

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 13 July, at 7.00 pm in the Lower Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Bridgeman, Cowling, Faichney, Marshall, Swales, Taylor, Townson & Vendy. Also DCllrs Brockbank & Thompson, the clerk Mrs Burton and 7 parishioners

67. To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllrs Pritchard & Stannard

In the absence of Cllr Stannard, Cllr Adams took the Chair.

The Chairman began the meeting by welcoming Cllr Taylor to the Council following his cooption at the July meeting, who had signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

68. To Receive Declarations of Interest from members present
Cllr Marshall declared a personal interest as owner of a caravan site, and took part in the discussion but not the vote.

69. To Receive Comment & Concerns

Residents from Waterside Potteries explained the current situation to the Council. They were at pains to point out that they were not objecting to Mr Dugdale but to the planning application as tabled. They considered that the wording of the application was extremely vague. The wording as suggested would lead to any number of gypsies being able to have a caravan on the site if the personal nature of the permission was removed, as currently only Mr Dugdale and his dependants have any temporary rights. The residents also pointed out that Mr Dugdale owns the lane into Waterside Potteries and the land up to the boundary fences of the houses there, meaning that the 12 residents would effectively live on a gypsy site should this application be given permission. They felt let down by Craven District Council who had failed to find suitable land for a permanent site and indeed had allowed Yorkshire Housing to sell Mealbank Cottage in Ingleton, the only other site in the area, in 2010 and had consequently allowed all the previous retrospective applications at Clay Barn. The new application was concerning as it sought not only to remove the temporary nature of the site, but also the personal restriction to Mr Dugdale and dependants, allowing any gypsy access and potentially considerable expansion of the site.

70. Planning

- 70.1. To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

- 70.1.1. 08/2015/15917 Application to remove condition numbers 1 & 2 on original planning permission 08/2011/11988 granted July 2012 at Clay Barn, Waterside Potteries, Bentham Moor Road, Burton In Lonsdale

Cllr Adams outlined the application as stated and pointed out that the only points up for discussion were the removal of conditions 1 and 2, i.e. that only Mr Dugdale and his dependants could occupy the site temporarily until 1 July 2015, and that upon cessation the site should be returned to agricultural land. The Council noted that Craven does not have a traveller policy, but has stated on numerous occasions that the site is unsuitable. Applications are usually retrospective and this one was too late for agreement before the cessation date of 1 July 2015. It agreed that extension of the site was a step too far. It was proposed that a letter be sent strongly objecting to the removal of conditions 1 and 2 and the ensuing vote was passed 7 for with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the Council strongly object to the removal of conditions 1 and 2 as the site is still unsuitable and extension is a step too far

71. 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, the Public and Press to be excluded further from the Meeting, whilst progress on the proposed development of Low Bentham Playing Field be discussed and future actions agreed

RESOLVED: That the Council proceed towards obtaining outline planning permission on Low Bentham Playing Field