

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 3 July 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Hurlley (Chairman) Adams, Barrington, Burton, Faichney, Heigh, Marshall, Rushton, & Wills, DCllr Camacho & CCllr Ireton. Also, the Clerk Mrs Burton and 1 parishioner.

1. Apologies Cllr Barnes (delayed in Grantham and arriving very late)
2. Declarations of Interest - none
3. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 5 June 2006 were proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Heigh and agreed.

4. Police Report

Both Sgt Steve Thornthwaite & PC McClurg attended. Sgt Thornthwaite acknowledged that there are problems with the local policing of the area due to staffing levels, particularly at night. The new Rural Inspector for Craven, Jonathan Pickles, is now in place and is aware of the problems. The call centre system is still a problem but staffing levels of these are being reviewed. PC McClurg reported that there had been 9 reported crimes in the Bentham area in June, including 5 thefts, 2 assaults and 2 criminal damage. The latter including the damage to the 300 year old sun dial at St Johns church.

The main area for anti social behaviour remains School Hill, where the seat and bin have both been damaged. The biggest problem is after midnight, but local residents are now reporting the problems as they occur. Sgt Thornthwaite emphasised that reporting problems as they occur is very important - using the 999 number at night. If anything is to be done about the level of policing in the area then senior officers need to know there is a problem - which will only be recognised by the level of reports. CCllr Ireton said that the public have lost confidence in the call centre system which sees all calls centralised in York and North Allerton, long delays on the phone, no local knowledge and very little action afterwards. Cllr Marshall expressed his thanks the police for their speedy response to the 999 call made from Riverside the previous week. Cllr Hurlley thanked the local police for their sterling work, recognising that any shortcomings in the system were the result of decisions made by senior officers far removed from the area. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Constable regarding the local staffing levels.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Chief Constable regarding local staffing levels

5. Planning

5.1. Applications

- 5.1.1. 08/2006/6442 New 3bed dwelling (reserved matters 08/2003/3461) at 29 Lakeber Avenue, High Bentham.

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

- 5.1.2. 08/2006/6466 Change of use from field to Garden & Driveway, and small extension to garage at 16 Springfield Crescent, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

- 5.1.3. 08/2006/6497 Stone Porch to front / south elevation at The Farmhouse, Mewith Head Farm, Mewith Lane, Bentham.

RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval

5.2. Decisions

- 5.2.1. 08/2005/5537 Change of Land use to private Gypsy Site to allow occupation of existing caravan and retention of shower block at Clay Barn, Waterside Potteries, Burton In Lonsdale – GRANTED FOR 2 YEARS
- 5.2.2. 08/2006/6324 Single Dwelling (reserved matters 08/2004/4056) on land adjacent to 2 Cheapside, Burton Road, Low Bentham – GRANTED
- 5.2.3. 08/2006/6344 Alteration and extension to provide bathroom and disabled lift at Chesham, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham - GRANTED
- 5.2.4. 08/2006/6358 Two storey side extension at 35 Goodenber Road, High Bentham – GRANTED
- 5.2.5. 08/2006/6367 Change of use from Agricultural to Garden Area at Holly Bank, 46 Robin Lane, High Bentham - GRANTED
- 5.2.6. 08/2006/6373 Double stables in enclosed area of approx 360m² adjacent to Tennant Hose, Clapham Road, High Bentham – GRANTED
- 5.2.7. 08/2006/6381 Extension & Alterations to Calf Cop Cottage. Replacement Windows to Calf Cop Barn, Burton Road, Low Bentham - GRANTED

5.3. Correspondence

- 5.3.1. Wesley Close Development

Cllrs Wills and Burton had met with Graham Tarn from Craven DC regarding the flooding problems on Wesley Close. The drainage plan for top water was accepted by the Planning Department, but Mr Tarn was made aware of the Council's concerns regarding the capability of the dyke and general direction of flow of water which will put more pressure on the dyke. He had since put a camera down the dyke and found a blockage which will be cleared. Once this is done another camera will be used to check the condition of the drain. CCllr Ireton pointed out that a condition of the planning permission was that the

flooding problems had to be addressed. Cllr Marshall agreed but said that the solution accepted merely moved the problem further up the field and potentially into other residents gardens. He proposed that the Council write to Craven registering their concerns, this was seconded by Cllr Adams. DCllr Camacho suggested that a letter should also be sent to Yorkshire Housing.

RESOLVED: That a letter registering the Council's concerns be sent to Craven District Council and Yorkshire Housing.

5.3.2. Letter from Campaign to Protect Rural England - received

5.3.3. Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Issues & Options 6 week consultation period

Cllr Marshall agreed to attend the Briefing Meeting on this subject on 4 July. Based on the importance of this issue on the future development of Bentham it was agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday 10 July at 7.30pm to agree the Council's response. Notices to be put on the High & Low Bentham notice boards and Bentham Traders to be informed.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall attend the briefing meeting

RESOLVED: That a meeting be held on Monday 10 July at 7.30pm in the Town Hall to consider the Council's response

RESOLVED: That notices be put up informing the public of the meeting

5.3.4. Lancaster District LDF: Sustainability Appraisal - received

5.3.5. Adoption of Lancaster District Statement of Community Involvement - received

6. Review of Risk Assessments

The Town Hall H&S risk assessment agreed in November 2005 was to be reviewed initially after 6 months and then annually. The adopted document had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting. It was agreed that the only amendment required was regarding the erection of a banister to improve the trip hazard in the entrance.

RESOLVED: That the entrance hazard be amended and the document adopted.

The General risk assessment had also been circulated for review. It was agreed that the only required change was regarding the Caretaker's contract which had been rewritten following the refurbishment of the Town Hall. A full H&S risk assessment will need to be done on the Low Bentham Playing Field following refurbishment - preferably by a professional in Play Areas, and weekly checks will need to be budgeted for.

RESOLVED: That the Caretaker section be amended and the document adopted

RESOLVED: That a full professional H&S risk assessment be done on Low Bentham Playing Field following refurbishment

7. Highway Matters

7.1. NYCC reply

The problems reported at the June meeting have been 'passed to John Miller' and no further response received. The letters sent regarding the grass cutting and the new surface on Mount Pleasant / Springfield have elicited postcards. Cllr Wills reported that the cutting out and re filling of the ironwork has left two gully tops higher than the road surface so that water can no longer get away (at Beech House). It was noted that the drains in the narrows at Lairgill are also still blocked. Cllr Hurtle said that County had stated that, for insurance purposes, they checked the B6480 on a monthly basis. He wondered, if this was the case, why the Council regularly had to report problems on this stretch of road. It was agreed to ask for copies of the reports.

RESOLVED: That the letters and problems reported in June be chased up by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be made aware of the drain problems on Mount Pleasant

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked for copies of their monthly reports on the B6480

7.2. Waiting Restrictions – Main Street TRO

The TRO to alter the single and double yellow lining on Main Street and Station Road as discussed with David Bowe has now been prepared for consultation.

7.3. Footpath Application

The application has been turned down as much of the land is owned by Rail Track and it is an offence to trespass on Railway land.

7.4. Right of Way – Millers Ford

DCllr Camacho said that the Planning Department have admitted that this is their mistake, and that the Developer is keen to rectify the situation - if the planners inform him of an acceptable solution. As many of the Councillors were unfamiliar with this footpath Cllr Adams agreed to have a look and feedback via email. A reply will then be sent to Mr Yeates.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Adams will feedback to Council following a look at the problem and a reply will be sent to Mr Yeates.

7.5. Temporary Closure of B6480 near Church Bridge, Low Bentham - received

8. Town Hall Matters

8.1. Progress Update

The clerk brought the meeting up to date with the outstanding matters of Town Hall maintenance.

(a) The fire alarm sounders in the Ballroom have been replaced with strobe lights and the smoke detectors near the stage with heat detectors.

(b) The under stage area has been cleaned

- (c) The decorating in the entrance area and the Lower Hall is complete
- (d) The door nameplates have been ordered from a local cheaper source
- (e) The banister for the entrance step has been ordered as it is within the regulations
- (f) Mr Burrow cannot do the fire alarm checks so another company is being sought
- (g) Rogersons will not service the boilers without payment, so further quotes are being obtained
- (h) Another source of notice boards has been found
- (i) The damaged ceiling tiles in the Lower Hall should be replaced in the next couple of weeks
- (j) Other outstanding items - Wenningdale water heater, netting of the eaves, and the external lights are in hand.

RESOLVED: That the notice boards should be ordered.

9. Low Bentham Playing Field

9.1. Car Boot Sale / Council fund raising

The venue of the car boot sale was discussed as Cllr Faichney felt that it would be better at Low Bentham School, being in Low Bentham and also having an area where children can run around. The school have agreed that the grounds can be used. Cllr Barrington expressed concern that the date was close to the Low Bentham Street Market which is in some ways a similar event. The general feeling was that the events should not compete.

RESOLVED: That the car boot be held at Low Bentham School

Cllr Rushton said that she had attended a Play Initiative meeting at Craven discussing the Big Lottery funding for the Craven Area. There will be funding available for 'innovative play', which should be followed up when a better idea of the requirements is known.

Other funding raising ideas were considered

RESOLVED: That the Council should hold a coffee morning on 23 December for the LBPF

Earlier discussions about a Bentham Calendar promoting events in the Town Hall had been progressed, with a view to selling the calendar to raise funds for LBPF and selling sponsorship to cover production costs. The clerk explained the progress to date and Cllr Wills asked for a mandate to move on to the next stage as time is short if production is to be done for this autumn. Cllr Burton proposed that a more concrete plan and format be brought to the next meeting, to include all costs, layout etc. This was seconded by Cllr Hurtley and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the costing and feasibility of a Bentham Calendar sponsored by local businesses and sold in aid of LBPF be pursued.

9.2. Date of meeting

Low Bentham Councillors other interested parties should meet at LBPF on Tuesday 4 July at 7.30pm to look at the site and consider the way forward

RESOLVED: That an initial site meeting be held on 4 July 2006.

10. School Theatre Performance

The Theatre Group will be performing for just over 200 children on 14 July. The Clerk asked for assistance from Councillors in setting out chairs on Thursday 13 July.

11. Accounts for payment

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

B Rothwell	1323.00	Andrews	8.11
PADS	267.98	Viking Direct	138.06
Mopps	385.50	Cannon Hygiene	14.21
Jha Ltd	587.50	Stannah	124.84
E Maxwell	115.40	PAYE	95.66
B&CE Armstrong	20.49	J Burton	968.69
Grasscare	887.12	R Green	430.46
Powergen	75.83	C Louth	95.66
Craven DC	84.00		

12. Correspondence

12.1. Settle Stationlink & North Craven Taxibus, changes to service - received

12.2. Craven Garage Review

There are approximately 15 garages owned by Craven and rented out in Bentham. The Council agreed that they are a valuable asset, which do keep some cars off Bentham's already crowded streets. Cllr Adams had spoken to tenants who thought that the rent was fair but might be prepared to pay more if it was the only way for the service to continue. The Council felt that any extra revenue should be invested in further garages. They were against the idea of Craven selling off these assets, particularly for affordable housing as this would further increase parking problems by not only forcing existing cars out onto the street, but increasing the potential number of vehicles in the area.

RESOLVED: That a reply be sent detailing the above information.

12.3. Car Parking Charges reply - received

12.4. RSR reply - received

13. CCllr & DCllrs Reports

CCllr Ireton reported that High Bentham Primary School had won the regional final of the school's Healthy Living Competition which was a tremendous feat, and he asked for his congratulations to be passed on to both the staff and the governors.

RESOLVED: That a letter of congratulation be sent to High Bentham School

CCllr Ireton also asked about the reversal of priorities at Lairgill and was informed that the traffic flow was now running much better

DCllrs Camacho & Hurtley had nothing to report

14. Reports from other bodies

Cllr Barnes had met with members of Looking Well and would be catching up with them on a regular basis. He had been unable to attend the open day but had been informed that it had passed successfully.

Cllr Adams had attended a Goodenber Road Play Area meeting. They had saved a significant amount by switching insurer. The Rospa inspection had been passed. Problems with vandalism and graffiti are on going.

Cllr Burton had attended a Bentham Development Trust meeting. Geoff Harmer of the Scarman Trust has been coopted on to the BDT board. The Bentham.net website has been updated. Active Bentham staff will be working out of the Victoria Institute twice a week. The Harrogate and District Community Transport bid to Futurebuilders had been successful, so Community Transport will use their buses in a partnership agreement. The grant will also pay for the development of the Station building, which has been leased for 25 years at a peppercorn rent for community use. Cllr Burton added that he had expressed concern at the meeting that as Community Transport did not require the same insurance or licenses as local taxi drivers they could offer unfair competition. Both Cllr Hurtley and Cllr Marshall echoed this feeling. Cllr Heigh commented on an article in the previous Craven Herald where DCllr Heseltine had commented on Craven's licensing system saying that it made Craven Transport much safer. She said she was concerned about double standards as Community Transport was not covered by these same rules and so had less qualified drivers and yet was still able to bid for contracts. Cllr Wills added that Craven also had double standards as they were not pursuing complaints about illegal taxi drivers who also did not fulfil the requirements.

Cllr Marshall announced that the Collingwood Longstaff vacancy had been filled

Cllr Barrington had attended a Bentham Traders meeting and commented that they were waiting for another meeting with Council. It was suggested that the secretary should contact the clerk

15. Items For Information

- 15.1. North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan – Notice of Adoption
- 15.2. Planner for Road Journeys, June to September 2006.
- 15.3. The Playing Field, Spring 2006.
- 15.4. YLCA Joint Annual Meeting 15 July 2006
- 15.5. Country Air, Spring 2006.
- 15.6. North West Best Design Practice Guide
- 15.7. Inforegio, April 2006
- 15.8. Lancashire Minerals & Waste Framework Update
- 15.9. Craven Community Strategy Review
- 15.10. Woodlands Funding
- 15.11. Community Empowerment Awards
- 15.12. Voluntary Organisations Newsletter, July 2006.

16. AOB - minor items only

Cllr Barnes said that Lancashire & Cumbria were reorganising their ambulance cover towards more densely populated areas which would mean poorer cover for rural areas. Cllr Barrington added that First Responders was trying to set up in the area, and more information will be in Bentham News.

Cllr Adams said that although Langcliffe Paper Mill is closing the monthly waste paper collection will continue Cllr Wills broached the subject of the green space adjacent to the Legion Hut, and apologised for bringing this subject to AOB but he had only just received copy of the correspondence, and Craven were expecting reply by 21 July. Craven had approached adjoining properties to see if they would like to purchase this land, despite the fact that access to 3 properties runs over it. Council felt that this was an important open space in the area, covered with mature trees. They agreed to write to Craven asking that it become a designated open space and also ask planning to grant tree preservation orders on the area.

RESOLVED: That Craven be asked to designate this area an open space and put TPOs on the existing trees.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.55pm