

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Wednesday 5th April 2023, 7pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. Bull; Lewis Clarke (Press); Penny Clapham (Clerk).
5 Members of the Public. Cllr. Whiteway.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. White. Cllr. Weston. District Cllr. Moore. 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. 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. Steve Drew on behalf of parishioners concerned about the redevelopment of School Close. A letter has been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. This is because the parishioners concerned have been informed by the housing officers that they may not be able to stay in Bampton. Steve Drew read a few points from the letter to the Council in explanation.

Cllr. Fouracres informed that Cllr. Stanley has now been consulted and Cllr. Stanley has emailed the housing department and is now actively engaged, copy of email sent to Council for information. Council have not seen a planning application for this redevelopment as yet.

Cllr. L. Bull asked how this is affecting their well-being as both parishioners are in their 70's having spend all their lives at this house and living in Bampton. Both are being affected very badly with stress and worry. Cllr Fouracres stressed that they have the full support of Council in this matter.

Cllr. Whiteway opined that authorities think of housing need not social need, and that social need is just as important as housing.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – This is the last meeting of this Council, apart from the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th April. Thanks to County Cllr. Chesterton and District Cllrs. Stanley and Moore for their attendance over the past 4 years, their support and being so active in the community. Thanks also to our two co-opted councillors Tim Williams and Jessie Jones who are not standing again.

5) County & District Councillor reports:- none due to 'purdah'.

6) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2023. A query was raised and discussed. The minutes were agreed as written, 3 in favour and 1 abstained. Signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Traffic issues –

- i. To create a build out area outside the entrance to the Recreation Field in order to force drivers to take a wider berth for the safety of those crossing the road – in the region of £1000 with the lining. After discussion with the Highways Officer this was agreed by her provided the Council can fund the action. Council resolved to fund this build out area, proposed by Cllr. L. Bull, all agreed by show of hands.

- ii. To consider an island in the middle of the road (near to Figs Shop) with drop pavements either side, to create a safer crossing place – in the region of £5000. Cllr. Fouracres explained the issues as discussed with the Highways Officer. Cllr. N. Bull considers we should consult with the community as this could be a fairly costly project. Every other crossing solution in this area has been rejected by Highways as not practicable. Resolved to go ahead as there is a legacy of concern in that area and the safety of pedestrians/cars has been raised to Council by parishioners. Funding will be looked into. Resolved to progress this idea, proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, all agreed by show of hands.
- iii. To consider town 'gateways'. These inform drivers that they are about to enter a speed limit zone. Highways approve of these 'gateways'. Highways have approved of Council's idea on 'gateways'. Clerk to ascertain some prices and agenda for May for follow-up. Design and costing. Highways to be asked about the installation.
- iv. To note that the disabled bays in Brook Street are advisory, so no plate/information is required and no plans to make these spaces formal. Our Highways Officer states that if the spaces are being abused, members of the public can report on the highways website with a photo; link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-parking-problem/> There could be a bay made available in the car park. Clerk to ask Highways if they have a template for a disabled sign to go onto the tarmac.

8) Storage container – for discussion as to whether a storage container is purchased or rented. To be sited at the back of the Riverside car park. The lease has now been signed by both parties. Noted. Cllr. Fouracres has 2 quotes for containers. £3,390 new, delivered with a lock painted green. Other quote over £4,000, not new. This would give Council the opportunity to store the salt spreaders, hand trolley, and other items required for floods/snow. Some preparation is needed for the site. Resolved to purchase the new container. Proposed by Cllr. L. Bull all agreed by show of hands. Cllr. Fouracres to progress these actions.

9) Pump Track at the Millennium Green – to receive a progress update. Clerk reported that the ecological survey is to be done on the 17th April by Lee Ecology of Crediton. Natural England have confirmed that there is no requirement for a geological survey. An agreed submission deadline to 30th April for the planning requirement with Mid Devon Council. Further reports at future meetings.

10) Bampton Charter Fair – To receive any updates bearing in mind that the Fair Committee meeting is on 12th April. May agenda.

11) Open Spaces Reports –

- i. Draft action plan Millennium Green (circulated prior to this meeting) for discussion. Discussed and the action plan to be circulated to Joan Fagg and Mike Hatchett. It will also be posted to the Council website.
- ii. Brief update on walk round with Ashley Clapp from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, 5th April. Ashley Clapp seems to have grasped Council's requirements; he would like to use the same team every visit; they will use a robot mower for the steep areas in the orchard.
- iii. Play equipment – Cllr. Williams to report. No report received.
- iv. Request to site a memorial bench in the Recreation Field near to the gate into the footpath field. All agreed.

12) Climate Emergency Planning – Cllr. L. Bull to report. Clerk attending Climate Change Summit (via Zoom) 26th April. There are plans into the next financial year – June agenda.

13) Christmas Planning for 2023 – Cllr. L. Bull to report. Most pressing are the lights that require sorting out. Auditing the lights, and then checking budgets. Lights will be going up the last weekend in November 2023. Review in June.

14) PLANNING:

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

- i. 22/02223/FULL Erection of 1 holiday let, provision of access and associated works, land at NGR 295303 121655 (South of Scotts Quarry), Bampton.

OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED TO MID DEVON COUNCIL

1. The application is outside the settlement line of Bampton Parish
2. Access onto the B3227 would be hazardous. It is narrow and there is a sharp bend.
3. In a previous application (withdrawn) Devon Highways emphasised that "there is no pedestrian access into the town centre or to bus stops", so most travel would involve car journeys and increase traffic into the town. In fact the applicant's website states that "it is just a minute drive to Bampton".
4. Mid Devon District Council Tree Officer has expressed concern that the removal of trees to improve site access visibility would put undue pressure on trees which are subject to a 2018 Tree Preservation Order.
5. The ground stability assessment carried out at the site in November 2018 described "a low factor of safety of the slope to the north which did not pose an immediate risk of collapse unless destabilising changes are introduced". Those changes were considered to be increased groundwater pressure and loading at the crest of the slope, for example from vehicles. Has the possibility of the introduction of destabilising changes since 2018 been investigated?

- ii. 23/00463/FULL Formation of an earth banked slurry store, Land at NGR 296450 121768 Luttrell Farm, Bampton.

No comment.

Planning Decisions:

- a) 22/01990/PNAG Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building, New Park Bampton. APPROVED (Agricultural/forestry prior approval)
- b) 22/02071/FULL Reinstatement, conversion and change of use of buildings to form a dwelling (Use Class C3) and ancillary accommodation; formation of accommodation within ruin for use as a home office and/or annexe; erection of an outbuilding, erection of agricultural building and associated works, Higher Bowbierhill Bampton Devon EX16 9EE. APPROVED
- c) 23/00272/CAT Notification of the intention to remove some birch trees, tidy and deal with other trees, within a conservation area, The Old House, Frog Street. NO OBJECTION

15) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	Viking Direct – toilet rolls	£37.07	BACs
	Edge IT – first year accounts contract	£366.00	BACs
	GL Jones Playgrounds x 2 invoices	£1266.72	BACs
	J.Caunter – toilet cleans March	£310.00	BACs
	Clerk’s expenses Q4	£307.16	BACs
	Employment March	£827.24	BACs
	PAYE & NI Q4	£621.57	BACs
	D. Somerwill – agreed works on walls	£1952.40	BACs
	SLCC training – climate change summit	£72.00	BACs (for clerk)
	Dutch Landscape Architects	£972.00	BACs
	Four Seasons – March invoice	£527.99	BACs

LARCS – room hire	£72.00	BACs
SW Water – Church per annum	£295.64	DD
SW Water – Car park per annum	£107.93	DD
Tolls of Fairs rates payable 2023/24	£623.75	DD
Old Store rates payable 2023/24	£351.05	DD

Income: CCLA deposit fund interest to end Feb. £261.33

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

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

16) Annual Parish Meeting – to be held in the Community Hall, 6.30pm Friday 14th April. There will be some displays and updates from community groups within Bampton Parish. Refreshments also will be served. Noted.

17) Coronation Activities – to receive an update of any planned activities. Riverside Hall are planning to show the Coronation live on a big screen. Marquee in Edward Tanner’s courtyard has been offered for any activities that might be planned Sunday and Monday of the Coronation weekend. The idea of a bring and share lunch on the Sunday has been mooted. Clerk to contact Sue Leach. Potentially something for the children on the Monday. There is some money in the Council budget for these celebrations. Judi Thomas is organising a litter pick on the Monday. Council resolved to support financially with up to £200 per day.

18) Clerk’s Report (for information only)

- i. Contract between Council and Edgelt Accounting System renewed for a further 5 years. Noted.
- ii. Internal audit for Council booked for Tuesday 18th April.
- iii. Morebath Cricket Club sent a very nice thank you email for the grant given in 2022 and updated Council on their current activities plus issued invitations to all councillors to visit.
- iv. Emergency Alert test will be held on Sunday 23rd April via mobile phones. See website for further information.
- v. Accounts finalised on the System ready for the new financial year. VAT claim submitted for £5,936.04 on 3rd April.

Cllr. L. Bull thanked all the councillors and especially Cllr. Fouracres as Chairman for the last 4 years bearing in mind there will be an election in Bampton on the 4th May.

PART II

Council are excluding members of the public and the press to progress a matter of a confidential nature. Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960. Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102.

19) Bampton Hall – To discuss latest developments. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. Fouracres led the discussion. Actions were resolved and are detailed in the Part II minutes.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors.

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on **THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023** at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

Email circulations during the past month

Devon Climate Emergency Newsletter (sent 07/03)

ConnectMe Devon update (sent 20/03)

DALC newsletter 13 (sent 29/03)

DALC bulletin 11 (sent 16/03)

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 27/03)

NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (sent 03/04)

Signed.....

Date.....