

BAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH MARCH, 2011
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL BAMPTON**

Present: Cllrs. Terry Knagg (Chairman) Lynn Compton, Colin Fagg, Les Hartley, Celia Hicks, Lucie Moore, Francis Stoner. District Councillor Polly Colthorpe. Town Clerk Ann Guilfoyle

Item 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd June, 2010 were presented and signed.

Item 2. The Chairman spoke about the planning application at the Old Bampton School site and outlined the negotiations going on in connection with the access to the site. Bampton Town Council has always been of the opinion that though not ideal there should be an access in West Street as well as School Close to the site and that pedestrian safety should be the prime consideration.

Other achievements during the year included the opening of the Millennium Green Ball Park, the imminent refurbishment of the Station Road Playground, and the ongoing refurbishment of the public toilets. The recent snow and ice has prompted the inclusion of Bad Weather Planning into the Emergency Planning Scheme. A new Millennium Green Committee run jointly by members of the PCC and Bampton Town Council is making noticeable improvements and a further group consisting of members of the Community Hall, Riverside Hall and BTC members are investigating the creation of a new multi-purpose community hall. The Chairman also took the opportunity to introduce the new Tolly for Bampton Fair, Sherie Webber, who is taking over the role from Kelley Beeston.

Item 3. Alan Woolley, Chairman of the Bampton Parish Plan Steering Group, spoke about the progress of the Bampton Parish Plan and emphasised that this was a plan owned by the residents of Bampton and Shillingford to set out how they wished to see their community develop in the future. He announced that a questionnaire would be delivered to every house later in the year which would be the opportunity for everybody to participate by informing the Steering Group of their own and their family's needs for the future. This Parish Plan, when published, must legally be considered in future planning for the area and with power being devolved locally it is vitally important that residents make their requirements known.

Item 4. The Town Clerk reported that although the financial year still had three more weeks to run, the council is in a much healthier financial position than last year, with a balance of approximately £20,000 predicted, to be carried forward to next year. The Clerk added that this contingency was necessary as the funding for next year was still largely unknown and there is still ongoing refurbishment required to catch up on the lack of maintenance and investment in the past. Accounts for the year, when approved, will be published on the website, on the BTC Noticeboard and Signpost.

Item 5. Cllr. Polly Colthorpe gave a review of recent changes as far as DCC and MDDC are concerned. She informed the Meeting that MDDC was now in a good position as far as Reserves are concerned. She stated that there were approximately £55m cuts in the DCC budget, from a total of £1.3b. These were "front-loaded" and cuts in the budgets for next year should not be as deep. She was also able to re-assure the meeting that neither MDDC nor DCC had made "front-line" cuts and therefore should not impact too greatly - but belts should be tightened.

Item 6. Questions.

Dr. Chris Mew raised the question of the New Hall. He spoke of his concern about the health and longevity of the younger generations of Bampton families, due to lack of exercise. Although leisure facilities were available in a radius of 6 or 7 miles, he felt it was important to have more facilities locally to enable residents to make use of them easily and more often.

It was important to bear this in mind when considering possible sites for the new hall – particularly outside sports e.g. tennis and squash courts: bowling green . It would not be necessary to provide these things straight away but the site needs to be big enough to incorporate outdoor facilities at a later date. He went on to explain that the present Surgery was already running out of space and there was no room to provide extra NHS services which they would like and are being encouraged to provide locally.

Dr. Mew explained that he personally owns and paid for the present Surgery. He is of the opinion that enlargement of the present Community Hall site for a new multi-purpose Community Hall would not provide enough room and he considers it a priority to redevelop the area to allow room for additional facilities and further car parking for the Surgery.

Cllr. Hicks warned the meeting that the Riverside Hall was worn out and a new Community Centre was needed.

Paul Edwards explained that as ex-chairman of the New Hall committee, a number of sites were investigated, including the Station Road Car Park, but the overall view was in favour of developing the existing Community Hall, due to a lack of other suitable town centre sites. He felt that good leisure facilities were available in Tiverton.

Another consideration was the Recreation Ground at Morebath road which had access problems and of course was adjacent to the Motte and Bailey, a scheduled ancient site. When this land was given to BTC there was a codicil stating that no building apart from a Sports Pavilion should be placed on it.

Joan Fagg told the meeting of the previous Bampton Community Project Steering Group formed in 2001 which proposed to redevelop the Recreation Ground for Sports and Leisure Facilities. She pointed out that this site does not have to be ruled out. Although archaeological investigation is necessary it does not mean it cannot be used. Discussion followed about the field next to the Recreation Ground, with the public footpath crossing it. John Rudd said that when he was Chairman of BTC this field was offered to BTC for £4,000 and his proposal to purchase it was out-voted by the other councillors. Mrs. Rudd questioned how we could get youngsters to become involved. Cllr. Hartley explained that the questionnaire currently being worked on by the Parish Plan Steering Group will give the opportunity for every family member to express their view and become involved.

Chairman.....

Date.....