

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 June, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Cowling, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard (Chairman), Swales, Townson & Vandy. Also Cllr Ireton, DCllr Brockbank, the clerk Mrs Burton and 5 parishioners

28. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Faichney
29. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present - none
30. To Receive Comment & Concerns
A resident thanked the Council, and particularly the Mayor, for the support given to the Carnival. The Chairman added that the event had been a great success and thanked the organising committee for their efforts.
31. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 May be signed
32. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
The clerk pointed out that some planning decisions had been received since the original publication date, and that the Solar Farm would be discussed by Craven’s Planning Committee on 8 June – including a site visit. Cllr Stannard agreed to attend. Cllr Pritchard asked if the website contractor had been contacted and the Chairman confirmed that this was the case.
33. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present
PC Hayes had attended, but was called away before this item was reached.
34. To Receive Reports from CClr & DCllrs (for information only)
CCllr Ireton informed the meeting that NYCC had made £49m of savings over the last 4 years and more in efficiencies, but that the financial austerity would continue
DCllr Brockbank said that residents were concerned that they did not know about the Solar Farm in time to go to the exhibition. The Library Consultation report was now on the NYCC website, and would be discussed by the Scrutiny Committee and then the Executive. Bentham is expected to become a community library with no full time librarian, which would potentially be the end of the road.
DCllr Brockbank has been appointed to the Spatial Planning Committee and would be involved with the Local Plan in the coming year.
35. Planning
- 35.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 35.1.1. 08/2015/15699 Construction of new clubhouse at Burton in Lonsdale Bowling Club, Recreation Field, Old Moor Road, Burton in Lonsdale
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 35.1.2. 08/2015/15701 Application to remove condition no.3 of original permission 5/8/640 – time limit in which caravans can be sited on land at Lowther Hill Farm, Mewith Lane, Bentham – APPROVED 5/15
- 35.1.3. 08/2015/15757 Installation of sewage treatment plant with outfall to watercourse at Over Raygill, Dumb Toms Lane, Ingleton
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 35.1.4. 08/2015/15790 Application seeking permission for reserved matters comprising access, appearance, landscaping, layout & scale for approved outline application 08/2014/14386 (resubmission of withdrawn application 08/2014/15304) at Town Head Farm, Burton Road, Low Bentham.
The Council noted that this was an improved design with much of the timber replaced with stone, but felt that it would be more appropriate for the front of the properties to be totally stoned faced. This would be more in keeping with the immediately adjacent properties.
RESOLVED: That the Council ask for the front facades to be totally stone faced to be in keeping with adjacent properties.
- 35.2. To Receive Planning Decisions
- If any (see Clerks Report)
- 35.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues
[If any (see Clerks Report)
36. Highways Matters
- 36.1. To Receive responses from Bentham Primary School, Children’s Services & NYCC Highways following the request for a meeting to discuss safety and Council’s reply to Class 4
The Chairman announced that this agenda item had been overtaken by events since its publication, and that he and Cllrs Marshall, Adams & Townson had met with Ken Martin from NYCC Highways, Cllr Ireton, Mrs Boocock (Head Mistress) and other staff members and governors that afternoon. The main issues had been outlined, namely the speed of cars coming from High Bentham, the parking of cars on the High Bentham side

of the crossing and the problems with children on bikes and scooters going to school from High Bentham. Various potential fixes had been discussed. The provision of a cycle lane on the highway was not possible as there was only room for provision on one side. The other option would be to provide shared access on the pavement, but it was not wide enough all the way along and this could only be done from Knowe Top to Burnside, which was not good enough. Another option would be to remove the cars from the High Bentham side of the crossing, from No4 to the crossing. It was agreed that the possibility of adding a single yellow line to prevent parking from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday during term time should be explored. Another requirement, to slow traffic down, was amply proved whilst the site meeting was in progress with at least two vehicles demonstrating the effects of hitting the raised crossing at speed! Creating speed awareness in the area was deemed essential. As NYCC Highways would not agree to a variable 20mph in the area as it was against policy, it was agreed that they should be asked to consider the provision of a vehicle activated sign / flashing lights before the bend timed to work only at the necessary times of the day so that drivers do not become immune to them. A more immediate although less effective solution of painting SCHOOL - SLOW DOWN on the highway was also discussed. It was agreed that the police should be asked to check for speeding motorists in the area of the school to raise awareness. CCllr Ireton agreed to help where he could, particularly in asking NYCC to review its policy on 20mph zones. Currently the School ask all children to enter by the main door which is the opposite end of the building to the car park. Council agreed that it would be sensible for them to consider allowing use of the entrance from the car park to encourage parents to use the car park instead of the road. Cllr Cowling commented that schools in Lancaster made use of A Boards with a simple message 'If you park here you are endangering a child's life' and it was agreed that this should be further investigated. Some Cllrs expressed concern that the recent Bikeability training had not included the consideration of hazards around the school. Whilst appreciating that the training needed to be done in a more suitable area, it considered that ignoring the reality of where the children would be biking to was a shortfall in the provision.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to consider the provision of a single yellow line to prevent parking between No4 Low Bentham Road and the crossing between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday during term time, provision of VAS / flashing lights activated at suitable times of the day and writing SCHOOL – SLOW DOWN on the highway before the crossing.

RESOLVED: That the NYCC Highways policy of not providing 20mph zones outside schools be questioned

RESOLVED: That NY Police be asked to bring the speed camera van to the stretch of road to raise awareness

RESOLVED: That the school be encouraged to allow pupils access to the building from the car park to encourage parent to park there instead of on the road.

RESOLVED: That the no parking A boards used outside some schools in Lancaster be investigated

36.2. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The clerk updated the meeting on those issues raised in May. It was reported that a trailer crossing the sunken inspection cover outside the Co-Op had bounced onto the pavement which was an obvious safety risk.

Another road safety problem was being caused by the removal of the mirror at the junction of Burton Road with the B6480, with a number of 'near misses' being reported. The clerk agreed to chase its replacement. It was also reported that the pavement on Wesley Close was collapsing into the adjacent drainage ditch and needed attention. The run off from blocked gullies on Station Road had been causing water problems at the Station. It was pointed out that the gully cleaner had been in Bentham the previous week and that these should be checked before a report was filed with NYCC Highways. A member also mentioned that the hedge on Station Road was obstructing the pavement. The clerk agreed to report it to Northern Rail

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to contact the service provider to repair the inspection cover outside the Co-Op, or to make remedial repairs themselves as soon as possible

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to replace the damaged mirror at the junction of Burton Road and the B6480

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to attend to the pavement on Wesley Close

RESOLVED: That the condition of the gullies on Station Road be checked, and if they were not cleared then they be reported to NYCC Highways

RESOLVED: That the overhanging hedge on Station Road be reported to Northern Rail

37. To Further discuss the Provisional Timetable & venue for Meetings for the Council Year (see paper 2015/01b) The timetable was agreed with the exception of the Precept Meeting which was moved back to Monday 18 January, venue to be decided. The Victoria Institute could only accommodate the Council on a Monday in the school holidays and was not available on 10 August. Both the School and the Youth Café could be used for similar costs.

RESOLVED: That the provisional timetable be accepted

RESOLVED: That the Council meetings be held in the Youth Café for a trial period of 3 months, i.e. July, August & September

38. To Note the draft minutes of the Buildings Committee on 11 May, and consider recommendations, if any - noted

38.1. To agree the Committee's amended terms of reference

RESOLVED: That the amended TOR for the Buildings Committee be agreed

39. To Receive information from Craven Planning Policy regarding the Neighbourhood Planning process, and agree a way forward

Gargrave had provided a copy of their draft plan for consideration and someone involved in the Neighbourhood Planning process in Cumbria had offered to attend a meeting and explain the process. It was agreed that both parties should be approached to attend an open meeting in Juneto help kick start the process in Bentham

RESOLVED: That a separate working party be organised with all interested parties to start the Neighbourhood Planning process in Bentham properly, i.e. look at producing an application

RESOLVED: That the offers of assistance from Gargrave & Cumbria be accepted, and an open meeting arranged in June, if possible

40. To Receive further information from Electricity North West regarding the replacement of the substation at Ellergill Beck (Low Bentham Playing Field) as requested and agree a response. IF AVAILABLE

ENW had failed to respond.

41. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	149.04	B & CE Armstrong	64.00
Mopps	192.00	Tim Wheildon Heating	31.20
Aviva	310.37	Phone CoOp	7.30
EOn	70.48	Mrs Liddle	73.72
Orange	23.99	Mrs Hind	100.00
British Telecom	291.17	Instantprint	106.99
ClearGlass Cleaning	90.00	Carnival Bentham	143.01
Yorkshire Internal Audit	305.00	Little Stars	100.00
Stannah Lift Services	164.34	W Dowbiggin	94.05
Yorkshire Water	267.38	Salaries	1768.91
WPS Ltd	15.00		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 41.1. To Note changes to Unity Trust Bank's Terms & Conditions and Charges, stopping the deposit of cheques through the Post Office and increasing the cost of CHAPs payments from £24 to £28 – noted

- 41.2. To Receive the Internal Audit Report (paper 2015/05) and agree it

RESOLVED: That the Audit Report from Yorkshire Internal Audit Services be received and agreed

- 41.3. To Agree the Accounts and Annual Return, including the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 (paper 2015/06)

RESOLVED: That the Annual Return and Statement of Assurance be confirmed and the forms returned to the External Auditors

42. To consider items of Correspondence

- 42.1. To consider NYCC's consultation on proposed reductions to bus service subsidy (paper 2015/07) and agree a response, if any

RESOLVED: That NYCC be informed that cutting bus subsidies does not encourage people to stop using their cars, which is contrary to NYCC's stated aim.

- 42.2. To receive the emerging Craven Clean, Safer & Green strategy document (paper 2015/08) and agree a response

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees with the vision and aims within the Craven Clean, Safer & Green strategy document

- 42.3. To note the YLCA Craven Branch Annual Meeting is at 7pm on 17 June in Linton and agree attendance if any

RESOLVED: That Cllr Swales attend on behalf of the Council

- 42.4. To receive a request from BIU Group to place a clothing recycling bank for the Air Ambulance in Bentham and agree a response

RESOLVED: That BIU Group be asked to contact Craven District Council or Bentham Surgery as the Council does not own any suitable land upon which a recycling bank could be sited.

- 42.5. To consider a request from AEDdonate for community fund raising to purchase a Defibrillator for public use, and agree a response

RESOLVED: That, in principle, the provision of a public defibrillator was a good idea and further details should be obtained from AEDdonate

- 42.6. To consider a response to the Rural Sounding Board Survey on rural priorities for Government action.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall should complete this survey for the Council

42.7. To receive a letter of thanks from Bentham Youth Café for the heating upgrade which has saved them over £700 in the last winter - received

43. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
 Cllr Townson had attended the Playing Fields AGM where ways of increasing usage of the site had been discussed along with encouraging greater participation in sport. More fund raising possibilities were to be explored.
 Cllr Cowling mentioned the Looking Well involvement in the recent carnival
 Cllr Bridgeman confirmed the items discussed by the Victoria Institute committee at their April and May meetings. They were working towards improving disabled access to the building and had applied to be considered for the calendar proceeds. A fund raising BBQ would be held in July.
 Cllr Marshal announced that the Collingwood & Longstaffe Alms House vacancy had been filled.
 Cllr Adams had attended a LASRUG meeting. The walks leaflet for sections of the line between Heysham & Skipton would be launched in early July
44. Items for next meeting and minor items only
 Grass cutting around the parish was mentioned, but will be discussed at the Open Spaces meeting.
 Comments were made about the down turn in trade in the town following the closure of the banks, changes at Angus Fire and the school move
 29 July is confirmed as the 'Day in the Life of Bentham' day and will be accompanied by digital photography workshops at the school & the Looking Well.
 The chairman confirmed that the website amendments had been passed to the contractor and were in hand.
 A resident had attended the Drop In to discuss a fallen tree protected by a TPO and had been advised how to proceed.
 Someone had offered to sow poppy seeds on Low Bentham Green to mark the end of WW1. The Council agreed to consider this and discuss it at the next meeting.

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

AGENDA ITEM 32)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 3 June 2015

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 08/2015/15701 Remove condition no3 of planning permission 5/8/640 – time limit in which caravans can be sited on land at Lowther Hill Farm, Mewith Lane, Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. 08/2015/15643 Two storey extension to side at 16 Hillside Road, Low Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. Solar Farm application goes to Planning Committee 8 June, with site visit at 10.35am

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting (if not on agenda)

- 3.1. Council vacancy advertised for Co-Option 19 May
 3.2. Insurance renewal forms returned 18 May
 3.3. Letter to David Bowe re Station approach 18 May

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Letters of thanks for precept grants from Bentham Youth Café & Settle Swimming Pool
 4.2. Council registration certificate with Information Commissioners Office
 4.3. Julian Smith Surgeries, Ripon 29 May & Skipton 6 June (& noticeboard)
 4.4. Craven Area Committee Meeting 4/6 (& noticeboard)
 4.5. The Clerk, May 2015
 4.6. Unity Trust Bank Terms & Conditions from July 2015.
 4.7. Auto enrolment registration with pensions regulator, 1 June
 4.8. Insurance documentation

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 11/5, 18/5, 26/5 & 1/6
 5.2. RSN News – Spotlight on Older People 27/5
 5.3. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 13/5, Rural Broadband 20/5
 5.4. Craven Newsletter, May 2015.
 5.5. North Yorkshire Now Newsletter, May
 5.6. SLCC News Bulletin, 15/5
 5.7. NY Police Craven May Newsletter, 16/5

- 5.8. North Yorkshire Police exhibition (& noticeboards)
- 5.9. National Rural Crime Survey, 21/5
- 5.10. Historic Towns Forum newsletter, May 2015
- 5.11. RAY News, May ebuletin 28/5
- 5.12. Fields in Trust update 2/6

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Unmetered Supply for street lights – awaiting info from NYCC
- 6.2. Complimentary wifi provision – awaiting further information from relevant Cllrs
- 6.3. Low Bentham School Playing Field draft heads of terms accepted 9 March, awaiting solicitors / planners
- 6.4. Bentham flag details sent to WeAreBentham 23 March, awaiting response
- 6.5. Community Emergency Plan generic template & Burton Plan to be considered – meeting to be arranged
- 6.6. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.7. Flagpole research ongoing
- 6.8. Care Home meeting – date proving difficult – to be arranged
- 6.9. Cowan Bridge new town comments sent to Lancaster City Council. Burton Parish response requested and awaited
- 6.10. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited
- 6.11. Tourist Information / WC signs ordered March 2013, put on hold until Town Team sign review completed