

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 5th June 2019, 7pm in the LARC building.

Present: Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. Sims; Cllr. Weston; Cllr. Hopkinson; Cllr. Whiteway; District Cllr. Moore; Penny Clapham (Clerk); 11 members of the public.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. N. Bull. Cllr. White. Cllr. MacHenry. District Cllr. Stanley; County Cllr. Colthorpe.

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 thanked the Council on behalf of Bampton in Bloom, for the donation towards the oak for the new sign.

Rachel McDonald regarding agenda item 5; the walks booklet of 10 walks around Bampton. Objectives of the books of walks were outlined. There is a need to include accurate and clear maps, the best being Ordnance Survey; however, there is a cost for this to the Heritage Centre. There is an agreement between Government and O. Survey that mapping should be free to the Public Sector – Clerk to investigate.

Herbie Clerverley brought up the issue of vehicles speeding down South Molton Road.

Celia Hicks informed Council that there is an abandoned car in the school car park. Clerk to email the school with information as to the correct procedure to have the car removed.

Parishioner living in Ashleigh Park brought up the issue of the dangerous embankment. This is still an ongoing problem.

4) Football Club – to receive an update from a member of the Football Club. None received.

5) Mapping agreement – request from the Heritage Centre regarding Ordnance Survey maps. Permission to join the PSMA – All agreed. District Cllr. Moore will advise the Clerk.

6) Flood and Snow Group personnel – brought forward from May meeting – to further discuss volunteers for these two important posts; to consider where the appropriate equipment is kept. Clerk to provide councillors with the current list of volunteers and to be in touch with Sam Thompson who organised the Spring Fest. Also to put a request in Signpost.

7) Chairman's Report (for information only) –

Attended the LARC AGM and saw their progress; they are keen for more usage of the building. Attended the Spring Fest and teddy bears parachuting down the church tower. Thanked all the volunteers who so kindly helped with all of these activities to the benefit of Bampton.

8) County & District Councillor reports:-

District Cllr. Moore – thanked everyone for re-electing him in May; he can deal with planning matters, and his role is as a bridge between the town and the district. Note district councillors have the power to call in planning applications to a planning committee, if there is a need.

The new district council is in place with the Liberal Democrats and Independents forming a coalition; conservatives in opposition.

Cllr. Moore and Cllr. Stanley responded to a letter in the local press about the proposed development at Bourchier Close.

Ashleigh Park – a complicated issue. Planning has now been approved on the land above the slump part of the embankment and part of this planning is to underpin the area. However planners cannot force a start date. Unsightly, is not a good enough legal mandate. There is a risk to the road if the bank collapses, but Devon Highways do not consider there is sufficient priority to act at this moment in time.

Cllr. L. Bull pointed out that the footway to the Scout field is becoming difficult. Accessibility alongside this road is important.

9) Minutes – the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2019, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

10)

a) Plastic free Bampton – Cllr. L. Bull to report.

Standing orders suspended for Laura Grant to report..

There is a scheme available to become accredited which is linked to Surfers against Sewage.

Council approved being linked to this scheme. There is support in Bampton from businesses’.

The scheme will be promoted to increase awareness. Several events were outlined.

Other organisations to be involved such as the school. A steering group to be set up, to meet twice a year to talk through progress

Standing orders resumed.

b) Electric charge point for vehicles – initial thoughts from Councillors as to the practicality of such a scheme.

Clerk outlined a proposal to look into this scheme as part of her Community Governance module for her Degree. Council approved the Clerk’s ideas – regular reports will be brought to the meetings.

11) Bampton Champions – the idea to be discussed. Cllr. L. Bull commented on how well the previous councillors had done in order to keep Bampton clean and tidy. Thoughts and comments from councillors please about the possibility of a scheme which could empower people to become Bampton Champions; to celebrate all the people who do so much around the town. Cllr. L. Bull will come up with 2/3 proposals to work on. July agenda.

12) Bampton Fair – update from the Clerk.

The current Bampton Fair Working Group (sub-committee) consists of 8 members at the moment, which includes 3 previous councillors – the first active meeting will be held on 3rd July, at which I hope the Fair Committee and the Chairman will be able to attend. Probably 5pm in the LARC building.

So far 19 stalls are booked in. St. John Ambulance has been booked with a quote of £573.10 + VAT, quite an increase on the £459.50 for 2018. This is being queried.

Sunset on 31st October is at 16.52pm. This means that it will be dark before the end of the Fair – we will need lots of Halloween lights. I have already agreed to 2 stallholders sharing a space and a generator to provide light. There may well be more requests and the streets could be quite noisy with generators – however there is good street lighting.

Road closures have been applied for.

13) Christmas – update from the Clerk. To agree the installation of equipment by Devon County Council, at an approximate cost of £300 in order to run Christmas lights at the Stage. Agreement proposed by Cllr. L. Bull, seconded by Cllr. Sims, all in favour by show of hands.

14) Open Spaces Committee (including Bampton Play Park)

- a) To resolve to take ownership of the proposals for a play area at the Motte & Bailey. Standing orders suspended for the Motte and Bailey Group to update Council. The Sub-committee of the Open Spaces Committee will be in charge of the project. The Clerk will liaise directly with this Group on a regular basis to keep it all moving forward. Council resolved to apply for the S106 funding of £10,000 from Mid Devon Council. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, seconded by Cllr. Whiteway, all in favour by show of hands.
- b) Orchard – to discuss the hire of a digger to level ant hills total cost of £430 + VAT (includes labour) Resolved to agree the hire of the digger. All in favour by show of hands.
- c) Dog Poo Signage – for discussion and agreement. 2 large signs have been commissioned. Comments regarding the difficulty of stopping people walking their dogs on the recreation field. Council proposed to put up the new signage and leave the ‘no dogs’ signage in place.
- d) Dog poo bins – replacements with lids for the M. Green area – costings not available. Next agenda.

15) Mission Statement – to agree to adopt the mission statement first adopted May 2018. Adoption proposed by the Chairman.

- To work for the benefit of Bampton people irrespective of party politics.
- To encourage expertise within the Council where possible.
- To employ *authorised* volunteer expertise when required.
- To build, sustain and appreciate volunteer initiatives.
- To build a network of expertise which includes fostering a positive relationship with MDDC/DCC
- To renew, repair and conserve Bampton Town Council property and facilities.
- To support Bampton businesses – all agreed.
- To employ suitable, committed people to support Council work.
- To foster youth participation.

Adoption proposed by the Chairman – all in favour by show of hands.

Chairman and Council took this opportunity to thank all the previous Councillors for serving the community of Bampton and the surrounding areas so well over the past four years, since being elected in 2015.

16) PLANNING:

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

- a) 19/00797/HOUSE Erection of single-storey workshop/garage, Valley View, High St., Bampton. No objection
- b) 19/00859/FUL Conversion of agricultural building to holiday let and change of use of land to associated garden area, (revised scheme) Frogs End, Frog Street, Bampton. Grid ref: 295548/122654

OBJECTION by Council on the grounds listed. All in favour by show of hands.

This Proposal should be refused.

The grounds advanced for this are largely the same as those for the 2017 application to convert the building to a dwelling, and Council’s objections are as for the withdrawn application March 2019.

1. The application site is outside the village boundary. It is noted that in the local plan Bampton has been designated as a village for Planning purposes.
2. Sewage disposal is difficult and could lead to increased pressure on the already stressed sewer system.
3. Water run off from the site remains a problem, causing problems at the point where the Shuttern Brook enters a culvert at the Town end of Frog Street.

4. Closing the present entrance to the site will increase the flood risk down Frog Street.
5. Frog Street is a narrow lane with an almost right angled bend near the town. There are no passing places. This is difficult for residents who are familiar with the road constraints, visitors would find the road layout problematic and would add to the already significant congestion.
6. This proposal would lead to the loss of a traditional Devon hedge. Part of the charm and visual amenity of the Lane is the continuous line of hedge. This would be disrupted by the provision of a visibility splay, notwithstanding the proposal to construct a new Devon bank by the applicant.
7. **In conclusion**, when approval was granted for the construction of an animal shelter in 2005, one of the conditions was that the building should be removed within three years of the cessation of its use for agricultural purposes. This was in order to remove unnecessary agricultural vehicles from the Lane and to maintain the visual character of the locality. We believe that the substitution of agricultural vehicles by holiday traffic would not be in the interests of residents of Frog Street and would increase congestion and lead to conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. The original conditions are even more relevant in respect of this application than when they were applied to the 2005 application.

- c) 19/00871/LBC LBC consent for internal alterations to raise the kitchen chimney opening to 2mts., 16 Brook St., Bampton.
No objection.

Planning Decisions:

17) FINANCE:

Expenditure: Regular monthly payments listed below (not listed again on the agendas')

Bampton Fair rates	£59.00	DD
Toilets rates	£92.00	DD
Store rates	£33.00	DD
Card charge	£3.00	DD
EDF Energy Pumphouse	£8.00	DD

Employment May	£564.20	BACs
J. Caunter – toilet cleans	£310.00	BACs
Four Seasons Tree Services	£479.99	BACs
J. Caunter – handyperson services	£85.00	BACs

Income:	Bampton Fair	£347.20
	Toilets	£110.55
	Car park	£360.09
	VAT Refund	£3,853.73

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. Whiteway; all in favour by show of hands.

18) Payments – to resolve to agree that the previous bank signatories authorise the payments for June whilst the changeover of signatories is taking place. All agreed by show of hands.

Standing orders suspended for a parishioner who came in to the meeting rather late.

Parishioner does not agree with the work being done on the old toilets/store. His suggestion of a container be placed in the Riverside Hall car park to store these items currently held in this building, would however be subject to planning and a flood risk assessment, as this land is not owned by the Council. Considers the old toilets should be restored and become usable again. Council to consider this request, notwithstanding that the toilet units have now been removed and the building renovated inside.

Standing orders resumed.

19) Plot of land- Update on Clerk's email if available. Not available – Clerk to progress.

20) Opening times for parishioners –

a) To agree to hire the LARC building from 3-5pm on the first Wednesday of each month, for the Clerk and a Councillor to be available to meet members of the public. Though taking into account that the 2 other halls need usage, it is best for the Council work to be kept in one place on a regular basis. Cllr. L. Bull proposed that this extra letting be trialled for 9 months to see progress. All agreed.

b) To consider continuing the hire for the Bampton Fair Group to meet monthly during the summer. All agreed to this proposal. Clerk to inform the Fair Group.

c) To agree photos of councillors be taken for publication both on a website and noticeboard. Agreement to put names and email addresses on the website and into Signpost. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, and to have photos.

c) To consider a stand alone, bespoke website for the Town Council – Clerk to report. Cllr. Fouracres proposed an investigation to join a Council website with Bampton .org.

21) Terms of reference Open Spaces Committee: (circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting).

To resolve to agree a budget of £2000 for miscellaneous repairs arranged by the OSC, as per the terms of reference. Resolved and agreed by show of hands.

22) Clerk's Report

i. The accounts have been sent to PKF Littlejohn for external audit.

ii. The notice of public rights to inspect the unaudited accounts will be posted up on the website and a noticeboard, 17th June 2019.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Meeting closed at 9.17pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

Email circulations during the past month

ConnectMe Devon

DALC News May