



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH
Tel/Fax: 015242 62587
Email: townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Minutes – Monday 2nd September 2024 – 7:30pm, Lower Hall

Councillors in attendance: Cllrs Adams, Burton, Hill, Paige, Ryan, Stannard and Taylor.

Town Clerk – Claire Burrow

MOP – 9

Bentham News – 2

AGENDA

107. Apologies from members unable to attend: -

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

Cllr Marshall

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

AGREED

108. Declaration of Interest: -

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

Cllr Ryan – 119.3 Cllr Taylor – 114.3 Cllr Hill – 116.4

108.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

APPROVED

109. 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. (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).

NONE

110. To Confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 15th July, as a true and accurate record.

Amendment to surname 'Mike Reid'

RESOLVED: with amendment to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.

111. To Confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 31st July, as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes from Monday 2nd September 2024 as a true and accurate record.

112. To receive the **Police Report** & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.

We have had 32 incidents reported between 30.07.24. & 31.08.24

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Safeguarding, Abandon/Hoax call, Civil dispute, Road Related offence – suspect drink driver, Alarm sounding – false, Domestic dispute, Sudden Death, Harassment, ASB Personal/civil dispute, ASB Nuisance/neighbour dispute, RTC – car via person – handbrake, Highway disruption – vehicle blocking pavement & trees down around area

5 Reports – Concern for welfare/safety
3 Reports - Crime Violence
05.08.24& 23.08.24 – Theft of cooking oil
09.08.24 – RTC – 2 vehicle – Low Bentham – bike via cattle trailer
10.08.24 – RTC – Single vehicle – Low Bentham
27.08.24 – Concern for safety/welfare – Ambulance
30.08.24 – Concern for safety/welfare – joint partnership working

How to report speeding concerns - Speed Management Protocol

www.northyorkshire.police.uk/search?q=speeding+concern

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community. Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You will also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys. www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

Working to keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live, visit & work please visit www.northyorkshire.police.uk.

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101, online or 999 if urgent.

Useful site re Crime and policing in England which allows you to search re incident recorded in your area www.police.uk.

Contact Information:

- 1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress.
- 2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information.
- 3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous.
- 4 E-mail SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace

113. To receive a **Report from NYC Councillor** (for information only) - If any
NONE RECEIVED

114. To consider and comment upon **New Planning Applications**:

114.1 ZA24/26173/LBC Removal of existing timber windows and doors/frames and fitting of new painted timber replacements. Woodside Barn, Back Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTION

114.2 ZA24/26195/FUL Proposed 2 no. camping pods Proposed 2 no. camping pods Stoneley Barn, Mewith Lane, Mewith, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AX,

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTION

Clr Taylor left the room at 19:36

114.3 ZA24/26058/HH Removal of roof and creation of roof terrace on rear of house. Certificate of lawful development for established development -Workshop on east side of house constructed in 2010, change of use to mixed use domestic/light industrial class C3 / class E, , Certificate of lawful development, Dormer roof extension on front and rear of house, , Certificate of lawful development, Garage on West end of workshop 25 Wenning Avenue, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LR,

OBJECTION - Insufficient plans for consideration; difficult to make a decision due to lack of planning information and unclear details

Cllr Taylor re-entered the room at 19:38

114.4 ZA24/26228/HH and ZA24/26229/LBC External refurbishment including re-slating of existing pitched roofs, replacement of existing rooflights, windows, doors and external paintwork. Internal alterations and refurbishment. paintwork. The Lodge, 16A Main Street, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DU

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTION

114.5 ZA24/26199/FUL and ZA24/26200/LBC Change of use from youth centre to community charity shop. New pedestrian access, extension to form display window and internal alterations. Bentham Youth Club, Main Street, High Bentham, LA2 7HN,

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTION

115. To **receive and note** the following planning decision/information:

115.1 ZA24/26027/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with alterations to the access from Low Bentham Road Westering, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BS

Grants Full Planning Permission

NOTED

115.2 ZA24/26127/TPO T1 pine - removal due to signs of root plate movement in rear garden. T2 pine - removal due to root plate movement 6 Scholars Rise, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7FR,

Grants Full Planning Permission

NOTED

115.3 ZA24/25754/FUL Extension of habitable accommodation into adjoining barn. Demolition of upvc conservatory. Proposed oak canopy. Over Raygill Farm, Dumb Toms Lane, Ingleton, Carnforth, LA6 3DS

Grants Full Planning Permission

NOTED

115.4 ZA24/25956/REM Application for approval of reserved matters following approval of outline application referenced 2021/22897/OUT for a single, detached dwelling. Land On The East Side Of, 1 Pye Busk Close, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BG,

Grants Full Planning Permission

NOTED

115.5 ZA24/25862/FUL Proposed erection of 2 no. new dwellings On The Site Of A Vacant Plot To The Rear Of Main Street And In The Carpark Of The Disused Horse & Farrier, High Bentham

Refused Full Planning Permission

NOTED

116. **Financial Matters:**

116.1 To receive and note current bank balances as at 5:00pm Tuesday 27th August **£67,761.37**

NOTED

116.2 To note the pre-authorized salary payments.

NOTED

116.3 To note the pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTED

116.4 To approve the payments.

Status	Order No	Date	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	VAT	Total
Outstanding	185	02.09.2024	01.09.2024	1081	Rhino	Carpet clean	£46.00	£276.00
Outstanding	184	02.09.2024	28.08.2024	1317	Kingsdale Projects (Kingsdale Projects)	groundswork	£0.00	£3,400.00
Outstanding	183	25.08.2024	25.08.2024	2030	Howard James	Plants	£8.40	£50.40
Outstanding	182	27.08.2024	23.08.2024	1916206-0	SKY	Internet	£10.99	£65.94
Outstanding	179	23.08.2024	31.08.2024	Aug 2024	[REDACTED]	Salary	£0.00	£1,213.21
Outstanding	178	23.08.2024	31.08.2024	Aug 2024	[REDACTED]	Salary	£0.00	£249.86
Outstanding	177	23.08.2024	31.08.2024	Aug 2024	[REDACTED]	Salary	£0.00	£1,152.31
Outstanding	175	22.08.2024	20.08.2024	19109	The Cumbria Clock company	clock service	£39.00	£234.00
Outstanding	174	22.08.2024	20.08.2024	4639932	Viking (Viking)	Printing, postage, stationery	£9.34	£56.06
Outstanding	173	14.08.2024	09.08.2024	153 Aug	Elkerlodge Services Ltd	Locum RFO	£120.00	£720.00
Outstanding	172	14.08.2024	02.05.2024	1579	Mark Burrow Electrical Ltd	ELECTRICAL WORK	£57.20	£343.18

APPROVED – Cllrs Burton and Adams to authorise (staff names redacted)

117. To approve the **Calendar payments** - 2023 £70.79 for Victoria Institute and from 2024 £500.92 for The Hub.

RESOLVED - APPROVED – The Hub to receive at the October Council meeting.

ACTION – RFO – to upload payment for Victoria Institute to the bank for Cllrs to authorise.

118. To receive information on the following **ongoing issues and decide further action** where necessary:

118.1 To consider speed surveys in Bentham.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Bentham Town Council to have 5 North Yorkshire speed surveys located in High and Low Bentham at £110 per site, data to be collected for 7 days. If average speed of vehicles is 24mph or less then the 20mph speed limit can be progressed, the Traffic Regulation Order and signs, road markings funded by the Town Council, an estimate of costs would be provided.

RESOLVED - SITE LOCATIONS – 1. Outside the school near zebra crossing, 2. Goodenber Road, 3. Main Street, 4. Victoria Institute, 5. Robin Lane, near Bowland View.

118.2 Confirmation from Solicitors regarding successful purchase of School Hill.

NOTED

118.3 To consider the lift servicing contract.

RESOLVED – to remain with Stannah for the lift contracts.

118.4 To consider the non-functioning emergency lift auto-dialler.

RESOLVED – ACE elevators to replace and programme the emergency lift auto dialler at £750 exc VAT,

118.5 To consider the Coach House footpath.

RESOLVED – belongs to North Yorkshire Council who are monitoring the path after Bentham Town Council contact in February.

118.6 To consider the Cleveland Square street light.

RESOLVED – the light is still not functioning, ACTION – Clerk to contact Cllr Ireton informing the light is still not working.

119. **Correspondence received:** To receive information on the following new correspondences and decide further action, if any;

119.1 United Villages letter regarding cameras in NYC.

AGREED – Bentham Town Council to support – APPENDIX A.

119.2 Credit note received from the Automatic Door Company regarding invoice: 935344.

NOTED

Cllr Ryan left the room at 20:05

119.3 Request from Friends of Ole Laney to erect two 'slow down' signs on two street lights.
RESOLVED – request the signage sizing to refer back to Bentham Town Council for further consideration.

Cllr Ryan re-entered the room at 20:07

119.4 Update from Angus Fire.

NOTED – APPENDIX B

119.5 Clerk joining the North Yorkshire pilot Consultation Panel of Clerks.

NOTED

119.6 Overflowing bins at Goodenber Play area.

RESOLVED – bins have been emptied.

RESOLVED – ACTION - to contact North Yorkshire Council to enquire the emptying of bins protocol.

119.7 Car park signage in Bentham.

NOTED – the lack of car parking signage to the public car parks in Bentham.

119.8 The 582-bus service is being operated by North Yorkshire Council from September 2024.

NOTED

Cllr Burton left the room at 20:25

119.9 Playing Fields events list requesting reduced cost in Town Hall hire.

RESOLVED – ensure Halloween party is at the children's party price.

RESOLVED – Playing Fields to receive a 25% reduction on Town Hall hire, including setting up and tidy up time.

120. Bentham Business Boost Update (Cllr Paige and Cllr Ryan)

Cllr Paige – Have £20,00 to re-energise the We are Bentham brand, to include business case studies, stock pictures of the town, campaigns to support footfall increase.

Supporting £6,000,

Networking £7,000

Enhancing £7,000, a maximum of £750 businesses can apply for to enhance business frontage with a 50% match funding, this will be presented as a monetary voucher, presentation of receipt/invoice for works.

Bentham Business Boost meeting – Tuesday 17th September 5 – 6:30pm, Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall, as an idea gathering discussion for training/workshops, launch of the grants, including details and the application packs available, funding needs to be spent by March 2025. Flyers/posters currently in print.

Business of Bentham each month in the Bentham News.

Bygone Bentham has £4,000 to spend.

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

Cllr Paige – Victoria Institute renovations looks good, used the Bentham Town Council grant towards their fire alarm.

Cllr Ryan – Playing Fields had their music on the field on Sunday 1st September, it was rained off so they are completing the raffle at the Black Bull 7pm Tuesday 2nd September. Trying to move the Utilities.

122. Items for next meeting **and minor items for information only.**

- **Update on the defibs – Playing Fields and Springfield Bowling Club**
- **The main street road -resurfacing, cost of the project**

The sewerage coming through the road surface at Wenning Avenue in the heavy rain on Sunday, United Utilities are investigating, there is a blockage. The area near Wenning Avenue is now surrounded by traffic lights. This was also occurring on Duke Street being investigated by United Utilities.

- Robin Lane turning into Butts Lane the road is damaged.

The new Mayor of North Yorkshire came to the Low Bentham Women's Institute coffee morning, to meet members of the public who mentioned the buses, River Wenning issues, traffic and speeding issues. Cllr Adams requested the Mayor to walk up and down Bentham, he was presented with a copy of the Masterplan.

- Committee members and Council Representatives

- Clerk's contract

123. Dates of **next meeting**. –

Marketing and Development – Mon 16th Sept 7:30pm

Buildings – Mon 23rd Sept 7:30pm

Council Training – Mon 30th Sept 6:00pm

Full Council meeting – Mon 7th Oct 7:30pm

Finance meeting – Mon 18th Nov 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 21:05

C Burrow

Claire Burrow

Town Clerk

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Appendix A

Subject : North Yorkshire Villages and Towns Petition for Average and Fixed Cameras – “Cameras for North Yorkshire” (or some other campaign name)

Villages Represented: (list the villages)

Dear Mr Skaith

We, all the towns and villages named above, are writing to you to request action on a matter which is of **serious concern** to not only the villages who are signatories to this letter, but many other villages in North Yorkshire.

Every one of the villages who have signed up to this letter experience the same problem, that being horrendous speeding and anti-social driving through and around our villages and towns.

North Yorkshire is only one of two police forces that does not make use of average and fixed speed cameras, relying solely on mobile speed cameras. Regardless of claims made about the efficacy of mobile speed cameras, which we who live in these villages dispute, the following facts cannot be disputed;

- There are only 14 mobile vans for the entire County
- They are effective when they are present
- Once they are gone, the speeding resumes immediately
- We have yet to see them operate at night and in the early hours of the morning

This means that speeding motorists have to be extremely unlucky to be caught!

What are our neighbours doing?

The neighbouring Counties of West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria have all rolled out average speed cameras through village areas, and these all stop at the North Yorkshire border.

An incorrect claim was made by the North Yorkshire Police to the previous PFCC, Zoe Metcalf, in a Public Accountability meeting stating that neighbouring counties were moving away from Fixed and Average speed cameras in favour of mobile cameras. Both West Yorkshire and Lancashire replied to a letter confirming this was not correct and that mobile cameras are in fact only used to support their road safety strategies but are not the driving strategy.

What has been done in our villages?

We all have some sort of vehicle activated technology in place - (VAS, VAR, SID) but without enforcement these are essentially rendered useless. Community Speed Watches have been set up in some villages, with results so eye-watering in the case of Cowling the police agreed to take over the responsibility of policing speeding, but without enough feet on the ground, this is simply not working.

In some cases, a reduction in speed on the approach to a village was implemented by Highways, extra bollards erected in the middle of the village, road markings repainted – but nothing has helped. In fact, overtaking on the wrong side of bollards is common-place.

Without **consistent and effective** enforcement nothing, nothing will address these issues

The fact is motorists who want to speed, will if they can. And they can in North Yorkshire.

Evidence

The villages and towns have data from their Vehicle Activated devices.

The village of Cowling, also a signatory to this letter, has captured footage of speeding and anti-social driving, and this has been aired on **local and national TV and Radio channels**. Jeremy Vine thought the video had been speeded up such were the speeds witnessed. As an example please click on this link and turn the sound up to experience what we live with day in and day out. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-64802506>

Is this truly the standard York and North Yorkshire aspires to? Is this a legacy to be proud of?

Please, Mr Skaith, please allow us some time to talk to you about the reality of our villages, and not the statistics presented to you from the sporadic and infrequent visits of the mobile speed units which only catch speeding drivers when they are there. Allow us to present the reality of life in a North Yorkshire village or town where it appears, to date, that the concerns of residents are to be ignored, trivialised and swept aside.

We look forward to hearing from you

Kind Regards

G Taylor
Acting Liaison for "Cameras for North Yorkshire" (name to be determined)



Bentham Town Council

Date: 30th August 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

I write once again to provide an update about our ongoing work to establish the extent and character of possible PFAS contamination in and around the factory site.

Again, I want to emphasise that we consider this matter to be of the utmost importance. We remain committed to gaining a full understanding of the issue and then to providing appropriate remediation, in agreement with the Environment Agency. Please contact me if you have any questions.

- As communicated last month, pending the initial PFAS testing results, we asked Ramboll to move forward and undertake the second phase of soil and groundwater samples both onsite and offsite. Ramboll undertook this work in the week commencing 29th July. This will provide us all with more analytical data to discuss at the next meeting with the Environment Agency. It should make it easier and quicker to determine any data gaps and where the next phase of PFAS testing should take place.
- Ramboll have advised that they will be in a position to issue the results of their soil and groundwater testing during the week commencing 2nd September.
- Angus intends at that point to communicate quickly and directly with people and/or groups that may be impacted by the results. I reiterate that we will keep you informed about these communications and consult with you about any near-term remedial work that may be necessary.
- We will continue to update the local community via the microsite www.derbs.co.uk and other channels where necessary. This will be in a timely manner, although we still think it is right and proper to communicate first with any parties that are directly affected.
- Our investigation into surface water filtration technologies continues, and we have now engaged the services of Geosyntec Consultants (www.geosyntec.co.uk). Like Ramboll, they are an Environmental consulting and engineering firm that works to address complex problems involving our environment, natural resources, and civil infrastructure. Geosyntec will work alongside Ramboll to evaluate and develop the engineered solution required for the Bentham site. Our goal is still to have something in place in the next few months. No ready-made solution is available on the market but we intend to develop a customised solution via a combination of different technologies. In the meantime we continue to collect rainwater/surface water run-off from the concrete surfaces at the redundant foam plant and the fire test site.

As we progress through this work, we will continue to provide you with regular updates. We are mindful of our positive relationship with the local community, and preserving that is of paramount importance to us.

Yours faithfully

Paul Williams

Paul Williams
Managing Director
