

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4 March 2013, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Brown, Burton (Chairman), Faichney, Handford, Hey & Marshall. Also DCllr Barrington, CCllr Ireton, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 8 parishioners.

182. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Barnes, Hurlley & Procter & DCllr Brockbank (who actually arrived during item 188)

*As Cllr Marshall had to leave the meeting early he asked Cllr Burton (Vice Chairman) to chair the meeting*

183. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations

Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in items 189.1.3 & 189.1.4, planning applications 08/2013/13287 & 13315, as owner of a competitive business for the first and the applicant for the second.

184. To Receive Comment & Concerns

Two members of the Allotments Association attended to express the organisation's interest in the land at Station Road, and were informed that Craven's response to the Council's letter was an item on the agenda.

There was a request for a dog bin on Springfield. The clerk explained that Craven have strict criteria for the placement of dog bins but that she would make the request if the resident confirmed a potential site to her after the meeting.

A brief report was given to the Council following a meeting on 14 February regarding the lack of places for the elderly following the withdrawal of Abbeyfield. The latter had cited a lack of demand for places and the fact that the building was not fit for purpose – the same argument being used by Yorkshire Housing for the closure of Reid House in Ingleton. The meeting felt strongly that the elderly should be cared for locally, not in Selby as had been suggested to one resident. A further meeting will be held on 14 March and developments will be reported back to Council.

A request was made to use the AboutBentham web address on posters and literature advertising CARnival, and to put several pages of information onto the site. Council agreed that this was exactly what the site had been developed for. It also agreed to look at using the surplus Jubilee budget for printing publicity material for the event at the next meeting.

The Passing Places artist will be available for discussions on the project on 23 March

A resident thanked the Council for the use of nameplates for Councillors around the table.

185. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 4 February be signed**

186. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only)

There were no significant additions to the Clerks Report.

187. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information

Sgt Hill attended and reported 27 incidents in the previous month – including 2 crimes (theft of sheep & a commercial burglary), 3 road traffic accidents and 4 missing from home (Everglades & Cedar House). He added that there had been a spate of thefts of quad bikes in Ingleton, by teams coming out of Lancashire & West Yorkshire.

He also explained that the NY Police shift system was being changed from a 9 band to a 5 band system in the new financial year which will mean Ingleton losing a permanent member dropping to 5 officers, plus 5 officers at Settle, which will mean only 2 officers in the area at any one time – assuming that no one is sick / on holiday. On the positive side a PCSO will be assigned to Ingleton – however they have limited powers and only work until 10pm.

188. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)

CCllr Ireton reported that the planning problems with the new school were ongoing and building is unlikely to start before June. He confirmed that objections from a single person were to blame and that the plans (with slight changes following the building regs stage) would have to be reassessed by the NY Planning Committee in April. He also confirmed recent press reports that Defra had withdrawn PFI credits from the proposed Waste Incinerator and that a seminar was being held to look at the way forward. Landfill Tax was increasing every year and NYCC need to find an alternative, one option is to carry the waste further.

*CCllr Ireton then gave his apologies and left the meeting to attend Ingleton Parish Council's meeting*

DCllr Barrington said that Craven had agreed to accept the Govt grant and therefore Council Tax would be frozen for the coming year. She would be attending a meeting later in the week to find out more about the roll-out of Superfast Broadband across the area. She is also attempting to find out more about the local provision of Health Services in the new financial year following the tie up of Bentham Surgery with South Lakes, as Craven's information was all Yorkshire based. DCllr Barrington added that Yorkshire Ambulance were keen to make more contacts in this area.

DCllr Brockbank had sent a written report as she was attending the Dragon's Den event in Skipton. She too confirmed attendance at the coming Superfast Broadband meeting. She also mentioned the Community Rail Partnership & Station Adoption Workshop, which the clerk confirmed the Council had been invited to (see agenda item 198 – Minor Items). DCllr Brockbank had also been in touch with Wyn Ashton of Craven District Council regarding the provision of housing for the elderly and is awaiting a response.

*DCllr Brockbank arrived at the meeting*

DCllr Brockbank said that there had been three very good presentations by Bentham youngsters at the Dragon's Den Event, although she could not confirm if any group had been successful in their funding application.

189. Planning

## 189.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

189.1.1. 08/2013/13133 To install solar panels to the roof & air source heat pumps to properties 17, 19, 20, 21-25 Hillside Road, Low Bentham.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council had no objections to this application

189.1.2. 08/2013/13284 Amendment to planning approval 08/2011/11291 to include redesign & repositioning within the site at The Sidings, Low Bentham

**RESOLVED:** That the Council had no objections to this application

189.1.3. 08/2013/13287 Extension of time to previous approval 08/2009/9888 at Goodenbergh Park & Farm, Low Bentham

*Cllr Marshall declared a DPI and left the room*

**RESOLVED:** That the Council had no objections to this application

189.1.4. 08/2013/1315 Extension to form garage & garden room / utility area & demolition of existing garage at Knowe Top, 93 Low Bentham Road, High Bentham

*Cllr Marshall declared a DPI and left the room*

**RESOLVED:** That the Council had no objections to this application

## 189.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

## 189.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

## 190. Highways Matters

190.1. To receive further information regarding NYCC Highways Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign Protocol and consider the possibility of making a request

NYCC Highways had confirmed the requirements for siting a VAS and also confirmed that Bentham would be given first refusal on access to the signs. The Council agreed that NYCC Highways should be invited to look at potential sites on Robin Lane, Springfield and Low Bentham Road to see if any are suitable for deployment of the signs.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to see if sites on Robin Lane, Springfield and Low Bentham Road are suitable for deployment of a VAS

190.2. To receive an update from LCC regarding the B6480 between Wennington & The Ridding Despite the lack of a response from David Morris MP, LCC have found extra funding to resurface the road between Ravensclose and the county boundary. The work is scheduled for September 013

190.3. To receive an update on the B6480 Railway Bridge flooding NYCC have agreed to clear the road drains again and Network Rail have agreed to dig their side of the drains, however as this will have to be done by their main contractors it will take a bit of time and should be scheduled before the end of April 2013.

190.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Concerns were expressed about the state of the white and yellow lines around the town, particularly in the absence of the school crossing patrol.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to look at white and yellow lining in the town, which was scheduled to be done this financial year

## 191. To Receive information from Craven District Council regarding funding for Neighbourhood Plans

Craven District Council's response was that the funding announced by Government was for local authorities to cover the costs of examination and the referendum, not for parishes. The Council expressed its disappointment at this response but agreed that it should push on regardless. The clerk agreed to sort a suitable date for a meeting to discuss the subject further. She confirmed that she had chased Planning Policy for the promised timescales but had not had a response.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council should continue with discussions about putting together a Neighbourhood Plan for Bentham

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk sort a suitable date for a meeting

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk chase Planning Policy for their Local Plan timetable again

## 192. To Receive a response from Craven District Council regarding the request for suitable allotment land

Craven had turned down the Council's request for allotment on part of the land on Station Road, and stated that the District Council did not have any suitable land in the area as the only sites available were either too valuable or unsuitable.

## 193. To Consider the Draft Risk Assessment for the Council, and make suitable amendments if necessary for approval at the April meeting (paper 2012/22)

The current draft requires more work to add Open Spaces, and to separate Council risks from Health & Safety Risks.

**RESOLVED:** That the current draft requires further work before the April meeting

194. To Receive a request from Age Concern for a precept grant, and agree a response

**RESOLVED:** That, due to the lateness of the Age Concern application and the resolution made at the Precept meeting to turndown such late requests, no grant be made and the organisation be asked to apply again next November.

*Cllr Marshall gave his apologies and left the meeting.*

195. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Mopps	384.00	D Siddall	450.00
Bentham Youth Cafe	10.00	1&1 Internet Ltd	8.96
B & CE Armstrong	74.43	JBL Joinery	132.00
EOn	724.41	Health & Care	139.99
Aviva	322.54	B. Rothwell	1010.00
Tim Wheildon Heating Services	338.40	Friends of Bentham Library	42.67
British Telecom	305.22	R Green	482.98
Horton Landscaping	540.00	J Burton	754.11
		Orange	23.99

Plus transfer of £800 grant paid by Craven District Council, from Town Council to Tourist Information account

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts for payment are agreed

195.1. To consider quotes for tree work on Low Bentham Playing Field  
Two quotes had been received, at £440 and £350 excluding VAT.

**RESOLVED:** That the quote from Westmorland Tree Care for £350 + VAT be accepted

195.2. To agree the designs for the Public Toilet signs

**RESOLVED:** That the designs be accepted

195.3. To consider the Electrical Installation test results and the quote for required work

As the Building Committee had not met during February this item had been moved to the full Council meeting. The test result was unsatisfactory with 17 items reported. The majority of these can be fixed with a quote of £174 + VAT. Four items cannot be priced for as they require further investigation, two being classed as 'urgent remedial action required' and two as 'improvement recommended'. It was agreed that the insurers should be contacted regarding their requirements and that the latter two be left until the cost of the urgent items was known if the insurers are happy with this course of action. A letter should also be sent to GI Hopley Limited as the refurbished building had been signed off with problems in the installation.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council Insurers (Aviva) be informed of the installation problems and their agreement sought for a course of action

**RESOLVED:** That GI Hopley Ltd be contacted regarding the fact that the building was signed off when there were problems with the electrical installation

196. To Consider items of Correspondence

196.1. To receive notification of the Police & Crime Plan 2013-17 Consultation until 18 March 2013 – response forms at [www.crimeplan.org.uk](http://www.crimeplan.org.uk) - received

196.2. To receive details of Yorkshire Energy Partnership and Craven District Council's fuel poverty initiative in Bentham, to install 22 gas boilers before 31 March 2013 - received

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

Cllr Hey said that the Longstaffe Charity was putting an article in March Bentham News requesting applications for educational grants.

Cllr Armstrong told the Council that the Playing Fields Association AGM is on 14 March and encouraged residents to get involved

Cllr Handford had attended the Town Team meeting and announced that the Bus Shelter refurbishment had been approved. The Footpath Group are to survey the Heritage Trail before the next meeting on 14 March to see what needs doing to spruce it up.

Cllr Adams had missed the last Goodenber Play Area meeting but confirmed that they would be holding various events over Easter

Cllr Burton announced that the Youth Café coffee morning had raised £355 and that as Barclays Bank had agreed to match fund the raffle, the total proceeds of the event were £555. The youngsters were making a presentation at the Dragon's Den event that evening, and plans for the summer would be announced shortly.

198. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Cllr Adams agreed to attend the Community Rail Partnership and Station Adoption workshop on behalf of the Council as he is already attending on behalf of LASRUG.

The clerk announced that, unofficially, the Council had been successful in its application for LEADER funding for public cycle racks around the town. She added that the Black Bull had asked for permission to attach hanging baskets to the Town Hall close to its outside area. As there were various opinions among the Cllrs it was agreed that more discussion was needed and that the clerk should look into potential liability with the insurers.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

**AGENDA ITEM 186)**

**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 March 2013**

**1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting**

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. none

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. none

**2. Planning Correspondence**

2.1. Planning Focus Newsletter, February 2013

2.2. NYCC Minerals & Waste Development Framework update, February 2013

2.3. Further information regarding the wind turbine off Tatterthorn Road

2.4. Asian Spice enforcement action update – compliance period extended to June 2013

**3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting**

3.1. Precept and grant request confirmed 6 February

3.2. Responses regarding Punch Bowl Inn sent 7 February, planning response awaited

3.3. NYCC Highways contacted regarding Vehicle Activated Sign queries on 7 February – see agenda item

3.4. Recycling litter bin response sent 7 February

3.5. Letters re B6480 at Wennington sent to LCC, David Morris MP & Julian Smith MP on 8 February – see agenda item (acknowledgement from Julian Smith received 2/3/13)

3.6. BEST response sent 13 February

3.7. Letter re Allotment land sent to Craven DC 18 February – see agenda item

**4. Items for Information – see information folder**

4.1. SELRAP AGM notice, 11 March, St Bartholomew's Church, Colne at 7pm

4.2. Confirmation from DCLG that Cllrs do not require DPI dispensations to set the Precept

4.3. News from the Boundary Commission that the boundary review has been postponed until 2018

4.4. Gas Safety Certificates for Town Hall & Community Youth Building

4.5. North Yorkshire & York Forum 'Sleeping Rough initiative (& noticeboard)

**5. Items circulated by email**

5.1. Information on Superfast Broadband in Craven, 15/2

5.2. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 11/2, 18/2, 25/2, 4/3

5.3. North Yorkshire Now, February 2013

5.4. Looking Well News, 7/2/13

5.5. Community Action in Craven Newsletter, 14/2

5.6. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, February 2013

5.7. Rural Services Network Press Release, 12/2, 19/2

5.8. SLCC News Bulletin, 8/2/13

5.9. YLCA Information notes –1/2, 8/2, 15/2

5.10. Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Appeal, 21/2

5.11. North Timber Freight Quality Partnership information, 22/2

5.12. RegioFlash, 6/2, 11/2, 1/3

5.13. More emails about the Allerton Incinerator

5.14. SELRAP update, March 2013

5.15. Health Partnership Project Community Health Map Update, 1/3

5.16. Call for evidence for alternative service delivery (& other organisations)

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

6.1. Leader funding bid completed 10 December, reply expected March 2013

6.2. Neighbourhood Plan funding letter to Craven sent 17 December, chased 23 January – see agenda item

6.3. NYCC Streetlights contacted 4 October re Cleveland Square, light has been replaced but ENW found problem with underground wiring, work started late January - fixed

6.4. Network Rail contacted about fence 12 September, photos supplied 17 September, listed for repair 17 October

6.5. Market valuation of Low Bentham School Field, NYCC meeting 22/8, land registry & access information awaited

6.6. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited

6.7. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered