

**MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday**  
**20<sup>th</sup> February, at 7.30 pm – in the Lower Hall, Bentham**  
**Town Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Adams (Chair), Burton, Gerrie, Hill, Jones, Paige and Pearce. The Town Clerk Christine Downey. Three members of the public.

- 318 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
- 318.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.  
**Cllrs Marshall and Stannard.**
- 318.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.  
**None.**
- 319 Declaration of interests: -
- 319.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.  
**None.**
- 319.2 To approve dispensation requests.  
**None.**
- 320 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 in connection with item 322.3, the River Greta’s designation as a Site for the Importance of Nature Conservation (SINC). It was reported that: -
- In 1995 Burton in Lonsdale Councillor Taylor worked closely with Bentham Town Council and six key statutory bodies, to enable the banks/flood plains alongside the river Greta to obtain SINC designation, due to the wealth and importance of the local flora and fauna and the natural ecosystems that existed, and still do exist.
  - The work in 1995 was undertaken because the area was under threat of development of fourteen dwellings. Following the designation as a SINC the development did not go ahead.
  - There is now a major concern about a landowner who has submitted a potential environmental impact assessment to Craven District Council for the development of eight lodges for tourist purposes right by the river Greta. Right within sight of the designated site for nature conservation, and there is a great deal of concern in Burton in Lonsdale about this potential development.
  - It borders land which is owned by Bentham Town Council.
  - The potential development would be extremely visible to all residents of both Burton and Bentham.
  - This section of the river is currently used as a quiet place to get away from it all, and is regularly used by walkers, dog walkers and people just enjoying the natural beauty of the area.
  - Concerned residents are trying to assess the potential damage and effect of pollution by the potential development and are contacting the relevant statutory bodies.

- The purpose tonight is to raise awareness and bring attention to the situation, to thank Bentham Town Council for their time, and to ask the council for its support to continue to protect the river Greta, and to protect this scenic area for the greater benefit of residents and visitors.

The council asked exactly where the proposed development of the lodges is, and the site was stated as being at the West end of the village, Spiders Web end.

A member of the public, speaking on behalf of the Bentham News, wished to express their gratitude for all the help, kindness and professionalism show to them by the clerk during her time in post, and to wish her well for the future.

A member of the public agreed with the previous speaker and will be sorry to see the clerk go.

321 To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023. (Paper 2023/45)  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 are agreed and be signed.**

322 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response: -  
322.1 Invitation to Craven District Council Legacy Sub-Committee certificate presentation. (Paper 2023/46)  
**RESOLVED: That Councillor Jones will attend the certificate presentation on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at 6pm at Skipton Town Hall, and will liaise with Lisa Guy and Gerald Townson re travel arrangements.**

322.2 Correspondence regarding St Margaret's Churchyard. (Paper 2023/47 to 49)  
**RESOLVED: Clerk to advise Jimmy Macdonald of the response from Craven District Council.**  
**RESOLVED: Bentham Town Council to keep an eye on the ongoing maintenance at the Churchyard.**

322.3 Correspondence regarding the River Greta's designations as a Site for the Importance of Nature Conservation (SINC). (Papers 2023/50 to 53)

Cllr Pearce reported that BEST and the new River Wenning group are showing a film called Riverwoods in Bentham Town Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm, followed by a talk from the Lune Valley River Trust. Also, in Staveley there is a group called the Clean River Kent Group, who were set up to get bathing water status for the river Kent. This group will be meeting with the River Wenning group on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to share their experience of submitting the bathing water status application. Any interested persons from Burton in Lonsdale would be welcome to join either event.

**RESOLVED: That Bentham Town Council will support any ongoing arrangements for the river Greta's SINC designation.**

323 To receive items of correspondence for information only: resignation of the clerk. (Paper 2023/54)  
**RECEIVED.**  
**RESOLVED: That the council thank the clerk for her work over the last four years.**

324 To agree an account for payment as: -

Bentham News	Advert for clerks' replacement	£35.00
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**RESOLVED: Approved**

**RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllrs Burton and Hill.**

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

- Details of a supplier of defibrillator training have been forwarded to the clerk to be kept on file for future reference, since Laraine Sullivan no longer provides training.

- Barbara Rothwell will commence decorating in the foyer and ground floor this week, but decorating of the ballroom is to be postponed pending the installation of new windows.

326 Date of next meeting; **6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**The public section of the meeting closed at 7.51.**

327 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 items 328 and 328 are considered.

**RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting.**

328 To make arrangements in the interim period until a new clerk is appointed. (Papers 2023/56 to 59)

**RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Adams as the Proper Officer from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Jones as the Responsible Financial Officer from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**RESOLVED: Cllr Adams to contact SLCC regarding possible locum clerk.**

**RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Hill as the minute taker for the council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Hill as acting Superintendent of the Cemetery.**

**RESOLVED: Clerk to forward the notes on cemetery records and procedures to Cllr Hill.**

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Jones will deal with town hall bookings in the interim period.**

**RESOLVED: Cllr Stannard to set up a new email address for booking queries, which should divert to Cllr Jones.**

**RESOLVED: That Cllrs Adams and Hill will deal with emails to the clerk in the interim period.**

**RESOLVED: Clerk to forward email log in details to Cllrs Adams and Hill.**

**RESOLVED: That Cllrs Paige and Stannard will perform the inspections at the Philip Harvey Playing Field from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

**RESOLVED: That the clerk will run the payroll for February and March before leaving.**

329 To make arrangements to advertise for a replacement clerk.

**RESOLVED: To place an appropriate advert for a replacement clerk.**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:50.**