



Bampton Town Council
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The Minutes of a Meeting of Bampton Town Council held in the LARC building on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Cllr's S Fouracres (Chair), B Boyles, L Bull, N Bull, R Grabke, R Jackson, D Manning and R White.

In attendance: County Cllr S Lodge, District Cllr C Adcock, two members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

160/04/26. Apologies and Acceptance for Absence. Apologies were received from District Cllr M Stratton.

161/04/26. Declarations Of Interest. Cllr Manning declared a personal interest

162/04/26. Public Discussion. The members of the public did not wish to speak.

163/04/26. Chairman's Report. Cllr Fouracres paid respect to Doug Parish who had died recently. Doug was a valued member of Bampton Town Council's Charter Fair Committee and worked hard to source musicians and help organise the musical entertainment on fair day. Condolences were given to his wife, family and friends. The Council is temporarily without a regular cleaner for the toilets. Arrangements are being made to keep the toilets clean.

Work has been carried out at Ford Road and it is much improved.

There has been a small amount of vandalism at the toilets and the Millenium Green.

Plans for a project for the Motte and Bailey were made public recently.

Information about the project will be given to the Council and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr Fouracres attended a Devon Resilience Forum event and he feels Bampton is well catered for in the event of an incident. Communication is a concern everywhere.

Councillors were reminded about a planning training session that DALC has organised. Cllr Fouracres is planning to attend a session DALC is holding to discuss councils working together in clusters. Councillors will discuss this idea during a future meeting. Councillors were invited to join the Open Spaces Committee walkaround of the Council's assets on April 11th at 10am.

164/04/26. Reports

a) County Councillor. A written report from Cllr Lodge was circulated by email earlier in the day. He noted DCC employees are allowed one day's leave a year to support community initiatives. During March he met with Dominic Scotting, Neighbourhood Highways Officer, to look at Ford Road and other areas of concern. The road at Windwhistle is too bad for pothole repair. DCC has a Highways Community Maintenance Fund and a Road Warden Scheme and Cllr Lodge is encouraging cross parish working and Road Wardens from different parishes working together. Road Wardens do not have to be a councillor and can be recruited from within the community. Training is provided and once trained that person can oversee volunteers. DCC provide insurance. Everyone was encouraged to report potholes on the DCC website.

Cllr Boyles has been trying to report an issue on the road at Banfields, Shillingford but has been getting a response that it not owned by DCC. She believes it is owned by DCC and will pass details to Cllr Lodge.

Cllr Lodge and the District Councillors will be holding a surgery on Saturday 11th April between 2.30pm and 4.00pm in the Town Council office at 2 Newton Square.

b) District Councillor. A written report from the District Cllr's was circulated by email at the end of March and the contents relating to Bampton were noted. Cllr Adcock gave a brief update on LGR. An Open Day is planned for anyone interested to look around the new housing development at School Close. The reports have been added to the Council website.

165/04/26. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

166/04/26. Bampton Fair Committee. Cllr White reported on the committee meeting which was held earlier in the evening. Doug Parish and his contribution to the work of the committee was remembered. Preparations for the fair are all going according to plan.

167/04/26. Open Spaces Committee

a) Hollett Garden: following the approval of planning application 26/00154/CAT the pine tree has been removed. The volunteers have started tidying up the garden.

b) Public toilets. Councillors discussed the three options for the replacement of the two end toilet doors which were to either agree to install new metal doors with a contactless payment system (cost about £12,000 + VAT), install two new metal doors (cost £5,248 + VAT) or repair the wooden doors. The contactless payment system would cost £20 per month for the wi-fi connection to the doors. A new metal door on the disabled toilet would open outwards which would make it easier to use. It was agreed to purchase the metal doors using the funding left in the 2025-26 budget and the balance to be taken from the 2026-27 budget. It was suggested that the metal safes from the previous payment system could be adapted to take donations. If there is no charge people do not always respect the facility. A QR code option for donations was also suggested but there is a risk of scams and it would need to be checked weekly.

c) Play Equipment. The new play equipment has been ordered. The Clerk will chase the company for an installation date.

168/04/26. Planning:

a) Planning applications - Mid Devon District Council has asked for observations from the Town Council on planning application/s received before the meeting.

26/00401/LBC Listed Building Consent for replacement of lime render to front elevation. Location: 10 Brook Street, Bampton. Comment: no objection.

b) Planning application for notification only. 26/00363/PNAG Prior Approval for the erection of an agricultural storage building. Location: Land at NGR 295888 121508 Lower Bowbier, Bampton. Noted.

c) Planning decisions: to note the following decisions made by MDDC. 25/01645/FULL Erection of 1 bedroom annexe and car port following demolition

of existing barns. Location: Frandale Farm, Shillingford. Decision: conditional approval granted.

25/01775/FULL Erection of roof covering over existing farmyard. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 296169 122420 Kersdown Barton, Ford Road, Bampton. Decision: conditional approval.

26/00016/CLU Certificate of lawfulness for the existing summerhouse and greenhouse to be used incidental to, and to the enjoyment of Greenstreet Cottage. Location: Greenstreet Cottage, Bampton. Decision: granted.

26/00054/FULL Variation of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 20/01789/FULL (Change of use of hall solely for use by holiday makers to public use) to: The development hereby permitted shall not be used other than as a function hall: a. where the function hall is booked in conjunction with the use of the holiday accommodation at Duvale Priory, for a maximum of 130 people at any one time inclusive of the occupiers of the holiday accommodation; or b. where the function hall is not booked in conjunction with the use of the holiday accommodation at Duvale Priory, a maximum of 130 people minus the number of persons occupying the holiday accommodation. Location: Buildings at NGR 294446 120596. Decision: conditional approval granted.

26/00106/PNCOU Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural buildings to 1 dwelling under Class. Location: Pixton Woodlands Land and Buildings at NGR 293433 122041 South Molton Road, Bampton. Decision: permission refused.

26/00203/CAT Notification of intention to fell 2 Cupressus Leylandii trees within a Conservation Area. Location: Littlebrook Cottage, Frog St, Bampton. Decision: no objection.

c) Any other planning matters. The circulation of the presentations from the MDDC Planning Training Session held on Thursday 26th March 2026 was noted. The Clerk had attended online.

169/04/26. Vehicle Activated Speed Warning Signs. To consider a request from the Community Speedwatch Group for speed warning signs and for BTC to sign up for Twenty is Plenty scheme. Cllr Manning explained to councillors that he is a member of the Community Speedwatch Group as is Cllr Adcock and Cllr Gardner from Morebath Parish Council. Exe Valley Rotary Club has been administering the Sheila Howell Fund and they have agreed to give £5,000 of the remaining £6,100 towards Vehicle Activated Speed Warning Signs for Bampton. Sites need to be approved by DCC Highways and they need to be on land owned by DCC. Five posts will be required and it is believed that DCC will pay for these their installation. CSW members will take responsibility for moving the signs between the posts. Quotes have been obtained for the signs with rechargeable batteries. Bampton Town Council will receive the funding and will purchase the signs. The marking of a disabled parking bay in Station Road carpark is still outstanding and this needs to be done quickly. Consideration will be given to marking two disabled bays.

170/04/26. Town Councillor Surgeries; to discuss holding regular surgeries in the office. It was agreed to hold Councillor Surgeries in the Council's office on the third Saturday morning of May, June and July from 10.00 to 12.00. This will allow time for any items to be added to the agenda of the next Council meeting. Two councillors will be present at each session. Cllr White and Cllr Boyles volunteered

to do the first one on 16th May.

171/04/26. Town Council Social Media Communication: to discuss whether the public should be allowed to comment on all social media posts and the Council's duty of care to those posting. A report written by Cllr L Bull was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to review and update the Social Media Policy and include an escalation strategy to shut down comments where necessary. The rules of libel and defamation need to be understood. The policy will make it clear that some posts will not have the option for comments.

172/04/26. Finance:

a) Payments for approval. It was resolved to make the following payments:

LARC	Hire of room for Council meeting	£24.00
Scribe	Annual subscription for accounts software	£705.60
DALC	Annual affiliation fee	£660.63

b) To note Direct Debits & fees paid in March. Noted.

Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service fee	£7.00
Lloyds	Monthly charge for corporate card	£3.00
EDF Energy	Monthly DD for electricity for toilets	£77.35
Pennon Water	Water bill for old lockup	£42.89
Pennon Water	Water bill for toilets	£87.74
South West Hygiene Ltd	Sanitary & nappy bin emptying Public Toilets	£455.30

c) To report on payments made since the last meeting. Noted.

Janice Caunter	Cleaning toilets	£350.00
EWJ Tanner	Rent for office	£350.00
Four Seasons Tree Services Ltd	Pruning of fruit trees in Millenium Green Orchard	£888.00
H Brooker	Repairs to door at Public Toilets	£158.31
Mid Devon District Council	Emptying of 3 litter bins October - March	£468.00
Viking Direct	Chairs for office	£199.18
The Spotted Penguin Company Ltd	Four 6ft tables for office	£620.98
Mrs J Larcombe	Expense claim	£146.99
EDF	Electricity for office (January)	£281.32
EDF	Electricity for office (February)	£232.80

d) Receipts since the last meeting. Stall fees - £120.00 and car park -£10.00.

e) Request for grant funding. To consider a request from Bampton Allotment Association for a grant of £200. Cllr Manning declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chair of Bampton Allotment Association and left the room while this item was discussed. It was resolved to give a grant of £200.00. Cllr Manning returned to the room.

173/04/26. Clerk's Report. The Clerk reported that Mrs Hemingway, joint editor of the Signpost Newsletter was stepping down from the role. She was thanked for all her work over the years she had been editing Signpost.

174/04/26. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting. Tuesday 5th May 2026 (Change of day due to Spring Bank Holiday). Cllr Manning and Cllr Lodge gave their apologies.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Signed:
Chair

Date: