

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 5 December 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Burton, Hey, Hurlley, Marshall Procter. Also DCllrs Barrington & Brockbank, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 4 parishioners.

119. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brown & Handford, and CCllr Ireton

Cllr Burton announced to the Council that former Mayor, Bateman Marshall, had died on Thursday 24 November. Mr Marshall had been a member of the Council for 21 years, and Chairman / Mayor on 5 separate occasions. The Council held two minutes silence as a mark of respect. Cards had already been sent to the family.

120. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present

Cllr Hurlley declared a personal interest in item 126.1.1, planning application 08/2011/12141.

121. To Receive Comment & Concerns

A resident asked about the recent break-in at the Town Hall, and was informed that there was nothing of value in the building, nothing was taken although some damage had been done in accessing areas to discover there was nothing worth taking.

Following a further question regarding the situation at Bentham Development Trust, the chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Yaman had resigned from the Council on Friday 18 November, and whilst a Cllr had not been involved with the Council finances in any way. He added that as a police investigation was ongoing it would not be prudent to say more.

The Council were informed of missing directional signs at Low Bentham by another resident and agreed to notify NYCC Highways.

122. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 7 & 28 November be signed**

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

The clerk had received a response from Ian Swain that afternoon admitting that the delay since July was unacceptable and promising a reply regarding the need for planning permission for the proposed allotments in the next 24 hours. She also confirmed that the new lights on Hillside Road were now in situ and working.

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

Sgt Hill and a WPC attended. There had only been 45 reports in the Bentham area in the last month, and 7 of these were for a single occupant at the Everglades. The others of note were the burglary at the Town Hall which had been linked to 2 others. There had also been the theft of 2 charity boxes and a 70yr old man from Morecambe had been arrested in connection with these. There had been a cannabis warning issued, and a drugs dog had been run through the pubs in Bentham & Ingleton, and would be tasked to do so again in the near future. There was also an ongoing fraud investigation.

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

DCllr Barrington mentioned that the Overview & Scrutiny committee was looking at the partnerships Craven had with other organisations to see how they were working. She added that the future of the Ingleton Middle School site was still being discussed and a questionnaire had been sent to local residents.

126. Planning

126.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

126.1.1.08/2011/12141 Retrospective planning for additional parking and associated landscaping at Greenhead, Cross Lane, Low Bentham.

*Cllr Hurlley declared a personal interest.*

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

126.1.2.08/2011/12151 Insertion of chimney lining & addition of a rain screen / bird guard cowl at 7 Ashfield Cottages, Main Street, High Bentham

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

126.1.3.08/2011/12153 Proposed conversion of redundant barn to form employment generating uses with ancillary living accommodation at Hill Top Farm, Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham

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

126.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

126.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

126.3.1. To Consider the Planning Gain Guide No. 3 – Allotments, Parks, Woodland & Wildlife – Consultation Draft and agree a response, if any.

The Council agreed that this was a good, self explanatory leaflet and no response was necessary

**RESOLVED: That the Council are happy with this draft leaflet and no response is necessary.**

## 127. Highways Matters

127.1. To receive a response from LCC regarding the B6480 at Wennington

LCC have placed an order to 'apron out the gullies' to allow water to flow off the carriage way. The Council agreed that the blocked culvert close to The Ridding needs clearing as water is now crossing the carriageway and will cause problems if it freezes. Another letter should be sent to LCC asking for this to be remedied.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter be sent to Lancashire County Council regarding the state of the culvert on the B6480 close to The Ridding which needs clearing before the weather becomes icy.

127.2. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The white lines at the end of Station Road need replacing to keep traffic from stopping in a dangerous place.

**RESOLVED:** That need for re-white lining at the end of Station Road be reported to NYCC Highways.

Cllrs Marshall & Handford and the clerk had met with representatives of the CoOp and their distribution service and David Cairns of NYCC Highways on Thursday 1 December. The CoOp wish to change their delivery habits as they currently require 2 men for deliveries in Bentham. They want to trial delivering early in the morning (approx 6am) which will allow them to park on the CoOp side of the road and therefore only require a single delivery man. The Cllrs had agreed that a trial period would be suitable to see if it caused any disruption to residents or traffic.

128. To Receive an Update on Progress with Bentham Library

DCllr Brockbank reported that at the 22 November meeting of the NYCC Executive Committee the Friends of Bentham Library proposal had been accepted. It had also been announced that NYCC would continue to fund 10 hours a week at the Library with a Librarian, meaning that the Friends would need to man at least 5 hours more. With 18 volunteers currently this was thought to be quite feasible. A fund raiser (Gerald Tyler) has been appointed. The committee will meet with NYCC on 19 December to discuss the way forward.

129. To Receive an Update on the Craven Market Town Improvement Programme and the Bentham Walkabout.

129.1. To agree to the Craven Terms & Conditions of the grant

The terms and conditions were fairly standard. The only worry was the 3 month time scale, with the potential for bad weather at this time of year.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council agree to the terms and conditions of the grant, but flag the concerns regarding possible delays due to the weather

129.2. To instruct the Parish Caretaker to proceed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Caretaker be asked to proceed with the work identified

130. To Receive Draft Heads of Terms for a License for the Gravel Heap on Bentham Moor Road, Burton, to discuss and agree a response.

The Council recognised that the proposed increase in rent to £100 / year was four times the current rent, but felt that the original fee was far too small in the first place. It agreed that £2 / week was still too low and asked that the clerk respond in this vein. It agreed that the license should be in the favour of Bentham Common Land Charity when agreement was reached.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed £100 / year rent for the site on Bentham Moor Road is still insufficient and that NYCC should be asked to pay in the region of £250pa, to Bentham Common Lands Charity.

131. To Consider the notes from the Precept Working Group Meeting and

131.1. To ask the clerk to get various quotes and prices to ensure best value is achieved at the precept meeting

The clerk should look at utility prices & cleaning costs for the Town Hall and get quotes for the decorating required in 2012/13. Consideration should also be given to LED lights for the street lighting provided by the Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk be asked to get various quotes for the precept meeting.

131.2. To consider the recommendation of increase the cost of 'for profit' sessions in the Town Hall currently given at local rates

There was considerable discussion regarding working group proposal to differentiate between local use of the building for meetings and profit making classes. This centred in the main on the required payment by the Council to the Performing Rights Society where music was used in these sessions. It was agreed that a section should be added to the booking form that should cover the payment of PRS fees. The Council also agreed to re-look at non-local use of the Town Hall and the fees charged.

**RESOLVED:** That a section regarding PRS fees and their recovery be added to the Town Hall booking form.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council reconsider the non-local rates for the Town hall at the precept meeting.

## 132. To Receive an Update on the Queens Diamond Jubilee

## 132.1. To Consider a Jubilee Beacon Request from Craven District Council

**RESOLVED: That the Council ask permission to have a Jubilee Beacon near to the Big Stone.**

## 132.2. To Agree a course of action for Bentham to celebrate the Jubilee

**RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged between the interested parties early in the New Year**

## 133. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	116.00	Clearglass Cleaning	170.00
Mopps	384.00	T Cowgill & Son	778.80
Eon	255.86	Horton Landscaping	882.00
Aviva	305.34	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	71.88
Howsons	360.00	Bentham Common Land Charity	25.00
SLCC	140.00	ACRE	9.00
Jhai Ltd	900.00	R Green	482.98
Yorkshire Water	358.02	J Burton	837.21
British Gas	141.58	Orange	23.99
British Telecom	275.74	Phone Coop	3.54

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

## 133.1. To agree the purchase of 2 Christmas trees for the Town Hall at £24 each

**RESOLVED: That the Council agree to purchase 2 Christmas trees for the Town Hall at £48**

## 133.2. To note the repair and service of the Town Hall's automatic doors at a cost of £225 (+VAT) - noted

## 133.3. To consider an annual service contract for the automatic doors, at a cost of £165 (+VAT)

**RESOLVED: That the Council agree to have the automatic doors serviced annually at £165 (+VAT)**

## 133.4. To consider the purchase of Ecoflex street signs to replace the broken coffee / TIP signs

There was considerable discussion regarding the purchase of these signs. It was noted that the TIP will pay for their own, but the expenditure needed to be agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the Council/TIP purchase 2 Ecoflex signs and get them printed**

## 134. To consider items of Correspondence

## 134.1. To consider the Personal Safety items from November 7 meeting, and agree if / where the suggestion box should be placed

**RESOLVED: That the relevant safety items be passed to Age Concern & the School, and that the Library be asked if they would have the suggestion box.**

## 134.2. To receive information on the Forest of Bowland Sheep Parade, and consider Bentham's participation

Whilst the Council could see that some may be interested in a potential sheep parade in the area it was thought that the sponsorship of £1000/sheep was very high in the current economic climate.

**RESOLVED: That, whilst the idea is commendable, the Council felt that it would be too expensive in the current economic climate.**

## 134.3. To consider a request from Craven District Council to nominate four representatives of voluntary / community groups for recognition

It transpired that each DCllr has also been asked to nominate 3 people, meaning that 10 individuals can go from the Bentham area. It was agreed that careful consideration was required as there are many people who do a lot of work for the community.

**RESOLVED: That the Council and DCllrs liaise regarding the potential nominations, and discuss with other community groups which names should be put forward.**

## 134.4. To receive information from Craven Legal regarding the status of the Council representative of Bentham Development Trust - to be held over until the next meeting

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

Aid in Sickness have made grants worth £2000 this year, which is in line with their income. Anyone interested in applying for a grant should contact Cllr Adams.

An update was received from the Christmas Lights Committee highlighting the need for more support, their ideas for the coming year and disassociating themselves from the recent letter in Bentham News

An update from the Collingwood Longstaffe meeting will be available at the January meeting

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

Drainage at the Cemetery need to be considered by the Open Spaces committee

The Website needs taking in hand following Cllr Yaman's resignation

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reminded them that the January meeting will be on 4/1/12

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

**AGENDA ITEM 123)****CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 5 December 2011****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

1.1.1. 08/2011/12007 Extension to approved scheme (08/2009/10215) to convert existing stables to holiday accommodation at Bullcopy, Tatterthorn Road, Bentham.

1.1.2. 08/2011/12070 Amendments to approval 08/2007/8092, amendments to north facing roofline, additional rooflights & amendment to access from highway at Littlecroft Barn, Burton Road, Burton In Lonsdale

**1.2. REFUSED**

1.2.1. 08/2011/11941 Erection of new dwelling, provision of parking spaces adjacent to dwelling. Continued use of existing double garage at site to rear of Greenfoot Barn, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham.

**2. Planning Correspondence**

2.1. Planning Focus, November 2011.

2.2. Neighbourhood Planning Consultations 12 December Sheffield & 14 December Leeds.

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

3.1. Clapham Parish Council informed of agreement to contribute 9/11/11, they will invoice when complete

3.2. Lancashire Highways letter sent 9/11/11 – see agenda item

3.3. NYCC contacted re gravel heap rent 9/11/11 – see agenda item

3.4. Letter to ENW Wayleaves Officer re LBPF substation sent 21/11/11, response awaited

3.5. Model Hiring Agreement request sent 9/11/11, received 16/11/11

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

4.1. Trade Waste Recycling – affirmative reply sent 21/11/11

4.2. Bureau Veritas Lift Inspection completed 8/11/11

4.3. Country Air, Autumn 2011

4.4. White Rose Update, Nov 2011

4.5. Cumbria Clock Company information

4.6. Citizens Advice Bureau request for funds – Precept grant form sent

4.7. Vitalise request for funds – precept grant form sent

4.8. Three Peaks Academy request for funds – precept grant form sent

4.9. SLCC Conference & Training programme 2012

4.10. JMD service of automatic doors

4.11. Changes to BT accounts notice

4.12. Change of Insurance account handler notice

4.13. Came & Company newsletter, Autumn 2011

4.14. Craven Area Committee Meeting 1/12/11 (also by email prior to date)

**5. Items circulated by email**

5.1. Global Tourism Accolade for Bowland

5.2. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 14/11, 28/11, 5/12/11

5.3. Craven Community news, North Yorkshire Now newsletter, November

5.4. Free Insulation Offer (also to Age Concern & noticeboards)

5.5. Sustainable Government Public Service Efficiency Updates, 10/11, 17/11

5.6. Historic Towns Forum newsletter 16/11/11

5.7. Rural Services Network Survey on Neighbourhood Planning 11/11/11

5.8. Localism Act Update, 16/11/11

5.9. RegioFlash, EU Policy News,

5.10. Allerton Incinerator Action Group update 16/11/11, and objection information 5/12/11

5.11. YLCA – 3 new employment briefings (Social networking policy, PAYE penalties, tribunals)

5.12. Craven DC Street Cleansing Review, received 5/12

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

6.1. Grasmere Drive Lights – reported to NYCC 17/11/11, awaiting repair by ENW as supply problem.

6.2. Letter to NYCC regarding the middle school consultation vs Low B School sent 17/10/11 – awaiting response

6.3. B6480, awaiting white lining and hedge cutting - September 2011, chased 9/11

6.4. Potholes on Ravensclose – NYCC issued instruction for repair 8/11/11

6.5. Goodenber Drains reported 18 July, response 21 July, chased 22 August

6.6. Allotments planning, in discussion with Craven planning, chased 21/9/11 & 5/10/11, 31/10/11 & 2/12/11

6.7. Hedgerow signs, still outstanding

6.8. Grasmere Drive Parking Charges, in hands of CDC – budget consideration

6.9. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited

6.10. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered

6.11. Legion Hut Land Lease – no response since 2009