

**MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday**  
**4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, at 7.30 pm –**  
**in the Ballroom at Bentham Town Hall.**

Present: Cllrs Bridgeman (Chair), Adams, Burton, Gerrie, Hill, Marshall, Stannard, Taylor and Wills. Cllr Ireton. Cllr Brockbank. The Clerk Christine Downey. PC Jayne Grace. Sergeant Evans. Public Safety officer Craig Lyons. One member of the public.

- 376 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
- 376.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.  
**Cllrs Faraday and Swales.**  
 The Council's thoughts are with Cllr Swales following the death of her mother recently.
- 376.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.  
**None.**
- 377 Declaration of interests: -
- 377.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.  
**None.**
- 377.2 To approve dispensation requests.  
**None.**
- 378 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).  
**None.**
- 379 To Confirm the Minutes of the full council meeting of 24th March 2022. (Paper 2022/87)  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 24th March 2022 are agreed and be signed.**
- 380 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.  
 Both PC Jayne Grace and Sergeant Paul Evans reported to the meeting. The main points were: -
- This month 32 incidents including general admin (e.g., record of checking/issuing fire arm licenses, checks for other agencies such as social services)
  - Recent connected incidents of violence / ASBO / burglary. Are all linked to a fall out, and is being dealt with.
  - Regarding vehicles parking on private land; the police can only advise individuals on what they can do. Police cannot enforce on private land.
  - Concern for safety/welfare, where somebody hasn't been seen for a few days, or concerns for meant health of an individual. Police link in with other agencies and follow up.
  - ASB nuisance youths. One report this month. Probably been more incidents, but not always reported. Very difficult to deal with because youths usually gone before police can be called and attend.
  - Craig Lyons the public safety officer is dealing with an issue at the railway station, and is conducting joint patrols with PC Jayne Grace. British Transport Police are involved.

- A set of vehicle ramps were stolen in Low Bentham. A request for more information will appear in the Bentham News.
- There has been suspicious activity in Grasmere Drive car park, but suspects had gone when officers arrived. Although a description of the car was obtained the vehicle registration was not.
- Two road traffic accidents recently. None injury.
- An investigation is being conducted regarding the recent drugs bust on Main Street, where cannabis was being grown in a property.
- Sergeant Evans asked all members of the public to report it when they can smell cannabis.
- The police officers thanked members of the public for reporting anything suspicious that they see.
- Sergeant Evans is responsible for all Craven and should be getting another officer (PC) in the next few weeks, which will bring the team up to himself and three Pc's.
- Intention is to police Bentham and other areas with a "high visibility" model, whereby officers patrol a town/area for two or three nights every few weeks. Looking to bring this tried and trusted method to Craven, including Bentham.
- There is a team of three or four officers in North Craven, supported by roads police, but this is very flexible, and can be increased to eight or nine as and when required.
- Rural Watch was set up two years ago in North Craven but has been quiet recently due to pandemic. This is being restarted again and there are now 10 - 12 volunteers.
- Sergeant Evans stressed that the Public Safety Office is a massive help to the police, and that Craig works extremely well with PC Jayne Grace.

The council responded to this report by stating that Craig Lyons the Public Safety Officer is a great asset to the local community, and that overall the perception in the town is that policing is improving.

381 To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.

Craig Lyons reported that: -

- He is working closely with a member of the Playing Field Association regarding fires at the Bentham Playing Field. He urges everybody not to be afraid to dial 999 if they see anybody lighting a fire. The fire brigade would much prefer to turn out for a small bonfire than arrive later, to a large blaze.
- He is promoting more use of the fire station by the community.
- He continues to work with the dementia group at the station.
- He is involved with a men's mental health group, that may come to the playing fields.
- He will be visiting Bowland View on the professional day, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- He will be conducting a monthly surgery on the first Wednesday of each month, at the TIP, from 2pm.

382 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2022/58)  
**Received.**

383 To receive reports from CCllr and DCllrs (for information only) – if any.

CCllr David Ireton reported:

Household Support Fund announcement in spring budget: The Department for Work and Pensions gave North Yorkshire £3.5m in October 2021, so we could make sure people who were feeling the financial pressures of paying their bills over the winter got additional help. The Household Support Fund programme in North Yorkshire has seen supermarket e-vouchers totalling £275 per household provided to people in the county who receive means-tested support to pay their council tax bill and

have a child under the age of 19 living at home. Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced in his spring statement that the Government will fund a new round of Household Support Funding. We are currently working out details of the new phase of the scheme and will make direct contact with North Yorkshire residents who are eligible. The remainder of the money from the first phase has been distributed among other funding pots in the county, which can be accessed by residents who may struggle to afford basic necessities. This includes the North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF), Warm and Well in North Yorkshire and local food banks.

384

Planning: -

384.1 To receive Planning Decisions – See Clerks Report.

384.2 To receive feedback from DCllr Brockbank on the meeting of CDC officers to discuss the problems at the Banks Way Development, and from Neville Watson, and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/67)

DCllr Brockbank reported that: -

- It has been confirmed to DCllr Brockbank that CDC has fulfilled all the planning and legal obligations at the development and that the specification is not being revisited and that development has concluded. Therefore, it will remain as it is.
- The cocunillor has visited the site today and taken photographs.
- She has been assured that the drainage complies with all planning regulations and now diverts the flooding away from where the problem area was.
- She has responded to the concerned local residents.
- The response from Darren Maycock (CIO and Head of Assets & Commercial) has been forwarded to the concerned resident.
- The project manager Emily Shepherd has confirmed that CDC cannot commit to revisiting the site regarding any drainage issues for a period of two years, because that time period is too long and also because it would place legal obligation/onus on the property owners.
- Details of the drainage arrangements can be viewed on the website.
- DCllr Brockbank has viewed the new pipes that have been installed since the Bentham Town Council site visit, next to the new footpath, that now direct the flooding away from the problem area.
- That the way forward is to wait and see how the drainage performs at the next big drenching.
- That the footpath is not 1.2 metres wide because it is not a public right of way, and there is no legal requirement for a width when a path is not a legal right of way.
- DCllr Brockbank has been assured that the position is that CDC has met all legal and planning requirements.
- That the residents have been advised how to take the matter forward if they remain unsatisfied.

**RESOLVED: No further action can be taken by Bentham Town Council who are only consultees.**

385

Highway Matters: -

385.1 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). Lakeber Drive is still shut, in connection with work on the Banks Way Development. Road closure notice was for 3 days and it has now been closed for nearly 2 weeks. Cllr Adams will report it.

385.2 To consider the response from Area 5 regarding the erosion on B6480 and to agree a way forward. (Papers 2022/59A and 59B)

**RESOLVED: No further action.**

386

To agree the Accounts for Payment.

Salaries and mileage allowance	March 2022	3534.69
Ruth Green	Emergency cover for caretaker	60.00
YLCA	Annual subscription	764.00
Stannah	Lift service	204.28
Kingsdale Projects	Power wash equipment and surfaces at PHPF, mow grass at Goodenber Rd Play Area	360.00
Mr & Mrs Slinger	Refund of grave reservation fee – reservation of grave space cancelled	365.00
NEST	Pension contribution	213.31
HMRC	PAYE & NIC	3040.26

**RESOLVED: Approved.**

**RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllr Adams and Stannard,**

387 To consider the amended Volunteer Policy and agree a way forward. (Papers 2022/17 [draft] and 2022/60 [amended])

There was a lengthy discussion regarding volunteer policies, the main points of which were: -

- There needs to be a case-by-case approach to volunteers, and a one size fits all approach/policy to volunteers is not appropriate.
- There is a risk assessment in place for TIP volunteers.
- Any volunteers at work outside (e.g., on the highway) would be at considerably more risk than any volunteers at work inside the building (e.g., TIP, clock winding) and this should be addressed through an appropriate risk assessment for each volunteer task/role (noting that there is already a risk assessment for TIP volunteers).

**RESOLVED: Clerk to ask YLCA if volunteers must be included in number of staff when considering if staff exceed four for the purposes of health and safety policy.**

**RESOLVED: All references to town council polices in the document should be amended to add “where applicable”.**

**RESOLVED: Cllr Bridgeman to make final amendments to the draft policy for further consideration.**

388 To consider a request for a contribution towards the cost of installing a concrete plinth for a bench at Bentham surgery and agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/61)

**RESOLVED: To instruct Thomas Brown to install a bench and plinth at the Surgery. Cllr Stannard to let the practice know.**

389 To consider quotes for street lighting at Duke Steet and to agree a way forward. (Papers 2022/62 to 64)

**RESOLVED: To proceed with the purchase from Caravan Park electrics as per their quote.**

**RESOLVED: Consideration of who will connect the street lights to be on the next agenda, and councillors to obtain quotes for consideration.**

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

390.1 North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner meeting 26 May 2022. (Paper 2022/65)

**RESOLVED: Craig Lyons the Public Safety Officer to pursue a visit to Bentham Town Council by the commissioner. (Representatives from other local councils will be invited).**

390.2 Public consultation and survey: Three Counties/Lune Valley/Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. (Papers 2022/66A and 66B)

**RESOLVED: Cllr Adams to add details of the event on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April to the council social media.**

**RESOLVED: Any interested councillors to attend the event on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April and report back as appropriate.**

- 391 To note the deadline for nominations for the election is 4pm on Tuesday 5 April 2022.  
**Noted.**
- 392 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies for information only – if any.  
**None.**
- 393 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.  
Thomas Marshall thanked the entire council for its hard work during the last year.  
Cllr Bridgeman also thanked the council for its work and for the opportunity to participate and contribute to the community.  
The promised tree planting at the Old School Site (Housing21, Bowland view) has not materialised and the houses beside the development are very overlooked particularly by balconies. Craig Lyons the public safety officer will ask what is happening to instate the promised trees when he visits the developments professional day on 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- 394 Date of next meeting.  
**Finance meeting 11/04/2022.**  
**Full Council meeting 21/04/2022.**
- 395 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 396 is considered: -  
**RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting.**
- 396 To review the position regarding the caretaker vacancy and to agree a way forward.  
**RESOLVED: Clerk to send letter acknowledging the caretaker's resignation, thanking her for her service, and explaining the position regarding holiday pay.**  
**RESOLVED: That the caretaker's vacancy is advertised internally and offered to existing staff immediately.**  
**RESOLVED: To pay £60 for the emergency caretaker cover recently provided.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.