

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday
1st November 2021, at 7.30 pm – in the Ballroom, Bentham
Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Swales (Chair), Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, and Marshall. CCllr Ireton. DCllrs Brockbank and Handley. The Clerk Christine Downey. And six members of the public.

- 186 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
 186.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Faraday, Handford, Hill, Stannard, Taylor and Wills.
 186.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 187 Declaration of interests: -
 187.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.
 187.2 To approve dispensation requests.
None.
- 188 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 consideration.
 (NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purposes of clarification).

SHIRLEY BROWN: -

Shirley explained that Bentham Moving Forward are planning to hold a “Welcome to Bentham” event on Saturday 15th January 2022. The purpose is to promote awareness of all the local organisations that are active in Bentham and to encourage more volunteers to get involved. In particular, the aim is to reach out to all the newcomers who are moving to the town and may not yet be aware of all the local groups.

The event will be a coffee morning, from 10 am to noon, with free admission. There will be stalls at which local groups organisations can explain and promote their work in the community. Approximately 40 organisations have been invited to attend. The invitation reads:

We know how much positive energy there is in Bentham, particularly in the shape of the dozens of groups that provide a chance to participate in activities, meet other people, learn something new and have fun. Bentham Moving Forward wants to capture this energy after recent tough times by holding an exciting, new event to showcase Bentham’s vibrant range of organisations and clubs to the town’s residents.

The event will be held on Saturday 15th January, 2022, 10 – 12 in Bentham Town Hall. It will involve ‘stands’ for the different groups accompanied by refreshments, music and children’s entertainments. There will be no charge for stands and it will be free to attend.

We would like you to come along and present what you do, at the Town Council, to everyone in Bentham and especially those who have moved here more recently. It’s a chance to show people what Bentham is all about, to seek new members and recruit new volunteers.

If you’d like to be involved, all that is needed is at least one person to turn up to chat to people. You could also bring some information, photographs or anything

that you think will interest people in your group – even give them a chance to have a go at whatever you do, space permitting. We can provide you with a table if you let us know.

To take part, please email benthammovingforward@gmail.com. If possible, include one or two photos to show what you do and we will incorporate them into our marketing campaign for the event on Facebook.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Shirley asked for the council to be represented at the event (to be discussed at item 201) and to consider granting a preferential rate for this room booking.

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC:

Another member of the public raised two concerns: -

The first was about reports that Stagecoach intends to cease the bus service from Bentham to Lancaster. This will create major problems for local residents who have hospital appointments at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

And the second was regarding access to the Housing21 site on Robin Lane from Lowcroft. It was reported that local residents requested a passage from Highcroft, through the site, when the development was built, but that this request was turned down on security grounds. However, it appears that access from Lowcroft has now been arranged for the Housing21 Open Days to allow heavy vehicles and pedestrians through, and questions arise as to why permission for access that was denied to local residents (on Highcroft) has been granted to the developer (on Lowcroft), and who granted the permission.

Regarding the bus service to Lancaster. Cllr Ireton confirmed that the bus service to Lancaster will cease in the New Year. This is of grave concern because Lancaster is a major service centre for hospitals and other services, but it must be noted that the bus operators are private companies and therefore the council has little control over their operations. He reported that NYCC are working with LCC to see what can be done to fill the void and that he will be pushing to retain some service, as this is a very important issue; people work in Lancaster and attend college. NYCC and LCC will look at various options.

There is a public meeting on 22nd November 2021, in the Town Hall at 7.30 pm, to discuss the Bentham Masterplan. It was recommended that local residents attend and express their views on the future of the town, including transport options.

Regarding the access from Highcroft to the Housing21 site, it was reported that the access may only be temporary, and that the decision-making power on this matter lies with Housing21 and the planning department at Craven District Council. DCllr Brockbank agreed to discuss this matter with the members of the public at the end of the meeting.

- 189 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 18th October 2021. (Paper 2021/189)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 18th October 2021 are agreed and be signed.
- 190 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
Received.
- 191 To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
Apologise received from Craig Lyons.
- 192 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2021/190)
Received.

193

To receive reports from CCllrs and DCllrs (for information only) – if any.

DCllr Handley reported that Craven District Council have been successful in their grant application to OFFICE ZERO EMMSION VICHICLES. The fast-charging points will be installed at Grasmere Drive Bentham, Community Centre Ingleton, also North Street Gargrave, Mulligans Field Car Park, Crosshills. These installations will hopefully be completed Mar 2022.

Also, the planning application for 11 homes including 2 affordable homes at Richard Thorntons School Burton in Lonsdale was granted last Monday at the planning committee meeting, but there were concerns raised regards to access and Water amenities.

No report from DCllr Brockbank but she will take details about the concerns with the Housing21 site from members of the public at the end of the meeting, and follow this up.

CCllr Ireton reported: Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced last week that councils are to receive grant funding increases worth £4.8bn over the next three years, amounting to £1.6bn per annum. This announcement provides welcome relief to the financial pressures faced by councils like ours who provide adult social care and have pulled out all the stops to support people during Covid-19. It also gives us an opportunity to plan ahead with our spending. The challenges ahead are many and this increase in spending does not mean we are out of the woods as the pressures we face, particularly in adult social care and in children's special educational needs, continue to increase at a rate greater than everybody anticipated.

In addition to this there is The Household Support Grant – the Government has allocated another £3.54m to the County Council for the period to 31 March 2022 to provide support to households who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs this winter. The £3.54m allocation is being made available to NYCC by DWP to cover the period October 2021 to March 2022. Funding will be provided through supermarket vouchers and food banks.

Cllr Marshall asked if the charging points in Grasmere Drive will be fast charging. DCllr Handley confirmed that they will, and that he will find out at what rate, he will also find out if installation of charging points is going to be offered to local businesses. A question was raised regarding whether a map of their positions will be provided and it was reported that locations of charging points are available on an app.

A question was raised regarding the policing of the charging points, and how this would be done, but this was not known.

194

194.1

To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications: -
2021/23272/FUL. Erection of a single storey workshop/shed. 25 Wenning Avenue, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LR.
Application temporarily withdrawn.

195

195.1

Highway Matters: -
To consider and note Highway matters for information – if any. (Councillors can comment on any minor highway issues currently causing concern).
RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Wenning Parish Council asking for the hedge against the Low Bridge sign before Ravensclose to be cut back in order to make the sign visible.
RESOLVED: Clerk to ask Highways if it is possible to have a crossing outside the Old Parochial School, Main Street, Low Bentham.

RESOLVED: Clerk to ask David Cairns of Highways what parking restrictions apply on the island outside the new school.

RESOLVED: Clerk to report speeding through the narrows to the police.

195.2 To consider correspondence regarding speeding and traffic calming and to agree a way forward and/or a response. (Paper 2021/191)

RESOLVED: Clerk to ask the police to attend the area complained about.

196 To discuss arrangements for the gritting of pavements in High Bentham and Low Bentham and to agree a way forward. (Paper 2021/192)

RESOLVED: Clerk to circulate information on all the options for discussion at the next meeting.

197 To review and agree to sign the Deed of Grant from Electricity North West Limited regarding Robin Lane, High Bentham, or agree a way forward. (Papers 2021/186, 187 and 200)

RESOLVED: The Deed of Grant from Electricity North West Limited was reviewed and agreed.

198 To agree the Accounts for Payment.

PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee	480.00
Citron	Sanitary disposal unit	13.72
Fisher Hopper	Valuation Bentham Playing Field	75.00
Waterplus	Waste water	233.76
Viking	Stationery	32.69
Salaries and mileage allowance	Salaries and mileage allowance	2,972.09
Kingsdale Projects	Cemetery grass / other grass / parish caretaking – School Hill clean / Other cemetery work – trees / benches project.	2,070.00
Andrew Tennant	Playing field grass cutting = precept grant (final payment)	720.00
SSE Swalec	Unmetered electric supply	95.27
Craven DC	Trade waste	55.10
Premium Credit Ltd	Insurance	334.76
NEST	Pension contribution	142.43

RESOLVED: Approved.

RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllrs Adamas and Faraday.

199 To consider a quote for a replacement noticeboard in Low Bentham. (Paper 2021/193)

RESOLVED: The quote for the replacement noticeboard at a cost of £548.86 was approved and accepted.

200 To consider requests from Bentham Christmas Lights Committee and agree a way forward. (Paper 2021/194)

RESOLVED: To ask NYCC if they will grant permission to Bentham Christmas Lights Committee to put some lights frame on a selection of the street lights rather than putting lights across the road.

RESOLVED: To consider putting a post hole in School Hill so that the Christmas Lights Committee can put a Christmas tree up, with a 16-amp electric supply, as a special project to be precepted for.

- 201 To consider a request from Bentham Moving Forward for Bentham town Council representation at their “Welcome to Bentham” event/coffee morning on Saturday 15th January 2022. (SEE ALSO ITEM 204)
RESOLVED: That the Town Council will be represented at the “Welcome to Bentham” event on 15/01/2022.
RESOLVED: That the Town Council will hold its Councillor recruitment session at this event.
RESOLVED: Clerk to try and obtain literature for the councillor recruitment session from CDC and/or the Local Government Association.
RESOLVED: To invite representatives from CDC and NYCC to attend the “Welcome to Bentham” event, in order to explain what they do.
- Cllr Ireton, DCllr Brockbank and DCllr Handley were all invited to attend this event on 15/01/2022.**
- RESOLVED: That as the coffee mornings are already charged at a concessionary rate, there will be no further reduction for the “Welcome to Bentham” coffee morning booking.**
- 202 **To receive an update on the unfinished Special Projects:**
- 202.1 Replacement public noticeboard. **Quote now accepted.**
- 202.2 Youth Café oak door replacement. **On hold pending a decision regarding the future of the building.**
- 202.3 Wording on Philip Harvey Sign. **Cllr Bridgeman to report position at next council meeting.**
- 202.4 Heritage trail footpath update. **Quote for final works received today, to be considered at next meeting.**
- 202.5 Street lighting replacement project.
Phase 6: Cross Lane, Low Bentham. LP21 still needs to be moved. Cllr Stannard delivered a letter requesting a suggested new location, and permission to locate a lamppost on it from the landowner, with maps and explanation of the problem to residents of Cross Lane 11/10/21. No replies received yet.
Phase 7: High Bentham town centre.
LP22 and LP 25: quote accepted and NYCC asked to proceed 19/10/21.
LP23, LP24, LP26 and LP27: awaiting quote for the work from Nick Wilson of NYCC to precept.
- 202.6 Defibrillator project. **The installation is scheduled to go ahead tomorrow, 02/11/21.**
- 203 To discuss the position regarding Christmas Trees at the Town Hall and agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to put up two Christmas trees, and lights on the Town Hall, as last year.
- 204 To consider holding a Councillor recruitment session or event, in view of elections in May 2022. (SEE ALSO ITEM 201)
RESOLVED: Clerk to respond to Bentham Moving Forward and confirm that the Town Council will be represented at the Welcome to Bentham event on 15/01/2022, and will be holding a Councillor recruitment session at the event.
RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange for the councillor recruitment session to be advertised in the January edition of the Bentham News,
RESOLVED: Cllr Adams to arrange for the councillor recruitment session to be advertised on social media.
- 205 To discuss volunteers working with the Council and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Clerk to check what the insurance says about volunteers.

- 206 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response:
- 206.1 Impact of tourism on the Craven District questionnaire. (Paper 2021/195)
RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall will respond to the Impact of tourism on the Craven District questionnaire.
- 206.2 Query regarding fire alarm at Community Youth Building from the Treasurer of Bentham Youth Café. (Paper 2021/196)
RESOLVED: That the replacement of the smoke alarm should proceed.
- 206.3 CDC consultation on proposed changes to the local list of planning application requirements. The consultation period runs until 03/12/2021. (Paper 2021/199)
RESOLVED: That DCllr Brockbank will provide a summary of what is changing for consideration at the next meeting.
- 207 To receive items of correspondence for information only:
- 207.1 Letter received by email on 18/10/21 from Bentham Churches Together regarding the future of the Community Youth Building. (Paper 2021/197)
Received.
- 207.2 Invitation to PTC briefing December 2021. (Paper 2021/198)
Received.
- 208 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies for information only – if any.
- LASRUG: Cllr Adams reported that there were not as many members present at the AGM this year, because there was no speaker. But otherwise, the group are looking forward to the future and hope to get the numbers back up and return to normal soon. He also reminded all present that it is still possible to get to Lancaster on the train.
- Alms Houses: Cllr Marshall reported that work is ongoing; a disaster plan is currently being worked on and that there is currently full occupancy.
- Victoria Institute: Cllr Bridgeman reported that:
Meeting was 20th September 2021
The treasurer's report was discussed and everything is under control. CLC Wednesday sessions are going well, they are well attended, there is always staffing and volunteers to arrange. It is now open Mondays again. Training was discussed and is progressing. Maintenance - great strides now being made with the erection of the conservatory; quotes needed for the parking area; quotes needed for under lighting in the kitchen.
VI meeting on 25th November
Precept projects discussed. Treasurer presented her report all in hand. CLC report - staffing changes due to maternity leave, and volunteers and escorts always a changing landscape. Staffing the cleaner's hours were increased. Maintenance - Tyler's have completed their part of the job on the conservatory; next plumbing, electrics and flooring.
Coffee morning 27th November.
Next meeting 29th November 7pm.
- 209 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
- AGENDA ITEMS: -
1. To consider how the council can encourage people to move to the town and open shops.
 2. To consider instructing Thomas Brown to do a thorough street clean. (This has already been added to the potential special projects list for consideration at the precept meeting as requested).

3. To consider requesting that the new Crime Commissioner is invited to give a presentation to the Town Council.
4. To agree a way forward regarding trees in PHPF that are overhanging Elm House.
5. Apologies received from Cllr Marshall for the next two council meetings.

MINOR ITEMS: -

1. Arrangements need to be made to put the curtains back up before the pantomime in February.
2. If the consultant for the Bentham Masterplan has already been appointed, they should be invited to the public meeting on 22/11/2021.
3. If the consultant for the Bentham Masterplan has not yet been appointed David Smurthwaite should be asked to attend the public meeting on 22/011/2021, and asked to advise if Bentham Town Council has any influence over who is appointed as the consultant.
4. Cllr Swales reported that it is with regret she must inform the Council that she has received Cllr Handford's resignation. She will send a letter as Chair expressing the Council's gratitude to Brian for all his hard work and dedication over the years. He will be very much missed.
5. Cllr Bridgeman agreed to chair the Public Meeting on 22/11/2021 to discuss the Bentham Masterplan. She will obtain any relevant information from Cllr Handford.

210

Date of next meeting: 15/11/2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 26th October 2021

- 1. Planning Decisions Received Since 29th September 2021 (Date of last clerk's report).**
 - 1.1. **GRANTED** – none
 - 1.2. **REFUSED** – none
 - 1.3. **WITHDRAWN** – none
- 2. Highway's information**
 - 2.1. Response from Jayne Grace re Ireby Road problem. 11/10.
 - 2.2. Network Rail letter about works, 20/10.
 - 2.3. **PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - 31978 - Lakeber Drive, High Bentham.** The Closure will be in place for a period of 5 days between 8th November 2021 and 12th November 2021 to allow Yorkshire Water to install a new water supply connection. The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=123976228>. Circulated 21/10.
 - 2.4. Double bends, Burton-in-Lonsdale to Low Bentham Road. Response from NYCC: - "Taking the above into consideration there is nothing further that we could practically do to improve the situation without significant funding". 21/10.
- 3. Items circulated by email**
 - 3.1. Wild Ingleborough presentation notes 05/10.
 - 3.2. Pop up pantry new venue details. 04/10.
 - 3.3. Responses to Bentham Masterplan flyer, and summary of responses. 11/10.
 - 3.4. Community First Yorkshire – Weekly updates.**
 - 3.5. Craven District Council:**

- 3.5.1. Parish Council Liaison Meeting Follow – up. 11/10.
- 3.5.2. Invitation to Select Committee Working Group - Impact of Tourism. Reminder for today's event. 12/10.
- 3.5.3. Toilets in Bentham. Email from DCllr Brockbank outlining three options. 18/10.
- 3.5.4. Consultation - Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Planning. 25/10.

3.6. NALC

- 3.6.1. Chief Executives Bulletins.
- 3.6.2. Coronavirus updates.
- 3.6.3. Online events – regular updates.

3.7. North Yorkshire Community Messaging – North Yorkshire Police

- 3.7.1. Weekly updates.

3.8. Rural Services Network

- 3.8.1. Weekly updates.

3.9. YLCA

- 3.9.1. Training bulletins.
- 3.9.2. White Rose updates.
- 3.9.3. Basic Budget Setting – An overview to help councils understand the process Webinar Session – Wednesday, 13 October 2021 10.00am to 11.30am. Circulated 04/10.
- 3.9.4. Councillor's log-in updated October 2021 (please retain this e-mail as it contains new passwords). 07/10.
- 3.9.5. Developing your Skills as a Councillor Webinar Sessions – Tuesday, 26 October 2021 10.00am to 12.00noon and Wednesday, 27 October 2021 (in two parts). Circulated 12/10.
- 3.9.6. Bilsdale Mast and lack of TV services - information to pass to residents. 14/10.
- 3.9.7. Bilsdale TV transmitter - Launch of voucher scheme. 19/10.
- 3.9.8. November training details. 18/10.
- 3.9.9. COUNCILLORS DISCUSSION FORUM SESSION THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2021 – 6.45PM – 7.45PM Free of Charge. Circulated 18/10.

POLICE REPORT

Please find your monthly police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 01.11.21

We have had 33 incidents reported between 04.10.21 to 30.10.21

Reports include – General Admin from other Police force, General Admin from other agencies, & Safeguarding,

2 incidents relating to young person's homes & school - joint partnership working with home & Police

04.10.21 & 05.10.21 – Concern/Crime related

04.10.21 – RTC – 2 vehicles – Mount Pleasant

06.10.21 – Concern for safety – in order

06.10.21 – Domestic Incident

07.10.21 – Information Car Rally – 12.11.21

07.10.21 & 11.10.21 & 13.10.21 – Concern/crime Violence – Joint Partnership working

17.10.21 – Suspect Vehicle – area searched no gain

17.10.21 & 19.10.21 – Concern for welfare & safety – In order

19.10.21 – Concern for safety/welfare – In Order

20.10.21 – Highway's disruption – Oil Spillage - Main Street – High Bentham

21.10.21 – Concern for safety – Ambulance dealt

21.10.21 – Concern for Safety / Welfare – In Order

21.10.21 - Crime Theft – 1000 Stolen Cals – Solar Farm

21.10.21 – Crime Fraud – Phone

21.10.21 – Concern for safety /Welfare – In Order – Joint Partnership working
22.10.21 & 28.10.21– Concern / Absconder
22.10.21 – Licensing – Low Bentham
22.10.21 – Domestic Incident
23.10.21 – Crime other – Door to Door sellers –
23.10.21 – Admin – Drone Flight
26.10.21 – Road Related offence – No Licence
29.10.21 – Domestic Incident

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.

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.pnn.police.uk

Kind Regards
Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace
Collar number 5561
Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood PCSO
Settle Ingleton & Bentham area
North Yorkshire Police
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