

Notes of the Public Forum. February 5th 2013

Mr Baker spoke of a recent planning application made by Duvale Barton. This is a holiday venue and the residents have held many long, loud parties there. A recent party lasted for three days with loud music still playing at 6am in the morning. The owner, Mr Underhill had responded to a phone call complaining about the noise by saying he would sort the situation out. The licensing hours for this property are clearly stated but ignored and MDDC have also been informed of the problem through a complaint made to them. Another neighbour of Duvale Barton added that she felt she had been under siege for several years. The Councillors were asked to add an addendum to their support for the recent planning application in the light of this information, which they agreed to do. Cllr Gilmour will write to the Planning Dept by 7th February 2013.

Cllr Stanley advised Mr Baker and the other neighbours affected by this noise nuisance to keep a diary of the noise levels and breach of licence in order to support their complaint. MDDC can also bring noise monitoring equipment to the site and look again at the number of complaints they have received.

Mr Kelland, on behalf of Morebath Cricket Club, asked whether it would be possible to create practice strips on the Recreation Ground. The club is lacking new players and it was thought it would be a benefit to the club and to potential cricketers in Bampton to have this facility. The practice strips would be situated in the far corner of the recreation ground and would not interfere with football pitch. The Councillors agreed that this would be a useful facility. Both funding and relevant permissions will be looked into.

Mrs Joan Fagg commented that she had sent an invitation for Councillors to attend a meeting of the Bampton Society with only two councillors attending as a result. As the invitation had only been received at very short notice it was suggested that, whilst appreciative of the information, a little more notice would be useful in future.

Mrs Fagg also advised that an invoice for a survey of the Public Rights of Way around Bampton would soon be with the council. Many local paths had been found impassable following recent adverse weather and work to improve the situation would have to be considered.

Mr Rowlands asked whether a Councillor would be attending the Planning Committee meeting at MDDC on February 6th as the new application

regarding the Scott's development would be discussed. Cllr Gilmour agreed to attend.

Mr Alan Woolley spoke regarding the Parish Plan. The questionnaire, having brought a 58% response, outlined several proposals to improve life in Bampton. The Steering Committee wished to continue with their work and produce a final report and Parish Plan. The cost of this would be in the region of £540. Cllr Tanner believed that, considering the financial support given so far by BTC, it was logical to support the creation of the final report. Further to this BTC would need to consider the recommendations in the plan to create and approve an Action Plan. Mr Woolley advised that although the Steering Committee would shape the Action Plan BTC would have to take ownership of it and would be responsible for any actions undertaken. The Councillors decided that a Special Meeting should be called to discuss the matter in full and to review the points made. Judy Thomas of the Steering Group offered to provide a presentation to the committee at this meeting and this offer was accepted.

A final suggestion was made by Mr Les Hartley that a new venue for the Council meetings should be found, with consideration given to both the numbers wishing to attend the Public Forum and ease of access. Assurance was given that this matter is under consideration.

Bampton Town Council

Have a vacancy for

A Town Clerk.

Please send applications for this position to

bamptontownclerk@hotmail.co.uk or by post to
The Acting Town Clerk, Chapel Cottage, Mary Lane, Bampton, EX16 9LZ
By March 14th2013.

Previous applications for this post will still be considered.

Hours and salary are to be discussed at interview.

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council
Held on
February 5th 2013.**

1. Members present were Brian Smith (Chairman) Rodney Baker, Keith Pitt, Edward Tanner, Jean Pope, Rachel Gilmour, Jack Ward, Bill Weston. Apologies were received from Francis Stoner. Councillors Polly Colthorpe and Ray Stanley were also present.

2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on January 8th 2013 were agreed as a true record.

3. There was no business arising from those minutes.

4. Lots of positive feedback had been received regarding the work of Steve Blasby, the snow warden. Thanks were received in a letter from a resident of Mary Lane noting that the lane had been gritted for the first time in 11 years of living there and that the public tap had been repaired to stop it dripping and adding to the ice. Cllr Pope said that the volunteers had worked really well together and it had been a useful logistical exercise which helped to create a practical plan of action with previously neglected areas now added to the list. The push-along gritter had proved to be very difficult to use. It was agreed to give a public thank you to both Steve Blasby and Tony Weiss through the Bampton website for their efficient work.

5. Cllr Colthorpe informed the Committee that annual budgets were now being prepared at County Hall and being reduced by necessity. Education and Well-being both suffer in comparison to large cities with Devon now sixth from the bottom of the national education budgets.

Council Tax is expected to freeze for the year 13/14 as far as local councils are concerned.

Road repairs are now being assessed and carried out through the Belwin Scheme. This is money from central Government to repair highways damaged through floods and snow. Claims must be made within two months of the damage and Cllr Colthorpe asked for a list of repairs in Bampton.

Landfill charges are to increase by £8 per tonne in the next financial year But recycling rates are also down, 50% of the rubbish in black bags could be recycled; a new policy of education is required regarding recycling generally.

A letter had been received from Nicky Ridley at Manor Mill stating that the gully by New Buildings is full of mud and rubbish. The Parish Lengthsman

needs to be made aware and Mrs Ridley to be informed when he is likely to be expected to deal with this. Cllr Pitt agreed to deal with this.

The Councillors expressed the need for warning signs on the A396 south of Bampton to warn of deer crossing the road.

Cllr Stanley informed the committee that £250,000 had been raised through solar panels on public buildings in the last year. He added that the Clare and Shuttern ward is definitely being targeted by companies wanting to set up wind and solar farms. MDDC is currently formulating a policy on these developments.

6. Finance.

The car park takings for January were £33.14 on the 11th and £36.45 on the 25th.

Bank balances as at 30th January:

Scottish Widows	£36,457.72
HSBC	£17,616.84

January Payments.

M.Morgan	£310.00
J.Eyre	£233.00
P.Beckwith	£448.00
Speedy Asset Services	£240.00
Andrew Hole	£ 32.70
Caxtons	£ 15.50
K.Pitt	£ 7.00
Riverside Hall	£ 25.00

Invoices to pay at January 31st 2013-02-18

MDDC	£5572.08
M.Morgan	£310.00
Bampton website	£100.00

Incoming funds.

£523.15	Car park takings and Allotment Association repayment
£113.98	Interest

Cllr Tanner is to become an additional signatory on the Scottish Widows account.

7. Cllr Weston declared an interest on a neighbouring property regarding Ref: 13/00061/FULL. Application approved
Ref: 13/00148/Full. Application to lift restriction approved.

8. The Pump House.

A request for tenders is to be advertised on the Bampton website by 20th February. Cllr Pitt to action this.

Millennium Green. Insurance cover is required for the ball park. It was not previously insured by BTC as it was believed to belong to the M.G.Trust. A list of works for the site carries a cost of £2,500, half of which will be met by BTC. A site meeting was proposed at the Millennium Green on Monday 18th February to assess the current situation. Cllr Pope and others to attend. Cllrs Brown and Pitt had met with Mr Brown, the owner of a field adjacent to the Millennium Green, to discuss the possibility of a hawthorn hedge being planted. Mr Brown wanted a hedge to prevent children getting near to his horse which bites. Cllr Smith did not think that BTC would have the necessary funds to maintain a hedge on this site. The Councillors did agree to clear overhanging branches which may damage his post and rail fence. Cllr Pope thought that this could be dealt with by volunteers and agreed to look into it. She also noted that the three rubbish bins on the site were not being emptied by MDDC and they are to be asked to deal with this.

Appointment of Town Clerk. The Town Council is now in possession of the requisite paperwork which Cllr Tanner will distribute with a view to coming to decision on this matter.

The precept for Bampton. The request for a precept of £36,192 was signed and sent to MDDC. This is the same amount as was requested last year.

Dog waste bins. The new dog waste bins will be put up by Cllr Pope with assistance from Tony Weiss. One was requested for Mary Lane but the collection truck is too large to enter the lane so one will be situated at the end of Barnhay.

Recycling bins on Station Road car park. If these become full before the collection date a special collection will be arranged by MDDC. Cllrs Pope and Smith will keep an eye on the situation.

Path to Woodland Court. This path is the responsibility of Devon County Council who hold funds for it's maintenance. The Parish Lengthsman has been working on the path recently.

The AGM of the Town Council will take place in May 2013. Cllr Tanner is to book the venue and date.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday March 5th 2013.