



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Open Spaces Committee on Monday 9th December 2019 at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall.

- Present: Cllrs Bridgeman (Chairman), Burton, Handford, and Marshall; the Clerk Christine Downey, and District Councillor Brockbank.
- OS59 To receive apologies from members unable to attend
Councillors Faraday and Swales.
- OS60 To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations
None
- OS61 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meetings on 28th October 2019.
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of 28th October 2019 are agreed and be signed
- OS62 To discuss the bench at Gil Head, Robin Lane and agree a way forward
The bench in question is one of the 14 identified as needing to be replaced next year.
RESOLVED: That the bench should be moved closer to the Welcome Wall.
RESOLVED: Clerk to write to original donor of the bench and ask if they wish to donate the replacement.
- OS63 To agree the wording of advert/article for Bentham News re benches
RESOLVED: Draft agreed subject to inclusion of a reference to organisations and local groups.
- OS64 To receive an update on the Open Spaces budget
Thomas Brown was instructed to roll PHPF on 12/06/19 at a cost of £180, but this job not done or paid for yet.
RESOLVED: Instruct Thomas to proceed if it still needs doing before he starts cutting next year.
In June 2019 Thomas Brown quoted £800 to tidy up the trees inside PHPF (not those along the fence) and to remove the ivy. This work not yet done or paid for.
RESOLVED: Thomas Marshall to decide, by reference to the recommendations received, exactly what work needs doing to tidy up the wooded area and uplift the crown, and to submit an online application to the planning department at Craven DC because of TPO's. (See also item OS 67.3).
In June 2019 Thomas Brown quoted £170 (including materials) to repair the fence on south side of cemetery. This work not done yet or paid for. Current position is that quotes have been requested (but not received) from Taylor Environmental Ground Works, Hanafins and Brian Hewitt, as per OS51.
In September 2019 Thomas Brown quoted £280 to demolish shed at cemetery and remove. This work not done yet or paid for. Dealt with at OS66.2.
- OS65 To discuss the Street Lighting Programme and agree a way forward.
An update on the current position re all 5 phases was given.



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RESOLVED: Clerk to write to the owners of 1, 3, 9 and 15 Lairgill to ask permission to attach a new light fitting.

RESOLVED: Thomas Marshall to cost proposed solar lights on Duke Street, with a view to precepting if necessary.

OS66

To discuss matters re cemetery

66.1 To consider quotes for repairing fence on the south side and agree a way forward
Quotes awaited. Just for new wire, the concrete posts are good.

66.2 To agree how to get rid of the shed and contents

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Lords Antiques at Ingleton to ask if they can remove the contents.

RESOLVED: After it's empty, Councillor Bridgeman to demolish the shed and remove the timber at no cost to the council.

66.3 Memorial Inspection – to discuss the results and agree a way forward

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to those responsible for the unstable memorials asking for work to be done on the anchor for the headstone.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to those responsible for the memorials that exceed the dimensions stated in the regulations (including those that have plants/vases/stones in the grass in front of the headstone) asking for all ornaments/memorials be returned to within 2'6" of the headstone, in accordance with the regulations. Allow one month for the work to be done. NB – subject to next resolution.

RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate draft letter re memorials that exceed dimension for approval before sending.

RESOLVED: Clerk to send list of queries to Thomas Marshall with a view to identifying who is likely to be responsible for those memorials.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Jimmy McDonald and/or the appropriate stone mason re any of those queried memorials that Thomas Marshall cannot suggest a responsible person for, to see if they can supply details of who is responsible.

RESOLVED: That the cost of a wall plaque is £220.00 as per the 2013 price list and not £150.00 as has been charged for some time.

66.4 Marker/identification stones – to discuss whether any further action is required

RESOLVED: To precept for £500 to pay for one day's work to dig the identification stones out.

66.5 To discuss drainage

RESOLVED: No further action at present. To be discussed at site visit in the spring.

66.6 To agree wording for new sign for gate

RESOLVED: Wording agree as per the draft, subject to the addition of two further points re referring to the cemetery rules and regulations, and to assist with the ease of mowing nothing to exceed the dimensions laid down in the rules and regulations.

66.7 To discuss condition of road surface on the entrance area/approach

Highways Officers went to look at the pot holes in the road approaching the cemetery 29th October 2019.

RESOLVED: Clerk to chase up a response from highways.

66.8 To discuss the condition of the vegetation on the entrance area/approach

The left-hand side is cared for by BEST and Bev Sim. The right-hand side is the responsibility of NYCC or Chris Mitton.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to NYCC and Chris Mitton to ask if anything can be done to improve the appearance

66.9 To discuss condition of pathway in field approaching cemetery gate



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- RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask David Park of Oglethorpe, Sturton & Gillibrand who owns the path according to the deeds.
- RESOLVED:** Thomas Marshall to ask John Lawson if the council may tidy up the ravine where the stream comes down and plant some trees.
- RESOLVED:** Thomas Marshall to ask John Lawson if the council may cut the grass for a stretch on each side of the path approaching the cemetery across his field.
- 66.10 To consider the path approaching the cemetery and the cemetery itself as a location for planting trees.
- RESOLVED:** Not to plant trees along the path or in the cemetery because of the harm that the roots could potentially cause.
- OS67 To receive an update re trees: -
- 67.1 Those that are obscuring light from street lights
One of those on Wenning Avenue has been cut and can be removed from list of those requiring attention.
- RESOLVED:** Clerk to report further as soon as possible.
- 67.2 Two trees at the bottom of Lairgill, on opposite sides of road junction with B6480, that need pruning
Permission to proceed has been received from NYCC.
- RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask Thomas Brown to quote for this work.
- RESOLVED:** To be precepted for.
- 67.3 PHPF
(See item OS 64).
- RESOLVED:** Thomas Marshall to decide, by reference to the recommendations received, exactly what work needs doing regarding the trees along the fence at PHPF, and to submit an online application to the planning department at Craven DC because of TPO's.
- OS68 To discuss the problems with the banking at The Narrows and agree a way forward
RESOLVED: Clerk to ask NYCC to contact the landowner regarding the condition of the trees and banking.
- OS69 To receive an update re Heritage Trail
The long version of the heritage trail has been walked and surveyed. The latest information was circulated on 21st November 2019.
- RESOLVED:** To precept £5000 for the cost of repairs on the Heritage Trails.
- OS70 To discuss the replacement public noticeboard for Low Bentham and agree a way forward
RESOLVED: Clerk to ask permission for a replacement notice board to be installed from Weststonegate House.
- OS71 To discuss the Pollinator Friendly Planting opportunity and the availability of volunteers for planting
RESOLVED: To go the agenda for the next Open Space meeting.
- OS72 To discuss the condition of the bus shelter and agree a way forward
Plaster needs cutting out, and filling back in.
- RESOLVED:** Clerk to ask Thomas Wills to go ahead and repair.
- OS73 To discuss matters re PHPF



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- 73.1 To discuss the annual inspection report of 07/11/19 and agree a way forward re the findings
HAGS are returning before Christmas to resolve the finger entrapment issues with the MUGA. After that remedial work there should be no fixings missing from the MUGA. HAGS to adjust the cableway speed on their next visit, which will be before Christmas. A further independent inspection report will be completed after the finger entrapment work has been done by HAGS. This should confirm that the head and neck entrapment issue on the toddler multi-play equipment has already been resolved.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to proceed with removing the graffiti from the toddler multi-play (slide and house climbing frame); reinstating surrounding surface levels to remove trip points on MUGA; securing all loose fixing on MUGA if any remain after HAGS have resolved finger entrapment issue; reinstating surrounding surface levels to remove trip points at basket swing; removing the tree debris from surfaces; and replacing the missing fixing on the see saw (see Thomas Marshall for the fixing).
RESOLVED: Instruct Thomas Brown to level with turf; dig some turf up to do so.
- 73.2 To suggest an amount for the annual budget for the play area from 2020/2021
RESOLVED: To recommend that the annual budget for the play area from 2020/2021 is £5000.
- 73.3 To discuss placing an advert in Bentham News regarding care of PHPF
RESOLVED: Councillor Bridgeman to submit an advert/article to Bentham News regarding the care of PHPF, representing the Town Council.
- 73.4 To receive an update re fence on pedestrian access side (see OS50.8.1)
RESOLVED: To accept the quote from Taylor Environmental Groundworks Ltd for a new fence and metal gate at PHPF.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Taylor Environmental Groundworks to proceed.
- 73.5 To receive an update re parts for the fence on far side (see OS50.8.2)
Thomas Marshall has acquired the necessary parts to repair the fence. Invoice to be provided.
- 73.6 To receive an update re request to housing developer re electricity supply for floodlights
As yet no reply has been received from the housing developer.
- OS74 To discuss the grass cutting contract for High Bentham Playing Field and how this interacts with the annual grant application and/or the council budget and agree a way forward
RESOLVED: That the grant awarded to the Playing Field Association will have to include £3000 towards the grass cutting costs, for the next two years to enable the council to honour the grass cutting contact with Andrew Tennant.
- OS75 To discuss matters not already mentioned that may need to be precepted for and agree a way forward
- 75.1 Wording on PHPF sign
RESOLVED: To precept for £1000 for two panels.
- 75.2 Cemetery wall for plaques
RESOLVED: To carry this forward to 2021/2022 and to discuss further on the site visit in the spring.
- 75.3 Bins around main footpath walking areas
RESOLVED: That the council should aim to position bins at Grasmere Drive surgery, Robin Lane, and Springfield. (Will be subject to risk assessment by Craven DC).
RESOLVED: To precept £3500 for the cost of five bins, two to be freestanding and three to be wall mounted.



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RESOLVED: To investigate if the council can source the bins itself.

OS76 To receive and consider minor items / items for the next agenda
None

OS77 Date of next meeting
Monday 30th March 2020, at Bentham Cemetery at 6.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.