

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1 October 2012, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Brown, Burton (Chairman), Faichney, Hey & Procter. Also CCllr Ireton, DCllr Barrington and DCllr Brockbank, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 16 parishioners.

84. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend  
Cllrs Barnes, Handford, Hurlley & Marshall,
85. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present  
Cllr Hey declared an interest in item 91.1.1, planning application 08/2012/12812, as a neighbour to the site.
86. To Receive Comment & Concerns  
A deputation was received from Hillside Road where residents state they have been struggling with drug dealing on the road for 2 years. The latest incident where a 7 year old found a jar of white powder, which was passed to the police but apparently not analysed has raised a great deal of concern. There are 18 school children living on the road, plus at least 5 regular visitors and numerous elderly people, but the residents have been subjected to a lot of traffic in the cul-de-sac associated with a specific house, plus arguments about money and blatant drug exchanges. Children at Bentham School have brought home letters warning about the situation and QES have rung all the parents of Bentham children warning about drug dealing in Low Bentham and yet nothing seems to be being done by the police to solve the problem. There have been 2 raids, but on both occasions nothing was found – despite their comments about the situation on Facebook, suggesting that the occupants have been tipped off.  
The Council explained that it could only support the residents in their stand, and ask the police for a report and a meeting to discuss the problem. CCllr Ireton agreed to take the situation up at a higher level the following morning in an effort to find out more and ensure a meeting occurs as soon as possible.  
CCllr Ireton left the meeting to further discuss the issue with the delegation.
87. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 29 August be signed**
88. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes  
One further planning decision had been received since the Clerks Report was published with the agenda. On a different note the clerk brought the Council's attention to an error in the Council Report in the October Bentham News regarding the Consultation on Payments by Parish Councils. She emphasised that this consultation did not propose to allow individuals to make spending decisions, but proposed to do away with the legal requirement for two signatures on cheques which would allow access to internet banking if a council so desired. All decisions would continue to be legally required to be made within a Council meeting from an agenda item.
89. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information  
*Sgt Hill & PC McClurg did not arrive until 7.55pm, having attended Ingleton Parish Council meeting first. This report was actually received after the DCllr/CCllr reports at item 90.*  
PC McClurg said there had been 63 reports in the Bentham area between 1 September and 1 October which included crimes, RTAs, missing persons, domestics etc. These included a single crime – the theft of a car from Mayfield for which a young person from one of the car homes had been arrested, and 3 RTAs.  
Sgt Hill apologised for his recent absence and asked if the Council was aware of the proposals regarding the Road Traffic Units and other efficiencies – listed later on this agenda – and asked for a letter to be sent to the Chief Inspector once the Council had discussed the issue.  
The Chairman then asked for their response to the comments made by the residents of Hillside Road (who had left the meeting prior to the arrival of the police) as drugs had not been mentioned in their report. Sgt Hill responded that they were trying hard regarding drugs in the area with various raids and arrests in recent months. He pointed out that hard evidence was required before a warrant for a raid was signed by a magistrate which made them difficult to get. He also pointed out that much of their work was not broadcast to keep suspects in the dark about police actions. He added that there had not been any recent reports in the area concerned, but neither he nor PC McClurg were sure about what had happened to the white powder. Sgt Hill agreed to contact the residents that evening and to meet with them to address their concerns. CCllr Ireton said that he would like to be present at that meeting as would members of the Council.
90. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)  
DCllr Brockbank told the meeting that the BT box in Low Bentham had been saved, and thanked DCllr Barrington for her efforts in this matter. She confirmed that the coin box had been reinstated and the box recommissioned and was now in full working order.  
The FOBL Open Launch Day had been a great success. A local author, the CEO of NYCC and the mayor had all attended and were thanked for their support. A display of photos from the Bentham Archive kept by David Johnson was now on display until December and a Local History event will be held on 16 October to raise funds for the Library. The AGM will be on 18 October in the Lower Town Hall. The homework club is now up and running.  
DCllr Brockbank also expressed concern about the closure of Bentham Abbeyfield, but added that she did not know what could be done.  
DCllr Barrington told the Council that there is to be a meeting on 4 October regarding the Connect Yorkshire high speed broadband project looking specifically at rural areas.

The Town Team was unsuccessful with its Portas Pilot bid, but has been awarded £10,000 to be spent on the Town Centre. There will also be a Benchmarking exercise to see what is happening in the area regarding footfall, parking etc.

The Way of the Roses 'Passing Places' art project is about to start, and will attempt to lure cyclists into the towns and villages that it passes through.

There has been a lottery application to revitalise the Heritage Trail

The health initiative for the Ingleton Middle School site continues with the formation of a Community Interest Company, and there will be a meeting on 18 October.

Cllr Ireton returned to the meeting to give his report. He confirmed that NYCC Highways had blocked the charging for parking in Bentham last time Craven raised the issue and that, as nothing had changed in the interim, he could not see them changing this time.

He also mentioned the Broadband meeting, adding that NYnet was aiming for 90% coverage in North Yorkshire, but that 90% of the area that would not get coverage was within Craven.

He agreed to find out about the start of construction for the new school as there has been no word in recent times.

## 91. Planning

### 91.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

91.1.1.08/2012/12812 Installation of new signage at Agricultural Sales & Service Depot, Green Smithy, Low Bentham.

*Cllr Hey declared an interest*

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

91.1.2.08/2012/12855 Proposed conversion of redundant water treatment works building to live/work unit at High Bentham Water Treatment Works, Off Mewith Lane, High Bentham

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

### 91.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

### 91.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

## 92. Highways Matters

### 92.1. To Consider the response from Highways to the request for a meeting to discuss the Winter Service & agree a response, if any

Dave Wilson's letter informed the Council that the Winter Service request letter that used to be sent to Parishes was no longer circulated. Requests for amendments to winter service can be made at any time of the year, but in the current circumstances any addition will need to be matched with an equal reduction in service elsewhere. It was agreed that no response was necessary.

### 92.2. To Consider the list of Highways Maintenance Requests for recent months and any possible way forward (paper 2012/17).

The list of outstanding requests had been pulled together from recent (and not so recent) requests and the oldest outstanding issues dated back to August 2009. The clerk asked that Cllrs check those outstanding issues in their areas and inform her of any that are in fact complete as she had not been able to check them all.

**RESOLVED: That Councillors check outstanding matters and report back to the clerk if they have been completed and can be removed from the list.**

### 92.3. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Many of the issues raised actually appear on paper 17 – the clanking manhole cover on the B6480 near Goodenber Road, the pothole on Ravensclose near Goodenbergh Caravan Park, the road surface on Furlands, and the road edge to the Wennington side of Toll Bar nurseries.

New reports were received that the railway bridge drains are blocked on the B6480 and the pothole close to the bridge is now over 2 feet wide. With the recent rain running water due to blocked gullies has been a real problem causing surface damage, particularly near Yew Tree Drive in Low Bentham, and on Burton Road past Egerton on the slope down into Burton. Further concern was expressed that these would be extremely dangerous if there is a frost. It was agreed that these should be reported to NYCC Highways, but that the Council also ask for a meeting with James Malcolm (Chris Craven's replacement)

**RESOLVED: That the new and outstanding issues be reported to NYCC Highways**

**RESOLVED: That the Council request a meeting with James Malcolm**

**RESOLVED: That the blocked drains on the B6480 near Wennington be reported to LCC**

## 93. To agree amendment of the Standing Orders to take account of the new code of conduct as proposed at the last meeting (papers 2012/05 & 15)

**RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders be amended as proposed to take account of the new Code of Conduct and be adopted forthwith**

## 94. To Note the minutes of the Town Hall Marketing Committee

### 94.1. To review the proposal for Town Hall hiring rates for 2013

**RESOLVED: That this meeting will now be held on 10 October as it was inquorate on the original date.**

## 95. To consider a response to the Craven Budget Consultation 2013/14 (paper 2012/18)

**RESOLVED: That opinions be sent to the clerk for collation and circulation**

## 96. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Playing Fields Association	500.00	British Gas	88.92
Goodenber Play Area	375.00	Eon	221.97
Youth Cafe	250.00	PC World	59.00
Victoria Institute	250.00	Andrews	63.16
Mopps	192.00	Ms M Booth	100.00
Horton Landscaping	3960.79	Mrs H Drumm	100.00
Toobys	9.29	HMRC	323.65
WPS (FOBL)	283.64	M Green	63.75
Aviva	322.54	R Green	482.98
Craven District Council	98.00	J Burton	839.75
Clarglass Cleaning	90.00	C Sinclair	131.25
WP Connolly	16.00	W Dowbiggin	90.00
NYCC	120.00	Phone Co-Op	2.28
Harmony Business	195.41	Orange	23.99
Viking Direct	71.71		

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

96.1. To agree to move Town Hall Gas contract to EOn, fixed for 2 years.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Hall Gas contract be moved to EOn**

96.2. To note that Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as the external auditor for 5 years from 2012/13 - noted

## 97. To consider items of Correspondence

97.1. To consider information regarding new funding available for Neighbourhood Planning, as mentioned in Rural Services Network Newsletter.

The clerk had followed up this information and found that up to £30000 was available by application to the local authority. She had asked Craven how to apply for such funding and was still awaiting reply.

97.2. To consider a request for comments on Car Parking – car parks, parking charges, on street parking etc - in Bentham from DCllr Brockbank

The Council agreed wholeheartedly and unanimously that parking charges should not be introduced in Bentham. Cllr Ireton confirmed that their introduction in Ingleton had ruined trade there. It was pointed out that We Are Bentham was working extremely hard to raise the profile of Bentham and Craven could kill that in a single action. As this was thwarted last time by NYCC Highways who refused to allow charging on Grasmere Drive due to the residential area and problems with on-street parking, the question was asked as to what had changed to make Craven think it would work this time? And if nothing had why were they wasting time and money considering it? It was pointed out that Bentham does not have a real tourist trade and that people come here to shop – if they have to pay they will go to places like Settle & Kirkby Lonsdale where they will not have to pay. As to the rest of Craven subsidising parking in Bentham – no maintenance work has been done on Bentham car parks, until last week, for at least 15 years, so they are not costing a great deal.

97.3. To receive Craven's response to the Consultation on Specialist Policing Operations in North Yorkshire.

The Council agreed that the service needed to make efficiencies where possible, but that it was important that any changes did not further degrade the police service seen in Bentham. The clerk was asked to write a letter to this effect.

**RESOLVED: That a letter be sent recognising the need for the Police service to make efficiencies where possible but pointing out that any degradation of service in this area was not acceptable**

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

The LASRUG AGM had taken place with a speaker from Northern Rail who had shown how the Lancaster – Leeds service was being built up, and that usage at Bentham was increasing. The Annual Day out had been to Ravensglass and had been very good. Northern Rail had expressed their thanks for the enthusiasm of LASRUG member and the Friends of Bentham Station.

Cllr Hey had attended the FOBS platform unveiling which had been a well attended event.

The Playing Fields meeting in September had discussed the ongoing problem of dog fouling on the Playing Field, and the unauthorised use of the club house bins.

The Youth café AGM will be held in the Town Hall on 8 October. The police had attended and security marked bikes for youngsters free of charge. Numbers using the Youth café are rising again now that the evenings are drawing in.

## 99. Items for next meeting and minor items only

An invitation from Craven to attend Town Team events in the Town Hall on 18 & 19 October had been received too late for the agenda. It was suggested that 4 Cllrs could attend, two to each event. Unfortunately the day time nature of the events meant that only Cllr Hey and the clerk were available and they could only attend on the 18 October.

The clerk was asked to convey this information, and ask if one event could not be run in an evening as this would also be more convenient to many of the traders in the town.

Cllr Adams asked for the calendar proceeds to be added to the next agenda

Cllr Procter asked if the clerk could find out about the Cleveland Square light which has not been replaced following the construction on the Burndale site.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm

## **AGENDA ITEM 88)**

### **CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 1 October 2012**

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

##### **1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2012/12765 Replacement of 2 existing sash windows with 2 double glazed sash windows at 20 Mount Pleasant, High Bentham
- 1.1.2. 08/2012/12793 Proposed amendment to planning approval 08/2011/12085 to change eastern boundary treatment from approved stone wall to post & wire fence with hawthorn hedge at Todhill Farm, Bentham
- 1.1.3. 08/2012/12828 Balcony at first floor level to provide smoking shelter & seating area at front of Hoggs & Heifers, Auction Yard, High Bentham

##### **1.2. REFUSED**

- 1.2.1. APP/C2708/A/12/2174425 – The Punch Bowl, Low Bentham – appeal dismissed

#### **2. Planning Correspondence**

- 2.1. 08/2012/12828 Balcony at first floor level at front of Hoggs & Heifers, Auction Yard, Bentham – to be considered by the Planning Committee 24/9/12
- 2.2. 08/2012/12755 Extension of Curtilage, removal of existing metal store and erection of new garage / store at New House Barn, Mewith Lane, High Bentham – WITHDRAWN
- 2.3. 'Shaping a Spatial Strategy & Housing Figure' workshop bulletin (also by email)
- 2.4. Lancashire Minerals & Waste Local Plan – Major Modifications to Site Allocation & Development Management Policies & Proposals Map (email)
- 2.5. Local Homes Summer 2012 (NYR Housing Enablers)
- 2.6. RSN On-line article re Cash for Neighbourhood Planning, 10/9/12
- 2.7. LCC Draft Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document Consultation 1 Oct - 9 Nov.

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

- 3.1. Letter to BT re Low Bentham Phone Box sent 10 September – removal rescinded 13 September
- 3.2. B4RN & Sean Sanderson contacted regarding Council support, 5 September
- 3.3. Neighbouring Parishes contacted regarding a potential North Craven Neighbourhood Plan, 17 September.
- 3.4. Network Rail contacted about fence 12 September, photos supplied 17 September
- 3.5. Meeting with Golf Club re allotments – still to be arranged

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

- 4.1. Environmental Health Update, Issue 1, August 2012
- 4.2. Community Planning Workshop, Bentham Town Hall 22 November
- 4.3. Bureau Veritas examination report of Town Hall Boilers
- 4.4. SELRAP newsletter, Autumn 2012

#### **5. Items circulated by email**

- 5.1. Friends of Bentham Library Open Launch, 19 September
- 5.2. Craven Community News, September 2012
- 5.3. LASRUG newsletter, September 2012
- 5.4. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 3/9, 10/9, 17/9, 24/9, 1/10
- 5.5. Rural opportunities Bulletin, September 2012
- 5.6. Rural Action Yorkshire E-Bulletin, July 2012
- 5.7. NYPA Community Safety Roadshow – Craven & Harrogate, St Georges Hotel, Harrogate 27 September, 10am-2pm
- 5.8. YLCA Craven Branch Meeting, 20 October, Settle Victoria Hall, plus AGM & Exec Minutes
- 5.9. Fund Raising Opportunity, May 2013 (notice boards also)
- 5.10. RegioFlash OD bulletins, 3/9, 10/9, 17/9, 24/9
- 5.11. RegioFlash News, 18/9
- 5.12. Various emails about the Allerton Incinerator
- 5.13. Rural Community Buildings News 5, Sept 2012

#### **6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

- 6.1. Market valuation of Low Bentham School Field, meeting 22/8, land registry & access information awaited
- 6.2. Model Hiring Agreement to be incorporated into Council booking forms – awaiting ACRE comments, chased
- 6.3. Hedgerow signs, still outstanding

- 6.4. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.5. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered