

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4 February 2013, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Burton, Handford, Hey & Marshall (Chairman). Also DCllrs Brockbank & Barrington, CCllr Ireton, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 6 parishioners.

164. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Barnes, Brown, Hurlley & Procter.

Cllr Adams had phoned ahead to say that he had been delayed at work but would arrive as soon as he could.

165. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations
Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in item 171.1.1, planning application 08/2013/13235, as the applicant, and also in item 175, allotments, as the land owner or the rejected site.

166. To Receive Comment & Concerns

A resident asked if Cllrs could have name cards at meeting so that they could be identified by members of the public. The clerk agreed to produce something for the next meeting

Alison Clough announced that the Sustrans Passing Places Project had received funding from Craven District Council. An artist, Marjang Wouda, has been appointed and will be holding workshops to come up with a suitable 3D artwork to celebrate Bentham and asked if she could meet with Cllrs. The final designs will be put on display on the weekend of 1 June, at the same time as CARNIVAL II. The CARNIVAL will go ahead that weekend although final details are still being worked upon, but it will be designed to bring people into the centre of Bentham.

The mother of the young man who died recently on Hillside Road said that the diagnosis was methadone overdose and asked for the Council's assistance in raising drug awareness among young people and their parents. The chairman said that the Council would be more than pleased to help where it could to make Bentham a safer place. He also promised to put her in touch with CCllr Ireton.

167. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting and the Precept Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 7 January and the Precept Meeting on 15 January be signed

168. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only)

There were no significant additions to the Clerks Report.

169. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information

PC Nagy said there had been just 15 reported incidents in January, which included 4 reports of antisocial behaviour (including 2 on New Years Eve) and 1 road traffic incident with minor injury where the investigation is ongoing. There have been some reports of nuisance on the Auction Mart behind the Collingwood & Longstaffe housing in the early evening. So far there is no pattern to the occurrences. The Drugs Investigation in Low Bentham is ongoing, but the officer emphasised that the more information received from the public the better although this needs to be hard fact and not rumour. With regard to drug awareness she asked about possible venues and it was suggested that the Youth Café might be a sensible place to start, both with the youngsters and their parents.

170. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)

DCllr Brockbank reported that the potential threat from the working group to charge for Bentham car parks had been dismissed by the Craven Policy Committee. She thanked the Council for its support against charging.

She had just come from a We Are Bentham meeting where the traders had decided against the proposed Station Road car park, asking instead for the area to be made into a park and picnic area. (Cllrs noted that this had come full circle as it had been the traders who requested the car park initially). DCllr Brockbank asked for feed back and ideas and agreed to produce something for the website asking for residents and visitors input.

Cllr Adams arrived at 7.55pm

DCllr Barrington mentioned that the next Town Team meeting was on 5 February.

CCllr Ireton arrived at this point (8pm) and apologised for being late having attended Ingleton Parish Council's meeting before coming to Bentham.

CCllr Ireton updated the Council on the progress with the school. Building Control have asked for some amendments to the structure. Objections have been received from one person, who is now challenging the officer's decision that the amendments do not need to go back to planning, hence the delay. He admitted that there had been some contractual issues in the second phase of bidding from the contract, and that the under bidder was now proceeding.

He also mentioned that he had been misquoted in a recent Craven Herald article regarding parking charges. He had actually said that he could not see why Bentham was any different to Cross Hills, where the Working Group had agreed that parking charges should not be introduced as they would affect residents and businesses.

CCllr Ireton was introduced to the resident mentioned above and agreed to visit her on 5 February.

171.Planning

171.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

171.1.1. 08/2013/13235 Barn constructed as dwelling did not constitute conversion as provided by 2001 planning consent & is therefore now immune from enforcement action (resubmission 08/2011/12123) at Bellfleckers Barn, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham.

Cllr Marshall declared a DPI and left the room

RESOLVED: That the Council nothing to add to its comments on the original submission

171.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

171.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

171.3.1. To receive copies of correspondence regarding the lack of enforcement action at the Punch Bowl, Low Bentham.

Correspondence from a resident regarding the lack of enforcement action at the Punch Bowl was considered. Council noted that it too had asked for action to remove the earthworks and remove the illegal access. Planning Enforcement had responded that the access was beyond enforcement having been there for more than 3 years, and that it would not be expedient to pursue formal action on the earthworks at this time

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the resident confirming the Council's actions and Planning Enforcement's response.

172.Highways Matters

172.1. To receive notice of the NYCC Highways Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign Protocol and consider the possibility of making a request

The Council agreed that use of a VAS on Robin Lane and Springfield might be useful, but that the potential costs could be significant as they had not been included in the budget for the coming year. It was agreed that NYCC Highways should be contacted regarding the potential timescales of the intended 'initial phase' and whether the proposed sites might be suitable before a decision could be taken

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked for further information on the VAS project and to comment on the suitability of Robin Lane and Springfield as possible sites before a decision is made.

172.2. Further update from NYCC Highways regarding Water Run-Off

NYCC Highways confirmed that action may be slow due to the lack of staff following the departure of Matt McCullum

172.3. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

LCC had responded to the Council's letter regarding the state of the B6480 between Wennington and The Ridding and stated that this area does not appear in the 2013/14 capital budget for resurfacing or drainage work. It was decided that a further letter should be sent expressing concern about the diabolical state of the road and pointing out that most of Bentham's traffic uses the B6480, such that a decent repair would be helpful. A letter should also be sent to the Morecambe & Lunsdale MP – David Morris – asking him for a site meeting to look at the problem, and that this letter should be copied to Julian Smith MP as well

RESOLVED: That a further letter be sent to LCC requesting a decent repair of the B6480 between Wennington and The Ridding

RESOLVED: That the MP for Morecambe & Lunsdale be asked to attend a site meeting to assess the state of the B6480 between Wennington and The Ridding (copied to LCC & Julian Smith MP)

The recent repairs to potholes on Robin Lane have already been washed out and should be reported to NYCC

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked to repair the potholes on Robin Lane again

173.To confirm that Craven District Council are not to pursue Charging for Parking in Bentham

174.To receive further information on the Localisation of the Council Tax Support Scheme and Mitigation Grant Funding

Craven District Council have confirmed that a mitigation grant of £7037.03 is available to Bentham Town Council following the reduction in Council Tax Base for the parish to 1168.56, and that a further £366.27 may be made available by Craven District Council to cover the shortfall. The Council was asked to confirm if it wanted to receive this grant and the Craven money if available, and to confirm the level of precept that it wished to set. The chairman asked the clerk to quote from the precept minutes regarding the decision taken by the Council at that meeting:

'the Council agreed that it was important to keep the precept to £100,000, as for the last four years in recognition of the current economic climate. It agreed that, in view of the uncertainty about the changes to the Council Tax Base, the future availability of grants to cover the shortfall and the possibility that parish precept increases will be capped in future years, it should not take the grant from Craven into account when setting the precept. This will mean that, although the precept has not increased, the change in Council Tax Base will see payments rise by 6% across the parish. The Council agreed that it should apply for the grant if and when it becomes available, and that this extra funding should be considered once it is confirmed.'

RESOLVED: That the precept be confirmed at £100,000 and that Council confirm that it wishes to receive the mitigation grant money and that from Craven District Council should it be made available

175. To consider the notes of the meeting with potential Allotment Holders on 21 January and agree a way forward
Cllr Marshall declared an interest in the first part of this item as owner of the Golf Club. Following a meeting between the Golf Club and potential allotment holders chaired by the Council, Cllr Burton informed the Council that the site had been rejected by those wanting allotments. As it had taken the Council three years to find this site and a further two years to get to this stage, it had been suggested that those wanting allotments be more proactive in identifying suitable sites. They had suggested the land earmarked for a car park on Station Road, owned by Craven District Council, would be suitable even though Craven had already refused this to Council. They had been supplied with contact details for Craven DC and the DCllrs so that they could ask again. The Council expressed their disappointment at the outcome following five years work to try and get a suitable site for allotments, but agreed to contact Craven once more to see if they had any suitable land available. It was reiterated by the Council that any allotment site found must cover its own costs as, although the Council was happy to try and facilitate the process, it did not believe that the rate payers of Bentham should subsidise a small group wishing to grow their own vegetables.

RESOLVED: That Craven District Council be contacted again regarding the availability of land suitable for allotments

176. To note the minutes of the Tourist Information Meeting on 23 January
 The TIP will open on 30 March and its coffee morning will be held on 6 April. Councillors were asked to help out at the latter event if they are available, or to supply a raffle prize.
177. To note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting on 9 January
 The bank reconciliation was correct at 31 December 2012, and was as follows:

	Bank Statement	Plus O/s Receipts	Less O/s Cheques	Balance
Current	22171.20	769.39	4116.61	18823.98
Deposit	1703.89			1703.89
LBPf Deposit	5200.31			5200.31
TI Current	230.49			230.49
TI Deposit	844.02			844.02

With a further £60000 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund

178. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Mopps	384.00	PRS for Music	448.02
Horton Landscaping	144.00	P Hird	250.00
W Are Bentham	202.00	Stannah Lift Services	156.58
EOn	263.95	British Gas	279.39
Aviva	322.54	Harrison & Cross	490.59
Craven District Council	98.00	PWLB	23927.45
Viking Direct	119.94	R Green	482.98
Tim Wheildon Heating Services	37.20	J Burton	1000.88
Cannon Hygiene	14.51	Orange	23.99
Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	24.76	Phone CoOp	1.99
Rob Wallbank	439.20	Dash4It	31.44

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 178.1. To consider a quote of £255 (ex VAT) for changing the Tourist Information signs to include 'Toilets'
 The Council was for this in principle to help visitors find the Town Hall toilets for public use, but asked whether funding might be available from Craven as they had shut the public toilet block in the first place. The DCllrs agreed to talk to Sharon Sunter. The Council asked that sign proofs be obtained prior to a final decision being taken

RESOLVED: That the DCllrs contact Craven regarding the possibility of funding the signs

RESOLVED: That proofs of the sign design be obtained prior to a final decision being taken

179. To Consider items of Correspondence

- 179.1. To receive a letter from Craven District Council regarding recycling litter bins, and agree a response
 The Council felt that recycling bins would only be of use where people regularly congregated for a period of time, e.g. School Hill in Bentham. It was also suggested that more dog bins would be more useful.

RESOLVED: That the Council believe that recycling litter bins are of limited use and should only be sited where people regularly congregate.

RESOLVED: That the provision of more dog bins would be useful

- 179.2. To receive a letter from BEST regarding the Precept Grants, and agree a response

BEST were disappointed to be refused a precept grant and asked to be told why and if a discount could be provided for their Town Hall booking instead. It was pointed out that many Town Hall bookings were for good causes and the Council could not provide extra discounts for them all unless the precept was to be increased significantly. Bentham residents already receive a 40% discount on the prices charged to outside organisations. The Council is unique in the area for providing any precept grants and funding is limited so hard decisions have to be taken and BEST should be aware that they were not the only organisation turned down. Council noted that BEST could make the event more economically sustainable if they charged a small entry fee which would help cover costs.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent explaining the Council policy on Town Hall bookings and that BEST were not the only organisation to be refused a precept grant

180. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
 Cllr Adams reported that he had attended the Aid in Sickness AGM. The organisation had made 4 grants in the last 16 months, each of around £200. He reminded the meeting that those with need could apply to him direct or through the surgery. It was suggested that he supply more information to be put on the website.
181. Items for next meeting and minor items only
 Cllr Handford mentioned that he had experience in drug awareness schemes from previous employment and was happy to volunteer to be the Council's representative if any was required. The chairman thanked him for his offer of help.
 Cllr Hey asked if Cllrs could speak up in future as it appeared that the audience was struggling to hear at some points.
 Cllr Adams agreed to check that the hearing loop was working correctly.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.06pm

AGENDA ITEM 168)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 February 2013

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 08/2012/13198 Extension to existing workshop building to provide 2x extra working bays at Atkinson Vos Ltd, Wenning Ave, High Bentham
 1.1.2. 08/2012/12183 Change of use to form residential dwelling together with internal alterations & extensions at Ford House, Low Bentham.

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. 08/2012/13011 First floor extension & internal alterations to form bedroom & ensuite at Stone Grove Cottage, Mewith Lane, High Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. AP/08/2012/13014 Erection of a small scale wind turbine to generate electricity – resubmission of 08/2012/12680 at Waterscales Farm, Greystonegill Lane, Bentham – APPEAL
 2.2. Response from Planning re Change of Use etc – those with consent will count when the Site Allocation is made, after which they will count as windfall.
 2.3. Punch Bowl Hotel – confirmation that no enforcement action regarding the earthworks or access will be taken.
 2.4. Copy of Planning Inspectors decision for windmill on Tatterthorn Road (by email)
 2.5. Kirkwells Planning News, January 2013
 2.6. Information from Planning regarding Craven Herald article suggesting that Decisions for Craven will be taken in Bristol.
 2.7. Asian Spice enforcement action update – compliance requested by 4 March

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Enquiry regarding change of use / barn conversions to Planning 8/1/13, response Laura Welsh 8/1/13
 3.2. Lower Hall floor work to start 5 February, users to be moved to other rooms for duration
 3.3. Precept Grant letters sent out 17 January
 3.4. Accommodation List invites sent out 25 January

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. YLCA Legal Topic Note 22 – Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures
 4.2. Craven Volunteer Service Drag Scheme
 4.3. Spinal Injuries Association Great British Fish & Chip Supper Event 17/5/13
 4.4. Craven Community News, January 2013 (& by email)
 4.5. Letters from Bonfire Committee & FOBS regarding Precept Grants

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 14/1, 21/1, 28/1 & 4/2

- 5.2. North Yorkshire Now, January 2013
- 5.3. Looking Well News, 9/1/13
- 5.4. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, January 2013
- 5.5. Rural Services Network Press Release, 15/1/13
- 5.6. SLCC News Bulletin, 17/1/13
- 5.7. YLCA Information notes – 11/1, 25/1
- 5.8. RAY News 3
- 5.9. Craven Area Committee Meeting 31/1/13 (& noticeboards)
- 5.10. Craven Community Forum Meeting 20/1/13
- 5.11. Winter Weather Agent Scheme (RAY)
- 5.12. Doing Business in North Yorkshire meeting 12 February
- 5.13. White Rose Update, January 2013
- 5.14. RegioFlash, 30/1 & 1/2
- 5.15. Localism Reserve Fund Improvement Projects press release
- 5.16. More emails about the Allerton Incinerator

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Leader funding bid completed 10 December, reply expected March 2013
- 6.2. Neighbourhood Plan funding letter to Craven sent 17 December, chased 23 January
- 6.3. Car Parks response sent to Craven 18 December – dismissed 21 January
- 6.4. Allotment meeting 23 January – see agenda item
- 6.5. NYCC Streetlights contacted 4 October re Cleveland Square, light has been replaced but ENW found problem with underground wiring, to be fixed late-January
- 6.6. Network Rail contacted about fence 12 September, photos supplied 17 September, listed for repair 17 October
- 6.7. Market valuation of Low Bentham School Field, NYCC meeting 22/8, land registry & access information awaited
- 6.8. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.9. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered