



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Full council Meeting held on
Monday 8th April 2024, in the Lower Hall at the Town Hall, at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Adams (GA), Hill (HH), Burton (TB), Gerrie (PG), Howard (DH), Taylor (ST), Ryan (LR), Marshall (TM) and Stannard (TS).

Town Clerk – Claire Burrow

MOP - 11 (Bentham News)

AGENDA

312. **Apologies** from members unable to attend: - **Cllr Paige**

312.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

NOTED

312.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.

RESOLVED – Absences approved.

313. **Declaration of Interest:**

313.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Marshall – 318.1

Cllr Ryan – 318.1

Cllr Stannard – 321.1

313.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

APPROVED

314. **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 consultation. (NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purposes of clarification; The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 20 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes).

MOP 1 - Home/School transportation consultation – extended until the 26th April, as Headteacher of Settle College, the school has worked collaboratively with the community and other schools, the proposal from NYC has five key areas, one of which is travel to the nearest school for pupils from September 2025. Currently Bentham has two choices of secondary school, one in the local authority and one outside. This proposal within the consultation would take that choice away, unless transport was paid for by the family to preferred school that is not the closest. NYC provided details that Settle College would have a net change of 6 students or 1%. Following this up, Head teacher reported that this would be actually be 75 students. Settle College is in the local authority has strong relationships; this number would impact the college. Local bus company confirmed that it is quicker to Settle from Bentham than to Kirkby Lonsdale, transport costs would not change as buses would still be provided. Urges Bentham Town Council to respond to the community.

Chair urges people to respond to the consultation. Chair commented that public are questioning is this the first step in potential closure for Settle College? QES have not been involved in this consultation. The consultation did not come to Bentham.

Head teacher responded that there is no intention of closing Settle College and this is related to funding. As a rural community many students use buses to travel to school. Urges public to respond to ensure there is provision and choice.

MOP 2 - Asked for confirmation that Kirkby Lonsdale coaches are taking over? On Wednesday service. On the Wednesday there was no bus, as it had broken down. Due to this, there was no connection for the final destination. Lack of confidence in the bus. Questioned the bus route, why can't the bus go from Ingleton to Bentham or Burton, and there are no people getting on the bus at Wennington and Melling. Going through Wray would mean filling the bus up. MOP printed copies of the timetable placing in various places in Bentham. Public want to get to Lancaster on the bus, trains are unreliable due to strikes. Lack of toilets at Bentham train station.

MOP 3 – Change was not communicated to the public, MOP contacted Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches, questioning a permanent fixture or temporary? Contract for two years. The bus will start from Robin Lane, questioned should this start at the Golf Club?

Chair stated that BTC will communicate this to the NYC, who run the buses.

MOP 3 – the bus has only let down once, will not run buses into Lancaster.

Chair recommended that the MOP contacted NYC.

PG as part of the Masterplan team contacted Andy Clark, transport manager, to request the 583 bus route to be changed, stated no, when requested more days and times, stated no. This bus is needed elsewhere.

PG followed this up once again, since then Bowland View has been built, with elderly people needing a bus route to Lancaster, the Transport Manager is aware of the lack of buses. PG stated extra funding linked to HC2 has gone into other areas rather than rural communities.

Chair specific issues need to be reported.

315. To **confirm the Minutes** of the meetings on;
315.1 Monday 4th March as a true and correct record.

RESOLVED - APPROVED

- 315.2 Monday 18th March 2024 as a true and correct record.

RESOLVED - APPROVED

316. To **receive the Police Report** & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, General Admin from other agencies, Safeguarding, Intelligence, Advise, Abandon/Hoax calls, Civil dispute, absconder, checks for probation.

We have had 13 incidents reported between 04.03.24 & 17.03.24

04.03.24 – Vehicle broken into - a black, Ford Transit van parked on Lakeber Drive, the van did not contain anything valuable & nothing was stolen from within.

07.03.24 – Highway disruption – Sheep Junction B6480 08.03.24 – Concern for welfare – in order

09.03.24 – Between 15.02.24 & 09.03.24 – Theft of John Deere Ride on lawnmower from a property near Stoneley Barn on Mewith Lane

09.03.24 - Suspect vehicles & persons – B6480 – Low Bentham

11.03.24 – Missing person – found safe & well

12.03.24 – Suspect person in yard – Peak View Bentham Moor Road – area searched no gain

15.03.24 – Suspect drug driving – arrest made

We have had 18 incidents reported between 18.03.24 & 04.04.24.

18.03.24 & 24.03.24 – Domestic dispute

19.03.24 – Suspect drug driving – arrest made.

24.03.24 – Harassment

24.03.24 – Theft – online – snapchat.

29.03.24 – RTC – vehicle via wall – Burton Road

01.04.24 – Concern for safety / welfare – joint partnership working.

GRANTED

NOTED

319.2 ZA23/25516/FUL Change of use of land for the siting of high-quality camping pods (5 in total). Construction of road and parking. Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7AG

GRANTED

NOTED

319.3 ZA23/24928/OUT Outline application for residential development with access, layout and scale for consideration. Green Head Farm, Cross Lane, Low Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7ES

GRANTED

NOTED

320. Financial Matters:

320.1 To receive and note current bank balances as at 18:25 2nd April 2024
Current account: £81,873.51p

NOTED

320.2 To note the pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTED

320.3 To note the following payments previously authorised:
Clerk, Caretaker and Cleaner contracted wages, 02.04.24.

NOTED

320.4 To approve the payments.

Status	Order No	Date	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	Total
Outstanding	57	27.03.2024	203041128921	1&1 Ionos	Email & web Hosting	£25.20
Outstanding	35	28.02.2024	934919	ADC	Auto Door	£217.50
Outstanding	68	31.03.2024	935344	ADC	Auto Door	£212.40
PartPaid	31	26.02.2024	4403662	Business Stream Water Supply Town Hall (Business Stream)	Water	£17.02
Outstanding	51	25.03.2024	22234	Carrie Pillow (Elker Bookkeeping)	Locum RFO	£600.00
Outstanding	60	02.04.2024		Citron (Citron)	Hygiene	£30.53
Outstanding	65	31.03.2024		HMRC PAYE etc (HMRC)	HMRC PAYE etc	£1,711.10
Outstanding	64	31.03.2024	1225	Kingsdale Projects (Kingsdale Projects)	cemetery Maintenance	£545.00
Outstanding	52	26.03.2024	March	Ruth Green	relief caretaker	£570.00
Outstanding	66	04.04.2024		S&W Fabrication (S&W Fabrication)	Repairs	£193.50
Outstanding	67	08.04.2024		Stannah (Stannah)	Lift service	£238.24
Outstanding	62	03.04.2024		Trookes Groundworks	Duke Street Lights	£898.80
Outstanding	56	27.03.2024	1622	YLCA (YLCA)	Training	£50.00
Outstanding	61	02.04.2024		YLCA (YLCA)	Membership	£817.00

APPROVED – to authorise HH and GA

320.5 To consider opening a Naylor Myers account.

RESOLVED – APPROVED by VOTE by show of hands –

For opening account - 6 Against opening account - 3

321 To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

321.1 To consider defibrillator monitoring by J Lloyd, to note meeting on 10th April at 10am.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – action check J Lloyd has public liability insurance.

321.2 To consider protocol of dog bin and public bin collections.

RESOLVED – ACTION Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council to communicate that the bins are not being emptied regularly and are often overflowing.

321.3 To note ACE elevators are carrying out a ‘non-obligatory’ report on the Town Hall automatic doors.

NOTED

321.4 To consider the Automatic Door Company call out and servicing report.

RESOLVED – to authorise payment of call out 28.04.24.

321.5 To note request from Clerk to North Yorkshire County Council for increased parking enforcement, forwarded to On Street parking 19.03.24

NOTED

321.6 To note request from Clerk to North Yorkshire County Council for further consideration of planned development 19.03.24

NOTED

321.7 To note discussions with the land owners at the Philip Harvey Playing Field regarding the pathway.

NOTED

321.8 To note inspection and monitoring by Rights of Way Officer of the path alongside the Brown Cow, adequate for time of year, potential of increased flooding to properties if tarmacked comments from Countryside Access Technical Officer.

NOTED

322. **Town Hall matters:**

322.1 To consider acquiring a Booster for the Wi-Fi to ensure connectivity in the Ballroom and the Wenningdale Room (Cllr Stannard)

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact Sky to request two boosters, if not to purchase and install two boosters.

322.2 To consider purchasing a microwave for the Ballroom kitchen (Cllr Stannard)

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to research sourcing and price of a commercial microwave.

322.3 To consider purchasing a smaller table trolley for the Lower Hall table storage to ensure this can fit in the lift when extra tables are required in the Ballroom (Cllr Stannard)

RESOLVED – ACTION – TM to request price.

322.4 To consider the annual maintenance of the clock from the Cumbria Clock Company at £195.00 excluding VAT annually.

RESOLVED – APPROVED

322.5 To consider purchasing a new vacuum for the Town Hall, due to inadequate appliances.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – to purchase two vacuums for the Town Hall, Caretaker to advise.

322.6 To consider action due to the Caretaker and relief Caretaker away between Monday 3rd June and Friday 7th June 2024.

RESOLVED – Chair and Clerk to open/lock. Request Cleaner to increase hours.

323. **Highways Matters:**

323.1 To receive confirmation of the restructure and re-surfacing of B6480 High Bentham Main Street.

NOTED

323.2 To consider the conversion to LED light above pass through to Cleveland Square.

RESOLVED – ACTION – to contact North Yorkshire Council to enquirer if the light belongs to them.

323.3 To consider the connection of street lights on Duke Street (Cllr Marshall) email request 20.03.24

RESOLVED – Bentham Town Council owns the lamp posts to connect to, ACTION – Clerk to contact the contractor.

324. To consider the **purchase of an area of land at School Hill** from May 2022.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – Bentham Town Council is purchasing the land from North Yorkshire Council for £1. Council has agreed to pay the County Council's legal fees in the sum of £335, which the County Council require to be paid to them prior to completion. Council have agreed our fees of £500 + VAT and disbursements to act on the Council's behalf. The disbursements will be the HM Land Registry fee of £20.

325. To consider the proposal of the Marketing and Development Committee and terms of reference. (Cllr Ryan)
RESOLVED – TERMS OF REFERENCE APPROVED

Committee members: Cllrs Ryan, Naylor, Gerrie, Hill, Burton and Howard

326. To receive an update on the **Bentham Masterplan** (Cllr Gerrie)

RESOLVED – RECEIVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact the Economic Strategy Team to arrange a consultation meeting.

327. **Correspondence received:** To receive information on the following new correspondence and decide further action where necessary;

327.1 Solicitor letter regarding the paving on Main Street.

NOTED – Bentham Town Council attaining ownership of the area of paving, residents have been contacted, ACTION – Clerk to contact North Yorkshire Council through Parish Portal to log the paving.

327.2 Member of public offering to maintain the defibrillators with relevant training.

NOTED – RESOLVED to approve J Lloyd maintenance.

327.3 Consider link to Trainline on Bentham Town Council website.

RESOLVED – ACTION Clerk to contact for potential benefits to community groups.

327.4 York and North Yorkshire Mayoral election 2 May 2024 comms kit to ensure circulation.

NOTED

327.5 Letter of thanks from Mr and Mrs Cowling regarding the bench plaque.

NOTED

327.6 New owners of the former Bentham Community Youth Building are a community group the restrictive covenant will run with the land and the new owners meet the terms of the covenant.

NOTED

327.7 BES lift inspection Friday 12th April.

NOTED

327.8 Bus route: 582 Bentham – Hornby, Wednesday only, change of operator from 8 April the service will be run by Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire

NOTED – ACTION – Clerk to print off bus timetables for TIP, laminate on notice boards. Contact North Yorkshire to request further information regarding price increases and limited bus service.

328. To consider the **2024 Calendar** mis-print of June.

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact Stramongate Press.

329. To consider proposed YLCA Council training now 2.5 hours potential dates;
Mondays 12th August, 9th September or 30th September.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – Monday 30th September, Clerk to contact YLCA.

330. To receive reports from Councillors who represent the **Council on other bodies** (for information only) - If any.

CLlr Ryan attended the Playing Field Association AGM, new Chairperson, Mrs H Knowles, accounts were agreed.

CLlr Marshall attended the Collingwood Almshouses, appointed a resident to the vacant property, note the standing down of a Trustee, interested parties should contact CLlr Marshall, new Chairman is now Mr I Wood.

331. Items for **next meeting and minor items for information** only.

Further update on the bus routes – charges and 582 and 583.

New supplier of dog bags.

Review of the 2025 calendar.

332. Date of **next meeting**:
Open Spaces - Monday 15th April 2024
Finance – Monday 22nd April 2024
Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 24th April 2024

Full Council meeting Wednesday 8th May 2024 – 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 9:24pm

C Burrow

Claire Burrow
Bentham Town Clerk
Wednesday 10th April 2024