

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 2 May 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Barnes, Brown, Burton, Hurtley, Marshall, Procter & Yaman. Also CCllr Ireton, DCllrs Barrington & Brockbank, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 1 parishioner.

1. To Appoint the Mayor for the period 2011/12
Cllr Marshall agreed to take on the post for a further 12 month period, and was voted back into the chair unanimously.
RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall be appointed Mayor
2. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Apologies were received from Cllr Adams.
3. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Marshall declared personal and prejudicial interests in items 12.1.1, 12.1.2 & 12.1.3, planning applications 08/2011/11514, 11547 & 11560, as neighbour and shareholder respectively.
4. To Receive Comment & Concerns
A resident of Goodenber Road expressed concern about the planning application for a house in the garden of 10 Tweed Street (item 12.1.4)
5. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 4 & 11 April be signed
6. To Appoint the Deputy Mayor for the period 2011/12
RESOLVED: That Cllr Burton be re-appointed Vice-Chairman / Deputy Mayor
7. To Appoint Members to Committees & as Council Representatives for 2011/12
 - 7.1. Committees Open Spaces, Finance, Buildings Maintenance, TH Marketing, Tourist Information, Calendar & Allotments,
RESOLVED: That the committees stand as agreed in July 2010, with new Council co-optees to be appointed to vacancies when available. In the meantime Cllr Brown stand in as substitute for the Finance Committee and Cllr Procter stand as substitute for the Calendar Committee
 - 7.2. Sub-Committees
RESOLVED: That no sub-committees are currently necessary
 - 7.3. Council Representatives
RESOLVED: That representation stand as is until the list and requirement for Council representation be assessed and confirmed
 - 7.4. Responsible Financial Officer - also bank, bank mandate and auditors
It was agreed that the Clerk continue as RFO and that Yorkshire Internal Audit be reappointed as the internal auditors. Also that HSBC remain as the Council's bank. It was also agreed that a review of signatories was not necessary
RESOLVED: That the clerk continue as RFO
RESOLVED: That the Yorkshire Internal Audit be reappointed as internal auditors
RESOLVED: That the bank mandate remain the same, with Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Marshall & Yaman and the clerk as authorised signatories.
8. To Agree a Provisional Timetable of Meetings for the new Council Year (see paper 2011/01)
The provisional timetable was accepted, with the date of the potential August meeting being corrected to 15 August
RESOLVED: That the provisional meeting dates be accepted and noted by all Cllrs.
9. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
No amendments had been made since the agenda was published. The clerk drew the Council's attention to the elections on Thursday 5 May, and the Library Walk on Saturday 7 May.
10. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
None present.
11. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
CCllr Ireton updated the Council on his meeting with Cllr Burton to look at highways problems. He confirmed that they had concentrated on the main roads as, with limited funds, it had been agreed to ask for what they thought they might get. Since then NYCC Highways had agreed to properly patch between the Horse & Farrier and Mill Lane, with a view to resurfacing that stretch of road in 2012, with part of Mill Lane being incorporated if possible. The bad potholes on Goodenber Road are to be filled and BT has been issued with a 7 day notice regarding the manhole cover at the junction with Tatterthorn Road. Comment was made that an earlier fix of Mill Lane would be

preferable as any serious rain will wash out the hardcore, making it a bigger job. Cllr Ireton agreed, but said that with such limited funding available this was the best that could be expected.

A question was raised about the white lining on B6480 and the Council's unanswered questions. Cllr Ireton agreed that the response had been less than acceptable and suggested that the Council send a letter of complaint to the CEO.

He also confirmed that a suggestion had been made that a percentage of the Highways budget should be made available to the Area Committees so that local Cllrs have a say in how it is spent in the local area. This suggestion is to be debated.

Finally Cllr Ireton said that the Area Committee chairmen are to meet with the executive member for the Libraries to give input to the Library Consultation prior to the production of the report in June.

DCllr Brockbank said that the Library Consultation report had been put back to June 14 as further work needed to be done and consideration given to the findings of the consultation. She thought the report would be on line a week earlier.

She confirmed that Cath Rayner of Environmental Health had said that as a suitable place for the dog bin near the Golf Club could not be agreed – a resident of Streaker Lane had written to say that as non-dog owners the residents did not want a bin in the lane – the dog bin would not be replaced and dog owners would have to take their poo bags home with them.

DCllr Brockbank also asked about a Broadband Champion for Bentham. It was agreed that as Council did not have anyone with the suitable expertise the project should be advertised in Bentham News and a suitable individual found.

DCllr Barrington said that the planning application on Tweed Street (item 12.1.4) had led to several complaints. She asked if the Council knew who owned the land between the footpath and the site boundary, which it did not, although it was pointed out that access was not actually a planning issue.

Cllr Barnes gave his apologies and left the meeting.

12. Planning

12.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

12.1.1.08/2011/11514 Soil strip existing grazing paddock/overspill parking area and resurface with hardcore material at Bentham Auction Mart, Main Street, Bentham

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in this application. Council agreed that as a major business in the town the Auction Mart needed its support. It also noted that a hardcore surface would continue to soak up water and not cause any runoff problems. Comment was made however that the Auction does need to address the problem of getting vehicles off the road and onto site more rapidly as the grid lock it causes on Bentham roads needs solving.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

12.1.2.08/2011/11547 Retention of an agricultural workers caravan to be located on the farming site at Ridding Lane Farm, Bentham

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in this application.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

12.1.3.08/2011/11560 Residential development (outline application for details of access only) at Felstead, Low Bentham Road, Bentham

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in this application.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

12.1.4.08/2011/11567 New 2 bedroom town house in garden off no.10 Tweed Street Bentham, as previous planning permission 08/2004/4955 at 10 Tweed Street, Bentham

This application was recommended for refusal by the Council originally, and indeed refused by Craven Planning Department but passed on appeal. Having spoken to the planning office the clerk informed the meeting that the principle of a dwelling and the associated pedestrian only access had been agreed at appeal and therefore, despite the fact that the original planning had lapsed, this application could not be refused on these issues. Two letters of objection had been received by the Council, and Cllrs were still very unhappy with the application.

It was agreed that the clerk would circulate the original appeal decision, and that a letter outlining the Council concerns despite the appeal decision should be sent to Craven.

RESOLVED: That the Council send a letter outlining its concerns and objections despite the appeal decision.

12.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

12.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

13. Highways Matters

13.1. To receive an update on the Bentham Roads meeting with Cllr Ireton, 14 April – see Cllr's report

13.2. To receive a reply from Network Rail regarding Duke Street Bridge

Following a report from Network Rail's Structures Engineer in December 2010, the bridge is due for maintenance work in 2012/13. Council noted that the current problem was not with the timbers but with some stone work which has possibly been hit by a vehicle. The clerk agreed to pass the information on.

RESOLVED: That the clerk inform Network Rail of the new information regarding damage to Duke St bridge.

13.3. To receive notification that the Blocked Gullies by the Railway Bridge will be cleared - received

13.4. To receive information regarding Road Signs in Hedgrows and responsibility for keeping them clear

Highways had confirmed that these signs are the responsibility of the landowner, but that Highways have a duty of care. Council agreed to send information about the worst ones to NYCC Highways for consideration. Cllrs agreed to forward information about the worst affected to the clerk in the next few days.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs forward the locations of the worst affected signs to the clerk for onward notification to NYCC Highways.

13.5. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information - none

14. To note the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and agree resulting actions, if any

Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 28 April. A suggestion had been raised again regarding increased usage of the Town Hall. It was noted that the initial attempts to produce something different in terms of a Christmas Ball had failed due to lack of support, but it was agreed that this should be passed to the Town Hall Marketing committee for further consideration

RESOLVED: That the comments made at the APM be considered at the next Town Hall Marketing committee meeting

15. To note the minutes of the Budget Review Committee and consider the recommendations, if any.

It was agreed that the bank reconciliation was correct at 31 March 2011, and was as follows:

	Bank Statement	Plus O/s Receipts	Less O/s Cheques	Balance
Current	36387.64	614.76	5324.32	31678.08
Deposit	11675.09			11675.09
LBPF Deposit	5193.90			5193.90
TI Current	309.29		147.20	162.09
TI Deposit	568.49	925.00	358.26	1135.23

16. To discuss the removal of the Post Box on the B6480 at Low Bentham, and agree a response

RESOLVED: That the removal without notice be protested and a replacement requested

17. To receive a reminder from Craven District Council regarding the Register of Financial & other interests, and keeping it up to date - received

18. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

It was noted that Bentham Youth Theatre Group had informed the Council at the APM that they were, as yet, not up and running for the current year and so their precept grant had not yet been paid.

Anchor Fire Yorkshire	124.80	Horton Landscaping	1002.40
Carl Taylor	729.86	Mrs Balchin	100.00
Craven District Council	344.00	Red Hot Pixel	567.00
Mopps	384.00	Phone Co-Op	1.40
EOn	857.85	R Green	482.98
Aviva	329.68	M Green	63.35
British Gas	418.28	J Burton	746.95
Cannon	14.51	C Sinclair	131.25
Yorkshire Water	569.87	W Dowbiggin	90.00
Andrews	59.50	Loop Publishing	6.00

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

18.1. To consider the clerks attendance at the SLCC Branch Conference at the castle green Hotel, Kendal on 18 May, at a cost of £40

RESOLVED: That the clerk attend the SLCC Branch Conference at a cost of £40

19. To consider items of Correspondence

19.1. To consider a request from BEST regarding attendance at a Hydro Power workshop on 19 May, and agree a response.

Council were very much in support of the idea of local hydro power, which it felt was more suitable than wind turbines. There are several sites on the Wenning which originally had mills which could be considered.

Unfortunately the date of the next workshop was not suitable but a positive response should be sent to BEST.

RESOLVED: That the accounts Council's support for a hydro project be conveyed to BEST, with apologies that no Cllr is available on 19 May

19.2. To receive a letter regarding Spar wagons on Main Street, and agree a response

Councillors were not really sure how they could help in this matter. The wagon is pictured parking on the pavement and across a junction, potentially impeding exit of the fire engine. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Murgatroyds asking if they could get the wagon to park further down the road in front of the Spar, or to consider early morning deliveries when more space outside the store will be available.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Spar owners asking for the wagon to park closer to the store and off the pavement, or for deliveries to be moved to a better time.

19.3. To receive a reply from Cllr Watson regarding NYCC discrimination against rural areas - received

19.4. To receive a letter regarding Armed Forces Day, 25 June 2011

Council agreed that it would be good to fly a flag on Armed Forces Day, but this would require replacing the flagpole, a project which had been delayed for the last 2 years due to the cost (approx £1000 last year). It was suggested that the project be revived and put in motion if costs were not above £1200. The clerk agreed to look out the original paperwork for agreement at the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the provision of a new flagpole, postponed in 2010, be added to the June agenda. The clerk to get updated prices for comparison / approval.

19.5. To consider the Bowling Club suggestion for a plaque to recognise Council's involvement in the refurbishment

Craven DC had provided a small plastic plaque to the Bowling Club acknowledging their financial support to the refurbishment project and the Bowling Club had asked if Council would like to do something similar.

RESOLVED: That the clerk get a quote for providing a plaque denoting the Council involvement in the Bowling Club Pavilion replacement project.

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

Cllr Marshall informed the meeting that the Collingwood & Longstaffe houses were fully occupied and that the maintenance programme was on-going.

21. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Cllr Yaman informed the meeting that the Community Service, formally the Civic Service had been moved from October and was scheduled to be held on 15 May at the Methodist Church.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.22pm

AGENDA ITEM 9)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 2 May 2011.

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. none

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. 08/2011/11263 Proposed partial demolition of existing conservatory & erection of single storey extension at 2 Butterbergh, High Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Appeal Decision, 08/2010/10887, Bull Copy - DISMISSED

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

3.1. Insurance checked 6 April and Youth Café allowed to move in

3.2. Letter of support for netball team sent 6 April 2011

3.3. Furness Drive sign damage reported again 7 April 2011

3.4. Letter regarding Dalesview Trees sent 7 April 2011

3.5. State of Duke Street Bridge reported to Network Rail again, 7 April 2011 – see agenda

3.6. Farmers Market A Board delivered 7 April

3.7. Data Commissioner contacted 11 April, forms received – see agenda

3.8. Letter to Cllr Watson sent 11 April – reply received, see agenda

4. Items for Information – see information folder

4.1. Election Notification for District Elections

4.2. Update Insurance Policy details, incorporating new Community Youth building valuation

4.3. YLCA Craven Branch meeting 19 May agenda, & minutes of January meetings

4.4. Craven Event Promotion (notices to Tourist Information)

4.5. White Rose Update, April 2011

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Craven Community News, March 2011.
- 5.2. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 4/4/11, 11/4/11
- 5.3. Sustainable Government Public Service Efficiency Updates, 7/4/11, 14/4/11, 21/4/11
- 5.4. RegioFlash, 20 April
- 5.5. Northern Voice, April 2011.
- 5.6. Energy Saving Trust newsletter, 19 April
- 5.7. SLCC NEC Quarterly Report, April 2011.
- 5.8. SLCC Branch Newsletter, April 2011
- 5.9. Forest of Bowland ebulletin, Spring 2011.
- 5.10. Yorkshire & Humber Rural Matters newsletter, April 2011
- 5.11. Looking Well News, April 2011.
- 5.12. Library Protest Walk, 7 May 2011 (and noticeboards)
- 5.13. DITA Local Transport Funding Bid submitted 18 April
- 5.14. Localism Bill seminar papers

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Hillside Lights given go ahead March 2011, repair awaited, potentially end of May
- 6.2. Library consultation response sent 25 February & acknowledged, response expected 24 May 2011
- 6.3. Grasmere Drive Parking Charges, in hands of CDC – budget consideration
- 6.4. Highways letter (B6480 lining) sent 22 December, response chased March & April
- 6.5. Green Communities & BEST meeting arranged held 18 November – notes awaited
- 6.6. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.7. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered
- 6.8. Legion Hut Lease – no response since 2009