



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH
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www.benthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7:30pm Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall

Attendance: Cllrs Adams, Burton, MacEley-Young, Marshall, Stannard and Whittet.

Town Clerk: C Burrow

Bentham News: 2

Wednesday 3rd February 2026

223 Apologies from members unable to attend: -

223.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

NONE

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

NONE

224. Declaration of Interest: -

224.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr MacEley-Young: 238.5 and 238.6

224.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

225 To consider **applications for the office of councillor** and to fill vacant seats by co-option, if any

NONE

226. 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).

Cllr Marshall spoke about the ongoing Yorkshire Water road works on the Main Street, following a discussion with a senior engineer on site. It was explained that the water main, last replaced in 1973, is in poor condition and operating under high pressure, making replacement necessary.

Works have progressed along the Main Street but now require crossing the road due to the number of other underground services. Yorkshire Water is in discussions with North Yorkshire Council to agree how best to proceed.

The works are expected to cause disruption, with impacts on local businesses, the Auction Mart, the industrial estate and traffic movement. Night-time working is being considered to help reduce disruption.

It was also noted that BT Openreach intend to carry out further works along the Main Street once the Yorkshire Water project is completed.

Cllr MacEley-Young posed the question of why some areas are not being replaced. Council are unsure.

227. To Confirm the Minutes:

227.1 Of the meeting on Monday 1st December 2025 as a true and accurate record.

ERROR IN DATE – NOT ACCEPTED

227.2 Of the extraordinary meeting on Thursday 22nd January 2026 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED to accept and confirm the minutes of Thursday 22nd January 2026 as a true and accurate record.

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

Read out in full by Cllr Adams (appendix A)

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

NONE RECEIVED – Cllr Ireton sent his apologies.

230. To consider and comment upon **New Planning Applications:**

230.1 26/00069/FUL Householder permission for the repurpose of pergola with elevated children's playhouse. 1 The Park Burton Road Low Bentham North Yorkshire LA2 7FN

A - PARISH COUNCIL HAS NO OBJECTION

231 To receive and note the following **Planning Decisions/Information:**

231.1 ZA25/27502/TPO Works to trees the subject of a Tree Preservation Order Fell 1no. Ash T5, Ash T6, Ash T7, Ash T8, Ash T9 - Fell to base Sports Pavilion Burton in Lonsdale **Permission Granted**

NOTED

232 **Financial Matters:**

232.1 To receive and note current bank balances; Unity current account as **£67,494.69**, the Public Sector deposit account balance as **£85,000.00** and the Virgin current account as **£33,549.10**.

NOTED Cllrs Adams pointed out that money was meant to move from the Virgin account to the Public Sector deposit account in accordance with the last Council minutes, Clerk stated that no current member of staff had access to this account therefore the RFO felt it inappropriate to move the money.

232.2 To note the pre-authorized salary and pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTED

232.3 To approve the payments:

Bentham Town Council

2 February 2026 (2025 - 2026)

PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

| Vouche | Code | Date | Minute | Bank | Payment Ref. | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 329 | Electric (TH) | 05/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Electricity at Town Hall | British Lite Gas | L | 0.45 | 0.02 | 0.47 |
| 330 | HMRC for clerk (admin) | 06/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | HMRC PAYE etc | HMRC | X | 3,704.83 | | 3,704.83 |
| 331 | Maintenance at Town Hall (TH) | 15/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Plastering Town Hall | S P Plastering and Damp Pi | X | 2,830.00 | | 2,830.00 |
| 332 | GRPA | 09/01/2026 | | 02 Virgin Money | | Goodenber Road Play Area | Sutcliffe Play | S | 786.50 | 157.30 | 943.80 |
| 333 | Clerk pension (admin) | 14/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Pension | NEST | X | 251.70 | | 251.70 |
| 334 | Internet | 07/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Email & web Hosting | 1&1 Ionos | S | 24.23 | 4.85 | 29.08 |
| 335 | Trade Waste (TH) | 22/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Trade Waste | North Yorkshire Council | X | 66.38 | | 66.38 |
| 336 | Electric Supply (street lighting) | 21/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Electricity Street Lights | SSE SWALEC | L | 244.15 | 12.21 | 256.36 |
| 337 | Gas (TH) | 22/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Gas Invoice Town Hall | British Lite Gas | S | 932.82 | 186.56 | 1,119.38 |
| 338 | Landline & Clerk Mobile | 19/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Mobiles | EE Mobile | S | 72.44 | 14.49 | 86.93 |
| 339 | Green Waste (cemetery) | 19/01/2026 | | 02 Virgin Money | | garden waste | North Yorkshire Council | X | 52.00 | | 52.00 |
| 340 | Town Hall Staff (TH) / Caretaki | 30/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | | | X | 1,247.45 | | 1,247.45 |
| 341 | Town Hall Staff (TH) / Caretaki | 30/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | | | X | 285.96 | | 285.96 |
| 342 | Clerk salary (admin) | 30/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | | | X | 2,067.70 | | 2,067.70 |
| 343 | Clerk salary (admin) | 30/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | | | X | 1,477.18 | | 1,477.18 |
| 344 | Water Rates (TH) | 26/01/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Waste Water | Waterplus | X | 112.96 | | 112.96 |
| 345 | PRS (TH) | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | PPL/PRS | PPL/PRS | S | 315.58 | 63.12 | 378.70 |
| 346 | Electric (TH) | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Electricity at Town Hall | British Lite Gas | S | 924.51 | 184.90 | 1,109.41 |
| 347 | BB - Administration | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Bentham boost | Laura Davy Admin Solution | X | 1,020.00 | | 1,020.00 |
| 348 | Parish Caretaking (OS) | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Grass cutting / parish caretakin | Kingsdale Projects | X | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| 348 | PHPF (OS) | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Grass cutting / parish caretakin | Kingsdale Projects | X | 605.00 | | 605.00 |
| 348 | GRPA | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Grass cutting / parish caretakin | Kingsdale Projects | X | 1,420.00 | | 1,420.00 |
| 349 | PHPF (OS) | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Parish Caretaking supplies | Myers Building Supplies | S | 17.47 | 3.49 | 20.96 |
| 350 | Town Halls Repairs | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Town Hall Repairs | Colin Moore | X | 180.00 | | 180.00 |
| 351 | Internet | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Internet | SKY | S | 57.45 | 11.49 | 68.94 |
| 352 | Internet | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Email & web Hosting | 1&1 Ionos | S | 24.23 | 4.85 | 29.08 |
| 353 | Kitchen Equipment | 02/02/2026 | | 02 Virgin Money | | Grill | Nisbets | S | 229.99 | 45.99 | 275.98 |
| 354 | Bank Charges (admin) | 02/02/2026 | | 01- Unity Trust Bank | | Service charge | Unity Trust bank | X | 12.30 | | 12.30 |
| Total | | | | | | | | | 18,993.28 | 689.27 | 19,682.55 |

APPROVED – Cllrs Marshall and Burton to authorise (staff names redacted)

- 233 **Council/Staffing matters:**
233.1 To receive the Clerk's report.
RECEIVED – Appendix B
- 234 **Marketing and Development committee** matters deferred from previous meeting:
234.1 To receive an update from the Marketing and Development Committee.
Cllr Whittet offered to join the Marketing and Development Committee.
- 234.2 To consider the Terms of Reference.
RESOLVED to AGREE
- 234.3 To consider the Council strapline; *'Building a better Bentham'*.
RESOLVED to AGREE
- 234.4 To consider the draft Council Business Plan.
RESOLVED Clerk to include the update of Bygone Bentham.
- 234.5 To consider updating the About Bentham website, inviting local groups to provide updates, advertise local events and businesses, Bentham Boost to use the website and specific users update sections of the website themselves.
RESOLVED to ACTION Clerk and Cllr Stannard to find a company to host the websites and emails as the current provider cannot host a gov.uk domain.
- 235 **To receive an update from the Buildings Committee.**
- Cllr Adams explained that the works to complete list was nearly completed, a walk around was not conducted at the meeting due to requiring daylight, plastering and painting the Wenningdale Room entrance until after the ballroom is fitted.**
- 236 **To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:**
236.1 To receive correspondence from Area5 regarding Grasmere car park after reviewing the options appraisal; will assist but off highway.
RECEIVED
- 236.2 To consider a course of action for the defibrillator at Victoria Institute.
RESOLVED – Clerk to request assurances that the defibrillator will have a continuous supply and not turned off/unplugged.
RESOLVED if assurance received to ACTION the electrician to supply a transformer plug and PCB and fit.
- 236.3 To consider the quote from the solicitors to asset transfer land on Butts Lane.
RESOLVED – to ACCEPT the quote with the searches at £1,213.24 +VAT
RESOLVED – to request measurements of the land due to no physical boundary along one side.
- 236.4 Fire door quote: doors to be replaced all paint finish or remain as either painted or oak finish, replace like for like.
RESOLVED – to request quote for like for like inline with other quotes received.
- 236.5 To consider the quote for the banking on Main Street.
DEFER back to OPEN SPACES.
- 236.6 To consider the quote for the Beech tree at the PHPF.
RESOLVED to ACCEPT

236.7 To consider an onsite meeting with Deputy Clerk at PPHF and Goodenber Park.
RESOLVED to conduct a walk around with Open Spaces and the Deputy Clerk at 6:00pm on Wednesday 4th March 2026 of both play areas prior to meeting.

237 Matters requested by councillors and Highways Matters:

237.1 Springfield. (Cllr Burton)

Cllr Burton raised ongoing issues regarding temporary traffic lights. The matter relates to road damage following works by Yorkshire Water. Morrisons is responsible for the reinstatement and repair of the road surface.

It was reported that the repair was carried out while the road was waterlogged, resulting in an inadequate fix using sludge and surface tarmac only. This failed shortly after vehicles passed over it. Temporary traffic lights have therefore been in place for approximately one week, having been installed on Monday. Cllr Burton also reported a lengthy phone call on Sunday with a representative attempting to clarify the location using a postcode.

No further action is requested from the Council at this time, as the matter is pending action by Morrisons.

Cllr Marshall explained that the sink hole Ashfield Dentist is going to be further fixed.

RESOLVED – Cllr Marshall will contact the relevant company to clean the Main Street and Goodenber Crescent.

237.2 Pavement resurfacing request response. (Cllr Marshall)

NOTED North Yorkshire Council have no plans to re-surface the Main Street pavements.

237.3 To consider fundraising opportunities to replace the calendar.

RESOLVED – Cllrs to see if there is support for a music festival with fireworks in July at Bentham Golf Club.

238 Correspondence received, to receive and decide on further action where necessary:

238.1 From Area 5 regarding the Egerton cross roads.

RESOLVED to ACTION Clerk to REQUEST that North Yorkshire Highways ensure their records are correct as Council are aware of two serious accidents in 2025, request that they have another look at the up-to-date photographs of Egerton crossing and the hedge restricts the line of sight behind the fence.

238.2 Lights in Low Bentham car park not on North Yorkshire Council land therefore responsibility of the land owner.

RESOLVED to request the Electrician to look at the street lights.

238.3 Scribe year end health check.

NOT TO PROCEED

238.4 Future Ready Fuel.

RESOLVED to circulate on social media and website.

238.5 Angus Fire update and request for quarterly meeting with Council.

Read out in full by Cllr Adams (appendix C)

RESOLVED to request a meeting with the Council on either Tuesday 3rd March or Thursday 5th March.

238.6 Link to North Yorkshire Council website page regarding Angus Fire on the Council website.

RESOLVED to AGREE to a link on the website.

238.7 Consultation on the proposed Local Planning Enforcement Plan

RESOLVED Cllrs to complete independently, if any councillor feels the Council should submit a response return to Council.

238.8 Request from Bentham Community Primary School for a Councillor to visit.

RESOLVED to arrange a suitable day and time to visit.

238.9 Theatre group access for painting.

RESOLVED to potentially allow a key for access. Theatre group to contact Clerk to arrange.

239 To receive **Reports from Councillors** who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only)

Cllr Marshall – Almshouse vacancy has had applicants, currently making arrangements for a new resident.

Cllr Burton - It was reported that a meeting of the Longstaffe Committee took place on Wednesday evening. The Committee discussed ideas to raise funds and increase the profile of the Longstaffe Committee. Proposed activities include a beetle drive aimed at attracting a wide range of age groups, the use of a presentation displayed on a TV screen at events to explain the purpose and work of the Longstaffe Committee and future events such as a concert and a quiz to support additional fundraising. This is an ongoing project, with the first event provisionally planned for 18 April, subject to venue confirmation.

Cllr Adams – unfortunately could not attend the last LASRUG meeting and is awaiting the minutes. Meetings are held at Bentham Station.

240 To receive an update on the **Bentham Boost** and **decide further action where necessary.**

Cllr Whittet reported that the Phase 1 evaluation has been completed and submitted. Feedback from participating businesses was positive, with reported increases in confidence, skills and in some cases income. The activities also improved safety, reduced isolation for sole traders, strengthened local business networks, and increased high street footfall.

It was noted that future delivery should prioritise local providers and dedicated coordination to maintain momentum. Charging a modest fee for training was found to improve attendance and commitment.

Phase 3 has now been submitted, and a decision is awaited.

Councillor Marshall reported that several elements of the project had been particularly well received. As a local business owner, he organised a networking event, which was well attended and, for many participants, their first experience of such an event. Attendees, all employing at least five staff members, found the session, including a guest speaker, beneficial. Councillor Marshall suggested taking forward one or two aspects of the project, including establishing a quarterly or six-monthly networking event for local businesses.

241 **Council Items for next meeting and minor items for information only.**

For Buildings Committee – to consider a sign in sheet for contractors.

242 **Dates of next meeting: Council meeting: Monday 2nd March 2026 7:30pm
Open Spaces: Wednesday 4th March 2026 7:30pm**

Meeting closed to public at 21:08

- 243 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 244 is considered:-
- 244 To consider the cemetery records; electronically and paper based.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will update the electronic cemetery records when time allows during working hours.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact the undertakers to obtain clarification regarding a burial plot.

Meeting closed at 21:45

C Burrow

**C Burrow
Town Clerk and RFO**

Appendix A

Please find your police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 02.02.26

We have had 41 incidents reported between 01.01.26 & 29.01.26

Reports Include General Police Admin, Other police force enquiry, Safeguarding, abandon call, Road Related offence – other police force/documents vehicle seized, Domestic dispute, Firearm checks, Civil dispute, Parking dispute, absconder, Suspect light garden – no reports, alarm sounding – false, online theft, Fake notes & highways – pothole

11 reports – Concern for welfare/safety/damage – joint partnership working

08.01.26 – Criminal damage – 06.01.26 Racial Graffiti at Wesley Close entrance the play park

18.01.26 – RTC – 2 vehicle – Dumb Toms Lane – crossroads

26.01.26 - Crime Violence & Concern for welfare/safety – in order

27.01.26 – ASB personal

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 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

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace

Collar number 5561

Appendix B

Clerk's report January 2026 for February meeting – 02.02.26

- Goodenber parts ordered, research on fittings.
- Goodenber – TB actioned replacements.
- Howsons fitted lighting – falter light on landing.
- Emails sent to Area5- pavements, Egerton cross roads meeting request, options appraisal.
- Contact from David Ireton regarding the road surfacing after the YW works.
- Streets lights not working reported.
- Transferred over to the new planning portal.
- ProLaundry have inspected the gas oven and grill in the ballroom kitchen.
- Cemetery work – two plaques and re-opening, one plaque unknown whether sold or not, no paperwork or information available. MOP wishing to purchase two next to each other, resolved. MOP purchased plaque, new supplier found, proof ordered, sent to MOP for approval.
- Bookings increased this month.
- Email sent to Area 5 and Yorkshire Water regarding Springfield.
- Bank reconciliation from January meeting.
- Contact with CA regarding proposal for phase 3 change – not viable to submit Grasmere car park.
- Options Appraisal sent again to NY officers and Area 5, info from the CA – there is funding available for NYC for capital works. Area5 returned not their responsibility.
- Defib at VI low Bentham investigated – moving the table trolley discovered a lack of transformer plug on cabinet wire drilled through the wall. Need to establish voltage.
- Social media posts on Goodenber Play Area and road closures.
- Information returned from NYC regarding lighting at car park in Low Bentham after lighting reported to not be working from member of public – these two lights are not the responsibility of NYC as they are on land not owned by NYC.
- Cemetery weekly check – new memorial installed, topple test dangerous stone, to contact owner and potentially lay flat. To remove ivy and potential to remove bench for memorial plaques.
- Builder been to look at the guttering along the WR. Builder fitted the guttering end.
- Plumber been to look at the radiators to be removed in WR entrance for plasterer and the radiators in the BR potentially need removing for flooring fit. Plumber fixed lack of hot water in ladies' toilets.
- Buildings committee prep, meeting and minutes.
- Cemetery waste brown bin payment processed.
- Goodenber Play Area page added to website
- Phone call with police regarding graffiti at Goodenber play area, has been passed to neighbourhood police.
- Plasterer finished job on time. ACE refit doors. Carpet refitted to the entrance. Skirting boards fitted – new skirting boards were cheaper than fitting existing ones. Painter booked in for the Thurs and Friday before Pantomime- after 4 weeks drying time as specified by plasterer.
- HAGS inspection requested for Goodenber Play Area.
- Fault with the automatic doors SIS error – sensor issues needed cleaning.
- Boost application for phase 3, contract drawn up, letters of support.
- Reported to North Yorkshire Council the sink hole on Main Street near Ashfield Dentist due to roadworks back in November.
- Reported to North Yorkshire Council a fallen tree on Millers Ford blocking the footpath.
- Quotes continuing to be gathered for the Town Hall railings – struggling to contact contractors.
- Contacted companies for Goodenber Play Area parts still required.
- Chair cleaned the dishwasher in the Ballroom kitchen.
- Website updated – Services; Goodenber Play Area, Cemetery fee details, PHPF, Town Hall.
- Electrician contacted for quote for list of works to be completed.
- Defib and play area checks.



Date: 2nd February 2026

Bentham Town Council

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors,

Firstly, we would like to invite you to join us for a visit to the Angus Fire facility in February. This will be an opportunity to re-familiarise you with site conditions and to provide an update on the containment, characterisation and corrective action/remediation activities that have already been undertaken or are planned for 2026. The work being undertaken, including by our independent environmental consultants, is summarised below.

Containment

We continue to collect rainwater and surface water run-off and now have over 8.8million litres stored on site. Subject to weather conditions, we expect this volume to continue increasing. To illustrate the scale of the storage challenge, I have attached a photograph of IBCs stored at the back of the Angus Fire site.

As previously communicated, our stormwater treatment facility is fully commissioned and ready for use. However, we are unable to discharge any processed water until the Environment Agency completes its assessment of our permit variation application and makes its final determination.

Characterisation

Characterisation activities are ongoing, with several projects continuing from last year. This includes the investigative work undertaken by Dr. Patrick Byrne and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) on the River Wenning, which is now complete. The results of that work will be communicated to the relevant authorities in 2026.

Once the characterisation activities have been completed, our environmental consultants will propose any corrective actions / remediation activities required in agreement with the Environment Agency and/or North Yorkshire Council.

Corrective Action/Remediation

Our objective remains the same: as characterisation evolves and we become aware of matters that require immediate corrective action and/or remediation, then in agreement with the Environment Agency and/or North Yorkshire Council, we will look to implement.

We continue to work very closely with both the Environment Agency and North Yorkshire Council and had the pleasure of hosting members of the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee on site in January. We provided them with updates on the findings from the extensive work that has been completed, which were understood and well received.

Angus Fire Ltd

Station Road, High Bentham, Nr Lancaster LA2 7NA UK • Tel: +44 (0)1524 264000 • Fax: +44 (0)1524 264180
Email: generalenquiries@angusuk.co.uk • Web: www.angusfire.co.uk

Registered office: Station Road, High Bentham, Nr Lancaster LA2 7NA UK • Registered in England No. 8441992
AF/LH/Bentham/0613



FM 595473



EMS 576644



We fully recognise the concerns of the Bentham community and we will continue to do our best to resolve these matters as quickly and as expediently as we can, and within regulatory constraints.

As always, we will continue to keep the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire Council and the Bentham Town Council fully updated on our progress as we work hard to better understand and resolve these issues.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Williams
Managing Director

