

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 April 2013, at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Armstrong, Burton, Barnes, Hurtley, Handford, Hey & Marshall (Chairman). Also DCllr Brockbank, CCllr Ireton, the Clerk, Mrs Burton & 7 parishioners.

The Chairman welcomed Sharon Sunter of Craven District Council's Economic Development Unit to the meeting to discuss the results of the Shaping Spaces meetings held in October 2012. Ms Sunter explained that although Bentham had been unsuccessful in its bid to be a 'Portas Pilot' it had been given £10K to improve the appearance of the commercial centre (Main Street & Station Road). The Space Shaper event had been held to engage sections of the Community to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the town centre. In general the strong points were held to be the variety and independence of the shops, the buildings and surroundings and the free parking. The dislikes had been the limited public transport, early closing of shops on a Saturday, domination of the car, the lack of colour and the large amount of signage. It was recognised that there was a need to develop a 'Bentham Brand' and to formulate a vision for a well presented, safe & sustainable town centre.

A Market Town Benchmarking Survey was also performed in late November which had spent 3 days counting cars, talking to businesses, residents & visitors. This had provided similar feedback

The Town Team had looked to spend the grant on long term projects with lasting effects. Some of the ideas were already in the early stages of implementation – the refurbishment of the bus shelter and the extension and improvement of the Heritage Trail were in hand. An audit of the street signs had also been performed – there are currently 53 NYCC, 11 CDC and 3 Bentham Town Council signs in the project area. The Town Team is looking to remove the unnecessary ones and make the remainder coherent and easy to follow.

Craven has promised to use a share of the New Homes Bonus to improve the centre and streets, with approximately £100K being available for capital expenditure in Bentham. Looking forward there is a need to develop a plan of priorities led by the Town Team but in consultation with the Council and other community bodies like We Are Bentham, which will benefit the community in the years to come.

The Chairman thanked Ms Sunter for her presentation and said there was much for the Council to consider.

The business part of the Council meeting started at 7.30pm:

199. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Brown, & Procter & DCllr Barrington

200. 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
- none

201. To Receive Comment & Concerns

Four residents who are members of the Friends of St Margaret's Church asked for the Council's support in fighting the proposed closure of the church. The clerk explained that the documentation from the Diocese had not been received before the agenda had been posted, otherwise the subject would have been listed, and consequently the Council could not discuss the subject or make a resolution at this time. When asked why the subject had not been added to the agenda when it arrived she explained that the Local Government Act 1972, which sets out how local Councils are run, legislated that Councils must only discuss and decide upon items that are advertised on an agenda 3 clear days before the meeting and that the Easter Bank Holiday had meant the agenda had been posted on the Tuesday prior to the letter being received. She had added the subject to the Clerks Report to ask the Council if it wished to meet again this month as the Diocese was requesting a response by 26 April. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the Diocese to ask for an extension beyond this date due to the constraints under which the Council found itself.

202. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 4 March be signed

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

The clerk pointed the Council to the additions since the agenda was posted: The four year rule will apply to the illegal earthworks at the Punch Bowl, so following Craven's decision not to enforce their removal they will become legal once the four year period is over. Lancaster City Council had requested comment on a planning application for 10 wind turbines at Claughton Quarry. This needs a response within 21 days. The Council agreed that it should meet within the necessary time frame to allow it to respond.

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

Sgt Hill & PC ?? attended and reported 44 incidents in the previous month – including 6 road traffic incidents, 6 missing persons (including 5 absconds from care homes) and 6 crimes (4 thefts from sheds/farm buildings, 1 diesel theft and 1 possession of a class A drug). They confirmed that a team was coming out of South Yorkshire, using older vehicles including a green Subaru, targeting

Land Rovers and quad bikes. In response to a question about the graffiti on the river bridge it was confirmed that no new items had appeared in the last month.

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

CCllr Ireton confirmed that the county planning department had asked the education department for a full planning application to assess the proposed changes and decide if new consent needs to be given. These plans have not yet been provided.

He gave the Council an update on the finances of NYCC – some 1300 jobs have gone in the last 3 years, with a drop in work force from 15103 to 13737, including 200 compulsory redundancies. 10% of admin posts, 13% of managers and 3% of front line posts have gone and £54 million cuts. A further £24 million cuts are required which may be too severe. Spending on children and the elderly is being ring fenced. NYCC is now responsible for commissioning public health services, reduce the differences between communities and come up with a strategy to improve health. Various questions were asked about NYCC Highways and road maintenance and it was agreed that NYCC Highways should be congratulated on the recent response to getting roads open after the bad weather in the week before Easter.

DCllr Brockbank confirmed that Network Rail have confirmed that they will sort the ditch on the B6480 between 15 & 18 April and that they are liaising with NYCC Highways to get the road under the railway bridge cleared. The Community Rail Partnership meeting had been postponed due to lack of interest from the parishes, although some delegates, including Cllr Adams had still got together. DCllr Brockbank had since contacted many of the parishes directly and received a good response. A meeting may be held in the near future, or representatives may attend individual parish meetings. Craven's Select Committee had met to discuss the proposed closure of Reid House and the provision of housing for the elderly. In short Yorkshire Housing get grants to build new properties, not refurbish old ones. Craven District Council is working with Yorkshire Housing to try and find a solution. Finally she confirmed that the Policy Committee had put Garden Waste collection back on the agenda by proposing that charges should be implemented. The proposal of an annual charge of £24 was on the agenda for the next meeting of Craven District Council.

206. Planning

206.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

206.1.1. 08/2013/13332 Change of use of adjacent land to domestic usage and erection of a detached double garage at Dandenong, Low Bentham Road, Low Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

206.1.2. 08/2013/13349 2 storey & single storey side extension to form kitchen, dining room & bathroom, resubmission of 08/2012/13011 at Stone Grove Cottage, Mewith Lane, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

206.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

206.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

206.3.1. To Confirm a date for a meeting to further consider a Neighbourhood Plan for Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council meet to discuss Neighbourhood Plans on 23 April

RESOLVED: That the Council also discuss the Wind Turbine application and St Margaret's proposed closure at this meeting

206.3.2. To Receive updated information regarding grants for Neighbourhood Plans

A new scheme comes into operation on 15 April which should be considered by the Council

RESOLVED: That the Council discuss the Neighbourhood Planning Grant Scheme on 23 April

206.3.3. To consider Craven's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for High & Low Bentham and agree a way forward (paper 2012/23)

A large amount of potential planning land has been put forward and the Council asked for its comments. It was noted that much of this land was similar to that considered previously and the clerk agreed to look out the previous response.

RESOLVED: That the Council discuss the SHLAA for High & Low Bentham on 23 April

206.3.4. Others, if any (see Clerks Report)

207. Highways Matters

207.1. To Receive information on the potential placing of Temporary VAS in Bentham and agree whether to progress, with the associated costs to be met from Council reserves

This meeting was postponed because of the bad weather and will now take place on 5 April

RESOLVED: That this subject be moved to the May agenda

207.2. To Receive an update from NYCC Highways on flooding issues previously reported

NYCC Highways will ask the landowner on Springfield to sort the broken land drain. They are unable to do anything about the water on the highway at Tatterthorn Road or Yew Tree Drive.

207.3. To Consider supporting residents' request for the painting of white lines across drives on Harley Bank

Council felt that, before white lining was requested, other measures should be tried. It was agreed that the police should be informed as it is an offence to park across a dropped kerb (3 points and a fine) and that the Victoria Institute should be asked to make their users aware of the problem. DCllr Brockbank said that Craven will be responsible for civil parking problems from the end of May.

RESOLVED: That the Council contact the police and Victoria Institute regarding the parking problem to see if it can be resolved before resorting to white lining

207.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Concerns were expressed about the removal of the mirror at Burton Road end in Low Bentham. The clerk explained that she had informed NYCC Highways about the bracket damage following the recent storms and that they had decided to remove it rather than repair it for the moment. She supplied those present with the person to contact to ask for its rapid return.

208. To Consider the Memorial Safety Test Results and to agree a way forward
The recent 'Wobble Test' had revealed 7 memorials in need of repair, although none were considered dangerous enough to lay down at the present time. It was agreed to circulate the names to try and identify the responsible families who should be contacted and asked to fix the memorials before they become dangerous.
RESOLVED: That the names of the affected memorials be circulated to Councillors to try and identify the responsible families so that the memorials can be fixed before they become dangerous
209. To Receive confirmation of the Community Governance Review 2011, showing changes to Bentham Ward boundaries and the number of Councillors to be elected from each ward – received
From the 2014 elections there will be 8 High Bentham Cllrs and 3 Low Bentham Cllrs
210. To Consider the updated Draft Risk Assessment for the Council for approval (paper 2012/24)
The Council thanked the clerk and Cllr Handford for the work they had put in to this document
RESOLVED: That the Risk Assessment be adopted
211. To Receive notification from Craven District Council that the old toilet block is to be put up for lease, with the sandbag store to be moved elsewhere - received
212. To Receive confirmation of LEADER grant award for the provision of public Bike Racks at the Town Hall and Community Youth Building
A grant of 80% towards the £950 costs of the project had been offered by LEADER, which the Council agreed to accept. The project must be completed by the end of October 2013
RESOLVED: That the LEADER grant for the cycle racks be accepted
213. To Receive information from DCLG on the Openness & Transparency on Personal Interests following the adoption of the Localism Act 2011 (paper 2012/25) - received
214. To Consider issues related to **CARNIVAL** on June 1, 2013
- 214.1. To consider using the outstanding Jubilee budget to pay for CARNIVAL printing
The beacon and medals purchased for the Jubilee used half the available budget last year. It was agreed that the remainder should be made available for the CARNIVAL publicity rather than going into Council's reserves
RESOLVED: That the £500 unspent Jubilee budget be made available for CARNIVAL printing
- 214.2. To consider supporting Bentham Youth Café in their request for permission to use Cleveland Square as the site for a climbing wall and mobile cave (owned and run by Empire Adventures) on CARNIVAL Day
The clerk announced that the Empire Adventures equipment was no longer available for the CARNIVAL date. Council felt that it was important that Cleveland Square should be available for community use that day, even if the Youth Café no longer required it. The clerk said she had contacted Craven regarding this issue and they were happy for the Square to be used as long as they were provided with a copy of the relevant insurance and risk assessments and the Town Council's support for the event.
RESOLVED: That Cleveland Square can be used on CARNIVAL day as long as suitable insurance and risk assessments are in place
215. To Agree the Accounts for Payment
- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| Playing Fields Association | 500.00 | L Tyrer & Son | 1656.00 |
| Bentham Youth Cafe | 375.00 | EON | 872.58 |
| Goodenber Play Area | 375.00 | Aviva | 322.54 |
| Victoria Institute | 250.00 | Mopps | 384.00 |
| Community Bonfire | 250.00 | Stannah Lift Services | 156.58 |
| Friends Bentham Library | 300.00 | Andrews | 80.74 |
| Bentham Common Lands Charity | 150.00 | Toobys | 24.00 |
| Horton Landscaping | 180.00 | Howsons | 879.12 |
| Craven District Council | 99.05 | M Green | 63.75 |
| J Atkinson | 95.00 | R Green | 482.98 |
| HMRC | 390.44 | J Burton | 785.33 |
| NYCC | 120.00 | W Dowbiggin | 90.00 |
| HB Plumbing & Heating | 190.21 | C Sinclair | 131.25 |
| YLCA | 632.00 | Orange | 23.99 |
| Hygiene Cleaning Supplies | 118.29 | Wenningdale Leisure | 223.60 |
| Yorkshire Water | 216.18 | iprint | 421.00 |
- Plus transfer of £1400 grant from Town Council to Tourist Information account

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

216. To Note the Tourist Information Coffee Morning on Saturday 6 April and to receive a request for Councillors to help at the event and provide Raffle Prizes - noted
217. To Consider items of Correspondence
- 217.1. To receive notification that the Town Hall flagpole requires an inspection and agree a way forward
Correspondence from the installers confirmed the need for an 18mth safety inspection and quoted £285 for a visual inspection from the ground and a check of all halyards etc. It was agreed that this seemed very expensive and an alternative, possibly self-certification, should be considered.
RESOLVED: That an alternative inspection should be considered
- 217.2. To consider the new Waste Transfer note from Craven District Council and the implications for waste collection in the future.
From 1 January 2015 all waste will need to be separated or Craven will not collect it. The Town Hall bin storage therefore needs further consideration as it is currently used by all and sundry such that the Council is not responsible for all the waste in it.
RESOLVED: That storage of Town Hall waste needs further consideration before 2015.
- 217.3. To consider a request to allow three hanging baskets to be installed on the side of the Town Hall
RESOLVED: That the hanging baskets on the Town Hall be permitted as long as the Parish Caretaker fits the brackets and a suitable risk assessment is done
218. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)
Cllr Handford had attended a Footpaths meeting and confirmed that further work has been done at Cowslip Hill with the sleepers. The Town Team are funding work on the Heritage Trail and he said that the short and medium routes have already been audited but the recent snow had prevented completion of the long route's. He thanked Bev Simm for his work and informed the Council that tenders should be going out by the end of April.
Cllr Adams said that the Goodenber Play Area AGM will be held on 18 April.
219. Items for next meeting and minor items only
Ms Sunter was asked to get the Craven website changed so that it points to www.aboutbentham.org.uk, not www.bentham.net which is now out of date.
The Council congratulated We Are Bentham on their decoration of the town for Easter.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.55pm

AGENDA ITEM 203)**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 3 April 2013****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2013/13133 To install solar panels to the roof & air source heat pumps to 17 & 19-25 Hillside Road, Low Bentham
- 1.1.2. 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.
- 1.1.3. 08/2013/13284 Amendment to planning approval 08/2011/11291 to include redesign and repositioning within the site at The Sidings, Low Bentham
- 1.1.4. 08/2013/13287 Extension of time to previous approval 08/2010/10303 at Goodenbergh Park & Farm, Low Bentham

1.2. REFUSED – none**2. Planning Correspondence**

- 2.1. Consultation on Lancashire Minerals & Waste Local Plan, Main Modifications to Site Allocation and Management Development Policies Local Plan and Policies Map
- 2.2. Update from Planning Enforcement re Punch Bowl earthworks – 4 year rule does apply
- 2.3. Planning Consultation, LCC 13/00128/FUL: 10 wind turbines on land at Claughton Quarry, Claughton Moor (received 2 April)

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting

- 3.1. Dog bin request for Springfield made 7 March, Craven no longer install dedicated Dog Bins 8 March. Will consider installing general bin – chased 25 March
- 3.2. Low Bentham Playing Field tree work confirmed 5 March, to be done in April – weather permitting
- 3.3. Electrical installation repair process agreed by insurers 12 March, Harrison & Cross appointment 16 April

3.4. White lining on Station Road to be completed w/b 18 March (weather delayed)

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. The Big Community Switch – saving money on energy bills (www.cravenc.gov.uk/cheaperenergybills)
- 4.2. Rural Action Yorkshire Venues Website update
- 4.3. Playing Fields Association Accounts (as promised at the Precept meeting)
- 4.4. Change of secretary of Playing Fields Association
- 4.5. Bentham Accommodation & Services List 2013, published 28 March
- 4.6. NYCC Elections, May 2
- 4.7. Diocese of Bradford Draft Scheme for Benefices of Bentham, Ingleton with Chapel-le-dale & Thornton with Burton
- 4.8. Renegade Picture request for help with TV programme
- 4.9. YLCA information on subscription fee

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest, 11/3, 18/3, 25/3
- 5.2. North Yorkshire Now, March & April 2013
- 5.3. Craven Community News, February 2013
- 5.4. Looking Well News, 6/3/13
- 5.5. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, March 2013
- 5.6. Rural Services Network Press Release – follow by Twitter, 20/3
- 5.7. SLCC News Bulletin, 7/3 & 28/3/13
- 5.8. YLCA Information notes –1/3, 8/3
- 5.9. LASRUG Newsletter, March 2013
- 5.10. LEADER Enewsburst, March
- 5.11. Fields in Trust Ezine, 6/3/13
- 5.12. Quality Council Scheme Review survey
- 5.13. Work Experience scheme for the Unemployed
- 5.14. NALC precept survey summary
- 5.15. Rural Action Yorkshire News, 4
- 5.16. Free Governance Training, Craven Volunteer Network

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. NYCC Highways contacted regarding Vehicle Activated Sign meeting arranged – see agenda item
- 6.2. Letters re B6480 at Wennington sent to LCC, David Morris MP on 8 February – response awaited
- 6.3. Leader funding bid completed 10 December, reply expected March 2013 – see agenda item
- 6.4. Network Rail contacted about fence 12 September, photos supplied 17 September, listed for repair 17 October, chased 26 March
- 6.5. Market valuation of Low Bentham School Field, NYCC meeting 22/8, land registry & access information awaited
- 6.6. Low Bentham Playing Field, pipes & cables map awaited
- 6.7. Quality Status – Statement of training intent to be considered