

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4 December, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall

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

Prior to the meeting members met with Rev Anne Russell from the Youth Café Management Committee. The committee have been conducting a feasibility study looking at the use of the Community Youth Building and the needs of the community – children, young people & families. The youth leaders had stepped down at the end of the summer due to altered work commitments, so the committee had taken the opportunity to approach stakeholders e.g. Stronger Communities, 4Youth (NYCC), the school, young people etc. Currently volunteers are mainly from churches with very few parents, so there is a need to employ another youth worker(s) to take the project forward. The café is open just one night per week at the moment for 8-15 yr olds – the desire is to widen provision and perhaps split the age groups into different evenings. Rev Russell agreed to keep the Council informed and it was agreed that, as landlords, the Council would consider any requests for change to the current agreement as it was very supportive of the project's continuation as there is no other real youth provision in the area.

120. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Marshall & Pritchard, DCllr Brockbank

121. 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 – None

122. To Receive Comment & Concerns

A member of Bloomin' Bentham encouraged the Council to get behind the knitted poppy project (item 131.3) and encourage organisations to get involved.

123. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 November be signed

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

Notice of an appeal to the refusal of planning application 08/2017/18023 was brought to the Council's attention. It was agreed that the original comments should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate

125. 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 2 RTCs without injury in the past month. There had also been 3 thefts/burglaries, two assaults with either arrest or person under investigation and a report of harassment again with an individual under investigation. A shop window had been broken and the offender dealt with by community resolution disposal. The 2 new safety camera vans are now based in Skipton giving daily coverage to Craven's roads, not just for speeding but also using a mobile phone or lack of seat belts.

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

CCllr Ireton reported that NYCC was reviewing its Area Committees with a view to moving to parliamentary boundaries, combining Craven with Ripon – giving a very large area with nothing in common, which would be a bad idea in his opinion. The planning application for the Extracare provision had gone in and, if passed first time, would mean building starting in summer 2018 and completion in early 2019, with units being allocated (by a multi-agency panel) in January 2019. He thanked the Extracare Group for driving this project to this point.

DCllr Thompson said that there would be a special meeting of Craven District Council on 19 December which was expected to approve submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate – which would hopefully be a relatively short process before approval.

He reiterated that local businesses were welcome to apply for LEADER funding to improve efficiency or provide extra employment. As this area was considered to have one of the better committees extra funding will be found over and above the designated £2.9m for projects fulfilling the criteria.

He agreed that CCTV was required to catch fly-tippers at Grasmere Drive and would talk to the relevant officers.

127. Planning

127.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

127.1.1. 2017/18715/FUL Residential development for Extracare housing comprising 64 apartments & 8 bungalows including associated parking, landscaping & formation of new access off Robin Lane at Former Community Primary School, Robin Lane, High Bentham

There was some discussion regarding the provision of parking – with only 39 spaces for the 72 accommodation places but the Council voted 6:3 against expressing any concerns

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

- 127.1.1.1. To consider a letter from Bruce Dinsmore regarding old school playing field and agree a response

It was agreed that the new school had comparable facilities and, as the original site had not been available for public use, that there were no objections to the loss of the playing field

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to the loss of the playing field

- 127.1.2. 2017/18745/FUL Erection of detached 2-storey dwelling house (revision to approval 08/2016/16590) at Lairgill House, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

- 127.1.3. 2017/18764/COU Change of use of existing office to residential use & retention of existing commercial storage at Green Head Offices, Cross Lane, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

- 127.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

- 127.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

128. Highways Matters

- 128.1. To receive an information on the meeting with Frank Crossley regarding The Rose Garden proposal Cllrs Marshall & Stannard and the clerk had met with Frank Crossley to consider the proposal. The visibility splay is not good and would require a speed survey showing that traffic travels at 25mph or less approaching the entrance. The area is not wide enough to allow two rows of vehicles and manoeuvring space to exit the Rose Garden, so a maximum of 8 vehicles could be parked on the land, with a loss of 6 on-road parking spaces. It was agreed that the expected costs of the project would far out-weigh the benefits.

RESOLVED: That the Council does not progress the proposal to turn the Rose Garden into a car park as the benefits would be negligible and outweighed by the costs.

- 128.2. To discuss the recent flooding on Hillcroft

The recent wet weather had seen flooding on Hillcroft as the drains in the area were blocked and the Church Beck culverts partially silted up. It was also reported that the drain outlet into the river at 12 Hillcroft was damaged and not working. Sandbags had kept the internal flooding to a minimum but the problem needs solving quickly.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to clear the drains on Station Road & Hillcroft and look at the river outlet as soon as possible

RESOLVED: That Graham Tarn of Craven Environmental Health be asked to look at the Church Beck culverts following his resolution of the problems last time they were blocked.

There was also flooding in Low Bentham the same evening. Residents had commented that a sand bag store in Low Bentham would be helpful rather than collecting them from Grasmere Drive when the weather is bad. Council agreed that it could provide a shed if somewhere to place it could be found and Craven would agree to stock it.

RESOLVED: That Environmental Health be asked if they would stock a sand bag store in Low Bentham if the Council could provide one.

RESOLVED: That the Victoria Institute be asked if the Council could site a sandbag store behind the Institute if Craven would stock it

- 128.3. To discuss the state of the path between Hillside Road and Ellergill and agree a way forward.

The footpath currently gets very muddy and slippery. As it is a well-used route which will only get busier once the play area opens, it was agreed that the Council should look to improve it if it can get permission from the landowners.

RESOLVED: That the Council should look to improve the footpath if the landowners will give permission.

- 128.4. To note LCCs proposed major maintenance to Greyhound Bridge on the A589 in 2018 - noted

- 128.5. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Some drains on Low Bentham Road have been cleared, but not those by the telephone Exchange which is the lowest point, and water is still collecting. Station Road & Clapham Road drains are also blocked and need urgent attention

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to look at these drains as a matter of urgency when they start clearing drains on 15 December

The problems with the subsidence at manholes / metal covers outside the Co-Op and on Springfield was raised again as they are getting worse.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways should be asked to look this subsidence as soon as possible

The footpath needs extending between the Bowling Green and the end of Pye Busk. This is currently grassed and causes problems for the elderly residents of Pye Busk and the members of the Bowling Club

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to consider extending the footpath to Pye Busk

There are an increasing number of vehicles parking on pavements in Bentham making it difficult for pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs etc.

RESOLVED: That Parking Enforcement be asked if they can do anything about vehicles blocking pavements

With the dark nights dog fouling is on the increase again and Craven should be asked to look at installing CCTV again.

RESOLVED: That Craven DC be asked about CCTV to catch those allowing dog fouling

There are potholes on the B6480 between St Johns and the railway bridge that need attention

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to look at the potholes on the B6480 near St Johns

129.To Note the draft minutes of the Buildings Committee meeting on 13 November, and consider recommendations - noted

130.To Receive a report from the Chairman regarding his recent meeting with the Headmistress of Bentham Primary School

The Chairman had been updated on the closure of the school gates, which had now been resolved. The

headmistress had also raised three other subjects. The Governors were looking at the original planning

application for the school and the reasons behind the lack of provision of a 'pull-in' for dropping off of pupils.

The move of the Library to the Looking Well means that the school now uses the south side of the street to get to it. This means using the narrow pavement at Bentham Hall which means going into the road as there is no safe place on the Main Street for the pupils to cross further up. Mrs Pearson wondered if it might be possible to remodel the pavement in this area to make it wide enough or provide a safe refuge area. (CCllr Ireton suggested that the school should raise this with John Lee at County.)

The school is still working on an outstanding list of defects from its original construction

131.To Discuss the possible Commemorative Events in Bentham for the centenary of the end of WW1

131.1. To note that St John's bell ringers will join 'Ringing Out for Peace' as the beacon is lit on 11 November - noted

131.2. To Discuss delivery & laying of the Commemorative stones for the VC winners

Martin Faichney should be contacted to see if his original offer to install these stones still stands. If this is the case delivery will need to be confirmed with him. Otherwise other arrangements will need to be made

RESOLVED: That Martin Faichney be contacted to see if his original offer to install the stones still stands.

131.3. To Consider a letter from Bloomin' Bentham regarding producing knitted & crocheted poppies for November 2018

This proposal was similar to one made by Cllr Marshall and should be followed up by the Open Spaces committee. The Coordinator & Cllr Faraday agreed to contact community groups that might be interested.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Faraday & the Coordinator contact community groups that may be interested in participating

131.4. To Discuss the initial ideas following a meeting with St Johns Church

The Coordinator & Cllr Faraday had met for an initial meeting to consider the possibilities. The Council felt that the Town Hall would be a more accessible venue for any exhibition. It was agreed that the Town Hall could be used for a Community Lunch on 11 November.

RESOLVED: That the Town Hall could be used as the venue for a community lunch &/or a WW1 exhibition

Cllr Ireton left at 9pm to attend the Ingleton Parish Council meeting

132.To Agree the next step with the Community Emergency Plan

RESOLVED: That another meeting to discuss the Community Emergency Plan be held in the Lower Hall on 22 January, and all interested parties be invited to attend

133.To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Kingsdale Projects	690.00	Clearglass Cleaning	100.00
Yorkshire Water	18.18	Horton Landscaping	2037.48
MBE Ltd	514.25	SLCC	128.00

S1b.com	50.00	BT	387.11
1&1 Internet	39.56	Aviva	372.18
CCTV42	1678.67	Craven District Council	50.29
Event Insurance (Via Paige)	213.00	NEST	20.32
Blachere	253.20	Salaries	2364.72
Windcrest Liftbits	419.06		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 133.1. To note the appointment of External Auditors for 2017 to 2022 – this will continue to be PKF Littlejohn - noted
- 133.2. To consider purchasing the Local Council Public Advisory Service document pack for General Data Protection Regulation at a cost of £30

RESOLVED: That the Council purchase the GDPR pack at a cost of £30

134. To consider items of Correspondence

- 134.1. To receive a letter from Bentham Bonfire Committee following the Council's letter of thanks. The Bonfire Committee had decided to give up and hand the reins over to someone else. The Council noted that this meant that no Precept Grant application had been received

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to consider a grant application from any new Bonfire organisers outside the Precept Grant application window, if required, on this one occasion

- 134.2. To receive a letter from NYCC regarding Street Lighting improvements - received

- 134.3. To receive a letter from NYCC regarding the Common Land Registers Update

This had been copied to Bentham Common Lands Charity for their attention. Information had been received for Horton In Ribblesdale regarding land at Birkwith recorded potentially incorrectly in their name. It was agreed that the archives should be searched as this land could have been sold in the 1980s.

RESOLVED: That the history of the land at Birkwith be researched.

- 134.4. To receive information from the Wheels2Work Coordinator regarding the Wheels2work scheme

RESOLVED: That the information be passed to Bentham News for publication

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

Cllr Adams said that Aid in Sickness had approved 8 grants in the last year. The charity was looking into what might happen if it runs out of trustees as it has a large amount of money in trust and struggles to get appointees from some Councils. There are currently only 8 trustees and the charity require 6 for a quorum.

136. Items for next meeting and minor items only

The primary school had been considering the World Wars and 50 pupils had been 'evacuated' by train to Hellifield. Thanks had been expressed by residents for the repair of the wall at Ellergill.

It was requested that the possible move of the Town Hall war memorial plaque to School Hill should be put on a future agenda for discussion.

The clerk was asked to write to Xmas Lights volunteers to thank them for the excellent display.

The chairman wished Councillors and attending members of the public a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.20pm

AGENDA ITEM 124)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 December 2017

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 2017/18506/HH Demolition of conservatory & replacement with bedroom & demolition of porch, replacement with utility room at 9 Robin Lane, High Bentham

1.1.2. 2017/18572/FUL Formation of temporary access to allow entry & exit of construction vehicles onto the highway in order to implement planning permission 08/2016/17500 at Butts Hill Depot, Nutgill Farm, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. none

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. APP/08/2017/18023 Outline application for detached dwelling at 8 Lakeber Drive, High Bentham.
Appeal representations must be made by 5 January
- 2.2. North Yorks Minerals & Waste Joint Plan – notice of Submission

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

- 3.1. Letters of thanks to David Ireton & John Lee re the school carpark sent 14 November
- 3.2. Letter of Congratulation to Catherine Sawyer sent 14 November
- 3.3. Letter of Congratulation to Bonfire Committee sent 14 November
- 3.4. Letter re Beechstones Cottage sent 15 November – see response in information folder
- 3.5. Confirmation the St Johns Bell Ringers have agreed to ring on 11 November 2018 received 14 November

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Clerks & Councils Direct, November 2017
- 4.2. The Clerk, November 2017

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 6/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 4/12
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Fuel Poverty 15/11, Rural Transport 22/11, Rural Broadband 29/11
- 5.3. North Yorkshire Now Nov 17
- 5.4. NALC CEO bulletin 3/11, 10/11, 24/11
- 5.5. Craven DC News November
- 5.6. My Locality 7/11, 28/11
- 5.7. NYP News, December
- 5.8. Fields In Trust newsletter 1/12
- 5.9. Community First Yorkshire News, 29/11

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Emergency Plan – next meeting to be arranged – see agenda item
- 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 – see agenda item
- 6.5. Flaggpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.6. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, CDC to consider