

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6 September 2010, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Brown, Faichney, Procter, Wills & Yaman. Also DCllr Barrington & CCllr Ireton, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 4 parishioners

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the clerk asked for nominations of Cllrs to chair the meeting Cllr Adams was proposed, seconded and unanimously appointed as chair for the evening.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Adams chair the meeting

87. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Barnes, Burton, Hurtle, Marshall & Webster & DCllr Brockbank.
88. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Faichney declared a personal interest in items 94.1.1 and 94.1.4, planning applications 08/2010/10698 and 10837. Cllr Wills declared a personal and prejudicial interest in items 94.1.1 and 94.1.8, planning applications 08/2010/10698 & 10887. He also declared a personal interest in item 95.3, support for the road closure for Bentham Bonfire. Cllr Procter declared a personal interest in item 94.1.5, planning application 08/2010/10849. Cllr Adams declared a personal interest in items 94.1.1 and 94.1.8, planning applications 08/2010/10698 & 10887. He also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 95.3, support for the road closure for Bentham Bonfire as the applicant, and in item 104.7, the No to Nuclear campaign request.
89. To Receive Comment & Concerns
A resident asked for the Council's support for planning application 08/2010/10887.
90. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 2 August be signed
91. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
The clerk reminded the Council about the information event on 9 September to consider the new school, held between 2 and 4 pm in the school and between 4.30 and 6.30pm in the Town Hall.
92. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
PC Carpenter from Settle stood in for PC Barton who was unable to attend. Although he did not have an official report, he confirmed that there had been few problems in the previous month, the most significant being a spate of vehicle thefts, mainly in the Settle area. DCllr Barrington raised a potential problem of parking on Springfield but was informed that, unless the vehicle is parked illegally there is little that can be done. Specific problems can be reported to the police who will consider if any action can be taken. PC Carpenter confirmed that vehicles should not be parked within 15 yards of a junction.
93. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
CCllr Ireton reminded Cllrs of the September meeting where Jacobs will show the initial design and parents and residents have an opportunity to air their views regarding the new school. There has been no announcement on the capital programme for 2011 and it is subject to the Government not pulling money back during its autumn spending review. The budget for the NW Transportation process has been reduced from £200K to £50K which will reduce the projects that can be achieved. The roundabout at the Country Harvest was costed at £325K and has been put on the 'reserve list'. *(Cllr Ireton then left the meeting)*
DCllr Barrington had met with United Utilities, along with members of the Council and some residents of Wenning Avenue. The road will be resurfaced (although not to adoptable standards) from Hillcroft and the drains will be surveyed to see what can be done about flooding on Wenning Avenue.
Members of the Council had joined with her and officers from Craven and member of Bentham Development Trust to look at the centre of the town and work required to tidy it up. They had considered areas covered by Craven District Council, NYCC and in private ownership. Following problems with the paper recycling at Grasmere drive another paper bin has been provided. She also confirmed that no formal response has been received regarding the Biker Bash and agreed to press Craven for a response so that the organisers know where they stand for 2011.
94. Planning
- 94.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 94.1.1.08/2010/10698 Erection of new office building at Unit 4a, Bentham Industrial Estate, Bentham.
Cllrs Faichney & Wills left the meeting & Cllr Adams took no part in the discussion
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 94.1.2.08/2010/10811 Single storey rear extension to form dining room at 22 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham.
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 94.1.3.08/2010/10832 Creation of overflow car park & improvement to visibility at junction of private access to Burton Road at Friends Meeting House, Burton Road, Low Bentham
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

94.1.4.08/2010/10837 Conversion of existing store building to annex at Toll Gate House, Wennington Road, Low Bentham.

Cllr Faichney left the meeting

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

94.1.5.08/2010/10849 Refurbishment of Play Area including landscaping & associated works at Play Area, Goodenber Road, High Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

94.1.6.08/2010/10866 Separation of one residential dwelling into two with external alterations at 15 Wenning Avenue, High Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

94.1.7.08/2010/10880 Proposed work to trees at Dales View Development Public Amenity Land, Butts Lane, Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application provided that the replacement of the trees is enforced

94.1.8.08/2010/10887 Extension to the approved scheme to convert existing stables to holiday accommodation at Bull Copy, Tatterthorn Road, Bentham

Cllr Wills left the meeting & Cllr Adams took no part in the discussion

A letter of objection was read, and considerable discussion centred around the appropriateness of the application, particularly in the light of it being half built.

RESOLVED: That the Council ask for this application to go before the Planning Committee and a site visit be made.

94.1.9. Any other planning applications received up to Monday 6 September, to allow response with in the statutory 21 day period – none

94.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

If any (see Clerks Report)

94.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

94.3.1. To consider the draft Planning Gain leaflets and make a response if any (paper 2010/16)

RESOLVED: That Craven be congratulated on the leaflets which are both useful, clear and concise

95. Highways Matters

95.1. To receive a reply regarding NYCC Highways Winter Service and the provision of Salt Bins & Heaps, and agree a response if any

NYCC had confirmed that the salt bin on Mount Pleasant will be removed as both Robin Lane and Mount Pleasant are priority one gritting routes. Discussion ensued regarding the continued provision of a bin in this area and whether the Council should pay for it.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked if the Council can keep the bin, pending a decision.

95.2. To receive an update on the Reported Concerns for August

The decision not to paint lines on the newly re-surfaced B6480 between Wennington & Low Bentham was justified by NYCC Highways as it is a 'rural road of less than 5.5m width'. Council requested that the figures be provided as it contends that the corners are dangerous in their current state, and also pointed out that the Lancashire side of the road has also been resurfaced and re-white lined.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to provide a definition of a rural road and produce the figures proving the average width.

95.3. To consider a request from the Bonfire Committee for support for closure of Main Street and use of Cleveland Square on 30 October 2010.

In order to apply for the road closure for the Bonfire Procession on 30 October, the Bonfire Committee requires the Council's support and the signature of the Town Clerk. If the licensing of Cleveland Square is resolved by then, they will also need Craven District Council to be notified.

RESOLVED: That the Council have no objections to the road closure and the Town Clerk be asked to sign the relevant forms.

95.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Concern was expressed that the Bentham sign at Egerton crossroads has still not been replaced.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked again about the repair of the Bentham sign at Egerton crossroads.

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

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders (paper 2010/14) stand as proposed and shall be adopted at the October meeting

97. To debate the 2008 Financial Regulations as proposed by the Working Group and their adoption by Bentham Town Council (paper 2010/15)

Following the computer problems encountered in August the clerk asked that regulation 3.4 detailing delegated powers to incur expenditure be amended. She asked that the following phrase be added 'In the incidence of failure of the Council's computer the clerk may incur expenditure as necessary to replace it as quickly as possible, subject

to obtaining three quotes and discussing them with the Chairman (or in his absence the Vice Chairman) and at least three other Councillors.’

RESOLVED: That regulation 3.4 be amended to allow the immediate purchase of a new computer if necessary, subject to the above restrictions.

RESOLVED: That the amended regulations stand proposed and shall be adopted at the October meeting.

98. To receive notification of acceptance of Bentham into the Yorkshire Dales Green Communities programme
The Council was informed that it’s expression of interest in the Green Communities program, in partnership with BEST, had been accepted. A two year project would now commence to look at the carbon footprint of the town, both of public and private dwellings, and of ways to reduce it by becoming more energy efficient.

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged with Council & BEST members and the Green Communities Project Coordinator in early October.

98.1. To agree attendance at the free Community Energy Project training day on 20 September

RESOLVED: That the clerk attend the training day in Skipton

99. To consider the Draft Heads of Terms for a License for Cleveland Square, and agree a response (paper 2010/17)
It was agreed that the Council address should be shown as the town hall. It was felt that section 8, requiring one months notice of community events was too restrictive. It was also agreed that section 18 regarding repairs and maintenance needed some form of notice to be added as expenditure needs budgeting for within the precept. The Council acknowledged that this was considerable progress following the previous 5 years of lease negotiations.

RESOLVED: That a response requesting alterations to section 8 & 18, and use of the Town Hall address be set to Craven

100. To receive an update about the Parish Caretaker

The clerk informed Council that many of the parish benches had now been stained or painted, but that the weather would shortly curtail this project until the spring. The caretaker had also cleared the rubbish from Low Bentham School field and was looking at removing the dead cherry tree from the cemetery. Other projects, such as work on the trees in Low Bentham Playing field had been identified for the winter, but grant money not spent by the end of December would be lost consequently she asked for Cllrs to identify work that needs to be done around the parish that can be done in the winter months.

101. To receive an update from the Town Hall Marketing Committee (information only)

The committee has met twice recently and is looking at promoting the building over the Christmas period. Ideas are in early stages and will be reported to Council shortly when more definite. A review of the website and its content will be done in the New Year. The possibility of doing something special in 2012 to mark both the Olympics and the Golden Jubilee was also raised.

102. To receive update on Low Bentham Playing Fields.

102.1. Low Bentham School Playing Field

The License is now in place and the field is open for children and residents to use. A letter of thanks from the Low Bentham Playing Field Committee, highlighting a recent event on the School field was read. The clerk thanked DCllr Barrington for coordinating the rota of Low Bentham residents who have agreed to open and close the gate as required by the license and the insurers, and thanked residents Lin Barrington, Tim Stannard, Martin Faichney, Jim Tuohy, Julie Bridgman and Andy Quinn for volunteering. She added that the only legal access to the field is from the Ellergill end, and that as the field was for the use of children dogs are not allowed

102.2. Low Bentham Playing Field

The water pipe runs have been identified by Yorkshire Water and a map of the electric cables has been requested. Currently no organisation has accepted responsibility for the valve chamber, and Cllr Wills is pursuing this.

103. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	731.00	Glasdon Manufacturing	410.07
Mopps	384.00	EDF Energy	130.37
EOn	56.02	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	104.15
Aviva	292.52	Mazars	1703.75
British Telecom	265.38	R Green	471.20
British Gas	28.03	J Burton	693.50
Oglethorpe Sturton & Gillibrand	293.75	C Sinclair	122.50
Dell Computer	459.99	W Dowbiggin	84.00
Horton Landscaping	1993.55	The Phone Co-op	1.36
B & CE Armstrong	18.35	Orange	23.49
Off Tech Computer Services	61.69		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

103.1.To receive the audited Annual Return for y/e 31 March 2010

The signed annual return had been received from the external auditors. Council noted the comments made regarding the review of effectiveness of the system of internal audit, which had been completed in August. The comments on accuracy and the use of correction fluid were also noted.

RESOLVED: That the audited Annual Return be accepted by the Council, noting that the information contained is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and also noting the comments made regarding the review of effectiveness of the system of internal audit which was already in hand.

103.2.To note the replacement of the Council's laptop computer - noted

104.To consider items of Correspondence

104.1.To consider information from Craven on dog waste bins at Bentham Golf Club & the Cemetery, and to agree a response, if any

A suitable position for a dog bin near the Cemetery must be agreed and the Council provide a post for Craven to site the bin. Cllr agreed to look at the area. There have also been complaints about the re-sited bin by the Golf Club, which has now been removed. Again, if the Council will provide a suitable post the bin will be replaced. Cllrs agreed to see if there was anywhere suitable.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs will look at the sites for suitable post placements

104.2.To receive a letter from NYCC regarding access to their services via Parish Councils, and agree a response.

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged to discuss providing access to NYCC services out of the Town Hall

104.3.To receive information on the Excessive Council Tax Referendum, and agree a response, if any

RESOLVED: That the clerk prepare a response for agreement before the consultation deadline

104.4.To receive further information on the Concessionary Fares Scheme - received

104.5.To consider a response to the Equalities Questionnaire

Council agreed that this questionnaire was too personal for a response from the Council, however it agreed that discussion should be held as to how information for this type of questionnaire should be collected, and asked for the subject to be added to the October agenda.

RESOLVED: That method of collecting the type of information required for this questionnaire be added to the October agenda

104.6.To consider a response to the Sustainable Communities Questionnaire

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Yaman and Procter and the clerk consider a response for agreement by the Council

104.7.To receive a letter from The 'No Need for Nuclear' Campaign requesting support for the Commons Early Day Motion 557 calling for an inquiry into the need for new nuclear power stations, and agree a response.

RESOLVED: That the Council should not call on Julian Smith MP to sign EDM 557

104.8.To receive a letter regarding the Community Centre Tree

Consideration should be given to moving the tree before it gets too large as it is too close to the buildings. Expert advice should be obtained before a decision is made.

RESOLVED: That the advice be obtained as to the feasibility of moving the Community Centre tree

104.9.To receive a letter of thanks from Springfield Bowling Club - received

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

Cllr Yaman said that tenders for the new skate park at the Playing Fields would be considered and the contract awarded shortly.

106.Items for next meeting and minor items only

The clerk reminded Cllrs about the code of conduct training available at the end of September and asked for interested members to let her know.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.48pm

AGENDA ITEM 91)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6 September 2010.

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 08/2009/9618 Retrospective application for amendment to previously approved scheme 08/2006/6714 at Inglemoor, 26 Robin Lane, High Bentham.

1.1.2. 08/2010/10650 Off Street Parking bays and house renovation works at 6 The Terrace, Low Bentham.

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. none

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. North Yorkshire Rural Housing Enablers Newsletter, July 2010 (see information folder)
- 2.2. Community Right to Build information (see information folder)
- 2.3. Informal Exhibition of New Primary School, 9 September 4.30-6.30pm Town Hall – REMINDER
- 2.4. Letter of objection to application 08/2010/10887

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Winter Maintenance response sent 4/8/10, reply received 4/8/10, see agenda item 95.1
- 3.2. Grasmere Drive site visit arranged 8/9/10
- 3.3. NYCC Highways comments sent 4/8/10 – see agenda item 95.2
- 3.4. Wesley Close, police asked to talk to children, 4/8/10
- 3.5. Low Bentham School Playing Field License received.
- 3.6. Concessionary Fare Scheme response sent 4/8/10, see agenda item 104.3

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Country Air, Summer 2010
- 4.2. Guide to Transport in Craven
- 4.3. Further Information from NYCC regarding Waste PFI
- 4.4. No Need for Nuclear Campaign newsletter

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Rural Services Network newsletter 3/8/10
- 5.2. Weekly Rural Focus 9/8/10
- 5.3. Weekly Rural Focus 6/9/10
- 5.4. Craven Community News, August 2010
- 5.5. Green Communities Newsletter, August
- 5.6. Allerton Waste Recovery Park exhibition events
- 5.7. Putting People First, Issue 6, August
- 5.8. North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Newsletter, Aug 2010.
- 5.9. Forest of Bowland Annual Report 2009/10, email link

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Dog bin request made to Craven 12/4/10, spoke Jim Hirst 16/6/10, see agenda item 104.1
- 6.2. Green Smithy bench – license received, bench ordered, to be placed late August
- 6.3. Stolen bench, Mill Lane, replacement authorised by insurers, to be done late August
- 6.4. Outstanding Highways matters reviewed March 2010 to be chased October 2010
- 6.5. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered – for October agenda
- 6.6. Grasmere Drive Parking Charges, in hands of CDC
- 6.7. Legion Hut Lease – no response since 2009