

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday
24th March 2022, at 7.30 pm –
in the lower Hall at Bentham Town Hall.

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

- 358 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
 358.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Swales and Wills.
 358.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 359 Declaration of interests: -
 359.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
Cllr Adam declared an interest in the payments on account, one of which is a refund of repair expenses to him.
Cllr Stannard declared an interest in the payments on account, one of which is a refund of the cost of the clerk's mobile phone to him.
 359.2 To approve dispensation requests.
None.
- 360 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 future consideration.
 (NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purposes of clarification; The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 20 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes).

A member of the public spoke regarding the Christmas Tree special project at School Hill, and the plans for Christmas Lights to be installed on lampposts in future: A request to install two six-foot trellises at the back of the tree was made, to hang other installations on. This will be considered under agenda item 367. It was reported that NYCC surveyed the lampposts at a meeting this morning and are happy to proceed with the installation of plugs for Christmas Lights; they will quote for the work (expected to be £300 per unit + vat) and after the quote has been accepted, the work would be subject to a three-month order, so should be able to complete it this year.

A member of the public spoke regarding the changes to the bus service, pointing out that it will be difficult to get to Lancaster for hospital appointments, with a wait of half an hour or an hour in Kirkby Lonsdale en route; that there will only be 5 trips a day into High Bentham; and that disabled people cannot get to the train station easily and will be severely disadvantaged, especially as the train station in Lancaster is a long way from the hospital, needing a taxi journey. He suggested that what is needed is a mini bus to collect all around the district.

It was reported back that hospital transport is available for hospital appointments and that the Patient Group at Bentham Surgery organise transport. In addition, Age UK are looking into obtaining a new bus, and that it might be possible to co-ordinate maximum usage of that through/with Bentham Older People Together.

It was also suggested that the member of the public writes to NYCC Intergraded Transport Services at County Hall, as recommended by Cllr Ireton.

PRESENTATION OF CHEQUE TO REPRESENTATIVE OF BENTHAM PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION:

At this point in the meeting Cllr Bridgeman presented a cheque to a representative of Bentham Playing Field Association in the sum of £966.92, being the proceeds for the sale of 2022 Calendars

- 361 To Confirm the Minutes of the full council meeting of 7th March 2022. (Paper 2022/49)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2022 are agreed and be signed.
- 362 Planning: -
- 362.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications: -
- 362.1.1 2022/23720/HH. New dormer window, canopy to front door and shelter in front of garage. Brockbank, Slaidburn Road, Bentham, Lancaster, LA27LT.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.
- 362.1.2 2022/23817/LBC. Replace first floor window, Cedar House School, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DD.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application, provided that it is a like for like replacement.
- 362.2 To receive feedback from DCllr Brockbank on the meeting of CDC officers on 9th March to discuss the problems at the Banks Way Development.
None received.
- 363 To discuss parking issues and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/56)
It was reported that the recurring problems are caused by the parking restrictions along the stretch of Main Street from The Black Bull to Turners not being observed, and not being enforced.
RESOLVED: To ask the Highways Department to suggest how the problem can be resolved.
- 364 To discuss Calendar matters: -
- 364.1 To receive the final account for the 2022 Calendar. (Paper 2022/50)
Received.
- 364.2 To consider 2023 Calendar and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/51)
RESOLVED: That the 2023 Calendar will be printed on A4, but will be A3 to view (gatefold).
RESOLVED: Clerk to obtain a quote for this option for the 2023 Calendar from Stramongate Press.
RESOLVED: Clerk to forward the advert for photographs the Bentham News for inclusion in the May edition.
RESOLVED: Cllr Burton to confirm the sponsors and their adverts, apart from one which Cllr Adams will deal with.
- 364.3 To review the cost of the Calendar.
Carry forward, and consider after quote received from Stramongate Press.
- 365 To agree the date of opening of the Tourist Information Point.
RESOLVED: TIP to open Saturday 16th April 2022; an appeal for new volunteers will be added to the council's social media sites; Cllr Stannard will co-ordinate the TIP activities.
- 366 To receive an update on the unfinished Special Projects.
- 366.1 Wording on Philip Harvey sign.
Cllr Bridgeman reported that the proof should be received this week.
- 366.2 Heritage trail and footpath update.
Cllr Bridgeman reported that this work has been completed.
- 366.3 Street lighting replacement project. (Papers 2022/52 and 53)

It was reported that the cabinet for Barn is being installed at Duke Street, and that the cable for street lights is also in place. Therefore, to complete the work at this location it is necessary to buy, install and connect the 6 metre columns.

RESOLVED: Cllr Marshall to obtain two quotes.

Regarding the street lighting problem at Millholme Drive; it was reported that Barrie Mason (Assistant Director for Highways and Transportation at NYCC) has been asked to respond to the letter of 10th March 2022 outlining the problem. His response will be circulated in due course.

- 367 Special Projects being undertaken with funding from the Welcome Back Fund: -
- 367.1 To review progress to date, including budget.
It was reported that all four items at School Hill/Robin Lane (replacement benches, electric supply, Christmas tree, repairs of bush shelter) have been completed; that invoices for all have been received; and that payment out of the Craven District Council Welcome Back Fund has been approved.
- 367.2 To consider quotes – if any received.
None.
- 367.3 To agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Payment of the final invoices to be approved tonight and paid out of bank tomorrow.
- 368 Community Youth Building: -
- 368.1 To receive an email regarding the future of the building and to agree a response. (Paper 2022/54)
RESOLVED: Clerk to invite the sender to meet two councillors to discuss his proposals.
- 368.2 To consider the future of the building and agree a way forward.
Dealt with at item 368.1.
- 369 To agree the Accounts for Payment.
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| Gareth Adams | Screwfix – door closer for kitchen and light bulbs | 54.74 |
| Bentham Playing Field Association | 2022 Calendar sales profit | 966.92 |
| Stannards | Clerks mobile phone £8 x 6 months | 48.00 |
| Beaver Tree Surgeons | Tree felling and stump grinding at School Hill | 360.00 |
| Thomas Graham | Cleaning products | 108.97 |
| Thomas Graham | Cleaning products | 2.90 |
| HB Plumbing & Heating Ltd | Fitting new taps | 680.06 |
| Mark Burrow Electrical Ltd | Power supply at School Hill / Robin Lane | 5610.00 |
| Mark Paige | Shrubs, fertiliser and timber posts at School Hill. | 75.20 |
| BT Group | Phone bill Town Hall | 361.84 |
| BT Group | Phone bill TIP | 46.08 |
| 1 & 1 Ionis | Internet | 18.00 |
| SSE Swalec | Unmetered electric supply | 89.25 |
| CDC | Excess weight on trade waste | 5.10 |
| CDC | Trade waste 2021/22 | 55.08 |
| Premium Credit Ltd | Insurance | 334.76 |
- RESOLVED: Approved.**
RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllr Adams, Faraday and Stannard as appropriate.
- 370 To discuss the position regarding the **Bentham Masterplan** and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/55)

RESOLVED: Clerk to ask David Smurthawite and Sharon Sunter what the potential consultants thought could be achieved on the budget of £35,000.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request a general update on the position from David Smurthwaite and Sharon Sunter.

371 To note the deadline for nominations for the election is 4pm on Tuesday 5 April 2022.
Noted.

Cllr Adams reported that he has an appointment at CDC on Tuesday 29th March 2022, and that he will deliver any nomination papers that have been delivered to him by Monday 28th.

372 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
Clerk to chase up the insurance claim re damaged bench at Green Smithy.
Item for next agenda: Practice manager offered a bench by WI and council requested to contribute towards concrete plinth.

367 367.3 Special Projects being undertaken with funding from the Welcome Back Fund: To agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Installation of two tanalised timber trellises at School Hill agreed and approved.

373 Date of next meeting; **4th April 2022.**

374 To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, that the public and press be excluded further from the meeting, whilst item 375 is considered: -
RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

375 To review the position regarding the caretaker vacancy and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Clerk to request clarification regarding the legal position on payment for holiday entitlement not taken, from YLCA.
RESOLVED: Clerk to request clarification of the legal position regarding any requirement to advertise the vacancy from YLCA.
RESOLVED: Cllr Bridgeman to explain the position to the cleaner who has expressed an interest in the caretaker position after the legal position has been confirmed by YLCA.
RESOLVED: After clarification received from YLCA, Cllr Faraday (as chair of finance committee) to write to interested party with proposal.
RESOLVED: If YLCA confirm that that no advertisement is required, caretakers post to be offered to the present cleaner who has expressed an interest, on a three-month trial period to enable her to satisfy herself with the role, and with further three monthly reviews for the first year, to enable her to raise any issues regarding the role with the council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.57.