



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH
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Email: townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk

Wednesday 4th December 2024

Minutes - Monday 2nd December 2024 at 7:30pm, Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall

Councillors attending: Cllrs Adams, Burton, Paige, Ryan and Stannard.

MOP: 7

Bentham News: 2

North Yorkshire Councillor: David Ireton

Town Clerk: Claire Burrow

167. Apologies from members unable to attend: -

167.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

Cllrs Marshall and Taylor

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

ACCEPTED

168. Declaration of Interest: -

168.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Ryan – 177.2 and 178.2

168.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

169. 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).

MOP1 – On behalf of Goodenber Play Area Association: play area has been run by volunteers for over 40 years approximately, currently there is a very small committee whose children are older and no longer using the play area, unsuccessful recruitment of new committee members, the committee members wish to move on. Goodenber Play Area committee are requesting Bentham Town Council take on responsibility for the insurance and the lease of the land from North Yorkshire Council until alternative arrangements can be put in place.

MOP2 – Lawyer on behalf of some of the residents of Duke Street – regarding the PFAS contamination that is affecting some of the properties, asking two questions;

- **Whether the latest test results will be released? Tests in October, not aware of the results being released yet.**
- **What is the mediation plan for the street? A timetable for that and extent of the works.**

170. To Confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 4th November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: the minutes to be confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

171. To receive the **Police Report** & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.
Read out by Cllr Adams see APPENDIX A

172. To receive a **Report from NYC Councillor** (for information only) - If any

Councillor Ireton: Good progress has been made with the restructuring, still more work to complete as there are different ways of working, combining new technology systems and data in a managed way while it is not impacting on delivery of the current services.

Work begins on a new school for SEN, a major renovation programme and expansion is underway at a school in North Yorkshire to bring extra spaces for children and young people with autism amid soaring demand for specialist education, providing a special secondary school and a sixth form at Woodfield Community Primary School in Harrogate. Works are expected to complete in time for September 2025.

New hospital site for Lancaster/Preston in the early stages going out for consultation.

Cllr Ireton requested to see the update from Angus Fire and was informed of the www.derbs.co.uk micro-site.

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

173.1 **ZA24/26412/TPO** Works to TPO 47 (1989) Bentham. The trees are Alders, 5 branches from 2 of the Alders have grown over the roof of the house producing excessive shading and tree litter on the roof blocking the gutters. Cutting 5 branches back, 4-5 metres away from the house. 15 High Croft, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7FE
NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTIONS

173.2 **ZA24/26433/FUL** Conversion of retail unit (Use Class E(a)) and single dwelling (Use Class C3) to form 2 no. dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated alterations 10 Station Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LF
NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTIONS

174. To receive and note the following **Planning Decisions/Information:**

174.1 ZA24/26228/HH and ZA24/26229/LBC Alterations to dwelling/house; The Lodge, Bentham –
PERMISSION GRANTED
NOTED

174.2 ZA24/26439/VAR Application to vary condition; Mole End Farm, Fourlands –
PERMISSION GRANTED
NOTED

175. **Financial Matters:**

175.1 To receive and note current bank balances as **£98,789.42**
RESOLVED – RECEIVED AND NOTED

175.2 To note the pre-authorised salary and pre-agreed contractual payments.
RESOLVED - NOTED

175.3 To approve the payments.

RESOLVED – TO APPROVE

Date	Order No	Status	Tender	Total	Description	Supplier	Invoice Number
05.11.2024	251	Paid	ONLINE	£3.42	HMRC PAYE etc	HMRC PAYE etc (HMRC)	
11.11.2024	252	Paid	ONLINE	£65.94	Internet	SKY	2100302-0
19.11.2024	253	Paid	ONLINE	£31.13	Kitchen equipment	Viking (Viking)	4835917
19.11.2024	254	Paid	ONLINE	£127.00	Snap frame	Viking (Viking)	4835918
19.11.2024	255	Paid	ONLINE	£14.02	Snap frame	Viking (Viking)	5059308
19.11.2024	256	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£488.05	Electricity	Total Energies (Total Energies)	357737968/24
20.11.2024	257	Paid	ONLINE	£409.98	Christmas Tree	Christmas Tree World Ltd	93D48147-708
19.11.2024	258	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£56.40	Mobiles	EE Mobile	V0228551502
19.11.2024	259	Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	£13.30	excess waste	North Yorkshire Council	490050129
19.11.2024	260	Paid	ONLINE	£35.10	Cemetery Training	YLCA (YLCA)	2686
19.11.2024	261	Paid	ONLINE	£930.00	Tree Works	Beaver Tree Surgeons	2846
19.11.2024	262	Paid	ONLINE	£628.80	Web Page	Creative Theory (Creative Theory)	4934
19.11.2024	263	Paid	ONLINE	£347.91	Christmas Lights	Festive Lights	93D48147- 0632
19.11.2024	264	Paid	ONLINE	£46.00	Advert	Bentham News (Bentham News)	SI-3698
19.11.2024	265	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£251.62	Unmetered Electric Supply	SSE SWALEC Unmetered Supply (SSE SWALEC)	1890694
20.11.2024	266	Paid	ONLINE	£924.00	Locum RFO	Elkerlodge Services Ltd	173
21.11.2024	267	Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	£33.64	Internet	1&1 Ionos	203045140499
21.11.2024	268	Paid	ONLINE	£91.23	Water	Waterplus Waste water bill Town Hall (Waterplus)	7383270
25.11.2024	269	Outstanding	ONLINE	£60.00	TH Entrance	Barbara Rothwell	
25.11.2024	270	Outstanding	ONLINE	£1,459.41	Salary		Nov
25.11.2024	271	Outstanding	ONLINE	£1,152.31	Salary		Nov
25.11.2024	272	Outstanding	ONLINE	£249.86	Salary		Nov
26.11.2024	273	Outstanding	ONLINE	£550.00	groundwork	Kingsdale Projects (Kingsdale Projects)	1365
26.11.2024	274	Outstanding	ONLINE	£55.23	xmas lights	Amazon	VO2235392749
27.11.2024	276	Paid	ONLINE	£10.96	Water	Business Stream Water Supply Cemetery (Business Stream)	6494407
27.11.2024	277	Paid	ONLINE	£84.82	Water	Business Stream Water Supply Cemetery (Business Stream)	6476612
27.11.2024	278	Outstanding	ONLINE	£6.09	thermometer	Amazon	VO2235392749
27.11.2024	279	Outstanding	ONLINE	£28.54	Water Rates	Waterplus Waste water bill Town Hall (Waterplus)	wp-INV05349452
27.11.2024	280	Outstanding	ONLINE	£924.00	Calender 24/25	Stramongate	109568

CLRs Burton and Ryan to authorise (staff names redacted)

175.4 To Note Budget approved by Full council in the Finance Meeting 19/11/2024

RESOLVED - NOTED

175.5 To Note Precept demand for NYC of **£150000** approved by Full council in the Finance Meeting: 19/11/2024

RESOLVED – APPROVED by Full COUNCIL.

175.6 To Note **£48000** from general reserves for shortfall

RESOLVED – APPROVED by Full COUNCIL.

175.7 To Approve Internal auditor for 2025/2026 (April 2025)

RESOLVED – to accept the quote from Account-Ant at £600.

175.8 To Approve Reserve Balance for Christmas Light (£1500 added from 24/25 Budget)

RESOLVED TO APPROVE

175.9 To Note plan for CYB reserve for External auditor & NYC Precept Demand

RESOLVED – money remains ringfenced for a special project.

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

176.1 To consider the Street Light Maintenance tender quotes (if any)

RESOLVED – to accept quote 2 for street light maintenance.

176.2 To receive the report from camera enforcement team.

RESOLVED – RECEIVED – see appendix B

176.3 To consider the Speed Survey data.

RESOLVED – Support Goodenber Road being a 20mph speed limit.

RESOLVED - ACTION – Clerk to contact North Yorkshire to clarify rationale behind instant decisions to refuse 20mph speed limit in areas that according to NYC initial criteria are acceptable.

See appendix C

176.4 To consider the hosting of benthamtowncouncil.gov.uk moving or remaining with current host.

RESOLVED – new website with the Council’s existing host.

177. **Matters requested by Councillors:** To receive information on the following new correspondences and decide further action, if any;

177.1 Request for two more lamp posts to be fitted with sockets, one outside the Spar and one at the bottom of Robin Lane (Cllr Paige).

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council to request.

Cllr Ryan left the room at 8:12pm

177.2 To consider additional street lighting for Duke Street (Cllr Marshall).

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to map the potential locations for two additional street lights, circulate to the Duke Street residents for written confirmation of approval.

Cllr Ryan re-entered the room at 8:16pm.

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

178.1 Letter from Goodenber Play Area Association.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Bentham Town Council to move forward with taking responsibility for the play area in its entirety without charitable status.

See appendix D

178.2 Update from Angus Fire.

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact the Environmental Agency to request their reports/review on the PFAS chemicals relating to sites within the local area.

See appendix E

179. **Bentham Business Boost Update (Cllr Paige)**

Cllr Paige informed Council of available free training for businesses: video masterclass, social media, AI and First Aid training sessions, these will be advertised soon in Bentham News and leaflets.

There is a mural to be painted in Spring/Summer next to Bentham Club. Paid for by Bentham Boost and The Hub.

Monies left over will be spent on planters.

Bentham Boost Project Team has been productive and pro-active at moving forward.

Request to NYC that the money for shop front grants with painting projects can be held by Bentham Town Council to be completed in Spring/Summer.

180. To receive **Reports from Councillors** who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)

Cllr Adams – LASRUG – Re-publish the line guide. Dales Railcard, £10 per year, now can be used to received nearly 50% saving on Settle/Carlisle line and Bentham line, until end of March, check details first as some of the busy Christmas related shopping days may be exempt.

Cllr Adams – Aid in Sickness AGM in November – five grants over past 12 months in the area, Hellifield to Bentham, Rathmell to Horton. Money left over will go to Food Banks – Bentham, Ingleton and Hellifield. Re-constitute to include Ingleton and Burton in Lonsdale.

Cllr Paige – River Wenning meeting Wed 27th November – Information on the River Wharfe, surge water through sewage works are dissipated rapidly, the ‘normal’ functions are contributing more to the contaminates within the river.

Cllr Adams - There are spikes at levels at Ilkley, this river is a bathing site, due to the amount of people paddling/swimming in it.

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

NONE

182. Date of **next meeting:** Full Council meeting – Monday 6th January 2024
Marketing and Development Committee – Monday 20th January 2024

Meeting closed at 8:42pm

C Burrow

C Burrow

Town Clerk

Wednesday 3rd November 2024

Appendix A

Please find your police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 02.12.24

We have had 28 incidents reported between 02.11.24 & 29.11.24

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Safeguarding Abandon/hoax, & Alarm sounding – false, Crime sexual & Suspect vehicle – Wennington checked – BDV, abandon vehicle Bentham Moor & lost property

4 Reports - Concern for welfare/safety - Joint partnership working

05.11.24 – Road Related offence – Manner of driving – Tractor around Bentham

16.11.24 – Theft of 7 sheep & 2 Lambs – Burn Moor Common

22.11.24 – RTC – single vehicle – Bentham Road toward Ingleton – Icy conditions

24.11.24 – Domestic incident

26.11.24 – Harassment

27.11.24 – ASB Nuisance

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 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

Collar number 5561

Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood PCSO

Settle Ingleton & Bentham area

North Yorkshire Police

101

Appendix B

- **LOCATION: Robin lane, Bentham.**

May 2024 = x2 offences

June 2024 = x6 offences

July 2024 = x8 offences

August 2024 = x3 offences

September 2024= 0(zero) offences

- **LOCATION: Low Bentham, Bentham.**

No offences.

- **LOCATION: Station road, Bentham.**

No offences.

The above are only updated from May 2024 up until the end of September 2024 , we are currently uploading data from October2024 onwards.

Appendix C

I don't know if you are aware but the Council has also received a petition regarding 20mph speed limits in Low Bentham and High Bentham and that petition will be discussed at the meeting of the Skipton and Ripon Area Committee on 12 December. The following is included in the draft report

We have received the data from the traffic counters which we have reviewed, and they are summarised in the table below.

Location	Mean Speed	85 th percentile speed	Comments	20mph to be introduced
Main St, Low Bentham	20.5mph	23.8mph	Narrow road, parked cars, speeds naturally low	No
Low Bentham Rd o/s school	24.0mph	27.8mph	40mph limit in place, speeds low at school times, main road between High and Low Bentham	No
Main Street, High Bentham	20.7mph	25.5mph	Classified road with parking and speeds are low. Not appropriate for 20mph speed limit.	No
Robin Lane, High Bentham	26.8mph	32.9mph	Route for livestock vehicles to auction site. Would need engineering measures for 20mph to be effective. Unsuitable for engineering measures due to nature of traffic.	No
Goodenber Road, High Bentham	18.9mph	24.1mph	Residential, not a main through route and suitable for 20mph speed limit.	Yes

The NYC 20mph Policy states that the mean speed threshold for considering a 20mph speed limit is 24.0mph or below. The results shown in the table above show that traffic speeds are at or below the threshold for all but one of the survey locations. However, considering the nature of the road, its classification and the suitability of introducing a 20mph speed limit, it is considered that only one of the sites, Goodenber Road is suitable for a 20mph speed limit. However, this road serves a residential area and it is considered that a 20mph speed limit should be introduced throughout the residential area north of Main Street and West of Robin Lane.

Appendix D



The place to be!

Goodenber Play Area Association



19th November 2024

Bentham Town Council,
c/o The Town Clerk
The Town Hall,
Station Road,
High Bentham,
LA2 7LH

Dear Councillors,

The Goodenber play area association has been run by volunteers now for over 40 years

And

We are currently a committee of only three volunteers.

Having served for 16 years the current committee now wish to retire from the positions we hold. You may have been aware that we have tried to enlist new committee members now for several years unfortunately without success.

We all intend to retire at the end of this year.

In these circumstances, would the council consider taking responsibility for the insurance and the lease until alternative arrangements can be put into place?

We'd be grateful if this could be considered at the next council meeting on the 2nd December which I can attend to answer any questions.

Yours sincerely

Appendix E



Bentham Town Council

Date: 2nd December 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

I write to provide a further update on the situation at Angus Fire.

Angus has now placed purchase orders with the suppliers of the storm water treatment technologies that will be adopted to treat any potentially PFAS contaminated storm water. This new "treatment train" is the largest purchase of plant & equipment that Angus has made in its entire history, and it should arrive at the Bentham site in January and be fully operational by the middle of February.

As part of the environmental assessment work being undertaken by Geosyntec to enable them to evaluate and specify the storm water treatment requirements and associated Environmental permit submission, water samples were collected from the River Wenning, both "upstream" and "downstream" to the Angus Fire facility.

The water samples were taken to determine the baseline levels of PFAS in the river as it meanders down through Bentham.

The "upstream" water sample results – those taken from the river ~200metres before the river reaches Station Road, Bentham show that PFOS concentration in the river already exceeds the annual average Environmental Quality Standard (AA-EQS, 0.65 ng/L). For context, these standards specify the concentration levels for substances in water bodies with the aim of reducing harmful effects on human health, aquatic life and the wider environment.

We have acknowledged the potential environmental impacts from historic operations at our facility and are working urgently to better characterise the Bentham site and surrounding areas. However, this new sampling initially appears to indicate that there are other sources of PFOS entering the River Wenning further upstream, even before it gets to Bentham.

The sample taken "downstream", after the United Utilities Waste Water Treatment Works, also shows PFOS in the river, but at slightly higher levels than the "upstream" sample. However, these results still need to be assessed to determine potential source(s) impacting the downstream sample.

Ramboll, as agreed with the Environment Agency, will undertake monthly PFAS sampling of stormwater releases from the Angus site over the next 12 months.

During November, further meetings were held with those residents whose properties appeared to be most relevant given the previous round of soil testing in order to discuss and determine responsible ways in which we can resolve the situation. We have not received notice of any legal action, whether from those residents or from any other person.

A meeting was held with Julian Smith MP in November where we were able to explain the full extent of our site characterisation and containment activities and provide him with an understanding of the work we are doing alongside the UK regulators.

Angus Fire Ltd

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Registered office: Station Road, High Bentham, Nr Lancaster LA2 7NA UK • Registered in England No. 8441992
AFA/H/Bentham/06.13



IRM 595473



EMS 376644



Angus, meanwhile, continues to work closely with independent industry-leading environmental consultants and in cooperation with our UK regulator, the Environment Agency. These further investigations will help us better understand the extent of any PFAS contamination and assist in determining the remediation required.

We will continue to provide regular updates to the Town Council, as we work our way through these very challenging issues over the next few years.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Williams
Managing Director