

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Monday 5th February 2024 7pm in the LARC.

Present – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. White; District Cllr. Gilmour; District Cllr. Adcock; Cllr. Brock; Cllr. Brooker; Cllr. Boyles; 6 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk). Lully Newman and members of the primary school. County Cllr. Chesterton.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr. Grabke. Cllr. Whiteway. Apologies accepted for reasons given.

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.

Judi Thomas updated Council regarding the Mid Devon walking festival 14-29 September. A plan has been sent in running 10 walks over this two week period. Good for Bampton who will benefit from the publicity, working with businesses through town. Report on Walkers are Welcome well received. Moving on with the idea of the Well Being Community event.

Parishioner regarding the twinning public liability insurance for the proposed pétanque area.

Parishioner regarding Speedwatch. Did the online training and are happy to continue with this project.

Clerk to update with the contact recently received from the police.

3a) Bampton Primary School – Standing orders suspended. Members of the School Council attended the meeting.

- i. To request for support for the School's Eco Club in the form of 10 litter pickers. Permission requested to site signage requesting dog owners/walkers to pick up after their dogs. Permission granted. Cllr. Fouracres proposed funding 10 litter pickers/gloves.
- ii. To consider funding a sign at the top of West Street indicating the whereabouts of the primary school. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. White proposed Council fund suitable signage.
- iii. Cllr. L. Bull asked how the children were finding the school now there is a new headteacher. Cllr. White asked if they produced a poster, would it be better if Council had the poster turned into a proper sign. School Council are also doing plastic free. Judi Thomas informed the school party that she co-ordinates litter picking through the town and happy to assist. Update about school learning was given as well as the animals at school, various clubs and the forest school.
Cllr. Fouracres thanked all the school party for coming to the meeting and for their updates.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – Police liaison coming to the LARC 2-4pm 8th February. Delighted to report that the leaf cleaning has been successful and the leaf is now flowing. South Molton road pavement has been swept so safer for walkers. Credit to our Highways Officer for her hard work.

5) County & District Councillor reports –

County Cllr. Chesterton – The Government have announced the devolution deal in Devon. This will be discussed towards the end of this council year. Budget meeting next week to finalise the council tax for the 24/25 year. Road between Bampton and Exeter Inn is due to be re-surfaced soon. Road maintenance discussed including Ford Road. Cllr. Boyles mentioned the poor surfaces in Windwhistle Lane. District Cllrs. reports attached to these minutes. Cllr. Gilmour mentioned the allotments association who have been in touch with her regarding the possibility of allotments at School Close as a part of the development.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th January 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Walkers are Welcome – annual return completed by Judi Thomas and circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. Noted.

8) 20mph request through Bampton – a new or revised request can be submitted to Devon County Council by 1st March 2024. To resolve to agree actions. Clerk to check the request as it stands. Amend the bid to include the 20mph to the school. Cllr. Fouracres proposed to re-submit the bid with amendments. All agreed by show of hands.

9) Open Spaces reports –

- i. To discuss the forthcoming grass cutting programme. Cllr. L. Bull. Open spaces committee meeting arranged.
- ii. Trees overhanging the school: Cllr. L. Bull to report. Ongoing.
- iii. Pump Track to receive an update on the tendering process: tender closing date 16th February 2024. Clerk reported only 1 tender received so far – March agenda.
- iv. Clearing of slippery areas in parks – Cllr. Boyles. Station Road play area. Ongoing.
- v. To consider the request from LARC for directional signage showing the whereabouts of the library. To request a brown sign through Highways. Send a message to Cllr. Chesterton to request his help.

10) Bampton Hall – to receive an update. Cllr. White proposed this is moved to a part 2

11) Petanque at the Millennium Green – The Twinning Association have supplied costs to create pétanque at the Millennium Green, total £400.00. Council have also been assured that they have full public liability insurance in place. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Resolved. Cllr. Fouracres proposed Council pay for the materials to create the court, with the Twinners doing the work.

12) Traffic Island – Cllr. Fouracres to update Council on progress. Complicated quotations received. There is a grant available from the Legacy Fund towards this crossing. Cllr. Fouracres to have a conversation with the possible installers about which island would be most suitable for the area. Cllr. Boyles proposed the quote from Kennford Tarmacadam for installation for £5400 be accepted. Resolved. 4 in favour 2 abstained by show of hands. Motion passed.

13) Station Road Car Park/Toilets –

- i. Broken light in the car park and ownership of same. Cllr. Boyles contacted W. Power who requested this should be put into an email. To send a photo, use 'what 3 words' and email all to Western Power.
- ii. EV charge point update. Cllr. Brooker contacted a number of rapid charge companies; fast charging would be more suitable in Bampton apparently. Discussion ensued. March agenda.
- iii. Disabled parking space. Paused at present.

14) PLANNING:

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

- i. 24/00147/HOUSE Erection of car port, Windfall, West St., Bampton.
No objection

Planning Decisions:

- a) 23/00926/LBC Various repairs and replacements under listed building consent, 14 Brook Street.
GRANTED
- b) 23/01932/ADVERT Display of 1 illuminated box pan fascia sign, Bampton Surgery, Barnhay.
GRANTED
- c) 23/01901/FUL Installation of external air conditioning condensers and external security shutter, Bampton Surgery, Barnhay.
GRANTED

15) FINANCE:

Expenditure:

Viking Direct – toilet rolls	£66.53	BACs
KG Middleton – toilets repairs	£97.32	BACs
J. Caunter – toilet cleans	£350.00	BACs
Below Ground Solutions Ltd	£264.00	BACs
Devon & somerset Marquees – deposit	£867.54	BACs
Employment January	£848.00	BACs
LARCS – room hire	£90.00	BACs
Countrywide – grass cuts	£582.38	BACs
Lee Ecology – eco management plan	£875.00	BACs
Adventure Okehampton deposit – Fair	£140.00	BACs
Edge It systems – accounts upgrade	£129.60	BACs
Loo roll dispenser – S. Fouracres	£72.00	BACs

Income: S106 monies received £43,860.53

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account. Proposed by Cllr. White. All in favour by show of hands.

16) Grant Requests –

- i. Mid Devon Mobility request a grant of £500.00 for the project “Keeping our Communities connected.” Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres. All agreed by show of hands.
- ii. Hospiscare request a grant of £1000 for costs towards a specialty community nurse to help the Hospice care for terminally ill patients in Bampton. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. White. All agreed by show of hands.

17) Clerk’s Report (for information only)

- i. Ride across Britain – document signed with the organisers for the use of the Recreation Field Sunday 8th September from 6.30am to 1pm.
- ii. EDF Energy review: Council are in credit based on an estimate. The contract runs out in September 2024.
- iii. Attendance at Practitioners Conference 31st January/1st February – brief verbal report to be followed by a written report. Attended 11 presentations, ranging from ‘Understanding Gen Z’ to ‘Employment’, ‘Stop Knife Crime’, ‘Incident Planning’ to ‘Procurement’.

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.

10) Bampton Hall – to receive an update.
Cllr. White updated Councillors on progress to date.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed..... Date.....

Email circulations during the past month

DALC Newsletter 1 (sent 11/01) DALC Bulletin 03 (sent 25/01)
Connectme Devon and devolved powers (sent 29/01)
DALC Bulletin 04 (sent 05/02)

Monthly Report to Clare and Shuttern Ward Parish Councils from District Councillors

Planning

School Close, Bampton 23/00118/MFUL: This is for the demolition of 10 existing dwellings and erection of 18 affordable homes by Mid Devon Homes. These will be high-performance modular homes built by Z-Pods Ltd. that will be built off-site assembled on site in a period of a few weeks. In response to an enquiry by the Bampton Allotment Association, we have asked MDDC to assess whether a space could be used for raised beds for vegetable growing. We have asked for an update on the planned joint consultation by BTC and MDDC.

Rachel is still on the case with regards to concerns at Frog Street and Tiverton Road (near Mount Pleasant) in **Bampton**. The Planning Officer has asked for revised plans for Frog Street, including lowering the heights of the properties. He has been in touch with the Fire Service and DCC Highways about access. The disputed property title deed issue at Mount Pleasant has been resolved works regarding sewage still outstanding.

We note concerns regarding plans for a holiday let at Oakford (23/00864/FULL), ground levelling and a large caravan sited at **Morebath** and the situation regarding enforcement at **Spurway Mill**.

We called in to Committee the major application 23/01870/MOUT to allow development of a rural holiday park with 10 (potentially rising to 25) 'safari tents', cabins and onsite facilities at Loyton Lodge, **Morebath**. Many comments have been made on the planning Portal: 48 objecting, 2 supporting and one neutral. Morebath PC voted to recommend refusal. No date has yet been set for the application to be considered at the Planning Committee.

Change of use of a field near **Bolham School** from 'Private Garden' to 'Educational Use: We and Cllr Chesterton have been in touch with neighbours regarding this Planning Application DCC/4371/2023. Change of use would bring school activities adjacent to neighbours gardens increasing the level of noise there. It would also allow potential future permitted development that could also have a significant impact on neighbours enjoyment of their homes and gardens. Cllr Adcock has added a personal comment that these factors should receive careful consideration.

Planning Enforcement is not working well in MDDC. This important, although discretionary, function was reviewed at the Scrutiny Committee on January 15th and new Key Performance Indicators have been introduced so that MDDC performance on planning enforcement will be reported on a quarterly basis. There has been difficulty recruiting Enforcement Officers. One has recently resigned and currently one agency officer is employed.

Over – development in woodland is an ongoing concern in Oakford, Stoodleigh and Washfield Parishes as woodland is being cleared, built on and used for accommodation beyond that needed for forestry management. This is a risk to biodiversity in all the woodlands in Clare and Shuttern Ward. We continue to chase for the MDDC to investigate.

Bakes Wood, Washfield Parish: Bake's wood is the steep woodland down to the Exe to the right of the main road up to Stoodleigh (right turn after crossing the Iron Bridge from the A396). An individual has created (illegally) an access off the road and a building in the wood and left waste there. We are investigating what can be done to address the problem, which is complicated as ownership of the (unregistered) land is unclear. Rachel is liaising with the concerned parties and MDDC Development Control.

Sewage and water pollution

We note the continuing issues at **Oakford** where residents have reported 13 visits from South West Water since October. We still await engagement with South West Water regarding that and other local concerns. Rachel, as Chair of Scrutiny is inviting SWW and the EA to the meeting in March. There will also be a Cllr from Lewes attending where they review sewage increase as part of all planning applications. We would like MDDC to do the same.

State of the District Debate 2024

Parish Clerks will have received a letter about this event to be held on Wednesday 20 March at 5.30pm in Phoenix House. There will be guest speakers and group sessions with the aim of promoting enhanced partnership working between MDDC and Parishes and between Parishes. We would like to encourage as many of you to attend as possible to make it a success. Part of the Liberal Democrat Corporate Strategy plan, is to add an extra member to Cabinet who will be the Communities and Engagement Cllr to make sure this is a priority.

Cllrs Rachel Gilmour and Chris Adcock

30th January 2024