

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6 October 2014, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Cowling, Faichney, Hey, Marshall, Stannard (Chairman), Swales, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllr Brockbank & Barrington, the clerk Mrs Burton and 9 parishioners

85. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Pritchard & CCllr Ireton
86. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
Cllr Adams declared a DPI in item 103.2, Gas Contract, as a worker within the energy industry. Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in item 97, the Draft Local Plan, as a landowner.
87. To Receive Comment & Concerns
Further comments were received about the parking problems on Burton Road. The Chairman confirmed that the Council was arranging a meeting with Low Bentham residents to discuss the issue.
A resident who had provided further information regarding the costings from Craven for the Bentham car parks explained some of the detail and confirmed that he would prefer the status quo.
A member of the Bentham News Committee confirmed her discussion with Cllrs at the Drop In and apologised for the inaccuracies in the last Council Report but asked for more clarity in the meeting. It was explained that the Council meeting was a business meeting, and any questions for clarification could be put to the clerk at the end of the meeting.
88. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 1 September be signed
89. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
90. To Receive a Drop In Session Update (for information only) – see Comments & Concerns
91. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present
92. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)
DCllr Barrington mentioned the Draft Local Plan (item 97).
DCllr Brockbank gave more detail about the Superfast Broadband event (item 104.3). She also expressed concern about children walking out of Cedar House and putting themselves at risk. The Council cannot do anything about this, but agreed it might be useful to have another meeting with the local Care Homes as it had agreed to meet regularly in 2013.
93. Planning
- 93.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications
- 93.1.1. 08/2014/14936 Erection of single storey porch extension at Waterford Farm, Mewith, Bentham – already approved
- 93.1.2. 08/2014/14954 Installation of new air conditioning condensers & refrigeration plant units & acoustic screen to rear of United Cooperatives Late Shop, main Street, High Bentham – already approved
- 93.1.3. 08/2014/14959 Alterations to window & door openings; Replacement of existing balcony structure, Replacement of existing stables style storage building with new outbuilding for garage, store & artists studio at Honeysuckle Barn, Mewith, Bentham
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 93.1.4. 08/2014/15024 Single storey garden room extension to south elevation at Calf Cop Cottage, Burton Road, Low Bentham
RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application
- 93.2. To Receive Planning Decisions
- If any (see Clerks Report)
- 93.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues
- If any (see Clerks Report)
94. Highways Matters
- 94.1. To Receive an update on the 20mph meeting with NYCC Highways and agree a way forward
The meeting with Ken Martin had been less than fruitful with NYCC Highways refusing to implement a 20mph zone without traffic calming measures whilst admitting there was no budget for such measures. The Chairman told the meeting that the Council would continue to push for such a zone and as such members would be meeting with Julian Smith MP at his next Bentham Surgery in November
RESOLVED: That the Council ask Julian Smith MP for his assistance in getting a 20mph zone
- 94.2. To Note the refusal of 30mph repeater signs on Thickersh Brow and agree a response
Mr Martin has also refused to install repeater signs as the road has street lights and no footpath. The signs would be allowed if there were no lights, or if the lights lit a pavement rather than the carriageway. It was agreed that this too should be brought up with the MP

RESOLVED: That the Council ask Julian Smith MP for his assistance in getting repeater signs

94.3. To Receive a response from NYCC Highways regarding other Traffic Calming measures on the B6480 at Low Bentham in the absence of white lines, and agree a response if any.

NYCC Highways had confirmed that the road is not wide enough for the white lines to be replaced and that there are no funds for further traffic calming measures on the B6480 in the absence of any accident reports. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report every near miss, toughing of wing mirrors etc that occurs on the road in an effort to convince Highways of the problem before there is a fatality.

RESOLVED: That the Council encourage residents to report all minor incidents on the B6480 at Low Bentham in an effort to convince NYCC Highways of the problems on the road following the removal of the white lines.

94.4. To Receive a request from the Health Centre Patient Representative Group for a Dropped Kerb on Grasmere Drive, opposite the surgery car park, and agree a response

The Chairman invited Mr Hudson of the Patient Representative Group to address the meeting regarding the provision of a dropped kerb close to the surgery to assist those with mobility problems to cross the road safely. It was agreed that this was a sensible idea. The clerk had already contacted NYCC Highways who had confirmed that the request could be included in the 2015/16 budget, but could not confirm that it would be granted. Highways had suggested that the Town Council could fund the improvement, but there is no budget for such items in the current year. Mrs Crossley of the PRG confirmed that Sole to Soul had also made a similar request. The Council agreed to ask NYCC Highways to include a dropped kerb on Grasmere Drive in the 2015/16 budget

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked to include a dropped kerb on Grasmere Drive opposite the surgery and Sole to Soul in their 2015/16 budget

94.5. To Consider the Draft Parking Survey for Grasmere Drive and agree a way forward (paper 2014/15)

RESOLVED: That the Parking Survey be accepted as proposed and conducted in the coming month

94.6. To Agree a response to the Initial Phase of the Temporary VAS Installation evaluation (paper 2014/17)

RESOLVED: That the evaluation response to the Initial VAS Installation be agreed

RESOLVED: That the costs of a moveable 'smiley face' speed monitor be ascertained with the view to inviting other local parishes to join in the regular monitoring of speeding hotspots

94.7. To Agree to provide a Letter of Support for the Bonfire Procession Road Closure on 1 November

Since the request had been received the clerk had been informed that there was difficulty in securing insurance for the road closure and the procession had been cancelled

94.8. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The state of Mewith Lane, particularly from Green Smithy to the Lancashire county boundary continues to deteriorate. It was reported that a local cyclist had spent two days in hospital after hitting a pot hole, which considering the road is part of The Way of the Roses cycle route was thought to be unacceptable

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be reminded of the problem and asked to repair the surface as a matter of some urgency

A question was asked about the new trolley park outside the CoOp. The clerk confirmed that she had already enquired of NYCC Highways and would circulate their response once it was available.

Three street lights have disappeared from Low Bentham Road near the new school following the removal of poles by ENW. The clerk agreed to contact Street Lighting to find out when they would be replaced

RESOLVED: That NYCC Street Lighting be contacted regarding replacement of the missing lights from Low Bentham Road by the new school.

Subcontractors building the new school are parking on the grass verges in the locality

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the main contractor asking for parking on the grass verges to cease

95. To Discuss a proposed amendment to the Council's Standing Orders to account for the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 to allow for the recording of Council Meetings and to consider adopting YLCA's draft policy for the management of recording at meetings (paper 2014/16)

RESOLVED: That the Council accept the proposed amendment to its standing orders to be approved at the next meeting

RESOLVED: That the draft policy for the management of recording at meetings be made Bentham specific and agreed at the next meeting

RESOLVED: That the Council consider purchasing equipment to record meetings to ensure it has an accurate audio record in the event of A N Other recording the meeting

96. 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

97. To Consider the Draft Craven Local Plan and agree a response before 3 November

RESOLVED: That a separate meeting be held on 16 October to discuss the Draft Craven Local Plan

98. To Note that the Neighbourhood Planning Questionnaire initial analysis is almost complete and to agree a meeting date to discuss the results

RESOLVED: That the Council wait until the NPQ results are ready before agreeing a meeting

99. To Receive a report on the Green Dog Walkers Scheme meeting on 10 September
Public attendance at the meeting had been disappointing given the amount of complaints about dog fouling. The Dog Warden will be producing an article for Bentham News and the situation will be monitored
100. To Receive a report from the meeting with Craven District Council regarding the Bentham VC Winners Commemoration and agree the next step
Bentham has the only 2 WW1 VC winners in Craven. The first, Charles Robertson, was born in Bentham and so the town qualifies for a commemorative stone, which Craven will apply for. The second, Theodore Bayley Hardy, was born in Exeter – but a replica stone can be purchased at a cost of £546 including delivery and VAT, but funds may be available from the original War Memorial fund which had a surplus. The Council would be responsible for the installation of the stone(s). It was agreed that, if possible both stones should be installed and Cllr Faichney offered to install them for the Council.
- RESOLVED: That the Council thanks Cllr Faichney and accepts his kind offer to install the Commemorative Stones close to the War Memorial on School Hill**
- RESOLVED: That enquiries be made regarding the possible use of the excess War Memorial funds to purchase the replica stone for Theodore Bayley Hardy.**
- RESOLVED: That the timetable for the delivery of the stone be ascertained**

101. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Meeting on 2 September - noted
102. To Note the draft minutes of the Buildings Maintenance Meeting on 8 September
- 102.1. To note Stannah's agreement to hold the price of the lift oil change until the new financial year and to agree the expenditure.

RESOLVED: That the cost of the oil change be considered at the Precept Meeting

103. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Playing Fields Association	500.00	Mainstage	5522.50
Goodenber Play Area	500.00	Yorkshire Water	228.14
Youth Cafe	375.00	D Townley	100.00
Community Bonfire	250.00	HMRC	541.48
Craven District Council	152.56	Orange	23.99
Mopps	192.00	Dash4It	20.76
NYCC	120.00	R Piper	496.37
Stannah Lift Services	160.64	1&1 Internet	16.76
Howsons	1126.44	D Siddall	80.00
EOn	167.57	W Dowbiggin	90.00
Aviva	310.37	M Green	63.75
PKF Littlejohn	480.00	Salaries	1657.06
Horton Landscaping	1039.99		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 103.1. To receive the audited Annual Return for y/e 31 March 2014 - received
- 103.2. To Consider the options from EOn & SWALEC for a new Fixed Price Gas Plan which expires in January (paper 2014/18) and agree a way forward
Cllr Adams declared an interest & left the room.
- RESOLVED: That the Council sign up to a 34 month fixed deal with SWALEC (to bring the gas contract in line with the electric contract)**
- 103.3. To agree the cost of £60 to purchase a new Yorkshire Flag
- RESOLVED: That a Yorkshire flag be purchased for £60**

104. To consider items of Correspondence
- 104.1. To Receive a letter from Low Bentham WI - received
- 104.2. To Receive a response from North Yorkshire Police regarding the concerns expressed about the Operational Policing Model - received
- 104.3. To Receive an invitation to the Bentham Superfast Broadband Event on 14 October, 10.30am to 2.00pm at Bentham Library & the Auction Mart - received
- 104.4. To Receive information from Julian Smith MP about the Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal programme and consider an application
- RESOLVED: That there is insufficient time before the application deadline for an application, and that it would be of limited benefit to Bentham**
- 104.5. To Receive a letter about problems with the Heritage Trail Way Markers and agree a response
Great Ecclestone WI had got lost on the 5 mile route on the Heritage Trail. The clerk had asked Mr Bev Sim, a member of the Footpaths Group, who had walked the route and confirmed that some of the stiles & way markers were covered with foliage and difficult to see and some way markers were missing. It was

pointed out that although the Trail was refurbished by the Town Team in 2013 it has no maintenance schedule or budget, despite there being numerous leaflets publicising the route and inviting ramblers to the area. The Council agreed that it needed to understand the scale of the problem before deciding if it could step in and maintain the Trail on going. The Clerk was asked to contact the WI to find out where they had got lost and also to find out from the Footpaths Group the kind of maintenance issues involved for further discussion when the budget for 2015/16 is set

RESOLVED: That the Great Ecclestone WI be asked to point out where they had got lost on the Heritage Trail so that remedial action (cutting back foliage, replacing way markers) can be under taken

RESOLVED: That clerk ascertain the scale of annual maintenance required for the Heritage Trail so that it can be considered at the next Precept Meeting

105. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
 Cllr Cowling told the meeting about the current Looking Well Exhibition of artwork from those suffering dementia and memory loss. He added that the Passing Places funding was now finished, but that they were still looking at ways of promoting cycling in the area.
 Cllr Swales had been to the Joint Footpaths Group meeting where cuts to the NYCC Footpath Ranger Service had been outlined.
 Cllr Adams had attended a Goodenber Play Area meeting to discuss maintenance issues and said that the Aid In Sickness AGM would be held shortly.
 He had also attended the Craven Select Committee meeting where the Policy Committee had referred the introduction of car parking charges. The Select Committee had recommended that the Policy Committee consult with both the Police and NYCC Highways to ensure that they have no objections before bringing the subject back to the table, and that a full consultation involving the parishes is conducted at that time.
 Cllr Bridgeman had attended a meeting of the Victoria Institute Committee where future fund raising and the hire charges had been discussed. Charges would increase by 10%.
 Cllr Hey said that the Longstaffe Educational Trust was organising a Music Recital on 7 December.
 Cllr Vendy had missed the Last Youth Café Committee meeting because of the Buildings Maintenance Committee meeting, however they will be running a Masterchef competition through the autumn along with various themed evenings and a Christmas Party. They are also looking to work with Age Concern on modern technology and website development.
 Cllr Stannard had attended the Collation of the new Anglican Vicar, Rvd Anne Russell.
106. Items for next meeting and minor items only
 Cllr Townson informed the meeting that Bentham had obtained a first prize in the Community Rail Awards for the planter sponsorship scheme and community involvement
 Cllr Hey offered her apologies for missing the Community Service on 5 October, which had been attended by Cllr Adams and the clerk.
 Cllr Vendy mentioned a complaint about the hedge cutting at the school site as the debris was littering the pavement causing problems for dogs and cyclists
 DCllr Brockbank congratulated the Council on the article in the October Bentham News by Cllr Vendy.
 Information was read from Clapham Parish Council that B4RN are hoping to have hyper fast broadband down Mewith Lane to Clapham shortly. Formal network design may start as early as Christmas.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.05pm

AGENDA ITEM 89)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6 October 2014

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 08/2014/14917 Replacement of existing approved dwelling, reduced in size – resubmission of 08/2013/14213 at Nutgill Lane, High Bentham
 1.1.2. 08/2014/14954 Installation of new air conditioning condensers & refrigeration plant units & acoustic screen to rear of United Cooperatives Late Shop, Main Street, High Bentham
 1.1.3. 08/2014/14936 Erection of single storey porch extension at Waterford Farm, Mewith, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. None

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. 08/2014/14883 Outline planning permission at Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham WITHDRAWN

- 2.2. ENF Ref: 1650/13 Bull Copy – Enforcement file now closed
- 2.3. Lancashire Minerals & Waste Local Plan Newsletter

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Station Approach meeting – contact made, awaiting NYCC Highways confirmation
- 3.2. Car park maintenance costs – information awaited
- 3.3. Low Bentham parking meeting – to be arranged
- 3.4. Flag flying timetable – draft awaited

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Green Dog Walkers Information
- 4.2. Craven & WW1 Project newsletter, September
- 4.3. Update on Robin Lane street lamp (no19)
- 4.4. Unity Trust Bank newsletter
- 4.5. MP response to Craven Parking Charges (Craven's 'current position')
- 4.6. Craven District Branch Meeting, YLCA, 11 October 2pm, Hellifield
- 4.7. Clerks & Councils Direct September 2014
- 4.8. The Clerk, September 2014
- 4.9. Craven Area Committee, 12 September (previously on noticeboards & circulated by email)

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 8/9, 15/9, 22/9, 29/9
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 17/9
- 5.3. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 10/9
- 5.4. White Rose Update, 15/9
- 5.5. North Yorkshire Now Newsletter, September
- 5.6. Fields in Trust September Update 3/9, 29/9 & 3/10
- 5.7. SLCC Newsletter 19/9
- 5.8. LASRUG newsletter, 9/9
- 5.9. Julian Smith MP reporting back, 19/9
- 5.10. John Gittings lecture, Skipton 2/10
- 5.11. RegioFlash EU policy update 23/9
- 5.12. Rural Action Yorkshire ebuletin no17, September
- 5.13. Rural Action Yorkshire – Safer Healthier Communities Event October 11, Kirk Deighton
- 5.14. Allerton Incinerator Opposition Update
- 5.15. LEADER Local Action Group request for volunteers

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. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited
- 6.4. Clerk's contract – meeting with HR 24/6 – awaiting amendments
- 6.5. School Playing Field – initial access plans received, awaiting results of negotiations with landowners
- 6.6. Response to Notice of Intention re St Margaret's Churchyard sent 13/6/13
- 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