

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6 February 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Bridgeman, Handford, Marshall, Stannard, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also CCllr Ireton, DCllrs Brockbank & Thompson, the clerk Mrs Burton and 9 parishioners

201. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Pritchard.
202. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members' requests for DPI dispensations - none
203. To Receive Comment & Concerns
A resident expressed concern that the town needed to protect the facilities that remained in order to stay an attractive place to live. He said that the community needed to work together to maintain and enhance the place, and whilst acknowledging that the Council had no direct power he felt it should use its influence to get both the Library and the Post Office relocated to a community hub in the Lower Town Hall.
DCllr Brockbank spoke on behalf of three residents regarding agenda item 212.2, the footpath to the rear of Grasmere Drive / Close. This footpath is in multiple ownership following the transfer or sale of old council housing, but is not being maintained. Leaf debris & moss growth makes the uneven surface slippery and it is badly lit. The residents would like the Council to assist in solving the problem.
204. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 4, 16 & 23 January and the precept meeting on 16 January be signed
205. To Note that the Council Co-Ordinator, Mrs Felicity Hey, commenced in the post on Monday 30 January - noted
206. To Co-Opt a further member to Council for the rest of this Council
RESOLVED: That a signed ballot be used to select a new member from the applications received.
Three applicants - Mr Chris Barnes, Ms Alexandra Stone and Ms Diane Faraday - were considered. At the end of the first vote Ms Faraday was co-opted with a clear majority, polling 6 votes
RESOLVED: That Ms Faraday be co-opted for the remainder of this Council
- 206.1. To agree appointment to committees following co-option
RESOLVED: That appointment to Committees be left until the March meeting
207. to Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) - see end of these minutes
208. To Receive an update from the Drop-In (for information only) - none
209. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
PC Parsons reported that there had been 38 reported incidents in January including 7 crimes and 2 RTAs. The crimes included several thefts, a historic sexual assault and an assault at one of the care homes. She confirmed that the recent vacancies had been filled and that Settle / Ingleton Stations were now up to full complement with some 15 officers with 2 officers working per shift. In response to a question she agreed that there had been a rise in reports recently, but this was usual in the winter months where criminals make use of the darker nights to cover their activities.
210. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
CCllr Ireton, responding to the comment on the Library, confirmed that the plans to move it to the Looking Well & Pioneer Projects were progressing well. He agreed that some concerns had been expressed about the new location, but felt that this would have been the case wherever it had moved to. NYCC have agreed a budget giving a 3.99% increase in Council Tax allowing better funding of adult social care. He also confirmed that the land ownership problem at the Horse & Farrier had been partially resolved as it had been confirmed that NYCC had no interest in the land.

DCllr Thompson informed the meeting that Craven had approved to co-mingling of recyclables and this new system will come into force in April. He also said that a new volunteer force would be working with NYCC to maintain the local footpaths, and encouraged anyone interested to contact him.

DCllr Brockbank thanked the resident in Comments & Concerns for his recognition of Friends of Bentham Library. The Library move will be delayed until the end of April, but can remain in the current building during that period. She had spoken to Julian Smith MP regarding the Post Office and he was supportive of keeping the service, but had received the same response as the Council regarding the requirement for a Postmaster to step forward. She had also spoken to Mr Smith about the Grasmere footpaths, and he was prepared to approach NYCC about getting them adopted. (CCllr Ireton added that NYCC would be considering the disabled access in this area). In response to questions regarding the library she confirmed that new signage from Main Street would be installed and that ideas to improve footfall were being explored, including longer opening hours. She also confirmed that the future of FOBL was being considered as the volunteers and the Library would be run by Pioneer Projects in future and FOBL could be a redundant organisation.

CCllr Ireton left the meeting at 8.10pm to attend another meeting

211. Planning

211.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

211.1.1. 08/2016/17668 Demolish existing out buildings & replace with double storey extension to north elevation, single storey extension to west elevation, add new porch to east elevation & replace porch to south elevation. Create vehicle turning space on east elevation to allow additional parking on premise at Greenfoot Farm, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

211.1.2. 08/2016/17683 Development of 3 apartments on upper floors. A two-bed and a one-bed to the first floor and a two-bed apartment to the second floor at Kings Buildings, 15 Main St, Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

211.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

211.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

212. Highways Matters

212.1. To Receive responses from Highways and Planning regarding the reported blocked drains / gullies

The blocked gully on Hillside has been repaired, all others are still awaiting action

RESOLVED: That the clerk bring any further progress to the March meeting

212.2. To Discuss the footpath to the rear of Grasmere Drive/Close

It was agreed that the mixed ownership between NYCC, Craven, Housing Associations and private residents complicated any way forward. Craven have agreed to clear the debris etc this week but adoption of the footpath by NYCC may require it to be brought up to adoptable standards and the Town Council cannot work on private land. Also, all owners would have to agree to transfer the land to NYCC if it agrees the adoption. The current lighting is mostly operational, but not all of the area is lit and the Council may be able to assist in this if required. A disabled route would be useful, but may be difficult to achieve given the gradients involved.

RESOLVED: That the Council meet with NYCC to look at the possible adoption of the footpaths to the rear of Grasmere Close / Drive

212.3. To Consider the NYCC Countryside Access Service public consultation (closes 19 March) and agree a way forward (papers 2016/14 & 2016/15)

RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Committee be asked to consider the consultation and report back to the March meeting

212.4. To Consider and **Note Highway Matters** for Information

The water leak on Butts Lane was reported to Yorkshire Water on 1 February.

It was noted that the damaged street signs on Lakeber Drive and Avenue, reported several months ago, have now disappeared. The 'humped crossing' sign by the school is still not lit.

The potential subsidence of Station Road by Station Bridge should be reported to NYCC Highways

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be informed of the increased pooling of water by Station Bridge

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be told again about the unlit sign at the school

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be informed of the potholes by Bank View on Burton Road

The Council discussed the damaged directional marker at Gale House and agreed to price getting this historical sign repaired as NYCC will only replace it.

RESOLVED: That a quote for the repair of the directional marker sign at Gale House be sought

213. To Note the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 9 January - noted.

214. To Further Discuss the Post Office Provision in Bentham, following the Council's meeting with PO Representative on 24 January
Members of the Council had met with Mark Gibson of Post Office Counters and a statement had been produced outlining the requirements for continued provision of a full-time Post Office in Bentham, i.e. the contracting of a Postmaster to run the service alongside another business. Bentham News had suggested that there may be an individual interested and it was also confirmed that the current postmaster had agreed to continue for up to six more months to allow further time for a replacement to be found. The only type of post office that could be run out of the Town Hall would be an Outreach Service (which would be part time). The Council agreed to hold a meeting in the Town Hall to facilitate maintaining the Post Office by giving potential applicants and those with premises an opportunity to come forward.

RESOLVED: That a meeting be held for potential postmasters and premise holders to come forward, at a date to be arranged

215. To Receive an update on the Library Relocation to the Looking Well - See DCllr Brockbank's report

216. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	154.15	PRS for Music	836.39
Mopps	394.00	Off-Tech	48.00
Aviva	333.12	Thomas Graham	73.74
Opus Energy	98.44	D Siddall	100.00
Orange	23.99	1&1 Internet	16.78
PWLB	6253.13	WEL Medical	1524.00
SWALEC	970.10	Viking Direct	251.48
Stannah Lift Services	428.19	Y Dales Signs	102.00
Cannon	19.33	Clearglass Cleaning	100.00
HB Plumbing & Heating	104.22	PC World	620.98
Tim Wheildon Heating	361.94	365 Games	22.99
MBE Ltd	221.58	NEST	50.05
		Salaries	1855.18

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

216.1. To agree the replacement of the door under the thoroughfare at a cost of £390.00 plus VAT

RESOLVED: That the door under the thoroughfare be replaced at a cost of £390 plus VAT

216.2. To agree the replacement of the Ballroom curtain tracks on the carpark side at a cost of £635 plus VAT

RESOLVED: That the curtain tracks be replaced at a cost of £635 plus VAT

217. To Receive further information from NYCC Street Lighting following a meeting regarding the Bentham Street Light Replacement project in the coming year
Cllr Marshall and the clerk had met with Peter Ball of NYCC Street Lighting for an appraisal of all the Council's street lights. The concern with most was that replacement lanterns could not be fitted on Electricity North West poles or private dwellings and in most cases an underground supply would be required to a new free standing pole. This significantly increases the cost by approx. £2000 per light, which means that the 2017/18 budget will

not cover the replacement of all the lights. It was agreed that the Council should meet with ENW to find the best way forward and then consider the best options going forward,

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged with Electricity North West to discuss the replacement of the Council's street light stock.

218. To Consider items of Correspondence

218.1. To receive an invitation to the Parishes Liaison Meeting On Wednesday 22 March at 6.30pm at Craven's offices, and agree attendance if any.

RESOLVED: That any interested Councillor should inform the Clerk of their intention to attend

218.2. To note that the External Auditors have been appointed for 2017/18 - 2021/22 & are PKF Littlejohn for N.Yorks - noted

219. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)

Cllr Swales had attended several Library meetings which had been outlined earlier in the meeting. She had requested that the next Area Committee be held in Bentham

Cllr Marshall reported that the Alms House project was now complete

Cllr Taylor said that the Area Refugee Group had written to the Government about the unaccompanied minors in Calais.

Cllr Townson confirmed that the Extracare Group continued to press NYCC for a suitable solution for Bentham

Cllr Bridgeman announced that the Defibrillator had been installed at the Victoria Institute. The committee were progressing with maintenance issues. Various fund raising events had been arranged for 2017.

Cllr Stannard said that Claire Pearson had been appointed as the new head teacher at the primary school

Cllr Vendy confirmed that the Victoria Institute defibrillator had been installed, but in a locked cabinet. He also pointed out that the Youth café were advertising for a part time administrator and preparing for their coffee morning in March.

220. Items for next meeting and minor items only

The Spatial Plan which will be consulted upon shortly includes the land by the river as a permanent Green Space.

The Lancaster & Morecambe Community Rail Partnership, working with Northern Rail and Alzheimer's Research UK have been awarded £65K funding for a project to ensure that Dementia sufferers get a better deal from public transport, with the Bentham Line seeking to have Excellence status.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

AGENDA ITEM 205)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6 February 2017

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. None

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. 08/2016/17612 Installation of 21m lattice tower supporting 3no antennae, 2no transmission dishes, 2no equipment cabinets, 1no meter cabinet & ancillary development thereto including a 2m high chain link fence (prior notification) on Land at Bentham ATE, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Local Plan for Lancaster District, Consultation 27/1 - 24/3

(<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/planning-policy-consultations>)

2.2. Enf 2373/16 Certificate 097/108 issued for 5 Caravans at the Punch Bowl Hotel - file now closed

2.3. Letter of objection to application 08/2016/17636 Riverside Caravan Park (already discussed at January meeting)

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting (if not on agenda)

3.1. Post Office Ltd meeting arranged for 24 January 2017 - see item 214

3.2. Small business rate relief application sent 1/2

4. Items for Information - see information folder

4.1. MP Surgery dates & venues, Jan-Apr 17

4.2. Clerks & Councils Direct, Jan 2017

4.3. The Clerk, Jan 2017

4.4. Avian flu outbreak information www.cravencd.gov.uk/avianflu

4.5. Confirmation of YLCA membership charges for 2017/18 - £539 as per 2016/17

4.6. Information on the Emergency Light / Fire Alarm annual tests - recommendations to go to Buildings Committee

4.7. Letter from British Red Cross re denied grant application

5. Items circulated by email

5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 9/1, 16/1, 23/1, 30/1

5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Broadband 11/1, Fuel Poverty 25/1

5.3. Rural Opportunities Bulletin 1/2

5.4. Rural Housing Spotlight, 18/1

5.5. North Yorkshire Now, 9/1

5.6. Craven District Council, 30/1

5.7. White Rose, January Update 30/1

5.8. NYP December Newsletter & various fraud warnings

5.9. My Community, Locality Newsletter, 9/1, 23/1

5.10. NALC Dis & Funding Bulletin, 30/1

5.11. Fields in Trust, 16/1

5.12. Invitation to briefing about Community Land Trusts, Wray 7pm on 7 February

5.13. YLCA Craven Branch executive papers

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

6.1. Cleveland Square bollard fitted 25/1

6.2. Missing & damaged street signs reported 7/9, 8/11 & again 16/1

6.3. NYCC asked about ditches 20/7, chased 20/11

6.4. Bentham Flag - no progress to date

6.5. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 - committee to organise meeting and report back

6.6. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January

6.7. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11/15. Delivery dates awaited

6.8. Flagpole - donor found, to be progressed

6.9. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, CDC to consider