

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1 September 2014, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard (Chairman), Swales, Townson & Vandy. Also DCllr Brockbank & Barrington, CCllr Ireton, the clerk Mrs Burton and 8 parishioners

66. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend  
Cllrs Bridgeman, Cowling & Hey,
67. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none
68. To Receive Comment & Concerns  
A resident of Lakeber Drive thanked the Council for its intervention with Planning to get the site of the new build which has not been finished tidied up. He informed the Cllrs that work had been done and the site was now much more presentable.
69. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 11 August be signed**
70. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
71. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present
72. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)  
CCllr Ireton said the lamp post on Robin Lane damaged last May will finally be reconnected on 9 September. He also commented that it had been encouraging to see so many Cllrs at the Policy Committee meeting when Craven had discussed the introduction of parking charges as it had shown the Council's commitment against the proposal.  
DCllr Barrington confirmed that the subject of parking charges will go to the next Select Committee meeting on 10 September when a date will be set for re-discussion and review of the matter. She added that the Local Plan consultation had been delayed and would be out shortly. Burton in Lonsdale is looking to take on community ownership of the public house and will be holding a meeting on 2 September.  
DCllr Brockbank had nothing further to add.
73. Planning
- 73.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 73.1.1. 08/2014/14844 Converting house & extension into two properties by erecting a dividing wall & converting garage into living space at Victoria Buildings, Low Bentham  
Council felt that there were already problems in this area in Low Bentham where there is considerable congestion due to the lack of parking. Few of the properties have off street parking and this application seeks to do away with the garage and further increase the number of properties and hence the number of vehicles. Having already met with NYCC Highways regarding the problems and the number of accidents and near misses in the vicinity where parked cars are forcing traffic onto the wrong side of the road on a blind bend it felt that the application should be refused in the absence of any parking provision.  
**RESOLVED: That the Council object to this application as it does away with parking in an area where this is at a premium and lack of it is causing considerable problems to residents**
- 73.1.2. 08/2014/14917 Replacement of existing approved dwelling, reduced in size, resubmission of 08/2013/14213 at Nutgill Lane, High Bentham  
**RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application**
- 73.2. To Receive Planning Decisions  
- If any (see Clerks Report)
- 73.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues  
- If any (see Clerks Report)
74. Highways Matters
- 74.1. To Consider a request for the Council to take over Grasmere Drive car park, and agree a response  
A letter from a resident was considered. Cllr Marshall updated the meeting on the outcome of the Craven Policy Committee meeting where the subject had been set back to the Select Committee. He added that there had been no response to his questions regarding the changes to the situation since the request had last been rejected by the NYCC Craven Area Committee. The clerk pointed out that taking on the car park was not as simple as just paying the rates on the area and confirmed that the Council had been offered the High Bentham car parks in 2012, but that Craven's figures that time had been £169,000 for a 15 year rolling maintenance schedule – or 16% on the precept including the loan repayments (which finish in 2017) and over 30% increase excluding the loan at that time which was why the offer had been rejected.  
The Council agreed that it needed to get some more realistic figures regarding the maintenance costs for Grasmere Drive car park than those quoted by Craven. If the area is to be white lined than it will need resurfacing first. Figures will also be required regarding keeping it clean and the foliage cut back.

It was suggested that the only way to counteract Craven's plans was to produce information. The Craven proposal is based purely on counting vehicles using the car park and projections as to what charging might do. It was agreed that the Council should look to survey the car park users to ascertain what they would do if charges are introduced and that those Cllrs that attended the Craven meeting should produce the first draft, being more aware of Craven's arguments.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council attempt to compile realistic figures for the ongoing maintenance of Grasmere Drive car park

**RESOLVED:** That Cllrs compile a draft survey to build an evidence base regarding the future actions of car park users if charges are introduced

74.2. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The clerk had received correspondence from Witherslack regarding the Council request for the playing field hedges to be cut back. Mr Williams requested a meeting with the Council to resolve the problems exiting Glebe House and at the Church. Council felt that there was little point meeting at present until the hedge has been cut back and the 30mph signs re-discovered as this may slow traffic down. A response from NYCC Highways was also still awaited and they may yet have some ideas – as they were the ones who approved the application for Glebe House despite Council questioning the exit at the time

**RESOLVED:** That the Witherslack Group be asked to cut back or lay their hedges to see if this will slow traffic down before Council agrees to a meeting to discuss further possibilities.

Traffic problems had been brought to the Drop In by two residents.

Firstly speeding on Summerhill continues to be a problem and it was agreed to ask NYCC Highways for repeater signs reminding motorists of the 30mph speed limit in the area.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to look at improving the speed signage on Summerhill

The exit at Crow Trees in Low Bentham continues to be a problem. Parking on the bend above the exit has now stopped, but this has moved the problem further back to the lower bend on Doctors Hill. There have been two further accidents and an incident where a vehicle mounted the pavement. The Council agreed that there was no simple solution as there are basically too many cars and not enough parking spaces in the area. It agreed that a meeting of local residents should be held at the Victoria Institute to explore possible solutions

**RESOLVED:** That a residents meeting be held at the Victoria Institute to discuss possible solutions to the parking / traffic problems on Doctors Hill

75. To Note the dates for a tailored course of Councillor Training to be held in Bentham Town Hall on 15 & 22 October at 7.30pm - noted

76. To Note the Green Dog Walkers Scheme meeting on 10 September at 7pm in Lower Town Hall - noted

77. To Consider progress with the Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire responses and agree a way forward. The vast majority of responses, but not all, have now been input onto the system. It was agreed that the Council should have a separate meeting to look at the results once they were available and then agree the next step

**RESOLVED:** That the Council arrange a separate meeting to discuss the results of the Neighbourhood Plan survey once all the data is available

78. To Receive information on Bentham's WW1 Victoria Cross winners and discuss their commemoration. Following contact from David Croft, a historian with special interest in VC winners from WW1 it had been discovered that Charles Robertson VC was born on Wenning Avenue and not in Penrith as originally thought. This means that Bentham is eligible for a VC memorial plaque, to be installed on the centenary of the date of the act, i.e. 9 March 2018. Theodore Bayley Hardy VC was headmaster of Bentham Grammar School for a number of years and it had been suggested that he too should be remembered, possibly using the remaining monies from the War Memorial payment fund. Craven District Council will be responsible for the application for the plaque for Charles Robertson VC and the Council agreed to meet with DCllr Brockbank and others on 9 September to discuss placement of the stone.

The clerk was asked to contact David Johnson, local historian, to enquire about WW2 recipients with a view to forward planning regarding the placement of stones if there may be further additions in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council meet with Craven District Council on 9 September to discuss the placement of the stone for Charles Robertson VC

**RESOLVED:** That consideration be given to purchasing a stone for Theodore Bayley Hardy VC who was headmaster of Bentham Grammar School

**RESOLVED:** That enquiries be made regarding VC winners from WW2 to enable forward planning for future memorials, if any.

*CCllr Ireton left the meeting at 8.40pm*

79. To Consider a Schedule for Flag Flying from the Town Hall, and which flags should be flown. The Council agreed to replace the damaged Yorkshire Flag for Yorkshire Day. Also to fly the St Georges Cross on St George's Day, the Union Flag on Remembrance Day and the Queen's birthdays and the Armed Forces flag on Armed Forces Day. The clerk was asked to look into the cost of purchasing a Bentham flag to be flown on days

special to the town. Cllr Townson agreed to produce a list of dates when each flag should be flown. It was agreed that the Council should not purchase a Commonwealth Flag at this time.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Townson produce a list of dates for the flying of the Council flags

**RESOLVED:** That a new Yorkshire Flag be purchased

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk investigate the costs of producing a Bentham flag

**RESOLVED:** That the Council does not purchase a Commonwealth flag at this time

80. To agree the Council Representative at the Charity Event on 27 September as per the Town Hall license  
**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Stannard will be the Council Representative at the Charity Event on 27 September

81. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	152.56	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies Ltd	7.56
Mopps	192.00	Dalesflex Signs & Graphics	48.00
Viking Direct	33.91	W Dowbiggin	90.00
EOn	169.92	Orange	23.99
Aviva	310.37	BT	337.25
JBL Joinery	288.00	Salaries	1657.06

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

82. To consider items of Correspondence - none
83. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)  
 Cllr Pritchard said the BEST Crop Swaps had been well received to date
84. Items for next meeting and minor items only  
 The clerk informed Cllrs that the next Parishes Liaison Meeting will be on 24 September at Craven District Council's offices at 6.30pm  
 CCllr Ireton had provided the chairman will an article from the Craven Herald showing that Hambleton District Council is reintroducing free parking, at a cost of £100,000, following a 40% drop in trade since the introduction of charges.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

## AGENDA ITEM 70)

### CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 1 September 2014

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

##### 1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 08/2014/14788 Erection of Upvc conservatory to rear of 18 Butterbergh, High Bentham

##### 1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. 08/2014/14750 Proposed timber stables in field off Mill Lane / Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham

#### 2. Planning Correspondence

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

- 3.1. Meeting with NYCC Highways on 10 September at 2pm to discuss 20mph zone
- 3.2. Station Approach meeting still to be arranged
- 3.3. SWALEC deal agreed 13 August
- 3.4. Letter to NYCC regarding High Bentham School & Extra Care Housing sent 13 August
- 3.5. Letter re proposed changes to policing sent 14 August

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

- 4.1. Review of Polling Districts & Stations
- 4.2. 'Dangerous Dog' letter & police response
- 4.3. Letter from NYCC Highways to residents regarding road works external to new school
- 4.4. CDC response to Policing Model Consultation
- 4.5. Julian Smith MP Surgery – 12 November Bentham Auction Mart, 2.30-3.15pm

#### 5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 11/8, 18/8, 1/9
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 13/8, Broadband 28/8
- 5.3. RSN Spotlight on Older People 27/8
- 5.4. Historic Towns Forum newsletter, August

- 5.5. NHS Airedale, Wharfedale & Craven CCG AGM – 18 September
- 5.6. Fields in Trust Awards, 27/8
- 5.7. Allerton Incinerator Opposition Update
- 5.8. Regulators Initial GDA assessment of Advance Boiling Water Reactor (Nuclear)

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

- 6.1. Cowan Bridge new town comments sent to Lancaster City Council. Burton Parish response requested and awaited
- 6.2. NYCC report on reduction in urban grass cutting due end of October 2014
- 6.3. Station Approach, interested parties contacted, response from Angus Fire awaited
- 6.4. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited
- 6.5. Clerk's contract – meeting with HR 24/6 – awaiting amendments
- 6.6. Car park project – quotes for lining requested
- 6.7. School Playing Field – initial access plans received, awaiting results of negotiations with landowners
- 6.8. Station Road pedestrian access / parking restrictions meeting 26/9/13, Cllrs to canvass opinion
- 6.9. Response to Notice of Intention re St Margaret's Churchyard sent 13/6/13
- 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