



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Precept Meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022, at 7.00 pm – in the Ballroom, at Bentham Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Bridgeman (Chair), Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Hill, Marshall, Taylor and Wills. The Clerk Christine Downey. Two members of the public.

- 284 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
 284.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance.
Cllr Swales.
 284.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.
None.
- 285 Declaration of interest: -
 285.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members code of conduct or members register of disclosable pecuniary interests.
Please refer to the individual grant applications for the councillor’s declarations of interests, item 289.
 285.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.
None.
- 286 To Receive Comment & Concerns: Public participation – to hear matters raised by members of the public or Cllrs with an interest (that are allowed to speak) either on agenda items or for further consultation.
(NB: for non-agenda items members of the council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purpose of clarification).
None.
- 287 To consider the projected assessment for 2022/23, based on accounts for 2021/2022 to end of December, and make any necessary changes. (Paper2022/1)
RESOLVED: To amend the income and expenditure items in the budget as follows: -

Item	Draft budget figure	Amended to
INCOME		
Town Hall bookings	<u>3,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Open Spaces – grass cutting	15,000	16,990
Admin – Administrator costs	0	5,000
Admin - Telephone	800	900
Admin – Printing, postage, stationery, photocopying	1,200	1,000
Admin - Subscriptions	800	500
Admin – Office equipment	500	250
Admin – Training / conferences	750	500
Admin – cost of remote platform	140	0
Street Lighting - Maintenance	700	500
Cemetery – grass cutting	2,800	3,080
Town Hall – water rates	1,200	1,000
Tourist Information Point	<u>700</u>	<u>500</u>
Total costs amended	24,590	30,220



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- 288 To consider any potential special projects: - (Paper 2022/2)
RESOLVED: That the special projects budget be set for £16,115, as below, to be funded out of reserves.
- 288.1 Replace further benches in the parish.
RESOLVED: To include £3,550 in budget out of reserves, and replace as many benches as that sum allows in 2022/2023. (Expected to be seven).
- 288.2 Ballroom – sanding wooden floor and recoating.
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with this as a special project in 2022/2023.
RESOLVED: To carry forward for consideration as a special project in 2023/2024.
- 288.3 Lower Hall – sanding wooden floor and recoating.
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with this as a special project in 2022/2023.
RESOLVED: To carry forward for consideration as a special project in 2023/2024.
- 288.4 Work from Fire Risk Assessment recommendations.
Balance of the existing earmarked reserves for this project is available to pay for training.
RESOLVED: Not to increase the earmarked reserves for this project in 2022/2023.
- 288.5 Widening of exit doors from WR stairwell to car park.
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with this as a special project in 2022/2023.
RESOLVED: To carry forward for consideration as a special project in 2023/2024.
- 288.6 Street Lighting Project.
Work on 11 street lamps is in hand (or quotes awaited) and will continue as earmarked funds allow. (Six in High Bentham town centre, four at Lairgill, and one at Cross Lane, Low Bentham.
RESOLVED: Not to increase the earmarked reserves for this project in 2022/2023.
- 288.7 Street Lighting – final 2 on Duke Street railway bridge down to industrial park.
RESOLVED: To include £1,500 in budget out of reserves to complete this stretch of lighting.
- 288.8 Bicycle track at PHPF.
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with this as a special project in 2022/2023.
RESOLVED: To carry forward for consideration as a special project in 2023/2024.
- 288.9 Repair fingerpost from junction of Lane Foot and Mewith Lane, Bentham.
RESOLVED: To include £2,565 in budget out of reserves.
- 288.10 Platinum Jubilee Event.
RESOLVED: To include £1,000 in budget out of reserves.
- 288.11 Windows in the ballroom.
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with this as a special project in 2022/2023.
RESOLVED: To carry forward for consideration as a special project in 2023/2024.
- 288.12 Costs of an additional employee.
RESOLVED: Not a special project, dealt with under annual expenditure.
- 288.13 Multifunctional hole at School Hill with electric supply and infrastructure for Christmas lights on lampposts.
and
- 288.14 **RESOLVED: To include £5,000 in budget out of reserves.**
- 288.15 Audio equipment/microphone for Town Hall.
RESOLVED: To include £2,500 in budget out of reserves.
- 288.16 Repairs to Town Hall.
RESOLVED: Not to proceed with this as a special project in 2022/2023, because no quote for the cost is available.



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To consider and decide upon Grant applications

RESOLVED: That the grant budget be set at £9,450 and the following grants be awarded to the applicants: -

	Organisation	Interest declared by	Amount awarded	Conditions
1	Age Concern	Cllr Faraday.	£500	-
2	Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community	-	£250	-
3	Bentham Christmas Lights Committee	Cllr Wills.	Application withdrawn by Mark Paige during precept meeting.	-
4	Bentham Community Bonfire.	Cllr Stannard.	£500	Award will only be made if the bonfire goes ahead in 2022.
5	Bentham Playing Fields Association	-	£5,000	Award will only be made if the grass cutting contract is awarded by the Bentham Playing Field Association to a contractor who is not registered for VAT.
6	BEST	-	£150	-
7	Community Link Cafe	Cllrs Bridgeman & Faraday (This section of the meeting was chaired by Cllr Wills)	£300	-
8	Goodenber Play Area Association	Cllr Adams	£1,000	-
9	Lancaster & Skipton Rail Users Group (LASRUG)	Cllr Adams	£150	-
10	Low Bentham Victoria Institute	Cllrs Bridgeman & Faraday (This section of the meeting was chaired by Cllr Wills)	£1,500	-
11	SELFA	-	nil	-
12	Stepping Stones Baby and Toddler Group	-	£100	-
	TOTAL		£9,450	



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- 290 To consider minor items
None to be considered.
Clerk reminded the council about the Bentham Moving Forward event on Saturday 15th January 2022.
- 291 To agree the precept for 2022/2023 and sign the request for payment
RESOLVED: That the precept for 2022/2023 be set at £114,540.04. The Band D equivalent charge will increase from £85.55 to £91.15.
The request for payment to be signed by Cllrs Bridgeman, Adams and Wills, and the Clerk.
- 292 To adopt the budget for 2022/2023
RESOLVED: That the budget for 2022/2023 be adopted.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.04.