



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
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Wednesday 22nd October

Minutes of Monday 20th October at 7:30pm **Bentham Town Council Open Spaces Committee**

Present: Cllrs Marshall, Burton and Taylor
Town Clerk: C Burrow
Assistant Town Clerk: E Langan
Parish Caretaker: T Brown
MPO: 0

OS1. To elect a chair for the year 2025/2026

RESOLVED: Councillor Marshall to be appointed as Chair for 2025/2026

OS2. To receive an update from the Parish Caretaker and decide on further action if necessary.

TB reported it has been hard to keep on top of grass cutting after draught and then rain.

Mill lane- banking is looking overgrown, ACTION Council to look into arranging a tractor hedge cutter needed for this area.

PHPF- TB reported a lot of leaves now on grass ACTION TB to carry out leaf blowing.

Remedial works TB to price for:

Goodenber play area: cutting back beech hedge, cutting back brambles around the edge of the play area, cutting back the willow tunnel, power washing paths and equipment, and replacement boards around edges of equipment.

Banking on Main Street: Grass growing over onto kerb and overhanging branches, ACTION TB to price for clearing kerb edges and cutting back branches.

Many trees around the parish are covered in ivy, ACTION TB to look out for trees in the parish which need ivy cutting back.

OS3. **Apologies** from members unable to attend:

OS37.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

NONE

OS37.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reasons requested.

NONE

OS4. Declaration of interest: -

OS38.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members code of conduct or members register of disclosable pecuniary interest.

Cllr Taylor- OS8.4

OS38.2 To approve dispensation request – if dispensation request received.

NONE

OS5. 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).

NONE

OS6. To approve the Open Spaces Committee meeting minutes of Monday 31st March 2025 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes from Monday 31st March are signed as a true and accurate record.

OS7. To receive an update from the Street Lights contractor.

E Langan provided a telephone update from James Burrow Electrical. The contractor was due to complete the walk-around on 11th October. One SOX light on Tweed Street has been replaced with an LED fitting, with one remaining to be completed. A light which was off on Wenning Avenue is now operational, and the broken sensor on a light at Lairgill has been repaired.

OS8. Phillip Harvey Playing Fields:

OS8.1 To consider remedial works to the pond area.

RESOLVED: TB to quote to remove the pond liner and clear all shrub to the boundary.

ACTION: Clerk to contact local contractor to level the area with a digger.

OS8.2 To consider the ash tree reported by a MOP.

RESOLVED to ACTION: Clerk to contact MOP to advise they can make arrangements to have the tree taken down at their expense, MOP must ensure Health and Safety documents and insurance policy in place prior to commencement, and provide a copy of this for the Council before commencement to ensure this is in line with Council health and safety policy.

OS8.3 To consider maintenance/remedial works over winter.

RESOLVED: TB and Cllr Marshall to arrange a new sign post next to the zip wire, to replace the rotten post. TB to quote for cutting back the beech tree at next to the MUGA, and cut back the beech hedges of neighbouring properties. TB to carry out leaf blowing.

OS8.4 To consider the quotes for the path into the park.

ACTION: Clerk to contact landowners to ask for permission and if they would consider contributing financially to the remedial works to the path.

DEFER to Open Spaces Committee meeting in February.

OS8.5 To consider the quotes for the MUGA (if received).

ACTION: Clerk to arrange for companies to visit to quote for necessary remedial works.

OS8.6 To consider weekly the play area inspections after the resignation of Councillor Paige.

RESOLVED: Assistant Town Clerk will continue to carry out the weekly play area inspections upon completion of the Play Area Inspection Training.

ACTION: Assistant Town Clerk to obtain a DBS check as a matter of good practice.

ACTION: Clerk to contact HAGS quotation team to quote for repairs which arise from quarterly inspections.

NOTED that TB agreed to put out the bin fortnightly for collection.

OS9. Cemetery matters:

OS9.1 To receive an update from the architect.

E Langan provided a telephone update from Architect Mike Harrison, Mike advised that he is aware of two additional companies from whom to obtain groundwater risk assessment report quotes, in addition to the existing quote from CDS. He also reported what appears to be an anomaly in the submitted drawings for the Springfield development, which he is currently investigating.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Architect to request a site plan of the proposed layout utilising the land, to be produced in accordance with current legislation.

OS9.2 To consider the signage at the Cemetery.

ACTION: Clerk to research local noticeboard companies and obtain prices.

OS10. The Cross at Low Bentham:

OS10.1 To consider options for remedial work required on the cross at Low Bentham, and refurbishment required on the green at Low Bentham.

ACTION: Clerk to contact local builders who specialise in heritage work, to obtain advice and quotations on the best way forward for the project.

OS10.2 To consider placing an article in the Bentham News to alleviate rumours that the cross is being taken down.

RESOLVED: Clerk to place an article in Bentham News advising that the Council is currently researching suitable options for the refurbishment of the Cross, and inviting members of the public to contact the Town Clerk with any suggestions or relevant information.

OS11. To consider the maintenance of School Hill in preparation for the Remembrance service.

ACTION: Clerk to write a letter to the owners of the house at School Hill, to advise the hedge will be cut back by the Parish Caretaker, in preparation for the Remembrance service. TB to do complete necessary cleaning and weeding and to replace a broken gutter bracket on the bus shelter.

OS12. Highway Matters to note and decide further action where necessary:

OS12.1 Viability of visibility splays.

NOTED TB is up to date with this.

OS12.2 Cleaning of highways signs.

DEFER to Full Council to request Highways to clean the signs around Bentham. ACTION Clerk to compile a list of signs requiring cleaning.

OS12.3 White/Yellow road lines on Main Street.

DEFER to Full Council to contact Highways to request a regular traffic warden in Bentham.

OS12.4 Potential traffic easing methods Robin Lane and Main Street.

DEFER to Full Council to ask for potential traffic easing methods to be investigated in the area.

OS12.5 To consider requesting a regular road sweeper for Bentham.

DEFER to Full Council to request again. NOTED that a road sweeper has recently been requested by Town Clerk after recent bad weather.

OS12.6 To consider the weeds at roadsides and on pavements around the parish with update from NYC if received.

DEFER to Full Council to contact Highways again. NOTED that Highways have previously been contacted about this issue.

OS.13. Items for **next meeting and minor items for information** only.

NONE

OS.14. Date of **next meeting**.

Thursday 26th February 2026

Meeting closed 21:19

E Langan

Emma Langan

Assistant Town Clerk