

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6 November, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Faraday, Handford, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllr Thompson, the clerk Mrs Burton, the coordinator Mrs Hawkins and 3 parishioners

103. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Ireton

104. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members' requests for DPI dispensations
Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in item 110.1.8, planning application 18660, as a shareholder of the Auction Mart. Cllr Stannard declared a personal interest in item 110.1.7, planning application 18616, as a neighbour. The Coordinator, Mrs Hawkins, also informed the meeting that she was the applicant on items 100.1.1 & 100.1.2, planning applications 18483 and 18484, and would leave the room when they were discussed

105. To Receive Comment & Concerns - none

106. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 2 October be signed

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

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

Although unable to attend, a police report had been sent. There had been one reported crime in Bentham in the previous month as a result of a domestic incident. There had been further reports of anti-social behaviour around the Auction Mart on 25 October but all was quiet when the police attended. Wednesday evenings will continue to be monitored. There were no problems over Halloween or Bonfire night.

109. To Receive Reports from Cllr & DCllrs (for information only)

Cllr Ireton had sent a written report informing the Council that NYCC is proposing to replace existing street lighting with LED technology. Of the current 50,400 lights only 6400 have been converted already. Conversion of the remaining lights will cost £12.9m, including 44000 lamps, installation of 5000 double pole isolators and in some places replacement of poles & brackets where equipment is no longer suitable. Annual savings of £1.285m will be made with reduced running and lower maintenance costs.

NYCC Schools GCSE results have come out top of Yorkshire Schools, a testament to teachers, students, governors & parents, DCllr Thompson announced the CDC had awarded a £400 grant to the Bentham Dementia Friendly Group. He also informed the meeting that the Digital Enterprise Program were offering grants of up to £5000 for businesses to invest in computer hardware & software, telephony and connectivity, if they could prove an economic impact of receiving such a grant.

110. Planning

110.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

110.1.1. 2017/18483/HH Renovation of existing farmhouse, including upgrading of electrical & plumbing systems, partial conversion of listed barn to form new dining area & new access to rear garden. Addition of conservation metal roof lights to rear & offshoot roofs at Calf Cop Farm, Calf Cop, Low Bentham

The coordinator left the room

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

110.1.2. 2017/18484/LBC Renovation of existing farmhouse, including upgrading of electrical & plumbing systems, partial conversion of listed barn to form new dining area & new access to rear garden. Addition of conservation metal roof lights to rear & offshoot roofs at Calf Cop Farm, Calf Cop, Low Bentham (LISTED)

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

The Coordinator re-joined the meeting

110.1.3. 2017/18506/HH Demolition of conservatory, replacement with bedroom & demolition of porch, replacement with utility room at 9 Robin Lane, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

110.1.4. 2017/18531/FUL Agricultural storage building at Kiln Lodge, Clapham Road, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application as long as it is in keeping with the other buildings in the area

110.1.5. 2017/18560/HH Lift up section of roof over garage to allow first floor bedroom extension & other alterations to existing dwelling at 7 Springfield Crescent, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

110.1.6. 2017/18572/FUL Temporary access to allow the entry & exit of construction vehicles onto highway to perform permission 08/2016/17500 at Butts Hill Depot, Nutgill Farm, High Bentham

Concerns were expressed as to how temporary the new access would be and the Council decided it should ask for a time limit to be put upon it.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application as long as a time limit was imposed for it to be removed.

110.1.7. 2017/18616/FUL Construction of 2no. new detached dwellings with associated parking on land at Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham

Cllr Stannard declared an interest and left the room

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

110.1.8. 2017/18660/FUL Forming new roof over existing livestock pens & extending existing roof to form canopy at Bentham Auction Mart, Main Street, Bentham

Cllr Marshall declared a DPI and left the room

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

110.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

110.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

111. Highways Matters

111.1. To Receive an update on the closure of the School car park, noting that the problems have been resolved

The H&S Risk Manager had been to the school and resolved the issues that had arisen, so the car park is now open when the school is open alleviating pressure on parking outside.

RESOLVED: That a letter of thanks be sent to Cllr Ireton and John Lee for their action to resolve the problem

111.2. To Receive a letter regarding further damage to Beechstones Cottage on Mount Pleasant and agree a response

Beechstones Cottage had been hit by an HGV again on 4 October. On this occasion the driver had stopped and accepted liability, and the police had been called. The Council sympathised with the owners but felt it could be of little assistance as the entrance is on private land and it has no jurisdiction. It was suggested that the owners' insurance company may be able to help and that direct contact with the directors should be made in order to resolve the problem.

RESOLVED: That the Council is unable to help as the incidents are occurring on private land and that the owners should be encouraged to deal direct with the directors of the Auction Mart and the land owner

111.3. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

It was agreed to meet Frank Crossley to discuss the Rose Garden on 13 November

The state of the road around the BT chamber outside the Co-Op has deteriorated further and another potential collapse in the road has appeared at the junction of Butts Lane & Mount Pleasant. The recent road repair in the narrows at Lairgill is very poor and will not last. The drain clearance scheduled for w/b 23 October has not occurred. A car recently went off the road close to the top of Parkfoot as there is no barrier and the trees have been thinned out. No one was injured but NYCC should be asked to consider installing a barrier to protect other drivers.

RESOLVED: That members meet NYCC to discuss the Rose Garden on 13 November

RESOLVED: That the subsidence outside the Co-Op and on Mount Pleasant be reported

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked to look at the poor repair on Mount Pleasant at Lairgill

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked to confirm when gully clearance will actually happen in Bentham

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked to look at installing a safety barrier on Parkfoot to keep vehicles on the road

112. To Note the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 16 October, and consider recommendations

The bank reconciliation was correct at 30 September 2017, and was as follows:

	Bank Statement	Plus O/s Receipts	Less O/s Cheques	Balance
Current	67231.72	376.32	3557.29	64050.75
PSDF	162000.00			162000.00

112.1. To agree the changes to the 2017/18 budget to account for the staffing changes

RESOLVED: That the amended budget is agreed

112.2. To discuss and agree the draft Co-Option procedure

The draft procedure had been circulated and was generally agreed except for whether the Chairman must use his casting vote in the event of a tied vote between two candidates. A vote was taken to amend the sentence to 'may' use his casting vote, resulting in a tied vote 5:5 with 1 abstention. The Chair used his casting vote and the sentence was amended to 'may'.

RESOLVED: That the draft Co-Option procedure be amended so that the Chair 'may' use his casting vote in the event of a tie between two candidates, and be signed

112.3. To consider amendments to the Recording of Meetings policy, reducing the period that recordings are kept

When adopted in 2014 the Council had agreed to keep recordings for 7 years. Current SLCC advice is to delete the recording when the minutes, which are the legal record of the meeting, are accepted. It was agreed to reduce the time recordings should be kept to 12 months

RESOLVED: That the amended Recording of Meetings policy be signed, reducing the period recordings are kept to 12 months

113. To Note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 1 November, and consider recommendations, if any (not available at publication of agenda) - noted

RESOLVED: That the grass cutting contract be put on the next agenda

114. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Committee meeting on 2 November, and consider recommendations, if any (not available at publication of agenda) - noted

115. To Discuss the current situation with vacant shops in Bentham and what steps the Council might be able to take
Vacant shops on the Main Street are uninviting, and the question was asked whether the Council might be able to do something to encourage better use. It was noted that the town had been affected by three things – the closure of two banks leading to more people travelling to Settle & Kirkby, the relocation of the school out of the centre and the introduction of Supermarket Shop & Drop schemes. It was agreed that parking was a problem and that the car parks need better policing to prevent residents parking in them 24/7, housing camper vans and caravans off road and leaving commercial vehicles in spaces all weekend. White lining of the areas would also improve the efficiency of parking. Reopening the toilet block could also be an option if not prohibitively expensive.

RESOLVED: That Craven District Council be contacted with a view to improving the parking availability around the town.

116. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Stramongate Press	1396.80	YLCA	115.00
Howsons	142.80	British Legion	20.00
HB Plumbing & Heating	341.98	Winstanley	100.00
Viking Direct	115.64	BT	63.56
Thomas Graham	86.13	Aviva	372.18
Water Plus	196.82	Craven District Council	50.29
Swalec	1422.67	NEST	20.32
Blachere	1266.00	Salaries	2328.82

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

116.1. To note the proposed increase in YLCA fees for 2018/19 from £539 to £547 - noted

116.2. To note the estimated cost of the 2018 parish elections will be £2436.50 if contested (an uncontested election will cost £125) - noted

116.3. To consider the erection of Xmas Trees on the Town Hall (costs awaited)

RESOLVED: That S1B.com be asked to install & remove 2 Christmas trees (purchased by Council) to the Town Hall at a cost of £50

117. To consider items of Correspondence

117.1. To receive a letter from Settle Swimming Pool regarding future funding and agree a way forward

RESOLVED: That the Pool be asked to apply for a precept grant at which time the Council will discuss the merit of the application and the size of grant, if any

117.2. To receive an update regarding the 11 November 2018 Battle's Over celebrations

The addition of 'Battles Over' bell ringing alongside the Beacon lighting was discussed. The clerk had forwarded the information to St Johns Church

RESOLVED: That St Johns be asked to consider joining the Battles Over bell ringing on 11 November 2018

- 117.3. To receive a request from Xmas Lights to hang lights off the Town Hall
RESOLVED: That Christmas Lights can be hung from the Town Hall

118. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
 Cllr Townson reported that the Dementia Friendly Bentham constitution is being prepared
 The Extra Care revised plans had been available in the Library for comment and were now being further amended with a view to going back to Planning in January
 Cllr Marshall had attended a meeting of the Patient Representative Group. It is unlikely that Castleberg will reopen but future patients will hopefully be sent to Limestone View Settle or Kendal. The group is setting up a Facebook page
 The H&S and Fire Risk Assessment reviews of Collingwood & Longstaffe have been completed.

119. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Cllr Adams could not attend the Remembrance Service as he is away, so Cllrs Stannard & Marshall agreed to attend in his place to lay the wreath

The Council should send a letter of congratulation to Catherine Sawyer, winner of the Young Peoples Volunteering Community Award.

It was noted that recent minutes could be missing from the website and the webmaster should be asked to look into it.

It was reported that the Victoria Institute had completed the first stage of their mobility access project

A letter should be sent to the Bonfire Committee to thank them for yet another excellent fire and display

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

AGENDA ITEM 107)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6 November 2017

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 2017/18461/OUT Outline application for construction of 2no. semi detached dwellings with all matters reserved at Land to the rear of Former NatWest Bank, Station Road Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. none

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. 2017/18255/VAR Application to vary conditions 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17 & 18 of consent 08/2016/17386 at Toll Bar Gardens – Planning Committee 23 October – PASSED

- 2.2. Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB Development Plan Publication

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

- 3.1. Letter to B4RN re wayleave sent 9/10
 3.2. 'Missed' grass on Cross Lane cut 16/10
 3.3. Confirmation that Mrs Hey has been removed from Council accounts

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Copy B4RN standard wayleave agreement
 4.2. Update on the Lifeline Project in administration
 4.3. Craven Area Committee agenda, 9/11 Skipton
 4.4. Clerks & Councils Direct, Nov 17
 4.5. Blood Donation Session, Ingleton 10/11
 4.6. Community Governance Review – recommendations for small parishes

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 2/10, 9/10, 16/10, 23/10, 30/10
 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service – Transport 11/10, Broadband 25/10
 5.3. Rural Spotlight – Housing 18/10
 5.4. Rural Opportunities Bulletin 4/10, 1/11
 5.5. North Yorkshire Now Oct 17
 5.6. Fields in Trust Newsletter 6/10 & 27/10
 5.7. NALC CEO bulletin 9/10, 13/10, 20/10, 27/10
 5.8. Locality, My Community 2/10
 5.9. Community First Yorkshire News Oct 17
 5.10. Craven DC News Oct 17

- 5.11. Julian Smith MP Update 10/10
- 5.12. FOB AONB Annual Report
- 5.13. Yorkshire Air Ambulance Annual Report 2017

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Co-Option procedure – see agenda
- 6.2. Street Lighting further discussed by Open Spaces, meeting with ENW to be arranged
- 6.3. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January 2016
- 6.4. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11/15. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.5. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.6. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, CDC to consider