

**MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021,
at 7.30 pm – conducted remotely.**

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chair), Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Handford, Hill, Marshall, Stannard, and Swales. Cllr Ireton. The Clerk Christine Downey. And three members of the public.

- 255 Apologies from members unable to attend.
255.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
None.
255.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 256 Declaration of interests: -
256.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.
256.2 To approve dispensation requests.
None.
- 257 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).
- No comments and concerns were raised in the meeting by members of the public.**
- However, there have been some comments by members of the public on social media about the way in which grants are considered and awarded by the council. The Chairman therefore took the opportunity to point out that all decisions regarding grant awards are made by the full council, and not by individual councillors. The award is made, or not, according to the majority decision. It is grossly unfair for either the recipients of grants, or the council, to be attacked on social media.**
- 258 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 4th January 2021. (Paper 2021/04)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of 4th January 2021 are agreed and be signed.
- 259 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2021/05)
Received.
- 260 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information.
Received.
- 261 To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer and allow members to ask questions for information.
Apologies have been received from Craig Lyons who is unable to attend.
Nothing arising.
- 262 **To receive reports from Cllr and DCllrs for information.**
Cllr Ireton reported that:

NYCC 2021/22 budget: it is proposed to raise council tax by 3.49%. This recognises the great economic (and social) pressures on households during the COVID 19 pandemic, whilst seeking to protect frontline services. A shortfall of £59 million by 2023/24 is forecast; whilst use of reserves is not sustainable it is necessary next year due to major uncertainties and a squeezed savings programme as a direct result of Covid 19.

This comes on the back of an extra £82 million of spending in response to Covid in the last year alone. Some of the £82 million will be recoverable from government but not all. The future remains very uncertain, and the County Council is very mindful of maintaining operational flexibility to protect vital services whilst being able to respond to further shocks.

We understand that residents are facing many difficulties in light of the Covid we also understand just how vital some of the Council services are to the most vulnerable in society. For this reason, the Council is trying to get the balance right by setting adult social care precept at 1.5% rather than the 3% permitted by government. I think it is right that we use reserves at this point so we can avoid using savings that may be at the expense of services to some of our most vulnerable residents.

Quick swab tests are being introduced to schools to allow teaching staff and secondary pupils to receive regular, voluntary tests for Coronavirus.

The tests are designed to allow staff teaching in primary and secondary schools, colleges and maintained nurseries, to test themselves regularly for Covid twice a week. Young people in Year 7 and above will also be able to receive the tests before returning to school.

Primary schools and maintained nurseries in North Yorkshire have been provided with the Lateral Flow Devices in order to begin their testing regime and allow staff to test themselves at home twice a week, using the kits which provide results within 30 minutes.

Secondary schools have begun their testing regimes, providing tests for children of key workers and vulnerable students in school, as well as teachers in school.

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Planning: -

263.1 To consider and comment upon new planning applications

263.1.1 2020/22307/HH Proposed attic conversion with rear dormer to form 2 number bedrooms and ensuite. Ground floor alterations and extended decking at the front of the property. At 19 Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA27AB.

RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on to this application.

263.1.2 2020/22331/VAR Application for a variation of condition no 6 (External Materials) on planning consent referenced 2019/21267/VAR granted 19 March 2020. At Former High Bentham CP School, Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster.

RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.

263.2 To receive correspondence on planning issues – if any. **None.**

263.3 To receive planning decisions – **see Clerks Report.**

263.4 To discuss the availability of information regarding planning applications to the public, and to consider ways in which the council might assist access.

RESOLVED: That a list of the planning applications to be discussed at the next council meeting will be displayed on the council noticeboard, with some instructions on how to view them.

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To consider and note Highway Matters for information – if any. (Councillors can comment on any minor Highways issues currently causing concern.

None.

265 To discuss the position regarding the Community Youth Building and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2021/06)

Cllr Ireton agreed to let the council know about any funding opportunities that might be applicable from NYCC for a new sports/leisure facility. He also reminded the council that funding might be due to the council, in due course, from local developers.

RESOLVED: To include this matter as an agenda item for the June 2021 full council meeting.

RESOLVED: All councillors, and other interested parties, to look out for any funding opportunities for a new sports/leisure facility.

266 To discuss a request for the Town Hall to be booked to be used as a polling station for local elections on 8th May 2021.

RESOLVED: To allow the Town Hall to be used as a polling station for local elections, subject to a risk assessment from the hirer, and subject to consultation (and a meeting) regarding the arrangements that will need to be in place on the day.

267 To receive the minutes from Finance Committee meeting of 5th January 2021. (Paper 2021/07).

Received.

268 To agree the Accounts for Payment.

Salaries and mileage allowance	January 2021	2519.51
Waterplus	Waste water	88.80
Citron	Sanitary disposal	24.34
Viking	Paper / in / batteries	125.00
YLCA	Training webinar	15.00
Myers Building Suppliers	Timber and fence posts for Heritage Trail repairs	22.24
Kingsdale Projects	PHPF: bulbs 60 + fence repair 20 + crown lift trees 1000 = 1080. Parish caretaking: Salt spreading 210 + install gel dispensers 60 = 270. Town hall: notice board 30 + handrail 90 + Christmas trees and lights 80 + adapter lead and box 20 + removal of trees 30 = 250. Heritage trail work 230.	1830.00
1 & 1 Ionis	Internet	18.00
Swalec gas	Gas	355.26
SSE electric	Electric	431.49
Craven DC	Trade waste	108.03
SSE Swalec	Unmetered88. electric supply	111.21
Premium Credit Ltd	Insurance	330.27
NEST	Pension contribution	91.49

RESOLVED: Approved.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Stannard and Faraday to authorise.

269 To discuss the creation of an online precept application form and agree a way forward.

RESOLVED: Cllr Stannard will devise an online precept grants application form, after the current application form is reviewed and amended as required.

- 270 To consider a draft Vexatious Requests Policy. (Paper2021/08)
RESOLVED: Policy adopted.
- 271 To discuss Open Spaces matters and agree a way forward: -
- 271.1 Street Lighting renewal programme: Barn ducting recently installed near Duke Street/High Bentham Business park. (Just up from lamppost 34). Could feed electric supply for lights on the footpath that could not be reached before.
RESOLVED: To be included on agenda for next Open Spaces meeting.
- 271.2 The need for a new shed at the cemetery.
RESOLVED: Not to replace the shed.
- 271.3 Tidying up the far end of the cemetery.
RESOLVED: Arrangements to be made for the scrap man to remove the old metal gate.
RESOLVED: Clerk to obtain a quote from Thomas Brown for tidying up the corner of the cemetery where the shed used to be, and removing the self-sown trees from the cemetery. The work to be completed and paid for in the current financial year.
- 271.4 Position regarding the wheel bier.
RESOLVED: No further action.
- 271.5 Position regarding grit bins.
 It was reported that NYCC have confirmed that the grit in the bins is provided for use on the highway maintainable at public expense, and that the lengths man (parish caretaker) is able to use the stock where ever it is required.
 It was also reported that no form or correspondence was received from NYCC in either August 2019 or August 2020 asking for requirements for the coming winter.
RESOLVED: Clerk to find out: A) what are the NYCC arrangements for gritting pavements. B) Which pavements in both High and Low Bentham are included in the NYCC arrangements.
RESOLVED: Arrangements for gritting pavements to be on the agenda for full council meeting on 15th February 2021.
RESOLVED: Clerk to inform Thomas Brown that no gritting of pavements to be done in the interim.
- 271.6 Increased number of dogs being taken on to PHPF.
 It was reported that Craven DC no longer employ a dog warden.
RESOLVED: Clerk to ask the public safety officer if he can be a presence at Philip Harvey Playing Field, with a view to discouraging dog owners from taking dogs on to it.
- 271.7 Can the council identify any areas for the sowing of poppy seeds?
RESOLVED: Suggestions were between High and Low Bentham; and at PHPF, particularly along the back of the houses on Hillside Road.
- 271.8 To consider a quote for replacing the fingerpost at the junction of Lane Foot Road and Mewith Lane, Bentham. (Paper 2021/09)
RESOLVED: To be considered as a special project in 2022/2023.
RESOLVED: The damaged fingerpost to be moved to storage at the Town Hall.
- 272 To discuss the Town Hall clock and agree a way forward.
 The Council expressed their grateful thanks to Cllr Adams for getting the clock telling the right time again.
 Cllr Adams reported that he can source the spare parts required to get the clock chiming once again. The difficulty will be in reaching the outside of the clock to perform the repair.
RESOLVED: Buildings committee to obtain a quote for a suitable cherry picker for the task.

- 273 To discuss the procedure for reporting highway matters and concerns and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Clerk and Cllr Adams to attempt to get the portal for councillors to report problems to NYCC Highway as *councillors* working.
- 274 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response: -
- 274.1 Email from Anne Duncan of 01/01/2021 regarding condition of footpath on the Heritage Trail. (Paper 2021/10)
RESOLVED: To point out that a lot of work to improve the Heritage Trail has been done this year. However, mud in the winter is to be expected, and the council have done all that they can in regard to the condition of the Heritage Trail.
- 274.2 Email from Jill Heseltine at Craven DC of 08/01/2021 regarding Bentham Business & closure due to Covid-19. (Paper 2021/11)
RESOLVED: No further action.
- 274.3 Email from Linda Brockbank about Community Councillor Ward Grant of 19/01/2021. (Paper 2021/12)
It was reported that there will be sufficient funds in the earmarked reserves for the installation of the new defibrillator, as soon as the ward grant from CDC is received. Also, that Cllr Farady has been advised to continue using WelMedical for the provision of defibrillators and consumables for them, and not to involve a different company as well.
RESOLVED: No further action re the email from DCllr Brockbank.
RESOLVED: Cllr Farady will arrange for the defibrillator at the golf club to be added to the register kept by Yorkshire Ambulance.
- 274.4 Request to provide feedback on Public Safety Service. Email of 20/01/2021. (Paper2021/13)
RESOLVED: Clerk to provide feedback from the Council to KADA indicating that the public safety officer has been good for the town, and has the ability to open doors for services, sometimes more quickly than the council can. But that more information is needed on what his role is.
- 274.5 Right to Regenerate consultation. Response requested from YLCA. To be submitted by 26/02/2021. Circulated 25/01. (Paper 2021/14)
RESOLVED: Cllrs Bridgeman and Swales to draft a response for consideration at the full council meeting on 15th February 2021.
- 275 To receive items of correspondence for information only: - To received NALC Legal Topic Note 81, advice on predetermination. (Paper 2021/15)
RECEIVED.
- 276 To receive reports from Councillors who represent the council on to her bodies (for information only):
Victoria Institute: Cllr Bridgeman reported that the Victoria Institute is open for welfare calls and the Post Office. The gas bill was high but the matter is in hand. Community Link Café - no real change, a few more clients, Christmas curry (provided by PO outreach worker) went down well and much appreciated. Staffing and contracts were discussed. Maintenance is in hand.
- 277 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
Cllr Adams reported that there has been an increase in fly tipping in the area, which he would have brought up with the district councillors had they been here. Four tyres dumped in layby near Fourlands; a fridge and a bed on the Slaidburn Road; and a cooker and other bit towards Lowgill Road end area. He would like to ask the district councillors

what proactive measure are CDC taking in relation to fly tipping throughout the Craven district.

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Date of next meeting. 15th February 2021. And then 1st March 2021,

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50.

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 27th JANUARY 2021

1. Planning Decisions Received Since 29th December 2020 (Date of last clerk's report).

1.1. GRANTED

- 1.1.1. 2020/21938/FUL Construction of garage with first floor living accommodation on land at the rear of "The Red House". At the Red House, Gas House Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HQ.
- 1.1.2. 2020/22069/HH Replacement of garden shed with new summerhouse. At 4 Butterbergh, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7FG.
- 1.1.3. 2020/22120/**FUL** Re-plan floor space on second floor to form additional 1 bed flat. Re-plan ground floor to form additional retail space. At 15 main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LG.
- 1.1.4. 2020/22121/**LBC** Re-plan floor space on second floor to form additional 1 bed flat. Re-plan ground floor to form additional retail space. At 15 main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LG.
- 1.1.5. 2020822150/REM Seek to provide information to satisfy the following reserved matters reserved in outline consent referenced 2017/18461/OUT granted 02 November 2017; access, layout, appearance of the buildings(s), landscaping and boundary treatments, and the scale of the development. At Land to the Rear of the Former National Westminster Bank, Station Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LF.
- 1.1.6. 2020/22153/FUL Retrospective planning application for the position of roof mounted kitchen air extract flue. At 21 Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HQ.

1.2. REFUSED - none

1.3. WITHDRAWN – none

2. Highways information

- 2.1. PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - 28180 - Four Ends Lane to Bentham Road. The Closure will be in place for a period of 5 days between 15th February 2021 and 19th February 2021 to allow Electricity North West to install a new electricity connection. The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=120250041>. Circulated 31/12/2020.
- 2.2. Acknowledgement from NYCC for report of potholes Robin Lane. 05/01/2021.
- 2.3. Acknowledgement from NYCC for report of potholes Butterbergh / Lowcroft. 05/01/2021.
- 2.4. Acknowledgement from NYCC for report of potholes Cross Lane, Low Bentham. 05/01/2021.
- 2.5. Response from Audrius Starkus, Senior Civil Enforcement Officer, Parking Services, Safer Communities, Harrogate Borough Council re parking problems in High Bentham. 07/01.
- 2.6. Damaged bridge near Clifford Hall, Burton in Lonsdale. Reported by Ian Thompson 11/01. Reply from Highways circulated 21/01.

3. Items circulated by email

- 3.1. Police report circulated 01/01/2021.

- 3.2. Carnival Bentham – thanks for last year’s grant award, and for considering this year’s application. 12/01.
- 3.3. Maintaining Traditional Buildings - free online event. Forest of Bowland. Event 02/03. Details circulated 27/01.
- 3.4. Community First Yorkshire - Weekly updates**
- 3.5. Craven District Council – Covid 19 Travel Restrictions 11/01.**
- 3.6. **Lancaster City Council** – Lancaster District Homes Strategy Conference - Thursday 21 January 2021 from 10am - 12.30pm. Circulated 05/01.
- 3.7. **Lancashire County Council** - Your views requested on the Countryside Code refresh. Circulated 07/01.
- 3.8. **Sanctuary Housing** -23 Hillside Road, Low Bentham, LA2 7EN. Circulated 05/01.
- 3.9. NALC**
 - 3.9.1. Chief Executives Bulletin 11/01. 25/01.
 - 3.9.2. NALC CORONAVIRUS UPDATE. 07/01. 14/01.
 - 3.9.3. OPEN LETTER TO ALL COUNCILLORS 12/01.
 - 3.9.4. Rebuilding Communities
 - 3.9.4.1. Why representation in local councils matters. 19/0. 26/01.
 - 3.9.4.2. How are local councils vital to community recovery?
- 3.10. NYCC** – important Covid-19 information from North Yorkshire County Council 11/01.
- 3.11. North Yorkshire Community Messaging – North Yorkshire Police**
 - 3.11.1. Weekly updates
 - 3.11.2. Covid Vaccine Scam. Circulated 05/01.
 - 3.11.3. Budget consultation reminder to parish councils - closing date 11 January. Reminder circulated 07/01.
 - 3.11.4. Time is running out to #HaveYourSay on investment in police and fire and rescue in North Yorkshire and York. 11/01.
 - 3.11.5. Time is running out for YOU to have your say on how much you think you should pay for YOUR policing & fire services. Survey closes midnight tonight. 13/01.
 - 3.11.6. Bogus Police Officer telephone scam 13/01.
 - 3.11.7. New Covid vaccination email scam. 27/01.
- 3.12. Rural Services Network**
 - 3.12.1. Weekly updates
 - 3.12.2. The Rural Bulletin 05/01: 19/01
- 3.13. YLCA**
 - 3.13.1. White Rose updates 11/01. 25/01.
 - 3.13.2. COUNCILLORS DISCUSSION FORUM SESSION THURSDAY, 7 JANUARY 2021 – 6.00PM – 7.00PM Free of Charge: Circulated 04/01/2021.
 - 3.13.3. COUNCILLORS DISCUSSION FORUM SESSION THURSDAY 28th January 6pm. Circulated 25/01.
 - 3.13.4. Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill 05/01
 - 3.13.5. Local councils: Being a good employer – make sure you get it right! Webinar Session – Wednesday, 13 January 2021 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Circulated 05/01.
 - 3.13.6. LOCAL ELECTIONS, 6 MAY 2021 Confirmation that they will go ahead. 14/01.
 - 3.13.7. Training bulletin circulated 18/01.
 - 3.13.8. YLCA BRANCH MEETINGS - A SHORT SURVEY ABOUT ATTENDANCE, THEIR FORMAT AND PURPOSE. 25/01.

POLICE REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 28th JANUARY 2021

Please find your monthly police report for Bentham Town Council meeting
We have had 32 incidents reported between 01.01.21 to 28.01.21

Reports include – General Admin from other Police force enquiries, Contact from other agencies – in order, False Alarm sound, false call in order

3 incidents relating to Young person's homes & school - joint partnership working with home & Police

6 incidents - Covid19 – Holiday lets/ licensing/gatherings

04.01.21 – Crime internet

05.01.21 – Drugs/Admin

06.01.21 – Suspect vehicle Bentham – Checked in order

12.01.21 – Concern for Safety/welfare – Joint partnership working

12.01.21 – Domestic

16.01.21 – Crime Drugs

16.01.21 – Crime Violence

16.01.21 – ASB Nuisance – Wenning Avenue – door knocking

19.01.21 – Concern for welfare – Joint partnership working

21.01.21 – X3 - Concern for welfare – checked in order

21.01.21 – ASB Personal – Butterberge

22.01.21 – Suspect incident – Vehicles & dogs – Lamping – Low Gill

22.01.21 - Road Related offence – no insurance

23.01.21 – Crime Damage to vehicle

28.01.21 – Suspect object – Grasmere Drive – no concerns

Officers are conducting regular Covid19 patrols in the area

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101 or 999 if urgent.

Working to keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live, visit & work please visit

www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Useful site re Crime and policing in England which allows you to search re incident recorded in your area www.police.uk

You can also report safety issues under speed concerns on - www.roadwise.co.uk.

If anyone would like to sign up to Craven Community messaging then please visit -

www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.org

Contact Information:

1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress

2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information

3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous

4 E-mail SNACraven@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace

Collar number 5561

Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood PCSO

Settle Ingleton & Bentham area

North Yorkshire Police

101

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