

## **BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Presentation By David Lloyd, Chairman Bentham Development Trust:

The charity, started in 1995, covers High & Low Bentham and Burton. It was set up to look at social, economic and environmental development, but has tended to concentrate on the key areas of transport and information.

Following receipt of a grant from the Big Lottery Fund (£40,000/year for 3 years) the Active Bentham project will be running in conjunction with the Scarman Trust. Two members of trust have been appointed, a full time venues manager for the Victoria Institute and Community Centre and a part timer for administration and information.

The first concrete example of the Active Bentham project is the new Sunday events for the elderly, carrying on from the Age Concern work which identified a need for the lonely.

Jeff Harmer of the Scarman Trust explained that the aim of the trust is to help citizens change their communities, by encouraging the identification of the wealth of assets and skills available. This will be a community led fund, with grants being awarded for local projects from a team of trained local people.

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6 February 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Barnes, De La Haye, Faichney, Heigh, Hey, Hurtley, Marshall, Reynolds, Stannard, Wills & CCllr Ireton. Also, the Clerk Mrs Burton and 5 parishioners, & PC Hayes

1. Apologies DCllr Camacho

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Heigh, Marshall and Wills declared an interest in item 5.3.1, Bentham Auction carpark. Cllr Heigh also declared an interest in planning application 08/2006/6055. These were noted in the book.

3. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 9 January 2006 were proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Heigh and agreed.

4. Police Report

PC Hayes informed the Council about the changes in staffing and location of the police officers in Ingleton and Settle from 1 April. Currently there are 15 PCs and 2 sergeants at the 2 stations who work together to cover the area. From April there will be 3 community officers at Ingleton and 3 community officers, 10 response officers, a sergeant and a rural Inspector based at Settle.

On the crime front January had been a quiet month. Scrap metal had been stolen from several premises and the bogus builder had been back again. PC Hayes emphasised the need to use reputable tradesmen and certainly not one that just issues a mobile number.

During the last 12 months the crime level was similar to the previous year, but detection rate was up from 44 to 53%.

Cllr Wills asked PC Hayes to look into the 0845 6060247 number as he had received several complaints that the number was not being answered, which had necessitated the callers to use 999.

5. Planning

5.1. Applications

5.1.1. 08/2005/6045 Removal of existing dormer window. Internal alterations to convert integral garage to accommodation. Extension and construction of new detached garage at Far Sunnybank Laithe, Mewith, Bentham.

**RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval**

5.1.2. 08/2006/6055 Change of use from Community Centre to Warehouse at 1 King Street, Bentham

**RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval**

5.2. Decisions

5.2.1. 08/2005/5911 Amendment to previously approved scheme to allow use of garages as additional to accommodation and changes to roof pitches (retrospective) at Gale Barn, Mewith Lane, Mewith, Bentham – GRANTED

5.2.2. 08/2005/5912 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension at Gayle House, Mewith, Bentham – GRANTED

5.2.3. 08/2005/5937 Erection of agricultural workers dwelling at Barnfield Farm, Bentham - GRANTED

5.2.4. 08/2005/5957 Partial separation of dwelling along with conversion of garage / granny flat to form chiropody / podiatry surgery & therapy practice at Bentham Lodge, Station Road, Bentham - GRANTED

5.2.5. 08/2005/5970 Stone built double garage at Woodlands Farm, Back Lane, Wennington - GRANTED

5.3. Correspondence

5.3.1. 08/2005/5681 Extension to carpark (retrospective) at Bentham Auction – Planning committee meeting  
A decision has been deferred. Cllr Wills asked about the procedure that should be followed where the code of conduct may have been breached. A recent article in the Crave Herald had included incorrect statements but it had

also contained comments from a Councillor who is a share holder in a rival auction. Cllr Hurtley and CCllr Ireton agreed to bring this item before the Democratic Services department at Craven District Council.

5.3.2. Proposed work to protected trees at Butterburgh, High Bentham. - received

5.3.3. 08/2004/4853 Land adjacent to 1 Lairgill – Appeal dismissed

5.3.4. 08/2004/4955 10 Tweed Street – Appeal upheld

## 6. Highway Matters

### 6.1. Closure of Langber End, Bentham / Ingleton

This road will be closed for a 2 week period during a six month window commencing 13 February

### 6.2. Disabled Bay - Main Street

NYCC Highways have agreed to relocate this to the top side of the Keep Clear, which should aid access.

### 6.3. Water on road at Eskew Beck

Cllr Heigh said that during the cold spell there had been shot ice on the road as the drain is blocked

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to unblock the drain**

### 6.4. Loose Kerbs

Cllrs Wills and Marshall raised the continued problem of loose kerbs outside Armstrongs and the Bull

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be reminded of the need to sort these out**

### 6.5. Holes in the Road

There is a problem on Mill Lane near Cloudsbank. There is also a hole outside the Fire Station on Banks Rise and there are several near the Toll Bar Nursery

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to repair these roads as soon as possible**

### 6.6. Punch Bowl

A black bollard has appeared in the middle of the pavement by the Punch Bowl. Cllr Hurtley felt that it's invisibility in the dark was a health and safety issue.

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked either remove the bollard or make it more visible**

## 7. Low Bentham Playing Field

This item had been held over from December. Cllrs Hurtley and Faichney are to meet on the Playing Field to discuss possible improvements. There is a committee of Low Bentham people ready to organise voluntary work to make the changes. The apparatus will need to be kite marked and so funding sources will need to be found. Lin Barrington agreed to help where possible.

**RESOLVED: That Cllrs Faichney and Hurtley identify possible improvements**

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Faichney and other interested people work with Lin Barrington to pursue possible funding sources**

## 8. Precept Meeting

### 8.1. Minutes of meeting

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Wills and agreed

## 9. Town Hall Refurbishment

### 9.1. Minutes of last meeting

These were proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Wills and agreed.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Wills liaise with the architect and Hopleys over the outstanding snagging list items.**

**RESOLVED: That the retention be retained until the plastering work is complete.**

Cllr Wills updated the meeting with the fact that all outstanding items were now complete and the retention payment had been made

**RESOLVED: That further quotes for the fire alarm changes should be obtained**

These have now been requested

**RESOLVED: That the terms and conditions of hire be amended in light of the License conditions**

**RESOLVED: That a letter of concern be sent to Craven regarding the awarding of the license**

**RESOLVED: That changes to the design of the bar be considered**

**RESOLVED: That a sub-committee meet with TI people to consider the way forward**

**RESOLVED: That staff job descriptions be reviewed**

### 9.2. Door nameplates

Cllr Adams has finally received a quote for anodised aluminium signs. Cllr Hey proposed that Cllr Adams and the clerk be allowed to proceed with this, which was seconded by Cllr Heigh and agreed.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Adams and the clerk proceed with ordering the door nameplates**

## 9.3. Telephone

Cllr Stannard had routed the incoming phone line to the correct sockets in the back office. A suitable handset/fax needs to be purchased. Cllr Stannard proposed that the clerk be asked to source something suitable. This was seconded by Cllr Hey and agreed

**RESOLVED: That a suitable phone be purchased.**

## 9.4. Disabled Access

Cllr Heigh reported that at the recent coffee morning the disabled ramp access had been blocked by a motorised disabled trolley, whilst the owner attended the coffee morning. The Council felt that on this occasion there was no need to erect signs requesting the area be left clear, but agreed that the situation should be monitored

## 9.5. Child Safety

Cllr Wills commented on the recent children's party held in the building. The automatic doors offer no protection for children running out of the building and onto the road. He asked that Highways be asked to reconsider their opposition to railings outside the door. Cllr Stannard added that this was also still a concern at the Victoria Institute

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be contacted about safety railings outside the Town Hall and Victoria Institute.**

## 10. Dog Fouling

Cllr Heigh and the clerk had received several complaints about the level of fouling on Pye Park, Springfield, Mount Pleasant and on the playing fields. PC Hayes had reported that both he and the Dog Warden are able to act upon a signed statement from a member of the public.

**RESOLVED: That the Dog Warden be asked to look closely at these areas.**

## 11. Website

Cllr Stannard told the meeting that the developer had agreed to release the site to a new host as other work commitments were making servicing the site difficult. He agreed to keep the Council informed of progress

## 12. THYNC Housing - Wesley Place

Cllr Wills had received further correspondence from Mr Mace who was struggling to get a response from the organisation. The new lead tenant is not in place and the agreement was that the house would not operate without one.

**RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Foundation Housing organisation asking for clarification**

## 13. Accounts for payment

## 13.1. Grasscare

A letter confirming the grass cutting fees would remain the same for 2006/7 had been received.

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Hey, seconded by Cllr Adams and accepted.

Mopps	330.00	C Louth	74.88
E On Energy	42.83	R Green	395.06
Fire Service	100.00	J Burton	940.00
I Proctor	58.57	Craven DC	623.09
GI Hopley Ltd	11750.00	Performing Rights Society	457.27
P Butterworth	90.00		

## 14. Correspondence

14.1. Proposals for Council Expenditure 2006/7 - received

14.2. Standards Committee, suspension of election of parish representation - received

14.3. Councillor Skills Seminar - received

14.4. Bentham Agricultural Society Quiz - received

Cllr Wills to enlist a team

14.5. Relate appeal

Whilst recognising this as a worthy cause the Council has now set the 2006/7 precept.

**RESOLVED: That a letter be sent explaining the situation**

14.6. Rotary Club of Skipton Community Walk

Council thought this was good idea, an organised walk which could be completed for any local charity. Cllr

Hey mentioned that this may be the way to raise money for apparatus on Low Bentham Playing Fields.

14.7. Potts of Leeds - received

## 14.8. Bentham News

The letter was received by the clerk on 2 February with Bentham news being delivered on 3 February. Cllr Hurlley felt that, given the inaccuracies in the letters, it would have been more helpful if a right to reply had been given in the same issue. He then read a statement covering all the points raised. Cllr Marshall proposed that a condensed version of the statement should be sent in reply. This was seconded by Cllr Hey and agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the statement be condensed and sent in reply**

## 14.9. High Bentham WI - received

## 14.10. Skipton &amp; Craven Action for Disability

Whilst recognising this as a worthy cause the Council has now set the 2006/7 precept.

**RESOLVED: That a letter be sent explaining the situation**

## 14.11. Area Forum Meeting Agenda Items request - received

## 14.12. Annual Parish Meeting Reminder

**RESOLVED: That the parish meeting be held on Tuesday 25 April at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.**

## 15. CCllr &amp; DCllrs Reports

CCllr Ireton (who left the meeting at 8.05pm) had informed the meeting that the new school was progressing following an executive decision taken at the end of January. If the School Organisation Board objects then the amalgamation may yet not go ahead. The disposal of the current buildings will be referred to the Secretary of State. DCllr Hurlley reported that discussions were being held in Skipton regarding possible new Council offices, and also a multi story car park.

## 16. Reports from other bodies

Cllr Wills had attended a LASRUG meeting. The Wennington signal box is to be demolished in March which will have major repercussions for the line as there will be a 55 minute window without a break in the track which could affect services. The station building lease is still ongoing.

Cllr Adams had been to the recent Goodenber Road Play Area meeting. The Santa's Grotto evening had raised funds and donations had been received from both the Methodist Church and the Horse & Farrier. The next fund raising event will a coffee morning on 25 February.

## 17. Items For Information

17.1. Lancaster Local Development Framework (Planning) Consultation document

17.2. Framework Update

17.3. Notes from Wesley Close meeting

17.4. Inforegio News November 2005

17.5. LASRUG newsletter, August 2005

17.6. Parkdale Play

## 18. AOB - minor items only

The Council Social event will be on 17 February at the Coach House

The new trolleys are now in the Town Hall and proving very useful

A Market Committee meeting will be held in the week beginning 20 February - date to be confirmed.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.25pm