

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 5 March 2012, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Barnes, Brown, Burton, Faichney, Handford, Hey, Marshall & Procter, CCllr Ireton & DCllrs Barrington & Brockbank. Also, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 5 parishioners.

184. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Apologies were received from Cllr Hurtley.

185. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present

Cllr Marshall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 192.1.4, planning application 08/2012/12415 as owner of the Golf Club. Cllrs Burton & Procter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 199.1, a letter from the Youth Café, as committee members of Bentham Youth Café.

186. To Receive Comment & Concerns

A High Bentham resident raised concerns about the maintenance of the Cemetery saying that the grass cutting was not good enough. The chairman explained that the current contract would finish at the end of the season and the Open Spaces committee was already looking at the tender document and he added that the drainage specification was in hand and it was hoped that it would go out to tender shortly. Other Cllrs commented that this was the only complaint that had been raised about the grass cutting and noted that Goodenber Play Area and Low Bentham residents were quite happy. It was confirmed that the contractor is not meant to collect the grass due to cost, but it was agreed that the frequency of cuts would be examined.

Another asked about the speed with which highways repairs were carried out. The clerk explained that the Council can only report problems to NYCC Highways. The timescale for repair is outside the Council's remit and, whilst issues are regularly chased, budgetary restrictions on the Highways Department has been having a significant effect

187. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 February be signed**

188. To Co-Opt a further member to Council for the period 2012/14

**RESOLVED: That Mr Nicholas Armstrong be co-opted to Bentham Town Council for the period 2012/14.**

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

The clerk informed the Council of future training events being organised by Craven District Council which will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

There had been 34 incidents in the last month and nothing of major interest. A drugs warrant had been successfully executed following information from the public.

191. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs

CCllr Ireton informed the Council that the cast iron signpost from Egerton crossroads was back from the forge and would hopefully be back in place shortly, after 2.5 years absence. He agreed to chase Highways regarding the blocked gully at Naylor Meyers reported last year and the pot holes / drainage problems on Springfield just above Pye Busk which was first report some 14 months ago and is now in a very poor state.

DCllr Brockbank had been at Craven's Dragon's Den presentations earlier in the day and said that Bentham Youth Café youngsters had given an excellent presentation. The Library Open Day on 3 March had gone very well and most of the volunteers had attended. She also reminded the Council of the Parishes Liaison Group meeting on 21 March where Yorkshire Broadband will be discussed.

DCllr Barrington gave some information on the 'Portas Pilot' which had been included in the last Bentham News. There will be a meeting of the group on 12 March at the Golf Club looking at a scheme to bring people to Bentham. The funding application needs to be completed by the end of the month. The Free School on the Ingleton Middle School site will not be going ahead, but other options for use of the site are still being considered. She also mentioned that she had asked Craven to repair the lights on Low Bentham car park.

192. Planning

192.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

192.1.1.08/2012/12364 Proposed conversion of garage & loft area to provide holiday let accommodation (1 unit) at Rosebank, Gas House Lane, Off Main Street, Bentham

Cllr Hey raised an issue regarding the access of emergency services which had been brought to her by a resident. A study of the plans showed that this would still be possible.

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

192.1.2.08/2012/12366 Resubmission of full planning (partially retrospective) for additional parking & associated landscaping in OS field 8071 at R&M Wheildon, Greenhead/Cross Lane, Low Bentham

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

192.1.3.08/2012/12388 Replacement of extant planning permission to previous approval 08/2008/9280 at The Church of St John The Baptist, Low Bentham

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

192.1.4.08/2012/12415 Proposed extension adjacent to Golf professional's shop at Bentham Golf Club, Robin Lane, High Bentham

*Cllr Marshall declared a prejudicial interest and left the room.* Various Cllrs commented that the equipment to be housed in the extension was essential to the teaching of golf and was well used elsewhere.

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

192.2.To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

192.3.To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

193.Highways Matters

193.1.To receive a response from LCC regarding the B6480 between Ravensclose and The Ridding, and note that drainage works are scheduled for April 2012.

Received and noted

193.2.To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

A proposal had been received from NYCC Highways, after the agenda had been published, outlining the works to be done on the B6480 and pavements around the site of the new school. A letter of comments and objections from some residents of Moon's Acre was also considered. Councillors agreed that the zebra crossing appeared to be very close to the Moon's Acre entrance; that the proposed central bollards would make it impossible for large wagons to reverse into Naylor Meyers; and that the bulk of the enhancements seemed to be on the opposite side of the road to the school which made no sense. There was also no pull-in for parents dropping children at the school. It was agreed that the Council should request a site meeting with Ken Martin to discuss the proposals

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked for a site meeting to discuss the proposals

The road surface on Robin Lane between Butts Lane and Lakeber Drive is currently so poor that it is acting like rumble strips for traffic leaving the town, and auction traffic between 3pm and 4am is keeping residents awake.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to do some remedial surface work between Butts Lane and Lakeber Drive as a matter of urgency

194.To receive an update regarding the potential Jubilee Beacon following a meeting with Fourstones Estate and agree a way ahead if necessary

The chairman and clerk had met with Mrs Thurnham regarding a Jubilee Beacon close to Big Stone on 4 June and had been granted permission. Mrs Thurnham would rather have a real beacon instead of a gas one, and the design and costs were being investigated. The small group of organisations looking at possible Jubilee celebrations for Bentham would be meeting again shortly and full details should be available for the April Council meeting

195.To receive an update on the replacement of the Hillside Road street lights, and agree a response if required

The clerk explained that the final invoice had been received for the replacement columns on Hillside Road and, due to increased costs from Electricity North West, it was higher than expected. When the agenda was published she had still been awaiting confirmation from Craven District Council (who had agreed to pay the equivalent of removing the old columns) that it would pay the higher rate. This had now been received.

**RESOLVED:** That the invoice should be paid once confirmation that NYCC Street Lights have confirmed that they have adopted all 3 columns of undetermined ownership on Hillside Road

196.To receive a further request from Clapham cum Newby Parish Council regarding the proposed boundary stone, and to agree a response

Clapham-cum-Newby have suggested that the new boundary marker should be inscribed for the Diamond Jubilee at an extra cost of £75. The Council agreed that this was appropriate and that it would contribute 50% of the extra cost.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council agree to pay an extra £37 to inscribe the new boundary marker for the Diamond Jubilee.

197.To note the minutes of the Town Hall Marketing Committee meeting – noted

The Council were asked to consider a possible tag line for the proposed website for Bentham.

198.To note the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting – noted

The committee hope to have prices back for the proposed drainage works by the April Council meeting.

199.To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Mopps	384.00	YLCA	683.00
Eon	229.74	Clearglass Cleaning	90.00
Aviva	305.34	Tim Wheildon Heating Services	70.80

British Gas	490.05	Amazon	30.74
Yorkshire Water	194.71	R Green	482.98
Mr T Stannard	80.00	J Burton	999.61
Horton Landscaping	558.00	Orange	23.99
British Telecom	279.05	J Atkinson	100.00

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

199.1. To receive a letter from Bentham Youth Café regarding the outstanding grant repayment and agree a response  
The Council noted that the Youth Café's problems were not of their own making and commended them for their proposal. It was agreed that the Council could wait for payment until the current police investigation is completed so as not to prejudice any outcome.

**RESOLVED: That the repayment of the grant be delayed until completion of the police investigation, when the situation can be reassessed**

199.2. To consider the clerk's request to attend the SLCC branch conference in Kendal at a cost of £39

**RESOLVED: That the clerk attend the SLCC branch conference at a cost of £39**

199.3. To receive a letter from Relate requesting grant funding for 'Time to Talk' and agree a response

**RESOLVED: That the clerk inform Relate of the precept process and ask them to apply for a grant at that time**

200. To consider items of Correspondence

200.1. To receive a letter about Dog Fouling on Station Road

The clerk had already contacted the Dog Warden upon receipt of the letter, who had agreed to keep a watch on Station Road. The Council agreed that this is a widespread problem in the Town, which will hopefully improve with the lighter nights. Unfortunately the Dog Warden is only part time and has a large area to cover

200.2. To receive a request from Goodenber Play Area Committee for assistance in obtaining power for a security camera.

The Council would be happy to try and help. The problem seems to be that Bargh's meadow has not yet been adopted and consequently no one seems able to give permission for a supply to be taken from the street light. Cllr Ireton suggested that the Council arrange a meeting with the planners, Yorkshire Housing and the Goodenber Play Area committee to look at how the planning issues might be overcome.

**RESOLVED: That the Council arrange a meeting with the planners, Yorkshire Housing and Goodenber Play Area committee to try and overcome the planning issues associated with the camera**

**RESOLVED: That the clerk find out if the ownership / adoption issues regarding the street light on Bargh's meadow has been resolved**

200.3. To receive a letter from Marsh & Co Solicitors regarding the War Memorial and agree a response  
Marsh and Co, acting for Kenneth A Frasers, had contacted the Council regarding the non-payment of the War Memorial invoice claiming that Mrs Yaman had held herself to be acting on behalf of the Town Council. The clerk had been in touch with the Council's solicitor who had agreed that nothing in the paperwork suggested that the Council was liable. She read a proposed response to Marsh and Co, which had been approved by the solicitor and asked the Council to agree it.

**RESOLVED: That the Council send the response approved by the solicitor denying any liability in the installation of the War Memorial**

200.4. To receive an invitation from Craven District Council to send a representative to the next Parishes Liaison Group Meeting on Tuesday 21 March at 6.30pm, and agree who will attend

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall will attend the Parishes Liaison Group meeting on 21 March if possible**

200.5. To agree to provide a letter of support for a Craven Grant Application for the Sunday Afternoon Tea Parties at Looking Well

**RESOLVED: That a letter of support be provided for the Sunday Tea Party project.**

200.6. 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

In view of the current situation with the fraud investigation it would not be prudent for the Council to make a decision at the current time

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

Cllr Handford will attend a footpaths meeting on March 13 and Cllr Hey will attend a Lonstaffe Charity meeting on March 12

202. Items for next meeting and minor items only

The clerk had received a letter of objection regarding the proposed allotment site on 4 March and this would be put on the agenda for the April meeting

The Craven Chairman's reception for North Craven will be held on Friday 30 March, and the Bentham nominees have been invited

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm

**AGENDA ITEM 189)**

**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 5 March 2012**

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

**1.1. GRANTED**

1.1.1. 08/2011/12228 Conversion of single dwelling back into 2 separate dwelling houses at 1 & 2 Green Head Cottages, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham

**1.2. REFUSED**

1.2.1. 08/2011/12091 Stationing of 21 holiday caravan lodges & access alterations at The Punch Bowl Hotel, B6480, Low Bentham.

**2. Planning Correspondence**

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

- 3.1. Request to DCllrs to call in Planning Application 08/2011/12091 if necessary sent 7/2/12 (see above)
- 3.2. Gravel Heap License signed by BLCL and returned 8/2/12
- 3.3. Highways problems reported 13/2/12, NYCC response 15/2/12
- 3.4. Market valuation of Low Bentham School Field requested 13/2/12
- 3.5. LTP survey agreed and sent 15/2/12
- 3.6. Allotment Planning Application sent 14/2/12 – further questions asked 20/2/12, compiling response
- 3.7. Letters to Greg Clark MP & Julian Smith MP re 'big planning' proposal sent 13/2/12, response from Mr Smith 22/2/12 & DCLG 23/2/12 (see information folder)

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

- 4.1. Update on cast iron sign for Egerton Crossroads
- 4.2. North Craven Schools Moving Forward newsletter, February 2012
- 4.3. YLCA notification of section 137 expenditure limit for 2012/2
- 4.4. Hotspots campaign – affordable warmth for NYorks
- 4.5. Craven Community News, Feb 12
- 4.6. Gas Safety Inspection Report, Community Youth Building

**5. Items circulated by email**

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 13/2, 20/2, 27/2, 5/3
- 5.2. Sustainable Government Public Service Efficiency Updates, 10/2
- 5.3. Historic Towns Forum newsletter, 12/2
- 5.4. Looking Well News 7/2
- 5.5. North Yorkshire Now, February 2012
- 5.6. Northern Voice, 1 March
- 5.7. SLCC Branch newsletter
- 5.8. Leader ENewsburst, February 2012
- 5.9. YLCA advice note 21/2/12
- 5.10. RegioFlash News, 15/2/12
- 5.11. Pioneer Projects Art Exhibition 2-30 March, Tuesdays & Fridays
- 5.12. Wind Turbine petition
- 5.13. Various emails regarding the Allerton Incinerator
- 5.14. New Library Opening Hours

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

- 6.1. Initial contact made with Drainage Contractors w/b 090112, specification to be completed
- 6.2. Allotment planning application sent 14/2/12
- 6.3. Model Hiring Agreement to be incorporated into Council booking forms
- 6.4. Clapham Parish boundary marker repair, invoice awaited (see agenda item)
- 6.5. Hedgerow signs, still outstanding
- 6.6. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.7. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered