

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2015, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

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

183. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Cowling, Faichney, Hey & Marshall & CClr Ireton
184. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none
185. To Receive Comment & Concerns - none
186. 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 12 January be signed
187. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
188. To Receive a Drop In Session Update (for information only) – none
189. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information
PC Hayes reported that there had been 58 reported incidents in the last month of which 17 came from the carehomes and a further 11 were related to crimes (of which 6 related to the carehomes). The others were: the theft of 22 sheep, damage to a car on Robin Lane, damage to and theft from a car left in the snow, theft of tools from a garage on Goodenber. A comparison of April to January reports with the previous year showed a drop of 7%, down from 101 to 94. This year these comprised: 22 criminal damage, 8 burglaries (mainly from commercial premises), 3 drug offences, 12 thefts, 4 vehicular damage, 3 possession of a weapon, 5 public order offences, 3 sexual offences, 4 shop lifting and 29 of violence. The situation in Ingleton is also very similar. PC Hayes completed his report by informing the Council of PC Monika Nagy's retirement.
190. To Receive Reports from CClr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Barrington confirmed that the Craven Policy committee had met on 21 January and finally kicked out the parking charges for Bentham. Craven had also agreed to send a response to the Library consultation. The Spatial Planning Group will be meeting at the end of the month for a preliminary look at the LDP responses.
CCllr Ireton had sent a message that NYCC had agreed to increase the Council Tax by 2%. The Council is also looking at the possibility of combining some aspects with other authorities, such as transport, economic development and further education. Cllr Ireton had been pleased by the turnout to the Library meeting and thought there had been a good debate. He would be pressurising NYCC for part time Librarian cover for Bentham, Ingleton & Settle Libraries.
191. Planning
- 191.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 191.1.1. 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
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 191.2. To Receive Planning Decisions
- If any (see Clerks Report)
- 191.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues
- 191.3.1. To Note a public consultation exhibition on February 10 between 4.30 and 7.30pm at Burton Village Hall regarding the possible Solar Farm off Ravensclose - noted
- 191.3.2. If any (see Clerks Report)
192. Highways Matters
- 192.1. To Receive new information on the Station Approach Triangle
Angus Fire had supplied copy of a 2001 letter from NYCC Highways acknowledging their responsibility for the 'unowned' triangle. The clerk is awaiting a response.
- 192.2. To Receive a response from Julian Smith MP regarding the 20mph zone and related matters
Once again NYCC Highways have ignored the Councils concerns about safety on the B6480 at Low Bentham. It was agreed that any near miss or accident must be reported in order to continue to build a case. The comments about recent works on the verges were met with scepticism and it was agreed to photograph obscured signs etc
RESOLVED: That all accidents and near misses on the B6480 at Low Bentham should be reported to NYCC Highways to build evidence as to the dangerous nature of the road
RESOLVED: That photographic evidence of the obscured signs etc should be collected
- 192.3. To Consider the new VAS protocol and whether to continue involvement in the scheme (paper 2014/31)

Whilst acknowledging that the scheme had been successful in reducing speeds when the signs were in operation, this protocol had been received after the 2015/16 budget had been set and at a time when a substantial part of Council reserves had been earmarked for the purchase of Low Bentham School Playing Field. It was agreed that the Council could not afford to take part this year, but would wish to be reconsidered in 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That the Council does not take part in the scheme for 2015/16, but asks to be considered for future years.

- 192.4. To Note Low Bentham Parking meeting on 8 February at Victoria Institute 2-4pm.
Cllr Stannard told the meeting that it would be necessary to rearrange this meeting at the beginning of March, and that Cllrs would be informed and residents invited once the new date was available. It was suggested that a flier could be delivered in Low Bentham by those delivering Bentham News

RESOLVED: That the Low Bentham Parking meeting be rearranged for early March

- 192.5. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information
A resident had reported some large potholes on Goodenber Road.
The new road / pavement works for the new school have been quite successful, but there is a problem at Bigber Farm where water is crossing the pavement and there has been a considerable amount of ice on the footpath and in the gutter in the recent cold weather.
The new solar powered lights on Low Bentham Road seem to be working well, but the one outside No 4 is under a tree, which will shade the cell once it is in leaf.
The fallen fence on Mill Lane obscured by ivy etc remains a dangerous hazard.

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked look at the above reported problems

193. To Receive a report on the meeting with NYCC Library Services regarding Bentham Library, and agree a consultation response, if any
The Library meeting had been well attended by the Council and FOBL volunteers. It seems that NYCC will continue to pick up the building costs, but any organisation that takes on the running will need around £100 / week to cover the running costs, e.g. electricity etc. Information as to the exact requirements is still sketchy but organisations are being asked to register their interest. It had been suggested that Bentham could share a Librarian with Ingleton and Settle. It seems that FOBL will need 50 – 60 volunteers to take over the Library and currently number 20. It was obvious that there is a great deal of enthusiasm but FOBL will need help.

RESOLVED: That the Council response to the consultation should include a request for Librarian input and emphasise the enthusiasm of current volunteers.

194. To Receive further information from the Diocese regarding the Memorials in St Margaret's Church
Further information had been received from the Diocese correcting their previous response and suggesting that memorials should be removed from the building upon sale. At the clerk's request the Rector of Bentham Parish had provided a list of memorials and gifts still in St Margarets. It was agreed that a piece should be put in Bentham News to trace those families which had gifted items so that they could be forwarded to the Diocese. It was suggested and agreed that the Council should ask if the War Memorial plaque could be re-sited in the Town Hall alongside the Bentham Boys picture.

RESOLVED: That an article should be put in Bentham News regarding the gifts to St Margarets asking families to identify themselves to the Diocese for consultation on the future of gifted items.

RESOLVED: That the Council ask for the War Memorial plaque to be re-sited to the Town Hall.

195. To Receive further information regarding the proposed Post Office move - received

196. To Consider Electricity North West's request to install stay wires on Low Bentham Playing Field as part of the Undergrounding of Overhead Line work on Main Street & Doctors Hill, Low Bentham, and agree a response
The Council agreed that undergrounding the wires would be a benefit to Low Bentham in terms of electricity supply however concern was expressed regarding the street lights where these are fixed to the poles which are to be removed, and how long it might take for them to be replaced. The second request – to fix stay wires to the pole in Low Bentham Playing Field - was rejected as the proposed wire would impede any new access to the field required to meet Highways requirements for potential development on the site.

RESOLVED: That ENW be asked to supply information about the replacement of street lights carried on those poles earmarked for removal

RESOLVED: That the Council refuse permission for the requested stay wire in Low Bentham Playing Field.

197. To Consider the NYCC Street Lighting Energy Reduction proposals for Bentham and agree a response
The proposals cover the reduction of street lighting costs by switching the majority of lights off between midnight and 5am. The plans supplied showed all NYCC street lights and highlighted those affected with a request for the Council to inform of any areas where full night lighting should continue, e.g. around sheltered housing etc. The general consensus was that any outage would be better between 1 and 6am.

RESOLVED: That, due to the size of the project, this task should be passed to the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 9 February, with input from other Cllrs if they have comments

198. To Discuss updates to the current 'aboutbentham' website and agree a process

RESOLVED: That the current contractor should be asked to update the aboutbentham website in conjunction with the Marketing Committee, with the Whats On calendar being a priority

199. To Agree the Draft Heads of Terms for the purchase of Low Bentham School Playing Field

RESOLVED: That the Draft Heads of Terms be accepted with the exception of access, which should be 'for all times and all purposes' as originally agreed at the site meeting

200. To Note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 5 January – noted

The bank reconciliation was checked against the spreadsheet for each account and the relevant bank statement. It was agreed that the bank reconciliation was correct at 31 December 2014, and was as follows:

	Bank Statement	Plus O/s Receipts	Less O/s Cheques	Balance
Current	7121.18	97.40	1113.91	6104.67
PSDF	87000.00			87000.00

200.1. To agree to a review all Committee terms of reference to remove duplication of effort

RESOLVED: That all committees should review their terms of reference to include the delegated spending of relevant budgeted sums, for agreement by the Council

201. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven DC	152.56	EOn	72.83
Mopps	384.00	Andrews	64.64
HMRC	541.68	1&1 Internet	29.73
Cannon Hygiene	19.33	Amazon	35.99
PRS for Music	622.48	Toobys	29.97
HCS Ltd	169.00	Aviva	310.37
SSE / SWALEC	481.46	Orange	23.99
PWLB	23927.45	Salaries	1525.81

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

201.1. To agree to renew the Green Waste license for the Cemetery at a cost of £24

RESOLVED: That the Green Waste license for the Cemetery is renewed

201.2. To consider renewing the Council's membership of SELRAP

RESOLVED: That the Council's membership of SELRAP is not renewed

202. To consider items of Correspondence

202.1. To consider an invitation to take part in Bentham Agricultural Society's annual quiz on Friday 13 February at 7.30pm in the Town Hall and agree a team

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Adams & Townson will organise the team

202.2. To consider Council attendance at the RAY Community Resilience meeting on 26 February, 4-6pm, at Settle Victoria Hall

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Stannard & Townson will attend

202.3. To Receive a response from RAY Winter Weather Scheme Development Officer

RESOLVED: That the Winter Weather Scheme should be progressed with the Community Emergency Response plan after the Community Resilience meeting

202.4. To note the next Parish Liaison Group meeting is on 24 March at 6.30pm at Craven District Council - noted

203. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)

Cllr Townson will attend the Playing Fields meeting which had been moved to next week

Cllr Vandy reported that the Community Youth roof repairs had been a success and that the new radiator had significantly reduced the condensation problem. The Master Chef competition had been very popular with a high standard of cooking. The next fund raising events will be the coffee morning and table top sale, in March.

Cllr Cowling had sent a report from the Looking Well. The Pioneer Projects AGM will be on 26 February. Funding for the lantern procession has not been found for 2015, but the event will hopefully be back for 2016. The Dementia Awareness work and Panto Props workshops are going well and computer training sessions will start shortly.

Cllr Bridgeman reported on two Victoria Institute meetings. Hire charges have increased 10% for 2015. A smart meter and music license are being investigated.

Cllr Adams said that LASRUG are producing a Walks Guide to link neighbouring stations along the line from Heysham to Skipton. The new Northern Franchise will be awarded in March 2016. The bidders have been shortlisted and will be asked to improve the number of trains and quality of rolling stock.

204. Items for next meeting and minor items only

The new school will open on 27 February. The Chairman agreed to find out if there will be an open event for non-parents to look at the building and facilities.

Various corrections to the recent Bentham News were outlined, including the fact that there is no Cllr Stephenson Potential 'Bentham Flags' were circulated for consideration and the white background with 'Bentham' at the top of the logo was selected. The clerk can now get quotes for it possible production

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm

AGENDA ITEM 187)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 February 2015

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 08/2014/15309 Erection of a new porch to existing dwelling at 14 Lowcroft, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED - none

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Appeal Dismissed – 08/2014/14750 proposed timber stables on land off Mill Lane / Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham

2.2. Plain English Guide to Planning

2.3. North Yorkshire Minerals & Waste Plan - Supplementary Sites Consultation

2.4. Affordable Rural Housing a practical guide to parishes, available from YLCA

2.5. Lancaster City Council 'meeting housing needs' supplementary planning document consultation

2.6. Draft local green spaces methodology consultation, Lancaster City Council, to 27 February

2.7. Lancaster City Council Supplementary Planning Document consultations – Employment & Skills Plan

2.8. Questionnaire on Draft Preferred Site LB024 returned

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

3.1. Parish Poll consultation response sent 12/1

3.2. Letter to Julian Smith re VAS sent 13/1

3.3. Community Emergency Plan generic template to be considered – meeting to be arranged

4. Items for Information – see information folder

4.1. Police & Crime Commissioner Surgery, Ingleton Community Centre 9 February 4-6pm

4.2. MP Surgery, Ingleton Community Centre 20 February 12-1pm or Settle Victoria Hall 2-3pm

4.3. Unity Trust Bank moving from Coop to NatWest as service provider

4.4. British Weights & Measures information on units of measurement

4.5. The Clerk, January 2015

4.6. Clerks & Councils Direct, January 2015

4.7. LASRUG precept grant thank you

5. Items circulated by email

5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 12/1, 19/1, 26/1 & 2/2

5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Broadband 14/1, Fuel Poverty 21/1

5.3. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 7/1 & 4/2

5.4. Rural Housing Spotlight 27/1

5.5. RSN Spotlight on rural health 29/1

5.6. North Yorkshire Now Newsletter, 12/1

5.7. Craven Libraries Energy Switch 2/2 (and noticeboards)

5.8. Craven Newsletter, January (2/2)

5.9. SLCC News Bulletin 13/1

5.10. White Rose Update 16/1

5.11. Bowland Bulletin 15/1

5.12. Volunteer Management Training, March

5.13. Fields in Trust Update, 12/1 & 28/1

5.14. Rural Action Yorkshire News, ACRE funding threat petition

5.15. RegioFlash News, 14/1 & 2/2

5.16. Healthwatch UK update 16/1

5.17. Pocket Gardens at Harrogate Spring Show

5.18. NYP Craven Newsletter, Jan2015

5.19. Great British Fish & Chip Supper for charity,

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

6.1. Low Bentham Road Streetlight comments sent 4/12, response awaited, chased 2/2

6.2. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited

- 6.3. St Margaret's churchyard response to PCC sent 10/11 & CDC also contacted. Awaiting Notice of Intention
- 6.4. Flagpole research ongoing
- 6.5. Care Home meeting – date in February awaiting confirmation
- 6.6. Cowan Bridge new town comments sent to Lancaster City Council. Burton Parish response requested
- 6.7. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited
- 6.8. School Playing Field – initial access plans agreed, awaiting solicitors / planning permission
- 6.9. Tourist Information / WC signs ordered March 2013, put on hold until Town Team sign review completed
- 6.10. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.11. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered