

## **The Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council Held on Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014.**

The meeting commenced at 7pm with the Public Forum.

Janet Crabtree spoke regarding the library project. She particularly wanted to thank those people who had given their support. The complete notes of her address are on a separate page to the minutes (Appended).

Janet Wright asked if the bus shelter on the High Street could be cleaned as it has become so dirty that people are sitting outside so as not to spoil their clothes. Cllr Pitt offered to clean it and generally make it good again the next time he works on High Street. Mrs Wright continued with the observation that the toilets in the car park smell and are dirty. Some Town Councillors acknowledged that the same complaint had been made to them. Cllr Smith stated the problem to be that the toilets are owned by MDDC so there is nothing that the BTC can do about appearance but the level of cleaning will be addressed, as it is obviously not sufficient. There is a broken cistern in the ladies and a broken hand dryer in the gents. Cllr Pitt to ask MDDC for repairs. Cllrs Pope and Pitt to meet with the cleaner.

Roy Keith wished to ask the Council about the proposed demolition of the Riverside Hall and wanted to know whether other sites had been considered for a hall? The Chairman said there were no other sites available. Mr Keith had noted that the Parish Plan had referred to a new hall being built elsewhere but Cllr Smith advised that the only sites in Bampton would be the Rec, which is protected by English Heritage, the Millennium Green, which is obliged to remain as such by the Millennium Green Commission and the Station Road car park which would not really be big enough and would affect other events in the town as well as reducing parking. Mr Keith was advised by the Clerk that the Reaching Communities Building Fund, which appears to be the fund applied to by the Riverside Hall committee, would not sanction the demolition of the hall and a new build elsewhere. The Guidance Notes state clearly that the halls that receive funding must be completely refurbished on their current site and that any bid must be completely community led. Mr Keith informed the meeting that the architect had informed him the project had a planned spend of £1.5 million. Cllr Tanner stated that he had no idea that the anticipated spend was so big. Mr Keith was surprised that BTC does not have greater involvement with the plans. He was advised that three planning meetings had taken place last year when the fund was first introduced to the Riverside Hall committee and a MDDC was also present at one of those meetings to discuss the proposal. Cllrs Tanner and Stoner are both on the Riverside Hall committee and knew nothing of the plans to demolish the building. Cllr Stoner suggested that representatives of the Riverside hall committee be invited to inform BTC, at the next meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2014, as to what their proposal actually is. A Public Open Meeting could then follow this up for the residents of Bampton and surrounds to also have some input into the project. Clerk to make contact.

Charlie Beeden informed the meeting that the Environment Agency would be cutting back the alders along the river. Cllr Weston had also spoken to Devon Rivers and a team of pupils from Blundell's would also be working with John Dawson to carry out further works.

Wendy Lunel recommended the new Town Trail, created by Humphrey Berridge and now available on the Bampton Town website, as being very good. She also wished to ask if the telephone boxes could be repainted? Clerk to ask BT in the first instance.

The Meeting of Bampton Town Council commenced at 7.35pm.

1. Apologies had been received from Cllr Stanley.
2. Cllrs Smith and Tanner declared a pecuniary interest in item 8c Bampton Fair.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. The minutes of the Part Two agenda meeting were also accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising. Cllr Pitt asked why the reinstatement of the Lock-up toilets had been discussed under item 8k of the previous meeting's agenda and why a proposal had been made and voted upon when this was not an agenda item? The Chair acknowledged that a meeting had taken place with Richard Archer, an architect, at the site and he had drawn up plans as a result, but felt that the matter should be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cllr Baker had received a complaint from Mark Sealey that the rubber matting under the swings at the Rec had been broken up. Clerk to check.

The accountant's bill was now larger than expected and consequently more expensive. It had been agreed that any spending more than the original £200 would have to be agreed by the council. The report was expected but had not yet been supplied. Cllr Gilmour requested a breakdown of the extra spending that was expected and that Wheelers be reminded of the condition of referring it back to council for approval before continuing. Clerk to action.

5. Cllr Colthorpe had been asked to ask Neil Parish MP whether he would be willing to hold a surgery in Bampton from time to time and she would be passing this request on. The modifications to the Devon Waste Plan had now been submitted, as proposed by the inspector and consultees, and responses may be made through the MDDC website. On behalf of Healthwatch Devon, Cllr Colthorpe advised that there is only a 50% take up by people entitled to free flu jabs. Anyone with respiratory, kidney or a neurological illness, or those with diabetes or a learning disability are entitled to free jabs. Please telephone Sally Holland or Lindsey Self on 08456434435 to request a free flu jab. The TAP Fund is still available and no application had yet been received from Bampton.

Cllr Pitt asked Cllr Colthorpe if she knew why grass cutting was being done in the middle of the night by a machine with only a tractor showing lights following? He had recorded two cuts this year, one at 3am and another at 11.30pm. At Petton Cross the cutting machine had damaged a water hydrant and a road sign. MDDC had recommended that formal complaints were submitted to DCC regarding Thornboroughs who are the contractors for the job.

6. Finances. A letter had been received from MDDC advising of a potential reduction in the precept expected for 2015/6. This is a direct result of a reduction in funding from central government to the district.

#### September Payments Due.

	£
MDDC D/D Bridge Terrace.	32.28
MDDC D/D Tolls of Fairs .	48.00
Clerk's salary	700.85
HMRC Tax and NICs	67.43
Cove Nursery Bampton in Bloom	1,650.46
MJF contractors Grass cutting	209.36
M.Morgan Toilet cleaning	310.00
N. Payne Tree removal M.G.	170.00
Clerk's expenses	59.81

August receipts. None.

There was no reconciliation regarding the HSBC account as the statement had not been received.

Scottish Widows £36,710.40

#### 7. Planning.

Ref:14/01322/FULL Conversion of an outbuilding. The Old Malthouse.  
All in favour.

8a. The Council having agreed a loan agreement for the marquees at the previous meeting the Clerk asked if it could be kept to as there was no evidence of the marquees having been signed out with sight of insurance or checked back in again. Cllr Pope said she had dealt with this. The key holders for the Pump House were noted as Cllrs Smith and Pitt, also Mr Tony Wiess.

Cllr Pope asked if the purchase of shelving could be considered as otherwise the marquees were left on the floor. To be discussed at next month's meeting.

b. Details of the MDDC contact to be forwarded by Clerk to Cllr Pope for completion of CCTV registration documents.

c. The next SAG meeting at MDDC will take place on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The St John's Ambulance and extra toilets have been booked. Insurance documents are expected soon. Cllrs Pope, Tanner and Smith all expressed an interest in taking the Chapter Eight qualification with DCC Highways. It was confirmed that the Riverside Hall will now be open on Fair Day after all.

d. Cllr Smith had met with Ian Dawson, the Editor of the Signpost magazine, and he had agreed to print the minutes of BTC meetings providing he did not consider the minutes to be a liability. The Signpost committee wishes to scrutinize the minutes in advance and to have the choice of not printing them. This was thought to be inappropriate as the minutes are a true record of the meeting and draft minutes have always been forwarded to Signpost further to approval by the Council. The notice published in Signpost stating that minutes had been forwarded without approval and the Clerk was responsible was wrong and an apology from the Chairman should be printed. Cllr Gilmour offered to help him draft it.

e. Employment Law requires the Town Council to have a Personnel Committee. After some discussion it was agreed that it would be difficult to form such a committee from so few people (the Chairman and Deputy Chairman not being eligible for this). Cllr Gilmour suggested asking the Monitoring Officer to suggest the members for this. Cllr Stoner suggested Cllrs Weston, Pitt and Gilmour. Finally a collective decision was agreed to refer to the Monitoring officer for further advice. It was thought that the Clerk and Members of Tiverton Town Council may be able to assist with this requirement.

f. A meeting with the Monitoring officer of MDDC to discuss the Standing Orders was proposed for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. To be confirmed.

g. TAP Fund. Cllr Pitt asked why no request had been made for this money? Cllr Smith had not arranged for quotes for equipment on the Rec. Roll away nets and astro turf were suggested as a way of getting round the restrictions brought by the Rec being the site of an Ancient Monument. Clerk to get prices and to contact Morebath PCC regarding joint application.

h. Shillingford Play Park. BTC had been asked to pay costs to Mr Rice's mortgage company in respect of the renewal of the lease on the play park. It was agreed to ask for further information regarding the future of the lease and to ask further advice from MDDC. Clerk to draft letter and circulate.

i. Millennium Green. A quote had been received to trim and tidy the Millennium Green which totalled £750 and was thought to be high. However the site has become overgrown and untidy and the work considered to be absolutely necessary. Cllr Pope proposed that the quote be accepted and Cllr Tanner seconded Cllr Pitt was against the quote being accepted and felt the Chair should have dealt with this earlier, the rest in favour. The job is to be put to tender in the future. The council was also advised by the Clerk that as the Millennium Green is a charity an independent fundraising plan should be put in place to cover work required in the future, otherwise it would have to come from the precept. To be discussed at the next meeting.

#### Correspondence.

A letter had been received from Mrs Fran Collier who is creating a commemorative booklet of war poems. Mrs Collier kindly suggested donating the proceeds of sales from the booklet to the restoration of the War Memorial and asked for a contribution from the Town Council. It was agreed to match the proceeds of the sales with a donation for the same amount from the Council. Proposed by Cllr Gilmour and seconded by Cllr Tanner.

Sue Marley wrote requesting the creation of safe road crossing places to be established in Bampton. A copy of this letter was sent to Steve Leigh at DCC Highways with a letter from the Town Council acknowledging the need for the same.

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### **Report on Library Project to Bampton Town Council 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

- Thank you very much indeed for the unanimous vote of support, in principle, for the Library Project made at the Council's last meeting, which is very heartening.
- I await a response from the Head of Libraries, Ciara Eastell, to my letter of 15 August. A copy of this letter was sent to Bampton Town Council's Chairman and also to Neil Parish, MP and the Hon John Rous. I have today re-sent a copy of that letter with its enclosures to Ms Eastell.
- Without some indication of which types of model the County Council would consider working with, and when, however, the task of planning is rendered impossible. I hope that a reply will have been received from Ciara Eastell without delay.
- I have written to ask Mr Rous if, should we form into a 'Group' at a future stage, he would consider becoming our Patron.
- As recommended at a recent meeting with him by Paul Tucker of Mid-Devon District Council, I contacted the Plunkett Foundation: "a charity which aims to alleviate rural poverty and social exclusion through the promotion of co-operative and self-help solutions...provide(s) a range of support via a network of advisers, mentors, consultants and staff, together with a telephone, e-mail and online helpline".
- The Plunkett Foundation has sent a considerable amount of material and a small group will consider this and how this might assist Bampton's endeavours to maintain our library service.
- Paul Tucker has also arranged a meeting with John Skrine of Crediton Community Bookshop, a successful project, set up, in effect, by the formation of a community company. This *might* be something for Bampton to consider.
- 180 questionnaires have been completed and returned to date. The response from this exercise was unanimously positive, with many ideas generated. The results are due to be analysed in the coming week.
- The six-day event generated considerable interest with well over 300 visits made to the Old Peregrine during that period.
- Photographs taken and posters made will be included in the library project portfolio, and were on display in the Old Peregrine for Bampton Open Day and the week following.
- A short Library Project progress report will be given to the Bampton Society on Wednesday, 10 September.

I would be grateful if this short report could be included in the Minutes.

Thank you.

Janet M Crabtree