

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Burton, Faichney, Hey, Hurtley, Marshall (Chairman), Stannard & Vendy. Also DCllrs Barrington & Brockbank, the clerk Mrs Burton and 4 parishioners

107. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Barnes & Handford & CClr Ireton
108. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in item 114.1.2, planning application 08/2013/13979, as owner of the property. Cllr Burton declared a DPI in item 126, the clerk's contract, as husband of the clerk.
109. To Receive Comment & Concerns – none
110. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 7 October be signed
111. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
The clerk asked for Cllrs to inform her of their training priorities for 2014 as YLCA are putting their schedule together. She also told the meeting that the meeting in Gargrave on 6 November with the Police & Crime Commissioner had been cancelled.
112. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present
113. To Receive Reports from CClr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Brockbank told the meeting that Craven will be publishing a monthly newsletter about the Tour De France. The recent Friends of Bentham Library AGM had been a great success with Diane Allen as guest speaker.
DCllr Barrington mentioned that the Governors of Burton School had requested consultation on closure as they only have 13 pupils. There will be a public meeting on 25 November. She had also attended a presentation by NYCC Highways on their assessment of planning applications and agreed to pass the information to the clerk for circulation. The Forest of Bowland management plan 2014-19 is out for consultation until 13 December
114. Planning
- 114.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 114.1.1. 08/2013/13918 Removal of existing single storey additions to front & gable and construction of new single and 2 storey extension & detached double garage and greenhouse at Lane End Cottage, Fowgill, High Bentham – approved (see clerk's report)
- 114.1.2. 08/2013/13979 Creation of vehicular & pedestrian accesses, overflow car park & materials storage area & installation of buggy track link to serve golf club at Bentham Golf Club, Robin Lane, Bentham
Cllr Marshall declared an interest and left the room
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 114.1.3. 08/2013/13986 Proposed conversion of detached garage & studio to self contained dwelling (resubmission of 08/2013/13803) at Lake House, Burton Road, Low Bentham
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 114.2. To Receive Planning Decisions
– If any (see Clerks Report)
- 114.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues
– If any (see Clerks Report)
115. Highways Matters
- 115.1. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information
Mewith Lane is flooding approx 100 yards from the Green Smithy junction towards Low Bentham as a gully is blocked
RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to investigate and solve the problem
116. To note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 28 October - noted
- 116.1. To consider the alternative banking options to HSBC and decide which the Council should use
The clerk explained that by moving from the HSBC the Council would incur bank charges. Based on the last financial year these would be in the region of £350 for both NatWest and Barclays, and £72.50 for the Unity Bank. As the Unity Bank does not have branches the Council would be able to deposit both cheques and cash over the counter at NatWest or the Post Office, which could potentially be charged for, although other clerks using the service had confirmed that they were not currently paying. The feedback from other clerks had been very favourable for service and usability. The Council discussed the options with the potential advantages of staying with a High Street Bank and the possible problems if they too decide to leave Bentham. It was proposed and agreed that the Council should move its account to the Unity Bank. It

was also agreed that the separate Tourist Information accounts should be closed and all monies rolled into a single account

RESOLVED: That the Council account be moved to the Unity Bank

RESOLVED: That the Tourist Information accounts be closed and incorporated into the Council account

117. To discuss the updated Neighbourhood Plan draft questionnaire for Bentham (paper 2013/19)

The Council was happy with the draft questionnaire and it was agreed that it should be sent to all the properties in Bentham if the Council was to get an accurate picture of what residents think about the parish and would like in the future. The project should be publicised on the website and through Bentham News before the questionnaire is made available – in January. Cllrs agreed to deliver the questionnaires by hand with only the most outlying being posted. The questionnaire should also be put on line – Survey Monkey would cost £24 / month but Google Docs is similar and free. Use of an on-line survey would allow for some analysis, and hand returned replies could also be input easily.

RESOLVED: That the draft questionnaire be approved

RESOLVED: That the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire be publicised in the December and January editions of Bentham News

RESOLVED: That the survey be circulated to every house in Bentham, with Cllrs to deliver the majority by hand

RESOLVED: That the survey also be created in Google Docs and put on the website for on-line replies

118. To agree and sign the Licenses from NYCC and Craven District Council for the Town Team Fingerposts as per minute 2013/77.1 (September 2013)

RESOLVED: That the NYCC & Craven licenses for placement of fingerposts be signed

119. To receive the documentation from the Church Commissioners regarding the proposed scheme for Bentham and the closure of St Margaret's (includes all representations made) and to receive the response from the Bishop regarding the questions raised (paper 2013/20) – received

120. To consider the Craven District Council Residents Feedback Panel, Bulletin 12

- 120.1. Consultation on Balancing the 2014/15 budget to achieve a further £600K savings (paper 2013/21)

The Council considered that the identified priorities were very broad 'catch-all' headings that did not really specify the work covered. Many of the spending options referred to Craven backed services in other areas, particularly Skipton. It was suggested that, following the introduction of brown bin charges on the basis of only those using the scheme pay for it, perhaps some of these should be given less support.

RESOLVED: That the clerk and Chairman complete the response based on comments from Cllrs

- 120.2. Council Tax Support Scheme consultation on potential changes

Council tax benefit was replaced by the CT support scheme in April 2013 and is now only partly funded by government with Craven having to make up the shortfall, The current scheme offers recipients a maximum of 91.5% of their CT liability. For very 1% decrease in maximum support a working age claimant in a band B property will pay an extra £12pa. The consultation asks for opinion on a range of changes in support from 91.5 down to 75% and for the length of time the scheme should be in place. The Council did not feel qualified to comment on the level of support but felt that any scheme should be in place for at least 3 years to allow recipients the ability to forward plan and budget appropriately.

RESOLVED: That the Council felt the Council Tax Support scheme, once agreed, should be in place for at least 3 years

121. To consider the current NYCC Consultation documents

- 121.1. To make a £400K reduction in the post 16 school / college transport budget (paper 2013/22)

The general feeling was that, in a time when all post 16 young people have to be in fulltime education or an apprenticeship a 30% increase in travel costs was extortionate. For youngsters living in Bentham there is no option but to travel for education. This increase in fees will penalise rural communities like Bentham where there is no alternative public transport and the Council was against such a large increase in fees.

RESOLVED: That the Council was opposed to a 30% increase in post 16 transport costs when children have to remain in education and have to travel.

- 121.2. To make a £240K reduction in the budget for Household Waste Recycling Centres (paper 2013/23)

The Council felt that just refusing some waste or charging for it was most likely to increase fly tipping and that NYCC needed to look at the bigger picture and involve more organisations, for example plasterboard can be recycled by the manufacturers, soil has a value and rubble can be used as hardcore.

RESOLVED: That NYCC be asked to consider the bigger picture and look at other options as refusing / charging for certain wastes will increase fly tipping, which is more difficult and costly to clear up.

122. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

EOn	245.52	Dalesflex Signs & Graphics	111.60
Hampshire Flag Co	179.99	Event Insurance Services	202.00
Your Print	58.74	John Mason Printers	2082.00
D Siddall	60.00	Aviva	326.89
Taylor Environmental Groundworks	360.00	ClearGlass Cleaning	90.00
1&1 Internet	25.16	HSBC	30.00
Tim Wheildon Heating Services	62.40	R Green	499.20
Craven District Council	101.00	J Burton	1032.97
Mopps	384.00	C Sinclair	131.25
Horton Landscaping	749.99	W Dowbiggin	112.50
Stannah Lift Services	156.58	Orange	23.99

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 122.1. To receive an update on the Legislative Reform to legitimise electronic payments – received
 122.2. To receive an update on the grant from Central Government for Parish Precepts – received
 122.3. To receive updated quotes for the Galley kitchen repair and agree a way forward

RESOLVED: That the quote for £165 from JBL Joinery be accepted

- 122.4. To agree a program of works for the parish caretaker at a cost of approx £1000
 The Open Spaces Committee had identified areas to be tidied by the Parish Caretaker: the junction of Butts Lane and Springfield, the junction of Wenning Avenue and Station Road, the scrub area by Furness Drive and the footpath from Hillside Road to Ellergill.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Caretaker be asked to carry out the works as discussed

123. To consider items of Correspondence

- 123.1. To Receive an invitation from Churches Together to the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial at 10.45am on 11 November – received

- 123.2. To Receive a request from We Are Bentham for the toilets to remain open for late night shopping on 27 November and Santa on 6 December, and agree a response

RESOLVED: That the toilets be kept open for late night shopping

- 123.3. To Receive a quote from We Are Bentham for possible electrical work on the Town Hall for the Christmas Lights, and agree a way forward

The quote received was to replace the current sockets with 13amp equivalents. It was agreed that the current sockets should be inspected and tested for water ingress. If they are sound then convertors can be purchased.

RESOLVED: That the current external sockets be tested and convertors for the Christmas Lights purchased if they are sound

- 123.4. To Receive an invitation from Julian Smith MP to his Agriculture Summit at Kettlesing Village Hall on Friday 15 November at 1.30pm – received

- 123.5. To Receive official confirmation of the 2014 election date and notification regarding the Annual Meeting of the Council and any vacancies arising before May 2014 – received

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

Cllr Adams had attended the Aid in Sickness AGM. Four payments were made by the organisation in the last 12 months and grant money was still available. The organisation is short of trustees from Settle & Hellifield. He had also attended the Goodenber Play Area meeting. The annual ROSPA inspection had been done and a few low / medium risks will be addressed shortly.

125. Items for next meeting and minor items only

The clerk reminded Cllrs of the meeting with the Care Homes in the Town Hall on 5 November at 3pm

A request was made for the hedge cutting contractor at the new school site to clear the footpaths afterwards. The clerk agreed to pass this message on the NYCC

Comments were made regarding a recent event at the Victoria Institute which it was agreed was a matter for the VI Committee.

The main part of the meeting finished at 8.55pm

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Public and Press to be excluded further from the Meeting,

126. To consider the Clerk's contract

The clerk & Cllr Burton left the meeting. The details of the Clerk's contract were discussed by the Council with particular attention given to hours of work, place of work and dispute resolution. The Chairman took the amendments and suggestions away to be scrutinized by his HR colleague; this will then be circulated to Council members for approval.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman get the contract scrutinized by his HR colleague and then circulate to Council for approval

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.00pm

AGENDA ITEM 111)**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 November 2013****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2013/13791 Demolition of existing dormer bungalow & detached garage & replacement with new 2 storey home with an accessible garage through lift, therapy space & specialist bathroom at Rest Harrow, Low Bentham Road, Bentham
- 1.1.2. 08/2013/13808 Demolition of existing disused farm buildings & erection of 2 new dwellings at Springfield, High Bentham
- 1.1.3. 08/2013/13869 Change of use of land to rear from domestic garden to Builders Merchants storage yard at Moor View, Low Bentham Road, Low Bentham
- 1.1.4. 08/2013/13844 Extension to existing agricultural building to be used as secure storage at Sandy Hill, Low Bentham Road, Bentham
- 1.1.5. 08/2013/13871 Proposed conversion of former barn (currently additional shop storage area). Change of use to form 2 bed dwelling at rear of 17 Main Street, High Bentham
- 1.1.6. 08/2013/13918 Removal of existing single storey additions to front & gable & construction of new single & 2 storey extension & detached double garage & green house at Lane End Cottage, Fowgill, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. 08/2013/13803 Proposed conversion of detached garage & studio to self contained dwelling at Lake House, Burton Road, Low Bentham
- 1.2.2. 08/2013/13860 New Carport with storage over at Far West End Barn, Low Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. Publication of LCC Management Development DPD & Morecambe Area Action Plan, 10/10
- 2.2. Neighbourhood Planning News, Kirkwalls, October 13

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Community Rail Partnership questionnaires sent 9 October
- 3.2. HSBC letter sent 15/10
- 3.3. Car park project – not progressed
- 3.4. School Playing Field – awaiting responses
- 3.5. Low Bentham WI reply sent 21/10

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Thank you letter from Youth Café for Precept cheque
- 4.2. Register of Electors Canvass (and Noticeboard)

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 7/10, 14/10, 21/10, 28/10
- 5.2. North Yorkshire Now, 7/10
- 5.3. Craven Community News, October 2013
- 5.4. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 9/10
- 5.5. Rural Vulnerability Service, Broadband 10/10, Fuel Poverty 17/10
- 5.6. SLCC Bulletin, 9/10, 24/10
- 5.7. YLCA Information notes, 18/10, 1/11 & Parish Precepts 2013/14,
- 5.8. Police & Crime Commissioner meetings 30/10 Skipton (& 6/11 Gargrave – cancelled)
- 5.9. RegioFlash, EU Policy Bulletin, 15/10
- 5.10. Fields in Trust e-zine, 15/10, 24/10
- 5.11. NALC Annual Report 2012/13
- 5.12. Pioneer Projects Art Exhibition, October
- 5.13. NY Fire & Rescue Authority Accounts, 2012/13
- 5.14. Rural Action Yorkshire News, October 2013

- 5.15. Pioneer Projects Facebook page
- 5.16. Craven Response to NYCC Public Transport Proposals.

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Church Commissioners letter sent 13/9, holding response received 20/9 – see agenda item
- 6.2. Station Road pedestrian access / parking restrictions meeting 26/9, Cllrs to canvass opinion
- 6.3. NYCC & CDC contacted re sprayed grass 3/9, meeting with CDC requested 11/9, response received 11/10
- 6.4. Care Home meeting postponed from 13 August until September, now scheduled for 5 November at 3pm
- 6.5. Response to Notice of Intention re St Margaret's Churchyard sent 13/6
- 6.6. Letters to Hopleys & NICEIC regarding electrical installation sent 13/6, Hopley reply 22/6 – information collated but not sent yet, awaiting decision.
- 6.7. Tourist Information / WC signs ordered March 2013, put on hold until Town Team sign review completed
- 6.8. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.9. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered