

## **BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 October 2007, at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present Cllrs Adams, Burton, Heigh, Hurtley, Marshall, Stannard, Taylor & Wills (Chairman). Also, the Clerk Mrs Burton, 2 parishioners & a reporter from the Craven Herald

Prior to the meeting the Council was addressed by Mr Jonathan Foster, Group Manager for Craven District Fire & Rescue Service, who explained that the retained duty system was under review. All the stations in Craven have retained staff, i.e. people who have other jobs in the community, usually self-employed or shift workers, but some with understanding management. However, it is becoming more difficult to recruit, and all stations have some deficiencies meaning that stations are not covered all the time which increases the time taken to respond. Consultation with the public will finish at the end of October and be followed by focus groups to look at the problem. Answering questions from the Councillors, Mr Foster said that rapid response community safety vehicles manned by 2 people were being considered, but that H&S aspects needed to be carefully looked at and the Unions to be consulted before any kind of decision could be made. He agreed that advertising in Bentham News for new fire fighters would be a good idea.

1. Apologies Cllrs Barnes & Faichney, DCllr Camacho.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Heigh declared an interest in items 7.1.3 & 7.1.4, planning applications 08/2007/7921 and 08/2007/7923. These were noted in the book.

3. Public Participation - none

4. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 3 September & 17 September 2007 were proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Burton and agreed.

5. Police Report – none present

6. CCllr & DCllrs Reports – none present

7. Planning

7.1. Applications

7.1.1. 08/2007/7812 Change of use of garage to workshop and barn to retail area / studio at West Stonegate House, 13 Main Street, Low Bentham.

**RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval**

7.1.2. 08/2007/7862 Detached dwelling (reserved matters relating to previous application 08/2005/5265) at plot adjacent to Fern Cottage, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham

**RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval**

7.1.3. 08/2007/7921 Single storey side extension at 1 Millholme Drive, High Bentham  
Cllr Heigh declared an interest

**RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval**

7.1.4. 08/2007/7923 Illuminated cross on front of Bentham Methodist Church, Station Road, High Bentham.  
Cllr Heigh declared an interest

**RESOLVED: That this application be recommended for approval**

7.2. Decisions

7.2.1. 08/2007/7651 Retention & Substantial amendment of extension to rear (resubmission of withdrawn application 08/2006/6884) – GRANTED

7.2.2. 08/2007/7652 Retention & Substantial amendment of extension to rear (resubmission of withdrawn application 08/2006/6884) (listed consent) – GRANTED

7.2.3. 08/2007/7656 Roof structure to cover existing livestock pens & loading docks at Bentham Auction Mart, Bentham - GRANTED

7.2.4. 08/2007/7682 Replacement of existing conservatory at Beck House, Branstone Beck, Bentham - GRANTED

7.3. Correspondence

None received

A query was raised about the work continuing on the land opposite Tennant House at Linghaw. The Clerk confirmed that the planning department had been contacted and the Enforcement Department would be looking into it. She also agreed to contact the Environment Agency.

**RESOLVED: That the Environment Agency be contacted about the ongoing works on land at Linghaw.**

## 8. Highway Matters

## 8.1. Reply from NYCC re August queries

Dumb Toms Lane is being discussed with Entrepose and should be repaired shortly. No comment regarding the pothole at Toll Bar Nursery was received

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways be reminded about the pothole at Toll Bar Nursery**

## 8.2. Reply from NYCC re September queries

The potholes on Lakeber Drive are being followed up. The KEEP CLEAR markings at the end of King Street have been timetabled (actually done 2/10/07). The pothole on Butts Lane which is the responsibility of NYCC Highways will be filled shortly. The sign for the low bridge at Low Bentham on West Stonegate House will be replaced this month. The road at Eskew Beck will be patched shortly.

## 8.3. Letter from Craven DC regarding changes to the Street Naming &amp; Numbering Process

Street naming and numbering has been taken back in house by Craven District Council.

## 8.4. Meeting with David Cairns re Doctors Hill

Cllrs had met with Mr Cairns regarding the problems in Low Bentham and various fixes had been discussed, including double yellow lines, a pavement and a chicane.

A reply from NYCC had ruled out a chicane as this would require lights and bollards, not felt to be in keeping with the village. Their preferred option is to remove the middle line where the road is less than 5m wide and adding a white edge of road line to keep vehicles away from the property currently being damaged. These white lines will be replaced by double yellow lines when the relevant road traffic order is acquired. Council agreed that removing the centre line is a good idea, but felt that a pavement would be better than yellow lines as, like Mount Pleasant, it would aid in road safety. NYCC should be asked if this was possible, otherwise the yellow lines should be accepted. A question was also raised regarding the improved signage that has been promised and when it will be available

**RESOLVED: That NYCC Highways should be asked about the possibility of a pavement on Doctors Hill, otherwise the double yellow lines should be accepted.**

**RESOLVED: That provision of new signage be chased**

## 8.5. Notes re vehicle strikes at Barclays

A possible fix involving changes to the front of Barclays have been proposed by Atisreal, Barclays' agents. The Council were concerned that these would not solve the problem and agreed to write to the agents requesting a site meeting with them and NYCC Highways

**RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged (if possible) with Barclays agents and NYCC Highways**

## 8.6. Proposed stopping up of area between 16 &amp; 18 Hillside Road, Low Bentham

Council were concerned that this stopping up would make turning round on Hillside Road impossible for both residents and the emergency services and asked that a strong letter of objection be written pointing out that reversing out onto Doctors Hill is not an option.

**RESOLVED: That a strong letter of objection to this proposed stopping up be sent to the secretary of state.**

## 9. Low Bentham Playing Field

## 9.1. Tree Surgeon tenders

Three tenders had been received to reduce the size of the Lime Trees on Low Bentham Playing Field and grind out the central stump in between them. The quotes were all comparable i.e. reduce the trees by a third and leave the chippings on site for disposal by the Council, and all were subject to VAT

Quote 1: £1280.00 & £75.00

Quote 2: £675.00 & £100.00

Quote 3 : £783.00 & £120.00

Following discussion it was agreed that quote 2 should be accepted and that the contractor should be asked to look at removing some of the trees from the edge of Ellergill Beck at the same time.

**RESOLVED: That Westmorland Tree Care be appointed to reduce the Lime trees and grind out the stump.**

**RESOLVED: That a further quote be obtained for removing some of the trees at the side of Ellergill Beck at the same time**

## 9.2. Plan of action for refurbishment

The equipment must be removed as soon as possible and the Valve casings need to be checked by United Utilities

**RESOLVED: That available Cllrs meet on Saturday 6 October at 9am to remove the equipment.**

**RESOLVED: That United Utilities be contacted regarding the valves on the playing field.**

## 10. Town Hall Matters

## 10.1. Meeting of Maintenance / Marketing Committees

**RESOLVED: That the meeting be held on Monday 15 October at 7.30pm**

## 10.2. Council representative for event on 3 November.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Stannard will attend.**

## 11. Accounts for payment

Cllr Adams asked about the future of the Youth Café and whether it would continue to run. It was agreed to find this out before paying the second half of the precept grant.

**RESOLVED:** That the future of the Youth Café should be ascertained before the second part of the precept grant is paid

The accounts for the current month were proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Burton and agreed.

Mopps	562.50	Yorkshire Water	17.07
Clearglass Cleaning	90.00	Howsons	352.50
Mazars	646.25	Hygiene Cleaning Supplies	56.58
Cannon	14.21	HMRC	170.48
Andrews	7.40	EOn Energy	112.04
L Tyrer & Son	137.17	Norwich Union	230.93
Grasscare	475.05	Pen-Y-Ghent Cafe	20.00
Craven DC	90.00	The Phone CoOp	3.16
Pica Design & Print	3151.35	Playing Fields Association	500.00
C Louth	85.06	Victoria Institute	300.00
R Green	442.35	Goodenber Play Area	250.00
J Burton	669.21		
C Newsam	78.00		

## 11.1. Comparison with budget – 6 months

The Clerk presented figures showing performance against budget for the first half of the year, concluding that things were broadly in line, and all variances could be explained.

## 12. Correspondence

## 12.1. Comment on road safety in Bentham

A letter was received highlighting the campaign for better crossing facilities which that has been started in Bentham News. It was pointed out that the parked cars on Main Street do act to slow traffic down. The Clerk had contacted NYCC Highways who had confirmed that the rules for the siting of a crossing are very complex and that it may be difficult on Main Street due to the number of junctions, corners and gradient. They had also confirmed that it would cost at least 8 parking spaces. The Council agreed to pursue the issue looking at where a crossing could be sited and whether this would be practicable, how much it would cost and who would pay.

**RESOLVED:** That NYCC Highways be asked for a site meeting to consider a crossing on Bentham Main Street.

## 12.2. Information regarding the altar at St Boniface - received

## 12.3. Copy of letter to Bentham News regarding school - received

## 12.4. Request for Revenue funding, Vitalise

Vitalise provide subsidised holidays for the disabled and their carers and requested funding. Council agreed that a letter should be sent explaining the precept grant application process.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter explaining the precept grant application process be sent to Vitalise

## 13. Reports from other bodies

Cllr Heigh had attended a Playing Fields meeting. A recent survey showed that 74% of people were unhappy with the sports facilities in Bentham and she felt that some should volunteer to help out and thereby improve what was available. The Craven Development Officer has become involved to assist. The possible development behind Goodenber is a worry as this could increase flooding of the playing field.

Cllr Burton said that Bentham Development Trust had finally signed the Station lease, including the platform canopy. Detailed plans were being developed and Community Transport hope to be in by Spring 2008. £80K have been raised for the works and £5K of this has been spent to date. Active Bentham are now installed in an office at the Victoria Institute and are looking for funding to continue their work.

Cllr Adams mentioned that the Area Forum had been a good meeting. The problems with the H&S aspects of the mobile speed matrix have been overcome, but the deployment to Bentham needed to be repeated as the data collected had been corrupt. Cllr Ireton is pushing for a plastics recycling site in Bentham.

Cllr Marshall commented that the BEST Energy day had been most informative

Cllr Wills had attended 2 LASRUG meetings and a Bonfire committee meeting. He informed the meeting that the latter was in doubt as the Auction Mart is planning to hold a Gimmer Lamb Sale on the same day – the 2 events being mutually exclusive. A further meeting will be held this week.

## 14. Items For Information

## 14.1. Site Allocation Questionnaire – re Legion Hut

## 14.2. Boiler Inspection, Bentham Town Hall

## 14.3. The Hub – newsletter for Voluntary Organisations, Aug-Oct 2007.

## 14.4. Growing Regions, growing Europe – EU Regional Policy 2007.

## 15. AOB - minor items only

The Clerk confirmed that the LDF paperwork had arrived but due to the volume she had been unable to read it all. A response is required by 19 November. It was agreed that some Cllrs should attend the Craven Planning Policy Office workshops / discussion day on the subject in the Town Hall on 18 October. A meeting to discuss the documents will be arranged shortly.

Cllr Adams commented that the Traders would like waste paper recycling facilities and this was being considered by Craven DC.

Cllr Stannard mentioned that Parkfoot had been closed for repair that day, and asked if the Council had received prior notification. The clerk confirmed that this was not the case and agreed to find out why.

Cllr Taylor said that there was a street light on Low Bentham Road which was permanently lit, and agreed to supply the number to the clerk for reporting to NYCC Street Lighting department.

Cllr Wills told the meeting that the WI Gardeners Question Time recording had gone extremely well, and the 2 programmes will be broadcast on 14 October and 9 December.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.10pm