

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Bampton held on Friday 14th April, 6.30pm in the Community Hall.

Refreshments were served prior to the meeting and whilst displays were being set up.

Chairman of the Council Simon Fouracres, opened the meeting and commenced with a report on Council activities for the past year.

Chairman's Report 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

As this is the last official gathering of the current Bampton Town council before the elections on May 4th I would like to thank all the councillors for their efforts over the last four years. We were all, but one, new to the role of parish councillor and had a lot to learn. In this we have been ably assisted by our clerk, Penny Clapham and we thank her for her hard work recording our meetings, keeping the finances and advising and directing us all. It must have been like herding cats!

I would like to thank John Sims, Barney Hopkinson and Bill McHenry who resigned from this council and also Bill Weston, Tim Williams and Jess Jones who are not standing for the next council. They have all made a much appreciated contribution.

Thanks are also due to County Councillor Richard Chesterton and District councillors Andrew Moore and Ray Stanley who have diligently attended our meetings and informed and advised us along the way.

We also thank volunteers - Flood Warden Richard Brooker and Snow Warden Adam Pagett. I hope neither of them will be overworked in their roles. Less rain and no snow would be very welcome.

Thanks too to Barbara Girdlestone for maintaining the Hollett Garden - she has now retired and Kathy Hammond is taking over

Finally, many many thanks to Colin & Joan Fagg who have been our P3 Co-ordinators (Footpath Volunteers) for more than 25 years. They have made the decision to retire from their role, reluctantly I don't doubt, and we are now looking new volunteers to look after our footpaths.

Over the past year we have

Celebrated the Platinum Jubilee, Lighting a Beacon, Afternoon Teas, Live music, Fancy Dress, Community Fair, a Church Service and a bring and share Street Party. A commemorative Oak tree has been planted at the Recreation Field

Then came the Queens funeral - marked with appropriate solemnity and Cllrs came to the rescue to fly the flag at half mast on the church

The Charter Fair, blessed with good weather, was a great success. A good crowd came to Bampton, enjoyed the stalls and the fairground and made money for the Scouts, the Football Club, the PTFA and the Church. The 2023 Charter Fair is already taking shape under an enthusiastic committee.

Christmas trees and lights made Bampton very festive and there are plans to do even better this coming Christmas. I'll bring a spare fuse.

As a council we have set a budget for the next year and agreed the Precept from Mid Devon District Council

Restarted 'Open to the public' before council meetings

We have tried to keep up with our general maintenance responsibilities for the Toilets two Playparks, the Car park and many Trees, Seats, Hedges and fences.

Subscribed to some software to record all assets with Parish Online - three Defibrillators are sited round the town.

Coped with Vandalism, Traffic, Dog Poo and litter.

Supported the Litter Pickers - monthly Judi Thomas

Provided a New Table Tennis Table at the Motte & Bailey playpark

Bike Rack at Station Road car park

Container at Riverside to store the flood and snow equipment

Bampton has achieved Walkers are Welcome status

Given Grants to: Bampton Allotments Association. Bampton PTFA project at school
Mid Devon Mobility. Morebath Cricket Club. Citizens Advice. Wellbeing Bampton.
Bampton in Bloom. Bampton Netball Club

PROJECTS

New Highways Officer - potholes, signage and village gateways

Also Investigating an island crossing outside the Spar

20 is plenty and Speedwatch

Pump Track at the Millennium Green - Action Plan for the Millennium Green.

Bampton Hall - we are at the final stages of purchasing some land.

County and District Councillor reports were not received.

Judi Thomas reported on the 10th anniversary of the Heritage Centre – many activities are planned. She also reported on the litter pickers who meet monthly on the third Thursday, bags and pickers provided – keeping Bampton cleaner.

Judi also mentioned the regular Monday walks as well as providing an update on the Walkers are Welcome status of Bampton as a place to visit and stay.

Amongst the displays for all to view, were hedgehog hibernation boxes. The Wildlife Wardens Scheme is in its infancy at present – there is also a Junior Wildlife Warden Scheme.

Duncan Manning informed everyone that the lease for the land at the BT Exchange in Frog Street is going forward – to provide more smaller allotments for the parish. This is being an expensive project for the Allotment Association but they are getting there.

Richard Brooker, the link for flood warnings, informed us all that he keeps a firm eye on the weather forecasts and if it looks like flooding, he checks areas such as the Old Tiverton Road. Drainage at Scotts has been improved. The soakaway above Ashleigh Park does get checked by Highways – their responsibility. The flood gates at the Old Mill and the Riverside are

monitored. Soon there will be storage boxes at the Riverside car park for the purpose of sand to fill sandbags. A suggestion was made for a “help I need help” phone number for those who, in the event of a flood, would not be able to help themselves. This will be considered.

Oliver Courtenay, chair of the LARC, reminded all that LARC do not actually own the property; it is rented. It is important to keep using the LARC for events other than just the library. Costs have gone up so bookings and fund raising are both important. Volunteers are always needed with fresh ideas. New trustees are also required over the next couple of years.

Rupert White briefly reported on the Charter Fair, thanking in particular all members of Rotary who successfully ran the Fair for a number of years, also Simon Fouracres and Penny Clapham. This year’s Fair is already in the planning stage and of course the Fair needs volunteers too.

Joan Fagg mentioned the definitive map of footpaths, Judi Thomas brought up the Warm Winter Project which has been running since last November. This will take a break now and revert to coffee mornings from 5th June.

Questions from the floor included Castle Street (parking/speeding issues). Simon Fouracres stated that Council have done all they can in this respect, from employing a highway expert to consulting with residents and highways officers; there is nothing further that the town council can do for Castle Street. Also electric charge points for electric cars – this is still in its infancy as the National Grid do not have the capacity for more usage in the Bampton area at this moment in time. Cutting back the brambles in Station Road – ongoing problem as this is also an action for Highways.

Signed.....

Date.....