

## **BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 January 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Bridgeman, Handford, Marshall, Swales, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllr Brockbank, the clerk Mrs Burton and 12 parishioners

165. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Pritchard, Stannard & Taylor.

166. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations

Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in item 173.1.3, planning application 08/2016/17636, as the applicant

167. To Receive Comment & Concerns

It was noted that the mast definition in application 08/2016/17612 had been incorrectly reported by Craven at 2m and was in fact 21m in height. Most of the parishioners in attendance were present to express their concerns regarding this application for the telecommunications mast which was considered to be too high in a built-up area. It was pointed out that the proposed site was in an area earmarked for residential development within the draft local plan and that the company seemed to have done little regarding alternative sites. The accompanying literature was inaccurate stating that the site is surrounded by fields.

Another resident expressed concern regarding the possible closure of the Post Office, asking the Council to contact Post Office Counters Ltd. Bentham News' representative confirmed that they had received a massive response to their flier on the subject, particularly with the closure of Ingleton Post Office and the fact the Bentham is meant to be a Service Centre in the draft Local Plan. The Chairman said that the Council would be discussing the issue later in the meeting.

168. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 5 December be signed**

169. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes

The Clerk pointed out the 'telljulia' consultation announced by the Police Commissioner on 30 December to look at possible increases to the police precept for 2017/18. Due to the closure date of 11 January it would not be possible for the Council to respond officially.

170. To Receive an update from the Drop-In (for information only)

Complaints had been received regarding the level of dog fouling, particularly on Mount Pleasant & Goodenber Road. It was agreed that Craven should be contacted and asked to look at installing surveillance cameras and making an example of the culprits.

171. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present

172. To Receive Reports from CClr & DCllrs (for information only)

DCllr Brockbank said that the Offices had been closed over Christmas so there was little to report. She said that dog fouling was also a problem in Burton in Lonsdale, so it was important to get the message across regarding the health issues etc.

In response to a question she confirmed that a reduction in the number of new homes required in the draft local plan had been agreed at sub-committee level, but required ratifying by a further committee and the Council, plus further consultation – which would further delay publication of the Local Plan

173. Planning

173.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

173.1.1. 08/2016/17612 Installation of a 21m lattice tower supporting 3no antennae, 2no transmission dishes, 2no equipment cabinets, 1no meter cabinet & ancillary development thereto including a 2m high chain link fence (prior notification) on land at Bentham Ate, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham

It was agreed that a 68ft mast in a built-up area was unacceptable and that the proposed mast was in a poor location and also of poor design. The site lies in a dip with rising ground on most sides and housing as close as 30feet. The site is also earmarked for further development in the draft Local Plan. The Council agreed that another site should be found and wondered why the current mast site on Lingham could not be utilised

**RESOLVED: That the Council had object to this application on the grounds of visual impact and height in a residential area and in close proximity to adjacent properties.**

173.1.2. 08/2016/17629 Application for matters reserved in condition nos 1, 2 & 3 of outline planning consent 08/2016/16604 at Bank View, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham

**RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application**

173.1.3. 08/2016/17636 Change of use of land to accommodate 16 additional static caravans at Riverside Caravan Park, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham,  
*Cllr Marshall declared an interest and left the room.* It was proposed that the application be passed no objections due to the fact that Riverside brings many people into Bentham and provides local employment. A second proposal, that the new extension would be visible due to the elevated nature of the site and that it was unnecessary as the park was large enough, did not receive a second and was not voted on. The original proposal was voted on and passed 4:1.

**RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application**

173.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

173.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

#### 174. Highways Matters

174.1. To receive responses from Highways and Planning regarding the removal of the hedgerow at the Toll Gate Following questions at the previous meeting Highways had responded that they did not consider there to be any safety issues with the hedge removal. Planning had responded that the area was not covered by any of the rules requiring notification of removal, but that the area was now covered by a tree protection order and that the tipping of soil was being monitored.

174.2. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The Council was updated on the response from the last meeting where various blocked drains had been reported. These should have been jetted and explored by camera where necessary just before Christmas. It was reported that the street signs on Robin Lane, Lakeber Drive & Lakeber Avenue have still not been repaired. There is a large pothole on by Lakeber House at the top of Butts Lane. The fence on Mill Lane has now fallen down. As this is on private land it is the land owner's responsibility but ownership is unknown. Various street lights were reported as unlit, Cllr Adams confirmed that reporting problems to NYCC streetlighting on their website usually gets a rapid response.

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be made aware of the pothole by Lakeber House**

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked for an update on progress with the drains**

**RESOLVED: That Craven be reminded about the damaged street signs**

175. To Note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 28 November, and agree a meeting date to discuss the recommendations.

**RESOLVED: That the Council meet on 23 January at 7.30pm to discuss the proposed Play Area and other recommendations**

176. To Note that there will be no extension of Council Tax referendum principles in 2017/18 - noted

177. To Consider the Cabinet Office's draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill and agree a response, if any

**RESOLVED: That the Council does not respond to this Bill**

178. To Further Discuss the Post Office Provision in Bentham, and any response from the Post Office

Concern was expressed about the potential loss of this valuable service with David Alder's retirement at the end of March. It was agreed that the Council did not have the power or a suitably secure space to run a post office. It was agreed that the Post Office, having had 5 years notice, should have been more proactive in finding another site for the service. It was noted that another site might be under consideration. The Council decided that it should be invited to meet the Council and explain what will happen on 1 April, noting the fact that Bentham is designated a Service Centre for the surrounding villages in the draft Local Plan.

**RESOLVED: That the Post Office be invited to meet with the Council to explain the lack of progress and its plans for service provision in the town after 1 April**

179. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	154.15	Barriers Direct	73.92
Mopps	576.00	Horton Landscaping	169.50
Aviva	333.21	Horse & Farrier	300.00
Opus Energy	99.12	HMRC	559.88
Orange	23.99	NEST	50.05
MBE Ltd	313.48	Salaries	1618.95

**RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed**

179.1. To consider purchase of a laptop computer for the proposed administrator in the January Sales

**RESOLVED: That a laptop be purchased for the proposed administrator**

180. To Consider items of Correspondence

180.1. None

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

Cllr Bridgeman reported that the final total for the Low Bentham Street Market was £1435.26

Cllr Swales had attended two Craven Area Committees, at Gargrave and Crosshills. She informed the meeting that the Fire Service would do fire risk assessments and fit free smoke alarms for the elderly. Also a free Senior Drivers course was available. NYCC have done a lot of work on flood protection in areas affected last year. Residents can contact the Flood Risk Management department for assistance making property safe.

([floodriskmanagement@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:floodriskmanagement@northyorks.gov.uk))

Cllr Vendy announced that the third defibrillator for Bentham was now ready for installation at the Victoria Institute

Cllr Marshall confirmed that the exterior alterations to the Alms Houses were nearly complete

182. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Members were reminded that the Precept Meeting would be held on 16 January. As several planning applications had been received since the agenda was published the chairman proposed that the Council should meet at 7pm to discuss the planning applications, and that the Precept Meeting should start following that, but no earlier than 7.15pm. This was agreed.

The bollard for Cleveland Square has been received, and will be installed shortly.

A complaint had been received regarding a bird table placed on the Green at Low Bentham, complete with Turkey carcass. Low Bentham Cllrs agreed to investigate and report back.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.40pm

## **AGENDA ITEM 169)**

### **CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 January 2017**

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

##### **1.1. GRANTED**

1.1.1. None

##### **1.2. REFUSED**

1.2.1. None

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

2.1. None

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

3.1. Carers Allowance response sent 6 December

#### **4. Items for Information – see information folder**

4.1. Playing Field wayleave cheque returned & new owners informed, 19/12

4.2. Copy of letter regarding extra funding for the Library move to Pioneer Projects.

4.3. Scope collection dates 2017 & 2018

4.4. Thank You letter from Wendy Dowbiggin

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

5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 12/12, 19/12, 3/1

5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Fuel Poverty 21/12, Rural Transport 28/12

5.3. Rural Opportunities Bulletin 7/12, 4/1

5.4. NALC Grants & Funding newsletter 16/12

5.5. Rural Economy Spotlight, 14/12

5.6. North Yorkshire Now, 5/12

5.7. RAY News, 21/12

5.8. Craven & WW1 newsletter 9/12

5.9. LASRUG newsletter 11/12

5.10. SLCC News 16/12

5.11. Historic Towns Forum, December 2016

5.12. YLCA Craven Branch meeting, 16 January, Skipton Town Hall, 7pm

5.13. NYP December Newsletter 21/12

5.14. My Community, Locality Newsletter, 5/12, 13/12

5.15. Fields in Trust 19/12,

5.16. NYCC Innovation Awards, 15/12

5.17. Consultation for Police Funding 30/12, [replies by 11/1](#)

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

6.1. Missing & damaged street signs reported 7/9 & 8/11

6.2. NYCC asked about ditches 20/7, chased 20/11

6.3. Bentham Flag – no progress to date

6.4. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 – committee to organise meeting and report back

6.5. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January

6.6. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11/15. Delivery dates awaited

6.7. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed

6.8. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, CDC to consider