



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th November 2019, at 7.30 pm in the Lower Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Marshall (Chair) Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Handford, Hill, Stannard, Swales & Wills. County Councillor Ireton. District Councillors Brockbank and Handley. The Clerk Christine Downey. Eight members of the public.

- 124 To Receive Apologies from members unable to attend
Cllr Taylor.
- 125 To Receive and Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to any items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations
None
- 126 To Receive Comment & Concerns
Charlotte Mouncey of the Goodeneber Play Area Association reported on maintenance problems and the difficulties in recruiting committee members. The Play Area Association requested the Councils assistance in finding a way forward. Please see full report at end of these minutes.
Annie Neligan wished to comment on item 138 on the agenda re Climate Emergency. She welcomed interest from the people of Bentham in this matter and confirmed that BEST is willing and eager to offer to support the Council in any way they can. Interest has increased since Craven council passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency. BEST would be willing to support Council discussions and are sure that people would get involved if a working group was set up. In view of the fact that Cllr Hill is actively researching this matter on the council's behalf BEST are not planning to do anything separately at the moment.
- 127 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meetings on 7th October 2019
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of 7th October 2019 are agreed and be signed.
- 128 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only) – see end of these minutes
- 129 To receive the Police Report & allow members to ask questions for information - see end of these minutes for the police report
- 130 To receive Reports from Cllrs & DCllrs (for information only)
Cllr Ireton reported that NYCC are awaiting details of the result of the court challenge on the disability transport matter, which is expected shortly. NYCC brought in the Department of Transport and the Department of Education on this issue.
Last year the top half of the footpaths by the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham were done, and Cllr Ireton is waiting for the bottom half to be done now. They have been marked up. It should make it easier for disabled users to access the facility.
DCllr Handley reported that there are still members grants available. He has received no applications so far from Bentham. Grants of £1000 are still available.



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DCllr Brockbank reported that there will be a special council meeting a week on Tuesday to approve the local plan. That some problems have been resolved and that it should, therefore, be approved.

DCllr Brockbank was asked at a previous council meeting to raise the question of why litter bins had been removed in Bentham with Craven DC. She reported back that Craven have advised her that two post mounted litter bins had been removed, one on Goodeneber Road, and one on Low Bentham Road; that they had been removed because of wear and tear; that they had hardly been used when in situ; and that Craven DC have received no reports of littering in those areas following their removal. These facts were strongly disputed by Bentham Town Council, who believe that the town is very poorly served in regard to litter bins in comparison with other towns in Craven; that more than two litter bins may have gone over the last 12 months; that in at least two locations the bins have been removed but the post has been left behind and no explanation of why provided; that an officer from Craven DC has told Cllr Handford that the removal of bins is part of Craven DC's current policy; and that there have been numerous complaints about the removal of litter bins and littering.

RESOLVED: DCllr Brockbank will look into getting the bins reinstated. She asked to be supplied with any evidence or reports on the problem from residents.

RESOLVED: This item to be on the agenda for the December council meeting.

131

Planning

131.1 To Consider and Comment upon New Applications

131.1.1 2019/20966/HH Loft Conversion including new rooflights and installation of PV Panels at Garland, Doctors Hill, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7DZ.

RESOLVED: That the council has no comments.

131.1.2 2019/20993/FUL installation of septic tank and retention of boundary fence at Scaleber farm, Back Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 8NZ.

RESOLVED: To comment that that the Council has been made aware of the possibility of an issue with the distance between the water course and/or bore hole and the septic tank. The Council trusts that the planning department will ensure that all the relevant legislation and regulations regarding the siting of the septic tank will be fully complied with. The Council has been made aware that there may have been a condition imposed that required a boundary fence to be replaced with dry stone walling, and that there is now be a dispute in relation to this condition not being met. The condition seems to have been applied due to the close proximity of the boundary to a listed building. The Council trust that that the planning department will clarify the position regarding the condition requiring the dry-stone wall to be reinstated, and the dispute concerning this matter.

131.1.3 2019/21003/FUL Change of use from retail area to additional residential area and external alterations at Black Bicycle, 8 Station Road, High Bentham.

RESOLVED: That the council has no comments.

131.1.4 2019/21007/FUL to make a new agricultural entrance into a field at Land to South, Gill Head Farm, Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster.

RESOLVED: That the council notes that this is right on the brow of a hill; there could be impaired visibility for vehicles coming into Bentham and also for those turning right out of the field; trusts that the relevant highways regulations regarding visibility have been complied with.

131.1.5 2019/21070/LBC Retention of boundary fence to Scaleber Farm from previous application 2018/19124/FUL at Scaleber Farm, Back Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 8NZ



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RESOLVED: To comment that the Council has been made aware that there may have been a condition imposed that required a boundary fence to be replaced with dry stone walling, and that there is now be a dispute in relation to this condition not being met. The condition seems to have been applied due to the close proximity of the boundary to a listed building. The Council trusts that that the planning department will clarify the position regarding the condition requiring the dry-stone wall to be reinstated, and the dispute concerning this matter.

- 131.2 To consider and comment upon BT consultation on intended public payphone removal. This relates to two public payphones. A) Opposite Taylors Garage, Mewith, Bentham (no of calls in the last 12 months = 0), and B) Adjacent to Victoria Institute, Main Street, Low Bentham (no of calls in last 12 months = 1). It was thought that a duty of care probably exists and that BT will need to justify the removal of a phone box.

RESOLVED: That the council will object to the removal of both phone boxes.

RESOLVED: That the grounds for retaining them will be argued as being A) Crucial to have alternative to mobiles and/or landlines in extreme emergency situations, pointing out that Storm Desmond wiped out all the mobile and landline coverage in Lancaster, which resulted in queues around the block for pay phones; B) The site of both pay phones is detailed in the Bentham Town Council Community Emergency Plan; C) The pay phone adjacent to the Victoria Institute, Low Bentham, is three strides from the defibrillator, and is crucial to enable members of the public to obtain the code number to open the defibrillator case door in an emergency.

- 131.3 To Receive Planning Decisions – None
131.4 To receive Correspondence on Planning Issues – None

132 Highway Matters

- 132.1 To receive the minutes of a meeting with David Bell (Maintenance Manager) and David Jones (Project Manager) of NYCC Highways department on 29/10/19. Cllr Marshall reported that it had been a very informative and productive meeting, and thanked Cllr Bridgeman for chairing. The position is currently that the council need to allow the Highways a little time to address the issues raised.
- 132.2 To discuss email of 08/10/19 from Trevor Oliver regarding condition of the road surface on Long Lane, just before entrance to Robert Hall, Low Bentham. This matter was taken onboard by the Highways Officers at the meeting on 29/10/19. A response is awaited.
- 132.3 To consider and comment upon Consultation Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (waiting restrictions) Burton Road/Cheapside, Low Bentham. It was reported that the proposed traffic regulation order provides what was requested two years ago.
RESOLVED: The Council is happy to let it go forward.
- 132.4 To consider and note highway matters for information
There was concern that the street light times have not been altered after the clocks went back. It was reported that they should adjust themselves to the correct time in due course.
Toll Bar pot hole: Has been half filled. This is a temporary repair and further work should be completed in due course.
A complaint has been made by a resident regarding the road between Egerton Cross and Fourlands. The edge of the road is not at all clear and is very difficult to see in the dark. There are no white lines either in the centre of the road, or at the edge of the road.
RESOLVED: Clerk to report to highways.



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133 To note the draft minutes of Finance Committee on 14th October 2019
NOTED

134 To discuss a request for a contribution to the cost of scaffolding from Rachel Cowgill
RESOLVED: Provided that the Council can be provided with a separate invoice, which will enable the VAT to be reclaimed, the Council will pay half of the bill, i.e. £600 plus vat.

135 To agree the accounts for Payment

Salaries	October	2572.58
Andrew Tennant	Grass cutting October – precept grant	240.00
Kingsdale Projects	Grass cutting October	1725.00
Viking	Stationery and ink	156.30
YLCA	Finance training for clerk 14/11/19	115.00
Riverside	Culvert top, device to secure bin at PHPF, galvanising both	133.20
NALC	Reference book for clerk	19.99
Waterplus	Waste water bill	300.65
Howsons	03/10/19 – 6 monthly service of fire alarm and emergency lights, Replaced manual call point in town clerk’s office.	30.00
Clearglass Cleaning	Town Hall windows.	100.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Poppy Wreath	20.00
Craven DC	Refuse collection	53.42
Aviva	Insurance	413.66
1 & 1 Ionis	Internet	48.00
SSE Southern Electric	Electricity	24.26
NEST	Pension contribution	110.72

RESOLVED: Approved

RESOLVED: Cllrs Adams and Stannard to authorise.

136 To discuss the publication of agenda and notices of meetings
RESOLVED: All agenda’s to be published, including those for committee meetings.

137 To consider suggestions for special projects for 2020/2021 with a view to obtaining cost estimates for the precept meeting
RESOLVED: To arrange a fact-finding session with the Goodenber Play Area Association prior to including this item on a full council meeting agenda for discussion. Cllrs Adam and Bridgeman to attend and report back to council in due course. Cllr Adams to arrange with Charlotte Mouncey.
RESOLVED: Suggestions for special projects to be forwarded to the clerk for circulation and consideration.

138 To consider matters relating to Climate Emergency
 138.1 To receive a report from Cllr Hill on possible ways forward
 Cllr Hill was unable to attend a recent meeting of BEST, but they have supplied him with a full response to his report to the council on climate emergency which has been circulated to all councillors. BEST is keen to determine how it can best support the council, and have produced a list of possible actions for the council to consider.



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It was reported that many of the suggestions made in the response from BEST to Cllr Hill's report have already been implemented, or are in hand. Specifically: -

Graham Pritchard completed an energy audit of the council buildings several years ago, and lots of his suggestions were implemented. There could be a benefit in doing an audit again. It may be possible for the council to switch suppliers but the cost implications are a consideration. This can be looked into.

The street lights operate on a timer system.

Most of the street lights have already been changed to LED and the council is pursuing a programme of replacing those that have not with LED. This is an ongoing project.

The overall feeling is that lots of items on the list produced by BEST have been completed. There is scope for more to be done, but the Council is definitely not starting from scratch in this area.

Tree planting opportunities are difficult to pursue in view of the fact that the council does not own any land, but can be on the agenda for discussion at the December meeting anyway.

If work is needed on the town hall roof at a future date, the opportunity would be taken to consider solar panels or PV panels.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hill to liaise with BEST and to report further to the council in due course.

138.2 To discuss the request from Steve Shaw of Power for People organisation for Bentham Town Council to pass a motion in support of the Local Electricity Bill

RESOLVED: The Council agree to sign the resolution in support of the Local Electricity Bill.

139 To discuss letter from Keith Hartley re civic honours and agree a way forward

RESOLVED: Clerk to research whether nominations for civic honours are within the town council's remit; and whether individuals may make nominations themselves; to report back at next council meeting.

140 To consider items of Correspondence – Email from Mat MacElery-Young from Enable Disability and A White Knight IT C.I.C re a loan of land. Circulated 24/10/19.

It was reported that the council do not own any land and cannot therefore loan any. Cllr Marshall may be able to offer the use of some loan, in a personal capacity.

RESOLVED: Clerk to forward Cllr Marshall's email address to Mat MacElery-Young.

141 To receive reports from Councillors who represent the council on other bodies (for information only)

Playing Fields Association: Raised £800 recently at a race night at the Black Bull.

Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community: Cllr Stannard attended his first meeting recently and will report in due course.

Alms Houses: There is a vacancy coming up. If there are any Bentham residents who would benefit from a place in the alms house see the advert in the Bentham News or contact Ian Wood for an application form.

142 Items for the next meeting and minor items only

Christmas Lights: Problems due to lack of telehandler and insured operative.

RESOLVED: To go agenda for discussion at December council meeting.

Housing 21: A question was raised regarding whether local residents can have any input regarding the facilities that will be provided on site. It was reported that this would have had to have been submitted under the planning process.



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A resident on Robins Lane passed on her compliments regarding the standard of the grass cutting this year to Cllr Marshall. In her opinion it is the best that it has been for a number of years.

The Council would like to congratulate the Bonfire committee on producing an exceptionally good show this year.

Remembrance Day service: Cllrs Stannard and Faraday to attend and lay the wreath on behalf of the council.

143 Date of next meeting: 2nd December 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40.

Goodenber Play Area Association Report

The Play Area committee is facing escalating maintenance issues and recruitment challenges at the Goodenber Road Play Area in High Bentham.

We believe there would be benefits in working with the town council more closely. We understand the town council is managing the new Low Bentham Play Area and it seems to us that there might be cost benefits in managing some of the services for the play areas such as Rospa Inspections, insurance, maintenance etc if they were arranged at the same time. This would take some of the pressure off the committee who could concentrate on the events and fund raising.

Since managing the £136K full refurbishment of the Play Area in 2010 the same core committee are still running the Play Area.

A typical year includes about four committee meetings and an AGM, organising two coffee mornings at the town hall, putting on a free Easter Egg Games for High Bentham's children and families, attending other community events such as carnival and the school fair to do face painting or supply the bouncy castle, these events typically raise about £600 a year. We also respond to problems at the park reported through Facebook. Manage the facebook page. Arrange a spring and autumn working maintenance party, weave the willow tunnel feature. Litter pick, check on the grass cutting, maintain the hedges and trees around the boundary. Replace damaged equipment and deal with vandalism. We arrange insurance. Apply for the precept grant, report to the Charities Commission. Check the accounts. Arrange RoSPAs site inspection, review their report and deal with issues arising. We sometimes need to fulfil grant requirements such as issuing end of grant reports. We research other potential sources of funding and apply as appropriate. Also we consistently look to recruit new committee members.

Although we have managed to do most of these activities this year it has become apparent that even arranging meetings is becoming difficult. We have gained a few new members for the committee, but for our last AGM we had only two of us attend, so it becomes impossible to move any of the responsibility.

We feel it is time to bring this to the attention of the council as we cannot continue as we are. The Play Area has three pieces of equipment which need replacing now and this is a significant project probably requiring a minimum of £25K and more time than the current committee has, the Play Area Association has saved about £10K in the account so hope we can match fund should any funding become available.



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In addition the Home Group Ltd who own the bungalows on Wesley Close are putting us under pressure to deal with the beech hedge and this now requires a contractor at significant cost.

And we can no longer use the bouncy castle for events unless we have an annual inspection and certificate which will cost in the region of £150 annually.

The council can help by considering if any cost benefits can be gained by buying services for High and Low Bentham Play Areas at the same time. They could help by supporting the Goodenber Road Play Area committee by sharing what they are finding whilst doing the same jobs for Low Bentham Play Area that we are having to do for High Bentham Play Area. They could help by encouraging other individuals to get involved in the Goodenber Road Play Area Committee.

Personally I have enjoyed supporting the Play Area and I find that as my own children have grown out of the park it is hard to maintain my enthusiasm and there are other things in Bentham I'd like to put my energy into. Having been the project manager for the 2010 refurbishment and having been the Chairman for the past eight years I think it's time someone else took responsibility for the new improvements at Goodenber Road Play Area.

Thanks to the Council members for listening.

Charlotte Mouncey

4th November 2019

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, Nov 2019

1. Planning Decisions Received Since Last Meeting

- 1.1. GRANTED - none
- 1.2. REFUSED - none

2. Planning Correspondence

- 2.1. None

3. Information Regarding Items Discussed at last Council Meeting (if not on agenda) - none

4. Items for Information – see information folder - none

5. Items circulated by email

- 5.1. Community First Yorkshire
 - 5.1.1. Rural News Oct 2019
 - 5.1.2. Community First Yorkshire News 11/10; 18/10; 25/10; 01/11
 - 5.1.3. Training – Successions Planning Wed 6th Nov 10am to 1 pm
 - 5.1.4. Your views on leadership support for North Yorkshires Voluntary and Community sector
- 5.2. Craven District Council
 - 5.2.1. Notice of the publication of the inspector's report (re draft Craven local plan) 14/10
 - 5.2.2. Craven DC News October 2019 (24/10)
 - 5.2.3. Craven District Council budget consultation 24/10



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- 5.2.4. Celebrate an inspirational local person or group with a Craven Community Champion Award
- 5.3. NALC
 - 5.3.1. Larger Councils Committee voting begins
 - 5.3.2. Chief executives bulletin 11/10; 18/10; 25/10
 - 5.3.3. Woodland Trust – Tree Charter Day and Free Trees
- 5.4. NYCC - TBA
- 5.5. North Yorkshire Community Messaging – North Yorkshire Police
 - 5.5.1. Friends against scams – free call blockers 15/10
- 5.6. Rural Services Network
 - 5.6.1. The Rural Bulletin 08/10; 15/10; 22/10; 29/10
 - 5.6.2. Rural Funding Digest - TBA
- 5.7. YLCA
 - 5.7.1. Craven Branch meeting date 25/01/2020 – circulated 12/10/19
 - 5.7.2. Chairman training events in Oct and Dec
 - 5.7.3. Delegation scheme details
 - 5.7.4. Local Councils & VE 75 – 8th May 2020
 - 5.7.5. White Rose update Oct 2019
 - 5.7.6. The North Yorkshire Strategy for Tackling Loneliness – A Consultation 24/10/19
- 5.8. Tim Townsend – details of flood training event in Morecambe on 12/11/19.
- 5.9. Email from Trevor Oliver of 08/10/19 re condition of road surface at Long Lane, just before entrance to Robert Hall, Low Bentham.
- 5.10. Simon Bowens, Friends of The Earth - 20 Climate actions for town and parish councils
- 5.11. Email from Linda Brockbank re dog fouling and dog warden.
- 5.12. Parish Liaison 25th September key information.
- 5.13. Urban Regeneration and Neighbourhood Renewal Seminar Training Days
- 5.14. Email from PC Helen Stringer re parking on pavement 23/10/19.

6. Progress on Outstanding Matters

- 6.1. Invitation for trustees and management committee of Community Youth Café to attend a meeting with council representatives to discuss the condition of the building and the Youth Café's future plans sent to chairman 1st November 2019.

POLICE REPORT

Hello

Please find your monthly police report for Bentham Town Council meeting November

We have had 43 incidents reported between 30.09.19 – 27.10.19

Reports include - General Admin from other Police force enquiries, Highway disruption –Abandon calls - children playing with phone, Bank phone Fraud & electric phone fraud, Concern for Safety found safe & well ongoing support mental health team, Concern for welfare – Ambulance dealing, Suspect vehicles on Mewith Lane - checked all in order, Safeguarding – Social Services, Absconder, Op orders issued

5 incidents relating to Young person's homes & school - joint partnership working with home & police



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- 01.10.19 – Concern for welfare – Working with other agencies
- 02.10.19 – ASB Nuisance Youths - Millers court – Youths dealt with
- 02.10.19 – Road Related offence – manner of driving – area searched no gain
- 03.10.19/14.10.19 & 21.10.19 – Concern for welfare – joint partnership working
- 07.10.19 – Criminal Damage – Baughs Meadow
- 09.10.19 – Suspect male around Lairgill Row
- 12.10.19 – Suspect vans B6480 – area searched no gain
- 14.10.19 & 21.10.19 – Crime sexual
- 15.10.19 – Harassment
- 17.10.19 – Criminal damage to vehicle Goodenber Road
- 19.10.19 – Criminal damage
- 22.10.19 - Theft from Vehicle – Catalytic Convertor stolen from vehicle parked in carpark Low Bentham
- 23.10.19 – Suspect incident – Robin Lane
- 23.10.19 – Criminal Damage Wenning Avenue
- 26.10.19 – ASB Nuisance vehicle – Tweed Street
- 27.10.19 – 2 reports of Concern for Welfare – checked all in order

Other Areas

6 arrests made re Quad thefts around Langcliffe / Long Preston & Hellifield - under investigation

26.10.19 – 2 House Burglaries Burton In Lonsdale

Crime Prevention - Protect your home, leave a light on

The darker nights are well and truly here, and this can catch residents out when it comes to home security. Too often, householders are making their properties an attractive proposition for burglars and thieves by leaving them in darkness.

However, a few simple steps are all it takes to counter this risk – and this is where the police can help.”

- a well-lit home gives the impression that someone is in
- use timer switchers to turn lights on while you are out
- don't leave curtains closed during the day, only in the evening and overnight
- lock all windows and doors
- keep valuable items out of view
- keep gates well secured

Light up, Lock up

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101 or 999 if urgent.

Working to keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live, visit & work please visit www.northyorkshire.police.uk

Useful site re Crime and policing in England which allows you to search re incident recorded in your area www.police.uk

You can also report safety issues under speed concerns on - www.roadwise.co.uk.

If anyone would like to sign up to Craven Community messaging then please visit - www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.org

Contact Information:

1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress



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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.pnn.police.uk

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace
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101
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