

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1 April 2015, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Cowling, Hey, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard (Chairman), Swales, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllr Brockbank, DCllr Barrington & CCllr Ireton, the clerk Mrs Burton and 6 parishioners

228. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Faichney
229. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
Cllr Stannard declared a personal interest in item 237.1.4, planning application 08/2015/15552, as a neighbour.
230. To Receive Comment & Concerns
Cllr Marshall had been given a letter by a resident expressing further concern regarding children riding to school on bikes and the parking / traffic management outside the school. Council agreed that cycle safety was a concern to lots of people following the opening of the school and wondered whether it might be possible to have a designated area at the road edge for bikes approaching the school. It was also suggested that the school should educate the children and warn parents parking about the dangers. The Council decided to write to both Highways and Children's Services to ask for something to be done to improve safety.
231. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 4 March be signed
232. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
RESOLVED: That the Council unsubscribe from the RegioFlash, EU Policy emails
233. To Receive a Drop In Session Update (for information only) – none
234. To Discuss and decide on the future of the Drop In Session
No one has visited the drop-in since October and the future of the session was discussed. Cllrs agreed that they are contacted directly outside of meetings and were available at other times, and questioned the use of a session that was not being used. Several felt strongly that the session should continue and it was agreed that it should be advertised and reviewed in September.
RESOLVED: That the Drop-In should be advertised in the Council's Bentham News article, and reviewed again in September
235. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present
236. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
CCllr Ireton said that the Craven Area Committee had met in Bentham in March and had a presentation on Broadband and reaching the 10% that will not be reached by fibre. It seems the problems are with technology not funding. He also informed the Council that NYCC Highways had been unsuccessful in their bids for some of the Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund. In response to a question about the old school site he confirmed that NYCC were still responsible and agreed to ask about the removal of the school road markings and the flashing lights now that the school has moved. Grass will still be cut on the site, but not as often.
DCllr Barrington informed the meeting that Local Plan timetable had been put back, with preparation and consultation in 2015, publication and examination in 2015/16 and adoption in 2016/17. The custody suite at Skipton has now closed. Garden Waste licenses have been dispatched. There have also been reports of pet dogs being stolen from gardens in the area
DCllr Brockbank said that Cabinet 6 of the BT superfast broadband boxes in Bentham is to be relocated in the next 2-3 weeks. Friends of Bentham Library are meeting with Library Services for an update on the consultation and hopefully some answers to their questions. Several people have expressed concerns about the proposed Solar Farm in Low Bentham (the first in Craven) and this will be considered by the planning committee in June.
CCllr Ireton noted that this was the last meeting of the Council before the election, and that DCllr Barrington was not standing for re-election. He thanked her for all her work in the District and on County issues over the last 8 years.
237. Planning
- 237.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 237.1.1. 08/2015/15473 Installation of solar farm & associated infrastructure (with potential capacity of 5MW of electricity at its peak) at grazing land, Ravens Close Brow, Low Bentham
The chairman invited each Cllr to express an opinion after the clerk had read a letter of objection to the scheme. The general consensus was that the choice of site was strange as it is not south facing and is quite steeply sloping, with the plans giving no visual impact for either properties on Burton Road, or from Ingleborough. It was also a concern that planning was only for 30 years (the life of the cells) and whether there would be any way in enforcing clearance of the site or whether the area would be left to rot.

RESOLVED: That the Council is very concerned about the visual impact of the site, particularly from Ingleborough, and also about safeguarding removal of the equipment at the end of the period if permission is obtained.

237.1.2. 08/2015/15482 Construction of new farm access track to serve Hill Top Farm, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council has no objections as long as Highways are happy

237.1.3. 08/2015/15548 Addition of porch to side elevation at Crow Trees, Mewith Lane, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council has no objections to this application

237.1.4. 08/2015/15552 Outline Planning Permission for construction of 4 bed dwelling / integral double garage with details relating to scale included for consideration (All matters reserved) (Resubmission of withdrawn application 08/2014/14883) at Greenhead Lane, Low Bentham

Cllr Stannard left the room. This resubmission uses a new access to the rear of the existing properties and the Council agreed it had no objections as long as Highways were happy

RESOLVED: That the Council has no objections as long as Highways are happy

237.2. To Receive Planning Decisions - If any (see Clerks Report)

237.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues - If any (see Clerks Report)

238. Highways Matters

238.1. To Receive an update from NYCC Highways regarding the 'Urban Grass Cutting', offering funds for the Council to takeover essential maintenance of road junctions from 2015.

The Council has already agreed to takeover most of the NYCC 'urban' grass cutting to keep Bentham looking tidy. The new proposal is that the Council should also takeover the remaining safety cuts and that NYCC will pay £426.10 in 2015/16, and approximately 60% of that in future years. The clerk had calculated that the extra grass cutting would cost the Council £157 over and above that already budgeted for. Council agreed it was better to have control

RESOLVED: That the Council take on the extra grass cutting and receive payment from NYCC Highways

238.2. To Receive a report on the Low Bentham parking meeting held on 22 March

Cllr Stannard had met with 10 Low Bentham residents. Various comments had been made and concerns expressed. The addition of extra parking restrictions would only move the problems elsewhere, and the Council does not have the funds or suitable land to provide a carpark.

238.3. To Receive confirmation of the Road Traffic Orders in operation in High Bentham and consider potential amendments

RESOLVED: That the situation should be further monitored now that the school has moved to ascertain where the parking problems remain

238.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

NYCC Highways had finally responded to the request for confirmation that their 2001 letter confirming that the station approach was their responsibility was correct. Frank Crossley had stated that the area had been reassessed when records were digitised and that the original decision was wrong. Council agreed to ask NYCC Highways to provide written evidence contrary to the 2001 document showing the revisions to the plan and explaining what has changed in the Highways Act to mean that the paid for information is no longer correct. CCllr Ireton suggested that the Council should write to David Bove for a response

RESOLVED: That David Bove be asked to provide written evidence correcting the 2001 letter showing that they are responsible for maintenance of the Station approach if indeed it is no longer their responsibility

The street lights on Low Bentham Road below the school are still not working. There is also inconsistency regarding ENW and the replacement of poles on Robin Lane and Wenning Ave. Regardless of their policy about lights, some units have been replaced whilst others have not. The street lights from Wenning Avenue to the Bridge are not currently working

RESOLVED: That Street Lighting be asked to confirm what is happening to the street lights on Low Bentham Road.

RESOLVED: That Street Lighting be asked to look at the lights out between Wenning Avenue and the bridge following the pole replacement on Wenning Avenue

RESOLVED: That Street Lighting be asked why some lights have been replaced on poles and others have not, regardless of the ENW policy

The entrance to Wenning Avenue is in a very poor state and needs repair

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to repair the potholes on the adopted part of Wenning Avenue.

New lining has been done on Grasmere Drive following the patching of the road, but a KEEP CLEAR has been missed near the old Abbeyfield.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to repaint the missing KEEP CLEAR on Grasmere Drive

Following on from the comments and concerns, the school should be made aware of the concerns about parking outside the school. NYCC Highways should also be contacted about the crossing which still

requires better signage and the beacons switching on as the white paint is not visible on the pale road surface in some lights. Something also needs to be done about parents parking on the bus stop.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the school asking them to warn parents about the dangerous parking being seen outside the school and its potential effects on other road users

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to review the crossing signage and switch on the beacons to ensure that the crossing is made more visible

RESOLVED: That Parking Enforcement be asked to monitor parking at the school, particularly on the bus stop.

239. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Committee meeting on 9 March - noted
- 239.1. To agree the reviewed terms of reference for this committee
RESOLVED: That the revised Terms of Reference for the Marketing Committee be agreed
- 239.2. To note the Tourist Information coffee morning is on 11 April, with a request for assistance from Councillors in the provision of raffle prizes & items for the cake stall, and help on the day.
- 239.3. To consider the proposed changes to the Town Council website and agree a way forward
RESOLVED: That the proposed new Council website and procedure followed be discussed in private after the May Council meeting
- 239.4. To consider providing complimentary Wifi at the Town Hall
RESOLVED: That complimentary Wifi be provided at the Town Hall
- 239.5. To consider a potential recipient for the 2016 Calendar receipts
RESOLVED: That Councillors should notify the Marketing Committee of their ideas of potential recipients of the 2016 calendar funds
240. To Receive Notice of Intention to close St Margaret's graveyard from Benthams Parish, and agree a response
The Notice of Intention states that the graveyard is to be closed as there is no room for new graves. The Council asked for confirmation that the closure would mean that no further burials would take place, including the re-opening of existing graves.
RESOLVED: That Benthams PCC be asked to confirm that the closure of St Margaret's graveyard would mean that existing graves cannot be reopened.
241. To Receive notification from EOn regarding Unmetered Supply Deemed Contract rate changes from 1 May 2015, and consider a way forward
EOn are increasing the unmetered supply charges from 6.5p/kWh to 12.4p/kWh. The Council's consumption is too low for a fixed contract. The clerk had approached NYCC who have offered contracts in the past and these will be available again shortly. The Deemed Contract has no tie in and is free to exit so the Council can continue to look at other suppliers.
RESOLVED: That the Council should continue to compare suppliers with a view to finding a cheaper supplier
242. To Consider Craven District Council's Consultation of its Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, (paper 2014/32) and agree a response if any.
RESOLVED: That, as the Statement of Principles and the legislation have not changed in the last 3 years, the Council does not need to respond
243. To Agree the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan for Benthams
It was noted that neighbouring parishes are starting the process, and agreed that the Council should talk to some of these as to their thinking. It was also agreed that the Council should confirm to Craven that it wishes to proceed.
RESOLVED: That the Council confirm to Craven that it wishes to proceed with a neighbourhood Plan.
244. To Agree the Accounts for Payment
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| Craven DC | 49.56 | D Siddall | 60.00 |
| Mopps | 384.00 | iprint | 440.00 |
| Aviva | 310.37 | M Green | 63.75 |
| EOn | 65.78 | NYCC | 120.00 |
| Orange | 23.99 | Yorkshire Water | 9.56 |
| YLCA | 650.00 | Playing Fields Association | 500.00 |
| W Dowbiggin | 90.00 | Goodenber Play Area | 500.00 |
| D Hartnup | 400.00 | Benthams Youth Café | 375.00 |
| M Harrison | 600.00 | Victoria Institute | 375.00 |
| Westmorland Tree Care | 540.00 | Age Concern | 150.00 |
| Meyers | 39.81 | Settle Swimming Pool | 100.00 |
| Mr Flag | 72.00 | Cancer Support Group | 50.00 |
| Tim Wheildon | 325.80 | LASRUG | 200.00 |
| Horton Landscaping | 552.00 | HMRC | 732.91 |

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

245. To consider items of Correspondence - none
246. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
 Cllr Vandy reported that the Youth Café had had a successful coffee morning raising £370 and had applied to the Dragons Den again. The charity, like many others, is struggling to find funding
 Cllr Marshall announced that the recent vacancy at the Collingwood Longstaffe alms houses has been filled
 Cllr Adams reminded Council that Goodenber Play Area would be having Easter Egg Games on Easter Monday, and following a LASRUG meeting, confirmed that the rail franchise was progressing.
247. Items for next meeting and minor items only
 Cllr Townson mentioned that CCTV has been installed at the Station, and that a photographic record of a day of the life of the parish will be made at the end of July.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.45pm

AGENDA ITEM 232)**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 1 April 2015****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2015/15361 Extension & alterations to existing rear extension to provide study & WC with pitched roof over, alterations & extension to existing rear conservatory at 59 Robin Lane, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED – none**2. Planning Correspondence**

- 2.1. Letter of Objection to Solar Farm Application 08/2015/15473 at Ravens Close Brow, Low Bentham
 2.2. Lancaster City Council requests nominations for Important Green Spaces within the district for designation through the Local Plan process.
 2.3. Halton with Aughton & Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan applications

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

- 3.1. NYCC and solicitor informed that School Playing Field draft heads of terms accepted, 9 March
 3.2. Union flag ordered 23 March
 3.3. Bentham flag details sent to WeAreBentham 23 March
 3.4. 2015 Accommodation & Services list sent to print 20 March and received 28 March
 3.5. Cemetery Green Waste license received

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. PAT testing in Town Hall completed 16 March
 4.2. Landlords Gas Safety Inspection reports for Bentham Town Hall & Community Youth Building
 4.3. Clerks & Councils Direct, March 2015
 4.4. The Clerk, March 2015
 4.5. Connecting the Dales Report, Dita / DoT / West Yorkshire Combined Authority
 4.6. Le Petit Depart event 31 May
 4.7. Craven Area Committee 19 March (and noticeboards)
 4.8. Craven Waste Collection Point policy, September 2014
 4.9. National Plant Monitoring Scheme (and noticeboards)
 4.10. Election Notices (and noticeboards from 30 March)
 4.11. Shared ownership property for sale in Ingleton (and noticeboards)
 4.12. Craven News, March
 4.13. SELRAP Update, March
 4.14. Unity Trust Bank Newsletter
 4.15. NYP Community Grant application poster

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. LASRUG newsletter, March 2015
 5.2. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 9/3, 16/3, 23/3, 30/3
 5.3. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 18/3

- 5.4. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 4/3
- 5.5. Rural Survices Network – Spotlight on Rural Economy 17/3
- 5.6. North Yorkshire Now Newsletter, March
- 5.7. Historic Towns Forum Newsletter, March
- 5.8. SLCC News Bulletin, 18/3
- 5.9. RegioFlash News, 6/3, 18/3
- 5.10. Craven DC News, February & March 2015
- 5.11. Julian Smith Reporting Back, March
- 5.12. NY Police Craven newsletter, February & March 2015.
- 5.13. NY Police Community Messaging 2015 Neighbourhood Watch & Rural Watch awards scheme, nominations call
- 5.14. NY Police 95 Alive Motor Cycle Safety Campaign
- 5.15. Fields in Trust Update, 31/3
- 5.16. RAY News 22, March

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. ENW letter regarding undergrounding of wires sent 17 February, response awaited
- 6.2. Station approach response chased 9/2, holding email received 10/2, chased again 23/3
- 6.3. Community Emergency Plan generic template to be considered – meeting to be arranged
- 6.4. Low Bentham Road Streetlight comments sent 4/12, response awaited, chased 2/2
- 6.5. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.6. Flagpole research ongoing
- 6.7. Care Home meeting – date proving difficult – to be arranged
- 6.8. Cowan Bridge new town comments sent to Lancaster City Council. Burton Parish response requested and awaited
- 6.9. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited
- 6.10. Tourist Information / WC signs ordered March 2013, put on hold until Town Team sign review completed
- 6.11. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.12. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered