

Minutes of the meeting of Bampton Town Council held on Monday 4th December 2023, 7pm in the LARC building.

Present – Cllr. Fouracres (Chairman); Cllr. Grabke; Cllr. Brooker; Cllr. White; District Cllr. Adcock; District Cllr. Gilmour; Cllr. L. Bull; Cllr. N. Bull; Cllr. Boyles; Cllr. Brock; County Cllr. Chesterton; 3 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk).

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

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. Cllr. White a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12b.

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.

Parishioner regarding a talk held at the Toucan by Andy McDonald about Sir Edwin Dunning who revitalised Bampton back in the 1900's. A request to see if Sir Edwin could be recognised in some way in Bampton. Possibly name a road.

4) Chairman's Report (for information only) – no report this month.

5) County & District Councillor reports – written report received from County Cllr. Chesterton. Written reports received from both District Cllrs. All attached to these minutes for circulation.

6) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2023 and the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 6th November 2023. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Open Spaces – to receive a brief report on the walk around carried out 16th November. Cllr. White took the walk and indicated that it is now clear to the new councillors what areas the Council are responsible for. Noted that there are three bins at the Millennium Green, 2 of which do not have covers. Thanked to those who attended.

- i. To consider having the path from Scotts to the town swept of leaves. This is not done by Highways. Cllr. Gilmour will see if she can arrange for a man with a sweeper to attend.
- ii. To consider cutting the grass opposite the Railway Garden as soon as possible so the crocus bulbs have a chance to show in the spring. Too late to cut now. This grass is also the responsibility of Highways to keep cut.

8) Pump Track – planning permission has been granted for the proposed pump track. S106 monies have now been applied for.

- i. Planning conditions state that an Ecological Management Plan has to be created – cost from Lee Ecology for such a plan is £875 – to agree actions and associated expenditure. Cllr. White proposed the management plan be sourced, all agreed by show of hands. Clerk to action.
- ii. Estimate of proposal of works received from Forte Trailscapes.

Standing orders suspended for Adam Padget.

Adam Padget will commence looking into grant funding for the project to meet the shortfall between the S106 monies and the estimate from Forte Trailscapes. Queried whether there were any legal difficulties with the proposed installation.

Standing orders resumed.

Council have written to the Charity Commission with the reasoning for the pump track. No response has been received.

Agenda January for funding decisions and update.

9) Station Road car park/toilets –

- i. To consider the installation of an EV charge point adjacent to the toilets. Cllr. White. Met with EVC Southwest based in Barnstaple who informed that there is not enough power at the toilets for a fast charge point as this would need three phase. There is a three phase lamp post within the car park that could be utilised provided Western Power agree. January agenda for updates. Cllr. Brooker will look into the possibility/costs of using the lamp post.
- ii. Disabled parking space; requires 3.6m width where the difference (1.2m) is yellow hatched to enable sufficient access for wheelchair users. The space should be identified by the wheelchair logo and an appropriate sign at driver's eye level. To consider where best to site such a parking space in Station Road car park. Cllr. Brooker and Cllr. Fouracres will look at space available in the car park. Agenda January.

10) Traffic Island – to receive an update from Cllr. Fouracres. January agenda.

11) Christmas – to receive a report on the installation of the trees and the switch on of the Christmas lights. Cllr. L. Bull thanked everyone who helped with the installation of Christmas in Bampton. 70 mini trees up this year, all volunteers. The big tree kindly donated by Gary Ellicott. Thanks to our local fire brigade who were very helpful with installation and also at the lights switch on. Thank you Robbie, Brian and Paul for turning the lights on. Thanks too to Cllr. White and Cllr. Grabke; it was great fun. The trees will be taken down 6/7th January. A suggestion was made that all volunteers should be mentioned and thanked individually so that they are all recognised. This could be a little unwieldy to put in place.

12) PLANNING:

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

- a) 23/01785/CAT Notification of intention to fell 3 fir trees in conservation area, Belle Vue, Morebath Hill, Bampton.
No objection
- b) 23/01797/01799/01800 HOUSE/LBC Replacement of roof material to rear garden room lean-to with standing seam metal roof and front elevation windows to timber sash double glazed windows, 8 Brook Street, Bampton.
NO COMMENT
- c) 23/00696/FULL Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 17/01543/FULL – revised drawings land at New Park, Bampton.

OBJECTION –

Bampton Town Council continue to object to the revision of plans. The original plan was for two upmarket holiday lodges at a specific position on the site, instead two low end lodges have been erected lower down and nearer to a neighbours boundary than shown on the plan. Council is also concerned that the drainage and foul water issues have not been resolved.

Planning Decisions:

- a) 23/01614/FULL Erection of a dwelling, The Vicarage, Barnhay.
GRANTED

13) FINANCE:

Expenditure:	RBL for poppy wreath	£50.00	BACs
	Share of pitch fees to Church	£245.00	BACs
	Lord of the Manor – Fair fee	£100.00	Cq
	Employment November	£835.60	BACs
	Edge It Systems – Annual fee Microsoft	£914.42	BACs
	Edge It – initial set up Microsoft business	£728.40	BACs
	L. Bull – Xmas lights	£240.00	BACs
	Middleton – toilets repairs	£131.23	BACs
	Parish Online annual fee	£120.00	BACs
	J. Thomas – bin bags (litter)	£3.98	BACs
	Bampton Com Hub – Fair	£216.00	BACs
	Cove Garden Centre – plants	£455.85	BACs
	Edge It – Gold support contract	£387.12	BACs
	J. Caunter – toilet cleans	£350.00	BACs
	Countrywide – grass cuts	£582.38	BACs
	N.Stevens – Xmas trees	£1374.00	BACs
	West of England Fire – service extinguisher	£38.40	BACs
	L. Weller – footpath items	£7.35	BACs
	LARC – hire of meeting room	£42.00	BACs
	Citizens Advice – grant	£300.00	BACs
Income:	Xmas trees	£707.95	Sum Up
	Public Sector Deposit interest	£591.90	Reinvested

Bank Reconciliation circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Council resolved to accept the receipts and payments account. Proposed by Cllr. N. Bull, all agreed by show of hands.

14) Budget for 2024/2025 – circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting. For discussion and amendments where required. Cllr. Fouracres read out the notes pertaining to the full breakdown of expenditure figures. More work is required before the final presentation of a proposed budget at the January full council meeting.

15) Financial Reserves Policy – draft policy circulated prior to this meeting for consideration. Cllr. Fouracres proposed the policy is accepted with a 50% of current precept as the general reserve. All agreed by show of hands.

16) Citizens Advice grant request – a grant application form has been submitted requesting a grant of £300 from this financial year's budget. Resolved to pay the grant. Proposed by Cllr. Fouracres, all agreed by show of hands.

17) Buses – the fares for all journeys remain at £2 each way until the end of 2024. Cllr. Fouracres confirmed these figures taken from the Somerset bus partnership who have requested this to be widely circulated.

18) Clerk's Report (for information only)

- a) A bin request has been submitted to Streetscene at Mid Devon for Shillingford.
- b) Christmas close down/clerk's holiday. Finish close of business Thursday 14th December; re-open Tuesday 2nd January 2024. Agreed.

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) National Agreed Pay Award – to consider the national pay award for council employees; for discussion. Cllr. Fouracres proposed agreement to the national pay award increase for the Clerk. Resolved and all agreed by show of hands.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED: reports from Councillors

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on MONDAY 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm in the LARC building.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Email circulations during the past month

NALC Bulletin (sent 09/11)

DALC Bulletin 47 (sent 06/11)

DALC Newsletter 48 (sent 7 & 9 Nov)

DALC Bulletin 50 (sent 15/11)