

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 March 2016, at 7.30 pm in the Community Youth Building

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Marshall, Stannard, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllr Thompson, the clerk Mrs Burton and 5 parishioners

215. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Cowling, Faichney & Pritchard, and CCllr Ireton

216. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Marshall declared a personal interest in item 223.1.1, planning application 08/2016/16590, as friend and occasional employer of the applicant.
The Council noted that, as the applicant, it would not be commenting on item 223.1.2, planning application 08/2016/16604.

217. To Receive Comment & Concerns
Mr Keith Hartley spoke on behalf of the Extra Care Group, aiming to bring Extra Care Housing for the elderly and disabled to Bentham. He noted that since Abbeyfield closed in 2012 anyone requiring residential or nursing care needed to move out of the area. NYCC's policy of building Extra Care Housing – an amalgamation of sheltered, residential and nursing care, has changed recently, so although the old primary school site is earmarked the funding is no longer available. A recent housing survey of the area has shown under provision in Bentham, despite an earlier decision that there was insufficient need. The current NY policy is to close current residential homes as they are 'unfit for purpose' requiring considerable work due to lack of investment. Therefore, the priority for new EC housing is to replace these facilities. Consequently, Bentham is a long way down the list. The Extra Care Group needs the Council's support to emphasis the area's need to NYCC and to ask why the current policy is in place when areas like our own have no provision and those in need have to move away from the area.

218. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meetings
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 1 and 8 February be signed

219. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes

220. To Receive a Drop In Session Update (for information only)
- none present

221. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
- none present

222. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Thompson informed the meeting that Craven's Local Plan is on target for completion by December 2016, with a 'must be done by' date of March 2017. Extra resources have been allocated to ensure the deadline is met

223. Planning

223.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

223.1.1. 08/2016/16590 Proposed development of single two storey detached dwelling at Lairgill House, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

223.1.2. 08/2016/16604 Change of use of Playing Field to residential development of 2 no. dwellings at Bank View, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That, as the applicant, the Council will not comment on this application

223.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

223.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

224. Highways Matters

224.1. To Receive an update from LCC regarding Eskew Lane and repairs to the B6480

LCC confirmed that they would not introduce a temporary speed limit as it could not be enforced and was unlikely to be observed. On a more positive note they said the aim was to have the B6480 repairs completed for early summer.

- 224.2. To Receive an update from NYCC regarding issues raised in February
 It was agreed that NYCC should be chased again regarding blocked gullies, and that any further reports should be passed to the clerk for reporting on. Photographic proof that gullies are blocked and not 'overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water' would be useful
 The repair to the wall opposite the Auction following the recent road traffic accident was discussed. Highways have confirmed that the retaining wall is the responsibility of the owner of the land that it retains. The Council may be responsible for the wall in front of the phone box. The insurers of the vehicle which hit the wall should be contacted regarding paying for the repair.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways should be asked again to clear the blocked gullies around the town

RESOLVED: That the Council should contact the owner of the vehicle which hit the wall outside the telephone box on School Hill with a view to getting it repaired.

- 224.3. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

RESOLVED: That LCC Highways be asked to grit Eskew Lane in the current bad weather due to the increased traffic using the road

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to retrieve the orange stone bags washed down the river from the Lanefoot works in the recent bad weather

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to repair the potholes opposite the Horse & Farrier Inn

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to repair the 'Humped Crossing' sign light on the Bentham side of the crossing and look again at the beacon cowl

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to remove the gravel from under the bridge by the station as the river is threatening gardens in the area when in flood.

225. To Receive an update on the insurance of Defibrillators, as requested

The insurers had confirmed that these could be covered on the supply of extra information with each application being decided on its own merits. Delivery of the first two, to be installed on the Town Hall and the Surgery, has been delayed due to high demand. Various groups have agreed to fund raise to supply further machines and will allow public access, e.g. Bentham Golf Club, Springfield Bowling Club, Victoria Institute etc.

226. To Agree to support the work of the Extra Care Group to secure accommodation and support services for the parish and surrounding area

Cllr Townson informed the meeting that the Extra Care Group were determine to move this issue forwards and would shortly be undertaking various surveys to emphasise the need in the area. NYCC have a team of partners to provide and run the facilities. Craven have emphasised the development of Bentham in their Local Plan so the need will only increase

RESOLVED: That the Council provide a formal expression of support to the Extra Care Group

RESOLVED: That the Council press NYCC for a positive outcome given the need in the area

RESOLVED: That the provision of Extra Care Housing be included in the Neighbourhood Plan

227. To Consider ways in which the Council may be able to support residents who want B4RN broadband

B4RN broadband has reached the outskirts of Low Bentham, but landowner consent and public assistance will be needed to get it into properties. There has been activity on social media in recent weeks to get things moving

RESOLVED: That Cllr Bridgeman will write to Bentham News regarding the practicalities of getting B4RN into the village

228. To Receive further information on the Queen's 90th Birthday Events

- 228.1. To note that Permission has been received from Fourstones Estate for the beacon

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Adams and Vendy will update the Beacon Risk Assessment and notify the Council of any requirements

RESOLVED: That members of the Open Space committee will meet with the landowner regarding H&S issues

- 228.2. To note the official beacon lighting time is 7.30pm on 21 April -noted

RESOLVED: That the beacon lighting time and date need to be advertised

- 228.3. To receive notice of Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire celebration on 12 June, looking for people celebrating 90th birthdays in 2016

The clerk had already circulated this information to Age Concern and The Community Link Café. Bentham News agreed to publish details as well

RESOLVED: That the clerk pass application details to Bentham News for publication

- 228.4. To note St John's celebration events on 12 June - noted

- 228.5. To note availability of commemorative medal if required – noted

229. To Receive responses from Craven District Council and Julian Smith MP regarding the removal of funding to Settle Swimming Pool - received

230. To Receive a response from Craven District Council regarding the potential recharging for maintenance of St Margaret's churchyard.
Information from Craven confirmed that the District Council is uncertain as to whether it will charge the parish for the maintenance, and if it does how this might be charged.
231. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Committee meeting on 25 January and 29 February, and consider recommendations, if any
- 231.1. To note the request for raffle prizes and assistance at the Tourist Information coffee morning on 2 April – noted
- 231.2. To agree the donation of the clerk's original laptop to charity
RESOLVED: That the clerk's original computer be donated to charity
- 231.3. To agree the refund of some calendar sponsorship monies to sponsors due to reduced printing costs
RESOLVED: That the excess calendar sponsorship money be returned to the sponsors
232. To Note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee on 8 February, and consider recommendations - noted
233. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	72.71	Post Office	54.00
Mopps	384.00	British Telecom	349.83
Aviva	311.66	Grove Hill Garage	60.00
EOn	92.15	MBE Ltd	60.00
Orange	23.99	Dalehead Vets	60.00
SWALEC	159.66	Myers Group	60.00
T Wheildon	352.20	Craven Concrete	60.00
Yorkshire Water	297.86	Al Harrison & Co	60.00
HCS Ltd	88.08	S&W Fabrications	60.00
YLCA	678.00	HB Plumbing & Heating	60.00
Stream Computers	160.00	CM Slinger & Sons	60.00
Clearglass Cleaning	90.00	Atkinson Vos	60.00
TW & HM Lawson	854.40	Butler Interiors	60.00
NYCC	601.42	Salaries	1583.11

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

234. To consider items of Correspondence
- 234.1. To receive an invitation to the Parishes Liaison Meeting at Craven's offices on 16 March at 6.30pm and agree attendance, if any
RESOLVED: That unfortunately no Cllr is available to attend
- 234.2. To consider a request to take over the maintenance of the Bygone Bentham plaques
David Johnson has been responsible for the organisation of this project since its inception with the Council paying for the maintenance of the plaques over the last few years. He asked for another organisation to look to take over the project in the future if he is unable to continue. It was agreed that the Council would take on the project and look at more possibly producing more permanent plaques. The clerk agreed to get a definitive list of plaques for consideration by the Open Spaces Committee
RESOLVED: That the Council will take over the Bygone Bentham project in the future and continue to support it
RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Committee look at the practicalities of the project ongoing
- 234.3. To consider a request from the Footpaths Group regarding repairs by volunteers
As NYCC Footpaths have had their budget reduced they have asked Bentham Footpaths Group to carry out repairs as volunteers. The Group asked if the Council might be able to add them to its insurance policy and pay for materials. The clerk had enquired but as the volunteers would not be working for the Council this would be problematic, particularly in terms of project management and risk assessment. It was suggested that the group should look to getting their own insurance and ask the Council to contribute to the costs as it does for the Friends of Bentham Library. Materials could be covered through the parish caretaker budget but all ordering would need to be agreed by the Open Spaces Committee and done through the clerk.
RESOLVED: That the Footpaths Group be asked to explore getting their own insurance and then asking the Council for a contribution
RESOLVED: That the Council could pay for materials through the parish caretaker budget but that such expenditure would need to be agreed in advance by the Open Spaces Committee

234.4. To receive a letter from the Air Ambulance regarding funding - received

RESOLVED: That the clerk inform the organisation about the size of the Council and the availability of precept grants

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

Cllr Swales had attended a meeting of the Joint Footpaths Group where Brian Mullins of NYCC Footpaths had spoken about the new setup of the department following further budget cuts. Funding is now at an all-time low and very little maintenance will be possible

Cllr Marshall said that the Collingwood & Longstaffe Charity would be adding porches to the Alms-houses to give residents greater storage areas and that bathrooms would be refurbished with disabled people in mind. The current kitchen refurbishment project is roughly half way through.

Cllr Vandy had attended the first meeting of the new Defibrillator Procurement Group. A volunteer from Low Bentham will be training the committee members in the use of the machines and CPR, and they will then hold two open sessions in the Town Hall in April to train interested residents.

The Youth Café has had a change in Committee membership. Their next meeting is on 7 March.

Cllr Cowling had provided a written report in his absence. The Standing Together presentation at the Town Hall on 6 February by the Refugee Support Group had been a success with 40 people attending. The next fund raiser will be on 12 March

Pioneer Projects AGM had been held on 17 February. Despite funding cut backs and the loss of 3 paid members of staff there is a determination to make the organisation sustainable.

236. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Various residents have asked Cllrs about the possibility of the old primary school being turned into an equivalent of Ingleton's I-Centre, even if only temporarily. It was noted that this was a community venture. The clerk agreed to ask the question to Cllr Ireton

Another had asked whether the Council might rent an empty shop for art displays, it was pointed out that the Town Hall was available for hire for such events

Cllr Marshall asked that the public be made aware that, from 1 April, the Council will be charging delivery vans to deliver in the parish and that the proceeds will be given to Community Groups and businesses.

There being no further business, the public part of the meeting was closed at 9.15pm

AGENDA ITEM 219)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 7 March 2016

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 08/2015/16496 Change of use from Care Home (C2) to Residential Dwelling (C3) at The Red House, Gas House Lane, High Bentham

1.1.2. 08/2016/16526 Outline application with all matters reserved for single 2-bed dwelling and associated external works at land south of 6 Hillcroft, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. none

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Draft Craven Local Plan consultation, 3 March to 14 April

2.2. LCC Local Plan 2015 consultation report available

2.3. LCC Morecambe Town Council NP application

2.4. LCC Slyne with Hest Parish Council NP application

2.5. Petition to allow Parish Councils to appeal planning consents

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting (if not on agenda)

3.1. Thanks sent to Cllr Ireton 8/2

3.2. Enquiry re school repair sent to Cllr Ireton 8/2

3.3. Bentham Flag – no progress to date

3.4. Meeting with Stephen Brown still to be arranged

3.5. Community Emergency Plan – committee to organise meeting and report back

3.6. The Clerk magazine, March 2016

3.7. Clerks & Councils Direct magazine, March 2016

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. TH boiler insurance inspection received 5/2
- 4.2. SLCC – the Society's future
- 4.3. Rural Action Yorkshire – Warm and Well Campaign
- 4.4. Scope collection date 28/3 to 24/4 2016

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 8/2, 15/2, 22/2, 29/2/16
- 5.2. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 3/2 & 2/3
- 5.3. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport 10/2, Rural Broadband 25/2
- 5.4. Rural Spotlight on Young People, 24/2
- 5.5. Rural News Special – Rural Funding Special 1/2 & 2/2
- 5.6. Fields in Trust update 18/2 & 3/3
- 5.7. North Yorkshire Now, 8/2 & 7/3
- 5.8. Historic Towns Forum Update & Annual Report 3/2
- 5.9. RAY Newsletter 4/2
- 5.10. NY Police Craven Update 3/2 & 2/3
- 5.11. NY Police, Craven Neighbourhood Watch Update 5/2, 7/2, 8/2, 19/2
- 5.12. Home Start Craven newsletter 9/2
- 5.13. Maternity Services Focus Group, Settle Health Centre 5 May 2pm

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January
- 6.2. Unmetered Supply for street lights – awaiting info from NYCC
- 6.3. Community Emergency Plan generic template & Burton Plan to be considered – meeting to be arranged
- 6.4. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.5. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.6. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited