

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6 June 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Burton, Hurtley, Marshall, Procter & Yaman. Also DCllr Barrington & the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 2 parishioners.

22. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Apologies were received from Cllr Brown.
23. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Marshal declared personal and prejudicial interests in items 30.1.2 & 34, planning application 08/2011/11623, and allotments, as relative and landowner respectively. Cllr Hurtley also declared a personal & prejudicial interest in item 30.1.2 as owner of some of the applicants rented land.
24. To Receive Comment & Concerns
A resident reported a blocked drain close to Naylor Meyers on the right side of Low Bentham Road approaching Low Bentham. The same resident asked about the hole in the pavement on the opposite side of Low Bentham Road which was dug some 5 weeks ago and left with bollards etc blocking the walkway. He also asked about the safety measures for the new pond on Bargh's Meadow. It was explained that the landscapers have not yet finished work in the area. The Council agreed to report the first two issues to NYCC Highways and to flag a potential concern to Yorkshire Housing regarding the pond.
25. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 2 May be signed
26. To Co-Opt two further members to Council for the period 2011/14
RESOLVED: That Mrs Felicity Hey be co-opted as a Councillor for Low Bentham until 2014
RESOLVED: That Mr Brian Handford be co-opted as a Councillor for High Bentham until 2014
27. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
The clerk agreed to chase NYCC Street Lighting regarding the replacement of Hillside Road lights
28. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
PC Yewell and Sgt Hill attended. In the past month the police had been called out to fight at the Black Bull, 3 domestic assaults, and assault between neighbours, a disturbance of the peace in Low Bentham, a report of nuisance in Millers Court and 30 missing persons from the various care homes in Bentham. They had also executed 2 drugs warrants and responded to 4 thefts, 2 reports of criminal damage and one of criminal damage and assault, and a road traffic accident on Main Street (HGV knocked wing mirror off parked car). These had resulted in 9 arrests.
It was confirmed that there had only been one complaint (about noise) to the police during the Wrecking Crew event. In response to a question about large tractors being driven by youngsters on the local roads it was confirmed that as long as the driver possesses a tractor license there is little the police can do. Recent action with the speed gun on Springfield and Robin Lane has shown little evidence of speeding. It was suggested that Springfield was monitored at the wrong time as early morning is the problem, not later in the day. Sgt Hill confirmed that due to shift changes this is a difficult time to monitor, but agreed to try.
29. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Barrington reported that at the Annual Meeting of CDC she had been appointed the District's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Audit Committee and the Forest of Bowland Joint Working Group. DCllr Brockbank has also been appointed to O&S, and both DCllr Brockbank & CCllr Ireton (in his capacity of DCllr for Ingleton) have been appointed to the Planning Committee.
She confirmed that the NYCC Library report is out and will go to the County Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 8 June. It seems that Bentham & Ingleton Libraries will be saved in some form – premises, broadband, books & IT and 'some element of staffing', but the exact form is unclear.
30. Planning
30.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
30.1.1.08/2011/11550 Installation of Portacabin on the Recreation Field, Bentham Moor Road, Burton In Lonsdale
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
30.1.2.08/2011/11623 Slurry lagoon to provide storage for slurry in relation to a working dairy farm at Ridding Lane Farm, Bentham
Cllrs Hurtley & Marshall declared an interest in this application and left the room
The Council did not understand why the proposed site of the slurry lagoon was so close to the road side and well away from the buildings at the bottom of the lane. It was felt that the proposed site was a potential hazard and that the lagoon should be sited further from the road.

RESOLVED: That the Council object to the application as the current site is a potential hazard being so close to the road.

30.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

30.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

31. Highways Matters

31.1. To receive a letter from NYCC regarding the Council's complaint about the B6480 & Highways response

The Council should receive a full response within 20 working days of 20 May 2011 and the CEO is taking a personal interest in the case.

31.2. To receive a letter regarding traffic on Robin Lane and agree a response

The Headmistress had written to the Council & NYCC Highways about speeding on the roads adjacent to the school asking for a speed matrix and speed bumps to make the area safer for children. A copy of the reply from Highways was also received stating that neither could be instated without injury accident records at the locations and that excessive speed should be reported to the police. The Council agreed that in light of this response there was little it could do other than reiterate the request to the police to monitor speed on Robin Lane. It was noted that illegal parking on the yellow lines and zig-zags at the bottom of Robin Lane do not make it easy to speed at school times, nor do they make it easy to see pedestrians exiting the top gate which is the least safe exit.

RESOLVED: That the school be informed that the Council will ask the police to monitor the situation

31.3. To receive comments about Goodenber Road and agree a response

Two separate verbal complaints had been received by Cllrs from residents of Goodenber Road. The first concerned parking across accesses. It was agreed that parking across a dropped kerb is an offence and should be reported to the police. The Council could approach NYCC Highways regarding white lines, but these are only advisory and not mandatory. However, if the resident would like this they would need to write officially to the Council.

The second concerned speeding on Goodenber Road and the potential for an accident with children going to the Play Area. Council noted that this had been discussed with Highways at length some time ago and the only possible 'fix' had been the painting of the red triangles in the road. With this being the main exit for the fire service no other calming methods were deemed suitable. It was also noted that parking at the bottom end of the road is a natural deterrent to speeding. It was agreed that education of the children would be a more productive route and PC Yewell was asked to include this in her next visit to the school (This particular subject was covered before the police left the meeting).

31.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

RESOLVED: That Cllrs report obscured hedgerow signs to the clerk

RESOLVED: That Network Rail be asked to cut the hedge back on the bridge as it is obstructing the pavement

RESOLVED: That the large pothole on Lakeber Drive be reported to NYCC Highways

32. To review Standing Orders & Financial Regulations 2010 and consider the potential need for amendment (papers 2011/02 & 03)

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations stand as approved in October 2010

33. To receive an update on Bentham Common Lands Charity

The Charity is now back on track with Bernard Wills, Margaret Mason, Walter Tooby and Kath Salrein appointed as trustees. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 June at which the 2010 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts will be approved.

34. To consider the provision of allotments in Bentham, and agree the next step

Cllr Marshall declared an interest and left the room

Following a delay through no fault of the Council, the Allotment Committee had met with a group of the potential allotment holders on 3 May, who had agreed that they wished to proceed along the lines laid out back in January. As of 6 June, 9 potential holders have confirmed in writing with a further 10 still outstanding. The Council agreed that the next logical step is to get planning permission for change of use and asked the Allotment Committee to proceed with this.

RESOLVED: That the obvious interest in allotments should be encouraged and that the Allotment Committee work towards submitting a planning application for change of use to enable this to happen.

35. To note the minutes of the Calendar Committee meeting

Pica Print have been asked to produce the 2012 Calendar. Potential sponsors are being approached. No recipient for the funds raised has as yet been identified

36. To note the minutes of the Town Hall Marketing meeting
Work to update the website continues. The accommodation providers part of the site has been overhauled. Those sections to do with the Council, including the Councillors List will be updated next and all Councillors will be approached for information for the site, and a photograph.

37. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Pica Print	31.80	Horton Landscaping	1885.60
Clearglass Cleaning	90.00	Bentham News	25.00
Craven District Council	313.17	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	71.10
Mopps	384.00	Pestforce	90.00
EOn	56.02	BT	281.31
Aviva	329.68	R Green	482.98
British Gas	583.37	J Burton	1171.39
Lunesdale Decorators	240.00	C Sinclair	131.25
Yorkshire Water	284.62	W Dowbiggin	90.00
B Rothwell	995.00	Orange	23.99
Yorkshire Internal Audit	275.00	Phone Co-Op	1.30
EDF Energy	68.38		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 37.1. To Receive the Internal Audit Report (paper 2011/04) and agree it

RESOLVED: That the Audit Report from Yorkshire Internal Audit Services be received and agreed

RESOLVED: That the recommendation to increase Fidelity Insurance to £100,000 be accepted and acted upon

- 37.2. To Agree the Accounts and Annual Return for 2010/11 (paper 2011/05)

The Clerk had met with the Internal Auditor who had agreed the 2010/11 accounts. The relevant forms had been completed for the External Auditors, which the Council were asked to agree.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance be confirmed and the forms returned to the External Auditors

- 37.3. To confirm the replacement of the Town Hall flagpole at a cost of £1142

RESOLVED: That the Council spend £1142 (plus VAT) to replace the Town Hall flagpole

- 37.4. To consider subscribing to North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association at a cost of £35

RESOLVED: That the Council do not subscribe to North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association

- 37.5. To consider the purchase of copies of the Good Councillor Guide

RESOLVED: That the Council do not purchase extra copies of the Good Councillor Guide

- 37.6. To agree purchase of plaque for Bowling Green at £50

RESOLVED: That the Council purchase a plaque for the Bowling Green at £50 (+VAT)

- 37.7. To agree the Council response to the consultation on the future of Local Public Audit (paper 2011/06)

RESOLVED: That the Council response to the future of Local Public Audit be agreed and sent to DCLG

38. To consider items of Correspondence

- 38.1. To receive the License for Cleveland Square - received

- 38.2. To receive notification of NYCC's intention to close all Household Waste Re-cycling Centres every Wednesday from 1 July 2011 - received

- 38.3. To receive a consultation letter regarding the proposed disposal of land at Low Bentham CP School

NYCC Children & Young Peoples Service are consulting as the first phase of seeking consent from the Secretary of State to dispose of all the land at the Low Bentham Primary School site. The Council agreed that it should ask for confirmation of the access to this site and remind NYCC that it currently rents this land for community use. It was suggested that the possibility of swapping the Council owned Low Bentham Playing Field for the land behind the school be considered.

RESOLVED: That a response reminding NYCC of the current community use and asking for confirmation of the site access be sent.

RESOLVED: That potential for swapping Low Bentham Playing Field for the school land be explored.

- 38.4. To receive an invitation from Pioneer Projects and agree a response

RESOLVED: That Cllr Barnes will attend the Pioneer Projects dinner on Tuesday 28 June

- 38.5. To receive a letter from Spar UK - received

- 38.6. To receive an update from BEST on the potential hydropower study - received

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

Cllr Procter asked if the Youth Café could throw away some items that it had inherited from the Council with the Community Youth building. This was agreed.

40. Items for next meeting and minor items only
 Cllr Adams was asked if he could take residents concerns about the state of Wesley Close during the Play Area refurbishment back to the Goodenber Play Area Association to see if the contractors could do more to clean the road.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.58pm

AGENDA ITEM 27)

CLERK' S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6 June 2011.

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. none

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. 08/2011/11514 Soil strip existing paddock / overspill parking area and resurface with hardcore at the Auction Mart, Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Lancashire County Council LDF consultation reports (email pointing to website circulated)

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Comments on removal of Low Bentham Post Box sent 9/5/11
- 3.2. Council reponse to Hydro-Power sent 10/5/11, response received see agenda
- 3.3. Letter to James Hall & Spar UK sent 16/5/11
- 3.4. Letter to CEO regarding NYCC Highways sent 19/5/11, response received see agenda
- 3.5. Hedgerows – not yet actioned, no reports received
- 3.6. Flagpole – photos & requirements sent 9/5/11, extra photos sent 18/5/11 – see agenda

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Election results notification (noticeboards)
- 4.2. Country Air, Spring 2011
- 4.3. Participatory Budgeting leaflet
- 4.4. Library Consultation report, notification of delay to 14 June
- 4.5. Subsidised place at Funding Training, 15 June, Thirsk (circulated to relevant organisations)
- 4.6. LUDUS play information
- 4.7. Lift Inspection information
- 4.8. Insurance information update
- 4.9. Thank you letters from Little Red Bus, Youth Café, High Bentham WI & Cancer Support for precept grants

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Craven Community News, April 2011.
- 5.2. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 10/5/11, 17/5/11, 24/5/11
- 5.3. Sustainable Government Public Service Efficiency Updates, 12/5/11, 19/5/11, 26/5/11, 2/6/11
- 5.4. Rural Matters, April 11
- 5.5. Historic Towns Forum, May 2011
- 5.6. National Housing Federation Awards 2011
- 5.7. RegioFlash, EU Policy News 16/5/11
- 5.8. Participatory budgeting event, Leeds 25/5/11, 10am onwards
- 5.9. Historic Towns Forum Localism Conference, Chester 17/6/11
- 5.10. Northern Voice, June 2011

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Committee / Council Representatives to be appointed in July when co-optees are available
- 6.2. Data Protection registration forms sent 19/5/11 – confirmation received 4 June 2011
- 6.3. Hillside Lights given go ahead March 2011, repair awaited, potentially end of May
- 6.4. Library consultation response sent 25 February & acknowledged, response expected 14 June 2011
- 6.5. Grasmere Drive Parking Charges, in hands of CDC – budget consideration
- 6.6. Highways letter (B6480 lining) sent 22 December, response chased March & April, letter to CEO May
- 6.7. Green Communities & BEST meeting arranged held 18 November – notes awaited
- 6.8. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.9. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered
- 6.10. Legion Hut Lease – no response since 2009