

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 3 October 2011, at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Brown, Burton, Handford, Hey, Marshall, Procter & Yaman. Also DCllrs Barrington & Brockbank, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 9 parishioners.

Prior to the business part of the meeting the Council was addressed by Mr Stephen Brown, Planning Policy Officer from Craven District Council, who was accompanied by Harriet Steventon & Laura Walsh.

Mr Brown asked for in put on the Parish Profiling exercise, and circulated a draft leaflet about Bentham as a starting point. This exercise is being completed for all settlements in Craven outside the National Park with a population of 1000+. The aim is to gather information on local issues and accumulate locally distinct information for use in the Land Use Plan which will be generated shortly. It will allow Craven to check new planning policies against an areas profile to check that needs are being addressed and a policy is not too generic.

The changes to Planning legislation at a national level and the new Localism Bill mean that communities should have more influence in planning development. The leaflet might also be used in a Neighbourhood Plan once these have been better defined within the legislation, e.g. how they relate to the District Plan and how they might be resourced.

The Land Use Plan for the District as laid out in the LDF Core Strategy in 2007 is now considered inappropriate and the distribution of development is being re-looked at, the LDF being considered a better approach for larger, non-rural authorities. The 1999 Land Use Plan currently used is outdated, and the Regional Strategy is being revoked.

The aim is to provide an evidence base into the New Year, supplementing knowledge with local facts, local issues and local priorities. The resultant profile for Bentham will be passed to the Council for comment.

Mr Brown asked the Council how best to gather the required information. It was agreed that the leaflet needed serious editing prior to release as there were many errors contained within. Council suggested that something should be put in the next Bentham News informing people of the exercise and how to respond. A proper public consultation on the Land Use Plan will be carried out next year and this leaflet is just a first step, with the desire being for the process to be driven from the bottom up rather than policy being imposed from the top down.

Mr Brown agreed to revise the document based on the comments received and to pass it back to the clerk for circulation, and to possibly meet with Councillors again later this month for further discussions.

Ms Steventon informed the Council that she was in the process of considering Local Action Teams and guidance on the Localism Bill, with a publicity event to be held early 2012 to give more context to the ongoing situation.

Cllr Marshall thanked Mr Brown, Ms Steventon & Ms Walsh for their attendance and started the business part of the Council meeting at 7.40pm

Cllr Marshall announced to the Council that former Mayor, Billy Joel, had died on Friday 30 September. Mr Joel had been a member of the Council for many years, and Mayor for several of those. The Council held a minutes silence as a mark of respect, and all Councillors present were asked to sign a card for his family.

76. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend  
Apologies were received from Cllrs Barnes, Hurtley & Faichney
77. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present  
Cllrs Brown & Marshall declared a personal interest in item 83.1.1, planning application 08/2011/11988. Cllr Marshall also declared an interest in item 84.1, Diversion Order of Footpaths at Riverside Caravan Park
78. To Receive Comment & Concerns  
Three residents addressed the Council on item 83.1.1, planning application 08/2011/11988, urging the Council to recommend the application for refusal. It was pointed out that Craven has already deemed the site unsuitable for a gypsy caravan site, that the development is outside the permitted area for development and is an eyesore. The current application is considered to be too vague with no definition of 'caravans' or 'gypsy family' and no plans supplied. The residents also felt that by allowing the situation to continue Craven are setting a precedent which could cause problems in the future.
79. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 5 September be signed**
80. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes  
The clerk informed the meeting that 2 planning consents had been received since the clerks report had been originally issued. Cllr Yaman commented that, following her complaint to Craven about the Personal Safety Events not reaching Bentham, supplies of the give-aways would be made available to the town.
81. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information  
Sgt Hill was present and said that there had been 30 incidents in the Burton / Bentham area during the past month. The most serious had been an arson attack on bins on Wesley Way which had endangered neighbouring properties, but as yet no one had been apprehended. There had been a theft from a motor vehicle and theft of a vintage moped.

An arrest had been made for criminal damage, and another for domestic violence. There had also been one report of assault, and 3 minor traffic accidents.

Sgt Hill was made aware of alleged drug dealing from a vehicle in the Black Bull carpark, and agreed that this was an issue in Bentham, which he hoped to work on in the coming months. He emphasised that information is key to solving the problems and that people who are not prepared to talk direct to the police should ring Crime Stoppers.

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

Both DCllrs will attend the meeting on the future for the Ingleton Middle School Site. It was noted that the school playing field is being offered for community use – which has not happened to Low Bentham School Field.

DCllr Barrington confirmed that NYCC had declined to swap Low Bentham School Playing Field stating that it must be sold on the open market if they receive permission from the secretary of state to dispose of it.

DCllr Brockbank confirmed that she had received the same reply on gritting the bus route as the Council had in 2010 – that the route is priority 2 and will remain that way.

*At this point the Chair chose to take item 89) Update on the Christmas Lights, although this item is minuted in sequence.*

83. Planning

83.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

83.1.1.08/2011/11988 Change of use for stationing of caravans for occupation by single gypsy family, and use of building as utility block at Clay Barn, Pottery Field, Waterside Potteries, Burton in Lonsdale  
*Cllrs Brown & Marshall declared a personal interest.* The Council agreed that this site was a frustration, with the same conversation being generated at regular intervals with no apparent resolution. Current planning permission expired on the site on 1 June. The current application appears to be to change use from agricultural land to a caravan site for an undefined number of caravans for a single vaguely defined gypsy family, but is not clearly defined. This is creeping development of a site outside the development limits which would not normally be allowed. A condition of the previous temporary planning consent was that the family should find somewhere suitable during the period, which has not happened – and the client has a history of non-compliance. The earth closet in the utility building being so close to the river is also a worry.

**RESOLVED:** That this application be recommended for refusal on the lack of clarity of what is being requested, also that the site is outside the development area and that the applicant has a history of non-compliance on this site and creeping development through retrospective planning applications.

83.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

83.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

84. Highways Matters

84.1. To receive notification of the Diversion Order for Footpaths 05.5/22, 05.5/33 & 05.5/88, Riverside Caravan Park - received

84.2. To receive notification of the Diversion Order for Footpath 05.5/5, The Ridding - received

84.3. To receive information regarding the Winter Service Review and agree a response, if any at this time.

It was agreed that there needed to be a more joined up process in this area as to what is gritted and what is not.

**RESOLVED:** That a meeting with Chris Craven & CCllr Ireton be requested to discuss the winter gritting service.

84.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The North Yorkshire sign on the B6480 county boundary has been knocked down

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC be informed that the North Yorkshire sign on the B6480 has been knocked over

85. To receive information on the Bentham Walkabout with Craven District Council, and consider the proposals. Unfortunately the proposals had not been received in time for the meeting. Cllrs Handford & Hey and the clerk had met with Andrew Laycock and 2 other officers from Craven to discuss the results of the walkabout in September 2010, and to decide where the grant funding available might be best spent on the centre of Bentham. The Cllrs had been a little frustrated that this funding could only be spent on Craven facilities rather than on those things considered important to improve the look of the town. A potential list of small items had been agreed and a letter was awaited for pricing by the parish caretaker and agreement between the Council and Craven.

86. To receive an update on the proposals for the Library, and note a public meeting on 13 October.

The meeting will be chaired by Vice Chairman, Cllr Burton as the chairman is unavailable. The meeting will be in the Lower Hall and is for those interested in helping out in the Library, the aim being to elect a committee.

87. To comment on the Ingleton Middle School Consultation on Disposal of Site and Buildings (paper 2011/14)

There are 2 consultation processes; the first being a formal consultation on the disposal of the playing field land; the second calling for expressions of interest from local community groups wishing to take over the site and / or school buildings.

The Council was interested to see that the school and land was being offered to interested groups serving the Ingleton area. It wondered what the definition of Ingleton area was, as the school has always served more than just the Ingleton community. The general consensus was that, with the Community Centre and the Scout Hut the local community may not be able to takeover the site. If it is to be disposed of then the Council felt that all the affected communities should benefit in some way.

The Council also questioned why the Ingleton land was being offered for community use when the Low Bentham School Field will be disposed of at market value.

**RESOLVED: That a letter should be sent to NYCC stating that all of those communities affected by the loss of the Middle School should benefit in some way from the disposal of the land and buildings**

**RESOLVED: That a letter should be sent to NYCC questioning the dual standards in not offering the Low Bentham School Playing Field / Buildings for community use.**

88. To note the minutes of the Town Hall Marketing Meeting, 26 September 2011

88.1. To review the charges for Bentham Town Hall in 2012

**RESOLVED: That the Town Hall rates for non-Bentham hirers be increased by 10%, that the rate for Bentham hirers be increased by 5% for the Ballroom and remain the same for all other parts of the building, that coffee morning rates be increased to £37.50.**

88.2. To consider possible events for the Queens Diamond Jubilee and agree appropriate action

**RESOLVED: That an advert be put in Bentham News asking for interested groups and individuals to contact the clerk and get together to discuss suitable events for both High & Low Bentham**

88.3. To agree to hold the Christmas Fair on 2 December 2011.

**RESOLVED: That the Christmas Fair be held on 2 December and an advert placed in Bentham News asking for stall holders.**

89. To receive an update on the Christmas Lights

The Chairman of the Christmas Lights Committee, Mr Dave Bedford, thanked the Council for their involvement through the calendar, and asked for further help later in the year when erecting the new lights occurs. The committee's aim is to get the infra structure right in 2011, with professional help, and to concentrate on the Town Hall, Community Youth Building, Victoria Institute & The Punch Bowl with internal lights in the windows which are easier to install & maintain. He agreed that a switch on 2 December to coincide with the proposed Christmas Fair was a good idea that the committee could work with.

90. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	77.00	Black Bull Hotel	100.00
Mopps	384.00	Horton Landscaping	1135.19
EOn	129.63	Victoria Institute	250.00
Aviva	305.34	Bentham Youth Cafe	250.00
St Margarets PCC	35.00	Goodenber Play Area Assoc	375.00
Pica Design & Print	2275.20	Playing Fields Assoc	500.00
HSBC	10.00	Community Bonfire	500.00
NYCC	120.00	M Green	63.75
Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	53.23	R Green	482.98
Stannah Lift Services	147.00	J Burton	798.87
M Burrow	165.50	C Sinclair	131.25
British Gas	84.51	W Dowbiggin	112.50
HMRC	316.33	Orange	23.99
Viking Direct	54.28	Phone Coop	2.22
Yorkshire Water	149.80		

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

**RESOLVED: That a direct debit be set up for Town Hall electricity, giving a saving of 4%.**

91. To consider items of Correspondence

91.1. To receive a Longstaffe Educational Foundation letter regarding Nominative Trustees accepting Cllr Hey as Council representative - received

91.2. To receive a letter from Bentham Common Lands Charity regarding the rent of common land on Burton Moor Road, and agree a response

It was agreed that this rent (£25/year) should be passed to the charity. Council also thought that a donation should be made at the end of the year to take account of the fact that this had not been available to the charity in the past. It was also suggested that NYCC should be challenged as to the size of the rent, which is very small, and has been the same for many years.

**RESOLVED: That the rent should be passed to the Charity**

**RESOLVED: That the Council should make a donation to the charity in recognition of the years that the rent has not been paid to them**

**RESOLVED: That NYCC should be contacted and asked to review the rent paid for the area.**

- 91.3. To receive the Craven review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations, including information on Bentham Town Hall and The Victoria Institute - received
- 91.4. To receive information on the 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England  
It does not appear that this constituency will be affected
- 91.5. To receive information from the Campaign to Protect Rural England on Response to Planning Applications, and make Councillors aware of the e-learning course.  
The useful booklet can be downloaded from [www.planninghelp.org](http://www.planninghelp.org). The e-learning course will be free of charge and can be found at [www.ntselearning.co.uk](http://www.ntselearning.co.uk).
92. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)  
Cllr Handford had attended the Footpaths Group meeting. Ant footpath problems should be passed to him, (or David Gibson (61942)) preferably in writing.  
Cllr Adams said that LASRUG were very appreciative of the support received from the Council, and were working to achieve the same level of support from other Councils on the line. He also pointed out the problems with bureaucracy within the railways where getting approval for an A4 promotional poster has taken 6 months.  
Cllr Procter had attended the Youth Café's official opening and told the meeting that they had been given a post graduate student to help out through their University of Cumbria partnership
93. Items for next meeting and minor items only  
Cllr Hey presented the Council with a Yorkshire Flag to be flown next Yorkshire Day.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.30pm

## **AGENDA ITEM 80)**

### **CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 3 October 2011**

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

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

- 1.1.1. 08/2011/11776 Extension of existing attached garage to create living room, erection of detached double garage at Mearbeck Cottage, Settle, LA2 8PR
- 1.1.2. 08/2011/11904 Alterations & Extensions to existing farmhouse; change of use of barn & alterations to form 2 holiday cottages at Lane House Farm, Fowgill, High Bentham

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

- 1.2.1. none

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

- 2.1. 08/2010/11263 Proposed partial demolition of existing conservatory & erection of single storey extension at 2 Butterbergh, Bentham – APPEAL DISMISSED

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

- 3.1. State of Wesley Close footpath reported to NYCC 12 September
- 3.2. Letter re Grasmere Drive footpath sent 12 September, and leaking sewer reported to UU, UU responded 19 September – sewers currently in private ownership, but no evidence of leaks / blockages when visited on 14 September. Details forwarded to complainant with Emergency number.
- 3.3. Duke Street bridge re-reported to Network Rail 12 September, response received 14/9/11
- 3.4. Winter Service Review date requested 12 September, information re surgery request forwarded
- 3.5. Probable landowners on B6480 supplied to NYCC 19 September
- 3.6. Egerton crossroads signpost chased 9/9/11, response received 13/9/11 – in hand (see information folder)

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

- 4.1. North Craven Schools Moving Forwards, September 2011 (and noticeboard)
- 4.2. £67 Million pot delivers new homes in N Yorkshire (and noticeboard)
- 4.3. Changing places disabled toilet facility
- 4.4. National Safety Day – Personal Safety Events in Craven (and noticeboard)
- 4.5. CDC Introduce National Food Hygiene Rating scheme (and noticeboard)
- 4.6. Ride Around for £1 Success (and noticeboard)
- 4.7. Local Democracy Week (and noticeboard)
- 4.8. Craven Area Committee Meeting, 15/9/11 (and noticeboard)
- 4.9. YLCA meeting 8 October, and minutes of last meeting
- 4.10. Town Hall boiler inspection report
- 4.11. Response from CoOp re water on pavement 30/9/11

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

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 12/9, 19/9, 26/9, 3/10/11
- 5.2. North Yorkshire Now newsletter September
- 5.3. LASRUG newsletter, Sept 2011

- 5.4. Looking Well News –Job advertisement, NYCC Courses starting September
- 5.5. Sustainable Government Public Service Efficiency Updates, 8/9, 22/9, 29/9/11
- 5.6. Allerton Park Incinerator Update
- 5.7. LEADER Ebursts (2) for September
- 5.8. Autumn Renewable Showcase, Paul Whitaker's home, 30/9/11
- 5.9. Historic Towns Forum Conference, 20-21 October
- 5.10. My Last Car, Warwicks Arts Centre 4-8 October (coming to Bentham May 2012)
- 5.11. RegioFlash, EU Policy News, 22/9
- 5.12. Forest of Bowland, link to Annual Report 2010/11
- 5.13. Settle Storytelling Festival, 6-9 October 2011.
- 5.14. World Mental health Day Invite, 8-11/10/11.

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

- 6.1. B6480, awaiting white lining and hedge cutting September 2011.
- 6.2. Email & letter to Gill Cooper asking for advice about the status of the Council Representative on the Development Trust, spoke to Mrs Cooper 1 September, response awaited
- 6.3. Calendar to printers 23 August, delivered to shops 21 September
- 6.4. Goodenber Drains reported 18 July, response 21 July, chased 22 August
- 6.5. Letter re Low Bentham School Playing Field sent 21/6/11
- 6.6. Allotments planning, in discussion with Craven planning, chased 21/9/11
- 6.7. Hedgerow signs, still outstanding
- 6.8. Hillside Lights given go ahead March 2011, repair awaited, rescheduled to end of July, chased 26/9/11 – cables under post 3 require ENW intervention, date awaited.
- 6.9. Grasmere Drive Parking Charges, in hands of CDC – budget consideration
- 6.10. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.11. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered
- 6.12. Legion Hut Lease – no response since 2009