



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting in **The Lower Hall** on **Wednesday 24th April 2024** at **7.30 pm**

Councillors present: Cllr Adams (Chair) Hill, Ryan, Paige, Gerrie, Stannard and Taylor

1. **Apologies** from members unable to attend: -
To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting. Cllr Marshall, Cllr Howard, Cllr Naylor, Cllr Burton
NOTED
To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.
RESOLVED – Absences approved.
2. Minutes of the 2023 Meeting were read out by Cllr Hill - To **confirm the Minutes** of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting as a true and correct record.
RESOLVED – APPROVED
3. Mayor's Report:

The 2023 / 4 council year is now coming to a close. The Council has seen some changes over the year with Councillors Pearce and Jones leaving. The Council is now up to its maximum number of 11 with Councillors Howard, Ryan, Taylor and Naylor joining within the year. Claire Burrow took up the position of Town Clerk towards the end of November, working 18 hours per week for the Council. Her introduction has allowed the control and Administration of the Council to be taken out of the hands of the Councillors. In addition the services of Carrie Pillow, who works 7.5 Hours per week for us, looking after the financial side have been integrated into normal business. Both of them work extremely hard for council and we thank them for joining us. I also wish to thank those councillors who have helped with the running of the council in the interim period.

Changes with Craven and North Yorkshire County Council into the new North Yorkshire Council still seem to be a little hit and miss. Hopefully most of the apparent issues can be ironed out over the course of the next 12 Months.

Planning matters within the parish still bring out the largest public attendance at meetings. The Council realises this is an emotive subject, but it has to balance the requirement to increase housing to maintain reasonable property pricing, with loss of amenity. We realise that the majority of issues surround infrastructure, but this is not unique to Bentham. The council gets very mixed messages about this and it is hard to distinguish one application with a lot of comments from a similar size one with none.

The Bentham masterplan has now completed phase 1 with the plan now being published. This has already allowed some organisations to reap the benefit of its existence. The Town

Council thanks the Masterplan team for what has been delivered so far. Phase 2 is now about to begin and there will be more news on this subject in the forthcoming weeks.

The Council completed the sale of the former Community centre to the Bentham Hub. We wish them well with their venture and believe the building is in good hands. The funds from the sale have been “ring-fenced” for a project yet to be decided.

The Town Hall ballroom window project has been completed. The Duke Street Lighting project has progressed and hopefully this will be completed with the next Council year. The Council has now fully embedded software for compiling accounts, into its routine and hopefully the majority of teething troubles have now been resolved. The expansion into the Town Hall booking management module now means users can book online if they so wish and it is easier and less manual process.

I wish to thank our employees, Anne and Louise Chappell along with Ruth Green who look after the users of this building. A thank you also goes out to the Volunteers who staff the Tourist information point throughout the summer. We currently have vacancies for assistance in this area and I’m sure we will be glad of any names to add to the Volunteer rota.

The Council is here to try to promote and do the best for Bentham, its residents and workers. This may not always be the perceived objective. I would urge all members of the public to look at the best things about our parish, build on the community, whether it be the shops, pubs, restaurants on the high street, or the many clubs and organisations who offer a wide variety of offerings for our spare time. I thank the council for its support over the past 12 months.

4. Financial Details:

The new Town Hall windows have been installed at the cost £19,783.

The Town Hall Clock repairs cost £8,964

New Kitchen equipment oven installed ensuring that events and coffee mornings are more successful £3100

New booking software Scribe, to make easier bookings online and more accessible for all.

Rates for Town Hall have been altered to ensure competitiveness and further opening up to the community, with children’s parties now priced £45.00.

Coffee mornings are flourishing, available to all community groups to raise much needed funds, these are a vital part of our local community, a place for people to socialise and open to all ages.

Last year, £9300 worth of grants had been given to local community charities.

Next year £15,400 is being given in grants.

The Council have earmarked finances for the following projects:

Fingerpost £3000

Street lighting £20000 this is on top of the £17,000 that was already pre-allocated.

There is a general reserve of £78,400, which is less than 7 months of the total Council expenditure.

The 2023/2024 Precept was £123,957

This year, 2024/2025 Precept is £140,000

Which is a £10.41 increase for Band D this is to allow Council to increase the grants for the community to £15,000 and to ensure further improvements to our community, for example the finger posts and the street lights.

5. Reports from Local Organisations

Annual report from PCSO Jayne Grace:

Annual Report - Bentham - 20.04.23 & 20.04.24 - 492 reported incidents

Annual Report – Bentham – 01.04.22 & 20.04.23 – 498 reported incidents

Burglaries/stolen vehicles – 9

64 - Concern for safety/welfare/missing person/safeguarding – checks carried out by police, ambulance, family & friends.

11 - Crime Fraud

50 - Abandon calls/ hoax

68 - Crime Violence/domestic incidents/sexual/Harassment

25 – ASB Nuisance/personal/civil dispute

8 – Criminal Damage

13 – Theft

19 - Suspect circumstances/drugs – persons, vehicles, postal.

11 - Road Related offence – manner all over road, Section 59, medical, suspect drink, drug driving, speed, mobile phones, seat belts

20 - Road Traffic collisions

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 Jayne Grace

Collar number 5561

Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood PCSO

Settle Ingleton & Bentham area

North Yorkshire Police

101

Jayne.Grace@northyorksire.police.uk

Reports read out from:

- 1. Bentham News**
- 2. Bentham Older People Together**
- 3. Bentham Playing Fields**
- 4. Bentham Agricultural Show**
- 5. The Bentham Hub**
- 6. Bentham Craft Club**
- 7. Bentham Community Library**
- 8. Bentham Youth Club**
- 9. Bentham Allotments**
- 10. Bentham Community Bonfire**
- 11. Bentham Footpath Group**
- 12. Bentham Theatre Group**
- 13. Community Link Café**
- 14. Collingwood and Longstaffe**
- 15. St John the Baptist Church**
- 16. Churches Together**
- 17. Friday Lunch Club**
- 18. Goodenber Play Area**
- 19. Lower House Sensory Farm Community Company**
- 20. Lancaster and Settle Railway User Group**
- 21. Longstaffe Educational Foundation**
- 22. NSPCC**
- 23. Low Bentham Victoria Institute and Public Hall**
- 24. Bentham and District Pet Rescue**
- 25. Bentham Area Refugee Support Group**
- 26. Springfield Bowling Club**
- 27. SELFA**
- 28. Stepping Stones**
- 29. Settle District Aid in Sickness Fund**
- 30. Ingleton and Bentham Twinning Group**
- 31. Tatham Fells Women's Institute**
- 32. High Bentham Women's Institute**
- 33. Bentham Christmas Lights**

6. Presentation of Precept Grants

RESOLVED - Community Groups were advised to pass their BACs details on to the Town Clerk, to ensure swift payment. Groups having goods purchased by the Council were advised to pass on the information of the goods required to the Town Clerk.

7. Consideration of the beneficiary of the 2025 Bentham & Beyond Calendar.

RESOLVED - Chair stated those wishing to be considered would contact the Council.

8. Any Other Business

The Grant applications for consideration for next year will be available September/October time.

MOP asked for the pavement near Springfield Bowling Club be considered as the pavement ends meaning pedestrians have to walk on the road.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 8:47pm

C Burrow

Claire Burrow
Bentham Town Clerk
Monday 29th April 2024