



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
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Tuesday 1st April 2025

Minutes of **Monday 31st March at 7:30pm** Bentham Town Council Open Spaces Committee

Present: Cllrs Marshall, Burton and Paige
Town Clerk: C Burrow
Assistant Town Clerk: E Langan
MOP: 1
Parish Caretaker: T Brown

OS36. To receive an update from the Parish Caretaker and decide on further action if necessary.

TB reported that last year he pressure washed the cemetery path however this is looking fine, review again in September.

Goodenber Play Area – sporadically emptying of the bins, ACTION - Council to question North Yorkshire Waste Management regarding bin emptying.

The PHPF has been pressure washed, excess water located near the older children climbing frame, suggested drainage problem, the lack of water supply at the playground limits when TB can complete the pressure washing due to access with vehicles with excess weight from water load, noted that often people living near the park allow TB to kindly use their water supply. Fencing/railings needed remedial work around the old pond area.

Mill Lane – area looking overgrown, the Councillors will look on their annual walk around.

Grass cutting – noted that two areas were missed off the list that were added on last year, ACTION – TB to price these, area around Millers Court and Banks Rise opposite the Fire Station.

OS37. Apologies from members unable to attend:

OS37.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

Cllrs Stannard and Taylor

OS37.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reasons requested.

APPROVED

OS38. Declaration of interest: -

OS38.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members code of conduct or members register of disclosable pecuniary interest.

Cllr Marshall – OS41.1

OS38.2 To approve dispensation request – if dispensation request received.

NONE

OS39. 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

OS40. To approve the Open Spaces Committee meeting minutes of Monday 14th October 2024 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes from Monday 14th October are signed as a true and accurate record.

OS41. Street Lights:

OS41.1 To consider the quotes for the Duke Street lighting (if received)

RESOLVED – to consider at the Full Council meeting on Monday 7th April, Cllr Marshall declared an interest therefore unable to vote.

OS41.2 To receive an update of the street light maintenance contract.

NONE RECEIVED

ACTION – Clerk to follow up.

OS42. Phillip Harvey Playing Fields:

OS42.1 To consider maintenance/remedial works for spring.

ACTION – Clerk to gather quotes on addressing the drainage issue near the older child climbing frame.

OS41.2 To consider the repair of the tarmac in the MUGA.

ACTION – Clerk to contact companies seeking advice on remedial works on the tarmac in the MUGA.

OS41.3 To consider further action on the path into the park.

ACTION – Clerk to request initial quote to look at feasibility.

OS43. To consider the grass cutting areas within the Parish, notably the wildflower areas.

RESOLVED – TB to add on the two additional areas - area around Millers Court and Banks Rise opposite the Fire Station and price accordingly, with recommended number of cuts.

RESOLVED – not to sow the wildflower areas; wildflower sowing is not in the budget for the year 2025/2026.

OS44. Cemetery matters:

OS44.1 To consider the updates cemetery rules and regulations.

AGREED – ensure all cemetery plot purchasers and users; Undertakers, Stone Masons and Grave Diggers have these terms and conditions.

OS44.2 To consider cemetery management procedures with updated paper work.

AGREED – include a retaining of information as part of Data Protection agreement to Notice of Burial form.

OS44.3 To consider the cemetery prices.

RESOLVED – recommended to match the prices of the adjacent village, to be considered at the Full Council meeting – Monday 7th April. (appendixA)

OS44.4 To consider purchasing the strip of the land into the cemetery.

ACTION – Clerk to enquire as to transfer to Bentham Town Council from North Yorkshire.

OS45. To consider remedial work required on the cross at Low Bentham, and refurbishment required on the green at Low Bentham.

ACTION – Cllr Paige to look, Cllr Burton and Clerk to gather quotes.

OS46. To consider bin replacements around the Parish, notably the Butts Lane bin (entrance to cemetery).

RESOLVED – to replace the Butts Lane bin – like for like, 25l.

ACTION – request North Yorkshire to replace bins; near Town Hall, Main Street and Wenning Avenue.

OS47. To consider re-opening of the public toilets on Grasmere car park.

RESOLVED – due to lack of footfall of tourists in Bentham area re-opening is not feasible.

OS48. To consider re-lining the car parks within Bentham.

ACTION – Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council requesting the car park to be re-lined.

OS49. To consider clearing overgrown vegetation at road signs and at junction corners around the Parish.

RESOLVED – TB reported that junctions were clear and to review regularly.

OS50. Items for **next meeting and minor items for information** only.

Annual walk around Parish

Cemetery extension - task and finish group meeting with architect on-site, request Friday 4th April in morning.

- Negotiate with land owner access.

OS51. Date of **next meeting.**

TBC after the first Council meeting of the 2025/2026 year

Meeting closed at 21:28.

C Burrow

**Claire Burrow
Bentham Town Clerk**

Appendix A

Service	Bentham Town Council	Recommended Prices	Ingleton & Skipton Cemeteries	Settle Community Cemetery	Lancaster City Council Cemeteries	Westmorland and Furness Council Cemeteries
Single Grave (5ft)	£265.00	£1100	£1200 (Full grave 30 years)	£530 (plus £75 council fee)	£434-494	£850
Double Grave (7ft)	£365.00	£1590	£2,488 (30 years)	-	£987	-
Reopening (7ft)	£185.00	£250	-	-	-	-
Headstone Fee	£130.00	£195	£234 (incl. first inscription)	£205	£153	£157
Additional Inscription	£39.00	£50.00	-	£75	£51	£57
Ashes Interment	£67.50	£200	£199	£175	£213	£255
Wall Plaque & Space on Memorial Wall	£220.00	£400	-	-	-	-
Space on Memorial Wall	£150.00	£225	-	-	-	-
Interment of Child	-	£350 (claim back)	£381-£1,120 (fee claimed back from Children's	16 and under: free	Free (under 1 year), £261 (1-16 yrs)	£400 (1 month to 17 years) (Claimed back from CFF)

Service	Bentham Town Council	Recommended Prices	Ingleton & Skipton Cemeteries	Settle Community Cemetery	Lancaster City Council Cemeteries	Westmorland and Furness Council Cemeteries
			Funeral Fund)			
Interment of Adult	-		£950 (earthen grave)	-	£882 (over 16 years)	£885
Out-of- Area Fee	-	1 ½ times more	-	Double fees	Double fees	Double fees