

Notes from the Public meeting 6th August 2013

Judi Thomas spoke regarding the Parish Plan, which she felt, was still not quite the finished article. The intention is to produce a leaflet for every household in Bampton that lists the priorities drawn from the survey. A further meeting of the Steering Committee is to be arranged which Jean Pope and Jack Ward agreed to attend, date and time to be confirmed.

Geoff Thomas spoke regarding the flash floods which occurred recently in Ilfracombe following the hot weather and wished to know what was the latest progress with the Flood Plan. The Chairman told him that it was an agenda item for the following meeting and thanked Mr Thomas for his continued interest and support.

Mr Colin Rowlands brought in some notices asking dog owners to keep dogs under control on farmland. He also wished to know what the situation was regarding the land previously rented to BTC for use as allotments. He had recently received the nominal rent from the Allotment Association but clarification was required as to who should hold the contract. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr Michael Rice spoke as the owner of the land on which the Shillingford Park is situated. He was unhappy with the false rumours circulating, particularly that he wants to close the park and that he tried to blackmail MDDC. He bought the site knowing that there was a further 18 months left of the contract to allow the park at a peppercorn rent of £5.00 a year. Mr Rice was then asked by MDDC to pay a sum of approximately £900 to cover an Outdoor Amenities Payment, further to this MDDC began discussions with BTC as to whether they would take over the management of the park. Mr Rice does not want the playground to close and a petition supporting the future of the park was well supported. He did, however, feel some regulation was required as there is one individual using the space as a driving range with golf balls going onto private land and remaining there uncollected which creates a hazard for both the landowner's dogs and livestock. Cllr Smith referred to a meeting between BTC and Steve Densham of MDDC who said there were plans to upgrade the park and a significant amount to be spent there. As this matter was also an agenda item Mr Rice was invited to stay to hear the discussion.

Mrs Fagg, on behalf of P3, offered to distribute the notices brought in by Mr Rowlands. She also wished to know whether there would be an AGM for the Millennium Green Trust, having believed that it was previously held in the early part of the year. Cllr Ward stated that he was in possession of the MGT file and would look into it. Mrs Fagg added that the stream had become blocked with grass cutting and plant waste and that ragwort was growing on the hill, which appeared to have spread from an abandoned allotment. Jean Pope agreed to look at the stream and Rodney Baker would arrange for the ragwort to be removed. MDDC would be asked to approach the owner of the allotment.

Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council Held on August 6th 2013.

1. Those present for the meeting were Cllrs Smith, Tanner, Stoner, Baker, Pitt, Ward, Pope and Weston and Cllr Polly Colthorpe. Apologies for anticipated late arrivals came from Cllrs Gilmour and Stanley.

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Cllr Ward asked that the agenda be kept on the Bampton website along with the minutes to aid cross-referencing.

With reference to the public toilets; Cllr Pope mentioned that children had been making a mess with water bombs. It was thought that the toilets would benefit from stronger cleaning materials, which Cllr Pitt offered to pick up, and a check made on the cleaning routine. The contract is also to be read through with a view to making improvements overall.

3. There were no declarations of interest relating to this month's agenda.

4. This point to be known as 'Matters Arising' in the future at the request of Cllr Stoner.

5. Councillors Report. From Devon County Council Cllr Colthorpe reported the regrets of the council that the Safeguarding Children Board had been found inadequate on all counts by Ofsted. Huge improvements are planned to ensure that good progress is made to improve the service in a very short period of time. Low flying aircraft, at approximately 80 metres, may be even more noticeable due to a survey of rural areas to take place soon. The survey is called 'Tell us' and the administrators would be happy to hear from anyone who has concerns regarding the welfare of animals or who wishes to know more about the project.

From Mid Devon Council came the offer of help with the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Peter Williams of Forward Planning will visit to discuss planning in Bampton and the review of the Local Plan. It was agreed to arrange a special meeting to facilitate this. Cllr Stanley informed the meeting that the effect of cuts in government funding would be felt in the years 2014/15 with changes to frontline services. The Tourist Information Centre is now to move to the library.

The solar factory planned for Buckhayes Farm near Bampton has now been refused planning consent for the second time. The plans for Keens at Morebath have been sent to the Secretary of State for appeal. Cllr Gilmour asked if MDDC could be encouraged to create a definitive policy regarding turbines and solar factories and Cllr Stanley said they had been asked to do this.

At this point Cllr Stoner proposed and Cllr Tanner seconded bringing forward item 8f of the agenda, which related to the Shillingford Play Park.

Cllr Smith told of a meeting with Steve Densham of MDDC with regard to the future of the park as the original peppercorn rent (£5 pa) contract has now expired and Mr Densham believed that the owner, having been obliged to pay an Outdoor Amenities tax by MDDC, would now require a commercial rent for the site. Mr Densham also thought there was a strong possibility of money being available to refurbish the playground but evidence was required that it was well used. A petition showing support for the park had been created to fulfil this requirement and the Town Council is well aware that children from Shillingford and the surrounding areas use the park.

It was proposed by Cllr Gilmour that MDDC should be asked to create a new contract to maintain the park between themselves and Mr Rice and in that event BTC would recompense MR Rice for the monies he had been obliged to pay to MDDC. Seconded by Cllr Baker.

6. Finance.

July receipts:

Repayment of Bampton in Bloom monies £1384.42

MDDC Grant for public toilets	£3696.17
Car parks	£297.00

Bank statements @ 31st July '13

HSBC £23121.94 Cr Scottish Widows £36531.39

August payments due:

Town Clerk	J.Eyre	£308.00 inc expenses
D/d MDDC	Rates for toilets and car park	£77.00
DCC	Road closure for fair	£50.00
N. Payne	Millennium Green	£1400.00
MJF Contractors	Grass cutting	£418.72
WE Johns	Stone for Millennium Green	£341.50
M Morgan	Toilets	£310.00
Film Bank	Riverside Hall Films (2)	£199.20
Ken White Signs	Car park and M.Green signs	£192.00
Community First	Fair insurance	£144.90
HMRC	Fine	£100.00
J.Pope	Printing ink and paper	£48.20
N.Carder	Hollett Garden	£20.00

Bampton Town Council accounts for 2012/13 are available for inspection at Bampton Fruit and Veg.

7.Planning.

13/00824/LBC Barn adj to 1 Fore Street. No objections.

13/00980/FULL Holiday units at New Park. Against.

13/01024/FULL Bampton School swimming pool. No objections.

13/01055/FULL Extension at Barricane, Shillingford. No objections.

8a All of the volunteers on the Flood Plan list are to be contacted to establish whether they are willing to continue. Cllr Pope agreed to supply a conclusive list of volunteers. Cllr Stoner was asked to co-ordinate the flood group and to make contact with Jim Faux of the Environment Agency, which he agreed to do. The Flood Plan is also to be edited so as to be available through the Bampton website.

b. The hedge at the Millennium Green is to be trimmed and the condition of the fence to be ascertained. It is understood to require some repair and this may be good use of the money from the church funds, which has yet to be used.. The earth was distributed for the bike ramps and the area is well used. Jean Pope is to ask the contractors at School Close for more earth to use on the bike track.

c. The electricity is reconnected at the Pump House, the electricity bill belonging to the previous tenant having been paid. Lights will be fitted and the price for improved security on doors and windows as well as security cameras is to be assessed. Keith Pitt to pursue appropriate quotes.

d. The request for a grant of £3000 from the Heritage Centre group was discussed. No evidence of a definitive agreement regarding this matter, by the previous council, had been found. Nothing had been minuted to show that this agreement to pay had been proposed, seconded and agreed. A letter agreeing to pay had been presented but this was dated 30/5/12 despite the matter not coming up for general discussion until 12/6/12. Cllr Gilmour felt that the Heritage Centre Project is misguided and self-indulgent considering the cost and the financial hardship being felt by a lot of people locally. Cllr Smith proposed a vote in favour of a grant up to £3000, provided that the money is claimed through the presentation of invoices showing specifically how the money is spent and

that BTC are provided with a copy of the exit strategy. Cllrs Gilmour and Pitt abstained from voting with the rest voting in favour, including Cllr Weston who voiced his unhappiness with the situation.

e. The road closures necessary for the fair to take place have been requested and the insurance cover applied for. Enquiries have been received from groups wishing to visit on the day and preparations are moving forward. Cllr Pope had a useful meeting with Humphrey Berridge and Alan Woolley who provided useful background knowledge in order to ensure that nothing was overlooked in the preparations. Contact had been established with people qualified to deal with signage and the signs are to be given new dates. Cllr Pope to chase up extra signs, which may be in Mr Knaggs garage, and to check whether new signs are needed.

f. The mums of children using Bampton Playground would like new equipment in the shape of Big swings and a slide. It was felt it may be better to wait until the trees on the bank have been pruned or removed, there may be more space to work with. Cllr Colthorpe advised that parents had been consulted when the playground was previously refurbished, although their children had probably grown out of the playground now, and had fundraised towards the cost. Cllr Gilmour felt it would be better to wait until the new contract for Shillingford play park was agreed.

g. A quote had been received to reinstate the swings at the Recreation Ground. Keith Pitt to establish what is required there. Model aircraft flying is still proving to be a nuisance to some local residents as is the dog fouling on and around the football pitch. The cost of new signage to limit or forbid these problems from continuing is to be requested.

h. The council will meet to discuss the Local Plan on August 13th 2013. It was anticipated that a request for Bampton to become a village be part of the discussion. A letter from Mr Chidwick was presented to the meeting in which he expressed the hope that there would be the opportunity to redress the situation regarding the Bouchier Close site.

i. A copy of the volunteer list for the Parish Plan is to be requested from Mr Alan Woolley.

j. Tap Fund. It was suggested that Bampton and Morebath combine their grants from the Tap Fund to provide cricket nets to be used on the Recreation Ground. A letter to be sent Morebath asking for their thoughts on this proposal.

k. In response to a discussion at a previous council meeting, Cllr Colthorpe had asked the fire station commander for Bampton whether it would be possible to offer space for a police station during the week. He had agreed and a letter will be sent to Sgt Jane Ashford-Mole to raise this possibility.

9. Correspondence.

Mrs Kenny wrote asking that the council to support the application for works at the school swimming pool.

Mr Alan Woolley had asked whether it would be possible to use the marquees for his daughter's wedding at the end of August. This was agreed with the proviso that evidence of insurance to cover both the marquees and public liability must be in place before they are taken away and that a donation is made in lieu of a fee.

The committee of Bampton Open Day had requested that the event be covered by BTC insurance. This was not thought to be possible as BTC is tied into a contract that prevents it working with other insurance companies and would also require the Open Day committee to be a sub-committee of BTC whereas it has always been an independent project. Cllr Pitt agreed to look into the possibility with the Town Council's insurers and respond.

A request had been received from Mr Browning to provide further funds towards the brown tourist signs. It was felt that the original offer made by BTC was sufficient in this matter.

A request was received from the daughter of the late Reg Kingdon asking if his name could be put forward as a road name, on one of Bampton's new roads, in memory of her father. Cllr Colthorpe thought that all of the new road names had been allocated on the School Close development. The Clerk agreed to contact The appropriate office at MDDC to ask that this request is put on record.

The date of the next meeting will be September 3rd 2013