

**MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, at 7.30 pm – in the Lower Hall, Bentham**  
**Town Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Adams (Chair), Burton, Gerrie, Hill, Jones, Marshall. Page, Pearce and Stannard. CCllr Ireton. DCllr Handley. The Clerk Christine Downey. Five members of the public.

- 251 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
- 251.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.  
**None.**
- 251.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.  
**None.**
- 252 Declaration of interests: -
- 252.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.  
**Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 261.1.1 a planning application.**  
**During the meeting Cllr Marshall also declared an interest in item 262.2.2 Consultation re NYCC Sealed Order, public path diversion order.**
- 252.2 To approve dispensation requests.  
**None.**
- 253 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 expressed continued concerns regarding the ongoing dispute relating to the Punch Bowl, Low Bentham. In particular he reported that it has been ongoing since 2020.
- 254 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting of 19th December 2022. (Paper 2023/1)  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 19th December 2022 are agreed and be signed.**
- 255 **Police matters: -**
- 255.1 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.  
**Received.**
- 255.2 Tell Commissioner Zoe how much you think should be invested in policing and fire and rescue services in North Yorkshire and York. (Deadline 16/01/2023). (Paper 2023/2)  
**RESOLVED: That councillors will respond to the survey individually.**
- 256 To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer and allow members to ask questions for information – if any. **No report.**
- 257 To consider the situation at The Punchbowl Low Bentham and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2023/3)  
 It was reported that any factual information regarding the ongoing situation should be submitted to Tim Chadwick the Licensing Manager at Craven District Council.  
**RESOLVED: To await the outcome of the multi-agency meeting at Craven District Council.**

- 258 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2023/4).  
**Received.**
- 259 To receive reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only) – if any.  
DCllr Handley reported that he has a small balance (£400) of Ward Members Grant still available and that organisations can apply for a contribution towards projects. It is possible that DCllr Brockbank also has a balance left.
- CCllr Ireton reported that: -  
The police station at Ingleton is closing and that the police officers will be moving to the fire station in Bentham. That it is expected to happen within the next two months and that there will be more police vehicle presence in Bentham as a result of this move. The Council responded by informing CCllr Ireton that it has been advised that the Ingleton police station has been sold.  
That the new authority is busy finalising the structure, and that the top two structures have been dealt with; the Chief Executive and Directors have been put in place. The proposals are that planning will be operated from Skipton and Ripon, and the planning committees are likely to meet once a month; It is expected to result in an improvement in planning application processing in Craven: that there will an alcohol licensing committee; that there will be a separate licencing committee for taxi and other licensing; that the constitution will be discussed at the February council meeting, but is likely to take two meetings to deal with; that things are progressing to enable the new authority to be legal on 1<sup>st</sup> April; That council tax harmonisation comes into effect 01/04/2023; and that there is a budget seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> January to establish what departments require.  
CCllr Ireton concluded by reporting that he is likely to be voted in as Chairman of NYCC in February, which will result in him having less time to attend the Bentham Town Council meetings.
- CCllr Ireton was asked what services and assets are parish and town councils typically considering managing on behalf of North Yorkshire Council, under the new arrangements and opportunities. He reported that there are pilot schemes for grass cutting and gritting, and that his advice is to be extremely careful not to take responsibility for services and assets that would result in an increased cost for local ratepayers. It might be worth considering taking on the Cleveland Square car park, and he suggested that DCllr Handley should enquire about that.
- 260 To receive an update on the Bentham Masterplan and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.  
**It was reported that the committee are organising a meeting later in January and that there will therefore be more to report in February. Also, that 380 responses have been received to the survey.**
- 261 Planning
- 261.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications
- 261.1.1 2022/24561/OUT. Two storey detached dwelling. On part of garden to west of 60 Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AG.  
**RESOLVED: RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.**
- 261.2 To receive Correspondence on Planning Issues and agree away forward and/or a response: -
- 261.2.1 Public Consultation on the Submitted Bradley Neighbourhood Development Plan. (Deadline 30/01/23). (Paper 2023/5)  
**RESOLVED: That the council does not wish to comment on the Bradley Neighbourhood Development plan.**
- 261.2.2 Consultation re NYCC Sealed Order Consultation for Highways Act 1980 Public Path Diversion Order Application No: CRA-2022-02-DO. (Deadline 07/01/23). (Papers 2023/6 and 2023/7)  
**Cllr Marshall declared an interest in this item.**

**RESOLVED: No further action.**

- 261.3 To receive Planning Decisions – see Clerks Report.  
**Received.**

## 262 Highway Matters: -

- 262.1 To consider a request for salt/grit bins to be provided on Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham and to agree a way forward. (Papers 2023/8 and 2023/9)

**RESOLVED: Clerk to complete the form to request a new grit bin at the Low Bentham location.**

- 262.2 To review the gritting arrangements and agree away forward.

**RESOLVED: That all of the pavements will be gritted, as and when required.**

- 262.3 To consider and note Highway Matters for information. (Councillors can comment on any minor highway issues currently causing concern. NB: Councillors may report all concerns online to NYCC)  
**None.**

## 263 To agree the Accounts for Payment.

Christine Downey	Refund of payment to Nisbets for crockery for Town Hall	169.04
Waterplus	Waste water bill Town Hall	76.09
Stramongate Press	Calendar 2023	1,233.60
Tim Wheildon	Checking heating and bleed radiators	96.00
Kingsdale Projects	Gritting pavements and rehangng curtains at Town Hall	381.00
Andrews	Printing councillor name plates	12.00
Salaries and mileage allowance	December 2022	3,099.77
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	3,228.92
Ruth Green	Relief caretaking	255.00
Christine Downey	Refund of payments to Argos for Canon CanoScan LIDE 300 Flatbed scanner	54.99
Christine Downey	Refund of payment to Wickes for clear varnish and pack of various sandpaper for Ballroom floor touch up.	26.90
Bryan at The Black Pig	Christmas dinner for TIP volunteers, 5 x £12.	60.00
SSW Swalec	Unmetered electric supply.	95.27
BT Group Plc	Phone bill Town Hall.	422.03
BT Group Plc	Phone bill TIP.	54.96
Total energies	Gas Town Hall.	556.87
1 & 1 Ionos	Internet.	18.00
Craven District Council	Trade waste.	55.10
Premium Credit Ltd	Insurance	354.02
NEST	Pension contributions	<u>182.13</u>
TOTAL		10,431.69

**RESOLVED: Approved.****RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllrs Hill and Marshall.**

## 264

To receive an update on the health of the river Wenning and to agree any further actions.

It was reported that a number of residents had advised Cllr Pearce of a horrible smell coming from the river Wenning by Shaky Bridge recently. She reported the matter to the Environment Agency, as did a number of other people. However, the response from the Environment Agency was discouraging; they took details of the problem but reported that they would not be able to keep Cllr Pearce informed regarding the matter, due to a staff shortage.

Cllr Pearce has circulated two photographs of the issue.

It was suggested that, if and when this problem is reported to the Environment Agency again in future, that an incident number, or call log number, is requested. Some means of identifying each individual report of the problem needs to be obtained, so that they can be followed up later. It was agreed that the map reference number is not sufficient for this purpose, as it would probably not identify multiple reports separately.

It was suggested that the problem could also be reported to the Environmental Health department of Craven District Council.

A number of councillors plan to visit the site and see how the problem is now.

265 Town Hall Management: -

265.1 To agree a date for a meeting of the Town Hall management sub-committee.

**RESOLVED: That the date of the first meeting of the Town Hall management sub-committee is 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

265.2 To discuss and agree the terms of reference for the Town Hall Management sub-committee.

It was reported that it is expected that this sub-committee will be time limited, being of the “task and finish” variety. That the aim is to identify any areas for action and to agree suitable actions to address them at the first meeting, and to follow up with a review of the outcomes at another meeting six months later. It would be hoped that any issues will have been satisfactorily resolved within six months and that the sub-committee can be closed, but that this would be subject to review.

**RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference for the Town Hall Management sub-committee, are that the sub-committee’s responsibilities will be: -**

- **To walk through the Town Hall and decide what repairs and maintenance issues require attention.**
- **To review the recent complaints.**
- **To review the pricing arrangements and make recommendations to full council.**
- **To consider the management of the building as a venue.**

265.3 To discuss a recent booking complaint and agree a way forward. (Paper 2023/10)

**RESOLVED: That the complaint is referred to the Town Hall Management sub-committee for review.**

266 To consider the draft Civility & Respect Councillor – Officer Protocol. (Paper 2022/198)

**RESOLVED: No further action.**

267 To discuss 2024 Calendar matters and agree a way forward.

**RESOLVED: To produce a 2024 Bentham & Beyond Calendar.**

**RESOLVED: To produce the 2024 Calendar by the date of the 2023 Bentham Show.**

**RESOLVED: To consider potential beneficiaries at the Annual Parish Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

**RESOLVED: Photographs to be submitted for consideration by 31/05/2023.**

**RESOLVED: Sponsors to be agreed as soon as possible.**

**RESOLVED: Clerk to submit the usual article requesting photographs and beneficiaries to the Bentham News, for publication in the February edition if possible. Article also to mention the opportunity for sponsorship.**

268 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response: -

268.1 Yorkshire Housing re Hillside Road address. (Paper 2023/11)

**RESOLVED: That the council agree that the correct address is Low Bentham and not Lower Bentham.**

- 268.2 Invitation to join informal discussion about the expression of interest in managing services and assets on behalf of North Yorkshire Council. (Papers 2022/205 and 2023/12)  
**RESOLVED: To arrange the informal discussion for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, at 7 pm in the Town Hall.**
- 268.3 Craven District Council Sports Development Officer re Goodenber Rd Play Park. (Papers 2023/13 to 2023/15).  
**RESOLVED: No further action.**
- 269 To receive items of correspondence for information only: Thanks to all involved with the lovely Christmas lights display. (Paper 2022/16)  
**Thanks were received from an appreciative member of the public.  
The Council also expressed a huge thank you to everybody involved in the excellent Christmas Lights display.**
- 270 To receive reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) – if any.  
**None.**
- 271 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.  
Future agenda items: -
  - Grasmere car park – clogged with vans.
  - Parking enforcement.
- 272 Date of next meeting.  
**Wed 04/01/2023 Finance Committee meeting  
Mon 09/01/2023 Precept meeting  
Mon 23/01/2023 Full Council meeting.**
- 273 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 274 is considered: -  
**RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting.**
- 274 To consider items of correspondence received regarding the Community Youth Building and agree a way forward, if any. (Paper 2023/17)  
**RESOLVED: No further action.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30.