

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Monday 4th March 2024, 7pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. Brock; Cllr. Brooker; Cllr. White; Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. bull; Cllr. Boyles; Cllr. Grabke; Judi Thomas (Heritage Centre); County Cllr. Chesterton; District Cllr. Adcock; District Cllr. Gilmore; Penny Clapham (Clerk); 2 members of the public.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Cllr Whiteway – apologies accepted for the 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.

Adam Padgett mentioned grant funding of the pump track – Cross Wind Farm a possible source of a grant. Judi Thomas as litter pick co-ordinator, informed that the adult and school pickers are meeting on the 13th March to do a joint pick.

The Community Well-being event Saturday 8th June. Planning is going very well with 16 groups interested in attending.

Parishioner requested the Council to consider a zebra crossing in Brook Street. The parking in the street causes bottle necks, which in turn causes problems to those people attempting to cross the road.

Cllr. Fouracres responded as to where Council are today with the subject of crossings. Council can ask the highways officer if a pedestrian crossing could be considered. Cllr. L. Bull added to the conversation.

3a) Presentation to Heritage Centre – presentation of some items received from the Besley descendants (now in Canada) dating back to 1881, to Judi Thomas on behalf of the Heritage Centre. The items were gifted to the Heritage Centre. Some photos were taken.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – to include the pothole situation on the A396 and the wide loads going up Castle Street on the 22nd February.

The potholes have been patched at present. Cllr. Chesterton interjected as he is pushing for the re-surfacing of this bad patch of road. Photos and the experience of wide loads going up Castle Street – no information yet as to why they were directed to use Castle Street, and Brook Street. Wide loads do have to liaise with the police. Clerk to check on the route with the police.

Council hosted another meet the police here at LARC. Attended a webinar with Parish Online regarding mapping – this could be useful if more than one person can do inputting.

Attended the Wiveliscombe bus rally about bus number 25 and saving the route. Roadworks in Bampton have given some good surfaces. Cllr. White and Cllr. Fouracres attended a public meeting about the Loyton proposal in Morebath parish; though outside Bampton parish, feel that Council could write to the planning authorities with concerns about the increase of traffic, both construction and permanent travel if this application is granted.

5) County & District Councillor reports –

Cllr. Chesterton has emailed his report containing mention of the devolution deal, budget, environment, the 25 bus, roadworks. Cllr. Boyles raised the water coming off land at Shillingford onto the road; this has been raised with the landowner by Highways.

District Cllrs. Reported that Mid Devon Council have set a balanced budget as well as keeping the council tax increase quite low.

A reminder that black bags are still being left beside the wheelie bins – they are no longer going to be collected.

Frog Street planning still being negotiated. The Morebath planning application is being called in to committee. Mid Devon Council are employing an enforcement officer. State of the District debate coming soon, and there should be an appointment of someone to liaise with parishes.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Public Toilets – to discuss the future of these facilities. Some of the locks do not work at present. Should the locks be replaced? Cllr. White met with a specialist who was surprised at the size of the unit here in Bampton; considered that the focus should be the one disabled toilet and use contactless together with a radar key in order to access this toilet. It would be accessible and inclusive. Cllr. L. Bull enquired if the other 3 toilets units could be used for storage. There is not a great deal of need for additional storage at present. Could the units be rented out for storage. Cllr. Fouracres accepted that it is costly to replace the locks; perhaps keep the toilets at each end of the unit. Outline of cost for replacements. It is a considerable asset to have toilets. Cllr. L. Bull considers that a consultation over the summer should be held and is minded to not have the doors fixed whilst consulting with the public. Resolved. Proposed by Cllr. L. Bull to consult prior to making any decisions. All agreed by show of hands.

8) Speedwatch – both the Police and some volunteers are still keen to pursue Speedwatch actions – to appoint a councillor to assist with these actions. District Cllr. Binks has been in touch with the previous volunteers and is arranging a meeting.

9) Open Spaces – to receive a report from the Open Spaces Committee.

- i. Grass cutting programme – Cllrs. yet to meet with Countrywide; Clerk to send Cllr. L. Bull their contact details.
- ii. Parish maintenance person – ongoing.
- iii. Weekly reports on the play areas yet to be received by the Clerk. They are being done and this is filed in Teams. Cleaning Station Road play area of moss – Cllr. Boyles has been in contact with the fire brigade who are going to clean the floor area of the playpark as part of their hose drill night. They are also going to clean up the wood play equipment at the recreation field. Many thanks to Cllr. Boyles for arranging this.
- iv. The blocked leat –a gully sucker is probably needed. Cllr. White to action.
Standing orders suspended
Parishioner asked about Station Road play park.
Standing orders resumed.

10) PLANNING:

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

- i. 24/00215/PIP Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 3 dwellings, Land at NGR 295303 121655 (South of Scotts Quarry), Bampton.

Resolved to object for the reasons listed below.

1 In-principle the site is not suitable for multiple residential development

2 The application is outside the settlement line of Bampton Parish.

3 The criteria for qualification as a Rural exception site in Policy DM6 requires up to date evidence of housing need. The MDDC report Demand for Housing Need July 2023 states that there is a demand for 15 dwelling in Bampton. This need should be satisfied by the proposed development by MDDC of 18 affordable dwellings at School Close, Bampton. That site is within the settlement line and well located for pedestrian access to the town.

4 The case in this application for a self build project is not backed up by any evidence of demand or any eligibility for shared ownership housing.

5 Access onto the B3227 would be hazardous. It is narrow and there is a sharp bend.

6 In a previous application for residential development (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. This is counter to MDDC's quoted aim in the Mid Devon Plan, "to avoid significantly increased travel by car".

7 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.

8 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. The possibility of the introduction of destabilising changes since 2018 must be investigated.

- ii. 24/00105/HOUSE Conversion and extension of loft to provide additional living accommodation, 4 High Street, Bampton.
No comment
- iii. 24/00233/CAT Notification of intention to reduce 1 magnolia tree and to remove dead/diseased areas 1 cherry tree in conservation area, Polden Frog Street
No comment

Planning Decisions:

11) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	SW Water – Old Store	£31.25	DD
	SW Water – toilets	£195.88	DD
	DALC – attendance to conference	£108.00	BACs
	Employment February	£848.20	BACs
	Rediweld Traffic Products pro forma	£3063.67	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans February	£350.00	BACs
	LARCS – room hire	£42.00	BACs
	M.Eventures – Fair deposit 2024	£175.00	BACs
	Countrywide – grass cuts	£582.38	BACs
	P3 Team expenses	£52.25	BACs
	Edge It – Accounts package 2 nd year	£492.00	BACs

Judi Thomas – bin bags

£8.07

BACs

Income: Public Sector Deposit Fund December & January totals £1146.66 re-invested

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.

12) Budget vs Actual Spend Q3 – circulated to finance committee prior to this meeting; noted.

13) Risk Assessments – Council and Open Spaces Risk Assessments to be noted and agreed for 2024. Circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. Resolved to agree the current Risk Assessments.

14) Social Media Policy – to resolve this policy is up to date. Circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. Noted and agreed.

15) Social Media Strategy – to discuss. To agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. L. Bull informed that Council have a good following and engagement on Fb. Minded to continue with Fb for the present time. Perhaps build in more regular posting + perhaps a quarterly online newsletter. Clerk to send monthly copy for Signpost to both Cllr. Boyles and Cllr. L. Bull.

16) Town and Parish Charter – for discussion. Clerk to put the charter into Teams.

17) Devolution in Devon – any comments; consultation is on until the 24th of March. Devon wish to hear the “local council voice”. Council have noted the consultation. Consider it is a steamroller and Council have reservations with only 2 district councillors likely to be appointed out of the 8 districts. This devolution deal could be very costly. Hard to see where the benefits are for towns and parishes.

18) Clerk’s report (for information only)

- i. Clerk has 7 days holiday remaining (1.5 weeks) to the end of this holiday year. Request to either have these days moved into the next holiday year or to be paid. Council resolved to pay for the 1.5 weeks (18 hours).
- ii. The two Footpath wardens have produced an excellent report for Devon County Council’s P3 footpath scheme. Council thanks them both for their good work in the past year.

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) Tender Process for Installation of the Pump Track –discussed. Resolved to appoint Forte Trailscapes. Proposed by Cllr. N. Bull to have the full installation done in one go and for Council to fund the play items and landscaping from savings and reserves. All agreed by show of hands.

20) Replacement/upgraded Website – quotes received for discussion. Cllr. L. Bull explained how a website would be built. Four quotes have been sourced. Cllr. L. Bull proposed including the upgrade of the fair website with the Council website. Resolved. Cllr. Fouracres proposed to go with Freaky by Design a Wix website for both the Council and the Fair . All in favour by show of hands.

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm in the LARC building. (The 1st April is a Bank Holiday).

Meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Email circulations during the past month

ConnectMe Devon (sent 12/02)

DALC bulletin 06 (sent 15/02)

DALC Bulletin 07 (sent 26/02)

DALC bulleting 08 (sent 29/02)

DALC Bulletin 09 Devolution (sent 04/03)