

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday
5th September 2022, at 7.30 pm –
in the Lower Hall at Bentham Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Adams (Chair), Gerrie, Hill, Marshall, Pearce and Stannard. The clerk Christine Downey. And 5 members of the public.

- 112 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
- 112.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Burton and Paige. Cllr Ireton. DCllr Handley.
- 112.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.
None.
- 113 Declaration of interests: -
- 113.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
Cllr Hill declared an interest at item 127.1 re new plants for the planters at School Hill.
- 113.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation requests received.
None.
- 114 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)

Three members of the public spoke in support of the request to the Highways department for a pedestrian crossing at/near the junction of Scholars Rise and Robin Lane, see agenda item no 121.1. The main points raised were: -

The response from the Highways department is considered to be woefully inadequate and does nothing to address the difficulties faced by residents of Bowland View. There are 65 apartments for the elderly, all of whom pay council tax, in addition to the council tax paid by Housing21. The residents would like to support local shops, but those walking with a stick, other mobility aids, and wheelchair users cannot cross the road safely to get to the shops. The existing crossing point is too narrow to accommodate them, and the space between the crossing point and the traffic is small, making it very dangerous, especially for those with sight problems as well. The ability to shop locally is severely restricted and there was a strong feeling that Highways decision not to take any further action should be reviewed.

It was reported that had residents of Bowland View understood how bad the problem was before they moved in, then the original complaint to the council about this matter would have been much stronger. The problem is being exasperated by the parking problems. It was reported that one vehicle, currently parked on Robin Lane, has not moved for months. It was noted that the Highways Engineer agreed that there is a need to review the parking issues. It was suggested that although there is no history of serious accidents, there is also no history of Bowland View occupying the site it now does, so there is an entirely new situation to take into account. Councillors were invited by a resident to use his scooter and ride from the entrance of Bowland View to the Co-op to experience for themselves the reality and the problems.

Another resident commented on the problems of crossing from one side of Main Street to the other, and reported that as they cannot do so safely, because of parked cars and the absence of a crossing on Main Street, that they cannot shop locally or attend many local events.

- 115 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 17th August 2022. (Paper 2022/140)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 17th August 2022 are agreed and signed.
- 116 To receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
RECEIVED.
- 117 To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer & allow members to ask questions – if any.
No report received.
- 118 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2022/141)
RECEIVED.
- 119 To receive reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only) – if any
DCllr Handley has reported to the clerk that both planning applications for 47 new houses at the land off Springfield, High Bentham were rejected at the Craven District Council planning committee meeting today. He advised that is unlikely to be the end of the matter, and that there are likely to be further developments regarding the applications.
- 120 Planning
- 120.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications
- 120.1.1 2022/24205/FUL. Renewal of existing dilapidated shed with new to same dimensions. The building would be a field shelter/stable for 2 alpacas and 5 sheep, and to also house 4 chickens during avian flu outbreaks. Battersby Farm, Mewith, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DH.
RESOLVED: That the council has no objections to this application.
- 120.1.2 2022/24278/HH. Proposed rear extension, internal re-modelling and external ground works to the existing lodge. Ridding Lodge, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DE.
RESOLVED: That the council has no objections to this application.
- 120.1.3 2022/24312/HH. New single storey rear extension, new roof windows in existing roof, new back door, replacement balustrade to existing balcony. 15 Holme Park, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7ND.
RESOLVED: That the council has no objections to this application.
- 120.1.4 2022/24325/TPO. T1-Scots Pine – remove the branches that are nearly touching the roof, remove snapped out branch and dead wood. High lodge, Ravens Close Brow, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7EU
RESOLVED: That the council has no objections to this application.
- 120.2 To receive Planning Decisions – see Clerks’ Report.
RECEIVED.
- 121 Highways matters: -
- 121.1 To consider the reply to the council request for a pedestrian crossing at/near junction of Scholars Rise and Robin Lane, High Bentham and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/142)
It was reported that the staff at Bowland View do help residents to cross the road. But that Housing21 should find other ways of contributing to a solution to the

highway/crossing/parking problems, because fixing the problems outside Bowland View will only move them to other parts of the town/highway.

It was reported that if vehicles are taxed and insured that there is nothing that can be done about them parking, provided they are parked legally. It is possible to check if any vehicle is taxed online.

There was a campaign to install a pedestrian crossing when the school was on this site, but it was unsuccessful. Although it is likely to be a struggle to get a full pedestrian crossing installed, a request for this will continue to be made. And even if a pedestrian crossing cannot be installed, other improvements need to be made.

Residents should write to NYCC with their concerns.

RESOLVED: Clerk to send a response to Highways pointing out, and asking, - The report is lacking because it was not a very good survey.

The Council would like to see the actual report by the engineer, so far it has only had an email about it.

All of the highway issues in that area need a thorough review, and need looking at properly in a joined-up way.

Can more data be collected by highways?

The Council request that highways provide plans of every available option for consideration, including a mini roundabout.

The council request that highways make recommendations to solve the problems.

The council request that highways go ahead and provide the estimated costs for pelican crossing and for pedestrian crossing.

121.2 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.

None.

122 To consider a transfer from the deposit account and to agree a way forward.

RESOLVED: To transfer £10,000.00 from the deposit account to the current account.

123 To agree the Accounts for Payments: -

Howsons	Service of fire alarm at Community Youth Building.	116.64
Clearglass Cleaning	Window cleaning at the town hall.	110.00
Waterplus	Waste water bill town hall.	129.38
Kingsdale Projects	Grass cutting and parish caretaking.	3,125.00
Business Stream	Water at the cemetery.	4.38
Bulb	Dual fuel at Community Youth Building.	133.16
TW & HM Lawson Joiner & Carpenter	Replacement windows in Wenningdale Room.	627.60
Mark Paige	Refund of expenses paid to Blachere Illuminations UK Ltd for LED braids on rope, warm white.	143.76
Thomas Graham	Cleaning materials.	124.91
UK Safety Management	PAT testing.	207.59
Lima Engineering (Polyurethanes) Ltd	Supply stainless steel engraved plinth (plaque at PHPF)	1,260.00
Scribe	Accounts package.	1,153.20
C Downey	Refund of expenses paid to Nisbets for the purchase of 30 mew mugs for town hall.	134.35

Salaries and mileage allowance	August 2022	3,590.91
BT Group	Phone Tourist Information Point 05/08/22	76.20
1 & 1 Ionos	Internet 05/08/22	18.00
SSE Swalec	Unmetered electric supply	98.38
Craven District Council	Trade waste – monthly charge.	55.10
Premium Credit Ltd	Insurance	354.02
Total Energies G & P	Electricity	551.50
Craven District Council	Trade waste – excess weight charge.	23.80
NEST	Pension contributions	253.26
1 & 1 Ionos	Internet and domain name. 03/09/22.	41.98
BT Group	Phone bill townhall. 03/09/22.	455.09
BT Group	Phone Tourist Information Point. 05/09/22.	75.12
TOTAL		12,863.33

RESOLVED: Approved.

RESOLVED: Payments to be authorised by Cllrs Adams and Marshall.

- 124 To consider the amended staff review document and agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/143)
RESOLVED: Carry forward to next agenda.
- 125 To consider providing Councillors with laptops. (Paper 2022/144)
RESOLVED: To be listed for consideration as the next precept meeting.
RESOLVED: Any Councillor who would be interested in being provided with a laptop by the council to let the clerk know.
- 126 Building matters
- 126.1 To agree what action to take regarding: -
- 126.1.1 The broken cover over the drain in the basement.
RESOLVED: Cllr Marshall to send a photograph to Peter Hird and arrange for the repair to be done.
- 126.1.2 The rip in the carpet on half landing (stairs down from BR – on right, facing the stage)
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Ian Akrigg to replace that section of carpet.
- 126.1.3 Removing the waste wood and car battery from the cleaner’s cupboard. (Who do they belong to?)
RESOLVED: Keep the wood in storage, it is spare flooring.
RESOLVED: Cllr Marshall will dispose of the car battery.
- 126.2 To agree a date for the proposed “archive evening” and agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Archive evening to be Monday 19th September 2022, after the council meeting.
- 126.3 Heating at CYB – To discuss whether it should be drained down for the winter and agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Tim Wheildon to drain the heating down at Community Youth Building.
- 127 Open Spaces: -
- 127.1 To consider new plants and/or bulbs for the planters at School Hill.
Cllr Hill declared an interest in this item.
RESOLVED: To allocate £200 from the Parish Caretaker budget for winter plants in the planters at School Hill.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to proceed with the winter planting at School Hill.
- 127.2 To consider adding strimmer/clipping the edges along the fence between PHPF and the houses on Old School Close to the grass cutting regime.

RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to include strimming/clipping the edges along the fence between PHPF and the houses on Old School Close in the grass cutting arrangements at PHPF.

- 128 To consider the condition of Main Street and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/145)
It was agreed that what is needed a list of realistic suggestions, but that they need to be specific, worked out, and if possible costed. That councillors should be acting as contact to find out what local residents and business owners want, and what is actually achievable; this may involve knocking on doors and speaking to residents/business owners.
RESOLVED: Specific suggestions on how to improve Main Street to be sent to the clerk for future consideration. To include the actual idea, the precise proposed location, details of permissions obtained, details of exactly what needs to be done to achieve the aim, estimated costs.
RESOLVED: Cllrs Pearce and Marshall to draft an article (by 12th September) for inclusion in the next edition of the Bentham News, requesting suggestions from members of the public, to be supplied with a detailed proposal, i.e., the idea, the location, how to achieve it.
- 129 School Hill and Christmas Lights on Lamppost special project: -
- 129.1 Update on position re completion of work by Mark Burrow. (Paper 2022/146)
Mark Burrow has informed Cllr Paige that the work will be done during the week commencing 5th September 2022 – this week.
- 129.2 To review the arrangements for illuminating the Christmas lights and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Cllr Paige to organise programming the sockets for Christmas lights on the nine lampposts with the aid of the professionals/electricians on the Christmas Lights Committee. Cllr Paige to contact Cllrs Adams and Marshall for assistance if any is needed.
- 129.3 To consider a proposal for the purchase of Christmas Lights and agree a way forward. (Paper 2022/147)
RESOLVED. That Bentham Town Council will purchase the Christmas Lights for £2,394.44 + vat as per the quote, that the lights will be added to the Town Council asset register, and will be stored at Town Hall.
RESOLVED: That the position will be reviewed, after the bill from NYCC for the installation of the sockets for Christmas Lights on nine lampposts, has been received and paid.
RESOLVED: After the NYCC bill for the Christmas light sockets has been paid, if the balance remaining in the earmarked reserve for that special project is less than £2,394.44 (the cost of the Christmas Lights to be purchased), then Bentham Christmas Lights committee will pay the shortfall.
- 130 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response: -
- 130.1 Funding for Environmental Projects in Craven. (Paper 2022/148)
RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange for a presentation by Ian Butterfield and Nick Milson, to be held before a town council meeting.
- 130.2 Concern regarding the location of the “Bentham in Times Past” plaque on Central Building, as it has been masked by seating. (Paper 2022/149)
RESOLVED: Clerk to speak to Jon Brooks about the possibility of moving the plaque to the front of Central Buildings.
- 130.3 A new Council Tax Reduction Scheme for North Yorkshire Council - please have your say before 18 September. (Paper 2022/150)
RESOLVED: Not to submit a response to the consultation from Bentham Town Council. Councillors to submit individual responses, if they so choose.
- 131 To receive reports from councillors who represent the council on other bodies (for information only) – if any.
None.

- 132 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
The clerk will be in the office on Friday this week instead of Tuesday, and plans to take a week's annual leave some time in September, dates to be advised.
Clerk to obtain a copy of the Bulb dual fuel contract on CYB.
Clerk to instruct the council solicitors to proceed with the work re School Hill.
Cllrs to email a list of their photograph selection for the 2023 Calendar to Cllr Adams.
- 133 Date of next meeting. **19th September 2022. (And the next is 3rd October 2022)**
- 134 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 135 is considered: -
RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting.
- 135 To consider items of correspondence received regarding the Community Youth Building and agree a way forward, if any. (Paper 2022/151)
RESOLVED: That the offer is declined.
- There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.21.