

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016, 7pm in St. Michaels Community Hall, Bampton.

Present: Cllr/ Pope (Chairman); Cllr. Edwards; Cllr. Hicks; Cllr. Weston; Cllr. Leach; Cllr. Baker; District Cllr. Moore; 11 members of the public; Penny Clapham (locum clerk); Cllr. Wood. Cllr. Tanner at 7.21pm.

- 1) **Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:** Cllr. Mares; County Cllr. Colthorpe; District Cllr. Stanley.
- 2) **Declarations Of Interest:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Mid Devon District Council within 28 days of the change. Cllr. Leach agenda item 7.
- 3) **Public Discussion** – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting. Representations can be made from our County Councillor, District Councillor and Community Police Officer. **The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 30 minutes. Standing Order c,d,e, page 3 refers.**

District Cllr. Moore - The new chief executive has been appointed for Mid Devon Council. The roll out of the new re-cycling system is now complete. A planning application has been submitted by Premier Inn. Funding – the grant settlement for 2016/17 and provisional figures for 2017/18 have been received and indicate further very tough times ahead. The settlement figure for Mid Devon Council is dropping year on year. At the end of the next 5 years, direct funding will cease. There will almost certainly be a 2% increase in council tax 2016/17.

Jane Webber – driving to Tiverton has now become very difficult due to the closures at Cove. The official bypass route is 32 miles long. Cllr. Hicks has been in touch with County Cllr. Colthorpe to press her to get in touch with Highways to alleviate some of the traffic problems. Cllr. Hicks has not heard back as of tonight.

Robin Wareham – regarding Old Tiverton Road as a means of getting from Tiverton to Bampton. This road is very narrow and driving it is very difficult.

District Cllr. Moore is suggesting asking Highways for a one way system and will action.

If one way signs are to go in can there be some press coverage.

Tony Lawrence – top of Bourchier Close. There is traffic coming through even though it is a dead end.

Charlie Beeden – Thanked the Council for implementing the work being done at the Motte which has now been opened up and the views from the top are tremendous. Mr. Beeden expressed his displeasure at the proportion of council tax going towards ongoing legal expenses as indicated in the minutes of December. Cllr. Edwards informed all members of the public present that personnel matters cannot be discussed in the public forum, and he was unable to elaborate on this subject.

Herbie Cleverly informed Council some of the toilet seats are broken. Cllr. Moore will action this with Mid Devon District Council as the toilets still belong to them. Cllr. Hicks thanked the Caunters for the work done clearing the leat before Christmas.

- 4) **Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2015** with one amendment, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5) Chairman's Report (for information only).

Cllr. Edwards thanked Chairman Cllr. Pope regarding the filling of sand bags after Christmas; a good sign that so many people turned out to help. Now out of sand; more will need to be purchased. Congratulations to the Library Project who have received a £150,000 grant to repair the roof. Cllr. Tanner thanked the Council for their backing and involvement in the Library Project.

6) Toilets – to receive an update on the progress for the improvements to the toilets.

Cllr. Tanner reported that Bob Lucas from Mid Devon Council is doing the specification work with Mid Devon District Council covering these costs. The specification will be drawn up by 11th February and going out to tender on 12th February. Tenders will be back by 11th March so can be discussed in full at the April Council meeting. The toilets are not yet Bampton's property but this is currently being progressed. Costs of the re-vamp are likely to be between £50,000 and £65,000.

7) Grant Application – to discuss a grant application received from Bampton Heritage & Visitors Centre: circulated to all councillors by email prior to this meeting.

The grant application for £660 inclusive of VAT towards the Tivvy Bumper Project was approved by Council. Proposed by Cllr baker, seconded by Cllr. Edwards. Council resolved to raise a cheque for this amount at the end of the meeting.

8) PLANNING:

Planning Applications - Mid Devon District Council has asked for comments from the Town Council on the following planning applications:

- a) To action any planning applications that arrive after this agenda has been published
- b) 16/00047/FULL Proposed variation of condition (2) of planning permission 12/01625/MFUL to allow the substitution of previously approved plans, Scotts Business Park, Woodlands Close, Bampton Observations, if any, requested.
Cllr. Hicks updated Council on previous plans to allow for this variation.
Council remains concerned about the conflicts that could arise given the location of a business estate between two areas of housing.
- c) 16/00138/Full Proposed removal of condition 3 of planning permission 08/00325/FULL to allow the annexe to be used for letting purposes, Annexe, 32 Bouchier Close, Bampton.
No objection

Planning Decisions:

- a) 07/02409/FULL/NMA/grant Non material amendment for the erection of 3 dwellings on existing garage site (formerly Shillingford Garage) Shillingford.
GRANTED
- b) 15/01731/PNCOU Change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling under class Q, Middle Rill Farm, Shillingford
ACCEPTED
- c) 15/01210/FULL Conversion of existing agricultural building into dwelling, (Kersdown Barton), Ford Road, Bampton
GRANTED
- d) 15/01806/FULL Replacement of 3 windows with folding doors and insertion of roof glazing on rear lean-to, Manor Mill House, Bampton
GRANTED
- e) 15/01626/LBC Listed building consent for internal alterations, 25 Frog St., Bampton
GRANTED

9) FINANCE:

Expenditure:
Ashfords Solicitors November A/c £2880.00
Ashfords Solicitors December A/c £2160.00
Ashfords Solicitors January A/c £5,760.00
Bampton Website annual grant of payment £100.00

Locum clerk's expenses December 2015 & January 2016 £435.48
Adams & Ellicott part-payment for agreed works £6,084.00
J. Caunter toilet cleans £300.00
Ashfords Solicitors vesting order for Riverside Hall £469.00

Income: Car parks £272.00
Bank interest £47.44

Adams & Ellicott further estimate for works on The Mount £1,295 + VAT. Discussed.
Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account, and the further estimate from Adams & Ellicott. Proposed by Cllr. Hicks, seconded by Cllr. Tanner. All in favour by show of hands.

10) Bank Reconciliation and Statement: to be circulated to all councillors at the meeting. All agreed the reconciliation.

11) Budget for the year 2016-2017 – Council to resolve to accept the proposed budget.
Cllr. Tanner suggested an increase in the precept to £50,000 would balance the budget.
Cllr. Edwards indicated this would increase the average band D equivalent to £72 per annum
Cllr. Hicks enquired about the legal fees in the proposed budget for 2016/17.
Cllr. Woods would like to see some expenses trimmed.

Proposal. Cllr. Tanner proposed raising the precept by 10% to £38,816. Seconded by Cllr. Weston. 5 in favour 2 against 1 abstention. Motion carried. This being the second proposal, it became a substantive motion and had to be voted on again. 5 in favour 2 against 1 abstention. Motion carried.
This will increase the Band D parish charge from £48.39 to £52.23 per year, with other bands being scaled accordingly.

12) Precept – Council resolved to set the precept for the year commencing 1st April 2016 at £38,816.00 with Council Support Tax allocated to Bampton of £1,499.22, giving a total of £40,315.22. Council resolved to authorise deduction of Devon Association of Local Councils membership off the precept payment.

13) Internal Auditor – to agree the re-appointment of South West Councils as Council's internal auditor. All agreed by show of hands.

14) Internal Control Statement – to agree this Statement is fit for purpose for 2016. All agreed by show of hands.

15) Bampton Fair – Accounts to be assessed and discussed. (from the December meeting).
Cllr. Pope declared an interest. A meeting is to be arranged between Bampton Fair group, the Clerk, Cllr. Baker and Cllr. Wood. Clerk to action.

16) Highways Issues – Grass verge cutting result of consultation (letter to be read) Letter read from Mid Devon Council that they will no longer cut the grass for Devon County Council. Further information will no doubt be available from Devon County Council.
To discuss, gullies, drains, grit bins, snow trolley still to be purchased. All items discussed.
£39.00 + VAT for a dumpy bag of sand delivered. Cllr. Edwards proposed purchase of 2 bags of sand; all agreed by show of hands. Cllr. Pope to action.

17) White Horse Statue – Council to decide on ownership of the statue and the costs involved.
The owner of the White Horse statue has offered it to Bampton Town Council for the sum of £900. This was a timepiece created for Bampton. Cllr. Woods considers that Council cannot afford to purchase the statue. Cllr. Edwards recommended that Council should allow the owners of the White Horse Inn (currently raising funds) to buy the horse from the original owner. Cllr. Hicks stated that the horse is really nothing to do with the Council.

Cllr. Woods proposed that Council does not get involved with the purchase of the Horse, seconded by Cllr. Leach, 8 in favour 1 abstention. Motion carried.

18) Play Area – to receive the result of the meeting with parents; to discuss the fence and play equipment. Meeting between Cllr. Leach, Cllr. Pope, Cllr. Mares, Cllr. Tanner and some parents. The report was read by the Chairman. Some repairs are required and the standards need to be raised. Agenda more detail for March. Clerk to enquire a play inspection through Council's insurers.

19) Request to use Station Road car park for retail sale of pizza – discussed. Cllr. Wood proposed refusal of this request. All in favour by show of hands.

20) Clothing Bank – Council to agree to removal of the clothing bank from the car park. Cllr. Pope proposed removal of the clothing bank, seconded by Cllr. Edwards. 8 in favour, 1 against. Motion carried. Cllr. Pope to action.

21) Parish Meeting – to set the date for the annual parish meeting, time and venue. Wednesday 27th April, 6.45pm St. Michael's Community Hall

22) Queen's 90th birthday celebrations 2016 – to discuss. Agenda in March.

PART II

22) Council to resolve to exclude the public and press to progress a personnel issue.
Council resolved to exclude the public and the press.

23) To update Council on ongoing personnel issues. Cllr. Edwards and Cllr. Hicks reported on the latest issues that have arisen from the ongoing personnel issues.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: to receive reports from Councillors

Items for Information

Frog Street closure 21-25 March for sewer works.

Meeting closed at 9.48pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....

The next Council meeting is on 2nd March at 7.00pm in St. Michael's Community Hall.

Email circulations during the past month

RSN Seminar

Devon Funding News

Mid Devon DC corporate plan consultation

Devon Community Resilience news

Changes at Tiverton Community Hospital notification

Consultation on hackney carriage/private hire policy

DALC January newsletter

Funding opportunities from Fields In Trust.