

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday
23rd January 2023, at 7.30 pm – in the Lower Hall, Bentham
Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Adams (Chair), Burton, Gerrie, Jones, Marshall, Paige, and Pearce. The Clerk Christine Downey. And three members of the public.

- 284 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
- 284.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Hill and Stannard.
- 284.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 285 Declaration of interests: -
- 285.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.
- 285.2 To approve dispensation requests.
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 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 asked if it is correct that the police station at Ingleton is closing and that the police offices will work out of the Bentham fire station in future. This was confirmed.

A member of the public raised concerns about the local bus service, pointing out that it is often inadequate; It has been reported in the past that the train service provides an alternative means of travelling to Lancaster, however this is not the case when the trains are on strike; in addition to which the train service has been subject to bus replacement arrangements recently, causing further problems and difficulties for travellers.

A member of the public raised a question regarding the repairs to the town hall clock. This matter is on the agenda for discussion at item 290.

A member of the public commented on the closure of another shop on the Main Street and reported that there is speculation that Armstrongs shop will become a fishing tackle shop. It was reported that there is a possibility that the shop has been bought by a firm who run a fishing tackle shop elsewhere, and who may be amalgamating that activity with the provision of hardware goods on the Main Street. It remains to be seen.

A member of the public asked why the road to Ingleton is currently shut. It was reported that it is due to a tree being in a dangerous condition. NYCC highways are dealing with it and are waiting for a specialist to be available.

A member of the public commented on pavement gritting, especially around Bentham surgery. It was reported that Bentham surgery requested that the pavements were gritted last week, and that this had been done.

- 287 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting of 3rd January 2023. (Paper 2023/20)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 3rd January 2023 are agreed and be signed.
- 288 To Confirm the minutes of the Precept meeting on 9th January 2023. (Paper 2023/21)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Precept meeting of 9th January 2023 are agreed and be signed.
- 289 To consider the situation at The Punchbowl Low Bentham and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2023/22)
RESOLVED: No further action can be taken at this time.
- 290 To discuss the electric supply for the Town Hall clock and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Cllr Adams will supply the clerk with the job specifications.
RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange for Howson's or Harrison and Cross to install the electric supply for the clock as soon as possible.
- 291 To discuss the request from NYCC Highways for a site meeting at Wenning Avenue and agree a way forward. (Paper 2023/23)
 Cllr Marshall confirmed that he would be available to attend the site meeting on any of the proposed dates, which are 11 am on 6th, 7th or 8th of February 2023.
RESOLVED: Clerk to try and arrange for United Utilities to attend the site meeting.
- 292 Building matters: -
- 292.1 To consider quotes: -
- 292.1.1 From Howsons for repairing the faulty emergency light in the ladies WC, and replacing the timer fan in Wenningdale room kitchen. (Paper 2023/24)
RESOLVED: To accept the quote and proceed with the work.
RESOLVED: To add installing the electric supply for the Town Hall clock to the work to be done by Howsons asap.
- 292.1.2 From Pro Laundry for cleaning the kitchen canopy. (Paper 2023/25)
 It was reported that Pro Laundry have advised that cleaning of the canopy is almost certainly not required, but that they can check the position in February when the routine servicing of kitchen appliances is performed, and will let the council know if this is not the case.
RESOLVED: To defer cleaning of the canopy and await a report on the position from Pro Laundry in February.
- 292.1.3 For replacement of carpet on landing on Wenningdale Room stairs. (Paper 2023/25)
RESOLVED: To accept the quote and proceed with the work.
- 292.2 To review the lift inspection report of 16th December 2022 and agree actions, if any. (Paper 2023/27)
RESOLVED: To find out if Howsons would be able to fix the inaudible communicator.
- 292.3 To review the boiler inspection report of 03/01/2023 and agree actions, if any. (Paper 2023/28)
RESOLVED: Reviewed and no further action required.
- 292.4 To agree a date for the postponed archive evening.
RESOLVED: Date for archive evening set as Wednesday 8th March, at 7.00 pm.

292.5 To review the list of outstanding repairs and agree a way forward. (Paper 2023/29)

	Item	RESOLVED OR UPDATE
1	Plaster fell down at back of stage.	Awaiting report from Cllr Adams and/or Ross Chesters.
2	Defect on lift communicator.	Dealt with at item 292.2.
3	Clock chimes.	Dealt with at item 290.
4	Electric panel lock damaged in plant room.	Awaiting action from Cllr Adams.
5	Door to BR leaking oil.	Joiner attending Town Hall 31/01/23.
6	Foyer – paint peeling next to sliding door.	Decorator to commence work 20/02/23.
7	Disabled ramp – paint or resurface with grit type finish.	Decorator to commence work 20/02/23.
8	Plant room wall – rub down and paint.	Decorator to commence work 20/02/23.
9	Metal drain cover in basement to be repaired or replaced.	Awaiting action from Cllr Marshall.
10	Flickering light in ladies toilet.	Dealt with at item 292.1.1.
11	Fan not working in WR.	Dealt with at item 292.1.1.
12	Ballroom – entrance doors – replace closer.	Joiner attending Town Hall 31/01/23.
13	Ballroom – push bar – joiner to look at and fix as necessary.	Joiner attending Town Hall 31/01/23.
14	Back stage – skirting board – short run missing.	Joiner attending Town Hall 31/01/23.
15	Cupboard at bottom of WR stairs needs thorough clear out. Remove and sort out the old paper work first.	Dealt with at item 292.4.
16	Rip in carpet on half landing.	Dealt with at 292.1.3.
17	Cleanser store – remove the car battery.	Awaiting action from Cllr Marshall.
18	Underpass – needs a clear out.	It was reported that this has been done.
19	Fire exit door at bottom of WR stairs bowed and rotten.	Joiner attending Town Hall 31/01/23.
20	Fire doors – three of them require attention for missing seals and slight damage.	Joiner attending Town Hall 31/01/23.

293 Open Spaces: -

293.1 To receive the Annual Inspection Report on the Philip Harvey Playing Field and to agree a way forward. (Papers 2023/30 and 2023/31)

RESOLVED: To confirm with the inspection company that they are performing all the repairs that they can when on site, as per the contract with the council.

RESOLVED: Not to dismantle the seats on the cable runway and the Titan for internal inspection.

RESOLVED: To continue to inspect the cable on the cable runway from the ground during the weekly play equipment inspection.

RESOLVED: That Thomas Brown is instructed to rectify the following items: -

	Item	Action required
1	General site – there is some tree debris on the surfacing.	Remove and maintain.

2	General site – there is algae, silt or moss growth on the surface.	Clean and treat appropriately.
3	General site – there is some damage to the fence sections, creating sharp projections.	Remove the sharp projections.
4	Bench – there are trip hazards at the edges of the surfaces.	Reinstate surrounding levels to remove the trip points.
5	Multi-Play Toddler (house and slide). The paintwork on this item has been damaged or worn exposing the metal underneath which is rusting.	Treat any rusting components and repaint.
6	Multi-Play Toddler (house and slide). A number of fixings have worked loose in the handrail.	Secure all loose fixings.
7	Dish Roundabout (toddler area). The paint is flaking off the metalwork.	Rub down and repaint.
8	Spring Tractor. The paintwork on the spring has been damaged or worn exposing the metal underneath which is rusting.	Treat any rusting components and repaint.
9	Multi-Play (Junior). There is some tree debris on the surfacing.	Remove and maintain
10	Multi-Play (Junior). There is algae, silt or moss growth on the surfacing.	Clean and treat appropriately.
11	Titan. There is weed / vegetation growth on, between, or around the edges of the surfacing.	Remove weed / vegetation growth.
12	Basket Swing: There is some tree debris on the surfacing.	Remove and maintain.

293.2 To review the arrangements for the weekly checks of PHPF and agree a way forward.

RESOLVED: To arrange training on play equipment inspection for Cllrs Paige and Stannard.

293.3 To consider the quote for painting the cemetery gates. (Paper 2023/32)

RESOLVED: To accept the quote and proceed with the work.

293.4 To agree a date for a walk of the Parish by the Open Space Committee.

RESOLVED: Walk of the parish to take place on Good Friday 7th April 2023, at 1 pm, OS committee to meet at the cemetery.

293.5 To agree a date for a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee.

RESOLVED: Full council meeting on Monday 17th April 2023 to commence at 7.00 pm, and Open Spaces committee meeting to take place after the full council meeting on that date.

294 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.

- Apologies received from Cllr Marshall for the meetings on 20/02/23 and 06/03/23.
- Cemetery fence work to go ahead shortly, but will not be invoiced until the next council financial year.
- Follow up on the river Wenning complaint: Graham Tarn, Environmental Health Officer at CDC, made a site visit on Monday 16/01/23 with Cllr Pearce. The river was running clear but it was noted that there had been some pollution around cattle feeders. His advice is to keep checking the position.
- When the clock is returned and working, can the chimes be stopped at night? No.

295 Date of the next meeting. **6th February 2023.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.16 pm.