Barnhaven and highlight the fact that the staff have been forbidden by DCC from speaking on the situation. There will be an Emergency General Meeting of Devon County Council on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.15pm called by the Opposition.

- e. The Clerk asked for clarification as to which of the Councillors constitute the Personnel Committee? It was decided that as BTC is only a small number of people any personnel matters should be first brought to the attention of the Chair and Vice Chair for mediation, and then to an external third party, for example the Society for Local Council Clerks and then the Monitoring Officer.
- f. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms Amy Tregellas the MDDC Monitoring officer is to be asked to confirm training dates.
- g. Cllr Pitt offered to sort out the arrangements for the Pump House electricity bill.
- h. Following a suggestion at the Public Forum that there be benches at the Millennium Green it was agreed to ask the Wooden Workshop to quote to supply. Clerk to contact. A metal bin will also be supplied for the Recreation Ground. Proposed by Cllr Tanner and seconded by Cllr Gilmour with all agreed.
- i. Cllr Pope asked whether it was time to replace the map on Station Road car park? As the map is still legible it was not thought to necessary at the moment.
- j. Cllr Pope noted that the fence by Station Road car park is very wobbly. To be looked at after the trees had been dealt with.
- k. It was suggested that it might now be time to collect all the sandbags that have been loaned out in order to collect the sand and dry out the bags before they rot. As MDDC will not be supplying sandbags next year this job is necessary to avoid expense next year. Cllr Stoner agreed to create notices advising of contact details for the Flood Wardens and a collection date for the sandbags.
- l. MDDC are to be asked to move the recycling skips to next to the play park fence as this would stop people from fly-tipping next to the bank around the back of the skips. The Variety Club are also to be asked to remove their clothes collection bank as this also goes unemptied for long periods and also encourages fly-tipping.
- m. A litter-picking day is to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Cllr Pope to arrange posters.
- n. There has been an increase in the incidence dogs fouling the streets and their owners not disposing of it in the bins. This is also true of the Millennium Green. However the new cameras on the Pump House and photo have picked up some evidence of this. evidence will be passed to the Dog Warden in future. Dogs should not be taken into the school grounds. The Dog Warden is also to be asked to visit the village.
- o. Cllr Pope is to arrange a volunteer work group to re-establish the edges of the path from the Global Estate through to Scott's, as it has become overgrown.
- p. Cllr Stoner asked the Council to consider investing in a commemorative paving stone for Captain Moutray Read who once lived at Castle Grove and who was posthumously awarded the VC. To be discussed at next month's meeting.

## 9. Correspondence.

Confirmation had been received from the Heritage Centre that their application for charitable status had been approved and the charity registration number received. On the strength of this Cllr Tanner proposed that a cheque for £3,000 be presented immediately. He was reminded however that this was not an agenda item and that a loan agreement must now be drawn up according to minutes previously agreed by BTC. To be discussed at next month's meeting as an agenda meeting.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM will be held at 6.30pm, the Public Forum at 7pm and the meeting of Bampton Town Council will follow at 7.30pm as normal.

The Annual Meeting of Bampton Town Council will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Would any groups wishing to have a stand or offer other information about their work at this meeting please contact the Clerk on 01398 331726 10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday or on [bamptontownclerk@btinternet.com](mailto:bamptontownclerk@btinternet.com)

