



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH
Tel: 015242 62587

Email: townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk
www.benthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Present: Cllrs Adams, MacEley-Young, Marshall, Taylor and Whittet.

Town Clerk: C Burrow

Bentham News: 1

Members of Public: 12

Minutes of the meeting Monday 11th May 2026 at 7:30pm, Lower Hall, Bentham Town Council

1 To elect a Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

RESOLVED to elect Cllr Adams as the Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

2 Signature of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Chair/Mayor.

RESOLVED to sign, date and sign by the Proper Office of the Council.

3 To appoint a Deputy Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Marshall as Deputy Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

4 Apologies from members unable to attend: -

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

Cllr Stannard

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

RESOLVED to accept Cllr Stannard's reasons for absence. NOTED Council wish a speedy recovery.

5 Declaration of Interest: -

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

Cllr MacEley-Young 20.6 21.1 21.2

5.2 To approve dispensation requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

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

NONE

7 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 – A member of the public raised concerns regarding the tone and content of a document submitted by Angus Fire at the previous Council meeting. Acknowledging the company's importance to the town as a major employer and stakeholder, the speaker felt that several issues within the document were contentious and had been understated.

Concern was expressed regarding the purchase of at least seven properties on Duke Street, the distress to residents and the presence of vacant homes within the community. Reference was also made to declarations reportedly signed by some individuals preventing them from speaking publicly for a number of years.

The speaker stated they were disappointed that no response or views had been provided by councillors following consideration of the document and offered to submit their concerns in writing to the Town Council if appropriate.

Chair responded that it would be helpful for their concerns to be submitted in writing. It was noted that communications received from Angus Fire were their own representations to the Council and that councillors had all been given the opportunity to read the document in full. The Chair explained that, due to the length of the additional document submitted alongside Angus Fire's regular update, it had not been read aloud at the previous meeting. It was further noted that the Council regularly meets with Angus Fire and that any points or concerns raised by the speaker could be taken forward to seek clarification or a rationale from the company where appropriate.

MOP2 – A member of the public spoke on similar lines, expressing concern that Angus Fire had been allowed to downplay or “spin” issues raised by residents in Bentham. Reference was made to the public meeting held almost a year previously, which the speaker had understood would be the first of several meetings, although no further meetings had taken place.

The speaker felt that some members of the panel at that meeting appeared unprepared and unaware of a number of residents' concerns, including the potential airborne spread of PFOA. It was noted that many questions raised at the meeting remained unanswered.

Concern was also expressed regarding the lack of communication about what information was being gathered and whether residents' views were being adequately represented. The speaker emphasised that the matter related to public health rather than property values and referred to concerns arising from a limited number of blood test results. Questions were raised regarding further testing, including soil testing, and what actions were being taken to obtain answers for the community.

Chair responded that the matter had not been forgotten and referred to comments made at the Annual Parish Meeting about plans to organise a follow-up public meeting within the next two to three months.

It was explained that arranging the original meeting had been difficult, particularly in securing attendance from the relevant organisations, but the main aim had been to ensure Bentham residents' concerns were heard directly. The Chair stated that there is no new information from the Environment Agency.

MOP3 - A member of the public stated that residents were seeking answers to a number of complex technical questions, but that the organisations expected to provide those answers had either been unable or unwilling to do so. Reference was made to a parliamentary report and parliamentary discussions which had recommended the formation of a multidisciplinary team of experts to investigate PFAS-related issues.

It was noted that such a team had already been established for Thornton Cleveleys and that Bentham was considered to have similar characteristics as a PFAS case study, although no equivalent team had yet been formed locally. The speaker stated that a multidisciplinary team would bring together specialists capable of addressing highly technical matters, including questions relating to soil testing and allotment safety.

The speaker advised that, following discussions with the lead of the Environment Agency PFAS team, Bentham Town Council should write to John Neville at the Environment Agency requesting the formation of such a team. It was suggested that this would begin the process of obtaining clearer answers for residents and help inform any future public meeting.

- 8 To **Confirm the Minutes** of the meeting on Monday 13th April 2026 as a true and accurate record.
RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting on Monday 13th April 2026 as a true and accurate record.
- 9 To note the draft minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Monday 27th April 2026.
RESOLVED to note the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 27th April 2026.
- 10 To receive the **Police Report** & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.
Read out in full by Cllr Adams (appendix A)

Chair noted that there had been a number of incidents reported on social media involving stolen vehicles, including quad bikes and Land Rovers, as well as vehicle break-ins in areas near Bentham. Residents were advised to take extra care in securing valuable possessions. A further comment from Cllr Marshall; in relation to a vehicle stolen in Bentham, two suspects had been apprehended on the A1, although the vehicle had not been recovered.

- 11 To receive a **Report from NYC Councillor** (for information only) - If any
NONE RECEIVED
- 12 To consider appointing **Members to Committees for 2026-2027** and to agree a way forward:
- 12.1 Buildings
RESOLVED to remain as Cllrs Adams, Burton, Stannard and Whittet
 - 12.2 Finance
RESOLVED to remain as Cllrs Adams, Burton, Marshall and Whittet.
 - 12.3 Open Spaces.
RESOLVED to remain as Cllrs Burton, Marshall and Taylor.
 - 12.4 Marketing and Development.
RESOLVED to remain as Cllrs Burton, MacEley-Young and Stannard.

- 13** To consider appointing **Members as Council Representatives for 2026-2027** and to agree a way forward: -
- 13.1 Bentham Area Refugee Support Group (BARSG)
Not appointed
 - 13.2 Bentham Christmas Lights Committee: **Cllr Burton**
 - 13.3 Bentham Common Land Charity: **Cllr Marshall**
 - 13.4 Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town (BEST)
Not appointed
 - 13.5 Bentham Playing Field Association
RESOLVED Cllr Taylor requested to step down as representative as cannot make the meetings, no representative was appointed.
 - 13.6 Bentham Save a Life
Not appointed
 - 13.7 Dales Youth Club
Not appointed, NOTED the Youth Club is not running at the moment.
 - 13.8 Collingwood & Longstaffe Almshouses: **Cllr Marshall**
 - 13.9 Goodenber Play Area Association
RESOLVED no longer needed as the Council are responsible for the Play Area.
 - 13.10 LASRUG: **Cllr Adams**
 - 13.11 Longstaffe Educational Foundation: **Cllr Burton**
 - 13.12 Looking Well/Bentham Community Library: **Cllr Stannard**
 - 13.13 Patient Representative Group: **Cllr Stannard**
 - 13.14 Victoria Institute
Not appointed
 - 13.15 YLCA Craven branch (2 representatives): **Cllrs Marshall and Taylor**
NOTED that missing from the list is:
Aid in Sickness, Cllr Adams and
Bentham & District Dementia Friendly Community, Cllr Stannard
- 14** To review the **Banking Arrangements**; to review the bank account arrangements and mandates and agree a way forward.
- 14.1 Unity Trust Account.
RESOLVED to remain as Cllr Adams, Burton, Marshall and Whittet as authorisers and Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk as submitters.
 - 14.2 Public Sector Account.
RESOLVED ACTION Chair to add Town Clerk on to bank mandate. Currently Cllrs Adams, Burton and Marshall are authorisers.
 - 14.3 Virgin Account.
RESOLVED to remain as Cllrs Adams, Burton and Marshall as authorisers and Town Clerk as submitter with debit card in Town Clerk's name.
- 15** To consider a **Provisional Timetable of Meetings** for the new Council Year.
RESOLVED to agree and accept the provisional timetable of meetings, noting that Cllr Marshall cannot currently attend the November Precept meeting, possibly altering to Wednesday 25th November 2026 at 7pm.
- 16** To Review the Council's Required Documents:
- 16.1 **Standing Orders.**
RESOLVED agreed to accept with the addition of: *Where a member of the public has made a representation in accordance with standing order 3(e), they may, at the discretion of the chairman of the meeting, ask one supplementary question arising directly from any response or feedback given by the Council. The supplementary question shall not introduce new matters and shall not give rise to debate.*
RESOLVED to include *the additional question may take no longer than 30 seconds.*

16.2 **Public Participation**

RESOLVED to accept in line with the above statements.

16.3 **Financial Regulations.**

RESOLVED to accept with the alterations of 5.15 *two members of Council, ideally the Chair and Vice Chair.*

RESOLVED to accept with the alterations of 6.8 *payments are seen by Full Council.*

16.4 **Terms of Reference for Committees.**

DEFER to next meeting with all committees updated in line with NALC's model terms of reference.

16.5 **Complaints Procedure.**

RESOLVED to accept.

16.6 **Asset Register.**

RESOLVED to accept.

16.7 **Risk Assessment.**

RESOLVED to accept.

16.8 **Privacy Policies.**

RESOLVED to accept.

16.9 **Business Continuity Plan.**

RESOLVED to accept.

16.10 **Health and Safety Policy.**

RESOLVED to accept.

17 To adopt Local Government Association's Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED to adopt the Local Government Association's Code of Conduct.

18 Financial Matters:

18.1 To receive the Internal Audit (if received).

DEFER – not received.

18.2 To receive the AGAR (if completed).

DEFER – not received.

18.3 To receive the Council's insurance renewal and consider if any amendments are required.

RESOLVED to agree, with premises are adjoined and to enquire into the Accidental Death/PTD/Capital Benefit Required at £25,000.

18.4 To note Precept Instalment received £80,000.00 on 30/04/2026 into the Unity Trust Account.

NOTED

18.5 To receive and note current bank balances; Unity current account as £105,323.11, the Public Sector deposit account balance as £85,000.00 and the Virgin current account as £32,464.84 Including bank reconciliation.

NOTED (appendix B)

18.6 To receive the budget and the Council Business Plan for the 2026-2027

RECEIVED and NOTED

18.7 Annual review of subscriptions and fees.
RESOLVED to agree to annual subscriptions and fees.

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

18.9 To approve the payments/grants.

15	Clerk Mobile	20/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Mobiles	EE Mobile	S	79.79	15.96	95.75
16	Ballroom Floor	14/04/2026		02 Virgin Money	Badminton nets, shuttlecocks a	Amazon	S	35.95	7.19	43.14
17	Safety Equipment	20/04/2026		02 Virgin Money	Retractable Queue Barrier	Amazon	S	35.82	7.17	42.99
18	Stationery	21/04/2026	294.4 dated 16th April 2026	02 Virgin Money	Bentham Town Council Stamp	Stamps4U Ltd	S	33.83	6.77	40.60
19	Chairman allowance (admin)	15/04/2026		02 Virgin Money	refresments apm	coop	S	22.37	4.48	26.85
20	Chairman allowance (admin)	15/04/2026		02 Virgin Money	refreshments	The Oakroyd Bakery	S	7.08	1.42	8.50
21	Relief Caretaker	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	relief caretaker	Ruth Green	X	255.00		255.00
22	Trade Waste (TH)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Trade Waste	North Yorkshire Council	X	68.18		68.18
23	Electric (TH)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Electricity at Town Hall	British Lite Gas	L	220.65	11.03	231.68
24	Gas (TH)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Town Hall Gas	British Lite Gas	S	539.55	107.91	647.46
25	Water Rates (TH)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Waste water bill Town Hall	Waterplus	X	116.21		116.21
26	Electric Supply (street lighting)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Electricity Street Lights	SSE SWALEC	L	191.06	9.55	200.61
27	Chairman allowance (admin)	27/04/2026		02 Virgin Money	refresments apm	coop	S	6.58	1.32	7.90
28	Ballroom Floor	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Plumbing at Town Hall	HB Plumbing & Heating	S	80.00	16.00	96.00
29	Software - Cemetery	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Scribe cemetery software	Scribe	S	276.00	55.20	331.20
30	Goodenber Road Play Area	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	HAGS GRPA Inspection	HAGS-SMP Ltd	S	163.00	32.60	195.60
31	Town Hall Staff (TH) / Caretaker	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Salary		X	1,414.05		1,414.05
32	Town Hall Staff (TH) / Caretaker	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Salary		X	462.21		462.21
33	Clerk salary (admin)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Salary		X	1,288.38		1,288.38
34	Clerk salary (admin)	29/04/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Salary		X	2,073.90		2,073.90
35	Bank Charges (admin)	05/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	bank charges	Unity Trust bank	X	13.75		13.75
36	Internet	07/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Internet	SKY	S	60.45	12.09	72.54
37	Internet	07/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Email & web Hosting	I&I Ionos	S	24.23	4.85	29.08
38	Grass Cutting (OS)	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Grass cutting	Kingsdale Projects	X	3,427.31		3,427.31
38	PHPF (OS)	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Grass cutting	Kingsdale Projects	X	20.00		20.00
38	Grass Cutting (cemetery)	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Grass cutting	Kingsdale Projects	X	607.10		607.10
39	Gas (TH)	21/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Town Hall Gas	British Lite Gas	S	354.29	70.86	425.15
40	Bentham Boost	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Bentham Boost Admin	Laura Davy Admin Solution	X	735.00		735.00
41	Maintenance at Town Hall (TH)	11/05/2026	B26 January 2926	01- Unity Trust Bank	Capping Off gas supply	Howsons Ltd	S	92.15	18.43	110.58
42	Stationery	11/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Stationery - envelopes	Andrew's Print Shop	S	62.50	12.50	75.00
43	GDPR / DPO costs (admin)	19/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	ICO fee	ICO	X	52.00		52.00
44	Maintenance at Town Hall (TH)	07/05/2026		02 Virgin Money	Water Boiler Part	Parts Town UK Ltd	S	47.06	9.41	56.47
45	Goodenber Road Play Area	11/05/2026	OS22.3	01- Unity Trust Bank	Look at Orbit in GRPA	Playdale	S	150.00	30.00	180.00
46	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Ingleton and Bentham Twii	X	150.00		150.00

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
47	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Cancer Care	X	150.00		150.00
48	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Community Llnk Cafe	X	300.00		300.00
49	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Collingwood and Longstaffs	X	500.00		500.00
50	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Friends of Bentham Stator	X	250.00		250.00
51	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	LASRUG Rail User Group	X	200.00		200.00
52	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Bentham Playing Field Assx	X	3,000.00		3,000.00
53	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Prostate Cancer support Gr	X	150.00		150.00
54	Grants	11/05/2026	FC - 17/11/25 F23	01- Unity Trust Bank	Grant	Stepping Stones, Baby & T	X	200.00		200.00
55	Staff pension (admin)	08/05/2026		01- Unity Trust Bank	Pension	NEST	X	288.57		288.57
Total								18,204.02	434.74	18,638.76

RESOLVED to AGREE Cllrs Marshall and Whittet to authorise majority on the bank.

Cllrs Marshall and Adams to authorise voucher 40.

Cllrs Adams and Whittet to authorise voucher 49.

(Staff names redacted)

19 To consider and comment upon New Planning Applications:

19.1 26/01844/DVCON PROPOSAL: Application for removal or variation of condition 3 (Approved plans - RM), 4 (RM - scale parameters), 5 (RM - layout parameters) and 7 (Trees - protective fencing) of planning permission referenced CRAZA23/24928/OUT. Green Head Farm Cross Lane Low Bentham North Yorkshire LA2 7ES

RESOLVED to submit A Parish Council has no objections.

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

20.1 To receive the Clerk's report.

RECEIVED (appendix C)

20.2 To consider the pricing structure of the cemetery.

RESOLVED to have the memorial plaque space on the wall with administrative costs and fitting at £400. The net cost of the plaque paid by the customer.

20.3 To consider CCTV at Goodenber Play Area.

RESOLVED currently not to move forward with the CCTV, Council to assess need.

20.4 To consider the grants for 2026-2027.

RESOLVED to request a report for the next meeting from the community group who have engaged with the Council after failure to attend the Annual Parish meeting.

RESOLVED to hold the money for the community group who failed to turn up to the Annual Parish Meeting and is not responding to communications via email and verbal requests.

20.5 To consider the Defibrillator (AED) policy.

RESOLVED to accept.

20.6 PFAS and Environmental Concerns.

Cllr Marshall reported having been approached by residents who were disappointed with the nature of the documentary, feeling that it did not present a balanced view. Concerns were also raised that the programme had negatively affected house sales locally, with reports of withdrawn sales and cancelled property viewings following its broadcast.

RESOLVED to ACTION a request for a public meeting with the regulators and United Utilities who could not attend, in September.

RESOLVED to ACTION a request to the Environment Agency to form a multi-disciplinary team.

MOP invited by the Chair to speak: suggested that establishing a multidisciplinary team would provide a concrete mechanism to address outstanding questions and offer public reassurance. The speaker noted that, without such a structure, public meetings risked repeating concerns without demonstrating progress. The Council could ultimately issue a statement summarising the concerns raised and confirming that they had been addressed through this process.

20.7 Roadworks in and around Bentham.

Cllr Marshall stated that United Infrastructure working on behalf of Yorkshire Water have requested from North Yorkshire Highways to close the road at Main Street/Station Road towards the end of July 2026, NOTE this is still pending.

RESOLVED to request further details from Yorkshire Water of their intentions for works in and around Bentham to ensure the public are well informed and to minimise disruption for the town.

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

RESOLVED Clerk to contact Parish Caretaker to enquiry to the price of installing flags in front of the defibrillator.

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

21.1 Angus Fire Update

Read out in full (appendix D)

RESOLVED to ACTION a request for the report conducted by Dr P Byrne of Liverpool John Moore University.

21.2 Cleaner Bentham

Due to the length of the document the Chair gave a brief description of the document available on the Council website: report arising from a meeting involving MPs, Bentham representatives, the Environment Agency, industry experts and academics, held to inform a report for the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee. The report, now published, will be made available on the Council website under the PFAS page.

The Committee, chaired by MP Toby Perkins, examines government and public body performance on environmental protection and sustainability. The report's recommendations will proceed through the parliamentary process and may inform future policy on PFAS and "forever chemicals". The Chair stated that Bentham was represented at the meeting and that discussions highlighted the difficulty in obtaining clear information due to limited existing legislation and documentation in the UK. It was further noted that the report is anonymised for local participants and is available for public access, with related contacts and references included.

21.3 Bowland View concerns regarding pedestrian safety.

RESOLVED to pass on all contact details for Area 5 and Highways Officers to Bowland View, as the Council have been unsuccessful with attempts to request a crossing within the area around Bowland View.

21.4 Station Road report of near incident.

NOTED an elderly gentleman having to walk on the road with a walking aid as the pavement is too narrow. Highways cannot widen the pavements as this will narrow the road; the road would be too narrow for the amount of traffic using the road. A scheme was explored in creating a shared space where the pavement is the same level as the road, this was dismissed as potentially hazardous.

RESOLVED to advise MOP to inform North Yorkshire Highways of the near incident.

21.5 Pioneer Projects letter.

RESOLVED invite Pioneer Projects to a Bentham Boost meeting. The Bentham Boost administrator could attend a Pioneer Projects meeting as these often clash with Full Council meetings.

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

Bentham Boost recently held a collaborative meeting in the Town Hall with members of the community, gathering ideas as to what they want to see, what changes they want, improvements that can be made. Really useful to bring together all the ideas within the area. These will be prioritised to move forward. One project is to have a clean-up of Bentham, asking for volunteers to help clean the Main Street, this will be the week beginning Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May. The flags along Main Street and Station Road project is moving forward with logos of local community groups.

Planters will be sited and planted to improve Bentham.

The shop front grants are available again to encourage improvements.

Small steps like the window cleaner cleaning all the signs around Bentham.

New bins are coming to Bentham.

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

Cllr Marshall representing the Collingwood and Longstaffe Almshouses their Clerk has been successful with a Lottery Grant to fund improvements to the garden area ensuring ease of movement and more enjoyment for the residents. All properties have residents in situ.

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

NONE

25 Dates of next meeting:

Open Spaces Committee Thursday 28th May 2026 7:30pm
Full Council Monday 1st June 2026 7:30pm
Buildings Committee Thursday 18th June 2026 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 21:23

C Burrow

C Burrow
Town Clerk
Wednesday 13th May 2026

DRAFT

Appendix A

Please find your police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 11.05.26

We have had 17 incidents reported between 11.04.26 & 08.05.26

Reports Include General Police Admin, Other police force enquiry, Safeguarding, abandon/hoax, Highway disruption – rubble in road, parking, Road related offence – documents, harassment, ASB personal, concern for safety/welfare & Dog Bite

15.04.26 – Stolen vehicle – vehicle recovered – arrest made

15.04.26 - Stolen number plates – linked to vehicle stolen

20.04.26 – Crime Fraud – banking

23.04.26 – Van broken into & tools stolen

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

Bentham Town Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

A	Bank Reconciliation at 05/05/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		137,305.82
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2026 - 05/05/2026		95,730.59
			233,036.41
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2026 - 05/05/2026		11,116.26
	Cash in Hand 05/05/2026 (per Cash Book)		221,920.15
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	01- Unity Trust Bank (Current Acco	05/05/2026	105,323.11
	PSDF (Deposit Account)	05/05/2026	85,000.00
	Acc for Jnls only - to Allocate recei	05/05/2026	0.00
	TIP Tourist Info Petty cash	05/05/2026	10.00
	02 Virgin Money	05/05/2026	32,464.84
			222,797.95
	Less unrepresented payments		877.80
			221,920.15
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		221,920.15
	A = B Checks out OK		

Appendix C

Clerk's Report – Actions Update

The following updates are provided on ongoing and recently completed actions:

- Bridleway concerns have been forwarded to North Yorkshire Council Public Rights of Way Team and are now **completed**.
- Contact has been made with North Yorkshire Council regarding deterioration and safety concerns at Grasmere car park. This remains **in progress**, with an email sent and logged on the council portal.
- Requests for Community Asset Transfer for both the Rose Garden and Grasmere toilets have been submitted and acknowledged; both are **in progress**.
- Relocation of the 1902 cross and installation of a new commemorative structure, **in progress** contacted architect to ask to price for designing the cross.
- Arrangements to purchase and install a cemetery noticeboard are **in progress**, noticeboard ordered with chosen supplier.
- Low Bentham car park lighting works are **in progress**, with the contractor contacted regarding cherry picker hire.
- A booking link has been successfully added to the Town Hall website homepage (**completed**).
- Defibrillator maintenance arrangements for the Auction Mart installation have been confirmed (**completed**).
- The Angus Fire update (PFAS / Environmental section) has been published on the website (**completed**).
- Procurement of the Bentham Town Council stamp is underway, with the item **purchased and pending delivery**.
- The Movement Activity and Sport Fund application (Bentham Boost) has **not yet started**.
- Bentham Boost Phase 2 initiatives are **in progress**, with a meeting scheduled for 22nd April at 10:30am.
- An ad hoc Town Crier service has been explored; this item is marked as **visited**, with confirmation awaited from the Council regarding costs (£100 per hour plus contribution to outfit).
- The Clerk's contract update (Monday–Thursday working days) has been **completed**.
- Review of caretaker and cleaner pay scales and responsibilities has **not started** and is currently considered not viable.
- The Bentham Allotment Association has been asked to apply for a Community Grant; this action is **completed**
- **John Neville from the EA has responded (June2026)**
- Follow up of Open Spaces quotes. Engineer booked to look at GPA roundabout. All **in progress**.
- New wording and layout for play area signs sent to be designed, **in progress**.
- New wording, photos and layout for 'About Bentham' signs sent to sign makers. Bygone Bentham being proofread again before being sent. Both **in progress**.
- Town Crier information sent to Ingleton Parish Council – declined and Settle Town Council – interested.
- Cemetery work, checks completed.
- Reported broken footpath bridge on NYC portal and three blocked drains.
- Bin report after meeting NYC in regards to replacing the bins in and around Bentham. Bentham Boost.

Appendix D



Date: 11th May 2026

Bentham Town Council

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors,

Our environmental consultants continue to scientifically investigate and assess the environmental conditions on the Bentham site and develop solutions to address any identified areas of concern.

At present, however, those consultants are unable to conduct deeper sampling investigations due to the large number of IBCs on site storing captured stormwater. This means we do not have the space for contractors to manoeuvre the large plant and equipment required to undertake deep bore drilling and sampling.

We still await the final decision on our permit variation application submitted to the Environment Agency. If approved, we can start processing the stormwater and free up the space necessary for the deep sampling work to recommence on site.

As we emphasised in last month's update, public communications on the investigative work being conducted must be grounded in fully established facts and objective science. This is essential to ensure the matter is treated with the seriousness required.

We fully appreciate the continued patience and support of the local community. Subject to the permit variation decision and the freeing up of space on site, our consultants plan to present their findings and propose recommendations to address any concerns to the Environment Agency and regulatory bodies later this year.

Yours faithfully.

Paul Williams
Managing Director