

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1 February 2016, at 7.30 pm in the Community Youth Building

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Cowling, Faichney, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllrs Brockbank & Thompson, the clerk Mrs Burton and 4 parishioners

192.To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Townson & Stannard had informed the clerk that they would be late due to other commitments. Cllr Adams took the chair.

193.To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present - none

194.To Receive Comment & Concerns - none

195.To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting and the Precept Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 4 January and the Precept Meeting on 18 January be signed

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

Early notification of consultation on Craven's draft Local Plan during March and April had been received. It was agreed that an extra meeting should be held on Monday 8 February to consider a new planning application in Low Bentham before the end of its consultation period.

197.To Receive a Drop In Session Update (for information only)

Residents had attended to discuss the possible cuts to the Stage Coach bus service to Bentham, it is likely that the early (7.45am and 9.15am) and late (4.15pm) services will be dropped which will seriously affect those in Bentham without access to a car. It was agreed that the Council should find out more as no notification had been received.

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

– none present

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

DCllr Brockbank noted that there was no mention of an Extra Care facility in the original 2013 Bentham submission to the Local Plan, and said that she would try and add one at this time. She also said that NYCC had altered their priorities for Extra Care and would be initially concentrating on areas which already had provision.

DCllr Thompson announced that the Yorkshire Dales LEADER organisation were calling for projects requiring support to enhance employment in the area.

He then went on to offer a formal apology for his inaccurate opinion at the November meeting regarding the planning application at Clay Barn and the local residents which he felt may have had some bearing on the Council's decision to drop its objection. He added that he had agreed to speak for the residents at the planning meeting against the application. Cllr Adams thanked him for his apology and added that the Council had had an opportunity to revisit the decision by special motion but that no such request had been made so that Cllrs must be happy with their original decision.

200.Planning

200.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

200.1.1. 08/2016/16496 Change of use from Care Home (C2) to residential dwelling (C3) at The Red House, Gas House Lane, High Bentham

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

200.1.2. 08/2016/16526 Outline application with all matters reserved for single two-bedroom dwelling and associated external works at Land south of 6 Hillcroft, High Bentham

Concerns were expressed about the visibility splays to the access noting that although the land was in a 30mph zone many vehicles speed in the area. Questions were also asked about the stability of the river bank in this area which has been significantly undermined in the recent storms.

RESOLVED: That the Council's concerns be passed on to the Planning Department

200.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

200.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

201. Highways Matters

- 201.1. To Receive further correspondence from NYCC regarding the proposed yellow lines at the School and possible changes to the time restrictions
The initial consultation had yielded two responses and NYCC asked for comments regarding the limiting of the time restrictions on the yellow lines to 30 minutes at each end of the school day. The Council felt that this did not cover children attending the breakfast or after school clubs and suggested that 8.30-9.30am and 3-5pm would be more appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that the new parking restrictions at the school be limited to between 8.30-9.30am and 3-5pm

Cllr Stannard joined the meeting at 7.55pm

The Council noted that Cllr Mackenzie had agreed to discuss the humped crossing and the noise problems with NYCC Highways, and that the clerk (on Cllr Ireton's suggestion) had requested that the subject be put on the next Craven Area Committee agenda

- 201.2. To Receive information regarding the Eskew Lane diversion from the Punch Bowl and agree a response
The clerk had contacted both NYCC and LCC Highways following the email from a resident regarding speeding vehicles on Eskew Lane and possible temporary speed restrictions. NYCC Highways had responded that they would not put restrictions on their end of the road as it is not an official diversion. No response had been received from LCC Highways. It was agreed that the majority of problems are on the Lancashire side, and that a response from LCC Highways is required. There are also potholes which need filling, and vegetation which requires cutting back to widen the carriageway. This lane will be used by locals as a diversion even if it is not official. A timetable is required for the repair of the B6480 at Wennington. LCC Highways should be contacted for a plan of what they are going to do and when as it does not appear to be a priority at present.

RESOLVED: That LCC Highways be contacted again regarding the speeding problems on Eskew Lane

RESOLVED: That LCC Highways be asked to look at maintenance issues on the road to fill potholes and widen the route in places

RESOLVED: That LCC Highways be asked to outline their timetable for repairs on the B6480

- 201.3. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

No response has been received regarding the blocked drains and the clerk was asked to chase it
Questions were asked about the state of the footpaths behind Grasmere Drive. It was noted that the ownership of some of these areas was uncertain. Cllr Stannard agreed to walk the paths and identify the problem areas and DCllr Brockbank will provide the map from the Yorkshire Housing handover

RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be chased about the blocked drains reported in January

RESOLVED: That the Grasmere Drive footpaths problems be investigated

Cllr Townson joined the meeting at 8.05pm

It was noted that NYCC Highways have repaired the Station Triangle and that thanks should be given to Cllr Ireton should be thanked for his involvement.

RESOLVED: That the Council thank Cllr Ireton for his help in getting the Station Triangle repaired by NYCC Highways

It was also noted that the footpath between Duke Street and the Wenning Oak is being churned up by Network Rail vehicles erecting fencing. It may be necessary to request its reinstatement when the work is complete.

There are trees on Tatterthorn Road which are starting to impede the carriage way and need cutting back

RESOLVED: That the state of the footpath by Duke Street be monitored and Network Rail be asked to re-instate it at the end of works if required

RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Committee be asked to look at Tatterthorn Road trees

202. To Receive a response from Craven District Council regarding the transfer of maintenance of St Margaret's churchyard and to further discuss the issue with note to the potential charge of a precept.

It was agreed that more information should be found out about this potential charge, what it might be and whether it would be levied against all parishes with closed churchyards. The general consensus was that the Council would be able to maintain the churchyard more cheaply than Craven, if it had to pay them for maintenance.

RESOLVED: That Craven District Council be asked for more information regarding the potential charges for District taking over the maintenance of the churchyard

203. To Receive an update on the Defibrillator project

Cllr Vandy announced that 10 CPR training dummies and a DVD had been received, and that 2 defibrillators and cabinets had been ordered from the British Heart Foundation with their grant. There are now 9 volunteers to get involved with the project and the first meeting will be on 10 February at 7pm at the surgery. This new

management group will be responsible for raising funds to buy more machines. Those organisations owning buildings where the machines are housed will be responsible for the regular checks. The group at Ingleton, who are further down a similar project have been very helpful with advice and example paperwork

203.1. To consider holding any monies raised for defibrillators and cabinets in the Council bank account until required.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to be the accountable body

203.2. To consider accepting ownership of all defibrillators, cabinets & training equipment sourced for the benefit of Bentham, with the added insurance ramifications

RESOLVED: That the Council accept ownership of the equipment

RESOLVED: That the Council insurers be asked if they are happy to insure the equipment

203.3. To agree use of the Lower Town Hall for CPR & AED training for all interested parishioners

It was agreed that if the Council was the accountable body and owned all the equipment then it was effectively a Council project so it was only reasonable for the Town Hall to be made available for meetings and training sessions

RESOLVED: That the Town Hall be made available for training purposes

204. To Note the draft minutes of the Buildings Committee on 7 December, and consider recommendations, if any noted

205. To Note the draft minutes of the Finance Committee on 11 January, and consider recommendations, if any noted

205.1. To approve the proposed salary increases for staff from 1 April 2016

RESOLVED: That the proposed salary increases, 4% for the clerk and 2.5% for the caretaker, from 1 April be approved

206. To Receive an Update on Outstanding Items, and agree a way forward

The clerk explained that, having been off for nearly 4 months, she wanted to check on progress with outstanding items and see where the Council had got to and what was required to make progress

206.1. The Community Emergency Plan

Initial moves had been made, Cllrs Stannard and Townson had attended a Community Resilience Meeting and Burton in Lonsdale had made a copy of their plan available. It was agreed to formalise a committee of Cllrs Stannard, Townson and Adams to meet shortly and decide how to progress a plan for Bentham

RESOLVED: That a Community Emergency Plan Committee, comprising Cllrs Stannard, Townson & Adams, meet shortly on how to progress a plan and report back to Council

206.2. The Neighbourhood Plan

The Council and members of the public met with Stephen Brown in October, but no application has yet been made. The clerk should arrange a further meeting with Mr Brown.

RESOLVED: That a further meeting be arranged with Stephen Brown, Planning Policy

206.3. WWI Commemoration

RESOLVED: That the Open Spaces Committee be asked to consider possible ways of commemorating the end of WW1 in the parish

206.4. The Bentham Flag

No response had been received from members of We Are Bentham. The Station still requires a flag and should be invoiced on receipt

RESOLVED: That Bentham flags be ordered for the Town Hall and the Station

206.5. ENW Undergrounding / Substation

No progress had been made on this as sale of the Low Bentham Playing Field may affect negotiations and it makes more sense for the new owners to take the project forward

207. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	151.71	PWLB	23927.45
Mopps	384.00	Wenningdale Leisure	212.55
Aviva	311.66	Stannah Lift Services	164.34
EOn	92.15	Hanafin & Sons	7080.60
Orange	23.99	Cannon	19.33
SWALEC	1057.65	PRS for Music	665.93
Currys	590.48	Well	10.16
Viking Direct	97.18	Salaries	1584.76
Lockhart Catering	41.96		

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

208.To consider items of Correspondence

208.1. To receive a request from Austwick Parish Council for support for Settle Swimming Pool and its future funding.

RESOLVED: That letters of support for Settle Swimming Pool be sent to the District Cllrs, CEO of Craven District Council and Julian Smith MP

208.2. To receive an invitation to Councillors to attend the Standing Together event arranged by the Refugee Support Group on 6 February at noon in the Lower Town Hall - received

208.3. To note that Craven District Council Customer Services will cease its regular sessions in the Town Hall from 18 March 2016 - noted

Cllr Faichney gave his apologies and left the meeting at 8.55pm

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

Cllr Townson said that the Extra Care Group had approached Julian Smith MP to press the case for Bentham with NYCC, and asked for the subject to be put on the next agenda

Cllr Cowling will attend the Looking Well AGM shortly, and will be at the Refugee Support Group event at the weekend.

Cllr Vandy reported that the Youth Café had raised over £100 making small Christmas cakes for Age Concern. The Christmas Party had been well attended and the new season Master Chef competition had just started. The next coffee morning will be on 5 March.

Cllr Bridgewood said she would circulate a summary of the Victoria Institute minutes

Cllr Adams had attended a Goodenber Play Area meeting and said a working party would be tidying up the area in the near future and works were still progressing to reinstate the electricity supply to the area.

210.Items for next meeting and minor items only

Questions were asked about the repairs of the new school roof and maintenance of the old school, and the clerk agreed to enquire of Cllr Ireton

Compliments had been received regarding the state of Bentham Station, which should be passed to Friends of Bentham Station

A comment was made about the state of the river footpath beyond the Wenning Oak, which is the responsibility of the landowner. Comments about the lack of pavement at the end of Pye Busk should be discussed by the Open Spaces Committee.

Cllrs were reminded of a meeting regarding possible play equipment at the Old School Playing Field in Low Bentham on 2 February at 10.30am

There being no further business, the public part of the meeting was closed at 9.17pm

AGENDA ITEM 196)**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 1 February 2016****1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting****1.1. GRANTED**

1.1.1. 08/2015/16210 Proposed barn conversion to a 3-bed dwelling with associated curtilage at Gill Head Farm, Robin Lane, High Bentham

1.1.2. 08/2015/16366 Proposed kitchen & bedroom extension at Lingstead, 3 Springfield, High Bentham

1.1.3. 08/2015/16413 Replacement porches at 1-9 incl. Collingwood Terrace, Mount Pleasant, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. 08/2015/16260 Development of a solar farm & ancillary infrastructure at Fountain Lot, Bentham

2. Planning Correspondence

2.1. Draft Craven Local Plan consultation, 3 March to 14 April

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

3.1. Baby change mat installed 8 January

3.2. Birthday Beacon registered 11 January

3.3. Grass cutting notices sent to contractors 18 January

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

3.5. Precept grant notices sent 20 January

3.6. Office Equipment purchased 13 January

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Clerks & Councils Direct, Jan 2016
- 4.2. The Clerk, Jan 2016.
- 4.3. Response from Julian Smith MP re B6480
- 4.4. Note from the Police re changes due to the closure of the A59
- 4.5. Lift Testing Report, 5 January
- 4.6. Airedale NHS Newsletter Jan
- 4.7. YLCA Craven Branch Meeting 18/1 & previous minutes

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 11/1, 19/1, 27/1
- 5.2. Rural Opportunities Bulletin, 6/1
- 5.3. Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband 13/1, Fuel Poverty 20/1
- 5.4. Rural Housing Spotlight 27/1
- 5.5. Craven District News, Jan 16
- 5.6. Fields in Trust update 18/1
- 5.7. NY Police, Craven Neighbourhood Watch Update 20/1, 30/1
- 5.8. Home-Start Craven Newsletter, Jan 16
- 5.9. Making Rural Settlements Work – Planning & Affordable Housing Seminar, 9/2 Northallerton
- 5.10. Craven & First World War Project, Winter Newsletter
- 5.11. Community Resilience Training, Feb / March
- 5.12. YLCA Combined Authorities Briefing Update
- 5.13. NY Police Recruiting Special Constables
- 5.14. White Rose Update, Jan 16
- 5.15. NY Police – Message from Police & Crime Commissioner, new investment plans

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Unmetered Supply for street lights – awaiting info from NYCC
- 6.2. Bentham flag details sent to WeAreBentham 23 March, awaiting response
- 6.3. Community Emergency Plan generic template & Burton Plan to be considered – meeting to be arranged
- 6.4. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.5. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.6. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited