

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Bridgeman, Faraday, Handford, Marshall, Stannard, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also CCllr Ireton, DCllr Brockbank, the clerk Mrs Burton and 6 parishioners

221. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Pritchard.
222. 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
223. To Present the Proceeds of the 2017 Calendar sales to representatives from Sunbeams
Cllr Stannard, Chairman of the Marketing Committee, presented a cheque for £1892.25 to Sunbeams. Cllr Adams thanked the sponsors for their support
224. To Receive Comment & Concerns -none
225. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 February be signed
226. To Agree the appointment to Committees for the rest of this Council
RESOLVED: That Cllr Faraday be appointed to the Buildings and Open Spaces committees
RESOLVED: That Cllr Swales move from the Buildings Committee to the Marketing Committee
- 226.1. To receive a request for a Council representative on the Patient Representative Group for Bentham & Ingleton surgeries
RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall represent the Council on the Patient Representative Group
227. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) - see end of these minutes
The clerk informed the meeting that there would be a Planning Site Meeting at Rose Cottage, Wenning Avenue on 13 March. Cllr Marshall agreed to attend.
228. To Receive an update from the Drop-In (for information only) - none
229. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
PC Parsons reported that there had been 55 reported incidents in February including 17 relating to the Care Homes & Cedar House School, 10 crimes and an RTA. The crimes included 4 thefts, a sexual offence, 2 reports of damage to vehicles and 4 incidents of slashed tyres. Commenting on the level of reported problems at the schools, PC Parsons said that part of the problem was the more challenging cliental following decisions to keep children in mainstream schools for as long as possible. She agreed that Bentham residents needed to be less complacent about theft & burglary and property safety as many incidents were being perpetrated by people travelling out of the towns. It was suggested that Bentham News should report on this
230. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Brockbank announced that the Allerton waste recovery plant will be operational in 2018. The Library volunteers have filled the rota for April, meaning that the library will be open as per the hours when it was run by NYCC. Craven DC have agreed to do some remedial work on the Grasmere Close footpath, and she asked whether the Council might be prepared to help with upgrading the lighting. It was agreed that this subject should be put on a future agenda.
CCllr Ireton commented on the coming budget, saying that it was hoped that Chancellor would find new money for Adult Social Care, as the 2% announced by NYCC was barely sufficient to allow the service to standstill following the increased costs associated with the new living wage and pension requirements.
231. Planning
231.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

- 231.1.1. 08/2017/17763 Change of use of agricultural building into dwelling house & for associated operational development (Prior Notification) at Oak Tree House, Bentham

The Council had received objections regarding the original erection and design of this building without planning permission, however Craven had confirmed that it had been given retrospective consent in 1988 and as such was immune from enforcement action and there was no reason for the application not to be considered. The Council agreed that, reluctantly as it could be setting a precedent, there was nothing in the application that it could object to.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application despite the risk of setting a precedent

- 231.1.2. 08/2017/17803 Proposed erection of building to accommodate an external balcony, changing facilities, entrance foyer, function space, WCs & tractor storage. Alterations to vehicular entrance. Building to be used in conjunction with Cedar House School & Playing Fields, at Cedar House School, County Boundary to Mill Lane, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

- 231.1.3. 08/2017/17805 Proposed extension to rear of house & addition of dormer window to replace existing velux windows to first floor bedroom at rear of Brockbank, Thickrash Brow, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

- 231.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

- 231.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

232. Highways Matters

- 232.1. To receive information on proposed new disabled parking spaces on Lakeber Avenue and agree a response

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this proposal

- 232.2. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The blocked gully at Furness Drive has been cleared, but the ones at One Ash, Rest Harrow and at the Toll Bar Nurseries still need clearing. Cllr Ireton agreed to chase up the Toll Bar Nurseries as this is still holding up the development. The clerk will continue to press for the others to be cleared. It was noted that the gullies on the eastern side of Goodenber Road are all blocked as well.

A new pothole on Burton Road was reported and a missing speed sign above Pye Busk

RESOLVED: That the clerk continue to press NYCC Highways regarding blocked gullies

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be informed of the missing 30/40mph sign on Belle Bank

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

Cllr Handford had discussed the dog fouling problems on Springfield / Mount Pleasant with Craven Environmental Health, who can install CCTV cameras to catch offenders. Warning signs will be erected shortly warning of a £50 fine for the first offence, plus a £1000 fine and a court appearance for subsequent offences.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Handford liaise with Environmental Health regarding persistent dog fouling on Springfield / Mount Pleasant

233. To Note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 13 February - noted

- 233.1. To Further Consider the NYCC Countryside Access Service public consultation (closes 19 March) and agree a response (papers 2016/14 & 2016/15)

Cllr Bridgeman confirmed the Council's response agreeing with the proposed categorisation of the footpaths and prioritising better used footpaths; and strongly agreeing with the incorporation of community value into the assessment and the liaison with parish councils and community groups to define community value. It was noted that the Millenium Trust had LEADER funding available to Councils which could be potentially used for footpath improvements.

RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Committee consider looking at LEADER funding.

233.2. To Consider quotes for various jobs around the parish and agree a way forward
 Various quotes were considered for jobs around the parish. It was agreed that the Kingsdale Projects quotes for updating the Heritage Trail, totalling £1720 (approx.) be accepted and that the tree work be done on Low Bentham School playing field at a cost of £1100, but that further quotes should be sought for the other jobs.

RESOLVED: That the Kingsdale Projects quotes for the Heritage Trail improvements and the tree work on Low Bentham School Playing Field be accepted

RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Committee be asked to get further quotes for the tree work on Low Bentham Road and on Station Road and for upgrading work on Ellergill footpath.

234. To receive the Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the sale of St Margaret's Church for residential use and agree a response, if any (paper 2016/16)

RESOLVED: That the Council had no further comments on the draft scheme.

235. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	77.65	Yorkshire Water	165.97
Mopps	394.00	JBL Joinery	4648.80
Aviva	333.12	Thomas Graham	50.94
Opus Energy	102.30	Mainstage	762.00
EE	23.99	MBE Ltd	72.72
British Telecom	417.39	Dunelm	24.99
Sunbeams	1892.25	NEST	56.07
		Salaries	2629.10

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

221. To Consider a solution for receipt of Council, Tourist Information & Town Hall mail once the Bentham Sorting Office closes at the end of March
 Mail deliveries have already moved to Carnforth and the routes are being altered. Once the Post Office closes the collection of Council post from the counter will not be available. As the Town Hall is not always open the installation of a box in the foyer is not an option.

RESOLVED: That a post box be installed in the clerk's office door

222. To Consider items of Correspondence

222.1. To receive an invitation to meet with senior staff from Cedar House and The Glebe, and agree a response

RESOLVED: That the Council should accept the invitation and an evening meeting be arranged for those Cllrs that wish to attend

222.2. To receive notice of an extraordinary meeting of the Craven branch of YLCA to consider proposals to reform the governance of the Association, and agree attendance if any.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Swales will try and attend

222.3. To receive an agenda update on the Parishes Liaison Meeting on Wednesday 22 March at 6.30pm at Craven's office.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Marshall & Adams will attend

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

Cllr Townson reported that the Extracare Group will meet with NYCC officers on 24 March for a progress update on provision in Bentham.

Cllr Swales will attend a Craven Area Committee meeting on 9 March

Cllr Vendy had attended the Youth Café AGM. The committee had started splitting the age groups and providing different facilities on different evenings which seemed to be working well.

Cllr Stannard had attended a Governors meeting to discuss the outstanding repairs with NYCC. Class 5 had visited the Houses of Parliament.

Cllr Taylor said the Refugee Support Group had made successful collections of items for refugees in the surrounding cities. Extra items left from BEST's Give & Take had also been distributed.

224. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Royal Mail would be writing to all residents shortly regarding the changes to the Bentham service following closure of the Sorting Office.

Cllr Stannard had been asked about use of the all-weather pitch on the old High Bentham School site. CCllr Ireton said that Mr Wilson at County Hall would be able to advise as there may be planning issues associated with its use.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.42pm

AGENDA ITEM 227)

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

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 08/2016/17500 Extension to existing workshop building and part demolition of existing B2 building at Butts Depot, Nutgill Lane, High Bentham
- 1.1.2. 08/2016/17629 Application for matters reserved in conditions 1, 2 & 3 of outline consent reference 08/2016/16604 on land at Bank View, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham
- 1.1.3. 08/2016/17655 Application to remove condition 5 of original planning consent reference 5/8/559/B at West End Barn, Green Head, Cross Lane, Low Bentham
- 1.1.4. 08/2016/17680 Application for listed building consent for division of one retail unit to form two by blocking existing internal access & forming new doorway from existing building entrance at Kings Buildings, 15 Main Street, High Bentham
- 1.1.5. 08/2016/17683 Development of 3 apartments on upper floors. A 2-bed & 1-bed apartment to the first floor & a 2-bed apartment to the second floor at Kings Buildings, 15 Main Street, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. None

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. Further letter commenting on application 08/2016/17636 Riverside Caravan Park
- 2.2. Site visit 13 March at 11.25am – 08/2016/17619, Alterations & extension to dwelling at Rose Cottage, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham

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

- 3.1. Highways meeting regarding Grasmere Close - date still awaited
- 3.2. Street Lighting further discussed by Open Spaces, meeting with ENW to be arranged
- 3.3. Post Office meeting to be held on 6 March cancelled as possible solution found

4. Items for Information - see information folder

- 4.1. Meeting with Farming Minister, George Eustace MP, at Skipton Auction Mart 16 March at 11.30am. To attend email julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk with 'George Eustace Event' in subject line.
- 4.2. Opus Energy acknowledgment of complaint
- 4.3. More correspondence regarding the possible Post Office closure
- 4.4. Water Competition - information regarding opening of 'water market' allowing change of retailer
- 4.5. Clerks & Councils Direct, March 17
- 4.6. Section 137 limits for 2017/18
- 4.7. Craven Area Committee meeting, 10am, 9 March Ingleton Community Centre
- 4.8. Insurance Update - addition of Victoria Institute defibrillator at no extra cost

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 6/2, 13/2, 20/2, 27/2, 6/3
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 15/2, Rural Broadband 22/2
- 5.3. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 1/3
- 5.4. Rural Spotlight on Heart of the Village, 18/2
- 5.5. North Yorkshire Now, 6/2, 3/3
- 5.6. My Community, Locality Newsletter 6/2, 20/2, 6/3
- 5.7. Fields in Trust, 13/2
- 5.8. National Plant Monitoring, request for volunteers
- 5.9. Craven Volunteer Centre Events, March

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Missing & damaged street signs reported 7/9, 8/11/16 & again 16/1
- 6.2. NYCC asked about ditches 20/7, chased 20/11/16
- 6.3. Bentham Flag - no progress to date
- 6.4. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 - committee to organise meeting and report back

- 6.5. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January 2016
- 6.6. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11/15. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.7. Flagpole - donor found, to be progressed
- 6.8. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, CDC to consider