



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April 2022 in the Lower Hall at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Swales (Chairman), Adams, Faraday, Hill, Stannard and Taylor. The clerk Christine Downey. And thirteen members of the public.

- 1 Notice convening the Meeting.
Received.
- 2 Minutes of the 2019 Meeting
The minutes of the meeting of 24th April 2019 were agreed and signed.
- 3 Mayors Report, read by Cllr Swales.
This year has been a “trying to get back to normal” time for us. We have been able to meet after having met via Zoom for all of Councillor Taylor’s previous year. We have had coffee mornings in the Town Hall again, a very successful Welcome to Bentham event and the panto was back.
We seem to have had more visitors to meetings too, locals concerned about planning, the youth club, and the bus service; and informative talks at the start of meetings like the Wild Ingleborough talk we had.
Things have moved on with the Community Youth Building, with the Youth Club now being held in the Town Hall, making it more affordable for them, and hopefully warmer, lighter and brighter too. The numbers have gone up.
We have been able to make improvements to footpaths on the Heritage Trail; we have installed a number of new benches around the parish which will hopefully need less maintaining and work has been done to tidy up the cemetery. The streetlights have continued to be updated and we have made lots of requests to Highways, with limited results. We continue to maintain the Philip Harvey Playing Field. We now have lovely planters on School Hill, the bus shelter has been touched up and we are to have a flagpole and already have a Christmas tree there.
We have lost one meticulous councillor, councillor Handford, and gained another, Phil Gerrie, who appears keen, but a number of us are not returning next year, so hope some of you can step up to fill the gaps, or encourage someone else to do so.
I would like to thank all the other councillors for their help this year, when sometimes I have had to put my mum first. I would particularly like to thank Julie, Robert, Thomas for his work with the Welcome Back Fund, and our clerk Chris.
Finally, the clock is going to be fixed!
- 4 Financial Details
Draft copies of the reconciliation of receipts and payments for 2021/2022 (unaudited) were circulated.
It was emphasised that the accounts have not yet been audited and could therefore be subject to change.
The public were reminded that after the accounts have been audited there will be a period during which they can exercise their right to come in and scrutinise the financial records, should they so wish.
Income was lower than in the previous year at £131,210.31, primarily because Town Hall bookings were down due to the pandemic closure. In 2020/2021 the booking shortfall was covered by a £10K grant from CDC, which did not apply in 2021/2022. A Welcome Back Fund



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grant was received from CDC in 2021/2022, all of which was spent on the improvements at School Hill.

Expenditure for the year, at £136,861.47 was £13,075.49 higher than in the previous year primarily because the Town Hall was closed for most of the previous year and therefore the running costs increased this year to a more normal level.

The Council ended the year with a balance of £83,772.57, of which £2,199.77 is held on behalf of Bentham Christmas Lights, which leaves a balance of £81,572.80 belonging to the council.

Of that amount approximately £60,500 is earmarked for the following projects: -

Audio equipment and microphone for Town Hall, to address the sound problems	2,500
Duke Street Lighting, to finalise that stretch of lighting	1,500
Improving Heritage Trail, work done but final invoice awaited	3,600
Platinum Jubilee event – amount set aside for celebrations	1,000
Replacement benches, this is an ongoing programme with a number of benches being replaced each year	5,100
Replacement finger post	2,600
School Hill project and electricity to lampposts to run Christmas Lights	5,000
Street Lighting General Improvement Programme, this is an ongoing programme to replace the old-fashioned lights that the council is responsible for with LED's and work will continue on this until they have all been replaced.	18,900
For the much welcome Town Hall clock repairs.	10,500
For wording about the history of the Philip Harvey Playing Field to be added to the sign there.	1,000
Other smaller projects	<u>8,800</u>
Total	60,500

The precept for the coming year has been slightly increased, with the Band D equivalent charge increasing from £85.55 to £91.15, and increase of £5.60.

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Reports from Local Organisations: Reports were received from:

1	Bentham Playing Field Association
2	Bentham Christmas Lights Committee
3	Aid In Sickness
4	LASRUG
5	Bentham Theatre Group
6	St Johns Parish Church
7	Churches Together, including Cornerstone
8	Bentham Bonfire
9	Bentham Save a Life
10	Community Link Cafe
11	Low Bentham Victoria Institute
12	Stepping Stones Baby & Toddler Group
13	Goodenber Play Area Association
14	BEST
15	Bentham & District Pet Rescue
16	Bentham Allotment Association
17	Low Bentham Badminton Club



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18	Pioneer Projects & Bentham Community Library
19	Longstaffe Educational Foundation
20	Bentham Indoor Bowls Club
21	Meals on Wheels Service
22	Settle Area Swimming Pool
23	Low Bentham Women's Institute
24	Bentham Area Refugee Support Group

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AOB
None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.