

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 3 March 2008, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Barrington, Burton, Faichney, Heigh, Marshall, Stannard, Taylor & Wills (Chairman) and DCllr Camacho. Also the Clerk, Mrs Burton, & 2 parishioners.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Barnes & Hurtley

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Heigh declared an interest in items 8.1.1 & 8.1.2, planning applications 08/2007/8306 & 08/2008/8394

respectively. Cllr Faichney also declared an interest in item 8.1.2.

3. Public Participation - none

4. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 4 February were proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Burton and agreed.

5. Police Report

PC Barton attended and reported that there was little to report other than that North Yorkshire has a new Chief

Constable. Cllr Burton raised the problems with illegal parking in Bentham, particularly on the yellow lines at

either side of the street by the Black Bull and the Sports shop. He cited the letter in the recent Bentham News

where a woman crossing from Cleveland Square with her children had been nearly mown down as the driver was

un-sighted by the illegally parked cars. PC Barton agreed that this was a real problem in Bentham, and one which

they were tasked to attend to when possible, hence the run of enforcement recently when tickets had been issued.

He added that he would request for the traffic warden to attend more frequently, although control of wardens is to

revert to County from the Police Authority. The parking of cars on the lines outside the vets also causes problems

for children crossing the road and for wagons exiting the Auction Mart.

6. CCllr & DCllrs Reports

DCllr Camacho said that the rate increases have been announced – NYCC +4.75%, Police Authority +4.3%, Fire & Rescue +4.5%, and Craven 0%. The initial indication for Craven for the coming two years is an increase of 2.9%.

This has been achieved with a funding agreement from government for three years plus a change in the rules

regarding the level of reserves that the District Council must hold.

DCllr Barrington added that two new plastic recycling sites would be established in the new financial year, and

Bentham will be one of these. The District Council has also agreed to employ a further enforcement officer in the

planning department. NYnet, the optical fibre cable owned by NYCC is being installed around the County, and

Craven will be among the first users.

Cllr Stannard asked if something could be done about the missing dog waste bin at the end of

Wenning Avenue, as filled dog bags are being left in the vicinity. The DCllrs agreed to look into this.

7. Planning

7.1. Applications

7.1.1. 08/2007/8306 Change of use of dwelling to office at 1c King Street, Bentham.

Cllr Heigh declared an interest

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

7.1.2. 08/2008/8394 First floor extension over garage/utility –resubmission of 08/2007/7966, at Old

Byre House, Slaidburn Road, Bentham.

Cllrs Faichney & Heigh declared an interest

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

7.1.3. 08/2008/8395 Off road parking provision at Grey Garth, 11 Robin Lane, Bentham.

RESOLVED: That as this application had not arrived it should be added to the next agenda

7.1.4. 08/2008/8415 Change windows and doors to UPVC (planning requirement amendment) at Crow

Cottage, 54 Robin Lane, Bentham.

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

7.1.5. 08/2007/8167 Installation of satellite dish at Scaleber Farm, Wennington

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

7.2. Decisions

7.2.1. 08/2007/8190 Garden room extension at Waterford Farm, Mewith Lane, Bentham – GRANTED

7.2.2. 08/2008/8264 Raising roof to form attic half storey at Brockbank, Slaidburn Road, Bentham – GRANTED.

7.3. Correspondence

7.3.1. Appeal response for land adjacent to 4 Goodenber Road, High Bentham – GRANTED

The Council noted with disappointment that this appeal had been upheld and the property would now be built.

7.3.2. Enforcement Complaint response

The nursery at Fourlands has informed Planning that it is currently still operating and therefore is not in breach of its planning requirements.

8. Highway Matters

8.1. NYCC Response re Dumb Toms Lane / Tatterthorn Road triangle

NYCC Highways have agreed that keeping the triangle should be a priority and will consider the request for boulders along with other options.

8.2. NYCC response to Salt Bin request

The request for the replacement of salt bins on Main Street (Alms Houses, Chemist & Police Yard),

Goodenber Crescent and Lakeber Drive has been added to next seasons wish list: 'in accordance with policy

the locations will be assessed' and bins may be provided.

8.3. NYCC Response re maintenance concerns, February

The various road surface / road edge concerns have been passed to the maintenance inspector, but with the

recent poor weather creating many problems it may take some time before they are addressed. They will look

at the drainage under the railway bridge to see if it can be improved. The Egerton crossroads signpost will be

repaired and put back.

8.4. NYCC Response regarding Doctors Hill

The new lining will be done in the new financial year (i.e. April). A new pavement would require significant funding and will have to compete with other road improvement schemes and as such is unlikely to be approved.

8.5. NYCC Update on Barclays Bank.

The survey of the junction is now complete and the design work is in progress. Once this is costed then decisions as to the best way forward can be made.

8.6. Letter regarding the state of Ravensclose Road

Another letter was received regarding the deteriorating state of Ravensclose Road. The breakdown of the edges now makes it difficult for vehicles to pass in places. Cllr Wills added that landowners in the area were worried

about the state of the land drains at the edges of the road. Their poor state is allowing water to accumulate both

on the road and in gateways, causing a potential hazard. The Council was unsure whether the landowners could

legally work on these drains and agreed to ask NYCC Highways for an opinion

RESOLVED: That a letter flagging the problems on Ravensclose Road be sent to both NYCC Highways and Lancashire County Highways.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to NYCC Highways asking if landowners could repair field drains

which are sited on the road edge

8.7. Current issues

Cllr Adams reported that the 'Welcome to North Yorkshire' sign near the Ridding has become loose. He also

pointed out that the recent repairs on Lakeber Drive had not continued far enough down the road.

Cllr Stannard asked if something could be done about the exit from Harley Bank onto the B6480 as it is

difficult to get out. He also mentioned that the residents of Police Yard had asked about a sign .

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to NYCC regarding the maintenance problems and the exit from

Harley Bank

RESOLVED: DCllr Camacho agreed to ask about a place name sign for Police Yard at Craven

9. Bentham Common Lands Charity

No further information was available for the meeting so Council agreed to put it on the agenda for the April

meeting. It was also decided that a letter should be sent to the secretary expressing the Council's concerns re the

possible loss of common land, which it felt should be kept for the benefit of the community.

RESOLVED: That Bentham Common Lands Charity be put on the April agenda

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the secretary expressing the Council's concern about the possible loss of a community benefit.

10. Dalesview Amenity Land

To date one tender had been received for maintenance, putting the cost at around £1000 / year, plus an extra cost

for insurance etc. If a reasonable lump sum could be negotiated then the interest would cover the additional costs,

and an amenity would be kept for the area. The developer would need to bring everything to adoptable standards

first. It was agreed to wait for the other tenders to be received before going back to Craven.

RESOLVED: That the Council wait for the other quotes before going back to Craven.

11. Low Bentham Playing Field

The work on the trees is now complete. Cllr Burton proposed that Cllr Faichney be asked to manage the project.

Cllr Marshall seconded this and it was agreed. Cllr Faichney accepted and expressed a hope that work levelling the

site could start soon, weather permitting. Cllr Wills mentioned that it may be sensible to contact United Utilities

and ask for a cage over the sub station to stop balls getting in. Cllrs Marshall and Faichney agreed to liase

regarding further equipment quotes and possible sources of grant funding.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Faichney manage the on-going refurbishment project

RESOLVED: That Cllr Faichney & Marshall liase over getting more equipment quotes

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to United Utilities requesting a cage over the substation.

12. Tourist Information Point

Cllr Marshall informed the meeting that 2 of the current volunteers had agreed to split the Coordinators post

between them. Craven have been asked for a larger grant to help fund the TIP. The new accommodation list will be

produced in the form of an A5 booklet with adverts as well as single line entries. The literature collection at Thirsk

will be attended by members of the TIP committee.

Cllr Marshall reminded the other Councillors that the TIP coffee morning will be held on Easter Saturday, and is

being organised by Mrs Piper. He asked the Councillors for their support and assistance

13. Town Hall Matters

The minutes of the meeting on 12 February were proposed by Cllr Burton, seconded by Cllr Heigh and agreed.

RESOLVED: That organisations be limited to 2 coffee mornings until demand can be gauged.

RESOLVED: That the signs be ordered and the yellow lining for the underpass be arranged as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That a new flag-pole be purchased in the new financial year

RESOLVED: That the Wenningdale leadwork be scheduled early in the new financial year

RESOLVED: That the ballroom be decorated in the summer

14. Accounts for payment

14.1. Appointment of External Auditor

Mazars have been reappointed as the Council's external auditors

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Barrington and agreed.

Mopps

375.00

Norwich Union

230.93

PWLB

24207.90

R Green

442.35

Goodenber Play Area

2310.00

C Louth

84.84

Andrews

48.45

J Burton

605.71
EON
56.02
Bentham News
125.00
Yorkshire Water
62.88
Westmorland Tree Care
1674.37
Falon Nameplates
82.07
Dell Computers
61.98
British Telecom
291.42
Landy Publishing
52.00

AOL
14.99

15. Correspondence

15.1. Annual Parish Meeting Reminder

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Wednesday 23 April at 7.00pm in the Lower Town Hall.

15.2. Nomination of Parish Representatives for Standards Committee - received

15.3. Response from Environment Agency re River Wenning

The Environment Agency will not take action as there is no risk of flooding to property. They confirmed that any work would require an Agency Land Drainage Consent. Council commented that the river has taken 20feet of bank in 12 months and wondered at what stage they would take action, particularly as it is not far from St Johns graveyard.

15.4. Response from Bernadette Jones re request fro School Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Council meet with Ms Jones on Tuesday 18 March at 7pm in the Lower Town Hall.

15.5. First Responders funding request

A letter from Bentham First Responders enquiring about funding was read. Whilst agreeing that this was an extremely worthy cause Council recognised that the budget for the coming year had already been set, and that last applicants fro precept grants are limited to £50 by the Council's own rules. They agreed that a grant of £50 should be awarded and a letter of explanation sent.

RESOLVED: That the Bentham First Responders be awarded a precept grant of £50

15.6. Forest of Bowland Project 'Gateway Signs' - received

15.7. High Bentham Flood Risk Assessment information request

A request for information regarding the possible flood risk on the proposed car park on Station Road was read from Faber Maunsell consultants. Cllr Wills agreed to supply the necessary information to the clerk

RESOLVED: That Cllr Wills will supply the necessary information to the clerk for a response.

15.8. Safer Craven Community Partnership – Safety Plan 2008-11 - received

15.9. NYCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan - received

15.10. Springfield Bowling Club Thank you letter - received

16. Reports from other bodies

Cllr Burton had attended a Bentham Development Trust meeting. Community Transport has been awarded several

new contracts that will start in April. The Station Building renovation is being funded by a NYCC grant of

£80,000, and should be complete by the end of April when the Station Road office will close.

Active Bentham will

have a part time office in the Community Centre

17. Items For Information

17.1. Bentham Can-Do Investment Fund magazine

17.2. Winter Service Leaflet 2007/8

17.3. YLCA Information Service, Nov 30.

17.4. Craven CAB Annual Report 2007

17.5. New National Bus Concession

17.6. NYPA Craven Rural information sheet

17.7. North Yorkshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Submissions

17.8. North Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board newsletter

17.9. InfoRegio News November 2007

18. AOB - minor items only

The clerk had received a request from Marcus Fisher for the Council to remove its objection from the stopping up

order on Hillside Road, but it had been received too late for the agenda. Council agreed that this was a sensitive

issue and could not be decided without suitable advertising and asked for it to be put on the next agenda.

Cllr Stannard had attended the Low Bentham School meeting and suggested that the Council should register an

initial interest in the school's playing field as any interests need to be registered by 14 March.

This was agreed.

Cllr Burton asked if, in the absence of a single applicant for the crossing attendant, a job share could be considered

as this would prevent a person's day being tied up at both ends, 5 days a week. Cllr Wills agreed to take this

suggestion to the next Governors meeting.

Cllr Marshall asked for the school gate on Robin Lane to be added to the next agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.00pm