

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

136. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Marshall & CCllr Ireton
137. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none
138. To Receive Comment & Concerns - none
139. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meetings
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 3 November be signed
140. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
141. To Receive a Drop In Session Update (for information only) – none
142. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
PC Dave Ridler & PCSO Jane Grace attended the meeting and confirmed that either they or PC Adrian Fryer would attempt to attend all future meetings of the Council. PCSO Grace reported that there had been 34 incidents reported in Bentham in the previous month, including a burglary from Abbeyfield House, 2 reports of damage to vehicles, 2 thefts from the Co-Op & 1 RTA. There had also been damage to a window and graves at St Margaret's and vandalism at the Station. It was confirmed that CCTV footage at the station was being studied and that certain suspects had already been spoken to. Members of the public were asked to be vigilant and to report any problems to the police either by phone or using SNACraven@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk She confirmed that Operation Hawk, cross border work with Lancashire and Cumbria police was continuing to yield results and Country Watch was raising awareness of rural issues like sheep theft in rural communities.
143. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Barrington confirmed that the Select Committee has proposed that Craven abandon attempts to impose parking charges in Bentham, but that this decision needs to be confirmed by the Policy Committee. She also informed the meeting that the Craven Area Committee would be considering the Library Consultation on 11 December.
CCllr Ireton had sent a message informing the Council that Barclays Bank have given notice to quit Ingleton in March, and that this will be discussed at the next Craven Area Forum as this is the last bank in Ingleton. He had also sent information earlier regarding the decision to delay the opening the new school until February.
144. Planning
- 144.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 144.1.1. 08/2014/15067 Residential development at Felstead, Low Bentham Road, Bentham
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 144.1.2. 08/2014/15158 Proposed timber stables (re-submission of previously refused permission 08/2014/14750) on land off Mill Lane / Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham
Whilst acknowledging that the previous refusal had not included the access the Council still felt that the proposed access was in a dangerous place and should be moved further up the hill away from the bend in the road
RESOLVED: That the Council object to the position of the access on this application
- 144.1.3. 08/2014/15179 Change of use of land to domestic garden & erection of detached garage at 1 Thorns Cottage, High Bentham
It was felt that the size of the proposed garage was excessive, being too large for the area, given that there is currently only temporary permission for a hard standing
RESOLVED: That the Council object to the size of the proposed garage, being too large for the site
- 144.1.4. 08/2014/15204 Relocation of Green Keepers store for storage of equipment & materials at Bentham Golf Club, Robin Lane, High Bentham
The Council had no objections to this application, indeed it agreed that the new site was a better position than that previously agreed. However it was uncertain whether this proposed building was in place of the previously agreed one, or in addition to it, and asked for clarification.
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application, but would like clarification as to whether this proposed building is instead of or as well as the one on the previous approval
- 144.2. To Receive Planning Decisions
- If any (see Clerks Report)
- 144.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues
- If any (see Clerks Report)

145. Highways Matters

- 145.1. To Receive a letter from NYCC Street Lighting regarding Low Bentham Road and other lighting issues in both High & Low Bentham, and agree a response
 NYCC is considering removing the street lights from the south side of Low Bentham Road between Bellfleckers Barn and Rest Harrow as part of its energy reduction plans and because these units (mounted on overhead line poles owned by Electricity North West) have exceeded their useable life and can no longer be maintained, which requires the installation of free standing columns with new underground cabling. The energy reduction plans will include the replacement of approximately 100 concrete lighting columns and the installation of LED lanterns in early 2015 along with part-night operation of lighting (out between midnight and 5am), but the Council will receive proper notification of these plans nearer the time.
 Council noted that the lights on Low Bentham Road proposed for removal light the footway, which is well used by pedestrians whilst there is no footpath on the northern side of the road where the lights will remain. Given the lack of public transport in Bentham either early or late in the day it was considered essential that the pavement remain lit particularly with children from Low Bentham walking up to the school.

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked to maintain the lighting on the south side of Low Bentham Road as this is the only side with a pavement and the route is well used by pedestrians walking between High & Low Bentham at all times of the day and night.

- 145.2. To Agree the content of letters to Julian Smith MP following the meeting to discuss a 20mph zone and white lining in Bentham

Following the Council's meeting with Julian Smith MP at his recent surgery he had agreed to support the Council in its attempts to improve the state of the roads in the parish and had asked for letters outlining the perceived problems.

RESOLVED: That the proposed letters on the possible 20mph zone and poor white lining / maintenance in Bentham be sent to Julian Smith MP

- 145.3. To Receive a response from Parkinsons regarding the resurfacing of Low Bentham Road at the new school - received

- 145.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Andrew Mellor had responded to the Council's question regarding the use of funds to repair roads suggesting that even Highways Officers did not always agree with the decisions made. It was noted that the standard of repair by the Gas Board contractors on Robin Lane was exceptionally high. It was also noted that NYCC Highways have marked up repairs on Robin Lane for the third time – despite the fact that the Gas Board have not finished their work in that area yet.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be informed of the exceptional repairs done by the Gas Board, and be asked to wait until this is complete before attempting to do other repairs on Robin Lane

146. To Adopt the policy for the Management of Recording at meetings following the agreed amendments (paper 2014/25)

RESOLVED: That the Management of Recording Policy be adopted

RESOLVED: That the Clerk price recording devices for a decision by the Council

147. To note the date of the Meeting with Planning Policy regarding the Local Development Plan for Bentham and to agree attendance

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Stannard, Vendy, Faichney & Swales attend the meeting on Monday 8 December at 3pm at Belle Vue Square, Skipton

148. To Consider the consultation on the proposed move of Bentham Post Office to new premises (paper 2014/26), and agree a response if any

It was agreed that, in the absence of the current site, the Spar was probably the best alternative as proposed and was certainly better than losing the Post Office altogether. The current proposal for the new Post Office to be open at the same hours as the Spar seems ambitious, although the exact staffing is as yet unknown other than that there will not be a lesser service – although Premium Bond and Travel Insurance purchase and Passport Checking will no longer be available. The Council did agree that it was important for the Bentham sorting office to remain open.

RESOLVED: That the proposed move of the Post Office to the Spar would appear to be a reasonable alternative, but that the Bentham Sorting Office needs to remain open

149. To Consider the NYCC consultation on Changes to Library Services (paper 2014/27), and agree a response
 Cllr Pritchard had attended the NYCC drop-in event at Bentham Library on 24 November but had found the 3 staff in attendance unable to adequately answer any of the questions relating to costings and responsibilities of any community group that might have to takeover the running of the library – which would deter any interested parties as they would not know what they were letting themselves in for. The Council agreed that this was unacceptable and that the Library Service should be invited to come and explain its thoughts on the supply of an effective service in Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Library Service be asked to meet with the Council to explain the proposals for a Community Library in Bentham and what this actually means.

150. To Consider the timing of meetings of Bentham Town Council and whether changes are necessary
The continuing problem of overhead noise from the Boxercise Class was discussed. Exercise Classes use the Ballroom every evening during the week except Friday, although the current Wednesday class finishes at 7.30pm. It was agreed to move the main Council meeting to the first Wednesday in the month for a trial period of 3 months, beginning 7 January 2015. It was noted that the dates in the Bentham Calendar would be incorrect, but the clerk informed the meeting that the only legal notification of a Council meeting was the agenda and summons.

RESOLVED: That the Council meeting move to the first Wednesday in the month for a trial period of 3 months starting 7 January 2015

151. To Note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting on 18 November - noted
151.1. To agree the proposed tree work on Springfield & Furness Drive if the remaining budget is not required for winter maintenance

RESOLVED: That the tree work on Springfield & Furness Drive be done in February 2015 using the 2014/15 Parish Caretaker budget, at a cost of £750, if this funding is not required for winter maintenance.

152. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Committee Meeting on 24 November - noted

- 152.1. To agree the proposal that Town Hall pricing does not change in 2015

RESOLVED: That the 2014 Town Hall pricing structure is carried through to 2015

- 152.2. To agree the purchase of extra crockery and cutlery to increase stock to 160

It was agreed that only increasing stock to 160 did not leave a very big margin for breakages which might mean extra purchases being required in the near future, so numbers should be increased to 180+ (stock being supplied in dozens) where necessary at an estimated cost of £325

RESOLVED: That replacement crockery and cutlery be purchased to increase stock to at least 180, at an estimated cost of £325

RESOLVED: That the Town Hall publicity budget be used to fund the purchases

153. To Consider the Craven Budget Consultation 2015/16 and agree a response (paper 2014/23 & 2014/28)

The clerk had been unable to collate a response for discussion due to the lack of response from Councillors. It was agreed that the biggest costs appeared to be corporate and management, such as Executive and Business support and that Craven should be encouraged to reorganise and cut management before making changes to frontline services.

RESOLVED: That Craven District Council be asked to reorganise and cut management before making changes to frontline services.

154. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven DC	1427.06	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	29.63
Viking Direct	22.98	Orange	23.99
Mopps	384.00	Phone Co-Op	6.83
Horton Landscaping	234.00	SLCC	149.00
Morleys	810.00	Coach House	223.30
R Piper	143.50	Clearglass Cleaning	80.00
EOn	474.37	BT	332.99
Aviva	310.37	Salaries	1528.68

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

155. To consider items of Correspondence

- 155.1. To Agree a possible date in January for a meeting with the Care Homes

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arrange a date with the Care Home representatives on a Monday to Wednesday afternoon in January

- 155.2. To Receive a request from the Black Bull for assistance with the abuse of use of their car park

Customers of the Black Bull are struggling to park in the car park during working hours as it is being used by the general public. The landlady had asked the Council for assistance in publicising, and for ideas to solve, this problem. The Council suggested that polite notices emphasising the nature of the car park and the fact that free public car parks are still available in the town should be put on windscreens and that the information should be put on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That information asking the general public to use the free public car parks rather than that of the Black Bull should be put on the website

- 155.3. To Receive a letter from NYCC about Community Emergency Plans and agree a response, if any

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked for a copy of their generic Community Emergency Plan for consideration by the Council

- 155.4. To Receive a letter offering Bentham Town Council David Hartnup's oil painting 'The Bentham Boys' for the Town Hall at a cost of £400, and agree a response
It was agreed that the painting, which depicts all those Bentham men who died in WW1, had stimulated a great deal of interest when displayed in Bentham Imaging early in 2014 and recorded an important part of Bentham's history and should be purchased for the town.
RESOLVED: That the David Hartnup oil painting 'The Bentham Boys' be purchased for the town at a cost of £400
RESOLVED: That the unused funds in the budget, resulting from the uncontested election in Low Bentham, be vired to allow this purchase.
- 155.5. To Receive information from Yorkshire Water regarding changes to pumping station ownership and agree a response, if any
RESOLVED: That this information be publicised on the website
RESOLVED: That Yorkshire Water be informed of the position of the pumping stations known by the Council
156. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
Cllr Hey informed the meeting that the Longstaffe Educational Trust was holding a fund raiser at the Golf Club on 7 December and all were welcome.
Cllr Adams had attended a LASRUG meeting to discuss the re-franchising of the line. As Bentham is a Community Rail Line the service cannot diminish
Cllr Vendy said that the Youth Café Christmas Party would be on 19 December. The Virtual Bonfire had been a success and the Master Chef competition was continuing. Various Fundraising events would be held in the next few months.
157. Items for next meeting and minor items only
It was suggested and agreed that the Precept meeting should also be moved from a Monday evening, and should be held on Wednesday 14 January. The Clerk agreed to write to all grant applicants to inform them of the change.
It was noted that the sale of St Margaret's is progressing and concern was expressed regarding the fate of some of the memorials, e.g. WWI combatants, within the building. The clerk agreed to write to the Diocese to ask what would happen to them.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.35pm

AGENDA ITEM 140)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 1 December 2014

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 08/2014/14844 Converting house & extension into 2 properties by erecting dividing internal wall & converting garage into living space at Victoria Buildings, Low Bentham
- 1.1.2. 08/2014/15024 Single storey garden room extension to south elevation at Calf Cop Cottage, Burton Road, Low Bentham
- 1.1.3. 08/2014/15115 Single storey side extension & associated internal alterations with provision of disabled access at Old Pottery Barn, Mewith, Bentham

1.2. REFUSED - none

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. LCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review and Statement of Community Involvement Consultations, end 19/12
- 2.2. Wray Neighbourhood Plan Application

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. We Are Bentham Christmas Lights support letter sent 4/11
- 3.2. Local Justice Area Merger response sent 5/11, acknowledged 11/11
- 3.3. Extra Care Housing / Care Where I Live consultation response sent 10/11
- 3.4. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11
- 3.5. St Margaret's churchyard response to PCC sent 10/11 & CDC also contacted
- 3.6. Christmas trees ordered 17/11
- 3.7. Flagpole research ongoing

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. The Clerk, November 2014
- 4.2. SLCC Conference & Training Programme, 2015
- 4.3. Clapham Hyperfast Broadband update
- 4.4. Phone Co-Op Newsletter, Autumn 2014
- 4.5. CDC Grant funding for Community Projects, changes to scheme
- 4.6. Insurers inspection report of Town Hall boilers & associated equipment
- 4.7. Insurers inspection report of Town Hall lift – Stannah / BT notified
- 4.8. Unmetered Supply Certificate update
- 4.9. School Opening postponed until February 2015

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 3/11, 10/11, 17/11, 24/11
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 12/11, Rural Broadband 19/11
- 5.3. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 5/11
- 5.4. RSN Spotlight on Heart of the Village, 26/11
- 5.5. Craven District Council News, 5/11
- 5.6. North Yorkshire Now Newsletter, November
- 5.7. Craven & First World War Project newsletter, 6/11
- 5.8. Fields in Trust October Update, 4/11
- 5.9. LEADER ENewsburst, 3/11
- 5.10. SLCC Newsletter, 5/11
- 5.11. Free talented governance training, 2/12, Craven Volunteer Centre
- 5.12. Community Resilience Event, 10/12 Grassington, Rural Action Yorkshire
- 5.13. Rural Action Yorkshire news, 5/11
- 5.14. Rural Services Network Seminar – Local Economies, 3/12 Cheltenham
- 5.15. Allerton Incinerator Update 5/11
- 5.16. Historic Towns Forum Conference 25 November, Chester

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Care Home meeting – date in January to be confirmed
- 6.2. Station Approach meeting – contact made, awaiting NYCC Highways confirmation
- 6.3. Car park maintenance costs – information awaited
- 6.4. Low Bentham parking meeting – to be arranged
- 6.5. Cowan Bridge new town comments sent to Lancaster City Council. Burton Parish response requested and awaited
- 6.6. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited
- 6.7. Clerk's contract – signed
- 6.8. School Playing Field – initial access plans received, access negotiations progressing
- 6.9. Response to Notice of Intention re St Margaret's Churchyard sent 13/6/13, awaiting re-issue
- 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