



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Full Council meeting – Monday 13th April 2026

Present: Cllrs Adams, Marshall, MacEley-Young and Stannard

Town Clerk: C Burrow

Bentham News: 1

MOP: 3

Tuesday 14th April 2026

282 Apologies from members unable to attend: -

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

Cllr Taylor and Cllr Whittet

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

AGREED

283. Declaration of Interest: -

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

Cllr Marshall – 294.6

Cllr MacEley-Young – 294.7

283.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

284. 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 – A member of the public raised a point stating that the Standing Orders of the Combined Authority allow members of the public to make a contribution followed by discussions and short responses to issues raised. They suggested that introducing such an opportunity would help encourage greater public involvement and foster a more positive relationship between the Council and the community, recognising the significant work undertaken by councillors.

The member of the public also raised concerns regarding local bus services and reported a negative experience in correspondence with the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith. They proposed that this matter be placed on the agenda for a future meeting and that the Mayor be invited to attend in person to address residents of Bentham directly, particularly in relation to perceived prioritisation of services in other areas.

MOP2 – A member of the public provided comments regarding the bridleway through the Golf Club. They outlined that a bridleway may be a minimum of approximately 1.5 metres wide at a gateway, with a general minimum width of around 2 metres and an ideal width of up to 4 metres. They further noted that where a diversion is proposed, a width of up to 6 metres may be preferred.

The member of the public stated that, in their view, a recent submission to the Council had been based on a misunderstanding. They clarified that it had not been the intention to divert the bridleway through the overspill car park. Instead, the proposed route was to run from the bottom of the hill along the road, with an alternative suggestion from a consultant that it could be routed along land adjacent to the old lane, which would provide greater shelter for horse riders.

They also noted that matters relating to field gates are the responsibility of the relevant landowners, who retain access rights at all times.

In addition, the member of the public commented on changes to the area over time, stating that it is now more open and accessible than in the past.

Finally, they suggested that the matter would be more appropriately dealt with by the North Yorkshire Highways Footpaths and Bridleways department rather than through the Town Clerk.

285. To **Confirm the Minutes:**

285.1 Of the meeting on Monday 2nd March 2026 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of Monday 2nd March as a true and accurate record.

285.2 Of the meeting on Monday 16th March 2026 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of Monday 16th March as a true and accurate record.

285.3 Of the meeting on Monday 30th March 2026 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of Monday 30th March as a true and accurate record.

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

Read out in full by Cllr Adams (appendix A)

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

Read out in full by Cllr Ireton. (Appendix B)

Concerns were raised that the recent decision represents a significant blow to North Yorkshire's finances, the decision may be challenged on the grounds that it is a budgetary matter and, under the Combined Authority constitution, may have required unanimity. It was suggested that the decision may not have been unanimous, noting that the North Yorkshire Councillor sitting on the Combined Authority voted against it.

The Chairman invited questions, a member asked how a small-town council, located approximately sixty miles from York, could challenge the Mayor to reconsider the decision?

It was advised that correspondence could be sent to the Mayor. However, it was noted that the decision has already been made, although concern was expressed about its impact.

It was explained that central government funding had been provided for specific purposes (including road maintenance), but under the Combined Authority arrangements the funding is now channelled through the Mayor's Office. Concern was raised that approximately £20 million over four years is being "top-sliced" for other projects, it may now be used for broader purposes under Combined Authority powers.

It was concluded that the funding distribution has changed following the establishment of the Combined Authority and the role of the Mayor, resulting in altered allocation of road-related funding.

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

288.1 CRAZA25/27061/REM Approval of reserved matters application (in relation to details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) following approval of ZA24/26369/VAR, Wenning View Low Bentham Road Low Bentham North Yorkshire LA2 7BT

RESOLVED - A – The Parish Council has no objections

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

289.1 26/00702/TPO: Works to trees the subject of a Tree Preservation Order No. 2256-171 2008. Fell 1 no. mature pine tree situated adjacent to 20 Hillside Road – **GRANTED**

NOTED

290. **Financial Matters:**

290.1 To receive and note current bank balances; Unity current account as **£43,834.53**, the Public Sector deposit account balance as **£85,000.00** and the Virgin current account as **£32,574.01**.

NOTED

290.2 To note the pre-authorised salary and pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTED

290.3 To approve the payments.

Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
Broadband and phone line	SKY	S	57.93	11.59	69.52	Electricity at Town Hall	British Lite Gas	S	-45.50	-9.10	-54.60
Pension	NEST	X	271.44		271.44	Goodenber Road Play Area Mail	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	S	9.82	1.96	11.78
Email & web Hosting	1&1 Ionos	S	24.23	4.85	29.08	Bentham Boost Admin	Laura Davy Admin Solution	X	840.00		840.00
Pension	NEST	X	299.25		299.25	Painting Town Hall	Barbara Rothwell	X	1,374.00		1,374.00
STanding Desk	Amazon	S	35.82	7.17	42.99	bank charges	Unity Trust bank	X	12.25		12.25
Dyson Vacuum	Toobys	S	208.32	41.67	249.99	Waste Water	Waterplus	X	129.27		129.27
Mobiles	EE Mobile	S	71.52	14.30	85.82	HMRC PAYE etc	HMRC	X	4,115.65		4,115.65
Trade Waste	North Yorkshire Council	X	66.44		66.44						
Town Hall Gas	British Lite Gas	S	680.74	136.15	816.89						
Electricity Street Lights	SSE SWALEC	L	195.80	9.79	205.59						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	11.07	2.22	13.29						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	11.32	2.26	13.58						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	18.19	3.64	21.83						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	7.67	1.54	9.21						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	20.17	4.04	24.21						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	46.60	9.32	55.92						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Amazon	S	16.66	3.33	19.99						
ProKleen Water tank cleaner	Amazon	S	13.29	2.66	15.95						
Stationery weekly planner	Amazon	S	5.82	1.17	6.99						
Salary		X	1,247.45		1,247.45						
Salary		X	285.96		285.96						
Salary		X	2,067.70		2,067.70						
Salary		X	1,288.38		1,288.38						
Down Light and replacement fc	Howsons Ltd	S	212.00	42.40	254.40						
Emergency light replacement	Howsons Ltd	S	322.78	64.56	387.34						
Caretaker supplies and statione	Thomas Graham	S	253.90	50.78	304.68						
Supply and fit skirting boards e	Leonard Tyrer and Son Car	S	292.00	58.40	350.40						
Ballroom flooring	Border Floors	S	12,495.00	2,499.00	14,994.00						
Remove and reinstall automatic	Ace Elevators	S	640.00	128.00	768.00						
Parish Caretaker role	Kingsdale Projects	X	50.00		50.00						
Parish Caretaker role	Kingsdale Projects	X	25.00		25.00						
Parish Caretaker role	Kingsdale Projects	X	570.00		570.00						
Internet	SKY	S	60.45	12.09	72.54						
Electricity at Town Hall	British Lite Gas	S	304.62	60.92	365.54						
						Total			28,613.01	3,164.71	31,777.72

Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
Pension	NEST	X	271.44		271.44
Mayoral Roll	Joby Jowett	X	650.00		650.00
Membership	YLCA	X	893.00		893.00
Ceiling tiles	TT Ceilings	S	66.67	13.33	80.00
Sanitary Disposal Unit	PHS	S	26.39	5.28	31.67
Lift service	Stannah	S	214.73	42.95	257.68
Website and Hosting	1&1 Ionos	S	24.23	4.85	29.08
Tree Works	Beaver Tree Surgeons	S	550.00	110.00	660.00
Sign Cleaning for Boost	Mark Rogerson	X	250.00		250.00
Flag for Boost	Made Paerfect Studio LTD	S	82.50	16.50	99.00
Ballroom floor cleaner, chair fe	Amazon	S	12.91	2.58	15.49
Ballroom floor cleaner, chair fe	Amazon	S	64.95	12.99	77.94
Ballroom floor cleaner, chair fe	Amazon	S	17.50	3.50	21.00
Town Hall Window Cleaning	Clearglass Cleaning	X	120.00		120.00
			Total	211.98	3,456.30

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

291 Open Spaces Matters:

291.1 To consider contacting NYC highways department regarding resurfacing of the pavement around corner next to the Springfield defibrillator.

DEFER – await more details in regards to the section of grass.

291.2 To consider requesting an asset transfer of the Rose Garden from North Yorkshire Council to Bentham Town Council.

RESOLVED – request if a Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest is possible from North Yorkshire Council.

291.3 To consider the relocation of the 1902 cross at the Green in Low Bentham to the edge of the Green, remove the time capsule and create a new one.

RESOLVED – to PROCEED with the project of moving the existing cross and erected a new commemorative structure.

291.4 To consider a noticeboard for the cemetery.

RESOLVED – AGREED to purchase a noticeboard.

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

292.1 Clerk's report.

RECEIVED – Appendix C

292.2 Low Bentham car park lighting: Electrician requires the hire of a cherry picker to access the lights, previously looked, however due to a parked car one street light was inaccessible.

RESOLVED – Electrician to proceed with cherry picker to replace the lamps.

292.3 Booking link for Town Hall on homepage; to refer to the website developer.

RESOLVED – request the website developer to add a booking link to the homepage as Clerk cannot action this.

292.4 To consider a Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest regarding Grasmere toilet block.

RESOLVED – to PROCEED with the Community Asset Transfer Expression or Interest.

292.5 To consider the Asset Transfer of Cleveland Square (if information received).

DEFER – information not received.

293 Matters requested by councillors, Highways Matters and decide further action where necessary:

293.1 Fall of member of public in Grasmere car park

RESOLVED – contact North Yorkshire Council in regards to the deterioration of the car park tarmac, request to monitor the car park surfacing. Council urge the public to report any further incidents. Council noted the car park is badly lit at night.

293.2 Request updates from utilities and service providers be regarding planned works, to be circulated.

RESOLVED – Council are aware that communications have been circulated to residents already.

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

294.1 Request for newly formed community groups to receive a reduction for the Ballroom until established to encourage trial of new activities/sports/groups.

RESOLVED – newly formed community groups using the Ballroom are offered a 25% discount for 6 sessions.

294.2 Request from Bentham Allotments Committee to support funding with PFAS testing of soil.

RESOLVED – the Bentham Allotments Committee should follow the Community Grants process to request support for funding for the testing of soil.

294.3 Request from Bentham Auction Mart for the Council to maintain/check a defibrillator if they install one on site.

RESOLVED – AGREED to maintain and check the defibrillator, ensuring it is accessible at all times, it is in clear line of sight for public in a safe public location and the cabinet requires a power supply for heat and light.

294.4 Bentham Town Council stamp to use on official documentation.

RESOLVED – AGREED to purchase a Bentham Town Council stamp.

294.5 Town Crier for Bentham.

RESOLVED – AGREED to have a Town Crier on an ad hoc basis.

294.6 Bridleway from Robin Lane to Tatterthorn Road.

RESOLVED – concerns raised regarding the condition, safety, signage and routing of the bridleway passing through Bentham Golf Course be formally noted.

**AGREED that the matter falls within the remit of North Yorkshire Council’s Public Rights of Way team
ACTION Clerk to forward accordingly for investigation and appropriate action.**

294.7 Angus Fire update.

Read out in full by Cllr Adama (appendix D)

RESOLVED – to include this on the website in associated documents and on the PFAS and Environmental Concerns section under resources.

294.8 The Road Safety Budget; includes the budget for average and fixed speed cameras, approved at a meeting of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority on Friday 27th March.

NOTED

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

Cllr Stannard noted he had attended a Pioneer Projects meeting.

Clerk noted the Longstaffe Education beetle drive at the Golf Club on Saturday 18th April.

Cllr Adams explained he had missed the latest LASRUG meeting as this was held during working hours.

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

296.1 To consider applying for the Movement Activity and Sport Fund.

RESOLVED – Bentham Town Council will act as lead applicant.

Phase 3 application was unsuccessful. The flag project is progressing with community group designs.

Looking at colourful bins to replace broken, unsightly existing bins. The signs have been cleaned around the parish. Shop front improvement grants have been launched again. Idea of a ‘Big Clean Up’ of Bentham Main Street and pavement areas. Planter locations have been established; local residents have offered to water the plants. Phase 2 is continuing on from the success of phase 1.

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

Council website hosting.

298 Dates of next meeting:

Annual Parish Meeting: Monday 27th April 2026 7:00pm

Council meeting: Monday 11th May 2026 7:30pm

Meeting closed to the public at 20:52

299 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 300 is considered:-

300 Staffing Matters:

300.1 Cleaner and Caretaker pay scales.

RESOLVED – Caretaker and Cleaner at the top of the pay band, therefore additional responsibilities may be taken on in order to move into higher band.

300.2 Clerk's Contract.

RESOLVED – agreed by Council with amendment of working days Monday to Thursday.

Meeting closed at 21:21

C Burrow

C Burrow

Bentham Town Clerk and RFO

Appendix A

Please find your police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 13.04.26

We have had 51 incidents reported between 27.02.26 & 10.04.26

Reports Include General Police Admin, Other police force enquiry, Safeguarding, abandon/hoax calls, Domestic dispute, Firearm checks, Theft of parcel, Dog Bite, loose dog Civil dispute, suspect circumstances – missing items, Alarm sounding, Missing tool, ASB Nuisance/personal, online reports, Road related offence – documents, malicious communication, suspect wires, concern for welfare – checked in order.

9 - Crime Violence/Concern for welfare/safety /missing persons/criminal damage – joint partnership working,

04.03.26 - RTC – vehicle damaged Wesley Close

08.03.26 – Violence - Dog Bite

23.03.26 & 29.03.26– RTC – single vehicle

25.03.26 & 30.03.26 – RTC – 2 vehicles

30.03.26 – RTC – vehicle via wall

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

Vital maintenance work on the county's roads will be severely affected after a decision was approved to cut millions of pounds from the highways budget.

Plans for a massive reduction of at least £20 million for highways maintenance in the county over the next four years were voted through on (Friday, March 27) at a meeting of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

I have grave concerns over the impact that the decision will have on maintaining thousands of kilometres of roads in North Yorkshire, which is England's largest county.

The proposals for the financial reduction were drawn up by the mayor of York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith, with changes in the allocation of funding between North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council.

The leader of the Council, who is also a member of the combined authority, said: "The Government announced additional funding to tackle highways maintenance, which we do welcome.

"However, had that money come directly to us like it used to for many years before it came through the mayor's office, we would be at least £20 million better off.

"To be clear, this is a decision made locally that will mean we have less money to maintain our roads. We had asked the mayor to reconsider the plans, and it is extremely disappointing that the proposals have now been voted through.

Appendix C

Clerks Report March for April meeting

Open spaces prep, meeting and minutes. OS TOR updated and on web.

Open spaces walk around- 2 specifications created for PHPF pond area and GPA zip wire flooring. Sent to contractors to quote.

Contact with soft fall companies and seesaw companies, some booked in to look and quote.

Contact with tree surgeon regarding tree inspections- will look at areas and quote for survey.

Planning approved to take down tree at PHPF- Tree surgeon informed, and will also look at ash tree in Cemetery and Furness drive trees.

Contact with Cemetery architect, requested a meeting in May to discuss extension and options for graves, memorial wall, reflection area.

Contact with Town Hall groups whose discounts are changing

Banking issue resolved, a payment was processed twice, once in year 24/25 and again in 25/26 by previous RFO.

Collapsed fencing at GRPA now been removed by Yorkshire Housing after verbal contact on Monday 16th March.

Money transferred from GRPA to BTC.

Ballroom flooring now complete, snagging list of jobs to do, Jason looking around. **Snagging completed on the ballroom flooring.**

Painter and Decorator to complete works from Wed 18th March

Leaking toilet in the ladies, plumber could not get to town hall so local, helpful electrician was brought in to help, stopped leak, plumber to attend. Water on lower floor hall, ceiling tiles destroyed. All needs to dry out. **Plumber still not fixed.**

Letter and email sent to Mayor Skaith requesting public transport public meeting. **Discussions with CA – will follow up to arrange a date, this will be an afternoon visit, request Street Space and Primary school attend.**

Letter sent to Playing Fields £50,000 to use for grant funding – Tues 17th March **Followed up with Committee on Friday 27th March following no receipt of email, read then and sent to Combined Authority to support funding.**

Letter sent to ITV regarding the In Our Blood documentary. **Received one email from a member of public at Riverside Caravan Park regarding private drinking supplies – referred to North Yorkshire Council as they are responsible for these.**

Kingsdale have updated risk assessment, method statement and insurances.

Gritting policy altered, with the Chair.

ICO Model Publication scheme on website with charges update

New public safety officer coming to Council meeting in June/July, requested as the May meeting is the start of the new Council year and often 'busy'. **Contact with public safety officer in regards to Bentham News report with first name use and attending a meeting in May, officer assumed Council had written the report, requests that all public correspondences regarding the role are run through the Public Safety department prior to publish.**

Shelley signs have sent through a sample of the Bygone Bentham signs, circulated to Council who are happy with the product, contacted to begin drafting a map version of the town.

Trade Waste submitted for upcoming year, when compared to other waste companies North Yorkshire Council collections are cheaper.

Initial communication from PKF Littlejohn regarding AGAR deadline date – 1st July 2026.

Appraisals of caretaker and cleaner completed.

Request to highways to clean the street signs. Reported potholes – Robin Lane and Main Street.

Reported missed public bin collections on Tuesday 24th March, perhaps due to road flooding.

BES lift inspection arranged 2nd April BES boiler checks cancelled by them then rearranged for 8th April.

Painter and Decorator finished painted and 'making good' the skirting boards.

APM invites sent out. On website and social media. Posters displayed – request for photographs this year to display around the room, in Ballroom with table layout.

Bus availability/timetable compiled for Council, circulated.

Weekly play area inspections completed.

Annual Returns completed on Scribe, 2025-2026 closed. Accounts carried forward for 2026-2027. Gone through payments and receipts checking cost codes. Drafted Public Rights. Compiled an uncashed report.

Bank reconciliation run for 30.03.25 for AGAR.

Initial AGAR completed – referred to Finance Committee

Variances explained. Assets list updated.

VAT for quarter 4 sent to HMRC.

Internal Auditor contacted – beginning after 13.04.26. **Video call booked for 15.04.26**

Debtors chased.

Reclaims sent to York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority on behalf of Bentham Boost for March 2026, £9000 awaiting return.

Discussions with the Combined authority regarding unsuccessful Phase 3 application – suggestions of other grants to apply for and advised which ideas from phase 3 can be funded in phase 2.

Barrier across Town Hall disabled parking spaces reserving for a motor home – moved and sign attached saying this is a disabled parking space which can only be used by a badge holder and cannot be reserved: 03.04.26.

Contacted NYC Highways regarding 20mph speed limit – noted short staff, still waiting.

The tree at the PHPF advised to be removed and approved by Council has been removed, NYC requested replaced with a Holly tree, Clerk wrote to NYC saying this would be potentially dangerous and hazardous in a children's play area, request replace with a blossoming fruit tree, agreed by Council, resident requested and happy to purchase.

Beavertrees has removed the tree.

Contact with waste management at NYC after Boost request to replace bins with brightly coloured ones, requested through Street Spaces' work with the Primary school – waste management team request like for like – bins attached to posts to be replaced by same.

Staff holidays worked out the year ahead in hours.

Gas meter read and inputted.

Town Hall hire rates changed – Marketing and Development Committee – December 2025

Requested again to remove the Clerk's name from the Head of Terms of Butts Lane transfer after unsuccessful communication.

Requested again the measurements of the Butts Lane transfer land from OSG and NYC, after unsuccessful communication previously.

Contacted John Neville, Environment Agency and Vikki Flowers, NYC in regards to request for support with funding from Bentham Town Council, potential PFAS testing of soli sample at Bentham Allotments was mentioned by both at the public meeting in June 2025.

Flag paid for as a test for Bentham Boost.

Appendix D



Date: 13th April 2026

Bentham Town Council

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors,

You will have seen the ITV documentary broadcast in March. Our submission to the Town Council and the Bentham Community this month is in response to that.

Angus Fire recognises the importance of the PFAS issue to the local community. We do not believe, however, that the documentary presented an accurate reflection of the situation in Bentham. In particular, it was disappointing that anecdotal accounts and speculation were broadcast as fact by ITV and that material known to producers to be out of date and incorrect, was presented.

When Angus was approached by ITV for comment, we consulted with leading technical experts to provide over 20 pages of detailed information in response to the matters put to us. ITV chose to use only a small part of our extensive response and presented it without voiceover and only as small on-screen text at the very end of their documentary.

We believe that any public communications on the matter must be grounded in established facts and objective science. We are all aware that idle speculation can result in unnecessary worry, which is why Angus Fire has been clear in taking a science-led approach to our communications with all stakeholders, including the Environment Agency, North Yorkshire Council, employees, the local community and the media on the extensive work we are undertaking with independent experts to understand and address the issue.

The Council and wider community may have further questions following the documentary. We have sought to provide some answers to these potential questions and other themes explored in the documentary based on our latest understanding of the science.

These are contained in the attached note, together with a relevant example of an industry marketing document that was provided to ITV. ITV chose not to make reference to the document in their broadcast. These will both be made available on our microsite (www.derbs.co.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Paul Williams
Managing Director