

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019, 7pm in the LARC Building, Bampton.

Present: Cllr. Hicks (Chairman); Cllr. Tanner; Cllr. A, Mares; Cllr. Tanner; Cllr. Edwards; District Cllr. Moore; 14 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. Leach. Cllr. C. Mares.

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. None declared.

3) Public Discussion – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting or any matters the public would like the Council to consider on a future agenda. **The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 30 minutes. Standing Order 3 (e,f.) refers.**

A reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

Parishioner representing Bampton Playpark Group, read out a report, attached to these minutes. Also produced an excellent initial design of their ideas, circulated to councillors.

Chairman congratulated the Playpark Group on the work they have put in already on this proposed scheme.

4) Christmas in Bampton – to receive an update from Lucy Bull – organiser.

Worked to establish the large Xmas tree on the Stage, and there is hope to get electricity using the street lamp next to the Stage for tree lighting. Solar has been looked at but is not suitable for a big tree. Mini trees through the village – there is hope to get a few more for this coming year.

5) Old Lock-up/Store – To receive further updates on the works to date. To consider the architect's advice regarding the whole building. To consider the possibility of roof repairs.

Doors and locks now done. Demolition of the modesty walling has been suspended as the building may be enlarged instead. Cllr. Edwards suggests that the building should be painted, and the walling kept as it is. Cllr. Mares considers also that the building should remain as it is. Resolved: to paint the building. Proposed by Cllr. Edwards, seconded by Cllr. Mares, all in favour by show of hands. Estimates to be acquired by Cllr. Hicks, and forwarded to the Clerk.

6) Chairman's Report (for information only) – read by the Chairman and attached to these minutes.

Cllr. Edwards congratulated the Cllr. Hicks for her work over the past few years, as Chairman of this Council. Well done.

7) County & District Councillor reports:-

District Cllr. Moore – Ashleigh Park and the current state of the bank. The enforcement officer will take another look, but it is with Devon County Council with regard to any highways issues.

Council tax explanation: the average Band D is £1,948.90 in the Mid Devon District. Detail as follows of the total bill:- parish and town council, 3%; 4.5% for Devon Fire and Rescue; Mid Devon District Council 10.5%; (56p per day for the public services provided by the district council). Police 11%; Devon County Council – 71% of the total council tax.

8) Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

9) Traffic census update – Cllr. Hicks to report. 20mph speed limits and zones have been permitted in the UK since 1990. These speed limits are appropriate on roads where the character of the road dictates that average speeds are already low. The local census showed 1,132 traffic movements in both ways in 5 hours when monitored.

10) Grant Application – received from Community Hub (Riverside Hall) requesting a sum towards the total cost of demolishing the external steps, and making an internal access to the upstairs part of the hall. Cllr. Hicks proposed this initiative by ring-fencing the £1000 requested, to be handed to the Community Hub as part of their fund-raising, once their target has been reached; all in favour by show of hands.

11) Open Spaces Reports:-

Cllr. Hicks as Chairman, thanked Cllrs. Leach, Tanner and Weston for their work as the Open Spaces Committee. Thanks too to Mr. and Mrs. Fagg for the ash die back survey report and the detailed work that has gone into this.

- i. Signage with regard to dog fouling at both the Recreation Field and the Millennium Green. This is an ongoing problem, particularly for the grass cutting contractor. To design a suitable notice for dog owners. Clerk to arrange with the Chairman.
- ii. Quote received from Matt Burdeo via Mid Devon DC (by email) for cleaning the ball court at the M.Green: all pressure wash of court and paths £570.00. Discussed. The court has not been cleaned since installation in 2007. Cllr. Tanner proposed the cleaning is undertaken, all in favour by show of hands. Thanks to Cllr. Stanley for arranging the quote. A purchase order will be raised.
- iii. Recreation Field – estimate no. 2 received to clear the old playground area in the Recreation Field. Alan Floyd - This covers dismantling the chain link fence and pulling out the posts, dismantling the old swings and digging out the concrete base, levelling the ground with topsoil and reseeding with grass seed and hire of a skip to take everything away. Quote £1,980.00 inc. VAT. Cllr. Leach supplied the quote. Resolved to accept. Proposed by Cllr. Tanner, seconded by Cllr. Mares, all in favour by show of hands.
- iv. Petanque in Bampton. Moved to May/June for further discussion together with the possible play area.
Standing orders suspended for parishioners to comment.
Standing orders resumed.
- v. Update on litter and dog bins in Bampton. Currently an audit is being carried out by Mid Devon Council. Agreement with Mid Devon Council that a green bin should be replaced outside the Spar Shop. Also that the cream bin should be replaced with a green bin. Clerk to follow up. The bins at Millennium Green have been agreed to be emptied the annual charge being paid by the Town Council of £344.50.
- vi. Cllr. Tanner – the area next to the Motte; Piers Jones has cut the steep field and will give a quote for spraying the nettles. Spring on car park gate at the Playpark still to be replaced; a new sliding bolt also to be installed.

12) Definitive Map Review – any further information regarding the consultation notices' recently put up to be agreed and sent to Devon C. Council.

Standing orders suspended for Mrs. Fagg to comment. It is the 25th anniversary of Bampton being in the P3 footpath scheme. There are 3 applications to upgrade bridleways to byways open to all traffic, however they are likely to be restricted byways. The other 2 applications are for the addition of public bridleways.

Cllr. Hicks proposed to keep the 3 as bridleways not to be upgraded. Council have no evidence of need to change the bridleways to byways, and do not support these applications. Seconded by Cllr. Edwards, all in favour by show of hands.

13) Bampton Charter Fair –

- i. Letter of thanks received from Shillingford Hall for the Fair grant.
- ii. This month the application forms for the street market will be emailed to all who attended in 2018, and some who were unable to come, plus all the enquiries so far received.

- iii. Grant report form received from Bampton Netball Club – the project will be completed within the next 3 months and a photo emailed.

14) PLANNING:

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

- i. 19/00230/LBC Listed building consent for repairs to 6 windows, to include replacement of sash and sills, 1 Silver Street, Bampton.
NO OBJECTION
- ii. 19/00413/MOUT Outline for the erection of up to 37 dwellings with associated vehicular and pedestrian access, Land at NGR 295599 122818 (North of Frog Street), Bampton.
OBJECTION

1. The site is outside the town boundary.
2. There is considerable planning history associated with this site.
3. There would be a considerable increase in the flood risk to the rest of the town, by removing the natural field soakaway above the Shuttern Brook.
4. Frog Street, a single track ancient roadway would be used as a ‘rat run’, to avoid the bottleneck of Castle Street. There are no pavements so no safe access for those on foot wishing to access the town.
5. An environmental impact on ancient hedgerows, wildlife and particularly the cowslip flower, a protected species.
6. There is no evidence of local need for 37 dwellings.

Planning Decisions:

- i. 19/00214/CAT Fell 1 pine tree, The Castle, Castle Street, Bampton.
NO OBJECTION
- ii. 19/00173/FULL Removal of condition 3 of planning permission 05/02284/FULL pertaining to removal of agricultural building within 3 years of cessation of use, land and buildings at 295548 122654 North of 35 Frog Street, Bampton.
GRANTED
- iii. 19/00219/FULL Erection of a garage, Higher Barn, Bampton.
GRANTED

15) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Rates car park	0.00	
	Mid Devon DC Rates – toilets (monthly x 10)	£92.75	DD
	Mid Devon DC Rates – old store “”””	£31.97	(then £33.00) DD
	Mid Devon DC – rates Fair “”””””””	£58.20	(then £59.00) DD
	SW Water – car park (twice per year)	£32.86	DD
	SW Water – church (twice per year)	£123.26	DD
	SW Water – old store; Nov-Feb est.	£45.86	DD
	SW Water – toilets; Nov – Feb est.	£140.30	DD
	Five Star Security – repair of lock	£70.80	BACs
	Five Star repair second lock	£40.80	BACs
	Employment March	£527.75	BACs
	PAYE Q4	£316.00	BACs
	Clerk’s Expenses Q4	£263.00	BACs
	C.E. Prescott – old store repairs	£566.76	BACs
	J. Caunter toilet cleans March	£310.00	BACs

Income: Toilets £65.00

Car Parks

not banked this month.

Bank Reconciliation and Statement: Reconciliation and bank statement circulated to all councillors at the meeting.

Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account. Proposed by Cllr. Hicks, all in favour by show of hands.

16) Home Library Service – getting people to know about this service: available to those who cannot reach a library; run by the Royal Voluntary Service. Information will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

17) Clerk's Report

- i. End of year cash book printed off and a couple of transactions re-allocated to their correct budgets.
- ii. Audit papers now available for the internal and external audit – internal auditor booked for Friday 12th April.
- iii. Thank you letter received from Devon Mobility for the grant of £500.
- iv. Request from Came & Co. (insurers) to update the insurance schedule – completed and sent back for amendments.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2019, IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, BAMPTON, 7 FOR 7.30pm.

The Annual Council Meeting date to welcome new councillors and elect a Chairman will be on **Wednesday, 15th May. 2019, 7pm in the LARC Building.**

Meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed..... Date..... Position.....

Email circulations during the past month

Devon Community Learning – courses

Town & Parish website news

Visionic Newsletter

NALC Newsletter

NALC Chief Exec's Bulletin

Chairman's report for the Bampton Town Council meeting of April 3rd 2019

Ashleigh Park

The Town Council has been monitoring the proposed development of bungalows at Ashleigh Park for the past two years and Councillors will remember my going to MDDC Planning Committee in January last year to press for the removal of a mountainous soil heap left on site. Enforcement followed but the extra soil was not removed off-site as one would have expected the Enforcement Notice to demand but spread, 5m thick at the time, like a runway, up the centre of the site. The result has been steadily increased slumping of the sculpted, steep slope on the Old Tiverton Road posing a risk of greater slumping as time goes on.

Following the death of the developer last August the development is suspended. At present MDDC Planning Enforcement considers that it has fulfilled its legal duty, the Planning Application stands with stringent Conditions and the problem now lies with Devon C Council Highways.

Increased safety in Newton Square.

A traffic census was held on 20th March from 08.00 to 13.00 the results of which are an agenda item. Thank you to Richard Evans, Ken Mills, Annie Lamond, Peter Stott and Edward Tanner for a successful and

interesting morning. There are now 333 people supporting a pedestrian crossing or a 20mph flashing sign on the descent to the blind corner outside the PO/shop. The clerk has officially requested that Devon HATOC Committee, at its June meeting, considers such a sign to be installed.

Abandoned cars

We have now worked through a successful procedure and hopefully this will be followed up by the newly elected Council. The cooperation of a local garage and Derek Webster is gratefully acknowledged.

The Bampton in Bloom Volunteers have suggested the removal of railings along the Railway Garden border. Congratulations to Avril Saxby and her pantomime crew for winning an amateur theatre award for last years' pantomime production 'Camelot'. What fun it was for us all.

Support to Council 2015-19

As this is my last report to Council, I must reflect how lucky we have been to be so supported by our MDDC and DCC Cllrs, Andrew Moore, Ray Stanley and Polly Colthorpe, who have attended our meetings whenever they could and been excellent advisers, go-betweens and sounding boards for us.

Thanks too, to all Councillors and Penny Clapham, our Clerk, for their forbearance since I became Chairman, replacing dear Cllr Jean Pope who worked so hard for Bampton. Nor must I forget our webmaster, Humphrey Berridge who responds so quickly to any request for help in broadcasting our news and Mary Venn who, at the age of almost 93, books out the Community Hall to us when we need it. I must mention Janice Caunter and Herbie Cleverly for their dedication in keeping Bampton clean and tidy and my husband Stewart for carrying the handbag!

We are also fortunate to have the goodwill and support for Council from all the volunteers who give time and effort to running LARCS, The Heritage Centre, Bampton in Bloom and our two Halls and the people who give time via the P3 scheme to maintain our footpaths, upkeep the Hollett Garden and those who are our Flood and Snow Wardens. Bampton Town Council is very lucky to have you all to support the town. All 'Good Wishes' to the new Cllrs.... thank you so much for responding to the need to serve. You are special people.

Quick introduction:

We are a newly formed group of Dads currently known as **The Bampton Play Park Group**. Our initial aim was to simply promote the development of a play area for our children. However, we have quickly realised there is potential for a more ambitious plan that would serve a much wider demographic and arguably benefit the whole town rather than just our children!

Present situation

Currently there is only really the playground opposite us here that provides any sort of stimulation for young children. When it was last developed, we imagine it was a welcome addition but it has certainly seen its best days and now simply undergoes minor maintenance work to make it safe.

This just about serves young children but it provides nothing for teenagers or even children older than 7-8. We conclude, the only site in Bampton for older children is the fenced multisport pitch by the school.

Ultimately, we feel that the children's facilities are, at present, inadequate for a growing ton/village of Bampton's size and demographic. As a result, many parents take their children out of Bampton to other villages to use their facilities. It is not a bad thing to support the recreation grounds of other communities, but we feel that our community is missing out by not having a decent, versatile community space for use and enjoyment by all its members.

Suggestions:

We come to the council today requesting your support in our endeavours to create a space predominantly for children but which also appeals to families and serves the wider

community.

We have given due consideration to various possible sites but feel the existing space around the Motte & Bailey - which has historically been used as a play area – is the most obvious site to develop.

It represents an ideal location to be sensitively developed as a playground, meeting place and nature area, whilst also preserving and promoting the historical importance of the site. It is a unique and beautiful site and we firmly believe that if it were sensitively developed then it would be a great asset to the town. It would give Bampton the social and recreational hub that it presently lacks. We are aware that Bampton Castle is a scheduled ancient monument and we see this in a positive light rather than as a barrier as it forces any development to be respectful of the historical and aesthetic significance of the site, which is a philosophy with which we all agree.

At this point it is probably worth handing around various examples of play equipment we have identified. This is by no means the precise items we have in mind but is simply to give an idea of the materials and aesthetics we hope to achieve. We are keen to avoid anything fluorescent or plastic.

Our preference for the site would be to use bespoke wooden equipment to capture the essence of the site. There are local examples of this in Sampford Peverell by a company called Earthwrights and a tree playground at Knightshayes by a company called Touchwood.

To enlighten you on some specific ideas we have had:

- Create an information and play area. By doing this, children can learn about the history of the site whilst playing. Many analyses have concluded play being one of the most effective pathways to learning. The Bamptonites of the future will grow up with a clear knowledge as to the Heritage of their town.
- There could include an adventure pathway around the Motte & Bailey, with signs along the way telling the story of the site, much like the existing sign by the entrance but dotted around the perimeter of the mound.
- Pieces of play equipment could also be named after some of the characters we know about, such as Walter of Douar or Robert of Bampton.
- We would also like to incorporate a more positive engagement with nature at the site. This could include woodpiles, native hedging along the existing metal fencing, leaving a headland of annually cut and collected meadow. This would make the site seem softer, more welcoming and less utilitarian. We could also incorporate bat roosting structures and owl boxes.
- We would like a play area based around a wooden interpretation of the motte and bailey castle in its heyday. With slides and obstacles coming off it. There could also be a set of climbing and balance obstacles to represent a rookery in honour of the present residents of the castle.
- Area to include pictures and signs to inform about the castle and promote imaginative play, defending and attacking the castle etc.
- The play area needs to incorporate items for all ages, including things like spinning, balance, climbing, swinging etc.
- We think ideally built on play bark for safety and in keeping with environment.
- We are also keen to include adult fitness equipment into the scheme.
- We would like to develop an area for teenagers with informal seating/leaning/lounging and a small scale skate/bmx track.

We would like the play equipment to be exciting and varied so it appeals to a broad range of children, ideally from as early as 1 right up to 16-17 year olds. Obesity is an increasingly important problem facing our children and so the facilities to encourage exercise can help

in this battle.

If you have a look at the site map, you will see various areas marked on from A-D:

We propose that the main area should be situated at A - the fenced off area that presently houses the defunct swings. We would like to see the castle and rookery situated here along with connected play and exercise equipment, some great timber benches and tables, perhaps a barbecue, areas for nature and interpretation signs.

Area B could act as the historical and nature trail for all ages including obstacle and fitness trails and a subtle zip-line, making use of the natural slope.

Area C has potential to be developed as an unofficial teenage area, with small scale skate/bmx track.

Area D could be used for year-round parking with either grass growing through a plastic mesh (barely visible once grass established) or just on compacted scalplings.

We feel there is real potential to attract not just families from the Bampton community but from further afield. This could turn what is a family exodus from Bampton at weekends completely on its head. It will attract new families to the town, which will promote engagement with its various shops, pubs and restaurants.

Which brings me neatly on to funding.

Bampton has been the subject of significant residential development in recent years, with more development clearly in the pipeline. However there doesn't seem to have been much relative investment into facilities. Left to market forces, this will simply mean the new developments are less desirable due to the inadequate facilities of the town.

Therefore, it is in everyone's interest that we ensure the facilities keep pace with the development, hence the concept of Section 106 payments. We would like to make a direct appeal to the council for a commitment of funding for our proposed development, subject to a more detailed proposal.

It would help if we had a vague idea of the sort of available budget for a development like this, and due to the potential benefits this would bring to the town, we do not want to restrict ourselves solely to the provision of section 106 payments and would request that the council consider any other funding that might be available to facilitate this community project.

In summary:

- We believe that a sympathetic and well-considered community development at the Bampton Castle site would appeal to all elements of the community and help bring the town together.
- It would have great benefits for the fitness of all ages, improving both physical and mental well-being.
- It would increase the community's understanding of the historical significance of the site.
- It would be a beautiful and relaxing space for all ages to socialise.
- It would improve wildlife habitats in the area and allow people to engage with nature
- It would bring people and therefore trade into the town.