

## **MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Marshall (Chair) Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Hill, Stannard, Taylor and Wills. The Clerk Christine Downey. CCllr Ireton. DCllr Brockbank. PC's Andy McClurg and Jayne Grace. And 14 members of the public.

- 176 To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend  
Cllrs Handford and Swales.
- 177 To Receive and Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to any items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations  
None.
- 178 To Receive Comment & Concerns  
Shirley Brown reported that there was widespread disappointment at the lack of Christmas lights in Bentham. It was explained that the Bentham Christmas Lights Committee are looking into alternative solutions for this year.  
Annie Neligan and Alison Eason reported on climate emergency. Their main points were that everybody has a responsibility and the capacity to do something about climate emergency. That the effect of what we do today will be felt 30 years down the line. That we don't know the outcomes of some of our actions today; nevertheless, individuals, groups and governments are all still responsible. We will all be forced to change our behaviours by climate change events eventually anyway, and we owe it children and young people especially to do it sooner rather than later. We in Bentham can make a difference, and this is a responsibility.  
Regarding capacity: Bentham can join together and be responsible and this needs the support of the council in two ways; A) regarding council activity, and B) with a leadership role. BEST regard a leadership role from the council as key because it adds weight and it would make a difference if the Bentham response to the climate emergency, and/or any initiative, was led by the council. BEST believe that the council can encourage individuals, groups and organisations in Bentham to do something, and can lobby other agencies.  
Alison went on to congratulate the council on the Community Emergency Plan and the recent article in the Bentham News request involvement from local residents in the event of an emergency, and stressed that we are already in the midst of an emergency, a climate emergency.
- 179 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 are agreed and be signed.**
- 180 To receive the clerks report (for information only) – see end of these minutes for clerk's report.
- 181 To receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – see end of these minutes for police report.
- 182 To receive reports from CCllr & DCllrs  
CCllr Ireton reported that the announcement on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December by the local government secretary Robert Jenrick MP has included a national spending boost for social care, and also retains last year's rural services delivery grant of £81 million, which recognises the extra cost of providing services in rural areas. Very welcome additional

funding for extra care and special educational needs was included, but the council, along with all local government, remains in the dark about funding announcements beyond March 2021. In the meantime, demand for services, such as social care, special educational needs, disabilities and home to school transport remain high, and we continue to face financial challenges. The effects of austerity are still being felt. North Yorkshire special schools get a £2 million buildings boost; specialist facilities, new classrooms, and more spaces for children are among the benefits of the £2 million investment. The Forest school in Knaresborough has benefited from £1 million funding from North Yorkshire CC schools transition grant. It has been used to create an extension to classrooms, with breakout places, a hygiene room, and will accommodate up to 25 new places. Internal remodelling had created a range of specialist facilities including a speech and language therapy room, medical room, and a physiotherapy room.

Councillor Ireton was asked how people express an interest in the extra care housing on the old school site in Bentham. He will forward details to the clerk.

DCllr Brockbank reported that she had not been able to link up with Cllr Handford as yet, regarding bins. The clerk will pass on his phone number so that they can arrange a meeting.

183

#### Planning

183.1 To Consider and Comment upon New Planning Applications

183.1.1 2019/21256/ADV Installation of 3 no. illuminated signs, 1 no. non-illuminated sign and fascia sign at United Co Operatives Late Shop, Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HE.

**RESOLVED: That the council has no comments.**

183.1.2 2019/21279/COU Change of use from retail area to additional residential area and external alterations. (Resubmission of 2019/21033/FUL, with drawn 18 November 2019) at Black Bicycle, 8 Station Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LF.

**RESOLVED: That the council has no comments.**

183.2 To receive Planning Decisions – none.

183.3 To receive Correspondence on Planning issues – none.

184

#### Highways Matters

184.1 To discuss the road safety issue at St Johns Church and Cedar House School and agree a way forward

DCllr Brockbank reminded the council that the school and the church want a discussion with the local community regarding the problems and potential solutions, and that they regard Bentham Town Council as representing the local community.

The council pointed out that it was suggested at the last full council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 that a way forward that could resolve the safety problem would be if the church/diocese and the school each gave up a strip of land on the North side, to allow a pavement to be installed on both sides of the road, with a pedestrian crossing. It was agreed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 council meeting that the suggestion would be put to the church and to the school by DCllr Brockbank. Nothing has been heard back about this suggestion to date and the council maintain that a statement in principle from the church/diocese and the school would present options, and that discussions with the highways department should come after this option has been properly explored.

**RESOLVED: Clerk to request feedback on the suggestion made by the council regarding the church/diocese and the school giving up a strip of land on the north side to allow a pavement to be installed, from Mrs Bruno who has contact with both the church and the school.**

184.2 To consider and note Highways Matters for information – none.

**RESOLVED: Councillors to report pot holes, faulty street lights, and other highways issues themselves in future, and to follow up each issue as required.**

**RESOLVED: To advise members of the public that they may report problems themselves.**

185 To consider the Register of Interests and agree updates from members where necessary  
**RESOLVED: Clerk to pass on two registers of interest to Cllr Stannard to be uploaded to the website.**

186 To note the draft minutes of Open Spaces Committee meeting 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
**NOTED.**

187 To receive an update on the Philip Harvey Playing Field  
 The independent inspection is expected to be conducted in January. The report will be circulated on receipt.

188 To agree updated Cemetery Rules & Regulations  
**RESOLVED: That the updated version of the Cemetery Rules & Regulations is adopted by Bentham Town Council.**

189 To discuss the Town Hall clock and agree a way forward  
**RESOLVED: To examine the outside of the clock when the days are lighter, to determine if that's where the problem lies and whether scaffolding will be required to repair any outside fault.**

190 To discuss the position re Community Youth Building and agree a way forward

190.1 Repairs to make fit for purpose while long term position is under review

190.1.1 Cooker Electrics  
**Report awaited from Mark Burrows.**

190.1.2 Full electric service  
**Report awaited from Mark Burrows.**

190.1.3 Ceiling & plastering repairs in kitchen and top room  
**RESOLVED: Refer to buildings committee.**

190.1.4 Damp treatment or dehumidifiers  
**RESOLVED: Refer to buildings committee.**

190.1.5 Caging on lighting and projector in middle room / caging on glitter ball in middle room, or removal  
**RESOLVED: This is the responsibility of the Youth Café.**

190.1.6 Porch lighting  
**Report awaited from Mark Burrows.**

190.1.7 Replacement windows and front door  
 Will need listed buildings consent.  
**RESOLVED: Refer to buildings committee.**

190.2 Long term position  
**The notes from the meeting with youth café representatives on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 have been circulated for consideration.**

191 To agree the accounts for payment

Ross Chesters has decided not to bill the council for the roof repair, he is donating his time for the benefit of Bentham.

**RESOLVED: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Ross.**

**RESOLVED: Defer the payment to Rachel Cowgill for contribution to the cost of scaffolding until the VAT position has been discussed with her further.**

Payments for approval: -		
Salaries	December 2019	2,565.68
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	2,080.77
B & C E Armstrongs	Paint for decorating town hall	410.22
Tim Wheildon	Heating repair at youth centre	67.50
Viking	Ink and stationery	197.52
Nisbets	Lincat water boiler	507.58
Citron Hygiene	Sanitary disposal	24.34
Gareth Adams	TIP volunteers Christmas Meal (Horse & Farriers £28 x 7)	196.00
Craven DC	Refuse collection	53.42
Swalec	Gas	437.66
Aviva	Insurance	413.66
1&1 Ionis	Internet	8.44
NEST	Pension contribution	109.85
BT	Town hall phone and lifts	300.17
BT	TIP phone Dec 2019	55.03
BT	TIP phone Jan 2020	48.84

**RESOLVED: Approved**

**RESOLVED: Cllrs Faraday and Stannard to authorise.**

192

To consider receiving grant money for the gravel for work on the Low Bentham footpath in the Bentham Town Council bank account

**RESOLVED: To receive grant money for the gravel for work on the Low Bentham footpath in the Bentham Town Council bank account.**

193

To discuss matters relating to climate emergency and agree a way forward

The council have received a letter from BEST (Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town) asking for council support in declaring a climate emergency and support for actions to cut carbon emissions to zero by 2030. The proposals from BEST were read to the assembly by the chairman.

It was suggested that the motion prepared by BEST should be amended in two respects; 1) The statement "That the Council will" should be amended to "That the Council will where possible", and 2) that references to "renewable energy" should be amended to read "renewable and other forms of low carbon energy".

Regarding the request to "provide leadership to our community in reducing its direct CO2 emissions and its consumption of things that cause CO2 emissions elsewhere, and in preparing for changes caused by global heating"; the council do not have the knowledge or expertise to do this. The council suggest that what is required is an outside body or committee of specialists in the field, who can provide direction, guidance and leadership. Should BEST decide to organise and run a working party/committee, with the involvement of local residents, the council will participate and provide a council representative.

BEST continued to press for the council to assume responsibility for the initiative, or to commit to joint responsibility. However, the council maintained that BEST know more about this matter than the councillors and that the working party/committee needs to be led by BEST, with council representation.

The council are aware of the problems around climate change and are committed to being mindful of the contents of the motion from BEST in their day to day activities.

**RESOLVED: To provide a council representative to any local working party/ committee on climate change.**

**RESOLVED: To compile a list of things that everybody in Bentham can do to address the problem. Many local organisations could contribute.**

- 194 To receive items of correspondence – Annual report from Low Bentham WI  
**RECEIVED.**
- 195 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)  
None.
- 196 Items for next meeting and minor items only  
None.
- 197 Date of next meeting(s)  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.36

### **CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6th Jan 2020**

#### **1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting**

- 1.1. **GRANTED** - none
- 1.2. **REFUSED** - none
- 1.3. **WITHDRAWN** – none

#### **2. Planning Correspondence**

- 2.1. None

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

**Goodenber Play Area** – Copy of the charity constitution from the Goodenber Play Area Association is waited. On receipt advice will be taken from YLCA regarding what the council may and may not do in relation to a charity.

#### **4. Items for Information – see information folder – Clerks & Councils Direct, issues 126 (Nov 2019) and 127 (Jan 2020).**

#### **5. Items circulated by email**

- 5.1. Community First Yorkshire
  - 5.1.1. Weekly update 29/11; 06/12; 13/12; 20/12
  - 5.1.2. Rural News December
- 5.2. Craven District Council
  - 5.2.1. Arrangements for dealing with complaints
  - 5.2.2. Consultation on the SHELLAA methodology 2019: 28/11/19 to 19/12/19.
- 5.3. Lancaster City Council - Canal Quarter Strategic Regeneration Framework (draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)) Consultation
- 5.4. LASRUG December Newsletter
- 5.5. NALC
  - 5.5.1. Spring Conference 17/03/2020
  - 5.5.2. Chief Executives Bulletin 29/11; 06/12; 13/12; 20/12
  - 5.5.3. LCR Winter Survey – share your opinions on the new government
  - 5.5.4. Chairman's open letter to all councillors 18/12
- 5.6. NYCC - TBA
- 5.7. North Yorkshire Community Messaging – North Yorkshire Police
  - 5.7.1. Weekly update 06/12
  - 5.7.2. The Cyber Helpline
- 5.8. Rural Services Network
  - 5.8.1. The Rural Bulletin 03/12; 10/12; 17/12; 23/12; 27/12
  - 5.8.2. Monthly bulletin – Rural Funding Digest

5.9. Streetworks – temp road closure, 21 Main Street, 24/02/2020 to 28/02/2020

5.10. YLCA

5.10.1. Home Office Consultation: Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments.

5.10.2. White Rose Update Dec.

5.10.3. Spring training conference programme

5.10.4. Legal Topic Note 22 – policies for grievance and disciplinary handling

5.11. Misca

5.11.1. EvoNorth 2020 conference details and media pack

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters – all on agenda.**

**POLICE REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 6th Jan 2020**

Please find your monthly police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 06.01.20

We have had 49 incidents reported between 01.12.19 to 03.01.20

Reports include - General Admin from other Police force enquiries, Checks Safeguarding - Social Services & NSPCC, RTC – non injury details exchanged & single vehicle non injury B6480, Highway disruption – HGV struck on Bank Rise - Broken down vehicle Dumb Toms Lane - pot hole & sheep on B6480, Concern for welfare – joint partnership working, Concern for welfare – Ambulance dealt, Abandon calls, Fake note passed, Suspicious incident – checked all in order

4 incidents relating to Young person’s homes & school - joint partnership working with home & police

02.12.19 – Highways disruption – vehicle blocking pavement – police dealing

04.12.19 – Civil dispute

05.12.19 – RTC – single vehicle Low Bentham to Wennington – non injury

07.12.19 – Suspect person & van between High Bentham & Low Bentham

10.12.19 – House Burglary – Low Bentham

10.12.19 & 16.12.19 - Crime Violence – dog on dog attack & Dog bite

12.12.19 – Crime Violence – ongoing investigation

13.12.19 – Concern for safety / welfare - joint partnership working

15.12.19 – Youths throwing snow balls – Main Street

16.12.19 – Crime – Internet

17.12.19 – Crime Theft

18.12.19 - & 21.12.19 – ASB Nuisance Youths – Millers Court & Grasmere Close – area searched no gain

19.12.19 – Suspect Van – Industrial Estate – area searched no gain

23.12.19 – Road Related Offence – speeding vehicle Low Bentham

25.12.19 – Criminal Damage – Mewith Lane

25.12.19 – Road Related offence – manner of driving

26.12.19 – Concern for Welfare – in order Fire dealt

30.12.19 – ASB – Parking issues Goodenber Road

31.12.19 – Domestic Incident

31.12.19 – RTC – B6480 – Car via sheep

02.01.20 – Speeding vehicles on Industrial estate

02.01.19 – RTC – B6480 – 2 vehicles non injury

Crime Prevention - Protect your home, leave a light on

The darker nights are well and truly here, and this can catch residents out when it comes to home security. Too often, householders are making their properties an attractive proposition for burglars and thieves by leaving them in darkness.

However, a few simple steps are all it takes to counter this risk – and this is where the police can help.”

- a well-lit home gives the impression that someone is in
- use timer switchers to turn lights on while you are out
- don't leave curtains closed during the day, only in the evening and overnight
- lock all windows and doors
- keep valuable items out of view
- keep gates well secured

Light up, Lock up

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101 or 999 if urgent.

Working to keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live, visit & work please visit [www.northyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk)

Useful site re Crime and policing in England which allows you to search re incident recorded in your area [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

You can also report safety issues under speed concerns on - [www.roadwise.co.uk](http://www.roadwise.co.uk).

If anyone would like to sign up to Craven Community messaging then please visit - [www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.org](http://www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.org)

Contact Information:

- 1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress
- 2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information
- 3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous
- 4 E-mail [SNACraven@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNACraven@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace  
Collar number 5561  
Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood PCSO  
Settle Ingleton & Bentham area  
North Yorkshire Police