



# BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:  
Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,  
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH

Tel/Fax: 015242 62587  
Email: [townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## **Open Spaces Minutes – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

OS14. **Apologies** from members unable to attend:

OS14.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

**Cllr Burton and Cllr Stannard**

OS14.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reasons requested.

**AGREED**

OS15. **Declaration of interest:** -

OS15.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members code of conduct or members register of disclosable pecuniary interest.

**NONE**

OS15.2 To approve dispensation request – if dispensation request received.

**NONE**

OS16. **Invited Member of the Public** - To receive an update on works already carried out by Thomas Brown, Parish Caretaker.

**Cemetery is currently cut by hand, TB finds that the graves have flowers, items in graves which is an issue when grass cutting. Cleaned the car park, OP commented it looks good. Chair mentioned some of the posts are rotten.**

Goodenber Play Area is cut by hand, bins are often full, potentially use of Town Hall bin, gate at the top of the play area is falling off, trees need cutting.

Fingerpost rotten on the Green in Low Bentham, mowed every week. Trees low lying branches need trimming.

Cllr Paige - Question over the footpath along Low Bentham.

Phillip Harvey Playing Field – too wet to get the large mower on, use of new estate for access to the Playing Field. TB to cut resident hedges along the fence. Smaller children play area still to clean. Power washed equipment and most of the path. Council commented looking good. Permission to spray the path from Hillside to Ellergill driveway.

Road verges between High Bentham and Low Bentham mowed every week, some areas are kept as wild flowers requested from the public.

Mill Lane every two weeks, potential of wall being precarious, question of cables and wires.

Fourlands hedges need cutting back, grass strimmed.

Robin Lane the bankings have been strimmed.

Bowland View overgrown area containing rocks and rubble, potentially to clear.

Springfield cut every two weeks. Wesley Close grass cutting. Green Smithy to tidy. Welcome Wall into High Bentham from Clapham, moles. Cleaning of School Hill.

To trim the Trout Farm Path when needed.

OS17. To receive the overview of the finances for the Open Spaces committee.

**NOTED**

**RESOLVED – to request to Full Council the unspent gritting budget to move forward to the Open Spaces budget.**

**Minutes from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 signed as a true and accurate record.**

OS18. Cemetery issues:

OS18.1 To consider extending the memorial wall.

**RESOLVED - three quotes for wall to be sought, one foot between the existing walls, 10 metres in both directions, similar stone, height and dimensions, with the flat facing stones.**

**Refer to Full Council.**

OS18.2 To consider Parish Caretaker pressure washing the path before the cemetery.

**RESOLVED - TB to price.**

OS18.3 To consider cleaning the benches.

**RESOLVED - TB to price.**

OS18.4 To consider the placement and installation of the 'No Dogs' sign.

**RESOLVED - placement of sign on entry to the cemetery.**

**ACTION - to purchase another one for inside the cemetery.**

OS18.5 To consider trimming the hedges.

**RESOLVED – TB to price, hedge and conifer trees, clean underneath.**

OS19. To further consider **pruning the trees** on Springfield and Butts Lane.

**RESOLVED – ACTION – to follow up with Beaver Trees.**

OS20. **Phillip Harvey Playing Fields:**

OS20.1 To consider fixing the hole under the seesaw.

**RESOLVED – waiting for a dry day to fix the hole, completed late evening, to dry over night, closing off the smaller children's play area.**

OS20.2 To consider removing the branches due to potential risk to children and a fire risk.

**RESOLVED – TB to price to remove.**

OS20.3 To consider cleaning the benches.

**RESOLVED – TB to clean benches.**

OS20.4 To repair the sign near the zip wire.

**RESOLVED – ACTION – sign removed, to report vandalism to the Police as criminal damage.**

**MP and TM to re-fix.**

OS20.5 To receive an update on the South entrance re-surfacing.

**RESOLVED – discussion with the landowners to work together to make the path more accessible to all.**

**ACTION – 3 quotes to be sought to tarmac the path. Quote for the removal of the tree root. TB to potentially prepare for tarmacking.**

OS21. To consider the cutting back of the trees and hedge on the corner near the **Green Smithy.**

**RESOLVED – TB to price.**

OS21.1 To consider course of action for broken the **Forest of Bowland sign.**

**RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to research.**

OS22. To consider the Parish **grass cutting** for the year.

**NOTED and AGREED**

OS23. To receive an update on **School Hill planters/area.**

**RESOLVED – to be planted in May/June. Precept special project – recycled plastic planters. Suggestion of memorial planters instead of benches for the Parish.**

OS24. To receive an update on the Main Street.

OS24.1 To consider a clean-up of the Main Street linked to the Bentham Masterplan.

**RESOLVED – to monitor.**

OS25. To consider the Give Way sign at Fourlands.

**RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to report to Highways. TB to price, clean around the sign.**

OS26. **Street Lighting:**

OS26.1. To receive an update on the connection of the street lighting along Duke Street.

**RESOLVED – ACTION – approach Brad Tooke to quote for digging, potential for three quotes, discussion with Ian Harrison, digging across Creative Theory. Funding from the Street Lighting fund.**

OS26.2 To consider any outstanding street light issues in the Parish.

**RESOLVED – wooden posts to be removed, ACTION - Clerk to contact NYC.**

**Clerk still researching the ownership of the street light pass through to Cleveland Square.**

**ACTION – quote to be sought to fix the light, Tom Wills, Mark Burrow, James Burrow and Rob Pryce.**

OS26.3 To consider street lighting maintenance.

**RESOLVED – ACTION – to advertise for a contractor to maintain and service of the Street Lights.**

**NOTED - number 13 not working.**

OS26.4 To consider a Street Lighting Project as a Special Project.

**RESOLVED – ACTION Open Spaces committee to review all street lighting during walk/drive around.**

OS27. Items for **next meeting and minor items for information** only.  
**Coffin trolley sale**

OS28. Date of **next meeting:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 8:51pm.

*C Burrow*

**Claire Burrow**  
**Bentham Town Clerk**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

DRAFT