



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH
Tel/Fax: 015242 62587

Email: townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk
www.benthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Attending: Cllrs Adams, Burton, Marshall and Paige.
Town Clerk: Claire Burrow
MOP: 2
Bentham News: 2
Councillor David Ireton

MINUTES

183. Apologies from members unable to attend: -

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

Cllrs Ryan and Stannard

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

ACCEPTED

184. Declaration of Interest: -

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

Cllr Marshall - 189.3 and 191.3

184.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

185. 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 Bentham Theatre Group requesting access to the Town Hall for painting the scenery.

186. To Confirm the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 2nd December 2024 as a true and accurate record.

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

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

Read out in full by Cllr Adams, appendix A.

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

Cllr Ireton – North Yorkshire Council budget to be discussed on Wednesday, potential to set at 4.99% which is the maximum [without public consultation], Government has withdrawn the Rural Payments to North Yorkshire, approximately £14 million, reallocated to areas of deprivation.

Moving forward with the 20mph speed limits in Bentham, another speed survey to be set up near Bentham Primary School, Cllr Adams advised this is now in place as of today.

Cllr Ireton asked if the light in Cleveland Square has been fixed, Council was unsure if the light was still faulty, Cllr Ireton will follow up with this.

Cllr Marshall questioned how North Yorkshire will manage without the £14 million, Cllr Ireton advised it would be a struggle. Shortfalls are coming out of reserves. Biggest spending for North Yorkshire Council is on social care.

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

189.1 **ZA24/26559/VAR** Application to vary condition no. 2 (Approved Plans) of planning application ref: ZA24/26027/FUL to add a weatherproof porch roof over the front entrance door, 2no. additional Velux's to the first-floor bedrooms, PV panels to the east and west elevations and removal of window to west elevation utility room

Westering, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BS

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTIONS

189.2 **ZA24/26581/HH** Installation of a domestic 12 kW air source heat pump
Tennant House, Clapham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AH,

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTIONS

189.3 **TPO/005/2024/CRA** 2 Oaks and 1 Sycamore
Land East of Butts Lane, Butts Lane, High Bentham.

NOTED

189.4 **TPO/009/2024/CRA** 1 Sycamore, Old Field, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DL

NOTED

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

190.1 ZA24/26412/TPO Five branches to be cut back – **REFUSED**
GRANTED – two metres clearance from edge of the roof.

190.2 ZA24/26105/FUL Change of use and conversion of barn and shippon to form additional accommodation to adjoining dwelling – **GRANTED**

190.3 ZA24/26304/FULMAJ Construction of open-sided building for sheep pens – **GRANTED**

191. **Financial Matters:**

191.1 To receive and note current bank balances as Sunday 29th December 2024 - £90,039.10

NOTED

191.2 To note the pre-authorised salary and pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTES

191.3 To approve the payments.

				£9,918.13			
Date	Order No	Status	Tender	Total	Description	Supplier	Invoice Number
09.12.2024	282	Paid	ONLINE	£154.05	Pension	NEST (NEST)	Nov
09.12.2024	283	Paid	ONLINE	£65.94	Internet	SKY	2100302-0
16.12.2024	284	Paid	ONLINE	£990.00	Locum RFO	Elkerlodge Services Ltd	264
16.12.2024	285	Outstanding	ONLINE	£271.00	Entrance Matting	Peter Allen Flooring	10533
16.12.2024	286	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£1,290.44	GAS	Total Energies (Total Energies)	360747403/24
16.12.2024	287	Outstanding	ONLINE	£649.20	Alarm and emergency light work	Howsons Ltd (Howsons Ltd)	44285
16.12.2024	288	Outstanding	ONLINE	£228.00	CM&C	iccm	18744
16.12.2024	289	Outstanding	ONLINE	£272.76	xmas lights	Mark Burrow Electrical Ltd	1627
09.12.2024	290	Outstanding	ONLINE	£258.92	PAT Testing	UK Safety Management	1029595
16.12.2024	291	Outstanding	ONLINE	£439.80	Salt	Huws Gray	11654682
18.12.2024	292	Paid	ONLINE	£1,152.11	Salary		Nov
18.12.2024	293	Paid	ONLINE	£249.86	Salary		Nov
18.12.2024	294	Paid	ONLINE	£1,459.61	Salary		Nov
23.12.2024	295	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£56.40	Mobiles	EE Mobile	V022296045258
23.12.2024	296	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£243.52	Unmetered Electric Supply	SSE SWALEC Unmetered Supply (SSE SWALEC)	2087790
23.12.2024	297	Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	£3.30	bank charges	Unity Trust Bank (Unity Trust bank)	
23.12.2024	298	Outstanding	ONLINE	£2.50	Postage	garth adams	
23.12.2024	299	Outstanding	ONLINE	£280.13	Oak Tree accessories	Riverside (Riverside)	31536
23.12.2024	300	Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	£33.64	Internet	1&1 Ionos	203045655475
23.12.2024	301	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£87.32	Water Rates	Waterplus Waste water bill Town Hall (Waterplus)	07670892
23.12.2024	302	Paid	DIRDEBIT	£61.92	excess waste	North Yorkshire Council	490011800
02.01.2025	4	Outstanding	ONLINE	£731.04	knotweed	Japanese Knotweed Ltd	7826
03.01.2025	303	Outstanding	ONLINE	£525.00	Open Spaces	Kingsdale Projects (Kingsdale Projects)	1368
03.01.2025	304	Outstanding	ONLINE	£200.00	Install defib	JF Electrical	1364
03.01.2025	305	Outstanding	ONLINE	£31.68	Sanitary Disposal Unit	Citron (Citron)	30411500
03.01.2025	306	Outstanding	ONLINE	£79.99	Office 365	Microsoft Office 365	
03.01.2025	307	Outstanding	ONLINE	£100.00	Deposit Refund	(Bentham Playing Field Association)	

APPROVED – Cllr Burton and Cllrs Adams/Marshall to authorise. (Staff names redacted)

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

192.1 To consider the Website Accessibility Statement with the WCAG 2.2 updated website.

RESOLVED TO AGREE – upload to website.

192.2 To note the Parish Portal is now North Yorkshire Council Account.

NOTED

192.3 To consider the defibrillator installation estimate from Spring Field Bowling Club.

RESOLVED TO AGREE – Clerk to contact Bowling Club.

192.4 Update on 20mph speed limits.

Cllr Adams attended the Skipton and Ripon Area Committee meeting on Thursday 12th December, where the 20mph speed limit was on the agenda, Cllr Adams spoke about speeding generally and about traffic in Bentham. Mr Watt presented the petition. Committee decided to go with the recommendations from three speed survey sites; Main Street, Low Bentham and Goodenber Road. New speed survey site outside the school in place. There will now be a consultation period. There is a meeting with Traffic Management & Road Safety Engineers 28th January.

192.5 To set dates for short listing and interviewing for the Assistant Town Clerk and Relief Caretaker.
RESOLVED – Cllrs Adams, Burton and Ryan to be involved in shortlisting and interview process for Assistant Town Clerk.

RESOLVED – As no applicants; approach the current Relief Caretaker covering holidays to take on the role as a paid employee.

193. **Matters requested by Councillors:** To receive information on the following new correspondences and decide further action, if any;
- 193.1 To consider the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer completing timesheets to ensure the Council has a better understanding of time required for tasks and clearer insight. (Cllr Burton)
RESOLVED – The RFO to produce invoice when payment is to be authorised.
RESOLVED – Clerk to complete timesheets for two weeks commencing Monday 27th January 2025.
- 193.2 To consider the replacement of the Council owned dog bin at the bottom of Butts Lane, as it has lost its lid. (Cllr Burton)
RESOLVED – research purchasing new lid, if not; to purchase a replacement bin.
- 193.3 To receive an update and consider further action of the lighting of the Beacon for D-Day. (Cllr Taylor)
RESOLVED – Thursday 8th May 2025 at 9:30pm. Clerk to contact the Burnmoor Stint Holders prior to their meeting in February.
- 194 **Cemetery Extension;**
- 194.1 To consider the Topographic Surveys quotes (if received)
RESOLVED – ACCEPT quote at £675.00 (exclusive of VAT)
- 194.2 To consider the subscription to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), single fee of £100.
RESOLVED – AGREED annual subscription of ICCM.
- 195 **Correspondence received:** To receive information on the following new correspondences and decide further action, if any;
- 195.1 Support from NYC to update the Community Emergency Plan.
RESOLVED – update the Community Emergency Plan with help and support from North Yorkshire Council.
- 195.2 Angus Fire Update.
Cllr Adams read out updates from Angus Fire (appendix B) and Cleaner Bentham (appendix C) in full. Bentham Town Council attended a third meeting at Angus Fire before Christmas, all contents are in the update and Council were presented details of how the plant functions.
- 195.3 Duke Street parking.
RESOLVED - Council advises residents to seek out the ownership of the land, this may be North Yorkshire Council.
- 195.4 Environment Agency.
(Appendix D) Council to await further information.
- 195.5 Request for the Bentham Pantomime to have a key to the Wenningdale Room.
RESOLVED – Bentham Theatre Group to have access Saturday 10-4 or 12-6 depending on Coffee morning for volunteers to paint scenery. There will be no charge.
- 195.6 Road safety.
RESOLVED – Member of public to contact Highways.

196 **Bentham Business Boost Update** (Cllr Paige)

Cllr Paige advised Council that there were still places available on the free workshops. Recommended circulated around the farming community and further afield. Mayor's funding details are not available as yet.

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

Cllr Marshall Collingwood and Longstaffe Almshouses have a new resident.

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

Cllr Marshall sent apologies for next full Council.

State of road between Low Bentham and Wennington, culvert under the road, two walls in state of disrepair and landslide. Low bridge sign is no longer visible.

199 Date of **next meeting:** Full Council meeting – Monday 3rd February 2025
Marketing and Development Committee – Monday 20th January 2024
Buildings Committee – Monday 24th February 2025

RESOLVED – to move the Buildings Committee meeting to Monday 20th January 2025 at 7:30pm due to both Marketing and Development and Building Committees will be inquorate.

Meeting closed at 21:03

C Burrow

C Burrow

Town Clerk

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Appendix A

A Happy New Year

To ensure you are receiving as much information as possible from the police I have signed all the Councils in the Settle, Bentham & Ingleton up to our North Yorkshire Community Messaging which 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. You will receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information.

If any Councillors would like to sign up also then please email me their details

Please find your police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 06.01.25

We have had 38 incidents reported between 30.11.24 & 04.01.25

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Safeguarding, criminal damage – vehicle, suspect vehicle – checked in order station Road, Road Related offence – Manner of driving, Crime sexual, Abandon call, lost/found, ASB Personal, Highways – BDV & tree down Low Bentham

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

30.11.24 & 24.12.24 & 29.12.24 – RTC – single vehicle

03.12.24 – Crime Violence

04.12.24 - Harassment

04.12.24 - Domestic incident

16.12.24 – Suspect circumstances – unknown person trying door handles – High Bentham

01.01.25 & 02.01.25 – Theft from property – Low Bentham

How to report speeding concerns - Speed Management Protocol

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

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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



Bentham Town Council

Date: 6th January 2025

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

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

Angus continues to follow its scope of work philosophy of 'Containment', 'Characterisation' and 'Corrective Action/Remediation'.

Containment

As you know, we have established that the 'Western' part of our facility - close to the lagoons and redundant foam plant - has some PFAS contamination.

Our objective is to ensure that this contamination remains on site, which is why we continue to capture surface water run-off from those areas and store it in intermediate bulk containers (IBCs). We are now storing over 2.9 million litres of storm water, in addition to sending another ~200,000 litres away for high temperature incineration.

We intend to continue capturing this stormwater until we have our new stormwater treatment facility in place. This is scheduled to become operational by the middle of February. At that point we will start to process and clean the captured stormwater, alongside new rainfall and stormwater. This processing is expected to take many months; exactly how long depends on the amount of regular rainfall that will be added to the already-captured volumes.

As part of our PFAS sampling and testing programme on site, we have identified contamination in drainage and have undertaken remedial work to re-route drainage flows into IBC containers, which will be held ready to process via the new stormwater treatment facility.

So our priority is to contain the issue. The Environment Agency agrees that this is the most appropriate action for us to take in the immediate term.

Characterisation

This information from the site and surrounding area is required by Angus and the regulator (Environment Agency), and is being obtained by independent and industry leading environmental consultants. It will provide the depth and breadth of analysis required to better understand what contamination there is and where it is located; and then to determine what Corrective action/Remediation is required.

This work will take several years to complete. As new data potentially changes our understanding of the situation, it will be important to ensure that the decisions we make and the actions we take also adapt appropriately. If things do change, then we will react to those changes in a proactive manner.

The more characterisation that is undertaken, the more we learn. Testing of water flows in the drainage system from the town itself, that travel through the Angus site down to the river Wenning, show that PFAS is already present (i.e. before such waters could have been, based on our current understanding, impacted by historic

Angus Fire Ltd

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



PM 595473

EMS 576644



operations undertaken by Angus). This is to be expected, as PFAS are ubiquitous. They result from a very wide range of sources and are in many household products and chemicals used on a daily basis.

Initial feedback from independent consultants, after taking samples from the River Wenning, included the following finding *“despite PFAS concentrations in groundwater at Angus Fire, large-scale transport and mass discharge to the River Wenning is not demonstrated in recent river water quality data.....”*

This should be seen as very good news, for everyone concerned about the water quality in the River Wenning.

Corrective Action/Remediation

As communicated last month, the purchase order for the stormwater treatment facility has been placed and we are still expecting delivery in January and for it to be fully functional in February.

We are continuing our discussions with those residents whose properties are close to the lagoons or redundant foam plant, in order to determine responsible ways in which we can resolve the situation. We have not received notice of any legal action.

We will continue to work closely with the regulator, the Environment Agency, and will provide regular updates to the Town Council, as we work our way through these very challenging issues over the months and years ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Williams
Managing Director



C/O 35 Main Street | High Bentham | North Yorkshire | LA2 7HQ

27th November 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors,

As you are aware, since May 2024 and the revelation of the extent of pollution surrounding Foam Production at Angus Fires Site in Bentham a group of concerned Residents has put together a nonprofit group (Cleaner Bentham Limited) to research and identify issues that may affect the environment and town of Bentham and beyond.

The group has experts in their field helping us to determine the impacts of this pollution. In this group, we have a Pollution Expert (who is currently putting together an impact report), a Chemical Engineer, and a Researcher on our steering committee. I personally have spent over 400 hours learning about the effect of PFAS, the history of possible pollution pathways (from anecdotal evidence). This has led onto wider concerns about the truth being kept from not just our communities in Bentham, but those down the Wenning and Lune, and those farming communities that had purchased "bio solids" (Waste from the sewerage farm in Bentham where I believe PFAS have been identified). The harm this pollution may have caused is unimaginable and, in truth, scary. It seems the council is unaware of the extent of this issue.

1. In a recent press release we have revealed we have instructed international law firm, Mishcon de Reya LLP to represent Cleaner Bentham, and any other residents and businesses who are concerned that they may have suffered loss (either by health or financial impacts), caused by this pollution. The scope of any potential litigation could include those affected by the pollution down the Wenning, Lune and into Morecambe Bay. Of course, residents and businesses are free to choose their own representation, should they wish.
Our Press releases have been picked up by BBC news, Ends Report and The North Yorkshire Post.
We believe that Mishcon de Reya has great relevant experience and is perfect for representing communities that are affected by this situation.
2. We have had contact with Robert Bilott who is the US Lawyer who litigated against Dupont in 1999, where the town of Parkersburgh suffered contamination from PFAS Waste. Mr Bilott was very supportive of our action offering help if he could and acknowledged he knew AISG through due to their US Legal issues with 9000 lawsuits.
3. We are now a member of Friends of the Earth and are in contact with The Chem Trust (the latter being a charity that acts against this type of dangerous Chemical use). We are working with them to help make changes to Environment Laws.
4. We have approached Angus Fire to help with the costs of blood testing of our community but so far, they have ignored our requests for financial support.
5. In October we enlisted the support of academic universities including the world's leading Toxicologist to help with blood tests and environmental tests.

Cleaner Bentham Limited
T/A Cleaner Bentham Group
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England and Wales

CRN: 15881170

Not for profit number:





C/O 35 Main Street | High Bentham | North Yorkshire | LA2 7HQ

6. I have enclosed a copy of our Pollution expert's initial briefing for your attention, when a full copy of his impact report has been reviewed and released, we will pass this on also. We expect the final report to be available in January or February 2025 along with most of our test results.
7. We have briefed the local general practice medical surgery who are on aware and engaged with our mission and are doing research into illnesses in the area. Hopefully they will be able to assist with drawing bloods and taking fluids.

We hope that this letter draws the attention of the council to the severity of this situation and that it recognises that Bentham's reputation could be permanently damaged should we not take quick action. We are open and willing to work with the council to push for full remediation of the PFAS contamination and to investigate the source of such contamination, which likely emanated due to Angus Fire's presence since the 1970s.

This is, unfortunately, a potentially huge environmental issue. The tests currently being carried out are a fantastic first step, but they constitute only a small representative sample and will not test all those in or around Bentham who are potentially affected and would like to be tested. The tests also do not deal with soil contamination in the area, which we believe may be widespread and will of course affect property prices in the area.

We also need further testing to establish how widespread the contamination is, particularly in the Wenning and downstream from Bentham. This is a huge issue for the area and one which, as our local council, we will need your support in resolving.

Please would you meet with us to discuss next steps and how we achieve justice for Bentham?

If you have already taken any action in relation to this issue, please let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

Mat MacEley-Young
Chair Cleaner Bentham Group



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T/A Cleaner Bentham Group
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Registered in England and Wales
CRN: 15881170
Not for profit number:

Appendix D

Enquiry regarding *"whether the Environment Agency has conducted any reviews into the PFAS chemical issue in and around Bentham since summer 2023"*

Thank you for your enquiry received on 10th December 2024.

We respond under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environment Information Regulations 2004. Please find our response below.

Yes, most of the work we undertake is a review. We think that the Angus Fire Desk Study would be most useful to you. Unfortunately, if this were to be requested, we would be unable to disclose it at this time. This is because it relates to an ongoing investigation and could be used as potential evidence.

However, we can confirm that our Area Environment Manager is planning on contacting you early next year to discuss this matter further.

Please refer to [Open Government Licence](#) which explains the permitted use of this information.

Please get in touch if you have any further queries or contact us within two months if you'd like us to review the information we have sent.

