

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 10 April 2017, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Handford, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard, Swales, Taylor & Townson. Also DCllr Thompson, the clerk Mrs Burton and 4 parishioners

240. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Bridgeman, Faraday & Vendy

241. 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 Swales declared a DPI in item 248.1.5, planning application 08/2017/17909, as owner of the property. Cllr Marshall declared a DPI in item 248.1.4, planning application 08/2017/17887, as owner of the neighbouring land. Cllr Adams declared an interest in item 248.1.3, planning application 08/2017/17858, as he had discussed the application prior to submission.

242. To Receive Comment & Concerns - none

243. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 March be signed

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

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

A resident had attended to inform the Council about problems with some stiles on the Heritage Trail. The Council had informed them that repairs were arranged and the contractor was just waiting for better weather before starting.

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

Although unable to attend, PC Parsons had sent a report. There had been 42 reported incidents in March including 2 road traffic collisions (non-injury), 8 incidents of youths missing from care and 4 crimes. The crimes included theft of a chainsaw from a shop on Main Street, a fraud involving purchase of a quad bike on a clones credit card, an assault (arrest made and dealt with by means of a youth caution) and a domestic criminal damage (arrest made and referred to Horizons for drink / drug related issues).

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

DCllr Thompson informed the Council that Craven District Council and South Lakeland had been awarded money for 'Great Places' – a scheme to encourage young people to move into / not leave the area. Further details would be available shortly.

The LEADER annual report was available. £400,000 grants had been awarded to 17 businesses, of which 3 are in Craven. Despite Brexit the organisation is fully funded with £2.2m funds for grant awards. The application process is onerous, with £1m bids currently in process although 70% usually fall through. Grant funding for businesses that will provide employment is available up to 40% of the capital investment.

Cllr Thompson agreed to find out why businesses were charged more for the collection of recyclates than ordinary trade waste.

248. Planning

248.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

248.1.1. 08/2017/17775 Demolition of redundant school & provision of 5 No. dwellings (resubmission of withdrawn application 08/2016/17640) at Low Bentham CP School, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham
Despite the reduction in the number of proposed properties on the site concerns were still expressed about the number of vehicles using the access. Five properties will mean around ten vehicles using a narrow entrance off a busy road close to a blind corner. With little or no room for vehicles to pass in the entrance it is possible that vehicles will have to wait on the highway.

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to the application in principle but was concerned about the access off the highway and the possible number of vehicles expected to use it.

248.1.2. 08/2017/17804 Application for change of use of land to extend existing residential curtilage & erection of detached garage at Rose Cottage, Wenning Avenue, Bentham
Council agreed that the new design took all their original concerns into account

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

248.1.3. 08/2017/17858 Application to remove door & replace window in front elevation at 9 Main Street, Low Bentham

Cllr Adams declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussion

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

248.1.4. 08/2017/17887 Demolition of existing dwelling & industrial unit & erection of residential development of 16 dwellings comprising detached, semi-detached & terraced houses, including 6 affordable homes at Felstead, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham

Cllr Marshall declared a DPI & left the room

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application as long as Highways are happy with the access

248.1.5. 08/2017/17909 Change of use of business premises to daytime café / takeaway and evening bistro (class A3) at 26 Main Street, High Bentham

Cllr Swales declared a DPI & left the room

RESOLVED: That the Council had no objections to this application

248.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

248.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

249. Highways Matters

249.1. To Receive a letter regarding the Auction entrance between 28 & 38 Mount Pleasant and agree a response

It was agreed that the Auction Mart had been extremely helpful and that the new signage had alleviated some of the problem. The Council thought that a letter from the residents to Highways could do no harm, but was unsure if it would have any further affect due to the fact that the entrance is on private land.

RESOLVED: That the residents should write to Highways if they wish

249.2. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

It was noted that Lakeber Drive had a new street sign, but that the potholes on Robin Lane had not been repaired. The gravel/pot hole problems on Eskew Lane on the county boundary had reoccurred and required repair again. A culvert just past the Punch Bowl is blocked and flooding the road after rain. The road edges / verges on Ravensclose also need attention in some places. A pedestrian hurt her foot quite badly on some spikes at the bottom of the fence on Belle Bank.

RESOLVED: That the reported problems should be passed to NYCC Highways and LCC as appropriate

250. To Note the draft minutes of the Marketing Committee meeting on 30 March - noted

250.1. To agree an advert for the vacant Caretaker position

The replacement for Mrs Green was discussed at length, with the possibility of bringing the cleaning back in house and having two employees to cover the caretaking and cleaning being considered. It was agreed that Ruth would be a hard act to follow

RESOLVED: That the job of caretaker should be advertised locally.

251. To Receive a report on the meeting with Cedar House staff

Cllrs Bridgeman & Stannard had attended a meeting with staff from both Cedar House & The Glebe, where the aims and ethos of the Witherslack Group had been explained. They are conscious of the criticism of the schools but want to get more involved with the community to give a greater level of normality to the children. It had been agreed that they would keep in touch with the Council.

252. To Note that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 April at 7pm, and include a presentation to Ruth Green, the retiring caretaker - noted

253. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	48.15	Cannon Hygiene	20.59
Mopps	394.00	Timpsons	7.50
Aviva	333.12	HMRC	958.31
Opus Energy	87.48	NEST	56.07
EE	23.99	Salaries	3007
SEO Web Designs	145.00	Bentham Youth Cafe	1500.00
F Hey	20.81	Playing Fields Association	850.00
YLCA	818.00	Victoria Institute	2000.00
Kingsdale Projects	1100.00	Goodenber Play Area	625.00
Yorkshire Dales Signage	315.60	Yorks Air Ambulance	500.00
Viking Direct	323.35	Age Concern	500.00
JBL Joinery	984.00	Bentham CP School	250.00

Howsons	366.00	Bentham Carnival	250.00
Stannah Lift Services	172.84	LASRUG	200.00
B Rothwell	480.00	Sunbeams	125.00
Three Counties Property Maintenance	3528.00	Bentham Bonfire	250.00

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment are agreed

254.To Consider items of Correspondence

254.1. To receive a request for further assistance regarding grave maintenance in the Cemetery

The problem of encroachment on a neighbouring grave discussed previously had not been solved. Council agreed that it needed to enforce its rules more strictly to ensure that no family was caused upset by those caring for neighbouring plots.

RESOLVED: That a general letter should be prepared for all graves that do not obey the 2' 6" ruling regarding 'grave furniture'

254.2. To receive a request from the Bentham Playing Fields Trustees for a meeting to discuss the future

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged with the PFA Trustees

254.3. To receive information from NYCC regarding the MUGA on the old school site

It is unlikely that the MUGA is fit for use, but even it is was use by the general public would not be possible.

254.4. To receive information from NALC on a new charter for Trees, Woods & People & decide whether to sign up

RESOLVED: That the Council does not need to sign up to the Tree Charter at this stage

254.5. To receive further information on Craven's changes to the recycling collection service - received

254.6. To receive a letter from the NALC Chairman requesting councils demonstrate restraint in setting parish precepts - received

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

Cllrs Adams & Marshall had attended the Parishes Liaison Meeting at Skipton which had been well attended if lengthy. Robin Derry had spoken on Emergency Planning & Business Continuity, majoring on Major Incident Response Teams. He was happy to come to Bentham and assist with the formulation of the Council's stalled plan. The next PL meeting will specialise on Highways issues as all Council had raised issues, many of them similar. A new problem reporting portal will be available shortly following 3-years of development. Councils were asked to send any possible access issues regarding planning applications to Highways as well as Planning. The Local Plan had reduced the number of houses required per year from 290 to 214, but only 170 were built in the current year suggesting this lower target will be missed. Fly Tipping & the Rural Crime Team had also been discussed.

Cllr Townson reported that the meeting of the Extracare Group & NYCC had been very positive with confirmation that funding for 55 Extra Care units was now in place and the project will proceed.

Cllr Swales had attended a Craven Area Committee. She also confirmed that the Library was on course to move in early May.

Cllr Stannard had attended a Governors meeting: the new chair of Governors is David Tuohy. The headmistress Mrs Boocock had now retired and the deputy head Mrs Pearson has been promoted

Cllr Taylor said the Refugee Support Group would be hosting another visitor weekend at the end of the month.

256.Items for next meeting and minor items only

Northern Rail will be running a new Sunday bus service from May 7 until September 24 to coincide with the trains. It will run from Lancaster through Bentham, Ingleton & Clapham and on into the Forest of Bowland, hopefully bringing visitors to the area.

The second access to the Low Bentham School Playing Field has been agreed and is to be sorted as soon as possible by the Open Spaces Committee. HAGS, the playground supplier have requested names of local contractors capable of doing the groundworks. It was emphasised the Council could not recommend any contractors but would pass on any contacts.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.07pm

AGENDA ITEM 244)

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 10 April 2017

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. 08/2016/17619 Alterations & extension to dwelling at Rose Cottage, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham

- 1.1.2. 08/2016/17636 Change of use of land to accommodate 16 additional static caravans at Riverside Caravan Park, Wenning Avenue, High Bentham
- 1.1.3. 08/2016/17668 Demolish existing out buildings & replace with double storey extension to north elevation, single storey extension to west elevation & replace porch to south elevation. Create vehicle turning place on east elevation to allow additional parking at Greenfoot Farm, Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham
- 1.1.4. 08/2017/17805 Proposed extension to rear of house & addition of dormer to replace existing velux windows to first floor bedroom at rear of Brockbank, Thickrash Brow, High Bentham

1.2. REFUSED

- 1.2.1. None

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. YLCA Understanding Planning seminars, April.
- 2.2. 08/2016/17386 Variation of conditions 2 & 4 of 08/2016/16863 to allow revised site layout; and caravan 1 to be occupied by warden at Toll Bar Gardens, Wennington Road, Low Bentham – Planning Committee 10 April.

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

- 3.1. Kingsdale Projects contacted re Tree & Heritage Trail work 14/3, completed 24/3
- 3.2. NYCC contacted regarding High Bentham MUGA, 17/3
- 3.3. Green waste license fitted to Cemetery bin 27/3
- 3.4. Letter box installed in Clerk's Office door 17/3

4. Items for Information – see information folder

- 4.1. Recycling Collection Service Changes – Q&A
- 4.2. The Clerk magazine, March 2017
- 4.3. Bureau Veritas Lift examination report, March
- 4.4. Better broadband subsidy scheme advert (& noticeboards)

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 13/3, 20/3, 27/3, 3/4
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Health 8/3, Fuel Poverty 15/3, Rural Transport 29/3
- 5.3. Rural Economy Spotlight, 22/3
- 5.4. White Rose Update 14/3
- 5.5. My Community, Locality Newsletter 15/3, 20/3, 24/3, 30/3, 3/4
- 5.6. Fields in Trust 27/3
- 5.7. Craven & WW1, Spring Newsletter
- 5.8. Craven District Council News 30/3
- 5.9. Notice of County Council elections 4/5/17
- 5.10. RAY News, March 2017
- 5.11. Historic Towns Forum Newsletter, 17/3
- 5.12. SLCC News Bulletin 13/3, 24/3
- 5.13. NALC Funding bulletin, March
- 5.14. LASRUG newsletter March
- 5.15. Governance & Accountability Guide Update, April 2017.

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Highways meeting regarding Grasmere Close - date still awaited
- 6.2. Street Lighting further discussed by Open Spaces, meeting with ENW to be arranged
- 6.3. Missing & damaged street signs reported 7/9, 8/11/16 & again 16/1
- 6.4. NYCC asked about ditches 20/7, chased 20/11/16
- 6.5. Bentham Flag – no progress to date
- 6.6. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 – committee to organise meeting and report back
- 6.7. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January 2016
- 6.8. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11/15. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.9. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.10. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, CDC to consider