

Bampton Town Council

DRAFT MINUTES

These minutes will be agreed at the meeting due to be held on 2nd December 2024 and might be subject to slight amendment

Members Present – Cllr S Fouracre (Chair); Cllr B Boyles; Cllr L Brock; Cllr R Brooker; Cllr L Bull; Cllr N Bull, Cllr R Grabke and Cllr R White.

In attendance: District Cllr C Adcock; 5 members of the public and Mrs J Larcombe (Interim Clerk).

1. **Apologies and Acceptance for Absence.** Apologies were received from County Cllr R Chesterton. Cllr D Whiteway was not present and had not sent his apologies.
2. **Declarations Of Interest.** No declarations of interest.
3. **Public Discussion.** A member of the public congratulated the Bampton Fair Committee on the great fair, great website and great weather.
The Conservative candidate for the DCC County Council elections in May 2024 introduced himself. Cllr Chesterton will be standing for a different ward.
Some residents of Woodland Close and Bathern Close formed a working party and cleared leaves etc from the pedestrian link which runs from Scotts to the Industrial Estate in Bampton but more is needed. Where the path joins the highway at Scotts the is poor because of an overgrown hedge. Cllr Fouracre reported he had spoken to the driver of the road sweeper that was in Bampton on Friday and asked him if he could clean the pavements. Unfortunately, the vehicle is too heavy t be used on the pavements. Checks will be made to find out who is responsible for clearing the footpaths. It was noted the path was being cleared on a regular basis in the past but this suddenly stopped.

Cllr L Bull joined the meeting at this point.

4. **To receive an update on plans for Christmas 2024.** Cllr L Bull thanked the businesses in the town who are pulling together on arrangements and said it was lovely to have a whole community event. Various activities and performances are being organised from 3pm on 6th December.
A grant of £5,000 has been received from MDDC following a successful application for funding from the Love Your Town Centre Scheme (Vibrant Town Centres).
William Sitwell is working with businesses to organise a food safari around the town
Cllr L Bull will be meeting with Sam in the next couple of weeks to go over all the arrangements.
It is planned to have some stalls in Silver Street.
The primary school are decorating the large tree, and they will be singing at the event on 6th December.
The large tree cannot be donated this year and one will have to be purchased.
Help is needed on Sunday 1st December to put up the 73 small trees through the town.
Volunteers were asked to meet at 8.30am.
Cllr L Bull will check the lights are all in working order. If necessary, replacements will be purchased.

Four members of the public left the meeting.

5. Chairman's Report (for information only). Cllr Fouracre thanked the Fair Committee for all their hard work. The Fair had been a great success.

He reported he had attended the DALC/DCC Highways Department Zoom meeting Which had discussed how DCC is tackling the challenges of maintaining our roads. He felt the Highways team work very hard but it comes down to not having enough money for road maintenance in Devon.

The Government has opened a consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. The deadline for responses is 19th December 2024 and this will be added to the agenda for the December meeting. Should the Government agree to this the Council would need to think about the equipment it would need to purchase.

The defibrillator purchased recently is intended for the Football Club and there is an empty cabinet that it can go into. Cllr Grabke will contact Ryan.

Bampton Town Council will be laying a Remembrance Wreath at the War Memorial on 10th November at 11.00am. Councillors to meet at the Church at 10.45am.

Action: Cllr Grabke to contact Ryan about the defibrillator being installed at the football club.

6. County & District Councillor Reports. No County Cllr Report.

A written report from Cllr Adcock was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Adcock referred to the Discharge of Planning Obligations 24/01294/DPO, Quarryman Close, Bampton: The developer (Fortbury Homes) seeks to be released from a S106 agreement to build 4 affordable homes and contribute £83,643. The site of the last 4 in the development remains an eyesore. MDDC is getting a 3rd party review of the case for nonviability.

7. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th October 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

8. Charter Fair Report from Cllr White. Cllr White reported that sometimes it seems a rather daunting task arranging the Bampton Charter Fair, especially when there was change of office staff two months before the event. However, with the Bampton Fair committee he thought it could safely be said it was pulled it off, in style!

There was a lot the committee arranged but the weather was not one of the things they had much sway over, so thank you to the people in higher authority for arranging a near cloudless sky to welcome the 766th Charter Fair.

A list of thanks is not always a great read, but in this case a very necessary one as the Charter Fair is an event that brings the whole community together. He mentioned in his letter to the very generous sponsors that they say it takes a village to raise a child, well it certainly takes a group of very generous sponsors to raise a fair. So, firstly thank you to all the sponsors both new and old for digging deep and a thank you to Cllr Belinda Boyles for rounding the sponsors up.

Our Facebook and social media presence has gone through the roof, and our new website is a triumph. The village are indebted to Cllr Lucy Bull, Cllr Nick Bull, and Cllr Belinda Boyles for their hard work and ingenious thinking to keep the posts coming thick and fast. It was great being able to not only promote the sponsors but also the stall holders.

Another invaluable source of help is the 40+ stewards that give up their time for the fair. Without them the fair could not happen so he applauded them all from the roof

tops and tipped his hat to them, they are all total stars!

Chris Adams was thanked for wiring up the marquee; Jill Doig for letting us use the lane for the ponies; Mr and Mrs Dalton for letting us use the electricity for the marquee; Ed and Rebecca at Dunning House for letting the cars for the craft tent park in their drive; Dave and Nathaniel on loan from Castle Grove for putting up all the banners around the village and Cllr Rachel Grabke and Ed Tanner for helping to arrange the PTFA and hosting the PTFA tent in the courtyard. It was wonderful to see the children and school so involved in the fair and great to see it raising money for the worthy cause of the school.

Ed Tanner and Dougie Parish were thanked for the musical acts. They did a fantastic job and every time I went past there were people enjoying the performers hard work. To our chief cone deployment officer in the shape of Adam Pagett and sign deployment in the form of Cllr Richard Brooker, a hearty thank you! A tiring job but hugely appreciated.

Also Cllr Simon Fouracres, quietly printing, laminating, putting clip boards together and seemingly finding tannoy's from under his desk! We would be lost without you and who knew a tannoy was so much fun?!

David Small once again did a fantastic job with the chicken auction. It was very much left in his hands and he did not disappoint. It was so heart-warming to see the auction back in town.

Thank you to The Flickering Cauldron who so generously offered their shop as our headquarters. It was a brilliant central location and very kind of you to allow us to use it. An enormous pat on the back was given to the committee who all bring humour, great ideas, dedication to the party. Truly without them the fair would not take place. The teamwork is breath-taking and long may it last.

Finally, and it is hard to believe, but apparently in the build-up to the fair he was a little short tempered, so an enormous thank you to his family for putting up with him. Less 365 days till the next one!

Cllr White was thanked by the Council for successfully leading on organising the fair. Cllr Grabke reported the School PTFA had raised about £850 and the school now has enough money to replace the heat pump for the school swimming pool.

9. Open spaces:

9.1. Update on replacement of the lids on the 2 bins at the Millennium Green. Cllr Fouracre has found suitable lids for the bins and these will be ordered.

9.2. Update on securing the map of Bampton sign on the Stage. Unfortunately the lengthman has had an operation which has delayed the work but it will be done as soon as possible.

9.3. Update on discussions about finger posts as signage within the town. Judi Thomas reported that a lot of work has gone into researching style, materials and location and a final decision needs to be made on the style.. Six signposts will be erected on Council owned land and that should be enough to help people find their way around Bampton. QR codes could be added to the posts to give more information. Sources of funding need to be identified. One possibility is the shared prosperity fund.

9.4. Clearance of leaves from footpaths. The first step is to find out who is responsible. The first suggestion was for the Council to purchase a sweeper but it was decided to get some quotes for hiring one and discuss further at the December meeting. A sweeper could be hired for a weekend and a working party arranged. Cllr N Bull asked about insurance implications and it was noted that Cllr Brooker is part of the volunteer group. Consideration will be given to other places

in the parish that it could be used by the Open Spaces Committee. South Molton Road and Morebath Road were suggested. It was suggested the leaves that are swept up could be added to a community compost heap. Uffculme Parish Council could be asked for some tips.

Action: Cllr Grabke to obtain quotes to hire a sweeper.

9.5. To discuss the Rospa Play Area Inspection reports. Councillors recognised that the play area at Station Road is an issue and needs investment. The equipment is coming up to 20 years old but is still used a lot by children walking between the and school. Where there has been investment into play equipment there are not the same issues and it was felt that it was not worth spending a lot on repairs here. Cllr L Bull suggested looking into finding funding to regenerate the equipment and to get a professional company to put together a project. Active gym equipment was also suggested. A consultation would need to be carried out to support applications for funding. This topic will be kept on the agenda as with the right team the project could get going quickly.

Options for pressure washing the equipment were discussed but the equipment needs to be strong enough to stand the force of pressure washing. The Finance will be meeting in December and funding for new equipment will be discussed then.

10. Hall update from Cllr White. Cllr White reported the site has now been cleared and signage has been put up. The surveyor visited the site on 10th October and his suggestions should be received shortly. A meeting will then be arranged.

11. Idling engines – to discuss the campaign plans. This item was deferred to the January/February meeting.

12. EV charging point: to receive an update on the Council's application to DCC for funding. Devon has been allocated £7million of funding for carbon reduction schemes but there has not been any feedback on how it will be used. Cllr Brooker filled in an expression of interest form during June. This will be kept on the agenda for December.

13. Planning

13.1. Planning applications - Mid Devon District Council has asked for observations from the Town Council on the following planning applications:

24/00994/HOUSE Conversion and extension of loft to provide additional living accommodation and engineering works to reduce ground level. Location: 4 High Street, Bampton, Tiverton (received 14.10.24). Councillors noted this is a more modest application and the neighbour has commented.

Observation: Bampton Town Council has looked at the plans and after consideration has no objections.

24/01599/FULL Erection of summer pavilion for use in connection with holiday Let. Location: Orchard Barn, Duval Barton, Bampton. (Received 31.10.24).

Observation: no objections.

13.2. Planning Decisions: to note the following decisions made by MDDC.

24/01308/HOUSE Erection of two-storey rear extension. Location: Myrtle Cottage, Shillingford, Tiverton. Decision: permission refused.

24/01113/FULL Alterations and repairs to existing garages. Location: Forde

House, Briton Street, Bampton. Decision: conditional approval granted.

13.3. Any other planning matters: to discuss an email raising significant concerns regarding workshops organized by the International School of Temple Arts (ISTA), scheduled to take place at Duvalé Priory located at Duvalé Barton, Bampton. The contents of the email were noted. It was reported this has been happening since 2017. Bampton Town Council cannot do anything regarding criminal activities.

15. FINANCE:

15.1. Agreement of Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024-25 and payment of back pay to previous Clerk/RFO. The Pay Agreement was noted and it was agreed to pay the previous Clerk the amount she was entitled to as the award was backdated to 1st April 2024.

15.2. Payments to be approved. It was resolved to approve the following payments:

MDDC - emptying litter bins April to September	£468.00
MDDC - play area inspections	£1,045.00
Four Seasons Tree Services – clean site	£2,268.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog waste bags	£190.62
J Caunter – toilet cleans October	£350.00
Mrs J Larcombe – expense claim for HI-viz jackets	£460.10
Mrs J Larcombe - Interim Clerking	£1,080.00
Specialist Medical Transport - medical cover for fair	£500.00
Contact Radio Communications Ltd - hire of radio equipment	£260.40

15.3. To report on payments made since the last meeting. Noted.

J Caunter - toilet cleans September	£350.00
MDDC - litter bin emptying 01.04.24 – 30.09.24	£468.00
Brendan Orchards - hire of equipment for Apple Day	£90.00
Adventure Okehampton - mobile climbing wall hire 31 st October	£560.00
Four Seasons Tree Services - weeding leat	£387.00
Bampton LARCS - hire of the LARC for 7 th October meetings	£42.00
Viking Office UK Ltd - supplies for toilets	£177.54
St Michael's Community Hall - hire of hall m defibrillator training	£20.00
EDGE IT Systems Ltd - IT Support Contract	£387.12
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance - grounds maintenance	£637.82
Viking - supplies for toilets	£177.54
Andrew Deptford – defibrillator & cabinet (Paid 09/09/24)	£1,524.00
Devon & Somerset Marquees – marquee hire for Charter Fair	£867.54
Bank charges 30.09.24	£10.96
Bank charges 31.10.24	£5.40

Cllr Boyles questioned the payment to Brendan Orchards for the hire of equipment for Apple Day and Cllr Fouracre said he had approved it. A more formal proposal will be required next year.

15.4. To report income received since the last meeting: The second half of the precept has been received. A full report of income received from the fair will be presented next month.

15.4. Bank reconciliation 31.08.24 and 30.09.24. The Interim Clerk has completed the 31.08.24 bank reconciliation and is working on the 30.09.24 reconciliation. She noted that she had started at the point when there were a lot of transactions because of the fair.

15.5. Budget v Actual: to receive a report for the period April to September 2024 and agree any necessary. The Interim Clerk is still learning how to produce reports from the accounts package but intends to have reports for the next meeting. A full picture of what is being spent on websites and IT is required. A Finance Committee meeting will be held on 12th December in preparation for setting the budget and agreeing the precept for 2025-26.

A Freedom of Information request has been received asking for information about the amount spent on Christmas lights, decorations and celebrities switching on the lights in 2023 and predicted for 2024. Councillors questioned whether the person asking for the information was thinking of Bampton in Oxfordshire rather than Bampton, Devon. The Clerk will ask him.

15.6. Review of Financial Regulations. It was agreed to adopt the amended Financial Regulations.

16. Clerks Report. Nothing further to report.

17. Date of the next Council meeting. 2nd December 2024 at 7.00pm in the LARC building. This will be preceded by a Fair Committee meeting at 5.15pm.

Items for Information

Email circulations during the past month

DALC E -bulletins

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:
Chair

Date: