

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday
17th October 2022, at 7.30 pm –
in the Ballroom at Bentham Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Hill (Chair), Burton, Paige, Pearce and Stannard. Cllr Ireton. The Clerk Christine Downey. The Public Safety Officer Craig Lyons. And two members of the public.

- 150 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
 150.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Adams, Gerrie and Marshall.
 150.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.
None.
- 151 Declaration of interests: -
 151.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.
 151.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation requests received.
None.
- 152 To Receive Comment & Concerns: Public Participation – to hear matters raised by members of the public or Cllrs with an interest (that are allowed to speak) either on agenda items or for future consideration.
- (NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purposes of clarification; The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 20 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes).
- A member of the public spoke in support of the proposed diversion of the Bridleway at Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane, item no 159.2. He reported that this is the second time that it been considered, and that the British Horse Society has approved the proposal and that the Ramblers Association has also accepted the proposal.
- 153 To consider written applications for the office of town councillor and to fill vacant seats by co-option. (Paper 2022/159)
RESOLVED: That William Andrew Jones is co-opted onto the council.
- 154 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 29th September 2022. (Paper 2022/160)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 29th September 2022 are agreed and signed.
- 155 Police and Public Safety matters: -
 155.1 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
RECEIVED.
 155.2 To receive the Public Safety Officer’s Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
 Craig Lyons reported that the role of Public Safety Officer has been extended to 2024; that the contract for this role is currently under review; that after the review a shift pattern of working might be introduced, so we might be seeing the public safety officer on duty in Bentham on evenings and at weekends; and that the funding is being looked into.

155.3 To consider if there are any questions for Zoe Metcalfe, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and to agree a way forward. (Deadline for submission 17/10/22) (Paper 2022/161)

It was reported that the planned zoom meeting with Zoe Metcalfe has been cancelled without any reason being given, and that YLCA are trying to rearrange it.

Craig Lyons the public safety officer has invited Zoe Metcalfe to attend a Bentham Town Council meeting in person, but has had no success in arranging this. He will continue to try and get the Commissioner to attend in person.

155.4 To review the arrangements for the maintenance of the defibrillators and to agree a way forward.

It was reported that Bentham Town Council is “the guardian” of the following four defibrillator units; Bentham Medical Practice / Bentham Town Hall / Myers Builders Merchants / Victoria Institute, Low Bentham.

It was also reported that it has already been suggested that the cost of replacement pads for all four units annually (at the same time), and replacement batteries every five years, should be included in the town council budget for defibrillator running costs. This should be resolved at the precept meeting when the budget is considered and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Public Safety Officer Craig Lyons will take over responsibility for the maintenance and checking of those four defibrillator units on behalf of the council, with immediate effect.

RESOLVED: That units will not be returned for software updates or new batteries until there is a loan unit available to cover the absence.

156 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2022/162)
RECEIVED.

157 To receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only) – if any.
CCllr Ireton reported that: -

- The County Council is making progress to becoming one council; various working groups are looking at how the planning committees and licensing committees should be set up; One option for the planning committees is to have three constituency committees. This would mean that Skipton & Ripon join with Richmondshire to become one planning committee. Cllr Ireton would be happy with this arrangement; It is likely that the licensing committees may become only one committee; and that taxi licensing and appeals will probably be dealt with by a sub-committee of the licensing committee; All of this needs to be worked out in detail and then ratified by the council.
- Work is also being done on setting the council tax rates. Rates of council tax will be brought level, so that more expensive areas like Harrogate will see a reduction in the council tax rate, but Craven will almost certainly go up. It was reported that the public were not made aware of this when plans for the new authority were discussed.
- CCllr Ireton attended the recent meeting regarding the Bentham Masterplan and notes that some very good ideas are coming out of it.
- NYCC are introducing two electric gritters as part of a trial for the coming season. The fuel saving is up to 20%. The battery recharges in 30 minutes, and a machine can do multiple runs on one charge.

158 To receive an update on the Bentham Masterplan, if any, and allow members to ask questions for information. (Paper 2022/163)
RECEIVED.

159 Planning: -

159.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications

159.1.1 2022/24343/HH. Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of rear extension. Gate House, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DD.

RESOLVED: That there are no objections to this application.

159.1.2 2022/24353/HH. Removal of existing conservatory and construction of new 2 storey extension. 2 Willow Cottages, Bentham Moor Road, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 3LL.

RESOLVED: That there are no objections to this application.

159.1.3 2022/24400/LBC. Removal of timber windows and fitting of new painted timber windows. Gill Farm, Back Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 8NZ.

RESOLVED: That there are no objections to this application.

159.2 To consider and comment upon proposed diversion of Bridleway No.05.5/13, Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane. (Paper 2022/164A and 164B)

RESOLVED: That there are no objections to this proposal.

159.3 To receive notification of further information to planning application. Application No 21/00792/FUL.

Proposal: Proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including: a new valve house building within fenced compound with permanent vehicular access provision and an area of proposed ground raising for landscaping, with the installation of a tunnel shaft and an open cut connection area within a temporary construction compound, to include site accesses, storage areas, plant and machinery, and drainage infrastructure. In addition, a temporary satellite park and ride facility with vehicle marshalling area, a temporary residents parking area, and a series of local highway works.

Site address: Haweswater Aqueduct, Helks Brow, Wray, Lancashire. (Paper 2022/165

RECEIVED.

159.4 To receive planning decisions – see Clerks report.

RECEIVED.

160 To consider and note Highway Matters for information. (Councillors can comment on any minor highway issues currently causing concern. NB: Councillors may report all concerns online to NYCC)

It was reported that Cllr Pearce will be trying out the drive from Scholars Rise, Robin Lane to the Main Street on a mobility scooter and will report back in due course.

161 To agree the Accounts for Payments: -

Citron	Sanitary disposal unit	14.98
Stannah	Lift Service	204.28
Ruth Green	Relief caretaking	300.00
Waterplus	Waste water bill Town Hall	76.09
HB Plumbing & Heating Ltd	Fix leak in lady's toilet	57.60
PKF	External auditors fee	480.00
Viking	Stamps and diary	42.56
Bentham Community Bonfire	Precept grant award	500.00
Bentham Playing Field Association	Precept grant award – part 2	2,500.00
Goodenber Play Area Association	Precept grant award – part 2	500.00
Low Bentham Victoria Institute	Precept grant award – part 2	750.00
The Automatic Door Company	Supply and fit new drive belt	596.49
The Automatic Door Company	Service of automatic sliding doors	201.78
WaterPlus	Waste water at CYB	10.59
BT Group Plc	Phone TIP	70.80

Total		6,305.17
-------	--	----------

RESOLVED: Approved.

RESOLVED: Payments to be authorised by Cllrs Burton and Hill.

- 162 To discuss the External Auditors Report and Certificate 2021/22. (Paper 2022/166)
The main point on the report and certificate concerns updating the content of the town council website.
Cllr Stannard reported that Ian Harrison at Creative Theory has now been supplied with everything that is needed to enable the new website to go live.
RESOLVED: Report and certificate received.
- 163 To consider nominating a serving Parish Councillor to serve on the Standards Committee for Craven District Council. (Paper 2022/167)
NO NOMINATIONS.
- 164 To consider if work and/or cleaning is required at School Hill before Remembrance Sunday and agree actions.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to tidy up School Hill and the exterior of the Community Youth Building – to include weeding as necessary and cleaning by stiff brushing.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to repair the guttering on the Robin Lane bus shelter, which is hanging off.
RESOLVED: Clerk to request that NYCC fix the pavement around School Hill, where it is breaking up.
- 165 To consider providing power for the overhead Christmas Lights down Station Road, and from the Town Hall to the junction of Main Street, from the power sockets on the Town Hall, and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: That the Council will provide power for the overhead Christmas lights from the Town Hall power sockets.
- 166 To consider some type of memorial for the late Queen Elizabeth and to agree a way forward.
It was agreed that planting a tree could be an appropriate memorial, perhaps a Copper Beech, at The Green, Low Bentham with a plaque.
RESOLVED: Clerk to add to the list of special projects for consideration at the precept meeting.
RESOLVED: Cllr Hill to cost the project.
- 167 To review the position regarding the book of condolences and agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: To leave the book of condolences in the Tourist Information Point until it closes at the end of the season.
- 168 To consider making nominations for the Craven District Council Legacy Sub-Committee Award, and agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/168)
It was reported that the closing date for nominations is Friday 6th January 2023.
RESOLVED: That in view of the closing date, that this item will be added to future agendas for consideration regularly between now and 06/01/2023.
- 169 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information) only – if any.
Bentham Bonfire Committee: Cllr Stannard reported that everything is in hand for this year's bonfire and that it should be a good event. (He was advised to check the Bonfire sign by the Golf Course because the date is hanging off).

Bentham Christmas Lights Committee: Cllr Paige reported that all is going well, that there are nine new lights to go on the nine lampposts now wired with sockets, there are new overhead lights, and that it should provide an improved and good display.

170

Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.

AGENDA ITEMS: -

- Concerns regarding sewage being discharged into the river Wenning.
- Council representatives were appointed to outside bodies at the May council meeting as usual, however due to the small number of councillors at that time six positions were left vacant. Those vacant positions will be considered again at the 07/11/2022 meeting.

MINOR ITEMS: -

- The invitation to give a perennation to the council was sent to Nick Milson and Ian Butterfield of YORGreen CIC. No reply has been received.
- Re cutlery, crockery and glasses at the Town Hall. Room hirers need to let the clerk know what their requirements for cutlery, crockery, glasses, and anything else are, before an event. This will be passed on the caretaker.
- Settle Area Swimming Pool is holding an official re-opening at 10 am on Saturday 29th October 2022, and have invited a council representative to attend. The invitation arrived after this agenda had been published.
- Calendar 2023. The proof has been circulated for review. Please can all councillor send their feedback to the clerk urgently so that printing can go ahead.

171

Date of next meeting. **07/11/2022.**

172

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, that the public and press be excluded further from the meeting, whilst items 148 and 149 are considered: -

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

173

To consider items of correspondence received regarding the Community Youth Building, if any, and agree a way forward.

It was reported that the current position is that the council are waiting to hear further from NYCC regarding the possibility of removing the restrictive covenant, and are also waiting to hear further from Craven District Council regarding the Asset of Community Value nomination.

RESOLVED. Clerk to chase Tim Wheildon regarding draining down the central heating system.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.26.