

## **MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday**

### **4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at 7.30 pm – in the Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall**

*Cllr Hill Taking Minutes*

Present: Cllrs Adams (Chair), Hill, Burton, Gerrie, Jones, Ryan, Marshall and Stannard

25 Members of the Public present along with Bentham News reporter

127 Apologies from members unable to attend: -

**Cllr Paige**

127.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

**Cllr Paige**

127.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.

**NONE.**

128 Declaration of interests: -

128.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

**NONE.**

128.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation requests received.

**NONE.**

129 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).

**Charles Slinger raised his voice about the deficiency of a Bus Service within Bentham; hoping that provision would soon be available. Additionally, Slinger notified the Council of a couple of missing slates on the Town Hall roof.**

**Kevin Coyne communicated his concerns about application (ZA23/25272/INTCON. CA13 028) to register part of Greta Wood and also the land in front of Coyne's house as common land. Coyne expressed how it would have a significant impact on the access to his property if it were accepted. Coyne requested permission from the council to view minute archives in support of his objection.**

Planning Application ZA23/25263/FUL received numerous objections from members of the public:

**Flooding and Drainage** - Concerned about flooding and drainage issues because of the topography of the proposed site. The bungalows on the north of Springfield Crescent bordering the site already have problems with water running off the field. The properties, garages and gardens are significantly lower than the site because of the slope of the field. When it rains heavily water runs from the field into their gardens and the bungalows on the west side of the Crescent experience water from the field running down the pavement and road.

Building properties with access roads and parking spaces will reduce the field's capacity to absorb rainfall. Climate change is predicted to produce more frequent and more severe rainfall events and the proposed development does not have a plan to deal with surface water on the south side of the site that slopes towards Springfield Crescent. The developers plan to collect some surface water in a pond but have no overflow plan to deal with excess water in the pond to stop it running into gardens on Springfield.

**Sewage** - The sewage pipework system in High Bentham is old and not fit for purpose. Many sewers are combined sewers taking sewage and rainwater and this is regularly released into the river Wenning. Effluent/sewage discharged into the river is extremely detrimental to wildlife and people wanting to use the river. Building more properties on Springfield Crescent will make this situation worse.

**Traffic and Safety** - The junction between Springfield Crescent and the B6480 is not a wide-open area. It is supposed to be 30mph but traffic exiting High Bentham, especially commercial traffic speeds up to get up the steep hill and traffic entering Bentham is often travelling at more than the speed limit as it has just left a 40mph road and is going down the hill. These kinds of speeds can make exiting Springfield Crescent difficult at times.

The traffic survey done by the developers would have been more relevant if it had been done on farmers auction days when the road is used by large articulated cattle wagons, land rovers with cattle trailers and many other vehicles.

130 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023. (Paper  
2023/165)

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 are to be agreed and signed by Cllrs when available.**

131 To receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information – if  
any.

**Received – see email**

132 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only).

**Received.**

133 To receive Reports from CCllr & DCllrs (for information only) - If any

**No report**

134 To receive the notes from the Masterplan Meeting with NYC on 17 July

**Received – see email**

135 To further consider the 2024 Calendar and any progress made

**Received.**

**Cllr Burton reported that all of 2023 businesses have agreed to sponsor the 2024 calendar**

**Beneficiary for 2024 The Bentham Hub - Proposed by Cllrs Burton and Gerrie**

**Cllr Adams reported that last year's calendar beneficiary is yet to receive their funds, Cllr Jones agreed to organise**

136 Planning

To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications:

**136.1 ZA23/25221/TPO** Photos of the trees, Map Location with trees labelled, drawing location and trees/groups. Bowland View, Scholars Rise, High Bentham LA2 7FS

**RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.**

**136.2 ZA23/25263/FUL** Erection of 45 no. residential dwellings and associated infrastructure on Land at Springfield Crescent, High Bentham (plus letter Paper 2023/168)

**RESOLVED: That the council OBJECTS this application:**

**Cllr Stannard to submit the following response:**

- 1. There would seem to be many documents missing or redacted.**
- 2. There is no sustainable drainage plan, and many appendices are missing.**
- 3. The Pond and Lairgill Beck are not a suitable solution for the disposal of surface water as water will not run uphill.**
- 4. Should the pond overflow, the overspill would flood the back gardens of Springfield.**
- 5. There seems to be no five-year maintenance report for the trees as recommended by the survey.**
- 6. Absence of a report from Highways and United Utilities.**

**136.3 ZA23/25272/INTCON. CA13 028** Application: Notice Of An Application To Correct Non-Registration Of Land As Common Land at Mill Hill Waste Land – Greta Wood – Consultation Request (plus letters Paper 2023/169)

**RESOLVED: That the council to submit the following response:**

**The council agrees to support this application on condition that the residents current access levels were maintained for all times and purpose. The council were notified that Ian Thompson from Common Lands Trust wants to preserve it for environmental and public use.**

136.4 To receive Planning Decisions – see Clerks Report

**Received.**

137 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).

137.1 To Consider parking problems in Bentham and agree a way forward, if any (see example Paper 2023/170)

**Cllr Marshall talk to Cllr Ireton with regards to parking problems especially on Main Street; and look at a solution – a regular attendance from traffic wardens would be beneficial Cllrs agreed.**

**RESOLVED: Item to remain on Agenda for next meeting**

137.2 To Receive further information on the Local Bus Services (Paper 2023/171)

**Cllr Gerrie reported that there was no positive update regarding a comprehensive bus service for the residents of Bentham. Cllrs conversed the possibility of a collaborative bus service with other local transport users such as Cedar House School.**

**RESOLVED: Item to remain on Agenda for next meeting and Cllr Gerrie to provide update**

Cllr Burton – concern about parking on Springfield

137.2 No update for buses however Cllr Gerrie to Cedar House, Train Station, Bentham Taxis regarding shared buses

137.3 To Receive information on a new approach to managing speed limits in N. Yorkshire (Paper 2023/172)

**RESOLVED: That Cllrs votes against receiving information. Proposed by Cllrs Marshall and Gerrie**

137.4 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.**

138 To agree the Accounts for Payment.

To:	For:	Amount:
Kingsdale Projects	July Grass Cutting & Parish Caretaker Work	£3040.00
Business Stream	Town Hall Water	£31.35
Business Stream	Cemetery Water	£15.43
Andrews	Caretaker / TH Check Sheets	£67.50
Jo Burton	Temporary Clerk August	£890.00
Low Bentham Victoria Institute	Calander Proceeds	£800.00
Wages	Staff Payments August	£1177.96
Waterplus	Town Hall Wastewater	£81.99
SSE/Swalec	Street Lights	£97.13
BT	Town Hall Phones	£304.67

BT	TIP Phone	£54.86
GRAND TOTAL		£6,560.89

**RESOLVED: Approved.**

**RESOLVED: Cllrs Gerrie and Marshall to authorise the payments.**

138.1 To note the replacement of 5 old fire extinguishers during the annual inspection

**Noted.**

138.2 To consider the offer of whole council training (Paper 2023/179)

**RESOLVED: Cllr Gerrie to respond to email to book council training on 26th or 29th February 2023 for 18:30.**

139 To receive various inspection reports

139.1 BES Lift inspection (Paper 2023/173)

**Received.**

**Cllr Stannard to follow up and report**

139.2 HAGS inspection of play area (Paper 2023/174)

**Received.**

140 To consider the following Correspondence: -

140.1 To receive a further request for information about the Community Emergency Group and agree a response (Paper 2023/175)

**Received.**

140.2 To receive a request for a letter of support for the Lune Three Counties Scheme and agree a response (Paper 2023/176)

**Received.**

**Cllr Adams to respond requesting more information**

140.3 To receive a request for cooperation in respect of the continued discharge from Austwick Pumping Station and agree a response, if any (Paper 2023/177)

**Received.**

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

**Cllr Ryan reported presence at a Zoom meeting on behalf of Cllr Gerrie for Bentham Local Plan. Cllr Ryan expressed a positive response was received from the meeting.**

**Cllr Marshall reported that Collingwood Terrace Almshouses has a new resident shortly moving in and that the Clerk vacancy was now fulfilled.**

**Cllr Adams reported that Goodenber Play Area was making positive progress with refurbishment, though more funds would be necessary.**

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

**None**

143 Date of next meeting:

**Mon 2/10/2023 Full Council meeting - 19:30**

144 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 **145 and 146** are considered:

**RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting**

145 To further discuss the sale of the Community Youth Building and the completion of any necessary paperwork.

145.1 To discuss the Community Forum Proposal and agree a way forward, if any (Paper 2023/178)

**RESOLVED: Cllr Adams to respond to sender**

145.2 To consider a request from The Hub (Paper 2023/180)

**RESOLVED: Cllrs felt that it was more appropriate the 'ring fenced' door repair funds would be moved to precept - Proposed by Cllr Marshall and Adams**

**Cllr Marshall to respond**

146 To further discuss the Clerk's Vacancy.

**21:30 – Cllr Burton walked out; no explanation provided**

**RESOLVED: Cllr Adams reported that Jo Burton had resigned as temporary Clerk and withdrawn from the application process for Clerk. Cllrs agreed that Claire Burrows and Carrie Pillow would be offered the position of Clerk on a job share basis. Proposed by Cllrs Hill and Marshall**

**Claire Burrows - 18 hours per week – Cllr Adams to respond**

**Carrie Pillow - 7.5 hours per week on a 'ad hoc' basis for council accounting**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:45.