

Bampton Fair Committee

**The minutes of a meeting of Bampton Fair Committee held on Monday 7th April 2025
5.15 pm in the LARC for the purpose of transacting the following business.**

Present – Cllr. White (Chairman); Cllr Fouracre; Cllr. Grabke; Cllr Brooker; Cllr L Bull; Cllr L Brock; Peter James; Ed Small and Ed Tanner.

In attendance: Jill Larcombe, Clerk.

1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence: Apologies were accepted from Cllr B Boyles and Cllr N Bull.

2) Declarations Of Interest: No interests declared.

3) Public Discussion. No members of the public present.

4) Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of meeting held on the 3rd March 2025. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

5) To discuss and approve entertainment acts

Cllr White reported that he has booked Pedal Power v Parkour and signed a contract

Chloe Marie Aston - the piano bike girl has been booked again.

It was agreed that he could book the Punch and Judy show and also Marvellous Adventures again as they have been good value.

The Fire eaters have not been booked at this point. They would be a night time act.

The ambulance will need to be booked for a longer period. Cllr White to find out what the additional cost will be.

Cllr Grabke will get the school PTFA involved and will try and get a member to come to the fair committee meetings.

7) To receive an update on musical entertainment and agree the budget

A budget of £1,500 was agreed.

Mr Tanner and Mr Parish reported:

One act (Rob Thomas) has been booked and that is confirmed. A check to be made to see if he is on Facebook so that he can be promoted.

They are in discussion with a country band.

Tiverton Pannier Market often showcase young people. Tom Nott, Pannier Market Manager, to be approached and asked if anyone or any group would be willing to do a thirty minute session.

An Open Mike session was suggested for the evening.

There will need to be a 5 – 10 minute changeover time between acts. Two or three people from last year are willing to help out.

8) Update on stall holders' applications

Stall holder bookings continue to come in. Cllr White is updating the spreadsheet.

The committee will need to think about promotion over the next couple of months.

The extension into the evening is still a bit chicken and egg.

The evening musical entertainment needs to be under a different hat. Evening acts will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk has had a couple of phone calls from potential stall holders who are concerned about having to stay to 9pm. No movement of vehicles can be allowed so people will not be able to leave at 6pm. Only the stall holders in the Church will be able to pack up earlier. The committee felt that if we lose a few stall holders we do. Most stall holders are happy with the plan to extend into the

evening.

Evening stewarding is a concern at present, and it was suggested that an approach could be made to a trained volunteer group.

Parking is an issue, stallholders will have to walk back up the hill at the end of the day.

As the fair is held at the end of October weather is also an issue.

9) To receive feedback on the stall holder survey

The feedback on investment and effort was positive.

Most stall holders are happy to stay open for longer. Ending at 5 – 6pm cuts off people who are working from attending the fair. The committee will need to think about lighting.

The variety of stall holders was well received. It was noted that some prices were at the higher end.

The network of regular fun fair stalls will be used to bring in other people.

Stall holders really liked the interaction with the team, they liked that they were available by email and they liked the social media.

This is the last fair before the Christmas fairs start.

The committee will consider moving the central focus to Brook Street.

10) To discuss the future running of the fair by the fair becoming a charity

Bampton Town Council is the body accountable for running Bampton's Charter Fair and it relies on this committee to arrange and run it. Most of the committee are councillors who have been elected for a four year term which is a risk to the future of the fair. The previous Council took the fair under its wing and have kept it safe, but it is now time to move it on in order to protect the future of the fair and make it more sustainable. 2028 will be the 770th anniversary of the charter being granted.

Members of the committee have been looking at setting up Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to take on responsibility for the organisation and running of the fair and to celebrate its legacy and heritage. A group of trustees would be needed who would have a constant ongoing interest in the fair but they wouldn't have to be hands on. They would be accountable to the Charity Commission. It was suggested that whoever was Chair of Bampton Town Council would be a trustee. The committee could continue to do the hand on work. Becoming a CIO would pull people in from the community. It is becoming more difficult to get sponsorship and committee members have to work harder to get it. The committee are grateful to everyone that has given sponsorship but access to money would be better as there are more pots of money available to charities.

Better funding would give the opportunity to improve the layout of the fair and the entertainment. The Council would not have to fund as much. This couldn't be done in time for this year's fair but over the next four years it could be made more sustainable.

Members did look at forming a Community Interest Company (CIC), which is a bit different, but a COC can apply for different pots of money.

An initial approach has been made to Bampton Visitor and Heritage Centre to see if they would be willing to be involved in setting this up as they have other legacy projects. Gift Aid could be claimed if their bank account was used. They are going through a period of transition and Judi Thomas is stepping down as Chair.

The Council has someone who would help with the application

People do not always know what being a Charter Fair means. Being a charity would make it easier to publicise.

This is just an outline proposal at the moment.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Bampton Town Council that a COC is formed to turn Bampton Charter Fair into a committee.

10) Date of the next Fair Committee meeting – Tuesday 6th May 2025.