



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
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Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Minutes of meeting – Monday 1st July 2024 in the Lower Hall at the Town Hall, at 7:30 pm.

Present; Cllrs Adams, Cllr Hill, Cllr Marshall, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Paige, Cllr Stannard and Cllr Taylor.

Town Clerk: Claire Burrow
Bentham News – 2
PCSO Jayne Grace

MOP:5
North Yorkshire Councillor David Ireton

Town Clerk

AGENDA

Chair stated that Councillors Gerrie and Howard have resigned.

58 **Apologies** from members unable to attend: -

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

Cllr Burton and Cllr Ryan

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

APPROVED

59 **Declaration of Interest:** -

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

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 66.1

59.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

APPROVED

60 **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).

MOP1 – Spoke of the planning application item 66.1 new property should be in keeping with the properties already there and the roof line should be no higher.

61 **To Confirm the amended Minutes** of the meeting on Tuesday 7th May 2024, as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes from Tuesday 7th May 2024 as a true and correct record.

- 62 To **Confirm the Minutes** of the meeting on Monday 3rd June 2024, as a true and accurate record.
RESOLVED: that the Minutes from Monday 3rd June 2024 as a true and correct record.
- 63 To **Confirm the Minutes** of the previous meeting on Monday 17th June 2024, as a true and accurate record.
RESOLVED: that the Minutes from Monday 17th June 2024 as a true and correct record.
- 64 To receive the **Police Report** & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Abandon/Hoax calls

7 reports Crime Violence/concern for welfare & safety – joint partnership working
02.06.24/06.06.24/10.06.24 – Harassment/concern for welfare
03.06.24/04.06.24/07.06.24/10.06.24 - Concern for Safety/ Welfare joint partnership working/Ambulance/Fire
07.06.24 – RTC – single vehicle into post Bowland View
10.06.24 - Road Related offence – documents
11.06.24/12.06.24/13.06.24 - Domestic/Violence dispute

We have had 23 incidents reported between 16.06.24 & 28.06.24

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Abandon/Hoax call

9 reports Crime Violence/concern for welfare & safety – joint partnership working

16.06.24 – ASB Nuisance – off Road bike – Industrial Estate
17.06.24 & 25.06.24 - Concern for Safety/ Welfare joint partnership working
18.06.24 – Suspect Circumstances – Building work
20.06.24 & 27.06.24 – Domestic Incident/other force
21.06.24 – Highway disruption – Parking Low Bentham
27.06.24 - Domestic dispute

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

PCSO Grace stated that there will be a new children's care home opening in Bentham. Noted parking issues in Low Bentham near the Sun Dial, more Licensing enforcement, and parking issues on Lakeber Avenue, member of public parking on the pavement but blocking the road as vehicles parked on both sides of the road, potentially blocking the emergency services.

- 65 To receive a **Report from NYC Councillor** (for information only) - If any
Cllr David Ireton has investigated the light on Cleveland Square, reporting that this belongs to the car parking team, unsure if it has been fixed. A significant increase both nationally and locally for temporary accommodation, NYC has relied on bed and breakfast and hotels to meet this need, this had significant costs to Council, a 400% increase since 2019/2020, this demand was likely to remain high. NYC are looking at building accommodation to fulfil this need.

Cllr Naylor asked about the Home to School Travel policy regarding the Settle College bus. Cllr Ireton states that he does not support this, removing parent choice and limiting intake in a North Yorkshire School, no public transport available.

Cllr Ireton explained that local buses are being looked into.

66 To consider and comment upon **New Planning Applications:**

66.1 ZA24/26027/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with alterations to the access from Low Bentham Road Westering, Low Bentham Road, High Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7BS

NEUTRAL – NO OBJECTIONS

67 To **receive and note** the following planning decision/information:

67.1 ZA24/25897/HH Single storey wood store and personal workshop extension to the existing detached garage. Burrow Barn, Low Bentham Road

Grants Householder Planning Permission

NOTED

67.2 ZA23/25515/FUL Change of use of land for the siting of lodge style caravans, including 1no. warden's lodge., Bentham Golf Course, Robin Lane

Grants Householder Planning Permission

NOTED

67.3 ZA24/25978/FUL First floor rear extension Independent Financial Services, 43 Main Street, High Bentham, Lancaster

Grants Householder Planning Permission

NOTED

68 **Financial Matters:**

68.1 To receive and note current bank balances as at 12:00pm Tuesday 25th June 2024 £93,375.41

NOTED

68.2 To note the pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTED

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

NOTED

68.4 To approve the payments.

Status	Tender	Order No	Date	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	Total	Payment Ref
Outstanding	ONLINE	141	01.07.2024	30.06.24	1280	Kingsdale Projects	Grass Cutting	£3,330	
Outstanding	ONLINE	140	25.06.2024	25.06.2024	534644149 534650421	James Hallam (James Hallam)	Insurance	£5,300.37	
Outstanding	ONLINE	139	25.06.2024	11.06.2024	VO2235392749	Toobys	Hoover	£429.00	
Outstanding	ONLINE	138	25.06.2024	11.06.2024	VO2235392749	Amazon	Wifi Booster	£15.99	
Outstanding	ONLINE	137	25.06.2024	11.06.2024	VO2235392749	EE Mobile	Mobiles	£66.12	
Outstanding	ONLINE	136	25.06.2024	19.06.2024	Till	Duxbury	Tip Storage	£24.95	
Outstanding	ONLINE	135	25.06.2024	24.06.2024	51481698	Nisbets	Microwave	£245.98	
Outstanding	ONLINE	134	25.06.2024	30.04.2024	Jun 2024	Anne Chappell	Salary	£249.66	
Outstanding	ONLINE	133	25.06.2024	30.06.2024	Jun 2024	Claire Burrow	Salary	£1,539.13	
Outstanding	ONLINE	132	25.06.2024	30.06.2024	Jun 2024	Louise Chappell	Salary	£1,152.31	
Paid	DIRDEBIT	131	23.06.2024	04.06.2024	3006723896	Total Energies (Total Energies)	Electricity	£1,208.52	
Outstanding	ONLINE	130	23.06.2024	18.06.2024	448516	Vital Skills	Training	£144.00	
Outstanding	DIRDEBIT	129	23.06.2024	20.06.2024	203042621601	1&1 Ionos	Internet	£25.20	
Paid	DIRDEBIT	128	17.06.2024	22.05.2024	834897	SSE SWALEC Unmetered Supply (SSE SWALEC)	Unmetered Electric Supply	£251.62	

APPROVED – Cllr Hill and Cllr Adams to authorise.

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

69.1 To note the electrical inspection was carried out on 24.06.24.

NOTED

69.2 To note update requested on Japanese Knotweed treatment on 18th June, technicians will visit site on 3rd July, then give feedback.

NOTED

70 To **sign** the paperwork for the purchase of School Hill land.

RESOLVED – agreed by Council 5th Dec 2022 min ref: 230 and 8th April 2024 min ref: 324. Paperwork signed.

**AGREED – to pay solicitors fees for BTC and NYC, land registry fee and purchase price – total £986.00.
Cllr Marshall and Cllr Adams to sign as solicitor already has relevant ID.**

71 Highways Matters:

71.1 To consider parking issues at the dropped kerb opposite the Co-op. (Cllr Marshall)

Cllr Marshall sated that cars parking there means this is inaccessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs.

RESOLVED – ACTION Clerk to report these parking issues to NYC to incorporate a deterrent to parking.

72 To receive an update on the Whole Town Boost Programme and to consider further action.

RESOLVED – APPROVED – to move forward with the ‘Boost’ Programme with Cllrs Paige and Ryan as part of the cross functional team. BTC to initially approach the Businesses that responded to be involved further with the Bentham Masterplan. Working party to be granted power by NYC and use the Town Hall free of charge.

73 Town Hall Matters:

73.1 To consider the quote regarding the emergency lights.

APPROVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact Howsons to arrange.

73.2 To consider the quotes regarding the automatic door running gear replacement.

APPROVED – ACCEPT the quote from ACE elevators – ACTION – Clerk to contact ACE to approve with a service plan.

73.3 To consider a valuation of the Town Hall for insurance purposes from recommended list.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Clerk to contact the surveyors for quotations.

74 To receive feedback from the Buildings Committee:

74.1 List of priorities within the Town Hall after Council Walk around.

RESOLVED – ACTION – Clerk to contact the high priority items from the list.

RESOLVED – ACTION - Caretaker to complete ‘in-house’ jobs.

Contact Colin Moore regarding the high priority roof problems.

Cllr Marshal left the meeting at 20:21.

75 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.

Cllr Stannard – BTC site has a lot of website accessibility tools.

RESOLVED – to plan a 12month project to become compliant, remain with Creative Theory, to move to gov.uk.

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

76.1 ‘No Mow May and September’ from Members of the Public.

Comments from Cllrs; understand the reasoning, however cutting afterwards is a challenge.

RESOLVED – proposal to carry on as BTC are with the current grass cutting maps

VOTED BY SHOW OF HANDS; FOR – 4 AGAINST – 1

76.2 ‘Vehicle Speed Concerns’ letter from Member of the Public.

DEFERRED to next meeting due to other correspondences from school.

76.3 The Executive meeting where the recommendations on the Home to School Travel Policy consultation will be considered has been rescheduled for Tuesday 16th July 2024 venue to be confirmed. Questions or statements submitted to NYC before 9th July 2024.

NOTED – ACTION to ensure BTC submitted a comment last time.

76.4 Update from Angus Fire.

Cllr Adams read statement out, see appendix A.

Cllr Naylor – testing at playtimes is now avoided. Abandon no testing on Mondays due to historical request that this was ‘washing day’.

Cllr Adams – the wind direction is noted during testing.

RESOLVED – contact Angus for permission to circulate to Bentham News and Public.

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

Cllrs Marshall and Taylor attended the YLCA Craven Branch meeting on Monday 17th June, other Councils are experiencing similar issues with crime and highways.

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

**Speed Concern letters from MOP and school
Grass cutting update in Low Bentham near Harley Close
Footpath Sign – near Bigber Farm
Cemetery**

79 Date of **next meeting;**

Open Spaces Committee – Monday 15th July – 7:30pm

Finance Committee – Monday 22nd July 2024 – 7:30pm

(request to move to Monday 29th July due to Clerk and RFO absences)

Full Council meeting – Monday 5th August 2024 – 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 20:55

C Burrow

Claire Burrow

Town Clerk

Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Appendix A – item minute ref:76.4



Bentham Town Council

Date: 27th June 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

Following your visit to Angus Fire on 30th May, we, as promised, would like to provide you with an update;

We were very pleased to be able to host Malcolm Birks, Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate for Skipton & Ripon, at Angus Fire on Tuesday 25th June. In addition to providing Malcolm with a tour of the Bentham site, we were able to provide him with a comprehensive update about what we were doing in relation to PFAS at the Bentham site, including the key points set out below.

- Angus Fire has never manufactured PFAS (also known as “forever chemicals”). PFAS was, however, contained within one of the raw materials formerly used in our class B foams.
- Since 2022, all fire testing at Bentham has only used foam that does not contain PFAS, known as Fluorine Free Foams. In 2023, Angus Fire publicly announced that it was stopping the manufacturing of foams containing PFAS and has since gone a step further and ceased the manufacturing of all foam products at the Bentham site.
- The Angus Fire Borehole, where PFAS samples were taken by the UK Environment Agency has been capped off and has never been used for drinking water.
- As Yorkshire Water’s CEO, advised “...Angus Fire is not within the direct raw water catchment for our treatment works” and “...we do conduct routine testing of our raw water, including monitoring the level of PFAS. In doing so we are compliant with the expectations of the Drinking Water Inspectorate” (Yorkshire Water – 17th June 2024)
- United Utilities has advised that the River Lune is a very healthy river. In relation to PFAS specifically, they advise: “..Of the 8 samples that have been taken since June last year, two detected the presence of an individual PFAS, which were at concentrations that would place the source (even prior to blending, as any abstraction from the Lune would be blended with other raw water sources prior to treatment) in Tier 1 (the lowest of the Drinking Water Inspectorate’s categories)”. (Source United Utilities - June 2024)
- At present, we are not aware of any impact on the local area as a result of PFAS at the Bentham site. To clarify that matter, we have commissioned independent environmental consultancy Ramboll to undertake PFAS sampling – which it is currently engaged in – to provide us a comprehensive view of any PFAS levels present. We will continue to work with Ramboll to determine the impact of PFAS on-site and to resolve any impacts identified.
- Ramboll is a well-known and highly respected consultancy with an annual turnover of ~£1.9bn, over 18,000 employees and they operate in more than 35 countries.



- Ramboll have now taken their Phase 1 groundwater and soil samples (both on and off-site). This includes the fields to the west of the Bentham site and, at the request of the Town Council, the Bentham playing fields and gardens on Duke Street. The results of the Phase 1 testing will be presented to Angus Fire and the Environment Agency in July, which will determine what sampling will be required as part of a Phase 2 sampling programme. We will provide an update ahead of the August Town Council meeting.
- As a precautionary measure, and until we have the results from Ramboll's PFAS testing on site, we are not releasing any surface water rainfall directly from concrete surfaces at the redundant foam plant and the fire test site and are instead pumping it into storage vessels.
- We are also investigating new filtration technologies, which would filter out PFAS from surface water and we hope to have something in place in the coming months.
- Furthermore, the lagoons, which are no longer used and only serve to collect rainwater, will have covers fitted over them to stop rainwater entering and in turn, stop rainwater from having to be pumped into storage vessels.
- We are treating this matter extremely seriously and we are not a company to avoid our responsibilities. Angus Fire has always operated its site in accordance with Environmental Agency regulations.
- In addition, Malcolm's letter to Angus Fire referred to asbestos on the Bentham site and we confirmed that Angus Fire does not manufacture products that contain asbestos, and it is our understanding that this activity stopped at the site in the 1950's. Angus Fire is not aware of any asbestos contamination in the local area resulting from historical operations at the Bentham site.
- Comprehensive asbestos surveys are undertaken annually by specialist asbestos contractors and a register is kept to identify where materials containing asbestos are located on site, which is a legal requirement. A more detailed 5-year asbestos review was last carried out in 2023.
- Angus remains committed to protecting the health and safety of our employees, neighbours, and the environment. We will keep the local community updated on any matters that impact them as promised to yourselves.
- We will continue to provide regular updates to the Town Council, as we work through these challenges and encourage anyone with concerns to contact us directly.

Angus Fire is a responsible company with over 100 years of community engagement. We employ many people in Bentham, many of whom have spent their working lives with us. It is extremely important for us to maintain our positive relationship with the local community.

Yours faithfully

Paul Williams
Paul Williams
Managing Director

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