

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th October 2021, at 7.30 pm – in the Ballroom, Bentham Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Swales (Chair), Adams, Bridgeman, Faraday, Hill, Marshall, Stannard and Taylor. CCLlr Ireton. DCllr Brockbank. The Clerk Christine Downey and thirteen members of the public.

- 149 Apologies from **members** unable to attend: -
- 149.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Burton, Handford and Wills.
(And from CCLlr Ireton for his late arrival).
- 149.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 150 Declaration of interests: -
- 150.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.
- 150.2 To approve dispensation requests.
None.
- 151 Demonstration of the microphone and speaker system.
Conducted successfully.
- 152 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).

SUE HALSALL:

Having listened to the talk about Wild Ingleborough and its purpose being large scale habitat restoration, I hope the Council will look upon our suggestions for a new mowing contract to have the same goal but on a smaller scale.

If Councillors have studied the maps I created, they can see that the areas in question are along Low Bentham Road, Greenfoot Lane and a small area on Station Road by the river bridge. We are suggesting that some areas are mown twice weekly as they are now, but other areas are only cut twice a year in April and September and that these clippings are removed. This will allow existing plants to flower and set seed. No seed needs to be sown – it will regenerate if given the chance. 160 people signed a petition in support of this request and a reduction in mowing will save money.

Item 168.1 on tonight's agenda is a discussion on Local Nature Recovery Strategies, part of a Government Environment Bill where authorities in England will be required to do just that. It will make delivering biodiversity net gain, a mandatory part of the development process.

Bentham can surely do its part by adopting our suggestion of restricted mowing to allow wild flowers to grow, to feed pollinators and allow other wildlife to flourish.

OLIVER WILKINSON:

I want to reiterate the objections raised in the resident's letter re the proposed development of land off Springfield Crescent. To update the council – that letter of objection has now gained the support of 71 signatures; remains open for residents to sign. As stated, we wish to highlight that there are major, inhibiting, infrastructural issues with

the site in particular surrounding: drainage/flooding, sewage and waste removal, and access, these make the development unviable and raise serious questions about the deliverability of this site as part of the Craven Local Plan.

In that regard I would like to make a further point about the Craven Plan itself as there seems to be an attitude and an expressed belief that this development is a 'done deal' because it is in that Craven Local Plan. That plan, as Town and Craven councillors have said, having been signed off upon. However- I think it is important to stress that the Craven Local Plan is exactly that, a plan. It is not a finished, polished, fully tested, final design or blueprint that is simply awaiting the builders to start work to put it in action. Like any plan, once it is enacted and detail considerations are made, then aspects of the plan, and allocated sites within it are investigated with due diligence, there will be an inevitable need for replanning which could include the removal of sites allocated.

I have asked the Spatial Planning Officer at Craven about this and he assures me that that is the case. Moreover, the National Planning Policy Framework states that for local plan of this nature to be effective the must be continually monitored and reviewed to take in account of changes circumstances.

In the case of site HB026 off Springfield Crescent as allocated in the Craven Plan there are these serious infrastructural issues which inhibit building on the site and, indeed, should enforce replanning, this is what we are seeking that the Town council pursues.

Finally, the Council doesn't just need to take my word for it; or indeed to take the residents word for it, even the developers proposing to build on site HB026 have outlined a plan which shows the unsuitability of the site to deliver the objectives of the Craven Housing Plan. While the aspiration of the Craven Local Plan is for 82 new houses on this site, 25 of which are to be affordable, the constraints of the site as set out by the developer mean they can only outline for 46 of which 30% (just 14 houses) will be affordable housing. The reality of the proposed development of this site, as being set out by the developers themselves, is it is a hugely problematic that cannot deliver what is envisioned in the Craven Housing Plan. As such this proposal should be dismissed by the council both now (in pre-planning consultation) and should any formal planning application be made. And, in fact, development of site HB026 should be reviewed and removed from the Craven Housing Plan in favour of deliverable sites elsewhere within Bentham and Craven as a whole.

- 153 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting on 20th September 2021. (Paper 2021/169)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 20thSeptember 2021 are agreed and be signed.
- 154 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any. (Paper 2021/170)
Received.
RESOLVED: Clerk to ask the police to advertise the problem/danger with spikes in the Ireby Road more widely. (Noting that the problem could spread to other roads)
- 155 To receive the Public Safety Officer report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
 Craig Lyons reported that the problem on Ireby Road was shared on social media and that he has discussed the matter with PC Jayne Grace. He understands that work is being done regarding this matter and he will chase it up.
 He also reported that he has been working with the Dementia group (see Cllr Stannard's report item 170).
- 156 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2021/171)
Received.

157

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

DCllr Brockbank reported that Craven District Council are embarking on a very ambitious tree planting exercise over the next two years. More information about this can be found on the CDC website. Two supplementary supporting documents re planning matters should have been received and circulated. One is on good design and the other is on rural housing. They allow for public consultation, and DCllr Brockbank reminded the assembly that the expiry date for responses is 11th October 2021.

CCllr Ireton arrived at this point of the meeting – and reported: -

As the weather turns distinctly autumnal, we begin to focus on preparations for winter. We all know it's likely to be a tough one with the promise also of some colder-than-usual weather. So, it's good to know we now have ten new state-of-the-art weather stations with solar-powered cameras installed by North Yorkshire Highways on some of the county's highest routes, including notable sites like Ribblehead, Blakey Ridge and the Hole of Horcum.

These new stations mean that North Yorkshire has the most up-to-date, extensive range of weather stations in the country to help us have better and more detailed knowledge of the prevailing weather conditions. These new sites will shortly have their images displayed on our website for public use.

Autumn also means we start some of our seasonal public health campaigns including Stoptober. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the national campaign which has seen two million smokers take part and attempt to quit smoking for good.

Residents are being urged to cut back any hedges or trees on their property that could be putting pedestrians and road users at risk. North Yorkshire County Council's highways teams have received an increasing number of reports of pavements being obstructed and road signs obscured by overgrown trees and bushes. The local authority is responsible for making sure trees and hedges don't obstruct the highway or damage property. Landowners and occupiers have similar responsibilities for trees and hedges on their property. They must make sure these do not obscure road signs, reduce visibility for road users or prevent people using the road or pavement safely. They are also responsible for removing dead or decaying trees and other growth, removing branches that hinder high-sided vehicles or block light from a street light, and making sure roads and pavements are clear of debris from cutting work.

A question was raised regarding gritting by NYCC: The clerk reported that she is in contact with NYCC about gritting and has supplied them with a full list of all the grit bins in High and Low Bentham that require filling.

158

Planning: -

158.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications: -

158.1.1 2021/23302/HH. Construction of timber garage and extend existing drive with permeable surface. Clovelly, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BS.

RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.

158.2 To receive planning decisions – See Clerks Report.

Received.

158.3 To receive correspondence on planning issues and agree a way forward and/or a response: Letter of 21st September 2021 from local residents regarding the proposed development of Land off Springfield, High Bentham. (Paper 2021/172)

It was reported that: -

The Council take onboard everything said in the public participation section of this meeting regarding site HB026 and sympathise with the residents' concerns.

However, until a planning application has been submitted there is no action open to the Council to take, beyond the request that has already been made to the developer to conduct a much more in-depth consultation with local residents.

That Bentham Town Council does not have the authority to grant or refuse any planning applications. The Council's role is limited to passing on comments and concerns for consideration by Craven District Council planning department, which it will do if and when a planning application is submitted.

The Council recognises that the proposed housing development is not a fait accompli, and that If nothing has been built on site HB026 by a certain date then it will drop out of the local plan.

However, the Council would urge residents to be equally aware that attempts to stop the development may fail, as they are of the fact that the development is not a fait accompli.

There are serious concerns that an opportunity to improve the suggested development and address the issues of concern around it will be lost if the local residents do not engage with the developer in a constructive manner before a planning application is submitted. If the residents do not enter into a dialogue with the developer as soon as possible then whatever application is submitted may be approved.

The Council stressed that the residents should lobby the developer to do more, without delay, and should also be prepared to make representations to Craven District Council if/when a planning application is submitted and referred to the planning committee. (DCllr Brockbank has confirmed that it will go to committee, which will provide an opportunity for more discussion).

158.4 To discuss the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme and agree a way forward.

RESOLVED: Clerk to submit a response asking for Bentham Town Council to be kept updated regarding the programme and also for consideration to be given to Bentham residents during the work, in particular that the traffic management should ensure that other road users are not disadvantaged.

159 To consider and note Highway matters for information – if any. (Councillors can comment on any minor highway issues currently causing concern)

RESOLVED: Clerk to report pothole in the footpath outside Richard Atkinsons property.

RESOLVED: Clerk to pass on to the Bentham News details of how residents can report faulty streetlights themselves on the NYCC Parish Portal.

160 To agree the Accounts for Payment. (Paper 2021/173)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|
| Citron | Sanitary disposal unit | 24.34 |
| Clearglass Cleaning | Window cleaning town hall | 110.00 |
| Kingsdale Projects | Cemetery grass / other grass / parish caretaking / bench renewal. | 2,740.00 |
| Thomas Graham | Cleaning products. | 180.23 |
| Viking | Ink and Stationery. | 145.46 |
| Salaries and mileage allowance | September 2021. | 3,068.36 |
| HMRC | PAYE & NIC. | 3,749.81 |
| Andrew Tennant | Grass cutting at Bentham Playing Field = precept grant. | 960.00 |
| Andrews | Printing | 60.00 |
| Bentham News | Distributing flyer for Bentham Master Plan. | 150.00 |
| Tim Stannard | Clerks mobile phone running costs for 6 months. | 48.00 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Community Link Cafe | Precept grant award part 2. | 300.00 |
| Goodenber Play Area Association | Precept grant award part 2. | 1,500.00 |
| Low Bentham Victoria Institute | Precept grant award part 2. | 437.50 |
| Stannah | Lift service. | 196.42 |
| 1 & 1 Ionis | Internet 07/09/21. | 18.00 |
| SSE Swalec | Unmetered electric supply. | 95.27 |
| Premium Credit Ltd | Insurance. | 334.76 |
| Craven District Council | Trade waste. | 55.10 |
| BT Group Plc | Phone TIP. | 46.08 |
| Total Energies | Gas town hall. | 311.14 |
| NEST | Pension contributions. | 154.79 |
| 1 & 1 Ionis | Internet 04/10/21. | 18.00 |

RESOLVED: Approved.

RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllrs Adams, Faraday and Stannard.

- 161 To discuss the External Auditors Report and Certificate 2020/2021. (Paper 2021/178)
Received.
- 162 To receive an update on the Bentham Masterplan.
It was reported that the flyer requesting thoughts and/or ideas to be submitted by 10th October 2021 has been distributed with the October edition of the Bentham News. Responses have started to arrive and all responses will be collated and circulated before the public meeting, which is to be held in November.
- 163 To agree a date for the Public Meeting to discuss the future of the Community Youth Building. (Proposed date 25/10/2021)
RESOLVED: Date and time confirmed as Monday 25th October 2021 at 7 pm.
- 164 To review the quarterly Operational Inspection Report of 12/08/2021 from HAGS on the Philip Harvey Playing field, and to agree actions required, if any. (Paper 2021/179).
It was reported that of the seven issues identified by the report, three are ongoing and being monitored, one has been resolved to be left alone, which leaves three requiring attention as follows.
RESOLVED: Clerk to chase HAGS to complete two of the issues identified. (Missing fixing on binoculars. Missing cover caps on cable runway).
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to replace the missing bench cap.
- 165 Draft Heritage Trail map to be approved or amended as required. (Papers 2021/176 and 177)
It was stressed that the colour coding of the Heritage Trail walks on any maps must correspond to the colours on the new way markers. (Which are: Long route = red. Medium route = blue. Short route = yellow).
RESOLVED: Clerk to forward the draft maps and any supporting information to Cllr Adams who will review them and produce a recommendation.
- 166 To agree a way forward regarding the repositioning of LP21, off Cross Lane, Low Bentham. (Papers 2021/180 and 181).
RESOLVED: That LP21 is removed from its current position. Clerk to advise Nick Wilson accordingly. (Nick Wilson replaced Peter Ball following Peter's retirement).
RESOLVED: Clerk to write to the landowners further along the lane, asking for permission to install a new lamppost on their land, and explaining that the Council will

only be able to provide a light if a suitable location is identified and permission of the landowner is obtained. To include a map and/or aerial shot showing proposed position and requesting alternatives. Mention that it will be more expensive the further along the lane the lamppost is positioned, and that the council will only be able to proceed if a financially viable location is identified.

- 167 School Hill: -
- 167.1 To consider if work and/or cleaning is required before Remembrance Sunday and agree actions.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to proceed with the annual clean of School Hill.
RESOLVED: Howard Hill to change the planting in the planters to winter mode. Budget set at up to £200.
- 167.2 To consider covering the legal costs (at cost) for the Craven District Council Legal Officer doing the necessary work with the Land Registry and producing the agreement, in order to transfer ownership of the footprint of the old toilet block from CDC to Bentham Town Council.
RESOLVED: Clerk to pursue details of the cost involved from CDC. Authorised to proceed if cost is under £500. NB: Get the price from CDC before any action instigated.
- 168 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response:
- 168.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategies. NSALC Consultation PC6-21. Reply to be submitted by 15/10/2021. (Paper 2021/174)
RESOLVED: Cllrs Bridgeman and Swales will draft a response.
- 168.2 Correspondence concerning mowing. (Papers 2021/175A and 175B)
RESOLVED: To incorporate the map and ideas from paper 2021/175B into the grass cutting tender document: To add the areas that were missed off the current grass cutting schedule to the new tender document: To obtain two quotes from each applicant, one for the grass cutting regime as it is now, and the second for the grass cutting regime as updated to include the suggestions from paper 2021/175B.
- 169 To receive items of correspondence for information: -
None.
- 170 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies for information only – if any.
Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community: Cllr Stannard reported that a breakfast club is starting on Thursday 4th November. To be held every Thursday, from 10 am to noon, at the fire station. Cllr Stannard is unable to attend the first event and would encourage any councillor who is free to look in.
- 171 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
For next agenda: To consider holding a Councillor recruitment session or event, in view of election in May 2022.
Minor item: Clerk to chase Howsons to install the defibrillator.
- 172 Date of next meeting.
Finance Committee meeting 11/10/2021.
Full Council meeting 18/10/2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.48.

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 29th September 2021

1. Planning Decisions Received Since 31st Aug 2021 (Date of last clerk's report).

1.1. GRANTED –

- 1.1.1. 2021/22740/FUL. Conversion of barn and associated outbuildings into a one-bedroom dwelling and the erection of a shed, in replacement of former tractor shed. Barn, High West End, Cross lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7ES.
- 1.1.2. 2021/22859/HH. Double garage. At Bankside, Lakeber Drive, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7JG.
- 1.1.3. 2021/22867/FUL. Change of use to 2 dwellings (Class C3 – Dwellinghouses), construction of replacement rear extension, and other alterations. 6 Station Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LF.
- 1.1.4. 2021/22959/VAR. Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of approved planning permission 2020/21311/FUL. Land at Duke Street, High Bentham, Lancaster.
- 1.1.5. 2021/23092/FUL. Part demolition of porch, demolition of chimney and installation of new metal chimney flue. At Gruskham, Mewith, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AX.
- 1.1.6. 2021/23105/HH. Conversion and extension of detached garage to "Granny" Annexe for use ancillary to the main house. Meadow Bank, Banks Rise, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7JW.

1.2. REFUSED – none

1.3. WITHDRAWN – none

2. Highway's information

- 2.1. 07/09/21: Area 5 response to HARP – Lancaster CC Consultation.
- 2.2. 22/09/21: Two emails from DCllr Brockbank re HARP.
- 2.3. 27/09/21: Respect and Protect campaign details from Area 5.
- 2.4. 28/09/21: Butts Lane stop sign visible and in good condition. Order for hedge to be cut with contractor. 28/09.

3. Items circulated by email

- 3.1. The Action Network: 20mph speed limit motion for Parish Councils. 22/09.
- 3.2. Annie Nelligan email regarding poor sound in Town Hall meetings. Circulated 22/09.
- 3.3. **Better Buses for North Yorkshire:** Key elements identified for the Bus Service Improvement Plan by CPRE (The Countryside Charity) and Action for Yorkshire Transport. Circulated 02/09.

3.4. Community First Yorkshire – Weekly updates.

3.5. Craven District Council

- 3.5.1. Spatial Planning Consultations: Draft Good Design SPD. Start date 13/09/2021. End date 11/10/21. A draft Good Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been published for public consultation on the Council's website at: www.cravencd.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/consultations/. Circulated 13/09.
- 3.5.2. Spatial Planning Consultations: Draft Rural Workers Dwelling SPD. Start date 13/09/2021. End date 11/10/21. A draft Rural Workers' Dwellings Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been published for public consultation on the Council's website at: www.cravencd.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/consultations/. Circulated 13/09.
- 3.5.3. Parish Liaison Meeting 22/09/21 – zoom joining instructions and agenda. Circulated 20/09/21.
- 3.5.4. Changing Places Toilet Programme: response from Kate Senior. 27/09.
- 3.5.5. Community News. 27/09.

3.6. Lancaster City Council: Last chance to Have Your Say on the Climate Emergency Review of the Local Plan (Regulation 18). 16/09.

3.7. NALC

- 3.7.1. Chief Executives Bulletins.

- 3.7.2. Coronavirus updates.
- 3.7.3. Online events – regular updates.
- 3.7.4. NALC COMMITTEE ELECTIONS. 22/09.

3.8. North Yorkshire Community Messaging – North Yorkshire Police

- 3.8.1. Weekly updates.

3.9. Rural Services Network

- 3.9.1. Weekly updates.

3.10. YLCA

- 3.10.1. Training bulletins.
- 3.10.2. White Rose updates.
- 3.10.3. Managing council employees: How to address capability Webinar Session – Tuesday, 7 September 2021 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Circulated 01/09.
- 3.10.4. Reminder for remote conference 17th and 18th September. Circulated 06/09. **REMOTE CONFERENCE CANCELLED**. Circulated 09/09.
- 3.10.5. Law and Governance Bulletin 3 September. Circulated 06/09.
- 3.10.6. Queen's Green Canopy Initiative - Plant a Tree for the Jubilee. 09/09.
- 3.10.7. North Yorkshire Funding Summit 30 September 2021. Circulated 13/09.
- 3.10.8. Policies – Mandatory and Best Practice Webinar Session – Wednesday, 29 September 2021 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Circulated 21/09.
- 3.10.9. MHCLG changes name. 22/09.
- 3.10.10. VARIOUS FINANCE RELATED TRAINING COURSES BY THE PARKINSON PARTNERSHIP (STEVE PARKINSON). 22/09.
- 3.10.11. COUNCILLORS DISCUSSION FORUM SESSION THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2021 – 6.45PM – 7.45PM Free of Charge
- 3.10.12. Understanding the Local Government Association (LGA) Code of Conduct for Local Councils Webinar Session – Wednesday, 6 October 2021 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Circulated 28/09.

POLICE REPORT.

Please find your monthly police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 04.10.21

We have had 22 incidents reported between 03.09.21 & 03.10.21

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

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

03.09.21 – Other police force area – RTC – tractor via motorcycle - Mewith

03.09.21 – Road Related offence – Manner of driving

05.09.21 - Road Related offence – Drink driver – arrested – Nutgill Lane

09.09.21 – Crime Violence

13.09.21 – Concern for welfare / Safety – Joint partnership working

13.09.21 & 14.09.21 – Concern for safety/welfare – checked in order

17.09.21 – ASB personal – Low Bentham – in order

20.09.21 – Crime Theft – stolen bag & contents – Wenning Avenue

22.09.21 – Suspect bike – checked in order – Ravens Close Brow

24.09.21 – Suspect vans – Wenning Avenue – area searched no gain

27.09.21 – Crime Violence – Robin Lane

27.09.21 – Civil Dispute

01.10.21 – Domestic incident

02.10.21 – ASB personal / civil dispute

Other Area

Please see attached Crime request re Ireby Road

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

101

Jayne.Grace@northyorkshire.police.uk