

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

Cllr Tanner, as Chairman, opened the meeting at 7pm with the Public Forum.

Esme Hopkinson asked if there was any progress with the plans to improve the path at the Motte and Bailey? The Clerk provided information regarding meetings with English Heritage and the Devon Hedge Laying Group and the possibilities for funding. **To be on January's agenda.**

Mrs Hicks wished to note the resignation of Cllr Smith and thank him for the time he had given as Chairman. She also wished to enquire as to why the minutes had not been posted on the website until long after the meeting and was informed this was due to a technical fault.

Mr Ward wished to comment on the notes recording the previous month's Public Forum. He believed that the accountant's report had vindicated him but this was not recorded. He also wished to comment on a planning application to develop the land behind his house. He stated that no one around the site liked the development although they didn't mind the principle, just the design.

Miss Crabtree informed the meeting that the Parish of Bampton Library Action Group had made a submission to the DCC Community Pilot Scheme proposing to move the library from its present site to the former Peregrine Café at 11-13 Newton Square. This has to happen by April 2016, not April 2015 as she had previously stated. There is a shortfall of £2,500 in the rent requested for the premises and she asked for a donation of £5,000 from BTC and stated that a 'Friends of the Library' group would be formed in 2015 for fundraising. She also complained that there had been no reply to this request when made previously despite a promise made by Cllr Smith. This had not been communicated to the Council or the Clerk. **A reply was promised.**

Mrs Fagg wished to ask whether the P3 Group were covered by Bampton Town Council's insurance. Volunteers are only covered if they are members of a sub-committee of the Council. A fund of money is held on behalf of P3 in the BTC account and it was suggested that a sub-committee could be created to allow insurance cover. **More information to be brought to January's meeting by the Clerk.**

Mr Beeden also wished to ask whether the Flood Group volunteers are insured? Cllr Pitt was able to advise that the insurance for Flood Group members had been addressed and the personal liability insurance had been increased. This was followed by a general discussion regarding insurance for volunteers, particularly where the volunteers are using machinery, specifically chain saws.

Mrs Beeden asked whether there was any progress regarding the clearing of the Batherm. Some progress had been made after it was established a chipper would be needed, to get rid of the cuttings. John Dawson is happy to do this and has the matter in hand. **Cllr Tanner to action and report in the January meeting.**

The Public Forum ended at 7.30pm.

## **The minutes of the meeting.**

1. Cllrs Tanner, Weston, Stoner, Baker, Pitt, North and Pope were in attendance as was Cllr Colthorpe.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gilmour and Stanley.

Cllr Tanner announced the resignation of Cllr Brian Smith as of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. A letter of thanks to be sent to Cllr Smith.

2. Cllr Tanner declared a pecuniary interest regarding Bampton library and a personal interest in Bampton Fair.

3. **Minutes of the last meetings.** Cllr Pope disagreed that she had voted on the resolution regarding the proposal to convert the public toilets into a new library and thought that she was only voting on the proposal for a reduced number of toilets, despite knowing that the library submission had to be in on 1/12/14. Cllr Tanner refused to sign off the minutes for December or November. The Clerk suggested that both sets of minutes and the recordings of the meetings to be passed to the Monitoring Officer for her opinion. This was agreed.

Cllr Stoner asked that the date previously given by Miss Crabtree of April 2015 be amended to the new date of April 2016.

4. Cllr Tanner declared that there were no matters arising.

5. Cllr Colthorpe informed the meeting that DCC had created a budget for the next financial year but it was based on assumptions until central government announced what the actual budget would be. There may be a further reduction of £50 million following four years of 'slimming down'. With regard to the Parish Lengthsman; further to cuts in this service some smaller councils are now joining forces with neighbouring councils to create a day of work for the Lengthsman. BTC may wish to consider this. The NHS commissioning groups are having financial difficulties but the Health and Well-being committee at DCC are strongly opposed to any cuts in services. The former children's home at Birchen Lane is to become a day centre for adults with learning disabilities. It will also have social care teams which means that employment is maintained in Tiverton.

### **6. Finance.**

Cllr Pitt suggested that the council thank Doreen Beck at Blackberries for collecting £270 in parking fees from camper vans during After the Fair. The total collected from the car parks this year is now £2,833.63.

Mark Luxton of MNR Projects to be asked to meet Councillors regarding the mats under the swings which have been pulled up again.

Cllr Baker was asked by the Chairman to provide a breakdown of all monies held in BTC accounts on behalf of other organisations to establish actual money belonging to BTC. Other funds should be held in independent accounts.

The Clerk requested that the Council purchase two reference books to support and advise the Council in its work. This was agreed.

### **Finances at 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014.**

#### **Payments received.**

29 <sup>th</sup> October	Car park	117.00
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Car Park	95.00
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Scout Hut rent	60.00
19 <sup>th</sup> November	R/side Hall Film	97.00
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Anderton & Rowland Fair	1820.70
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Car park (After the fair)	270.00

**Cheques not cashed.**

Chq no: 102023	Mr Rice	S/Ford Play Area	960.00
Chq no: 102029	St John's Ambulance		400.00

**Bank statements.**

H.S.B.C	£50,384.30 cr	Scottish Widows	£36,710.40 cr
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**December payments.**

17 <sup>th</sup> November	D/d Clerk's telephone bill.	15.27
1 <sup>st</sup> December	D/d MDDC Bridge Terrace	32.00
1 <sup>st</sup> December	D/d MDDC Tolls of fairs	47.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	M.Morgan Toilet cleaning	300.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	DALC Clerk's course	144.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Riverside Hall Bampton Hall	80.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Southwest Highways	36.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	K.S Fire Extinguishers	30.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	DALC Budget Course	30.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	R. White Fair Rent	100.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	MDDC recharge costs	789.35
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Royal British Legion Wreath	30.00

**7. Planning.**

Ref: 13/00717/FULL Variation of planning condition School Close. No objections

Ref: 14/01907/FULL Extension at Westway, Ford Road. No objections.

**8. Ongoing business.**

**a. Bampton library and public toilets.** Cllr Tanner left the meeting having declared pecuniary interest and Cllr Stoner took the Chair. Cllr Pitt informed the meeting that to maintain the public toilets after MDDC budget cuts will cost BTC a quarter of the entire annual precept. The alternative to this is to create an alternative plan for the toilet building and meetings had been held with Andrew Busby of MDDC Estates and Cllr Stanley. If a community facility could be created MDDC would be willing to give ownership of the building to BTC for redevelopment and extension, which is possible as it stands on public land. The suggestion being to create two refurbished public toilets and a larger library from the remaining building. This would provide a bigger library with four walls of space and high windows. A letter of support for this idea had been received from MDDC and Cllr Stanley. Plans for the refurbished building were circulated and costings of £30-35,000 plus VAT were allowed for the work. MDDC had also offered funding and the support of the Funding Officer of MDDC.

Cllr Stoner suspended the meeting to allow Mr Hartley to speak. Mr Hartley spoke for the Parish of Bampton Library Action Group, telling the meeting that their proposal, submitted to the DCC Community Pilot Scheme, to operate a library service from the former at 11-13 Newton Square would require a rent of £4,200 pa. The current site is safe until April 2016. He stated that the Action Group had the support of BTC as Cllr Tanner was a member of the group. The Clerk advised that as BTC had not been asked to provide representation nor taken a resolution to support or agree representation on the Action Group, that Cllr Tanner could only be interested as a private individual, and this should be acknowledged on his Declaration of Interests at MDDC. Cllr Pitt added that the scheme to refurbish the toilet building would also save BTC a further £1,800 pa as these costs would be negated if the toilets were linked with the library building.

The meeting resumed.

**b. Shillingford Play Park.** The cheque to cover the cost of the licence for the park had not been accepted. Cllr Pope advised the meeting that BTC have no control over the ongoing costs for the licence or any input to the licence itself, which will need to be renewed in a year. The public feel that very few people now use the play park. MDDC will not be putting any new equipment in and next year will be asking BTC to take on the management of the park, which will create a cost of £35 -50,000 in new equipment. At the moment the cost to BTC stands at £370 plus VAT.

**Cllr Tanner proposed a notice to be posted in Signpost announcing the intention to withdraw the interest of BTC in the play park and to concentrate on improving the Millennium Green and the Recreation Ground. All in agreement.**

**c. Millennium Green.** The Council wish to reinstate an independent charity committee and working group to fundraise and look after the site generally. An open meeting is to be arranged. Mrs Fagg commented that an annual management plan had been written when the MG was set up and the P3 group would be happy to help with that. Files to be checked for quotes to fit security bars to the Pumphouse and the picnic table needs to be fixed to the ground.

**d. Bampton Fair.** It was agreed to ask Anderton and Rowland's Amusements Ltd to continue to provide the fairground at Bampton Fair with a yearly increase of 2% on the rent of the car park as before. **Proposed by Cllr Pope, seconded by Cllr Weston with all in favour.** The agreement with Rotary Club is to be reviewed at the January meeting. Cllr Stoner informed the meeting that the Bampton Fair Working Group would constitute Mr Humphrey Berridge, Mr Alan Woolley, Mrs Sherie Webber, and Cllrs Pope, Stoner and Tanner for Bampton Town Council.

**e.** There had been recent difficulties in ensuring the publication of the minutes through both the website and the Signpost magazine. The Clerk to work with Mr Berridge to ensure the minutes reach the web-site and the Clerk and Cllr Tanner to meet with Ian Dawson of Signpost. Cllr Tanner to arrange.

**f. Ice and snow group.** At a recent meeting the group had checked over all of the equipment and would like BTC to consider their request for the purchase of a trolley with which to move the sandbags. **To be discussed at January's meeting.**

**g.** Quotes have been requested for the repair of the roof on the Old Lock Up by the bridge. Responses to be discussed by The Chair and the Clerk. With regard to the future of the building; it was agreed to ask the Conservation Officer at MDDC to advise what works would be permitted before deciding on the possible uses. Reinstatement as a public toilet had been suggested and Cllr Pitt reminded the meeting that MDDC policy is to defer financial responsibility for public toilets and this would bring further costs to BTC.

**h.** Cllr Pope reported that she had received complaints about the walkway from Bouchier Close, specifically that branches were covering the streetlight. **Clerk to ask Seddons to contact landlord.**

### **Correspondence.**

A letter had been received from Mrs Burrows who had fallen on uneven paving stones outside the former post office. **Clerk to contact Steve Leigh at DCC Highways.**