

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of Bampton Town Council held virtually on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Lewis Clarke (Press); Cllr. Williams; Cllr. Hopkinson; Cllr. McHenry; Cllr. White; Cllr. Whiteway; District Cllr. Stanley; Penny Clapham (Clerk); Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. L. Bull; County Cllr. Colthorpe.

6 members of the public.

1) Election of Chairman

a) Invite nominations and elect a Chairman for the year. Cllr. Hopkinson nominated Cllr. Fouracres, there being no other nominations, Cllr. Fouracres accepted the post.

b) Receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Chairman. Received the signed declaration virtually – will be authorised as soon as possible.

2) Election of Vice Chairman Cllr L. Bull nominated by Cllr. Fouracres, all agreed and Cllr. L. Bull accepted the post.

3) Confirm appointment of signatories for cheque payments and authorised internet bank payments. Currently these are Cllr. Fouracres, Cllr. N. Bull, Cllr. Hopkinson and Cllr. McHenry. Confirmed

4) Appointment/Confirmation of Committees

- i. Planning Committee - Full Council
- ii. Finance Committee – Cllrs. Fouracres, Hopkinson and McHenry
- iii. HR Committee - Cllrs. L. Bull, N. Bull, Fouracres and White
- iv. Open Spaces Committee – Cllrs. L. Bull, White, Whiteway and Williams
- v. Bampton Fair Committee – Cllrs. White, N. Bull and Fouracres
- vi. Bampton Hall Committee. Cllrs. White, L. Bull, Hopkinson and McHenry.

5) Appointment to Working Groups

P3 Footpath Warden – Co-ordinator Colin Fagg
Flood Group – Cllr. N. Bull and Richard Brooking
Snow Warden – agenda for June.

6) General Power of Competence – to resolve to confirm the General Power of Competence, Council are qualified (Localism Act 2011) having two-thirds councillors elected and a qualified clerk (CiLCA or above). Confirmed.

7) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. Weston – apologies accepted.

8) 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.

9) 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.

Chairman of Bampton FC joined the meeting with reference to the recreation ground. Received numerous complaints about the dog fouling on the field. There are those who pick up after their dogs and those who ignore their dogs. Cllr. Fouracres reminded everyone that there are now poo bags available at the gate as well as a bin, and there is no excuse. Cllr. White thanked the chairman of the football club for attending the meeting and bringing this item to Council's attention – Cllr. Williams echoed these sentiments and wished them luck getting the club running again. An idea was mooted of a frame/poster to be displayed the day before/on the day, of any football training/match to act as a reminder to dog owners to pick up after their pets.

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

Chairman had to say on behalf of all Councillors, a fond farewell to our County Cllr. Polly Colthorpe who has stood down – She has always been a great help to Bampton, always there and always available – visit us anytime you like. We wish you well in your retirement.

11)) County & District Councillor reports –

County Cllr. Colthorpe responded that she was actually elected in 2003 for Clare & Shuttern ward so has been a constant, always been glad to be here, and sorry to step down.

Still have 2 years to run as a district councillor in Mid Devon so not quite totally retired as yet.

District Cllr. Stanley - can start litter picking again as the equipment is available. For any struggling businesses in Bampton there is a breathing spaces moratorium; there is a way to stop action from creditors over a certain period – if required, contact Mid Devon Council.

12) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2021. Approved as a true record and will be signed at the next available opportunity.

13) Internal Audit Report – to note no issues raised by the internal auditor. Noted.

14) Annual Governance Statement – to resolve to agree the Annual Governance Statement is accurate. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres and signed.

15) Annual Accounting Statement – to resolve to agree the Annual Accounting Statement is accurate. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres and signed.

16) Ashleigh Park – to discuss the collapsing bank from Ashleigh Park into the single track road below. This is an ongoing problem without a current solution. Cllr. L. Bull informed Council that this situation has been talked about for the life of this council and also the previous council. She expressed concern that nothing has ever been done about this, and reminded all present that the scout hut is further up this road; children walking up and down this road, that this collapsing bank is a dangerous liability. Cllr. Whiteway reinforced these comments. Cllr. L. Bull proposed that this situation be continued to be minuted, that this Council want something done about Ashleigh Park and the collapsing bank.

District Cllr. Stanley commented that Mid Devon have asked for a stabilisation report and that Devon County Highways do not consider the bank to be a risk until it collapses into the road. There is also planning to put some units above the bank.

Cllr. Bull mentioned Aberfan being a disaster which was not taken seriously until it happened.

Cllr. Williams requested sight of the report referred to; he considers that at some point this risk has to be accepted as a social necessity with something done before collapse.

Cllr. L. Bull asked if a representative from Highways could attend the June meeting – Clerk to action.

17) Castle Street – to receive an update on actions to date: Cllr. Fouracres to report.

Cllr. Fouracres read his report summing up the situation to date. The report is attached to these minutes. Standing orders suspended for parishioner to speak.

Thanked Cllr. Fouracres. He considered the issue is HGV's as the main problem who have no business going through Bampton other than deliveries. Considers a weight limit could be the answer to the HGV problem. This would include CCTV cameras equipped with number plate recognition.

Cllr. Fouracres responded; the intention is to create space in the road first.

Cllr. L. Bull backed up these comments, stating the reasons why a traffic consultant was employed, and referred back to the consultant's report. Cllr. Williams reported on research he has done into other communities struggling with HGV's going through villages – there is a lack of resources for enforcement. Highways are not unaware of the problems; however, they are very short of alternative routes for heavy traffic, when the major A roads are closed for any reason. There are also problems with satnavs as there is no legislation requiring lorry drivers to use those appropriate for large vehicles.

Cllr. Williams considers this does seem to be a national problem requiring modern legislation.

Cllr. L. Bull feels that as a Council, we should not accept this situation as something that we cannot change. Meg Booth is head of Highways and is familiar with the area and its problems. Considers a request could be put to Meg Booth asking her to attend a Council meeting.

Creating space in Castle Street does not resolve the problems of weight and speed.

Cllr. N. Bull seconded these comments being frustrated at how little power the Town Council has. Council have worked very well with residents who have been very understanding about Castle Street. As a Council, we cannot put up signage or paint, can only offer support.

Standing orders resumed

18) Bampton Charter Fair – to receive an update on current actions for staging the Charter Fair on 28th October 2021. Cllr. White to report. The Fair Committee walked around the town last week discussing items such as a food court, marquees, the blue light route - plans continue apace.

19) Bampton Hall Committee – to receive first report from the Chairman of this Committee

- i. To discuss the land offer from the Diocese – Council to approve and agree actions from this discussion. The survey of options indicated number 2, to build on a land owned already owned by the Council.

Resolved. Cllr. L. Bull proposed to say thank you to the Diocese for holding open the offer of the land for the town, but now agreed that this is no longer required. All agreed by show of hands.

Cllr. White has established the committee with 4 councillors and 4 members of the public, all with good knowledge. Meeting with the planning consultant in the next few weeks.

20) PLANNING:

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

- i. 21/00725/HOUSE Erection of timber workshop/store, 6 Briton Street, Bampton.
No comment
- ii. 21/00719/FULL Erection of 5 dwellings with alterations to existing access, Five Levels, Old Tiverton Road, Bampton.
Standing orders suspended.

Robert Banbury, one of the executors of the estate explained their position and commented that they have made a robust application for these dwellings.

Cllr. L. Bull thanked Mr. Banbury for arranging the presentation made in January – this being very useful.

Cllr. Whiteway expressed concern about the disposal of any run off and would like to bring this to the attention of the planners.

Mr. Banbury addressed this issue and informed that all the statements are published on the planning website.

Cllr Fouracres considered this is a good use of the site, it is within the settlement area. Cllr. Fouracres proposed support, Cllr Hopkinson seconded, and all in favour by show of hands. Standing orders resumed.

- iii. 21/00828/HOUSE Erection of single storey extension to garage, 14 School Close, Bampton. No objection.

Planning Decisions:

- a) 19/01804/FULL Erection of replacement agricultural building, Lower Rill, Shillingford.
APPROVED
- b) 21/00351/HOUSE Erection of detached garage and entrance porch, High Cross Barn, Bampton.
GRANTED
- c) 20/01789/FULL Change of use of hall solely for use by holiday makers, to public use, buildings at Duvale Priory Bampton.
REFUSED

21) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	0521/01	Lee Accounting – internal audit fee	£240.00	BACs
	0521/02	Employment – April	£587.60	BACs
	0521/03	Visionict – Operation Forth Bridge + 2	£126.00	BACs
	0521/04	Glyn Brace – electrics for defibrillator	£195.47	BACs
	0521/05	Visionict – biennel fee for .gov.uk	£102.00	BACs
	0521/06	BHIB – insurance renewal fee	£876.68	BACs
	0521/07	DALC/NALC annual subscription	£229.92	from precept
	0521/08	IONOS – domain basic fee town website	£129.60	DD
	0521/09	J. Caunter – toilet cleans	£300.00	BACs
	0521/10	Fours Seasons – April grass cuts	£479.99	BACs
	0521/11	Zoom renewal payable to Clerk	£143.88	BACs
Income:		First half precept less subscription	£30973.02	transfer
		Devon CC – locality fund received	£700.00	transfer
		Car Park & toilets banked	£242.00	cash

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, all agreed by show of hands.

22) Clerk's report

- i. Clerk's holiday now from 19th July to 8th August inclusive (subject to Covid).
- ii. Council to consider whether it is necessary to have a meeting in August. Cllr. N. Bull proposed no meeting in August. Council agreed. There will be a meeting on 2nd June, 7th July and then 1st September 2021.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors.

Cllr. White reported that the graffiti at the bus stop has been painted out.

Cllr. Williams achieved an enormous amount of people to plant trees at the Millennium Green – ground is very dry, so the trees have been watered in. The group of ‘Dads’ helped out with all of this. There are still another 400 to plant out at the Recreation Field; it is late but the trees have only recently been received.

Cllr. L. Bull – thanked Hedgehog and Squirrel class who came to help plant. They are going to be tree wardens, looking at wildlife, caring for the trees and submitting reports to Council.

A thank you letter was read from the school (attached below).

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7.pm in the Riverside Hall.

Email circulations during the past month
NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletin (sent 16/04)

Report on Castle Street as read by the Chairman

“Bampton Town Council was asked by residents of Castle Street to investigate solutions to the problem of traffic mounting the pavement on the south side of the street, with consequent damage to the pavement, road and adjacent properties, plus the risk of damage to parked cars and danger to pedestrians.

The Council has employed a traffic consultant to produce a report on Bampton, formed a working group with residents and had two on-site meetings with the Devon County Council Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

The Highways Officer was given the report from the traffic consultant, listened to our concerns and suggestions and discussed his thoughts. He then proposed a new parking restriction on the north side of Castle Street. He also suggested using the west side of Morebath Road for alternative parking with new yellow lines at the junction with Castle Street to keep the junction clear.

The Council will also investigate widening the “unofficial” parking strip on the east side of Morebath Road to accommodate two or three more parking spaces.

The Council understands that a proposal from the Highways Officer will be put to the Mid Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee in July. Details of the proposal have not yet been published. Any action agreed is not expected to be included in the 2021 budget.

The fact is that Castle Street is just not wide enough to accommodate parked cars and HGVs without some vehicles using the pavement. There is a section 36.5 metres long where the width of the road is less than five metres.

Weight and size limits or access restrictions for HGVs, if agreed, could not apply to traffic servicing the local community - such as agricultural vehicles and trailers, large cattle transporters, school buses, grocery deliveries, building supplies, etc.

So there are probably only three alternatives:

Create more space by removing the parked vehicles at the narrowest part of the street. The footpaths would be unchanged and two thirds of the parking spaces would remain.

A more extreme solution would be to restrict the street to single vehicle width which would then require traffic lights. All parking spaces would be lost, unloading would be a problem but the footpaths could be widened.

The third alternative, do nothing, traffic will continue to mount the footpath and the problems and dangers will remain unchanged yet again.

Excessive speed has also been reported to be a problem in Castle Street but that is not part of the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee remit. The Council intends to pursue the suggestions from the traffic consultants report, in conjunction with ideas and support from the Devon County Council Road Safety Team, to slow traffic and improve the safety of pedestrians in Bampton."

Dear Town Council

The children of Bampton Primary School would like to thank you for your generous donation during lockdown. It resulted in us being able to buy Chromebooks which meant that every child in the school had access to online learning. This made a huge difference to those children who didn't have a device and we would like you to know that it meant a lot to them.

Thanks again

Children of Bampton School.