

MINUTES OF BAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD 18th April 2012

IN THE OLD SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30PM

PRESENT; Cllr J Allinson (In the Chair), Cllr R Norman, Cllr P Smith, Cllr M Dowding, Cllr G Pursey, Cllr D Turner, D. Cllr M Booty, D. Cllr Barrett.

APOLOGIES; Cllr M Dowding,

PUBLIC;

The Flood Working Group

- 1) Ownership of Carterton BP "Attenuation Area"

The Flood Prevention Working Group were grateful that the 3yr saga of the handover of the very large holding pond next to the BP garage from Thames Water to OCC has been resolved with a 99 yr lease from Thames Water now in place. WODC and OCC have already completed the work necessary for much more flood water to flow into the holding pond than previously. This will be a significant improvement in preventing surface runoff water flooding the RAF base, Brize Norton village and also Bampton. The WG also thanked our local County Councillor, Mr Don Seale for accelerating a solution.

- 2) EA have carried out a business justification study for the much needed attenuation area north of Glebelands in Bampton. At the moment, EA are not optimistic that they can justify the expenditure of some £80K. An alternative site just south of the lagoon by 5A's on the Viscount Industrial site, may be a much cheaper and equally effective option.

- 3) Shillbrook River Flow

The unrestricted flow of the shillbrook south of Bampton remains the single biggest flood prevention measure. I am pleased to record that at present, the river is clear and we will canvass the EA to keep it that way.

The Local Police Report

Appendix 1.

Chairpersons Report

Welcome.

The Parish council consists of 11 members and during the past year we have filled 3 vacant positions. Councillors Gareth Pursey and Melissa Quarterman were co-opted onto the council at the July 2011 meeting. Later in July councillor Fred Gray resigned as Chairman as left the council. The parish council would like to thank Fred for the hard work done by him in his time on the parish council.

I was elevated from vice chairman and elected Chairman in September 2011. I have had 2 previous spells as Parish Council Chairman so I am an 'old hand' at the job. I am pleased that Councillor Richard Wilkins accepted the post of Vice Chairman. In December 2011 Councillor Pauline Smith was co-opted onto the parish council to fill the vacancy left by Mr Gray's departure.

The early months of the past financial year have proved to be a changeable and sometimes difficult period for the council and a number of projects that were on-going and demanding have finished or are reaching a conclusion and it is hoped that the council will now have moved into a period of consolidation.

Planning

The council continues to be a consultee on planning application. During the last 12 months we have commented on 30 applications. None this year have proved to be either large or contentious in comparison to some in previous years.

The Town Hall

The project for the installation of a through floor lift at the Town Hall finally came to a conclusion in 2011 with the installation of the lift. This had been an "on/off" project for WOA for a number of years. Thanks must go to Richard Wilkins who project managed the lift works and to Councillor Steve Radband who organised some of the ancillary building works. On completion of the lift installation Richard then continued with the Town Hall as a project and managed the construction of the external ramping to give wheelchair access to the new lift. We are pleased that our Town Hall 1st Floor is now accessible for people with a physical impairment.

The Old School Community Centre

Building works were completed by OCC in July and a tenancy at will was signed by the PC at the end of September as an interim measure until a full lease is signed, which allows the prospective occupants to start using the building. The Bush Club moved in during October as have the Weightlifters and additionally the Windrush Valley Boxing Club. The redevelopment and refurbishment of the building has not been without its 'ups and downs', but I hope that all the regular users and the village will be as pleased with the final outcome as the parish is. The finalities of the lease and agreements is a work in progress, but as a community facility that has preserved a listed building of merit, it is a very agreeable outcome. The PC are still hopeful that a Youth Club may operate from the building one evening a week if the correct people are prepared to organise and run one. This would however be without funding from OCC.

The Minerals and Waste Strategy prepared by OCC that brought about the foundation of the area action group AGGROW is still progressing, but thanks to the effort of that group, the risk of land in the Bampton/Clanfield area being identified for aggregate extraction was greatly reduced. This land is not in the current draft of the plan, but throughout the forthcoming process of consultation they will continue to keep a very watchful eye on the strategy to ensure that this does not change.

The library in Bampton became a high level focus of attention during the last year and was earmarked in original proposals for closure. Through the lobbying and hard work of a dedicated band of library supporters, closure has been prevented. However, as with the provision of all services provided by the public purse, OCC funding has been drastically cut. Additional substantial external funding and the probable use of volunteers has proved the only way to retain the library. The library group continue to carry out sterling work and the parish council will continue to support them

Both the Youth Club loss and the potential library loss are directly due to financial cuts that have been required to be made by OCC. Without wishing to sound political in any way, if we wish to retain our public services we will all ultimately have to pay for them. The 'Big Society' principle is good, but this village already operates its own big society in the many charities and clubs that help and support the people in Bampton and the volunteer workforce is finite. The PC can raise money through its precept to support the village and this may not be popular with everyone, but at least the rate you pay in Bampton for the PC precept will solely be in support of the village. Unfortunately the rural areas do play second fiddle to Oxford and the large district towns in terms of funding and services.

NOW OFF THE SOAP BOX!

There was no fair in Bampton in 2011. This was nothing to do with the PC. The fairman who has owned the rights for the fair for a number of years decided not to turn up. The fair is held by ancient charter and it is far too long and complicated a subject to discuss tonight – if you are an insomniac I can talk it through with anyone who wants to know about it later! Councillor Radband is trying to ensure that this ancient tradition is not lost in 2012, although the fair is not likely to be here at the normal time of August this year. Watch this space.

The PC is currently undertaking a tree survey throughout the village spearheaded by Richard Wilkins, and we have employed qualified tree surgeons to identify our future maintenance needs for trees, As this is still on going, there will be more to report next year.

The council have also just carried out a housing needs survey for the village. This helps the PC know what local need there is for housing, which may assist in the future if schemes for development come forward. Ralph Norman has recently tabulated the information and if you have any specific questions, he would be able to answer them.

The forthcoming Queens Diamond Jubilee is an event to be looked forward to. The PC are very grateful to David Hawkins and Graham Haslam for spearheading and organising a committee who have put together a splendid programme of events for the day and we are all looking forward to it.

The PC will be carrying out an emergency response exercise in 3 weeks time. One was not carried out in 2011 but had been in 2010. The floods of 2007 brought about such a good local response of help for all that Fred Gray put together an exceptionally good plan for how Bampton would work together with the other tiers of local government and the emergency services in the event of another emergency in Bampton, not necessarily flooding. We carry out this exercise with these other bodies who think up a 'scenario' for us to deal with as an emergency. We will have to wait to see what it is in 3 weeks time!

The last thing I want to mention in my report is RAF Brize Norton. We all know the repatriations returned to B/N in 2011 and a large number of Bampton people are directly involved during the repatriations. The PC is proud of all the people involved in this and the work done by RAF Brize Norton on these very sad occasions. The base is the largest in the country and is the APOE for the armed forces. 2011 saw the arrival of the Hercules fleet following the closure of RAF Lyneham and this has not been without its problems and issues. The pattern of operation and flying of the Hercules is different to the C17s, VC10s and Tristars. The expansion and building works at the base is continuing for some time and the replacements for VC10s and Tristars is imminent but not immediate. There has and will continue to be an on-going liaison with the base over problems that are being generated by them for Bampton. I have to say though that we must recognise that dialogue and negotiation of issues will only go to a certain point as they will continue to deliver the air service they need to for the armed forces of this country.

That was not really the last thing, but this is! I would like to thank all colleagues on the council for their help and support and to Sarah our Clerk for the work she does.

I hope that this financial year we will continue to consolidate the work we have been doing together.

County Councillors Report

Appendix 2

District Councillors report

Appendix 3

Bampton Library

Appendix 4

Bampton Exhibition Foundation Report

Appendix 5

Bampton Welfare Trust

Appendix 6

Bampton Primary School

Appendix 7

Bampton Community Shop

Appendix 8

Bampton Recreation Ground Trust

Appendix 9