



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Full council Meeting held on
Monday 19th February 2024, in the Lower Hall at the Town Hall, at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs Adams (GA), Burton (TB), Ryan (LR), Gerrie (PG) Hill (HH) Paige (MP) Stannard (TS)
Howard (DH) Naylor (RN) Marshall (TM)

Town Clerk – Claire Burrow

PCSO Jayne Grace and PC Ian Hunt

MOP -2

254. **Apologies** from members unable to attend: -

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

Cllr Taylor

254.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.

Resolved – Absences approved.

255. **Declaration of Interest:**

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

266.1 – TB

255.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

256. **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. (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).

MOP 1 Regarding agenda item 261; spoke about closure for the passing of his wife, stone masons were awaiting instructions for the inscription, allow to put his details on the headstone to save the headstone being collected and taken back to Morecambe to be added to, the stone masons can come and put the date on.

MOP 2 Regarding agenda item 261; stated that the gentleman has no other family around here and it would put his mind at rest if this is allowed.
Cllr Marshall asked if this has occurred in other areas in the UK? Cllr Adams explained that yes this does occur around the UK, predominantly larger towns, their Policies are no different from Bentham Town Council, but do allow.

PCSO Jayne Grace and PC Ian Hunt. PCSO stated that there has been an increase in burglaries and vans broken into within the area. PCSO said that the public are not reporting incidents, for example strangers on private property. There has been an increased presence of Constabulary around the area. Certain vulnerability located in the area as the Parish is isolated and rural, and on the edge of the County border. Encouragement to contact Police, as incidents are often linked.

PCSO's encouraged prevention; ensure keys are removed from vehicles.

Incident noted of two balaclava wearing men spotted near the Lancashire border of Parish.

PC Hunt explained that they are in a vicious cycle of public thinking constabulary has limited resources so people are not reporting incidents, however if more were reported there would be more available.

Cllr Burton questioned which numbers to contact on? If something is happening 'now' as in a stranger on your property report to 999, if after the incident 111.

PC Hunt stated that the Ellergill driveway parking issue has been investigated, this is not a junction, there does not seem to be an obstruction, this is private land and not highway.

18.02.24 - Added 25 incidents report between 01.02.24 & 18.02.24.

Incidents include – Fraud – online/Postal/ Amazon – banking & building work, crime sexual, Stolen plates, animal concern, Abandon Vehicle Grasmere, parking charge dispute, Civil dispute, theft of cushions – returned – Banks Way & Abandon Calls

05.02.24 – Stolen - A white '67-plate' works van parked in a driveway on Clapham Road, High Bentham was broken into overnight Saturday 3rd February – Sunday 4th February. The front passenger side window was smashed, and the side sliding door was ripped off. £4000 worth of power tools were stolen from within (incident #12240021137).

05.02.24 - theft of an old blue Toyota Landcruiser parked on a driveway on Clapham Road, High Bentham which occurred between 01:00hrs – 02:30hrs on Monday 5th February. The stolen vehicle was sighted near Claughton by a Lancashire Police Unit. It was in convoy with a dark coloured Audi on cloned plates. They were pursued and the offenders abandoned the Toyota on a bridge on Low Road near Halton Green/Crook of Lune. The Toyota was left in a position where it was completely blocking the bridge. The occupants of the stolen vehicle jumped into the Audi which made off from the officer who was unable to follow (incident #12240021634)

07.02.23 - Between the 19th of Jan and 2nd Feb, a green Kawasaki off-road motorcycle was stolen from outside an address on Main Street, High Bentham. The bike was found dumped and returned to its owner. Any information, please call 101, quoting ref; 12240022958.

07.02.24 & 08.02.24 – X4 Concern for welfare/safety – joint partnership working.

08.02.24 – Highways dispute – Civil – Bank View

13.02.24 – Stolen Vehicle – Mewith Lane –

13.02.24 – Suspect vehicle in yard – Burton Road

257. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 5th February 2024
RESOLVED

258. To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications.

258.1 ZA23/25557/FUL
Re-surface parking area Low Bentham Public Hall And Victoria Institute
Low Bentham Public Hall And Victoria Institute, Main Street, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2
7BX **APPROVED**
NOTED

258.2 ZA24/25674/LBC
Internal structural alterations and refurbishment works to ground floor (including provision of unisex accessible toilet and removal of redundant staircase). External refurbishment

works (including replacement of existing signage and removal of timber framed smoking shelter to existing front terrace area).

Brown Cow (former Coach House Hotel), Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HE
(Date 23rd Feb 2024)

NEUTRAL – No objection

258.3

ZA24/25672/FUL

Internal structural alterations and refurbishment works to ground floor (including provision of unisex accessible toilet and removal of redundant staircase). External refurbishment works (including replacement of existing signage and removal of timber framed smoking shelter to existing front terrace area).

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NEUTRAL – No objection

258.4

ZA23/24968/REM

Reserved matters application (scale, access, appearance, layout and landscaping) of two dwellings allowed on appeal under reference APP/C2708/W/20/3253372, our reference 2019/21170/OUT.

Land Greenfoot Farm, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7EQ, **APPROVED NOTED**

259. To consider the sale of the **Community Youth Building**: to sign the contract and transfer.

RESOLVED – signed and returned. Unanimous. Sale to complete by the end of the week.

260. To consider approval of inscription and brass **memorial plaque for the bench** and consider the fixing of it to bench by member of the public.

RESOLVED – Thomas Brown (Parish Caretaker) to attach the plaque to the bench, invite the member of public to attend.

261. To consider adding the **inscription on a gravestone** of a person still living.

RESOLVED – INSCRIPTION unanimously AGREED, the member of public has given permission to have his personal data published.

262. To **consider/note the following Correspondence**:

262.1 To consider a course of action **regarding the paving area outside of Millers Court** in High Bentham due to a fall by a member of the public.

RESOLVED – action Clerk to contact resident of flats above and Land Registry to investigate owner.

262.2 To consider tarmacking or gravel chipping the **footpath past the Coach House/Brown Cow** from a member of the public to make this more accessible for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

RESOLVED – public footpath ACTION Clerk to contact the NYC.

262.4 To note a concern raised by a member of public about the approved **Rollershed** planning application.

RESOLVED – Clerk to write to the member of the public.

263. To agree the Accounts for Payment.

2631 To note the balance for the bank.

£37,675.45

263.2 To note the pre-agreed contractual payments.

RESOLVED

264.3 To approve the payments.

Payments to approve

Date	Column1	Name	Total	Description
12.02.2024	15	ADC	£217.87	Door Repair
12.02.2024	16	Stannah (Stannah)	£222.65	Lift contract
12.02.2024	17	(Elker Bookkeepin	£450.00	Locum RFO
12.02.2024	19	Ruth Green	£630.00	relief caretaker
14.02.2024	21	Steve Frankland	£416.18	Joinery

Contractual Payments to Note

Date	Column1	Name	Total	Description
19.02.2024	12	Total Energies (To	£776.85	Electricity at Town Hall
12.02.2024	18	SSE SWALEC	£299.73	Unmetered Electric Supply
21.02.2024	150	North Yorkshire Cr	£58.38	Trade Waste
08.02.2024	263	Waterplus Waste	£81.99	Waste water bill Town Hall
01.01.2024	264	Citron (Citron)	£30.53	Sanitary Disposal Unit

Approved payment - Payee needs adding to bank

Date	Column1	Name	Total	Description
17.01.2024	4	JK Ltd	£1,462.08	knotweed

RESOLVED

264. To consider moving the **Internet and two Phone lines** to Sky Business.

RESOLVED to accept, Cllr Stannard questioned if a static IP address was required?

265. To approve the letter of thanks to Mr Hinde for the pantomime posters.

RESOLVED – Clerk to send.

266. Highways issue:

266.1 to consider bringing the continued problems with highway flooding on Springfield to North Yorkshires attention.

RESOLVED – TB noted that when the house was built the NYC planning application stated that the owner was to put in drains and tarmac the drive. Chair questioned if the water was coming from the land.

ACTION – Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council

267. Items for **next meeting and minor items for information only.**
Defibrillators.
Cllr Marshall sends apologies for March meeting.
Parking on the Main Street especially around The Black Bull, opposite the Co-Op, notably the dropped pavement for pedestrians to cross. Car parked right in front the Co-Op door on the pavement.
TB noted that the large delivery wagon parks here, this is due to the delivery drivers not being allowed to push deliveries across the road.

268. Date of next meeting.

Full Council meeting: Monday 4th March 2024 – 7:30pm

Monday 8th April 2024 – 7:30pm

Open Space meeting: Monday 15th April 2024 – 7:30pm

Closed at 7:52pm

Claire Burrow
Town Clerk, Bentham
Tuesday 20th February 2024