

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday **3rd April, at 7.30pm – in the Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall**

352. Apologies from members unable to attend: -
352.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllr Jones, Cllr Ireton
352.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence
None
353. Declaration of Interest: -
353.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 362.1.3, planning application 2023/24875/FUL.
353.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.
None
354. 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 consultation.
A member of the public asked if the recent article in Bentham News regarding the Community Youth building was an April Fool as he is interested in purchasing it. He gave a little of the background to his offer which the Council would discuss under item 373.
Cllr Marshall, speaking as a member of the public, raised another item in the recent Bentham News and confirmed that he was taking legal advice regarding comments made suggesting that he had acted inappropriately. He asked for a copy of their Policy on Editorial Content, which is not available on the website and also a printed statement of retraction in the next issue.
355. To consider written applications for the office of councillor and to fill vacant seats by **co-option**, if any.
Cllr Adams confirmed that someone had expressed an interest and he had forwarded the relevant forms
356. To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meetings on 6 March 2023. (Paper 2023/76)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 6 March 2023 are agreed and signed
357. To Confirm Jo Burton as Temporary Clerk, proper officer of the Council
RESOLVED: That Jo Burton be appointed for an interim period until a new Clerk is found
358. To receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.
Received
359. To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer & allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
None received.
360. To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2023/77)
Received
361. To receive Reports from Cllr & DCllrs (for information only) - If any
It was noted that Craven District Council ceased to exist on 1 April. Cllr Ireton sent his apologies
None received.
362. Planning
362.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications:
362.1.1 2023/24841/HH. Addition of new single storey garage adjoining existing garage for secure on site storage of essential equipment required for business & personal use. Application meets many permitted development parameters. 1 Lakeber Terrace, Robin Lane, High Bentham

RESOLVED: The Council has no comments on this application.

362.1.2 2023/24876/TPO. T2 & T3 Pine – minor pruning to improve clearance over drive as indicated on images. Ellerburn, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham

RESOLVED: The Council has no comments on this application.

362.1.3 2023/24875/FUL. Erection of holiday lodge. Greta Mount, Burton in Lonsdale
Cllr Marshall left the room

RESOLVED: The Council has no comments on this application.

362.2 To receive Planning Decisions – see Clerks Report

Received

363. Highway Matters

363.1 To receive correspondence about EV Home Charging & general parking issues on Main Street (paper 2023/78) and agree a response.

The provision of EV charging points in Low Bentham carpark has been discussed by the Council and has been passed to NYC Highways. On-street charging is a different issue, which the Council did not feel equipped to comment upon. The charging points in Grasmere Drive currently have very low usage

RESOLVED: That a response be sent agreeing the need for a solution and pointing out that the Council has asked NYC to look at Low Bentham carpark

363.2 To discuss the possibility of requesting Average Speed Cameras in Bentham, and agree a way forward, if any.

The recent provision of average speed camera solutions in the local area by Lancashire County Council has raised comments regarding their installation on the B6480 as a way to ease both the speeding and parking problems in Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to NYC Highways asking them to produce a policy regarding Average Speed Cameras in the light of Lancashire's progress on the matter

363.3 Other Items for information

The recent problems with large articulated vehicles taking oversized items down Station Road was raised. It was pointed out that these routes have to be approved by the necessary authorities, but this permission is granted based on the rules of the road and cannot take account of illegal parking, so the problems will continue unless the no-parking zone is enforced.

364. To Note Purchase of Land at Main Street, Bentham (paper 2023/79)

RESOLVED: That the Land Transfer documents be signed and returned

365. To consider the King's Coronation, and agree a way forward, if any

The tentative event on Sunday 7 May in the Town Hall has been cancelled. It was agreed to make funds (up to a total of £1000) available to interested parties to help them organise events for the town

RESOLVED: That the Council make a total of £1000 available to those interested in organising events for Bentham for the Coronation

366. To agree to progress the Town Hall Windows project

Despite earlier discussions Cllrs have discovered that this project has not been progressed. It was agreed that Cllr Marshall should order the replacement windows and that Cllr Burton should arrange the other necessary trades to expedite the project

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Burton & Marshall project manage the window replacement

RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall inform Council once a delivery date for the windows has been received

367. To agree the Accounts for Payment.

To	For	Amount
Stannah	Lift Service	222.65
Business Stream	Cemetery water supply	10.54
Barbara Rothwell	Painting in Town Hall	230.00
Waterplus	Waste water	233.43
Bulb	Community Youth energy	1056.21

Ruth Green	Caretaking duties	540.00
1&1 Ionos	Internet	18.00
Total Energies	Town Hall gas	1473.22
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	43.50
Swalec	Street Lighting	89.25
BT	TIP phone	53.63

RESOLVED: Approved

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Hill & Burton authorise payments

367.1 To consider the purchase of a new laptop for Council business and set a budget.

The Temporary Clerk & Cllr Stannard confirmed that the current laptop was painfully slow and outdated

RESOLVED: That a new laptop of a suitable spec be purchased, to a maximum budget of £2000

368. To consider the following Correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response: -

368.1 To note cancellation of future Police Surgeries due to lack of attendance (Ingleton / Settle to continue) (paper 2023/80)

It was agreed that this was disappointing, but without users inevitable. It was pointed out that the police are moving to Bentham Fire Station and so should be more accessible and that the Public Safety Officer can pass information along.

Noted

368.2 To receive a comment regarding the Town Hall Clock (paper 2023/81)

RESOLVED: That the clock company be asked if the chimes can be stopped at night, and at what cost

368.3 To receive a letter regarding the Clapham cum Newby Parish Neighbourhood Plan and a request for input by 8 May (paper 2023/82)

With the departure of the Town Clerk this had not been circulated with enough time for proper consideration by Cllrs

RESOLVED: That the Clapham cum Newby plan be put on the next agenda for Council comment

368.4 To receive a copy of a letter to Julian Smith regarding problems with a Yorkshire Housing property dating back to June 2020 (paper 2023/83)

Received

368.5 To note Craven's adoption of Conservation Area Appraisals, including those proposed in both High & Low Bentham (paper 2023/84)

Noted

368.6 To receive information on the Hedgehogs Highway Project (paper 2023/85&86)

RESOLVED: That the Hedgehog Highway information be put on the Council noticeboards, and be sent to Bentham News

RESOLVED: That a box of Hedgehog Highway Surrounds be purchased and offered for sale, at cost, in the TIP

369. To Receive Reports from Councillors who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) - If any.

Cllr Pearce announced that the River Wenning Group was working on its constitution.

Cllr Stannard said that the TIP was short of volunteers for the season

Cllr Gerrie speaking for the Bentham Masterplan Group confirmed that B4RN cannot be supported as NYC have an agreement in place with another supplier. They are currently looking at public transport and town centre improvements, including searching for a sponsor for a Tidy Bentham campaign. They are also looking for funding to do a feasibility study for recreational facilities. A pilot scheme for a Digital Hub is likely to go ahead with Pioneer Projects. Highways have finally started to engage with the group following information that they would be consulting with external Highways Specialists.

Cllr Marshall confirmed there was a vacancy at the Alms Houses and interested parties should contact Ian Wood or Clive Storey

Cllr Paige said that Coronation lights had proved to be too expensive for a one-off occasion, but that Christmas Lights were considering lights for Remembrance Day.

370. Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.

Cllr Stannard mentioned cars parking on the yellow lines at the entrance to Low Bentham carpark were causing visibility problems and a cyclist had been hit recently
Cllr Gerrie asked for sponsorship of Tidy Up Bentham to be added to the next agenda
Cllr Marshall mentioned that he had 2 mobility scooters available if anyone knew suitable recipients

371. Date of next meeting.
Full Council 17/04/23 – only if required for planning matters
Annual Parish Meeting 26/04/23
Full Council 02/05/23 – Annual Meeting of Town Council
372. 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 items 373 & 374 are considered: -
RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting
373. To consider items of correspondence received regarding the Community Youth Building (if any) and agree a way forward. (Papers 2023/87-89)
RESOLVED: That the current offer for the CYB be rejected and that offers including payment by instalment will not be accepted
RESOLVED: That Council ensure that the CYB Insurers know that the building is currently vacant
RESOLVED: That other opportunities for of the building be explored including potentially auctioning it.
374. To receive an update on the Clerk's vacancy
No firm applications have been received
RESOLVED: That the position be advertised again, with consideration given to a reaching wider audience through Indeed or the Craven Herald dependant on costs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37pm