

## BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4 April 2016, at 7.30 pm in the Community Youth Building

Present Cllrs Adams, Cowling, Pritchard, Marshall, Stannard, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also Cllr Ireton, the clerk Mrs Burton and 6 parishioners

237. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend

Cllrs Bridgeman & Swales

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

239. To Receive Comment & Concerns

Ms Dowbiggin attended the meeting in her capacity as senior member of the Board of Governors at Bentham Primary School to invite the Council to consider appointing a member as a school governor for the coming year. A resident of Lane Foot spoke against planning application 08/2016/16641. The residents are concerned that the construction of the proposed ménage will cause problems on the highway as the new access will be on a bend, close to the junction and obscured by the well-used lay-by. They are also worried that the stone culvert which takes water away from the properties and prevent them flooding will be under the new access and is not designed to withstand the weight of traffic.

240. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meetings

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 7 March be signed**

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

The clerk had received notification that the application to convert the retail barn at West Stonegate to a classroom would be considered by the Craven Planning Committee at a site meeting on 11 April.

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

- none present

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

PC Barbara Parsons & PCO Jane Grace attended the meeting. During March there had been one road traffic collision, 13 crimes, 9 burglaries / thefts, one assault, one criminal damage, one harassment and one possession of an offensive weapon. Cllr Ireton asked if the spike in burglary numbers had been seen in the rest of the area or just locally. PC Parsons said that an arrest had been made and two offences had been admitted and it was likely that others were linked although there was no evidence at present. The clerk pointed the meeting to a report by Inspector Crocker showing that burglary had risen in the district by 69.3 % in the last financial year.

244. To Receive Reports from Cllr & DCllrs (for information only)

Cllr Ireton said that progress was being made with Pioneer Projects to move the Library into the Looking Well., although the new set-up will probably still need Council support. Questions were asked about the IT service that would be available from the new premises and Cllr Ireton agreed to find out about the internet speed and report back.

The Area Committee had received a presentation from the Ambulance Service. The 12-minute rural response time is achievable in the area if the Ingleton ambulance was available, otherwise vehicles from Settle, Bainbridge or Bradford need to be used, although with cross border working Lancaster & Kendal are also available.

Cllr Ireton said that he had also assisted the local Defibrillator Group in accessing and applying for funding for another machine, although the money will not be available until June. Cllr Vendy thanked Cllr Ireton for his assistance on the Group's behalf.

Cllr Ireton was also asked to raise the suitability of the new barrier on Lane Foot as it protects a considerable dro into the river and is considered to be not substantial enough. He was also asked about the extra funding received by NYCC for Highways work. He confirmed that a proportion will come to Area 5, but did not know at this stage how much, or what it would be spent on.

245. Planning

245.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

245.1.1. 08/2016/16622 Application for change of use to install 20x60m ménage on current grassland at Alder Gill Barn, Mewith Lane, High Bentham

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

245.1.2. 08/2016/16641 Proposed ménage for domestic equestrian use, new field entrance and fence to southern site boundary to enclose public footpath at The Wenning, Mewith Lane, Low Bentham  
Two letters of objection from residents of Lane Foot had been received regarding the new access, visibility on the road, the fact that horses would have to be brought round by road, and concerns about the waste water culvert which prevents flooding of their properties. The Council felt that the

ménage would be better placed on the other side of the river, close to the house and stabling. It was concerned about the visibility splays from the proposed access and felt that the position was poor, it was also concerned about the safety of bringing horses to the site along the road and agreed that the preservation and protection of the culvert was extremely important. The need to fence the footpath was also questioned.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council object to this application as there are more suitable places on the landowners property than the proposed site, which is away from the house and stables. Also the proposed access is poor and could compromise the existing waste water culvert which protects properties on Lane Foot.

245.1.3. 08/2016/16655 Proposed alterations & extension to form mobility access, mobility WC, office & conservatory at Victoria Institute, Main Street, Low Bentham

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

245.1.4. 08/2016/16689 Replacement of existing conservatory with single storey garden room extension to south east of dwelling at Six Acres, Back Lane, Low Bentham

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

245.1.5. 08/2016/16731 Change of use of land to form carpark for off street parking at Bank View, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham

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

245.2. To Receive Planning Decisions

- If any (see Clerks Report)

245.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues

- If any (see Clerks Report)

#### 246. Highways Matters

246.1. To Receive a letter from NYCC Highways regarding completion of repairs to retaining wall at Lane Foot.

**RESOLVED:** That the contractors be asked again to remove the stone sacks from the river as far down as Wenningon

246.2. To Note that footpath 05.5/105 Shakey Bridge (not on the definitive map) has been blocked by the land owner, and reported to NYCC Footpaths

This footpath was recommended for addition to the definitive map in 2011. The clerk has asked NYCC to confirm where the process has got to, but has had no response.

246.3. To Note that the footpath on the north side of the Wenning between High & Low Bentham has been closed until it can be repaired - noted

246.4. To Note the update from LCC regarding the timetable of repairs to the B6480

LCC believe the road repairs will be completed by the end of April 2016

**RESOLVED:** That the Council keep pressure on LCC to get the road open, and ask for another update to the timetable

246.5. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

Repairs to the wall at School Hill have been commissioned by the landowner. The builder is waiting for a Road Traffic Order for the positioning of traffic lights on site whilst the works are done. It was agreed that the Council's work on the wall by the phone box should be done at the same time

**RESOLVED:** That the clerk contact the builder and arrange for the Council's repair to be done at the same time as the repairs to the retaining wall

247. To Set a date to consider the consultation on the revised draft local plan

The consultation by Craven has been delayed, and the expected paperwork had not been received by the clerk at the time of the meeting. It was agreed that, due to the short timescale allowed, a meeting should be arranged as soon as the consultation period is announced.

**RESOLVED:** That a meeting be arranged as soon as the consultation period is announced

248. To Note that the Police have issued Community Resolution Disposal Orders to the two youths that stole the extinguisher from the Town Hall and to receive apologies from them - noted

249. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

Craven District Council	46.71	Post Office	117.00
Mopps	384.00	Co-Operative Group	9.28
Aviva	311.66	Salaries	1716.99
EOn	86.21	JP Lennard (Settle Pool)	236.89
Orange	23.99	Victoria Institute	1407.10
HMRC	533.55	Town Team	1107.10
Howsons	288.00	Youth Cafe	1775.00

JBL Joinery	86.40	Playing Fields Assoc	850.00
D Siddall	60.00	Goodenber Play Area	625.00
1&1 Internet	25.16	Age Concern	300.00
Yorkshire Water	5.59	Carnival	250.00
Viking Direct	125.44	LASRUG	200.00
Rothwell	960.00	Sunbeams	200.00
Tyrer & Son	1009.20	Little Stars	100.00

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

249.1. To Consider a change of provider for the Council's unmetered electricity supply

The Council was reminded that Eon had increased the cost of unmetered supply earlier in the financial year and the clerk had struggled to find other suppliers. The Green Power Advice Bureau (a free service) had found a potential saving in the region of 8% over 12 months or 5% over 36 months should the Council wish to change supplier

**RESOLVED: That the Council change supplier to save approximately 8% over the coming year**

250. To consider items of Correspondence

250.1. To receive notice of new opening times to NYCC Household Waste Centres from 1 April, and that the disposal of vehicle tyres will be charged for from that date - received

250.2. To receive confirmation of changes to NYCC supported bus services from April 2016 - received

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

Cllr Cowling informed the meeting that the Refugee Group would be inviting refugees from Bradford for a weekend visit in Bentham. A date for this is to be arranged

Cllr Vandy confirmed that the Defibrillator Group would be training trainers in the following week, and the public training will be held on the morning of 9 and 23 April

Mrs Hey had sent a written report from the Longstaffe Educational Trust who had held their AGM in February. The group is financially sound but investments are not producing much interest and so various fund raising activities are being organised.

252. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Cllr Townson asked for the reduction in bus services to be added to the next agenda following the loss of the Saturday afternoon service

Cllr Pritchard asked for the use of the lane above the Auction by HGVs to be added to the next agenda as structural damage to neighbouring properties has occurred on several occasions. As the lane is unadopted, the Council queried its ownership. He also asked if NYCC Highways could be asked to explain where they intend to spend the extra money received for road repairs.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm

**AGENDA ITEM 241)**

**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 April 2016**

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

1.1. GRANTED

1.1.1. none

1.2. REFUSED

1.2.1. none

**2. Planning Correspondence**

2.1. Appeal Decision allowed, solar farm on land at Ravensclose Brow, Low Bentham.

2.2. Planning Committee site visit to West Stonegate House on 11 April.

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

3.1. Letter to Air Ambulance sent 9 March – see response in information folder

3.2. Letter to Extra Care Group sent 21 March

3.3. Letter to NYCC re Extra Care provision sent 30 March

3.4. Response to Footpaths Group re insurance sent 15 March

3.5. Response to David Johnson re Bygone Bentham sent 15 March

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

4.1. Notification of rates revaluation for business rates

- 4.2. Section 137 expenditure limitation for 2016/17
- 4.3. Craven Area Committee meeting 17 March (and noticeboard)
- 4.4. Craven Area – Burglaries 2015/16 Summary
- 4.5. Le Petit Depart, Skipton / Settle 5 June

**5. Items circulated by email**

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 8/3, 14/3, 21/3, 4/4
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty 15/3, Rural Transport 30/3
- 5.3. Rural Spotlight on the Economy 16/3, on Heart of the Village 23/3
- 5.4. Fields in Trust update 17/3
- 5.5. Historic Towns Forum Update 10/3
- 5.6. Julian Smith MP Annual Report 2015/16
- 5.7. White Rose Update, March
- 5.8. LASRUG newsletter, March
- 5.9. Papers from Parishes Liaison Meeting 16/3
- 5.10. Parish Briefing from Yorkshire Dales National Park, re boundary changes
- 5.11. RAY Newsletter 10/3
- 5.12. NY Police newsletter, 9/3 & 1/4
- 5.13. Home Start Craven newsletter 10/3 & 4/4
- 5.14. NY Health & Wellbeing board newsletter 8/3
- 5.15. NALC Bulletin on national developments 30/3
- 5.16. Craven & First World War Newsletter 1/4

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

- 6.1. Bentham Flag – no progress to date
- 6.2. Meeting with Stephen Brown still to be arranged
- 6.3. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 – committee to organise meeting and report back
- 6.4. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January
- 6.5. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.6. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.7. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited