

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 January 2013, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Brown, Burton, Handford & Marshall Also DCllr Brockbank, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 4 parishioners.

140. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Barnes, Hey, Hurlley & Procter. DCllr Barrington

141. 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 an interest in item 147.1.2, planning application 08/2012/13198, as owner of neighbouring land.

Following changes to the code of conduct and the discussion at the December Council meeting it was agreed to grant a dispensation to the whole Town Council for the duration of this term to allow Cllrs to legally discuss and set a budget for the town

RESOLVED: That Bentham Town Council be granted a DPI Dispensation until the next election, to allow Councillors to legally discuss and set a budget for Bentham

142. To Receive Comment & Concerns

Residents from Low Bentham asked about the recent unfortunate death in a property on Hillside Road. They were informed that this was in the hands of the police and as such little could be said, however the tenants of the house would not be returning to the address.

143. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 3 December be signed

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

There were no significant additions to the Clerks Report. The clerk advised the Council that a letter had been sent to Craven following the Neighbourhood Planning meeting asking about available funding and how Craven intended to deal with it. She also informed the Council that the electricity installation test for the Town Hall had been completed.

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

Sgt Hill attended. There were 52 incidents in December 2012. Those of note included: Break-ins to 3 caravans on Riverside with theft of belongings, theft of agricultural pharmaceuticals from the Auction Mart, theft of equipment from Tatham Tyres using a bus stolen from LRB and theft from a local farm. Also 2 warnings for possession of cannabis and an assault at Cedar House, plus the suspicious death in Low Bentham. Sgt Hill commented these figures were quite high for Bentham, but that there have been a speight of thefts from caravans in Skipton and Lancaster, which is hopefully just a seasonal spike and not a sign of things to come.

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

DCllr Brockbank reported that Friends of Bentham Library had met with NYCC Archive, Craven Museum and Ewecross to consider how the David Johnson Archive might be digitised. A report was in the current Bentham News and some responses have been received, but the group needs to find a project leader and fund raiser to go forward.

Craven's Dragon's Den closing date is approaching and youth groups need to apply for funding before 5pm on 15 February.

The Local Transport Body is looking to make a submission for major transport projects to be delivered in 2018/19. For Bentham access to the proposed new car park on Station Road, the Black Bull corner and potentially a review of the bus services had been added to the list for consideration.

The Budget Consultation Road Show is being held at Skipton at 6.30pm on 10 January. An online response form is available on the NYCC website for those unable to attend.

A new working group at Craven will be considering Coach & HGV parking on Craven owned car parks.

147. Planning

147.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

147.1.1. 08/2012/13183 Change of use to form residential dwelling together with internal alterations & extensions at Ford House, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

RESOLVED: That the clerk find out how applications for change of use / barn conversions etc impact on the housing allocation count for the area.

147.1.2. 08/2012/13198 Extension to existing workshop building to provide 2 extra working bays at Atkinson Vos Ltd, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham.

Cllr Marshall declared an interest

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

147.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

147.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

147.3.1. To consider the consultation on New Protocols for Pre-Application Planning Advice & Planning Performance Agreements

Craven is proposing to charge for Pre-Application Planning Advice on larger developments, although the On Duty Planning Officer will remain to give free advice to householders and small scale developments. This will reduce the burden on the tax payer by ensuring that the user of the service pays. It is anticipated that fees will start at £250 dependent upon the size of the development. For major strategic developments at Planning Performance Agreement Charter is proposed to provide a project management framework for major planning applications, and that these will usually be decided by Councillors rather than delegated officers.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no response to this consultation

148. Highways Matters

148.1. To receive notice of the proposed Zebra Crossing at Moons Acre for the New School - received

148.2. To receive a letter regarding the cutting of roadside verges

RESOLVED: That a response be sent pointing out NYCC's duty of care to motorists and the need to find a suitable balance

148.3. To receive a reply from NYCC Highways regarding timescales relating to surface water runoff

A response from David Wilson had been received suggesting that there was no procedure to deal with water run-off, which was at odds with the original discussion with James Malcolm

RESOLVED: That Mr Malcolm be contacted regarding this different response and asked for a definitive answer regarding water on the Highway

148.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

With the continued bad weather in the run up to Christmas a large number of deep potholes are now causing problems on Station Road, Main Street, Springfield, Mount Pleasant, Lakeber Drive, Lingham and the B6480 in Low Bentham. There is also a problem with the pavement on Robin Lane at Bank Head, and the drains at the railway bridge are blocked again.

RESOLVED: That the pothole/drainage problems be reported to NYCC Highways

The B6480 at Wennington has deteriorated substantially in the same period

RESOLVED: That LCC be contacted again about the state of the road between Wennington and the county boundary

149. To receive a brief report on the Neighbourhood Planning meeting with Craven & Burton in Lonsdale

The meeting on 5 December had been useful and both Bentham and Burton had agreed to further consider working towards a Neighbourhood Plan for the parishes. As Burton & Bentham have different needs it was thought that a joint plan might not be possible, but working together on the evidence base was certainly possible. A letter had been sent to Craven asking for confirmation about funding available for the process, bearing in mind the officers admission that they had little time available to assist in the process. It had been pointed out that any neighbourhood plan needs to fit in with the District's Local Plan, which is currently being updated but should be available in draft form in late 2013. Whilst timescales are as yet unclear the idea of producing a neighbourhood plan should be advertised locally and available expertise within the community found and utilised

RESOLVED: That the Council continue to look towards producing a Neighbourhood Plan subject to funding

RESOLVED: That the aim of producing a Neighbourhood Plan be advertised locally and residents invited to be involved.

150. To consider adopting the Craven District Council Code of Conduct in the light of training undertaken in December

Those Cllrs that had attended agreed that the training course had been excellent. Craven District Council had adopted the NALC Model Code to stay in line with the parishes, but had added certain extra requirements to make Council activities more transparent. In order to add the same transparencies to proceedings in Bentham and to ensure uniformity with the District Council it was proposed that Bentham Town Council should adopt the Craven District Council amendments and incorporate them into its own code of conduct on-going

RESOLVED: That Bentham Town Council adopt the Craven District Council Code of Conduct to ensure greater transparency and uniformity.

151. To receive further information on Parish Precepts 2013/14 and the Localisation of the Council Tax Support Scheme.

The Council Tax base will change in 2013/14 reducing the number of properties paying the precept. Government has agreed to provide a grant for 2013/14 to cover some of the reduction and Craven will pass this on, but there is no guarantee that this grant will be available in future years and parish precept increases may be capped as currently happens with District and County Councils after 2013/14. The Council must therefore decide how to approach this dilemma at the coming Precept Meeting. Craven District Council have provided a 'precept checker' which allows comparison of council tax payments at various precept levels. Due to the change in council tax base, leaving the precept unchanged will result in an increase from £79 to £85 (6%) for band D properties.

152.To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Mopps	384.00	Inglesport Ltd	61.20
Horton Landscaping	594.00	Eon	639.43
Toobys	1335.48	Andrews	20.30
NYCC	120.00	British Gas	587.02
Aviva	322.54	R Green	482.98
Craven District Council	342.69	J Burton	811.44
Viking Direct	119.94	HMRC	584.78
B & CE Armstrong	38.84	Orange	23.99
Clearglass Cleaning	90.00		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

- 152.1. To note an increase in the cost of the unmetered supply for street lighting to £65.66 +VAT / month - noted
 152.2. To consider further information regarding the cost of sanding the Lower hall floor, increasing the cost
RESOLVED: That the new price of £1380 (up from £950) to use Dulux Diamond Glaze instead of Osmo Oil be accepted.

153.To Consider items of Correspondence

- 153.1. To note Craven's Christmas tree recycling from 28 January to 8 February - noted
 153.2. To receive an Invitation to the WR Mitchell Archive Project on 16 January at Settle Victoria Hall, 4pm
RESOLVED: That the Cllrs apologies be sent due to the timing of the event

154.To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) – none

155.Items for next meeting and minor items only – none

There being no further business, the meeting was closed to the public at 9.00pm

Cllr Marshall, as Chairman, asked members of the press and public to leave whilst the confidential matter of the tender responses was discussed.

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

156.Confidential session to consider the tender documents for the coming season and agree a contractor

- 156.1. Grass cutting
 Five tender documents were considered
RESOLVED: That the Horton Landscaping Ltd be appointed as contractor for the grass cutting contract for the next 3 years until March 2016 at a cost of £2499 for 2013/14.
- 156.2. Parish Caretaker
RESOLVED: That Horton Landscaping Ltd be appointed as Parish Caretaker for 2013/14, to be reviewed prior to 2014/15 at a rate of £15/hour

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

AGENDA ITEM 144)**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 7 January 2013****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2012/13023 Change of use from Betting Shop to A5 Hot Food Takeaway & external alterations at Wilf True Racing, 10 Main Street, High Bentham
 1.1.2. 08/2012/13050 Retention of building for use as ancillary accommodation and storage with all elevations to be clad in timber boarding and reduction in height of south eastern extension (resubmission of 08/2012/12530) at West End Barn, Greenhead, Cross Lane, Low Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. 08/2012/13014 Erection of small scale wind turbine to generate electricity, resubmission of 08/2012/12680 at Waterscales Farm, Greystonegill Lane, High Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence**3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting**

- 3.1. Leader funding bid completed 10 December

- 3.2. Recycling response sent 11 December
- 3.3. HGV speed limit response submitted 11 December
- 3.4. Neighbourhood Plan funding letter to Craven sent 17 December
- 3.5. Car Parks response sent to Craven 18 December

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Notice of completion of water meter upgrade for Town Hall
- 4.2. Craven YLCA Branch Meeting, 16 January 2013, Skipton Town Hall
- 4.3. Ash Dieback disease notification
- 4.4. Rural Action Yorkshire – Keeping Warm, Healthy & Safe Over Winter – various leaflets

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 3/12, 10/12, 17/12, 24/12, 31/12, 7/1/13
- 5.2. North Yorkshire Now, December 12
- 5.3. Looking Well News 5/12
- 5.4. Craven Community News, December 12
- 5.5. Rural opportunities Bulletin, 5/12
- 5.6. LASRUG newsletter 15/12
- 5.7. Rural Services Network Press Release, 20/12
- 5.8. RegioFlash News, 30 November
- 5.9. SLCC News Bulletin, 5/12 & 20/12
- 5.10. YLCA Information notes – 7/12, 14/12 & 21/12/12, & 4/1/13
- 5.11. Julian Smith MP – Reporting Back, Winter 2012
- 5.12. Environment Agency decision regarding assessing the design of nuclear power plants
- 5.13. Various emails on Cravens discussion on charging for Brown Bin collection – rejected 11 December

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Public Sector Deposit Fund account opened 19 December
- 6.2. Meeting with Golf Club re allotments – letter sent to potential allotment holders to progress project
- 6.3. Sanctuary Housing contacted re Hillside Road, 27 November for update
- 6.4. NYCC Streetlights contacted 4 October re Cleveland Square, light has been replaced but ENW found problem with underground wiring, to be fixed mid-January
- 6.5. Network Rail contacted about fence 12 September, photos supplied 17 September, listed for repair 17 October
- 6.6. Market valuation of Low Bentham School Field, NYCC meeting 22/8, land registry & access information awaited
- 6.7. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.8. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered