

## **BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4 July, at 7.30 pm in the Community Youth Building

Present Cllrs Adams (Chairman), Bridgeman, Marshall, Pritchard, Stannard, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vandy. Also DCllr Thompson, CCllr Ireton, the clerk Mrs Burton and 3 parishioners

53. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend  
Cllr Handford & DCllr Brockbank
54. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations - none
55. To Receive Comment & Concerns - none
56. To Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 June be signed**
57. To Appoint Members as Council Representatives for 2016/17 (delayed May 2016)  
57.1. Council Representatives Looking Well, Bentham Area Refugee Support Group & Bentham Primary School Governor  
**RESOLVED: That Cllr Handford be appointed as Council representative to the Looking Well**  
**RESOLVED: That Cllr Taylor be appointed as Council representative to the Bentham Refugee Support Group**  
**RESOLVED: That the position of School Governor be left until more information is received from the school**
58. To Receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
59. To Receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – none present
60. To Receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only)  
*CCllr Ireton arrived at 7.40pm*  
DCllr Thompson told the meeting that the Planning Committee had passed the Toll Bar planning application, to increase the number of caravans from 19 to 26 and alter the holiday occupancy restriction, that afternoon - despite the concerns about flooding and road safety. He also said that, regarding rural housing, Emily Grogan was looking for communities to act as pilot sites for affordable housing.  
CCllr Ireton said that he was still trying to solve the problem of noisy manhole covers outside the new school whilst NYCC Highways and the Utility companies both denied responsibility. He also said that the grant funding bid for a defibrillator for Bentham had been successful and the funds would be released shortly. The proposals to move the Library into Pioneer Projects were progressing  
Cllr Vandy expressed the thanks of both the Council and Bentham Save A Life Group for CCllr Ireton's assistance in the successful defibrillator grant application  
*CCllr Ireton gave his apologies and left the meeting at 7.50pm*
61. Planning  
61.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications - none  
61.2. To Receive Planning Decisions  
- If any (see Clerks Report)  
61.3. To Receive Correspondence on Planning Issues  
- If any (see Clerks Report)
62. Highways Matters  
62.1. To receive an update on the new proposed works on B6480 at Low Bentham  
Work is required to unblock a culvert near the railway bridge, and will require a 2 to 3 day road closure. There are no immediate plans for this work, which will be advertised nearer the time.  
62.2. To note the proposed closure of B6480 between Robin Lane & Tatterthorn Road between 5 to 9 September by BT for the installation of cabling.  
This work will be carried out at night with a diversion round Dumb Toms Lane. Residents will be notified. It was noted that there may be a sale at the Auction on 6 September  
**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be asked if the Auction had been informed of the closure**  
62.3. To receive the final minutes of the Joint Footpaths Group announcing disbandment of the committee and how to report footpath faults in future

Following further budget cuts the funding available for footpath repairs is now minimal and only dangerous problems on well used routes will be fixed so the committee had been disbanded. Future footpath faults should be reported to paths@northyorks.gov.uk

62.4. To Consider and Note Highway Matters for Information

NYCC Highways have said that road side ditches are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. The Council had two questions -if United Utilities are paid for highways drainage and it is the landowner responsibility, where does the money go? Also what legislation says that landowners are responsible and how can it be enforced? Damage to these ditches causes flooding and road damage, with NYCC Highways failing to do more and more in rural areas, despite the residents paying the same taxes as those urban dwellers, leaving poorer and poorer roads.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked about the legislation and enforcement around the repair of roadside ditches

It was noted that the drain on Hillside Road was still running water

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to look at the drain on Hillside Road again

The dangerous nature of the rubber tactiles on the Black Bull corner had been raised with NYCC Highways again in March following another pedestrian slipping. They had agreed to replace them, but were now suggesting their replacement with tarmac as concrete tactiles will not last long due to the HGV traffic around the corner. Council noted that the current tactiles had been put down to aid a blind parishioner who could not find the edge of the road with the dropped corner. It was agreed that something needed to replace the current slabs to keep blind parishioners safe.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked to look at other option for the rubber tactiles to make the corner safer whilst keeping the aid to the blind.

63. To Note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 20 June, and consider recommendations, if any

63.1. To receive an update on the planning application progress at Craven

Having informed the Council that the application would go on 7-day notice in early April, Planning had then delayed completing the report until mid-June when they had decided that the area was outside the development limits and would need to be decided by the Planning Committee – which will meet in August. The Council expressed its disappointment at the delay

63.2. To approve the relocation of the Philip Harvey plaque upon successful completion of the sale of Low Bentham playing field

The Committee felt that Philip Harvey's generosity in donating the original playing field should be remembered as the proceeds of its sale (subject to planning) will pay for the equipment on the new play area and suggested that the original plaque should be incorporated into the new play area, which should be renamed the Philip Harvey Playground. This was agreed

**RESOLVED:** That upon the sale of the old playing field the Philip Harvey plaque should be relocated to the new play area on the old school playing field, which should be renamed the Philip Harvey Play Area

63.3. To note the Community Engagement meeting on 20 July to look at the proposals for the Old School Playing Field

Following receipt of the various plans for the new play area the committee wanted to invite Bentham residents to come and talk to the companies and comment on the designs, preferably before the autumn. As the Victoria Institute is unavailable the Council suggested that either St Johns or the sports hall at Cedar House could be used

**RESOLVED:** That St Johns Church or Cedar House School be approached as a possible venue for the Community Engagement meeting

63.4. To decide the Council's involvement in the 'We're Watching You' Campaign, noting the committee's advice that, at £2400, it is cost prohibitive

**RESOLVED:** That the We're Watching You campaign is too expensive

**RESOLVED:** That the Open Spaces Committee be asked to look at other ways of kerbing dog fouling in Bentham

64. To Discuss the problem with Dog Fouling on Low Bentham School Playing Field, and agree a way forward

The clerk had received complaints about the number of dogs being allowed to foul Low Bentham School Playing Field, despite the No Dogs signs. Cllr Townson commented that there was the same problem at the Playing Fields in High Bentham. It was agreed that the Council should highlight the problem in Bentham News, pointing out the dangers. It was noted that Craven will prosecute those allowing dog fouling but they require video evidence. As some of the problem was allegedly being caused by residents of Hillside Road with unlawful accesses onto the playing field it was agreed that letters should be sent.

**RESOLVED:** That an article be put in Bentham News regarding the illegality of dog fouling on public land and the potential dangers to children

**RESOLVED:** That Craven be contacted regarding potential legislation restricting access and enforcement

**RESOLVED:** That letters be sent to Hillside Road residents regarding unlawful access onto the old school playing field

65. To Receive a response from Stagecoach regarding the reduction in bus services, and agree a response if any Stagecoach had lost £650,000 pa in bus subsidy from Lancashire County Council and had cut those journeys which were not commercially viable. They will continue to monitor the service

**RESOLVED:** That no response to Stagecoach is necessary

66. To Receive an update on the Bentham Save A Life project  
Bald Eagles Bowling Club had donated £1000 to buy a defibrillator and an NYCC grant had been approved. The Victoria Institute had been approached to host a defibrillator in Low Bentham. Training in CPR was continuing with community groups although at a slower rate. An article had been published in The Westmorland Gazette publicising the project.

67. To Receive the proposed B4RN routes across Council owned land – if available – and consider granting wayleaves.

**RESOLVED:** That this item be held over to the next agenda as the information was no available

68. To Consider a mechanism for keeping people in touch with Council projects  
The Council felt that, in general, it was good at keeping people up to speed with projects with reports in Bentham News and letters etc. It agreed that in the case raised by Cllr Bridgeman communication had been limited as progress had been slow. It was agreed that the particular residents should be contacted with an apology and an update of information

**RESOLVED:** That the residents in question should be contacted with an apology and an update

69. To Consider the quote from Stannah for extra work on the lift as requested by the insurers  
Bureau Veritas who inspect the lift for the Council's insurers had requested tests on both the hydraulic system and the rupture valve so that they could continue to sign off the lift. Stannah had quoted £763 + VAT for these tests. Council agreed that it had no option but to agree if the lift was to continue to be insured.

**RESOLVED:** That the quote of £763+VAT from Stannah to test the hydraulic system and rupture valve for the insurers be accepted

70. To Agree the Accounts for Payment

As there is no plan for an August meeting unless there are planning applications or urgent business to discuss the clerk had included certain post-dated payments for approval

Craven District Council	154.15	WPS Ltd	15.00
Mopps	192.00	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	33.55
Aviva	322.70	Horton Landscaping	1302.24
Opus Energy	73.41	B & CE Armstrong	100.55
Orange	23.99	Yorkshire Audit	305.00
Stannah Lift Services	168.29	HMRC	576.88
BigDug	292.80	L Green	40.00
		Salaries	1770.93
AUGUST			
Craven District Council	154.15		
Mopps	192.00		
Aviva	322.70	Salaries	1768.87

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts for payment are agreed

71. To consider items of **Correspondence**

71.1. To receive an invitation from Settle Stories to host the WR Mitchell Archive, and agree a response  
Several possible venues were discussed and it was agreed to ask Settle Stories for more details before agreeing the most appropriate site for display

**RESOLVED:** That the Council ask for more information before agreeing a site for display

71.2. To receive an invitation to attend the Joint Annual Meeting of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations on 16 July in Wetherby, and agree attendance, if any

**RESOLVED:** That the Council will not attend the YLCA meeting

72. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)  
Cllr Bridgeman had attended a Victoria Institute meeting where the heating problems of the building had been discussed. The recent Trash & Treasure sale had raised £700. Grant funding for the Community Link Café was being explored. The committee were considering using the building as a wedding venue for hire and closer links were being made with Cedar House.

Cllr Swales reported on the recent YLCA meeting that she had attended. The report from the Police & Crime Commissioner had been useful but Cllr Swales questioned the need to attend all the YCLA meetings.

She had also attended an FOBL meeting with NYCC regarding the proposed move to Pioneer Projects. She pointed out that Pioneer Projects were only offering the building not any staff time which meant that, initially at least, the library opening hours will be reduced – although hopefully this will improve with time.

The Collingwood & Longstaffe Charity were progressing with a start date for the new porches, Cllr Marshall informed the meeting. Those residents wanting bathroom refurbishment would be temporarily rehoused during the works.

The Youth Café would be closed on Tuesday evenings until the end of the school year due to a shortage of volunteers said Cllr Vandy, but would be opening again 3 nights a week in September. A rounders match and BBQ would be held in August. The Youth Cafe had been invited by the Co-Op to be their local charity, and Well Chemists had offered to host a donations box for them.

73. Items for next meeting and minor items only

Cllr Marshall asked for the meeting venue to be put on the next agenda in September

The Council agreed to order a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day

Cllr Townson informed the meeting that Friends of Bentham Station and the Community Rail Partnership had been invited to London by the Department of Transport who were interested in how they got the community involved in the railway, and particularly in The Day In The Life Of Bentham project.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.07pm

**AGENDA ITEM 58)**

**CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 4 July 2016**

**1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting**

**1.1. GRANTED**

- 1.1.1. 08/2016/16812 Conversion & extension of former NatWest Bank to form 2 residential properties & associated external works at NatWest Bank, Station Road, High Bentham
- 1.1.2. 08/2016/16850 Extension to existing workshop building at Butts depot, Nutgill Lane to Green Close Bridge, High Bentham
- 1.1.3. 08/2016/16883 Application for listed building consent for replacement of existing wooden sash windows with wooden, double glazed sash windows at 18 Mount Pleasant, High Bentham

**1.2. REFUSED**

- 1.2.1. 08/2016/16773 Greenhouse (8x3.5m) (resubmission of refused 08/2015/15583) at Scarfes Barn, Mewith Lane, Bentham

**2. Planning Correspondence**

- 2.1. Planning Committee meeting 4 July, 08/2016/16863 - Variation of conditions 2 & 4 of previously approved application 08/2006/6868 for caravan site. To allow revised layout (increasing numbers from 19 to 26) and revising wording for holiday occupancy restriction at Toll Bar Gardens, Wennington Road, Low Bentham
- 2.2. Planning Appeal – 08/2015/16076 Interior sub division of existing church to 2no dwellings with addition of drainage to septic tank at St Margaret's Church, Station Road, High Bentham

**3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting (if not on agenda)**

- 3.1. Annual Return posted and put on noticeboards 7/6
- 3.2. B4RN notified of agreement in principle of wayleaves on 7/6 and asked to provide specifics
- 3.3. Town Team / Craven notified of Council decision 8/6
- 3.4. Sunbeams informed of selection as calendar sales charity 8/6
- 3.5. Bring Site consultation response sent 13/6
- 3.6. Carnival thank you letter sent 13/6
- 3.7. Letter of thanks to Brian Cowling sent 13/6
- 3.8. Letter to Network Rail sent 22/6, acknowledged 25/6

**4. Items for Information – see information folder**

- 4.1. Thank you card from Bentham Carnival & Age Concern
- 4.2. YLCA Training Courses June-october
- 4.3. Updated Insurance documentation, including endorsement for AEDs
- 4.4. Airedale Hospital Open Day, 17 August 2016 (and noticeboard)
- 4.5. Antiques Road Show event Holker Hall 6 July (and noticeboard)
- 4.6. NYCC Highways closure of Lanefoot 29 June-1 July (and residents)

**5. Items circulated by email**

- 5.1. Latest Weekly Rural News Digest 6/6, 13/6, 21/6, 27/6, 4/7
- 5.2. Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty 8/6, Rural Transport 23/6
- 5.3. Spotlight on the Rural Economy 15/6, Older People 29/6
- 5.4. North Yorkshire Now Newsletter, 6/6
- 5.5. White Rose Update 9/6
- 5.6. LASRUG newsletter June 16
- 5.7. Queens Awards for Voluntary Service 2017 (and local organisations)
- 5.8. Rural Crime Breakfast Briefing, Yorkshire Show, Tuesday 12 July
- 5.9. SLCC News Bulletin 20/6
- 5.10. Craven Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter 21/6
- 5.11. Community Safety Services Funding 15/6 (& interested parties)
- 5.12. Craven & First World War Summer Newsletter 10/6
- 5.13. Community Fund Raising Event Skipton 12 July (& interested parties)
- 5.14. Fields in Trust Newsletter 10/6
- 5.15. Citizen Advice Newsletter June 16
- 5.16. CVS Event Management Training 2/7 (& noticeboard)
- 5.17. NYP Country Watch newsletter, June

**6. Progress on Outstanding Matters**

- 6.1. Letter to Bentham Auction Mart sent 27 May, response awaited
- 6.2. Bentham Flag – no progress to date
- 6.3. Meeting with Planning Policy still to be arranged
- 6.4. Community Emergency Plan, 03/16 – committee to organise meeting and report back
- 6.5. Craven Area Committee requested to consider Bentham School Crossing, 18 January
- 6.6. Replica VC Winners stone confirmed ordered 12/11. Delivery dates awaited
- 6.7. Flagpole – donor found, to be progressed
- 6.8. Grasmere Drive bench site location permissions received, costs received, donor awaited