

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday **3rd July, at 7.30pm – in the Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs Adams, Burton, Gerrie, Hill, Jones, Marshall, Paige & Stannard. The Temporary Clerk, Mrs Burton, was absent and would compile the minutes from the recording of the meeting. 20 members of the public

70. Apologies from members unable to attend: -

70.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

None

70.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence

None

71. Declaration of Interest: -

71.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

None

71.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

None

72. 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 consultation.

Members of The Hub informed the Council that they were actively fund raising to purchase the Community Youth Building, to make it useable to all sections of the public, and had over 170 signatures of support.

Another resident commented on the lack of information regarding the new Hornby bus service which will be vital to the town, particularly as the last bank is now closing. It was noted that this was an item on the agenda.

73. To confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 19 June 2023 (Paper 2023/138)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 19 June 2023 are agreed and signed

74. To note the minutes of the Building Meeting on 19 June 2023 (Paper 2023/139)

Noted

75. To consider written applications for the office of councillor and to fill vacant seats by co-option, (Paper 2023/140)

RESOLVED: That Mrs EA Ryan be coopted as a Councillor for High Bentham

76. To receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.

Received

77. To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer & allow members to ask questions for information – if any.

None received

78. To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2023/141)

Received

79. To receive a Report from County Councillor (for information only) - If any

None received

80. To receive an update on the Bentham Masterplan

The draft Masterplan had been circulated to Councillors that afternoon. It was confirmed that the Council would meet with North Yorkshire Council on Monday 17 July to discuss the draft, at a time to be confirmed. It was noted that the final version would include maps and images that have yet to be added.

RESOLVED: That Bentham Town Council will meet with NYC to discuss the draft Master plan on 17 July at a time to be agreed

81. To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications.

81.1 ZA23/24968/REM. Reserved Matters application (scale, access, appearance & landscaping) of 2 x dwellings allowed on appeal 2019/21170/OUT on land at Greenfoot Farm, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham LA2 7EQ

RESOLVED: The Council has no comments, neutral

ZA23/25086/HH. Conversion of existing detached hobby room to guest annex. Old Pottery Barn, Slaidburn Road, Bentham LA2 7DL

RESOLVED: The Council has no objections, neutral

81.2 ZA23/25100/HH. Retrospective approval for construction of replacement rear balcony and solar panels installed on south-east roof pitch. 1 Links Drive, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BJ

RESOLVED: The Council has no comments, neutral

81.3 To receive Planning Decisions – see Clerks Report

82. Highway Matters

82.1 To receive notification of the closure of Mewith Lane from 26 to 28 July for renewal of leaking water pipe (Paper 2023/142)

Received

82.2 To receive an update on the new Hornby Bus Service, and agree a way forward if any (Paper 2023/143) Concern was expressed regarding the new Hornby bus service, particularly the size of the bus meaning that not everyone wishing to use the service can get a seat – and the possibility that people could get stranded in Hornby. Cllr Gerrie had contacted NY Transport following discussions with the bus driver who reported that a lack of vehicles and PSV drivers was the reason for the small bus. Council agreed that pressure needed to be applied to NY Transport to improve the service. It is thought the service is better used than the Kirkby service and that the money would be better spent on the Hornby service.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Gerrie continue in his contact with NY Transport to try and get the service improved

82.3 To consider a contacting North Yorkshire Footpaths regarding a new stile at Pye Park (off Springfield) The current stile is extremely difficult to access by both elderly humans and dogs as it is both steep and narrow. It was agreed that the Council should ask NY Footpaths to replace the stile with a kissing gate.

RESOLVED: The NY Footpaths be requested to replace the stile at Pye Park with a kissing gate

82.4 To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

None

83. To receive the latest Inspection Report for the Philip Harvey Playing Field and agree a way forward (Paper 2023/144)

Received

RESOLVED: That Thomas Brown be asked to replace the loose sign on the gate

RESOLVED: That the nettles on the access footpaths be strimmed

84. To consider the 2024 Calendar and agree a way forward (pictures, recipient etc)

RESOLVED: That a general appeal be made for suitable photographs

85. To agree the Accounts for Payment.

To	For	Amount
Barbara Rothwell	Ballroom decorating (held over from 2022)	1860.00
SL Building	Plastering in Ballroom	2191.54
Citron Hygiene	Sanitary disposal	36.00
Clearglass Cleaning	Window clean after builders	150.00
Kingsdale Projects	Grass cutting (June)	2395.00
Jo Burton	Temporary administration	1040.00

Salaries	June payments	1081.70
Waterplus	TH waste water	85.83
BT	TIP phone	74.78
SWALEC	Street Lighting	100.21
Ionos 1&1	Internet	18.00
Unity Trust	Bank charges	6.00
TOTAL		9039.06

RESOLVED: That the accounts be approved for payment

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Burton & Marshall authorise payments

RESOLVED: That the July salaries can be authorised for payment as necessary

85.1 To consider the quote for adding two extra areas to the grass cutting schedule (paper 2023/145)

RESOLVED: That the cost of £20/cut and £10/cut for the areas around the pumping station and on Low Bentham Road respectively are accepted and added to the grass cutting schedule

86. To consider the following Correspondence: -

86.1 To receive information from Royal Mail regarding the use of Lower Bentham, and agree a response if any (Paper 2023/146)

RESOLVED: That the Council request Royal Mail to use 'Low Bentham' in all relevant addresses

86.2 To receive an invitation to be part of the D Day Celebrations, 6 June 2024, by lighting a beacon, and agree a way forward (Paper 2023/147)

RESOLVED: That the Council sign up to light a D Day Beacon on 6 June 2024

87. To receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) - If any.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that the vacancy in the Alms Houses was now filled

Cllr Adams told the meeting that the Goodenber Play Area had received £10K funding from the lottery

88. Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.

Consideration should be given to winter work around the parish on the next agenda

89. Date of next meeting.

4 September 2023, although potentially 24 July and / or 7 August if necessary

The public part of the meeting closed at 8.16pm

90. 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 item 91 to 92 are considered: -

RESOLVED: That the press and public are excluded from the meeting

91. To consider items of correspondence received regarding the Community Youth Building (if any) and agree a way forward. (Papers 2023/148 -150)

RESOLVED: That the offer from The Hub be accepted, keeping the building for Community use, with both sides paying their own legal fees

92. To further consider the Clerk's Vacancy

RESOLVED: That the applicants be offered the position on the same scale and rate of pay as a job share

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm