

## **BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 November, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Bridgeman, Handford, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard, Taylor & Vendy. Also DCllrs Thompson & Brockbank, CClr Ireton, the clerk Mrs Burton and 4 parishioners

128.To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Swales & Townson

129.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 Stannard declared a personal interest in item 136.1.4, planning application 08/2016/17369, as a neighbour of the applicant.

130.To Receive Comment & Concerns

A resident expressed concern about the length of time the Post Office was taking to find an alternative to the current site, which started in 2012. Two years of negotiations with the Spar have come to nothing. The current incumbent has spoken to Julian Smith MP. She asked for the Council to consider writing to the Post Office asking them to move this item up their agenda. Council noted that this item was on the agenda – item 146.1

131.To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings on 3 October be signed**

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

133.To Receive an update from the Drop-In (for information only) - none

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

PC Parsons informed the meeting that there had been 49 incidents in Bentham in October, but only 2 road traffic accidents and 3 crimes (1 theft from a car, 1 domestic assault & 1 criminal damage). 15 incidents related to missing persons etc from the care homes.

Sgt Moorhouse said that the care homes, or more specifically Cedar House and The Glebe, do take up a lot of time. They were working with the residents to alleviate the problems. Antisocial behaviour has subsided. However as the older children move on and others move in this is an ongoing process. Regarding police numbers, staffing in the area will be maintained. The vacancies will be filled shortly with police officers moving in from other areas. He warned that 'cross-border' criminals from Lancashire etc would be more active with the dark nights and that residents should lock their doors in an evening. Two camera vans have been purchased to be based at Skipton with 6 staff to work in Craven all the time. This will improve speed enforcement in the area and also keep a check on bad driving e.g. mobile phones etc.

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

CClr Ireton said that work between Pioneer Projects and NYCC continued and the Business Case for moving the Library into the Looking Well was almost complete. Concerns regarding the work to be done in the building to make the space useable had been addressed and NYCC would fund these. The Community Infrastructure fund could also be used to top up if necessary. The aim was to move by April 2017.

DCllr Brockbank informed the meeting that the FOBL AGM would be on Thursday 24 November at 12.30pm and Cllrs were invited to attend. She reminded the Council that the Community Champions deadline was 13 November. She agreed to suggest a Business Award scheme to recognise good businesses in Craven. The Town Team were still looking for sites around the town to site public benches and Cllrs were asked to pass on any suggestions.

DCllr Thompson confirmed that the Waste Management Plan was progressing. He agreed to follow up Cllr Pritchard's request for a local site for the disposal of fluorescent light bulbs etc which had been lost following the closure of Toobys.

136.Planning

136.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

136.1.1. 08/2016/17345 Erection of Agricultural Building at Land off Nutgill Lane, Bentham

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

136.1.2. 08/2016/17357 Proposed alterations to existing dwelling to form an additional bedroom & bathroom at Dandenong, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham

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

136.1.3. 08/2016/17364 Replacement of rear single storey conservatory with garden room rear extension at Laskill Barn, Back Lane, Low Bentham

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

136.1.4. 08/2016/17369 Reserved matters application for approval of details concerning appearance, landscaping & layout as reserved in outline consent 08/2015/15552 at Vacant Site, Greenhead Lane, Low Bentham

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

136.1.5. 08/2016/17371 Proposed building for agricultural storage (machinery & hay) at Punch Bowl Barn, County Boundary to Mill Lane, Low Bentham

Concern was expressed regarding the visual impact of siting the building against the road side, which is well away from the other buildings on the site.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council express concerns regarding the visual impact of the siting of the building

136.1.6. 08/2016/17380 Erection of 2-storey building providing staff welfare & office accommodation at Over Raygill, Dumb Toms Lane, Ingleton

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

136.1.7. 08/2016/17433 Crown lift of protected mature trees (TPO 21/1980) over drive. Fell small scrub & trees under 9" diameter on first 4-5m woodland down drive leaving trees with good shape at Quarry Meadow House, Birkwith Lane, Low Bentham

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

136.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

136.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

#### 137. Highways Matters

137.1. To receive an update on the drain at Hillside Road

The camera had shown that the drain has been damaged. It will therefore require digging up and repairing.

137.2. To receive a request for assistance regarding parking on the front of the Horse & Farrier and the failure of NYCC to respond

Problems with maintenance and more especially parking had been brought to the Council by the owner of the Horse & Farrier. Despite clear markings on the deeds, the Land Registry had refused to register the area in front of the pub. As the building is listed, and the cobbled area included in the listing, the owners have always maintained the area. However inconsiderate parking in the area means that access to the carpark and houses down Duke Street is very difficult. Cars exiting the area need to get well into the road before they can see the traffic and pedestrians cannot walk between the cars.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be passed to Cllr Ireton to see if NYCC Highways have adopted the area and who is responsible for it.

137.3. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

The missing bollard in the ginnel between Main Street and Cleveland Square was discussed. This has been reported to Craven who, despite installing the bollard, have claimed it is not their responsibility. The Council agreed to look at replacing it.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council look at replacing the missing bollard

The 'raised crossing' sign on Low Bentham Road is not illuminated as the solar panel is obscured by a tree.

**RESOLVED:** That the problem with the raised crossing sign be reported to NYCC Highways again

The street lights between Mount Pleasant and Pye Busk are going out at 10.45pm instead of midnight

**RESOLVED:** That Street Lighting be informed of the problem with lights on Mount Pleasant

The street name sign at the junction of Lakeber Drive and Robin Lane has fallen off

**RESOLVED:** That Craven's street naming team be informed that the sign needs re-fixing

The road surface at the junction of Station Road and Wenning Avenue is starting to break up

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to look at the junction of Station Road & Wenning Avenue with a view to affecting repairs

*Cllr Ireton left the meeting at 8.25pm*

138. To Note the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 18 October, and consider recommendations

138.1. To consider the appointment of a part-time Administrator (paper F2016/04)

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance Committee proceed to advertise for a part-time administrator

139. To Approve the Craven District Council Budget Consultation 2017/18 response (paper 2016/12b)

**RESOLVED:** That the response to the Craven Budget Consultation is approved

140. To Receive confirmation that the Recycling Bring Site in High Bentham will be retained - received

141. To Consider the Craven Council Tax discount for unoccupied properties consultation and agree a response  
Currently unoccupied houses have a 3-month discount on the Council Tax. Craven are considering reducing this to raise funds. The Council felt that landlords needed an incentive to keep unlet houses habitable and that a gap between tenants could be longer than the current 3-month allowance. It considered that there were efficiencies to be made within the system and that the size of the discount could be reduced rather than the period of discount cut or removed.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council response be made reflecting the above preferences.

142. To Consider the Craven Co-mingling Recycling Consultation and agree a response

**RESOLVED:** That the Council agrees that comingling of recyclables and a fortnightly blue bin collection is a good idea

143. To Discuss the War Memorials at St Margaret's Church following the sale of the building following a meeting with Rev Russell

Cllr Stannard had met with Rev Russell. Following the sale of St Margaret's Church for housing various artefacts, including the war memorials, need to be removed from the interior. St Johns PCC – now Bentham Parish Church – have applied for a faculty to allow this to happen. The memorials will be moved to St John's Church where a new remembrance area for the parish is being created

144. To Agree the venue for Council meetings following the 2-month trial back in the Town Hall

**RESOLVED:** That the Council continue to meet in the Lower Town Hall

**RESOLVED:** That a suitable amplification system be considered to aid with hearing Cllrs above the noise of the exercise class above

145. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	154.15	Amazon	75.04
Mopps	384.00	Dash4Maps	45.62
Aviva	322.70	HCS Ltd	43.20
Opus Energy	74.79	Viking Direct	159.49
Orange	23.99	S1B.com	85.00
SWALEC	1379.08	Cannon Hygiene	19.33
Blachere Illumination	6270.00	Stannah	168.29
Horton Landscaping	2906.40	1&1 Internet	92.26
W Smith	20.00	NEST	50.05
Medical Warehouse	67.74	Salaries	1765.09
Clearglass Cleaning	100.00		

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

145.1. To agree the purchase of 2 Christmas trees for the Town Hall & their disposal at a cost of £85.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council purchase 2 Christmas trees for the Town Hall

145.2. To consider the quote of £311 +VAT from Stannah to repair the lift emergency light supply

Despite the part being easy to fit Stannah had refused to supply the necessary part without also fitting it. It was agreed that the light must be repaired. Stannah should be asked if the cost can be reduced by doing the work at the next service

**RESOLVED:** That Stannah be asked to do the repair at the next service with a possible reduction in cost

146. To Consider items of Correspondence

146.1. To receive an update from the Post Office confirming that Bentham Post Office will not move in to the Spar Council agreed that the non-action was unacceptable. The Post Office needs to be more proactive in producing a forward strategy. There does not appear to be a process for interested parties to start a conversation or find out more.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter be sent to the Post Office asking them to be more proactive

146.2. To receive a letter regarding maintenance problems in the Cemetery and agree a response

**RESOLVED:** That Cllrs Adams & Marshall will talk to the parties concerned with a view to solving the problem

146.3. To receive a request from the Christmas Lights to allow lights to be hung from the Town Hall

**RESOLVED:** That Christmas lights can be hung from the Town Hall

146.4. To receive a request from WE Are Bentham for the Town Hall to be left open on the evening of 2 December and the afternoon of 3 December for the Late Shopping events.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Hall be kept open for the late shopping events

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk be allowed to agree these requests in future

146.5. To receive an invitation from the Queen's Pageantmaster to consider lighting a beacon on 11 November 2018 commemorating the end of WW1

**RESOLVED: That the Council take part in this event and light a beacon on 11 November 2018**

146.6. To receive a request from the British Red Cross to support their appeal to reunite families

**RESOLVED: That the organisation be sent a precept grant request form**

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

Cllr Stannard had attended a School Governors meeting where the criteria for a replacement head had been discussed as Mrs Boocock is retiring.

He had also attended a Bentham Common Lands Committee meeting and been appointed Chairman. A new secretary will be appointed shortly and the new committee are getting up to speed with the paperwork  
Cllr Marshall confirmed that the refurbishment of the porches and bathrooms at the Alms houses was almost complete

Cllr Vendy said that Bentham Save A Life had purchased a third defibrillator which will be installed shortly at the Victoria Institute

Cllr Taylor had attended the Refugee Welcome weekend events which had been a success and a thank you letter had been received from the Support Group. Concerns had been expressed about the demolition of the 'Jungle' and the fate of the unaccompanied children involved

Cllr Handford had met with Pioneer Projects and had a copy of the Business Plan and Projections for the next 3-years which Cllrs were welcome to read.

148. Items for next meeting and minor items only

A request had been received from the new owners of Low Bentham School to lock the access to the Playing Field to prevent improper use. It was agreed that Council should padlock the gate

A letter of thanks should be sent to the Bonfire Committee following a very successful event

The January Council meeting will be on Wednesday 4, the Finance meeting on Monday 9 and the Precept meeting on Monday 16 January.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.20pm

149. 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, the Public and Press to be excluded further from the Meeting, whilst tenders for Low Bentham Play Area be discussed and future actions agreed

There was little to update Cllrs on. The purchasers' solicitors are waiting for a copy of a Deed of Grant to British Gas in 1988, prior to the gift of the land to the Council. It was agreed that decisions could not be made until the land sale was complete, but that Cllrs should consider how the money should be spent – provision of the second access, the erection of the Harvey plaque, ongoing inspections and maintenance etc as well as purchase of the play equipment.

**RESOLVED: That an Open Spaces Committee meeting should be arranged when the sale has gone through, and all Cllrs invited to attend.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.40pm

## **AGENDA ITEM 132)**

### **CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 7 November 2016**

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

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

1.1.1. 08/2016/17232 Partial Approval to remove various protected trees at Butts Works, Clapham Road, Bentham (Removal of protected trees 'G2' is refused)

1.1.2. 08/2016/17319 Application to remove condition no.6 of original planning consent reference 5/8/559/C at West End Barn, Cross Lane, Low Bentham

##### **1.2. REFUSED - none**

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

2.1. DCLG – Notes on Neighbourhood Planning

2.2. LCC Statement of Community Involvement 4/11

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

3.1. Local Government Finance Settlement response sent 17 October

3.2. Removal of Pay Phone response sent to Craven 12/10 & BT 17/10

3.3. Letter re parking on Station Road sent 17/10

- 3.4. WR Mitchell Display will be in the Library in November
- 3.5. No further information has been received from B4RN, so item removed from agenda

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

- 4.1. Blood Donation Session Ingleton 11 November (& noticeboards)
- 4.2. Update from Oakroyd Bakery re lighting
- 4.3. Thank You card from Bentham Refugee Group
- 4.4. Clerk Magazine Nov 16

**5. Items circulated by email**

- 5.1. Police & Crime Commissioner ‘Tell Julia’ survey on crime in NY (& noticeboards)
- 5.2. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 3/10, 10/10, 18/10, 24/10, 31/10
- 5.3. Rural Vulnerability Service, Rural Transport 13/10, Rural Broadband 28/10
- 5.4. Rural Opportunities Bulletin 5/10, 2/11
- 5.5. Spotlight on Rural Housing 19/10
- 5.6. North Yorkshire Now 3/10
- 5.7. Craven District News, Sept & Oct 16
- 5.8. Craven Community Champions (& noticeboards)
- 5.9. Craven Homestart Newsletter 20/10
- 5.10. WW1 Memorabilia Roadshow 12/11 (& noticeboards)
- 5.11. Sella Childrens Clubs in Bentham 10/10 (& noticeboards)
- 5.12. Fields in Trust Newsletter 13/10, 3/11
- 5.13. Neighbourhood Watch Association newsletter 22/10, meeting 28/11
- 5.14. NY Police E-newsletter Oct 16
- 5.15. NYP Halloween & Bonfire Safety 20/10
- 5.16. NYP Recruiting Special Constables
- 5.17. YLCA – Information about Northern Powerhouse
- 5.18. YLCA – Information on adoption of telephone boxes

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

- 6.1. Missing & damaged street signs reported 7/9
- 6.2. NYCC asked about ditches 20/7
- 6.3. Letter to Bentham Auction Mart sent 27 May & 10/10, response awaited
- 6.4. Bentham Flag – no progress to date
- 6.5. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 – committee to organise meeting and report back
- 6.6. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January
- 6.7. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11/15. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.8. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.9. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited