

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Bridgeman, Handford, Marshall, Stannard, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllrs Thompson & Brockbank, Cllr Ireton, the clerk Mrs Burton and 3 parishioners

105. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Pritchard & Swales

106. 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

107. To Receive Comment & Concerns - none

108. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 5 September be signed

109. To Appoint Members as Council Representatives for 2016/17 (delayed May 2016)

109.1. Council Representatives Bentham Primary School Governor

The clerk explained that despite contact with the school no further information had been forthcoming.

However Cllr Stannard had been approached by a member of the Governors and had agreed to be appointed

RESOLVED: That Cllr Stannard be appointed to the position of School Governor

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

111. To Receive an update from the Drop-In (for information only) - none

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

PC Parsons informed the meeting that there had been 43 incidents in Bentham in September, including 2 burglaries, 1 break in, 1 damage to a motor vehicle and 3 assaults (one domestic with no complaint and one on a social worker at one of the homes). She was asked to look into the burnt out vehicle on Nutgill.

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

Cllr Ireton informed the meeting that NYCC had completed its successful programme of road dressing and was now patching potholes in areas to be resurfaced next year. NYCC had also committed to the delivery of Extracare Housing in Boroughbridge. He praised the work done by Bentham's Extracare Team and emphasised that a partner was needed to take Bentham forward. He finally confirmed that the rattling manhole covers outside the school had at last been fixed. The Council asked Cllr Ireton to look into the cowls for the school crossing beacons which have gone missing again. The suggestion that they be replaced with halo beacons was reiterated.

DCllr Brockbank reported the Policy Committee at the Strategic Review of Bring Sites had agreed to keep the Bentham sites, with the proviso that they would be withdrawn if trade waste was routinely deposited.

Work is continuing on the Local Plan and proposals will be consulted on shortly to have designated conservation areas in both High and Low Bentham – details are on the Craven website

She also added her support to the comments made regarding the street name signs for 'Clapham Road' (see item 96.3)

DCllr Thompson said that two community grants had been approved for the area – the first to support a holiday club at the Primary School starting at half-term and the second to assist Bentham Pet Rescue with maintenance on their sanctuary

114. Planning

114.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

114.1.1. 08/2016/17319 Application to vary condition no.6 of original planning consent reference 5/8/559/C at West End Barn, Cross Lane, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

114.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

114.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

115. Highways Matters

115.1. To receive a report from the meeting with NYCC Highways regarding parking on Station Road

Members of the Council had met with David Cairns to consider options. NYCC Highways would paint white lines at the owner's expense, but these are only advisory. The installation of Keep Clear signs on the wall at

the end of the drives may suffice, as per those at the entrance to Bentham Lodge. The installation of double yellow lines would require a Road Traffic Order, which would take more than 12 months if successful. It would require the Town Council's support, but would undoubtedly receive opposition from neighbouring properties with no off-road parking. NYCC Highways prioritise installation according to safety issues, of which there are none in this area, so even if the RTO was passed the painting of the lines is not a given. (see www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25705/How-do-I-request-yellow-lines-or-an-extension-to-existing-ones)

RESOLVED: That the resident be informed of the outcome of the meeting with NYCC Highways, suggesting the installation of Keep Clear signs on the driveways

- 115.2. To receive an update on the drain at Hillside Road noting the requirement for camera equipment
The Jetters have been unable to clear the drain and have requested a camera to see the blockage, after which a fix can be arranged

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be contacted again for an update for the November meeting

- 115.3. To receive an update on the street name plates to be installed on Clapham Road from Pye Busk to the A65
There had been considerable correspondence with Craven District Council but no movement on their intention to name Clapham Road from Pye Busk. DCllrs Brockbank & Thompson agreed to take up the cause

RESOLVED: That the DCllrs will take up the cause and attempt to get proper street names used

- 115.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

RESOLVED: That the potholes on Robin Lane at Lakeber Drive be reported to NYCC Highways

CCLlr Ireton left the meeting at 8.05pm

116. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Committee meeting on 19 September, and consider recommendations

- 116.1. To agree hiring rates for the Town Hall for 2017

RESOLVED: That hiring rates be kept the same for 2017

- 116.2. To agree that only volunteers under 85yrs be used in the Tourist Information Office because of the insurance implications

RESOLVED: That, as the insurers will not cover volunteers over 85yrs, the Council reluctantly agrees to only accept volunteers under that age

117. To Further Consider a request for improved street lighting on Station Road and agree a response

Consultation with NYCC Street Lighting maps for Station Road had shown that lights 2 & 4 should be lit all night, but the light outside Grove Hill will be off between midnight and 5am. This should be confirmed by the Bakery. If these lights are working correctly NYCC will not alter this provision, so the Bakery would need to make other arrangements for staff arriving / leaving in the dark such as a light on a time switch or PIR

RESOLVED: That the Bakery should be asked to check the status of lights 2 & 4 on Station Road and if these are lit all night then they will need to make other arrangements to improve lighting for staff arriving / leaving in the dark

118. To Consider the Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation, including proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils (paper 2016/10)

The Council agreed that, whilst the 2017/18 proposals would not affect Bentham, this was the thin end of the wedge and the proposals would be applied to all Councils eventually. The capping of precept increases to 2% or £5 would severely limit the Council's ability to contribute to services dropped by higher Councils as it has done in the recent past (Grass cutting, public toilets, library provision, youth work etc). A strongly worded letter should be sent, and the local MP should be lobbied.

RESOLVED: That the Council send a strongly worded letter of objection to the proposed inclusion of town and parish councils in the referendum principles at any level

RESOLVED: That the Council lobby Julian Smith regarding these proposals

119. To Receive information from Craven District Council regarding the proposed removal of Payphones (BT Consultation), including the removal of the payphone at Green Smithy, and agree a response (paper 2016/11)

It was noted that the list also included the payphone outside the Victoria Institute in Low Bentham.

It was agreed that it would be useful to retain both phone boxes, but usage for the last 12 months showed no calls made at Green Smithy and only 31 at the Victoria Institute. The Victoria Institute phone is the only one in Low Bentham, the next nearest being at School Hill. There is also no mobile phone signal in the area. Lower usage and available mobile signal at Green Smithy makes justifying retention more difficult

RESOLVED: That representation be made to keep both phone boxes, but with emphasis on Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the consultation be passed to the Victoria Institute so they can also respond

120. To Consider the Craven District Council Budget Consultation 2017/18 and agree a response by 4 November (paper 2016/12)

The required survey was quite complex so it was agreed that a draft response should be circulated for amendment and approval before being sent to Craven District Council

RESOLVED: That a draft response on the Budget Consultation should be formulated and circulated to Council members for amendment and approval

121.To Receive the proposed B4RN routes across Council owned land – if available – and consider granting wayleaves.

RESOLVED: That this item be held over to the next agenda as the information was not available

RESOLVED: That this item be removed from the next agenda if not available

122.To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	154.15	Yorkshire Water	272.36
Mopps	384.00	Andrews	50.40
Aviva	322.70	HMRC	577.08
Opus Energy	72.69	Playing Fields Association	850.00
Orange	23.99	Goodenber Play Area	625.00
Fisher Wrathall	300.00	Victoria Institute	600.00
Blachere Illumination	504.60	Youth Cafe	1812.50
Horton Landscaping	1017.24	St Johns Church	70.38
Littlejohn LLP	480.00		
Kingsdale Projects	925.00	Salaries	1768.87

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

122.1. To receive the audited Annual Return for y/e 31 March 2016, and approve the conclusion (paper 2016/13)

RESOLVED: That the Audited Annual Return and the conclusion be approved

123.To Consider items of **Correspondence**

123.1. To receive information about North Yorkshire Safeguarding Week, 17-21 October, and an invitation to support the Bentham event on 18 October - received

123.2. To receive an invite from Pioneer Projects to attend a meeting for information on future plans including the proposals for the library.

It was noted that the Council Rep to Pioneer Projects (Cllr Handford) was meeting with Mr Colley on Friday 7 October and other Cllrs would be welcome to attend

RESOLVED: That interested Cllrs would attend on 7 October with Cllr Handford

123.3. To consider a request from Rural Action Yorkshire to complete a survey on Community-led Housing

RESOLVED: That the Council declines to complete the survey leaving the provision of affordable housing to the professionals

123.4. To receive further information on the WR Mitchell exhibition and consider a potential venue in Bentham

RESOLVED: That this should be discussed with Pioneer Projects and / or the Library

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

Cllr Taylor said that the Refugee Committee had arranged a visit to Bentham for the coming weekend with various visits arranged, a meal at the Looking Well and a Ceilidh in Burton

Cllr Adams reported that the LASRUG twinning events with Mytholmroyd had been well attended and reported in the Craven Herald

125.Items for next meeting and minor items only

The access to the flag pole needs to be added to the next Buildings Committee agenda

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm

126.To Resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Public and Press to be excluded further from the Meeting, whilst tenders for Low Bentham Play Area be discussed and future actions agreed

There was considerable discussion around the four tenders following a report from the Open Spaces Committee. It was agreed that there was too much information for Cllrs new to the information to take in during the meeting and that a decision should be delayed until they had been able to digest the plans in more detail.

RESOLVED: That the plans should be circulated amongst Cllrs for them to better digest the information contained in detail

RESOLVED: That any decision should be postponed until after further discussions

127.To Receive any available updates on progress with the contract of sale of Low Bentham Playing Field

RESOLVED: That this is in the hands of the solicitors and the clerk will forward any further updates as they arise

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

AGENDA ITEM 110)**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 3 October 2016****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2016/17206 Demolition of existing single storey flat roof extension & part of existing glazed veranda.
Construction of new pitch roof sun lounge with wc/shower/utility at 59 Robin Lane

1.2. REFUSED - none**2. Planning Correspondence**

- 2.1. Appeal & Costs decision for application 16076, St Margarets Church – allowed
2.2. Notification of Wennington Neighbourhood Plan application
2.3. Notification of Dolphinholme Neighbourhood Plan application

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

- 3.1. Missing & damaged street signs reported 7/9

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Confirmation of Financial Services Compensation Scheme
4.2. YLCA Craven branch meeting 8 October, & minutes of previous meeting
4.3. Information on sale of Low Bentham Playing Field
4.4. Blood Donation sessions, Ingleton 7/10 (& noticeboards)
4.5. The Clerk magazine, September 2016
4.6. Clerks & Councils Direct, September 2016
4.7. Lift Examination report, 26/9

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 6/9, 19/9, 26/9
5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Broadband 9/9, Fuel Poverty 30/9
5.3. Spotlight on Older People 20/9, Rural Economy 21/9
5.4. NYP Community Messaging App launch, 19/9
5.5. White Rose Update, 22/9
5.6. Craven & First World War Project newsletter, Autumn
5.7. Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY) AGM 15 October
5.8. Rural Action Yorkshire newsletter 29/9
5.9. Fields in Trust Newsletter 9/9, 23/9, 30/9
5.10. LASRUG newsletter
5.11. SLCC News Bulletin 30/9
5.12. Neighbourhood Watch Association newsletter 30/9
5.13. Safeguarding Week, 17-21 October (& noticeboard)

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Information on School Governor chased 6/7 by email & verbally 7/9
6.2. NYCC asked about ditches 20/7
6.3. Settle Stories asked for more information 20/7, response awaited
6.4. Letter to Bentham Auction Mart sent 27 May, response awaited
6.5. Bentham Flag – no progress to date
6.6. Meeting with Planning Policy still to be arranged
6.7. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 – committee to organise meeting and report back
6.8. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January
6.9. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
6.10. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
6.11. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited