



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of meeting – Monday 3rd June 2024 in the Ballroom at the Town Hall, at 7:30 pm.

Present; Cllrs Adams, Cllr Burton, Cllr Gerrie, Cllr Hill, Cllr Howard, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Paige, Cllr Ryan, Cllr Stannard and Cllr Taylor.

Town Clerk: Claire Burrow
Bentham News – 2

MOP:46
North Yorkshire Councillor David Ireton

24. Apologies from members unable to attend: -

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

NONE

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

NONE

25. Declaration of Interest: -

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

Cllr Marshall – 31.1

25.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

APPROVED

26. 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).

M.O.P 1 - Obviously in the light of public concern about the Forever Chemicals on behalf of the River Wenning, would like to see evidence of regulation and tests of the Angus site and any affected water courses should be done by the statutory bodies such as NYC, United Utilities and the Environment Agency, we would like evidence that those are taking place. The second point is that urgent measures are being taken to contain and properly dispose of any contamination and again we would like to see evidence that that is happening and to know how and when that might happen.

M.O.P. 2 - Been in Bentham for past five years, shocked initially and then I thought I started looking at some of the facts that were presented. Ask questions of the article itself. Within the Guardian article the data that is presented is quite old and when you look at the data that was used in the article then it's for many organisation called Forever Pollution Project I think, a European project. And a lot of the data that is presented actually shows that this is not the most polluted place in the UK. There are various other places that have higher concentrations in water. And that data presented in the ENDS report is not 100% correct. and we've already gone back to the Guardian to ask the question why they would present this data when several years ago they say that somewhere else, Blackpool actually has the highest concentration in the UK. That's just a comment but also something to have in the conversation tonight.

M.O.P 3 - One thing I and that article was talking about incredibly high concentration of in the soil of the forever chemicals and I wondered when that reading was taken And was it related to the liner or when it was changed. Did they remove soil and dispose of it, that's the other question and just generally we need to know where the soil is going to go.

M.O.P 4 - We need to gather information, so we need to know if I would like to see monitoring of the plant water and the soil not only on the site but in the surrounding area, just so we know what we are dealing with. On my second point, would it be a good idea to have a public meeting about this, where we have people who have been (invest) no, scientists have been involved in the monitoring, plus experts in that field plus Angus' plus the Environment Agency and Councillors, the public. And would the Council lead this?

M.O.P 5 - I would like to add to that suggestion, that what concerns me, what are the results of all of this stuff for the people of Bentham and our health, and I've certainly seen second hand data which suggests that we do have unusually high cancer incidents compared to the rural, our rates are comparable with inner cities. I don't know if that's related to this, but I think it's worth collecting that information somehow, I understand it is not easy through the Health Service, but an outcome of a public meeting is might generate our own database for what that is which we should compare with national figures not only the incident but the sort of cancers that Bentham seem to be prone too. I don't want to scaremonger but it is just more information that I think we need to have.

M.O.P 6 - There is more information behind a very expensive pay wall and the information there is frightening. Also coincidentally I work as a taxi driver and I picked up a lady who is a scientist in this particular field recently and we do need to be monitoring this. The claim that Bentham is not the most polluted is like saying that Nagasaki didn't have the largest bomb dropped on it. The figures that are being quoted are tens of thousands of times higher than is considered to be acceptable. The list of diseases that is associated with these particular chemicals are frightening and a very broad spectrum. Connections with high cholesterol levels, connections with a variety of cancers, firefighters have their equipment and clothing impregnated with these chemicals, when they get hot and sweat inside the kits chemicals start to leak out and testicular cancer is particular high in firefighters. We do need an awful lot more information.

M.O.P. 7 - Very good idea to do some monitoring and to move forward on this one. When I first heard about the report in the Guardian I hadn't been so concerned about the water. My concern in the past is the cloud that comes across every now and again, we can actually see the dense particles falling over the town of Bentham and it always seems to coincide the children's playtime, that really does worry me as PFAS [are linked] to disruptive cancers and young growing tissue is very very susceptible to PFAS. So we've got the cloud going over but we've also got emissions at night. Sometimes when you walk along Main Street, at two o'clock in the morning you can actually smell it and on a summer's evening if there's no breeze you don't want your window open. So we need to know what's in the emissions, the cloud, the water and the soil moving forward.

M.O.P 8 - The last few decades; the damage is already been done. The amount of cancer that is going through a lot of families in Bentham and the family's children. My dad had mesothelioma which is from the asbestos at Angus' and he used to come home and shake his clothes off, my mum's had cancer, my sister's got blood cancer, my Uncle died of cancer, my cousin has got cancer, she worked at Angus'. There's so many, I could think of probably a 100 people in Bentham, that have got cancer, died of cancer, my good friend here, is also another one. It is not what is going to happen now, but what has happened in the past. I know right now in America the people that have been using Angus' foam are now suing because of the cancer levels. Maybe we need to get a community group together and do our own research, people who have had cancer what the connection with Angus', swimming in the river as children, swimming through the foam, what is put in the river, the black clouds of smoke, it might be healthier now, but we've already been contaminated. Getting our own group together doing our own research and getting outside agencies in.

M.O.P 9 - All of these conversations because one young woman, an investigative journalist from ENDS, takes months of her life to put all this in front of us and if we choose to sit here and ignore it in anyway and become complacent, of which can easily happen, with other stuff going on, we are seriously letting everybody in this community down. It is up to all of you and up to all of us to make sure the situation is understood and is sorted out and we will be on top of everybody here to make sure that happens. We will not stop and we will back this woman up, she we will come and talk to us if you wish. She says she will come here and tell us all about this data which this man over here has told us about, if you have read the ENDS report, it's quite shocking.

M.O.P 10 - One comment from the Scientist no one should be going into the River Wenning or the River Lune.

M.O.P 11 - Regarding - ZA24/25956/REM - Read out by Councillor Adams - The west side elevation of the proposed development has two windows, one of which, the proposed kitchen window, has a line of sight into and through a principal habitable room which we use throughout the day and evening, the line of sight extends through the room via a patio door and out to our private rear garden.

In this regard we do not believe consideration has been given to the impact of overlooking, resulting in our loss of privacy. The proposed development's west side elevation protrudes beyond our east side elevation, both to the front and to the rear. This will result in an overwhelming sense of overbearing particularly in respect of the rear and would create an unacceptable sense of enclosure and being hemmed in.

The proposed proximity of 900mm to our boundary will greatly impact our residential amenity, particularly with regard to loss of daylight/sunlight in respect of our east side elevation windows and we believe this will also add to the sense of overbearing.

Due to the lay of the land the proposed site sits higher than us, further increasing the potential for overlooking in respect of the proposed west side elevation windows and at a proposed proximity of 900mm to our boundary will create a sense of overbearing and loss of daylight/sunlight adversely impacting the enjoyment of our property.

The proposed three bed property does not reflect, nor sit comfortably with the surrounding properties and their relationship to their own good and proportionate outside spaces.

The proposed development would not result in a benefit in the environmental landscape and in biodiversity terms. In this regard consideration has not been given to the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping.

27. To **Confirm the Minutes** of the previous meeting on Tuesday 7th May 2024, as a true and accurate record.
RESOLVED – to amend the Longstaffe Education representative to Cllr Burton.

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

Read by Cllr Adams - We have had 37 incidents reported between 06.05.24 & 01.06.24.

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Abandon/Hoax calls, Highways – parked vehicle Robin Lane, Crime violence – Dog on dog, Suspect post, ASB Personal, Neighbour dispute, Domestic/Violence dispute, Civil Dispute, Alarm sounding Drs – false & Sudden Death.

X11 - Concern for Safety/ Welfare joint partnership working/Ambulance

13.05.24 – Crime theft – Cable – Over Raygill

20.05.24 – Road Related offence – suspect drink driver

21.05.24 – Suspect vehicle – Greenfoot Lane, Low Bentham

23.05.24 – Suspect vehicle & males – Low Bentham

24.05.24 – RTC – 2 vehicle – Bentham Road

30.05.24 – ASB Nuisance – Drunken male – Main Street

How to report speeding concerns - Speed Management Protocol

www.northyorkshire.police.uk/search?q=speeding+concern

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community. Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You will also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys. www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

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

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

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

29. To receive a **Report from NYC Councillor** (for information only) - If any

Cllr Ireton - NYC are completing a local plan, now using the seminal District plans, calling for sites with land to be put forward, every division from North Yorkshire. So, they will be asking for further sites in Bentham. The school transport has been delayed, politically sensitive, with the election being called this will be delayed. I am not happy with what is being proposed, it is going to hit Settle College, it is financially detrimental, and I will be voting against that. But I am only one in 90 that has that vote. I don't think that any county should be going against their own establishments, and what is proposed as QES the nearest school and for their only school in this area of Bentham it will influence where parents send their children, denying them the choice for educating their children and I will be voting against that. But as usual I will keep an open mind.

Cllr Howard the recent appointment of the Mayor how is that changing things within the council?

Cllr Ireton - It will not change anything within North Yorkshire Council, the Mayor will be dealing with Further Education.

30. To Review the Council's Required Documents

30.1 Financial Regulations 2024

RESOLVED – to accept the Financial Regulations.

30.2 Updated Terms of Reference for Committee – Open Spaces

RESOLVED – to accept the updated T.O.R for the Open Spaces.

30.3 Updated Risk Management 2024, following Internal Audit.

RESOLVED – proposed - to remove the T.I.P point about how the volunteers are restricted to two hours following the review, seconded and ACCEPTED.

30.4 Privacy Policy General

RESOLVED – to accept.

30.5 Privacy Policy for employees, councillors and volunteers

RESOLVED – to accept.

30.6 The Information Commissioner’s Office Renewal Confirmation

NOTED – the certificate was from last year, email was received to renew.

31. To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications:

31.1 ZA24/25688/ADV New entrance sign. Riverside Caravan Park, Slaidburn Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7FJ extended deadline to 4/06/24

Cllr Marshall left the room 7:20pm.

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTION

Cllr Marshall re-entered the room 7:21pm.

31.2 ZA24/25956/REM Application for approval of reserved matters following approval of outline application referenced 2021/22897/OUT for a single, detached dwelling Within The Garden Curtilage At, 1 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BG

RESOLVED – NEUTRAL – review of proximity to other houses, according to Material Planning Considerations, over looking and loss of privacy of existing properties due to windows within new development.

31.3 ZA24/25978/FUL First floor rear extension Independent Financial Services, 43 Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HJ,

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTION

32. To receive and note the following planning decision/information:

32.1 ZA24/25817/FUL Erection of replacement sectional timber stables Land At Fold Bank Barn, Mewith Lane, Bentham , LA2 7AX

NOTED

33. Financial Matters:

33.1 To Receive the Council’s insurance renewal and consider if any amendments are required (if received)

Cllr Marshall questioned does the insurance cover representatives when sitting on community groups?

RESOLVED – insurance will cover Councillors when completing their Council duties within meetings.

RESOLVED – to accept the renewal quote.

33.2 To receive and note current bank balances as at 11:30am Tuesday 28th May 2024: £102,151.82

NOTED

33.3 To approve the **AGAR.**

RESOLVED – APPROVED

33.4 To approve the **Public Rights.**

RESOLVED – APPROVED – ACTION – display from 4th June 2024.

33.5 To consider opening a Virgin Current Account.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – allowing cheques to be banked easily, to add the Finance Committee members.

33.6 To consider opening a Virgin savings account.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – 3.87% rate, to add the Finance Committee members.

33.7 To note the pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTED

33.8 To note the payments previously authorised: Clerk, Caretaker and Cleaner contracted wages.

NOTED

33.9 To approve the payments.

Status	Order No	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	Total
Outstanding	93	23.05.2024	1731095-0	SKY	Internet and Phones	£57.62
Outstanding	94	20.05.2024	203042119265	IONOS	Internet	£25.20
Outstanding	95	17.05.2024	5112731	Business Stream Water Supply Cemetery (Business Stream)	Water	£17.37
Outstanding	97	31.05.2024	6643	Carl Taylor	ELECTRICAL WORK	£261.54
Outstanding	98	16.05.2024	4075	HB Plumbing & Heating	Toilets, leaking sink	£63.00
Outstanding	99	06.05.2024	75	Elkerlodge Services Ltd	Locum RFO	£720.00
Outstanding	100	20.05.2024	203042119265	IONOS	Internet	£25.20
Outstanding	101	05.05.2024	338816956/24	Total Energies (Total Energies)	Electricity	£701.20
Outstanding	102	20.05.2024	42341	Howsons ltd (Howsons Ltd)	Doors	£218.10
Outstanding	103	08.05.2024	834897	SSE SWALEC Unmetered Supply (SSE SWALEC)	Unmetered Electric Supply	£243.52
Outstanding	104	28.05.24	1256	Kingsdale Projects	Grass cutting and Parish Maintenance	£3,970.00
Outstanding	105	27.03.24	IG867367	Huws Gray	Town Hall Maintenance	£9.55
Outstanding	106	02.05.24	205-1083846-7817951	Amazon purchases for Grants Footpath and SS, payment to	Claire Burrow	£210.95
Outstanding	107	02.05.24	Receipt	Receipt Bar 1922 Volunteer TIP Meal payment to	Gareth Adams	£120.10
Outstanding	108	03.06.24	LC 24096442	BT	Final bill and AutoDialler in lift	£168.11

APPROVED – TM and HH to authorise. PG and HH to authorise order no. 107.

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

34.1 To consider adopting the street light near underpass into Cleveland Square.

RESOLVED – does not belong to Bentham Town Council and not on North Yorkshire database. Cllr Ireton to make enquiries.

34.2 To consider the checks of the defibrillators by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED – Clerk to maintain the defibrillators and update database.

34.3 To consider the valuation of the Town Hall by Fisher Hopper at £90.00 ex VAT, for insurance purposes.

RESOLVED – APPROVED - ACTION – Clerk to accept and arrange.

35. Employment Matters:

35.1 To consider training modules for Caretaker, Cleaner and Clerk.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – ACTION – Clerk to arrange.

35.2 To consider two business mobile phones at £24.00 ex VAT each, monthly.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – ACTION – Clerk to order, for Clerk and Caretaker.

36. Highways Matters:

36.1 To consider the parking outside of the former Community Youth Building (Cllr Hill)

Under control at the moment due to cones, bollards and planters.

Commented that it is busy with vehicles, people dropping off items. Possibility of driveway up the side of the Hub, noted would be tight.

Parking wardens cannot give tickets to cars that are parked on the pavement. Council noted that cars are being parked on the pavement, in highly pedestrianised areas.

RESOLVED – proposed – seconded - ACTION – Chair to request Highways to walk around Bentham.

RESOLVED – ACTION – write to the Hub kindly advising people to park safely when dropping off items.

36.2 To consider the potential for speed awareness/average speed cameras in Bentham. (Cllr Burton)

Previously contacted NYC about average speed cameras. Proposal of contacted NYC to request.

Cllr Howard stated that her understanding is that NYC does not use average speed cameras. More appropriate to use speed indicator devices.

Cllr Ireton, will need to check that NYC will not allow the display of numerical speed displayed.

Potential use of sockets on Robin Lane and Springfield.

RESOLVED – proposed – seconded – ACTION – Clerk to contact NYC if any finance and support are available for speed calming.

36.3 To consider public bus services and further communication with NYC Transport.

Cllr Gerrie - During COVID the bus was not being used, therefore we lost the bus service, this returned with support from Cllr Ireton, but with limited service to Kirkby Lonsdale. Complaints were made that it was taking 7 and a half hours to get to Lancaster. Bentham Town Council contacted Andy Clark, Transport Manager, to try and improve this, the answer was no. Further representation to Andy Clark to alter the route of this bus to Hornby, to shorten route, again no. Further representation resulted in the 582, which comes on a Wednesday morning. Request to add more bus routes in, declined as this bus would be needed elsewhere in Craven. Since then, this bus route has been taken over by Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches, the bus was 20 minutes late and drove the bus all the way to Lancaster. Now since HS2 has gone, North Yorkshire Council has received further money towards transport, we as Bentham Town Council should request further funding from NYC, as one of the main requirements on the Bentham Masterplan.

RESOLVED – ACTION – Cllr Gerrie to draft a request to NYC, which will be sent from the Clerk.

36.4 Regards to recent flooding: (Cllr Gerrie)

36.4.1 Sand bags

Approximately 40/50 sand bags left in the store. Craven District provided sand bags. People are not expected to return sand bags, policy of Craven to not re-use these.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Clerk to request NYC to replenish sand bag supplies.

36.4.2 Blocked Grids

Drains outside the Hub and Goodenber Road are blocked.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Clerk to report on the portal.

37. To receive an update on the **Bentham Masterplan** (Cllr Gerrie) and to consider further action.

Noted that the delays may be due to the elections. Town Centre appearance can be improved through the Shared Prosperity Fund, the Community Engagement Participation, with the Bentham Masterplan, this runs out on 30th September. Support improvements on Main Street and Station Road. Other groups can use the Bentham Masterplan to apply for funding.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Council to apply for the Community Engagement, Shared Prosperity Fund, Cllr Ryan to lead initiating filling in the application.

RESOLVED – vote: wait for NYC to launch the Bentham Masterplan –

For: 7 Against: 3 by show of hands.

38. Cemetery Matters:

38.1 To consider purchasing the Scribe Cemetery module, ensuring compliancy.

RESOLVED – ACTION – to approve the purchase of the additional module.

38.2 To consider memorial inspections training, collaborating with other cemeteries in the area.

DEFERRED – requiring further research.

39. To receive feedback from the **Marketing and Development Committee.**

39.1 Tourist Information Point (Cllr Howard)

Volunteer meal out on Sunday 2nd June, with volunteers and Council members, only three active at the moment, covered Tuesday and Wednesday 10 -12 and Friday and Saturday 10-2 covered, further research required. Telephone meeting with NYC. Come back to Council with options and ideas to move forward.

39.2 To consider the use of One Page Councillor Profiles for the website. (Cllr Ryan)

RESOLVED – to approve the use of One Page Councillor Profiles, this is not mandatory and a choice by Councillors, voted by show of hands, approved by 8. Recommended that boxes be deleted rather than left blank.

39.3 Town Council public information on social media sites (Cllr Gerrie)

**RESOLVED – to link the Bentham Town Council Facebook feed to the Low and High Bentham Facebook page.
Proposed – seconded - to include Cllr Ryan on the Facebook page.**

40. Town Hall Matters:

40.1 To note the boiler inspections were carried out 22nd May 2024.

NOTED

40.2 To note the fire alarm inspections carried out 22nd May 2024.

NOTED

40.3 Awaiting a date for the electrical safety inspection.

NOTED

40.4 To note the Clock Company are attending the clock on 29th May 2024.

NOTED

40.5 To consider the emergency auto-dialler in the lift, connecting to the existing unused phone line.
(Cllr Stannard)

RESOLVED – Clerk to contact the Electrician to request connection from the lift to the phone line.

40.6 To note the cleaning of the boiler room steps by Parish Caretaker.

NOTED – The Parish Caretaker will come and sweep.

RESOLVED – Cllr Paige to request a quote to mend the metal plates covering the drains in the cellar due to be broken by a previous contractor.

41. Correspondence received: To receive information on the following new correspondences and decide further action, if any:

41.1 'No Mow May and September' from Members of the Public.

DEFERRED TO NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

41.2 YLCA fortnightly bulletin and training, circulated: details of Yorkshire Day, 1st August, Parish Council Domains Helper Service, NALC hosting Youth Summit Thursday 18th July, Councillor Allowance Survey, free trial of 'Find a Grant' for Local Government, Planning and reporting sightings of Asian Hornets.

NOTED

41.3 YLCA Craven district branch meeting 17th June, circulated to YLCA representatives.

NOTED – Cllr Marshall and Cllr Taylor to attend.

41.4 The 'Forever Chemicals' Newspaper article.

Cllr Adams - Councillors we're as shocked as members of the public, we live and work in this environment too. we have as a Council subscribed to the ENDS report, with the 30 day free trial, so all councillors have been given access to the full report. Council were invited to Angus Fire Armour on Thursday evening, with ten Councillors, with members of the Angus team, one being the CEO. They went through the statement with Council in more detail. Angus' have enlisted the services of a specialist consultancy firm, called RAMPOL, an environmental consultancy firm to do an amount of testing involve ground and water samples on the site, Angus' do not understand how some of the chemicals reported have come about. They wish to transact this work in mid-June, they have a follow up meeting with the Environmentally Agency in July. There is a delay due to period of analysis. Council has requested to extend test areas to off-site areas, land around Duke Street and Playing Fields.

Lagoons and liners – the liners have been replaced, Angus' thought there was an issue so replaced these. Angus do not use PFASt chemicals in their current range of products, any testing that is going on now is not adding to what is there, Angus' know what is there needs to be solved. Current clouds of black smoke do not contain PFASt foams. They are conscious of the activity linked to certifying the product. Potential of more damage at present to try eradicate these chemicals, awaiting expert advice and sampling. Filling in the lagoons may cause more damage. Council cannot comment on individual cases of cancers in the town, but

acknowledge there are apprehensions around this. Comment from journalist says more studies needed to confirm links, in the Podcast link available on the Low and High Bentham Facebook page, 20 mins into the podcast.

Cllr Marshall – Attended the meeting at Angus Fire, informed Council of what actions they are going to follow, Cllr requested to make public the testing and doing all the work so every member of Bentham has the opportunity to know what's going on. Keeping people well informed, stop scaremongering, informing on the Facebook page or the website when work's going on. First thing foresee to happen is a drill on site to take the core samples over next two to three weeks, let them go about their due diligence, ensure it is right, rushing could lead to more damage, experts on board, the right results and all can enjoy Bentham. Go and everything's been done till the best of their ability, mistakes do happen through the years, but in hindsight a lot of things done differently Technology systems progress over the years, sometimes people just have to put their hand up and say sorry chance I messed up. Angus Fire will do things properly, look at the press release, all contact details on the bottom so individuals can contact them direct and ask the questions, quite willing to communicate. Feedback in September.

Cllr Howard – ENDS report is alarming, Council is committed to do everything we can to promote the views of the Bentham people and do what is right.

Cllr Ryan – support what everyone is saying, living on Duke Street, along with another Councillor, understand the worries.

Cllr Naylor – testing the site and testing off the site is important, especially the playing fields.

RESOLVED – to allow Angus Fire to complete testing first before holding a public meeting.

RESOLVED – Angus Fire are committed to abide by requests according to the public, suggest school to request that playtimes are avoided. Cllr Naylor to address this. Angus' are committed to respond to the public.

Yorkshire Water comment – when questioned about the water safety in Bentham, they make sure the drinking water is regularly sampled, reservoirs and customer taps for testing. They test over 500,000 water sample every year, carrying out 500,000 water samples every year, also carry our operational checks using technology and laboratory techniques to make sure water is the best possible quality. Independent sector then looks at the results, creates an independent report on the findings. [Cllr Adams] I believe that is on the DWI website.

In terms of PFAS specifically, there is currently no statutory standards, for drinking water in England and Wales nor is there a World Health Organisation guideline volume, in spite of this PFAS is one of the many components Yorkshire water do test for. In terms of reactive measures they do home water quality inspections; these are spot checks and randomly select addresses from each supplier. Come out to test the water as quickly as possible upon consumer request where one may be concerned with the quality of water we are providing.

Cllr Adams - it's a little bit generic, stated that communicating to relevant bodies finding the relevant information is hard work. Cllr Adams will endeavour to communicate with United Utilities. Angus Fire do want to stay in Bentham and regret the physical location of the building.

RESOLVED – ACTION – a follow up meeting.

41.5 Request to *'support [the] campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal'* by Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First.

RESOLVED – to support.

42. To consider a change to the **Calendar** format, allowing A5 size and the youth community to enter photographs of areas in Bentham.

RESOLVED – the Youth to design elements. Change of size, allowing the young people to choose the theme, multimedia, drawings or photographs of Bentham.

42.1 To consider the beneficiary of the funds from the calendar.

RESOLVED – proposed - seconded - Bentham Youth Club to be the beneficiary.

43. To consider a **budget for the website re-design**, ensuring Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are adhered to, making it more user friendly with an updated theme and the purchase of gov.uk. **Potential up to £2000.**

DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING

44. To receive **Reports from Councillors** who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) - If any. **Cllr Ryan – Bentham Playing Fields – vandalism smashed up one of the non-destructible benches which was caught on CCTV, reported to the Police. The asbestos removal has been completed, now considering their next steps. More football teams are using the field. Duck race was successful raising over £2000. Two new committee members.**

Cllr Burton – Longstaffe Education meeting, donation from Bentham Grammar School Staff Association of £700, applications for the 2024 grants open on the 1st July to 9th September 2024, grants paid out in September. Quiz evening held on the 1st August, Felicity Hey as quiz master. Winter concert, date to be confirmed, all details in the July edition of Bentham News.

Cllr Paige – request that a representative from the Council to attend the River Wenning evening on Wednesday 12th June 7 – 9pm as Cllrs Paige and Adams cannot attend.

Cllr Adams – LASRUG – grant from Bentham Town Council will allow the use of a refreshment trolley, by Settle/Carlisle development committee.

Cllr Adams – Aid in Sickness – distributed surplus funds from the income, Sue Ryder Martin House in Keighley.

Cllr Adams – Goodenber Road Play area in collaboration with Bentham Youth Club will run a fun day in the park, unsure of the date.

45. Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.

Website

No Mow May

School Hill

46. Date of next meeting.

Monday 17th June – Full Council meeting (Planning) 7:00pm and Buildings committee

Monday 1st July 7:30pm – Full Council Meeting

Closed the public session – 9:40pm

47. To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, that the public and press be excluded further from the meeting, whilst items within **48** are considered:-

48. Employment Issues:

48.1 To approve the contracts for staff members; Caretaker and Cleaner.

RESOLVED – Caretaker has two contracts;

One for Caretaker role of 16 hours and one for Cleaner role of 6 hours.

Cleaner has one contract of 6 hours.

48.2 To consider the recommended NALCs pay scales for Caretaker and Cleaner.

RESOLVED – adopt the NALCs pay scale.

RESOLVED – proposed – seconded – voted by show of hands - Caretaker begins on pay scale 11.

RESOLVED – proposed – seconded – voted by show of hands - Cleaner begins on pay scale 4.

48.3 To approve the job descriptions of the Caretaker and Cleaner.

RESOLVED – to include in the Caretaker description to support Contractors, maintain safety measures, act accordingly in an emergency situation.

48.4 Six monthly review of the Clerk and RFO positions.

RESOLVED – to increase the Clerk hours from September 2024.

Meeting closed at 10:03pm

C Burrow

Claire Burrow

Town Clerk

Monday 10th June.

DRAFT