

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4 October 2010, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Brown, Burton, Marshall, Procter, Wills & Yaman. Also the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 2 parishioners

107. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Faichney &, Hurttley & DCllrs Brockbank & Barrington

The clerk reminded Cllrs that apologies should be made to her, not to members of the Council

108. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 125.1 Correspondence regarding dog bins.

109. To Receive Comment & Concerns

A resident commented on the lack of timetables at the bus stop on Main Street. He also asked about the removal of the tree from the Community Youth building. The Chairman explained that following advice on the invasive nature of the trees roots and it's proximity to the adjacent buildings it had been agreed that the tree needed to be removed. The arboriculturists had advised that it would not survive a move, so the Council had written to the person who had planted it originally and explained the situation and offered to provide a new tree to be planted either at the Station, close to Pauline's bench, or at some other suitable place.

110. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 September be signed

111. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes

Further planning decisions had been received since the clerks report was posted on 28 September and had been added to the updated report. Responses had also been received from Environmental Health and NYCC regarding possible meetings to consider the Wrecking Crew weekend and Access to Services in the Town Hall respectively. It was agreed that Council could meet Environmental Health on 14 October at 4.30pm and NYCC on 21 October at 4.00pm. The meeting with Jill Armstrong of Sustainability for Yorkshire and the Green Communities project should be scheduled for the beginning of November. The clerk also informed the Council that Leader who are funding a large proportion of the refurbishment project at the Community Youth building had agreed to cover the extra costs of replacing the floor affected by wet rot.

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

PCs Hayes and McClurg attended. PC Hayes said there had been 5 reported crimes in September – vandalism at the old Grammar School, damage of a golf buggy at the Golf Club, theft from a van on Springfield, theft of a car from Goodenber and theft of wheely bins from the old Vicarage. There had also been reports of youths on bikes at the bottom of Robin Lane 'playing' with the traffic.

PC McClurg reported that comparing crime reports year on year, for the 6 months from 1 April to 4 October, reported crime in Bentham reduced by 8.77% (52 reports vs 57) and violent crime (including public disorder) was up from 6 to 15, but 80% of this year's reports had been detected. In comparison, in the same period reported crime had risen in Ingleton from 54 to 68, and violet crime from 3 to 10.

There followed a considerable discussion regarding problems in Bentham, the lack of useable reports from the public and an explanation of the confidentiality of the reporting system.

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

Due to the public meeting in Ingleton regarding the future of middle schools none were present

114. Planning

114.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

114.1.1.08/2010/10937 Detached double garage & store at High Barn, Greystonegill, High Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

114.1.2.08/2010/10948 Alterations & extension to existing school at Bentham Grammar School Low Bentham (listed building consent)

114.1.3.08/2010/10949 Alterations & extension to existing school at Bentham Grammar School Low Bentham

Council noted that the majority of the plans affected the internal structure of the buildings and as such were outside the scope of it's comments, being down to satisfying the listed status of the building. As to the external changes, the Council had no objections.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

114.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

If any (see Clerks Report)

114.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

If any (see Clerks Report)

115. Highways Matters

115.1. To review the list of reported Highways Matters from March 2010, plus those issues added since that date and to agree an updated list to be sent to NYCC Highways for consideration (paper 2010/22)

It was agreed that the blocked drain on Goodenber Road and the subsidence on Burton Road near the school had been fixed. The rest of the list should be resent to NYCC Highways for comment.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be provided with the updated list of outstanding issues for comment

115.2. To consider a request from Craven District Council regarding the potential name for the new development off Wesley Close, and agree a response.

The developers have suggested Heathfield Crescent. Council felt that this is inappropriate as although there are moors and fells in the area there are no heaths. It was agreed that for ease of directing people in the town, and because it comes off Wesley Close, the new road should be named Wesley Crescent.

RESOLVED: That the Council's preference for Wesley Crescent be reported to Craven DC.

115.3. To receive a letter regarding the closure of King Street by H₂O

The letter from a resident complained about the lack of notice and the over run of the recent works to install a water main. The chairman acknowledged that the Council had been informed that the works would be taking place over 2 days, and that the contractors had been asked to avoid disrupting the highway on Wednesdays so as not to cause problems with the traffic attending the Auction Mart. As King Street is not an adopted road the actual works did not fall under the remit of the Council. Duty to notify residents lay with either the contractor or the developer, as with the recent works on Station Road where the contractors had notified all the affected businesses before they began. It was agreed that the letter should be copied to H₂O for a response and the writer informed.

RESOLVED: That the letter about the closure of King Street be forwarded to H₂O for reply.

RESOLVED: That the complainant be informed of the Council's actions.

115.4. To receive the temporary road closure notice for Main Street for the lantern procession on 30 October 2010. – received

115.5. To receive information from United Utilities regarding tree cutting near Burton Bridge – received

115.6. To receive an update on the Reported Concerns for September

NYCC had responded, assuring the Council that repair of the Egerton crossroads sign was in hand. With respect to the white lining on the B6480 they had responded that the definition of a rural road was 'irrelevant'. One Cllr had checked the width of the road at several points and believes that it is wider than 5.5m on average. Council agreed to request a site meeting to discuss the issue as it is currently quite dangerous.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to meet on site to discuss the lack of white lining on the B6480 at Low Bentham

115.7. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The surface repairs on the Moor road past New Butts have 'slipped' causing a danger to motor bikes etc and need urgent consideration.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to look at the road surface where repairs have 'slipped' on the B6480 past New Butts Farm

The footpaths behind Grasmere Drive need attention. The clerk said that originally these had been the responsibility of Craven Housing, but following the sale of many houses the situation was now unclear. She agreed to contact Yorkshire Housing and the DCllrs to try and resolve the situation

RESOLVED: That Yorkshire Housing and the DCllrs be contacted to try and resolve the ownership and responsibility issues

There are several trees overhanging pavements which need work.

RESOLVED: That any potential work for the parish caretaker be reported to the clerk for discussion and agreement by Council

116. To debate the new Council Standing Orders as proposed by the Working Group (paper 2010/14)

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders (paper 2010/14) be adopted and signed

117. To adopt the Financial Regulations (paper 2010/18)

RESOLVED: That the Financial Regulations (paper 2010/18) be adopted and signed

118. To consider the Community Governance Review 2010/11, Draft Proposals, Consultation, with special reference to the proposed boundary changes and suggested alteration to Cllr numbers in the Bentham wards. (paper 2010/19)

The specific proposals for Bentham include a minor re-drawing of the ward boundaries between High and Low Bentham affecting 15 electors, of which 14 will move into the High Bentham ward. In an effort to equalise the number of electors / Cllr within each ward the ration of Cllrs is proposed as 8 in High Bentham and 3 in Low Bentham. The review rejected the Council's request to keep 4 Cllrs in Low Bentham pointing out that this would mean increasing the number in High Bentham to 9 – and that the overall electorate did not warrant this number (Skipton is the only parish with more than 11 Cllrs, and it has over 10,000 voters). Following considerable

discussion the Council decided that it would support the Governance Review proposals as it brings the representation of the two wards in line with the population. The Chairman reminded members that the subject had also been covered in the recent Bentham News and that anyone could respond to the review up to 6 December.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the Governance Review's proposals to alter the ward boundaries slightly and to alter the Councillor representation to 8 High Bentham and 3 Low Bentham representatives as a better reflection of the population of the wards.

119. To agree the Council response to the Craven Sustainable Community Strategy Questionnaire, following receipt of working group proposals (paper 2010/20)

RESOLVED: That the working group proposals (paper 2010/20) be accepted as the Council response.

120. To consider the public consultation document regarding the proposed closure of middle schools in North Craven from September 2012, and agree a response by 5 November.

There was considerable discussion on this subject to which three main topics were raised for concern. Leaving year 6 children in primary schools for a further year will not be beneficial if that final year is not single year group, which in small primary schools will not be possible. The Middle Schools do an exceptional job, and offer children facilities not available at primary schools – science labs, proper PE lessons, whilst recognising that this will still be available from year 7 at secondary school, will year 6 children be disadvantaged prior to their move to secondary if they have to move from mixed age classes at primary? At Ingleton Middle between 33 and 50% of children move to QES after year 6. If parents are forced to choose between QES and Settle High School at this time, has NYCC considered the fact that more parents may opt for QES and thus the sixth form at Settle would still be under threat.

RESOLVED: That the clerk circulate the discussion points in the form of a letter to be agreed by Council prior to the 5 November deadline.

121. To consider the response to the Council's comments on the Draft Heads of Terms for a License for Cleveland Square, and agree a further response (paper 2010/21)

The Council was in general happy with response received, but wished to have a site meeting to look at the Square before anything is agreed finally. It was also suggested that this should occur annually, prior to the December Council meeting in order to ensure that any maintenance issues can be discussed and budgeted for in the January precept meeting. Craven DC also need reminding that the current lease has no maintenance or repair requirements on the Council – which is partly why a new lease has taken so long to agree.

RESOLVED: That the amendments suggested in paper 2010/21 be broadly agreed, with the request for an annual meeting in November to discuss potential maintenance issues prior to the precept meeting

RESOLVED: That Craven DC be reminded that the Council currently has no liability for maintenance or repair of Cleveland Square.

122. To note the minutes of the Town Hall Marketing Committee and receive an update - noted

- 122.1. To consider the costs of applying for a full license to sell alcohol and agree a way forward.

The clerk explained that the aim of the license would be to allow more events at the Town Hall to be run as before by local landlords etc, not for the Council to sell alcohol. The building is currently allowed 12 events in any 12 month period, and the rolling average is now over 10, meaning that it will soon be necessary to turn events away due to the lack of a license. The cost of applying for the license will be £190, plus newspaper advertising, followed by an annual fee based on rateable value, currently £180.

RESOLVED: That the TH Marketing Committee move forward with applying for a license to sell alcohol for the Town Hall.

- 122.2. To consider the committee's request to buy a new Christmas tree for the Town Hall

RESOLVED: That the TH Marketing Committee spend up to £200 on a suitable large artificial Christmas tree for the Town Hall

123. To note the minutes of the Buildings Maintenance Committee and receive an update – noted

It was noted that the discovery of significant wet rot in the sports hall floor of the Community Youth building had slowed completion of the refurbishment project down.

Questions were asked about the rendering and decorating projects on the Town Hall, it was confirmed that problems with contractors had meant that these projects had not been completed this summer, and that the jobs may have to go out for re-tender.

124. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	218.00	Playing Fields Association	500.00
Mopps	384.00	Goodenber Play Area	500.00
EOn	438.91	Springfield Bowling Club	250.00
Aviva	292.52	Bentham Christmas Lights	250.00
JBL Joinery	42.00	Youth Cafe	250.00
British Gas	308.09	Community Bonfire	250.00
Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	87.30	HMRC	603.37
Glasdon Manufacturing	849.39	R Green	471.20

Horton Landscaping	1252.15	J Burton	969.13
CM Slingers & Sons	11539.85	M Green	63.35
Yorkshire Water	588.84	C Sinclair	122.50
Bentham News	50.00	W Dowbiggin	105.00
Stannah Lift Services	139.87	The Phone Co-op	1.21
Mrs Unsworth	100.00	Orange	23.49

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

125. To consider items of Correspondence

125.1. To further consider the position of dog waste bins at Bentham Golf Club & the Cemetery, and to agree a way forward

Clr Marshall declared a prejudicial interest, but was asked for the history of the dog bin at the Golf Club. He explained that it had been moved from the entrance to the bridleway post on the lane, but following a complaint Craven had removed it completely. He confirmed that the Golf Club were considering other options. Moving onto the Cemetery site, the Council agreed that a post above the entrance, towards the new development, in the hedge would be suitable. The clerk agreed to confirm this with Craven DC and then arrange for a post to be provided.

RESOLVED: That Craven be asked to confirm the suitability of the site above the entrance to the Cemetery, and if approved for a post to be provided for a dog bin.

125.2. To receive information on the Lancashire Farmers Market steering group project, and the benefits for Bentham.

Made in Lancashire have received lottery funding to promote Farmers Markets in their area, including Bentham. Their support means that an extra A board will be provided, and that the Bentham market will be able to spend some money on providing some 'entertainment' at a market between now and the end of June.

125.3. To receive a letter from Julian Smith MP, regarding the future of Skipton Magistrates Court – received

125.4. To receive a request from Marie Curie Nursing Service for funding, and agree a response.

The letter informed the Council that each night's nursing costs £180 in North Yorkshire and asked for support. It was agreed that this charity should be the recipient of the Christmas Charity Ball proceeds

RESOLVED: That the Christmas Charity Ball proceeds be donated to the Marie Curie Cancer Care Nursing Service

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

Clr Yaman announced that work would begin on the new skate park in the next few weeks.

Clr Wills said that the Bonfire was progressing well, and that volunteers were being sought for stewarding etc as usual.

127. Items for next meeting and minor items only

A letter had been received from Bloomin Bentham about planting the triangle at the Tatterthorn Road end of Dumb Toms Lane. This belongs to NYCC Highways, and they will need permission from them to do this. The clerk agreed to inform them.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm

AGENDA ITEM 111)

CLERK' S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 October 2010.

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 08/2010/10837 Conversion of store to annex at Toll Gate House, Wennington Road, Low Bentham

1.1.2. 08/2010/10880 Proposed work to trees, fell 2 x sycamores, reduce weight of ash, at Dalesview Development, Butts Lane.

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. 08/2010/10887 Extension to approved scheme to convert existing stables to holiday accommodation at Bull Copy, Tatterthorn Road, High Bentham.

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Development Newsletter, August 2010 (see information folder)

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

3.1. Winter maintenance response sent 8/9/10

3.2. Green Communities & BEST contacted 8/9/10

3.3. NYCC Access to Services – meeting requested 8/9/10

3.4. Cleveland Square license response sent 8/9/10, see item 121

- 3.5. Planning Gain consultation response sent 8/9/10, acknowledged 8/9/10
- 3.6. Council Tax referendum response sent 10/9/10, acknowledged receipt 13/9/10

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Allerton Waste Recovery Park, information sheet
- 4.2. Report on rot problems at the Community Youth building
- 4.3. Winter changes to brown bin collections
- 4.4. YLCA Craven Branch meeting 9 October, agenda, plus minutes of meeting on 19/5/10 & JEB meeting of 17 July.
- 4.5. Retail Business seminars, Craven flier
- 4.6. The case for Skipton Magistrates Court, Julian Smith MP
- 4.7. Early notification of the 2011 Census in March

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Craven Community newsletter September 10
- 5.2. Weekly Rural Focus 6/9/10
- 5.3. Weekly Rural Focus 13/9/10
- 5.4. Weekly Rural Focus 22/9/10
- 5.5. Weekly Rural Focus 27/9/10
- 5.6. Rural Matters, September 2010 (Yorks & Humber Rural Affairs Forum Newsletter)
- 5.7. Green Communities Newsletter, September 2010.

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Green Smithy bench – license received, bench delivered, to be placed asap
- 6.2. Stolen bench, Mill Lane, replacement authorised by insurers, to be placed asap
- 6.3. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered – for October agenda
- 6.4. Grasmere Drive Parking Charges, in hands of CDC since 2009
- 6.5. Legion Hut Lease – no response since 2009