

May 08

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 5 May 2008, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Barrington, Burton, Heigh, Hurtley, Marshall, Taylor & Wills and DCllr Camacho. Also the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 5 parishioners.

Cllr Wills thanked everyone for attending despite the fact that it was a Bank Holiday, and wished the Clerk a Happy Birthday.

1. To Appoint the Mayor for the period 2008/9  
RESOLVED: That Cllr Adams be appointed Mayor

Cllr Adams then took the chair.

2. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Stannard and Faichney.
3. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present  
Cllr Wills declared a prejudicial interest in items 12.1.3 & 12.1.4, planning applications 08/2008/8561 & 8562. Cllr Heigh declared a personal interest in item 12.1.2, planning application 08/2007/8108 and Cllr Barrington declared a personal interest in item 17, Cleveland Square.

4. To Receive Comment & Concerns  
A resident of Hillcroft asked if the Council could do anything about the state of Church Beck, which is in need of clearing, as the water levels have risen close to the houses on several occasions recently. Council agreed to add this to the June agenda and contact Craven District.

5. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting  
The minutes of the meeting on 7 April were proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Barnes and agreed.

6. To Appoint the Deputy Mayor for the period 2008/9  
RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall be appointed Vice-Chairman

7. To Appoint Members to Committees & as Council Representatives for 2008/9
  - 7.1. Committees Planning, Street Lighting, Market, Cemetery, Tourist Information, TH Maintenance & TH Marketing
  - 7.2. Sub-Committees - Website, Low Bentham Playing Field

RESOLVED: That the committees should stand as agreed in 2007/8

RESOLVED: That the Calendar Committee should consist of Cllrs Burton, Heigh, Taylor & Wills

- 7.3. Council Representatives shown below

Joint Footpaths:	Cllr Barrington
Playing Field Association	Cllr Heigh
Community Association	Cllr Barrington
Goodenber Road Play Area	Cllr Adams
Railways	Cllr Wills
Police	Cllr Marshall
Aid In Sickness	Cllr Adams
Bentham Dev Trust & Community Transport	Cllr Burton
Looking Well	Cllr Barnes
Youth Café	Cllr Burton

RESOLVED: That the above listed Cllrs be representatives on each organisation

7.4. Responsible Financial Officer - also bank, bank mandate and auditors

It was agreed that the Clerk continue as RFO and that Yorkshire Audit be reappointed as the internal auditors. Also that HSBC remain as the Council's bank.

RESOLVED: That the clerk continue as RFO and Yorkshire Audit be reappointed as internal auditors

8. To Agree a Provisional Timetable of Meetings for the new Council Year (see paper 2008/1)  
The provisional timetable was accepted, although the market meeting on 12 January was moved to 9 February and replaced by the Precept Meeting.

RESOLVED: That the provisional meeting dates be accepted and noted by all Cllrs.

9. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only)

The clerk explained that this report, circulated with the agenda, was to be used to remove items from the agenda that did not require discussion or decision. It was also to ensure that items did not get lost when response from other organisations was slow to materialise. It will become the last page of each month's minutes.

The Bentham Common Lands Charity meeting will now be held 22 May. Council reiterated their concern that the land should be retained for the parish.

10. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information

- None present

11. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)

DCllr Camacho announced that the recent elections in Craven had meant that there were now 15 Tory & 15 non-Tory Cllrs, however one of the Independent Cllrs had signalled that he would be totally independent which effectively gave the Conservatives control.

The vandalism in the Goodenber Road area of Bentham continues to be a problem. DCllr Camacho has arranged a meeting of 'stakeholders' – i.e. Craven Housing, Foundation Housing, Home Housing, the Crime Prevention Partnership, Ford House and Bentham Town Council (Cllr Wills) to look for a way forward.

Cllr Barnes asked about the intent to switch affordable housing funding away from Bentham to other areas. DCllr Camacho said this was not the case, and that he believed the flood assessment had now been agreed with United Utilities.

DCllr Barrington informed the meeting that the new committee structure at Craven will be decided on 20 May.

12. Planning

12.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

12.1.1. 08/2008/8559 Sun Lounge at 1 Yew Tree Drive, Low Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

12.1.2. 08/2007/8108 Conversion of a single 2 storey warehouse building to 3 dwellings (amended plans) at Armstrongs Garden Centre, King Street, Bentham

Cllr Heigh declared an interest.

This application had been considered by the Council previously and recommended for refusal on the basis that Bentham is already short of commercial / retail space and although recently passed for offices no effort has been made to try and let this space. The shop and office space that has become available in the town recently has been let quickly, and with competition. The Council felt that a change of use should only be granted if it could be proven that tenants for the proposed offices were not available. The second worry was one of parking as also stated previously – 3 dwellings in the centre of town without parking adds potentially a further six cars to the streets – when there is insufficient space already.

RESOLVED: That the Council objects to this application because of the potential loss of valuable commercial / retail space and the added problems that houses without parking will bring to the Main Street

12.1.3. 08/2008/8561 Single storey kitchen extension and double garage at Egerton Lodge Farm, Burton Road, Low Bentham.

Cllr Wills declared a prejudicial interest in this and the following application, and left the room.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

12.1.4. 08/2008/8562 Conversion of 2 barns to form 2 live/work units at Egerton Lodge Farm, Burton Road, Low Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

12.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

12.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

13. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Several Cllrs asked why numerous cones have appeared on the A65 blocking lay-bys. The Clerk agreed to ask NYCC Highways if they knew the explanation.

Cllr Barrington reported a dropped kerb to the left of the Victoria Institute.

Cllr Marshall noted that railings have been erected on the pavement at Caton in an effort to control illegal parking and asked if something similar could be done outside the HSBC.

Cllr Heigh commented that the fencing at Dumb Toms triangle is causing problems on the other side of the road and deep holes are developing.

Cllr Wills asked about sign repairs as the old sign at Egerton Lodge is in a very bad state. It was suggested that the Council should get it repaired and bill NYCC, the clerk agreed to look into this possibility.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk report these items to NYCC Highways.

14. To Agree Proposals from Quality Council Status Working Group Meeting (paper 2008/2)

RESOLVED: That the proposed discretionary items within the QS scheme be accepted, and progress reviewed in October.

15. To Agree a Response to Dalesview Development Proposal (paper 2008/3)

The Council agreed that, if the amenity area is to be accepted, the proposal must be self-funding so that it does not cost the ratepayers of Bentham. Before any agreement can be made the trees on the site must be made safe, and the cost of future work must be incorporated into the sum achieved. It was felt that the arboriculturist at Craven should be asked to agree the tree work.

RESOLVED: That the Council's requirements for the agreement be expressed, and negotiations continue.

16. To Consider a Response to the Children's & Young People's Plan 2008-11 Consultation (paper 2008/4)

The discussion covered two main topics – better support for existing groups (e.g. Youth Café, Youth Theatre, Scouts), including reliable long term funding, and also the effect of drugs in rural areas.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent expressing the need for better education regarding drugs and also improved support for existing groups working with children and young people.

17. To Consider a Request from the Ratings Unit for use of Cleveland Square receipt information for use in a Lands Tribunal (paper 2008/5)

RESOLVED: That permission be given for the Cleveland Square receipts to be used.

18. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

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

Anchor Fire Yorkshire 176.00 C Louth 89.60

Horton Landscaping 43.48 M Green 63.35  
Stannards 250.00 Norwich Union 230.93  
Carl Taylor 742.73 W Dowbiggin 70.00  
Craven District Council 512.86 P Howard 122.50  
Vision Signs & Graphics 185.35 Phone CoOp 2.26  
Mopps 375.00 Viking Direct 133.19  
Grasscare 475.17 Pica Design & Print 495.00  
EOn 56.02 Dash4 Maps 67.38  
J Burton 931.41 Naylor Myers 111.71  
R Green 456.18 AOL 14.99

18.1. To Consider the Internal Audit Trail (paper 2008/6)

The clerk explained that review of the audit trail was now a mandatory procedure. The circulated check list was used for discussion. The Council agreed that it was performing all the necessary tests, but that the paper trail to prove this did not exist in all cases. Also budget reviews were not formalised. It was agreed to form a committee to review budgets and audit procedures on a quarterly basis and report its findings to Council. The committee should consist of Cllrs Adams, Marshall, Barnes & Wills.

RESOLVED: That suitable audit checks are in place but that procedures require to be formalised.

RESOLVED: That a Committee meet quarterly to review the budget and the audit trail.

19. To consider items of Correspondence

19.1. To consider the invitation to Age Concern AGM, and appoint a Council representative

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Marshall & Barrington will attend

19.2. To note the contents of a letter from Craven DC to a parishioner agreeing to consult on assets being considered for disposal - received

19.3. To note a change in the Local Code of Conduct complaints procedure from 8 May, when complaints about District & Parish Councillors must be sent to Craven District Council, not the Standards Board - received

20. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)

Cllr Adams had attended the St Georges Day Parade in Bentham which had been well supported despite the rain. It was hoped that it would generate more interest in Bentham for a Scout Troop. Cllr Adams had also helped out on the Goodenber Play Area work party day in April. Many of the maintenance issues had been fixed, but a further day was being organised to finish off. Cllr Heigh had been to a Playing Fields Association meeting. Phase 3 is about to start, with a small skate park and refurbishment of the tennis courts – requiring £130K in total.

21. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Cllr Marshall commented on the high standard of grass cutting to date – a letter will be sent to the contractors.

Cllr Heigh had received a complaint about the level of dog fouling on Springfield and the Pye Park footpath.

Cllr Wills asked for the review of standing orders to be put on the next agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.12pm

AGENDA ITEM 9)

CLERK' S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 5 MAY 2008.

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 08/2007/8167 Installation of satellite dish at Scaleber Farm, Wennington
- 1.1.2. 08/2008/8394 First Floor extension at Old Byre House, Slaidburn Road, Bentham.
- 1.1.3. 08/2008/8415 Replace windows & doors with uPVC units at 54 Robin Lane, Bentham.
- 1.1.4. 08/2008/8439 Proposed extension to provide new sitting room with extended main bedroom above and single storey storage at Honeysuckle Barn, Mewith, Bentham.
- 1.2. REFUSED
- 1.2.1. None

## 2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. Further letters regarding 08/2008/8513 Stone Yard & Stone Storage – see Information Folder

## 3. Information Received Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Harley Bank junction road markings – NYCC agrees visibility from right restricted. Funding available for rural junctions in Craven and if costs are controlled then urban areas including Harley Close will be considered – see Information Folder
- 3.2. Bentham Housing List – agreement for breakdown to be provided, but no information received
- 3.3. Bentham Common Lands Charity – report awaited following their meeting on 16 April.
- 3.4. Request for consideration of land to rent for allotments – holding letter received from Kiddes 22/4/08
- 3.5. B6480 closure at Ridding Lodge is programmed to start 23 June for 2 weeks, advance closure notices will be erected
- 3.6. Hillside Road stopping-up – Council's refusal to remove objection has been noted.
- 3.7. Appointment of Parish Members to CDC Standards Committee  
Beth Graham (Settle) & Susan Fisher (Langcliffe) were elected – see Information Folder

## 4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Card from High Bentham WI thanking Council for the precept grant
- 4.2. LDF Monthly Update leaflet for April
- 4.3. LASRUG Newsletter, April 08.
- 4.4. Appointment of Parish Members to Craven's Standards Committee
- 4.5. NHS Press Release regarding future of Castleberg
- 4.6. Letter from Settle TIC which is now part of Craven District Council
- 4.7. Guidance for Use of Household Waste Recycling Centres (to go on notice board in Lower Hall)
- 4.8. North Yorkshire CJB newsletter, issue 5
- 4.9. InfoRegio News January, February & March 2008
- 4.10. InfoRegio Panorama, March 2008, Regional Policy, Sustainable Development & Climate Change.

## 5. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 5.1. Flood risk assessment on Station Road – information awaited
- 5.2. School Hill Gate – no progress
- 5.3. Strikes to Barclays Bank – chased 22/4/08 (Hit again 28/4/08), awaiting confirmation of date of meeting
- 5.4. Doctors Hill – email received March informed that work is programmed for 'new financial year'
- 5.5. Cleveland Square Lease – holding email received 25 April
- 5.6. Legion Hut Land – holding email received 25 April
- 5.7. Garage Sites – holding email received 25 April