

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held on Monday
6th December 2021, at 7.30 pm – in the Ballroom, Bentham
Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs Swales (Chair), Adams, Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Hill, and Taylor. CCllr Ireton. The Clerk Christine Downey. And ten members of the public.

- 2229 Apologies from members unable to attend: -
- 229.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.
Cllrs Marshall, Stannard and Wills.
- 229.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence.
None.
- 230 Declaration of interests: -
- 230.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
None.
- 230.2 To approve dispensation requests.
None.
- 231 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).

Anne Chappell:

Spoke regarding the planning application at item 237.2. This is about a building that has been put up at the side of my house, it's a one storey workshop/shed. Many of the neighbours in the community feel that Mayfield Road can't take traffic down it, it is not a tarmacked road it is just a little lane. A large fence has been put up, this spoils the view for all, and access to a garage has been blocked. Trees have been taken down, and all the wildlife has gone. Overall, the area, which used to be a well-used communal space, has been ruined.

The proposed shed will be in a very bad location, right outside the speaker's kitchen window. There are concerns that CCTV will be installed. There are concerns about car parking arrangements. Also, Mayfield Road has flooded in the past.

The road/lane is not fit for large machinery to be using it; but there have been cement mixers going down it, skip wagons, and building supply trucks/wagons, which have already caused the waterpipes to sink. This road/lane is not fit for anything bigger than a car. Anything larger will cause damage.

Mrs Chappell objects to the planning application.

CCllr Ireton arrived at this point.

The owner of 1 Mayfield Road spoke next.

He reported that Mayfield Road is privately owned and maintained. He then asked who will have to make good the damage to the road if trucks continue to drive down it, will it be the council or the owner of 25 Wenning Ave?

In reply, it was pointed out that as the road is privately owned and maintained, the council has no responsibility and/or authority regarding it; that what is usual in these circumstances is that responsibility is shared equally between the house owners or as

detailed in the property deeds; and that any dispute regarding who is responsible for what is a civil matter. The speaker confirmed that as yet there is no dispute. He stressed that it is an unadopted road, which may be used for commercial uses for which it was never intended if the planning application is approved. The speaker was advised to make that clear to the planning department.

Another member of the public expressed concerns about the height of the proposed building. She reported that it is described as single-storey but that she is unable to see the height on the plans. She also suggested that the proposed site is too close to No 1 Mayfield Road.

A resident of 15 Mayfield Road expressed concerns about possible noise issues. He asked if there are rules in place that will require work to stop at a sensible time, as there are for Atkinson's for example, so that neighbours do not have to listen to machinery noise in the middle of the night. He also expressed concerns about the potential traffic damage, and would prefer not to see lorries coming down the road.

Fred Winstanley:

Spoke on the position regarding the cancellation of the bus service, which he has written to Julian Smith MP about. He expressed concerns that NYCC will stop gritting the roads if the bus is no longer running. He asked if it was stipulated that Stagecoach must provide a rural bus service when they were originally awarded the contract.

Cllr Adams responded that the bus service is being funded until March 2023 while the position is being reviewed. He stressed that the only way to save the bus service is to use it, and to pay to use it – i.e., users with bus passes can choose to pay for their journey instead of travelling free, which can help to make the route profitable.

Cllr Ireton provided an update: NYCC has a responsibility to provide public transport. He is stressing to NYCC that for residents of Bentham the nearest service centre is Lancaster – that is where Bentham residents need to travel to for work, hospital appointments, and education. Stagecoach is a commercial firm and will only maintain a route if it is profitable, which is their right. There is a duty on NYCC to provide public transport, but no duty on Stagecoach. Although there may have been some sort of stipulation on Stagecoach to provide rural routes when the contract was originally awarded, that would not be in perpetuity.

The problem is simply that people have not been using the service, therefore it has not been profitable, therefore Stagecoach are withdrawing it. NYCC and LCC are subsidising the route until the end of March 2022, while all options are being discussed. As soon as there is anything to report, Cllr Ireton will let the clerk know, and it can be circulated via the website.

Elizabeth Adlington:

Expressed disappointment at the withdrawal of the bus service. She recently moved to Bentham, and one of the reasons for choosing the town was because it had better public transport than Melling. She argued that public transport is far more important than merely as a commercial enterprise and asked what more can people do to prevent the service from being withdrawn?

It was recommended that people write to LCC and NYCC saying that without it they will be unable to get to work, hospital appointments, or education. Tell LCC that without the bus Bentham locals will be unable to get to Lancaster and spend money there.

Another member of the public spoke to commend the work done by the Pop-up Pantry, which is now situated in a room at the Methodist Church. It was reported that the Pop-up

Pantry helps about forty families a month, and that they would like to thank the community for the support that they receive.

- 232 To Confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting of 15th November 2021. (Paper 2021/214)
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of 15th November 2021 are agreed and be signed.
- 233 Police Matters: -
- 233.1 To receive the Police Report and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
Received.
- 233.2 To consider asking the police to provide information regarding solving crimes in addition to a list of crimes committed.
RESOLVED: No further action.
- 234 Public Safety Officer: -
- 234.1 To receive a report from the Public Safety Officer and allow members to ask questions for information – if any.
Craig Lyons the public safety officer sent his apologies; he is unable to attend because he is running the Bentham fire station drill this evening.
- 234.2 To discuss the fire extinguisher training and fire awareness training and agree a way forward.
It was reported that in order to satisfy the Fire Risk Assessment recommendations appropriate training, with documentary evidence, must be arranged for staff, councillors and volunteers. There is a company in Gargrave that do appropriate training.
RESOLVED: Clerk to see what can be provided and report back.
- 235 To receive the Clerks Report (for information only). (Paper 2021/215)
Received.
- 236 To receive reports from CClr and DCllrs (for information only) – if any.
CCllr Ireton dealt with the bus situation during the public participation section. A sinking culver on Clapham Road has been reported to him, and it is being monitored. There was a good turnout for the recent webinars on Local Government Reorganisation. The presentation and questions and answers will be circulated to the clerk shortly.
- 237 Planning: -
- 237.1 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications: -
- 237.1.1 2021/23297/HH: Construction of composite decking (5m x 5m) and provision of railings. Construction of ramp. 2 Lakeber Close, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7JL.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.
- 237.1.2 2021/23329/FUL: Construction of light industrial unit. Unit 6, Bentham Industrial Estate, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7NB.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.
- 237.1.3 2021/23400/FUL: Decommission existing shared septic tank and installation of new shared sewage treatment plant. Laskill Barn, Back Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 8NZ. Deadline of 03/12/2021 extended to 06/12/2021.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.
- 237.1.4 2021/23429/FUL: Change of use or annex/extension (use class C3) to holiday let (sui generis). 1 Thorns Cottages, Thickrash Brow, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LU.
RESOLVED: That the council has no comments on this application.
- 237.2 Consultation on planning application amendment: 2021/23272/FUL: Erection of a single-storey building for electronics workshop (business use), and domestic workshop and storage. Land on south side of Wenning Avenue, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LR.

RESOLVED: That the council is concerned about the construction of a new building as an electronics workshop in a residential area, and considers the site to be unsuitable for that type of building and the traffic that it will generate. The Council has concerns regarding industrial units in a residential area.

237.3 To receive Planning Decisions – see Clerks Report.

Received.

238 To consider and note Highways Matters for information – if any. (Councillors can comment on any minor highway issues currently causing concern).

None.

239 To consider the new public noticeboard in Low Bentham and agree a way forward. (Papers 2021/193 and 193A)

RESOLVED: Bill to be paid in full.

RESOLVED: That the council will be more specific in future with job specifications.

RESOLVED: That the council will take more care and attention when considering quotes in future.

240 To agree the Accounts for Payment.

Howsons Ltd	Defibrillator installation and move	384.00
Howsons Ltd	Repairs to emergency light and roller shutter as estimate	802.70
Viking	Ink	262.69
Stramongate Press	2022 Calendar and envelopes	1,351.20
DAB Graphics	Waymarkers for Heritage trail, long route	90.00
Myers Building Supplies	Sawn carcassing	21.38
Ben Dawson Joinery	Make and fit new noticeboard in Low Bentham	548.86
YLCA	Clerk training – webinar.	22.50
Thomas Graham	Cleaning products.	78.31
Myers Building Services	Handipak Kiln Dried Joint Filling Sand.	29.70
Kingsdale Projects	Stump grinding in cemetery, sand block paving School Hill, attach new waymarkers to Heritage Trail, replace broken timber bridge on Heritage Trail, Put up Xmas trees at Town Hall,	595.00
Salaries and mileage	November 2021	3,137.91
Mark Paige	Various items for Christmas lights display	1,389.32
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath	20.00
BT Group Plc	Phone bill TIP	47.47
1 & 1 Ionis	Internet	18.00
SSE Swalec	Unmetered electric supply	98.38
Craven DC	Trade waste 2021/22	55.10
Total Energies	Electricity Town Hall	2,643.71
Premium Credit Ltd	Insurance	334.76
NEST	Pension contribution	163.57

RESOLVED: Approved.

RESOLVED: To be authorised by Cllrs Adams and Faraday.

241 To consider filling the council vacancy by co-option and agreeing a way forward. (Paper2021/216)

RESOLVED: To proceed with co-option; clerk to advertise the vacancy as required.

- 242 To consider moving the council meeting to a different day of the week in future and to agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: With effect from 1st January 2022 the second full council meeting of each month will be held on a Thursday.
RESOLVED: That the first full council meeting of each month will continue to be held on a Monday.
- 243 To clarify the position regarding volunteers carrying out tasks for the council and agree a way forward.
 Cllr Bridgeman reported that the documents required in relation to potential volunteers are a policy document, risk assessments and induction material.
RESOLVED: Cllr Bridgeman to prepare a draft policy to enable the council to say yes to people who volunteer for tasks that are already identified, for consideration at full council in due course.
- 244 To consider how the council can encourage people to move to the town and open shops.
RESOLVED: To be considered under the Bentham Masterplan initiative.
- 245 To consider requesting that the new Crime Commissioner is invited to give a presentation to the Town Council.
RESOLVED: That the new Crime Commissioner is invited to give a presentation to Bentham Town Council, and the surrounding parish councils.
- 246 To consider purchasing a ton bag of grit and agree a way forward.
RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct Thomas Brown to proceed with the purchase.
- 247 **Philip Harvey Playing Field: -**
- 247.1 To agree a way forward regarding trees that are overhanging Elm House.
RESOLVED: Cllr Bridgeman to advise the owners of Elm House that they may go ahead and prune anything overhanging their garden.
- 247.2 To review the inspection report from Sovereign and agree away forward. (Paper 2021/217)
RESOLVED: Clerk to determine if the latest version of the inspection report from Sovereign completely addresses the outstanding issues.
- 247.3 To review the Annual Inspection Report from HAGS and agree a way forward. (Papers 2021/218 and 2021/218A)
RESOLVED: Clerk to ask Thomas Brown to work through the report rectifying all the issues that he is able to, and to provide a list of those that he cannot solve.
RESOLVED: Clerk to contact HAGS regarding the finger entrapment issue with a view to HAGS rectifying the problem once and for all.
- 248 To consider the heads of terms regarding the acquisition of the footprint of the old toilet block at School Hill from CDC, and agree a way forward. (Papers 2021/222 and 2021/223)
RESOLVED: The Heads of Terms from Craven District Council were reviewed and are agreed.
- 249 To consider street lighting matters and agree a way forward regarding: -
- 249.1 Lairgill:
 It was reported that ENW is replacing the electric cable that runs along the back of the row, at roof level, during December 2021, and that the power supply will be switched over in February 2022. The project manager has confirmed verbally to the clerk that it should be possible to include new LED lights on the front of the row in the switch over to the new

supply in February, should the Council be interested in supplying them. The project manager's advice was that if the council wish to replace the old lights on Lairgill that now is definitely the time to do it.

RESOLVED: To request permission to replace the old light with new LED lights, and install a fourth light, from all the home owners on Lairgill.

RESOLVED: Clerk to liaise with ENW as necessary to move this forward.

249.2 Supply for a lamppost at the cemetery:

RESOLVED: No further action.

RESOLVED: Cllr Swales to inform Jimmy MacDonald of the decision.

- 250 To consider the following correspondence and to agree a way forward and/or a response:
- 250.1 Letter from Tessa Tyndall re Youth Café booking at Town Hall from 11/01/2022. (Paper 2021/219)
RESOLVED: To accept a long-term booking of the Lower Hall and Galley Kitchen from the Bentham Youth Café & Community Youth group, on Tuesdays from 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm during school terms, at the preferential rate applied to 8-hour block bookings. Booking to commence 11/01/2022.
- 250.2 Email from Elizabeth Adlington with an offer of administrative help. (Paper 2021/220)
RESOLVED: To consider Ms Adlington's very kind offer of help for the Bentham Masterplan initiative.
- 250.3 Survey from Stantec regarding "Rail Study – Bentham Line". (Paper 2021/221)
RESOLVED: Responses should be submitted from individuals; all councillors to consider submitting a response as an individual, using the link provided.
- 251 To receive reports from councillors who represent the Council on other bodies for information only – if any.
- Aid in Sickness: Cllr Adams reported that the group recently held its AGM, which is their first meeting in over two years. The meeting was well attended, with seven or eight trustees present. During the past couple of years a number of donations have been made to people throughout the area, including in Bentham. Surplus funds are also donated to charities operating in the area, with £700 recently going to St Johns Hospice, and £350 to St Martins, a children's hospice that runs out of Weatherby and does a lot of work in this area. That donation was their second donation as £700 was sent to them about two years ago.
- Save a Life: Cllr Farady reported that the defibrillator has been installed at Myers, that the one at the Town Hall has been repositioned higher up the wall and is now more visible, and that the one at the Victoria Institute Low Bentham will be hardwired soon.
- 252 Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.
- AGENDA ITEMS**
- The bridge/style/gate on the Heritage Trail.
 To consider the draft tender specification document for the Bentham Masterplan consultant and to agree a response.
- MINOR ITEMS**
- Bench at Green Smithy has been smashed into. Cllr Adams will look into it.
 The hand sanitisers on the Main Street and Station Road may be refilled by the council caretaker.
 As requested by David Park the Deed of Grant to Electricity North West Ltd, regarding access to School Hill, was signed and returned on 11th November 2021. Since then, a request has been received for the plans to be signed as well. The plans have been signed at this meeting and will be returned to David Park tomorrow.
 There continue to be problems with rooms at the Town Hall not being warm enough.
 The Clerk will ask the caretaker to resolve it again.

Following the building of new properties on Banks Way the footpath for use by existing residents is extremely narrow, about one foot wide. Residents have contacted the developer and CDC about this problem, and councillors are asked to go and have a look.

253 Date of next meeting: 20th December 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

CLERK'S REPORT TO BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL, 30 November 2021

- 1. Planning Decisions Received Since 26th October 2021 (Date of last clerk's report).**
 - 1.1. **SPLIT** – 2021/23317/CND: Application to discharge condition no 9 (contamination) on decision allowed on appeal referenced APP/C2708/W/20/3253372 relating to planning application referenced 2019/21170/OUT.
 - 1.2. **GRANTED** – 2020/22363/FUL. Conversion of an agricultural barn to a single dwelling. Little Croft Barn, Sunderland House, Burton in Lonsdale, Carnforth, LA6 3LN.
 - 1.3. **REFUSED** – 2021/23189/TPO. T1 Horse Chestnut – Fell. T2 Sycamore – Fell. T3 & 4 Horse Chestnut – reduce in size. 35 Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AB.
 - 1.4. **WITHDRAWN** – 2021/23315/OTHERS: Prior approval notification for change of use of the first-floor workshop (previously Pennine Outdoors Ltd) to form bedsit studio and 2 bed apartment. First Floor, Central Buildings, Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HE.
- 2. Highway's information**
 - 2.1. Parking restrictions on island outside Bentham Community Primary School LA2 7BP. Reply from David Cairns received and circulated 03/11.
 - 2.2. A long response from the police to BTC concerns re parking and speeding problems. 15/11.
- 3. Items circulated by email**
 - 3.1. Invitation to hear from Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Candidates on Thurs 11 Nov. Circulated 01/11.
 - 3.2. Petition for consideration: Legislate to enable Councillors to be disqualified or suspended for poor conduct. 01/11.
 - 3.3. Bus service
 - 3.3.1. Ingleton-Lancaster; residents a-l. 04/11.
 - 3.3.2. Email with update on services 80/81 from David Ireton. 29/11.
 - 3.4. Bentham Masterplan:
 - 3.4.1. Suggestion re war memorial from Jim Munday. 08/11.
 - 3.5. Update on Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner event on Thurs 11 Nov. Circulated 08/11.
 - 3.6. Craven disability forum survey. 10/11.
 - 3.7. A new era for WPS Council Guard. 11/11.
 - 3.8. Radio York Monday 8.05am, and Video of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner event on 11 Nov. link.
 - 3.9. BHIB Insurance: Free Webinar on How to Prevent Ransomware Attacks – Register Now! 15/11.
 - 3.10. Zoom call with Environment Agency 15th December 1030am-1230pm. Circulated 18/11.
 - 3.11. Copy of email from Andrew and Susan Dixon to CDC re 2021/23189/TPO decision. 29/11.
 - 3.12. Email from Allan Hartley re trip to Western Front. 29/11.
 - 3.13. Email from Stuart Booth re planning application re land off Springfield. 29/11.
 - 3.14. Email from Bob Sloan re public noticeboards. 29/11.

- 3.15. Reply from Julian Smith MP on how constituents may arrange meetings with him. 30/11.
- 3.16. Community First Yorkshire – Weekly updates.**
- 3.17. Craven District Council:**
- 3.18. Lancaster City Council.**
- 3.18.1.Planning Policy Latest News - October 2021. 26/10.
- 3.19. NALC**
- 3.19.1.Chief Executives Bulletins.
- 3.19.2.Coronavirus updates.
- 3.19.3.Online events – regular updates.
- 3.20. North Yorkshire Community Messaging – North Yorkshire Police**
- 3.20.1.Weekly updates.
- 3.21. Rural Services Network**
- 3.21.1.Weekly updates.
- 3.22. YLCA**
- 3.22.1.Training bulletins. 01/11.
- 3.22.2.White Rose updates.
- 3.22.3.How can local councils make a difference to the environment? Rachel Yates, Manager, Plastic Free Communities Webinar Session – Wednesday, 10 November 2021 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Circulated 04/11.
- 3.22.4.Webinar: 28 Jan 2022. Fri 10.00 am – 11.30 am. Vibrant and democratic councils – giving local elections publicity and attracting candidates. With elections upcoming in some areas of Yorkshire in 2022 (the whole of North Yorkshire for example), we will discuss how councils can be proactive in attracting people to be councillors. We particularly want to look at methods that can be used to attract young people to the role of public office.
- 3.22.5.A reminder about upcoming briefing sessions provided by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) re the new unitary authority and information on election costs. 15/11. (Sessions are on 1st and 3rd Dec).

POLICE REPORT 05/12/2021

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Please find your monthly police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 06.12.21

We have had 39 incidents reported between 31.10.21 to 05.12.21

Reports include – General Admin from other Police force, General Admin from other agencies, Safeguarding, found property, Abandon Call, Alarm sounding (false), Highway disruption – parking outside Sun dial & abandon vehicle Burton Road, Civil dispute

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

31.10.21 – ASB Nuisance Youths – Robin Lane – Area searched no gain
 01.11.21 & 11.11.21 – Concern for safety /welfare – Joint partnership working
 04.11.21 – Criminal Damage - 2 vehicles had their tyres slash around St Margaret’s Church
 07.11.21 – RTC – single vehicle into wall – Lowther Hill – non injury
 07.11.21 – RTC – single vehicle via Sheep – Slaidburn Road
 13.11.21 – Crime Violence - Main Street
 14.11.21 & 26.11.21– Concern for safety / Welfare – Joint partnership working
 23.11.21 & 25.11.21 – ASB Personal – Nuisance youth – knocking on doors – Barghs Meadow
 01.12.21 - & 02.12.21 - - ASB Personal/ Neighbour dispute

02.12.21 – Crime Theft – Co-op & Huw Gray – investigation

05.12.21 – RTC – 2 vehicles – Dumb Toms Lane

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

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