



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Friday 6th March 2026

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7:30pm Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall

Attendance: Cllrs Marshall, Burton and Taylor

Parish Caretaker: T Brown

Deputy Town Clerk: E Langan

MOP:0

OS15. **Apologies** from members unable to attend:

OS15.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

NONE

OS15.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reasons requested.

NONE

OS16. **Declaration of interest:** -

OS16.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members code of conduct or members register of disclosable pecuniary interest.

NONE

OS16.2 To approve dispensation request – if dispensation request received.

NONE

OS17. **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

OS18. To **approve the Open Spaces Committee meeting minutes** of Monday 20th October 2025 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of Monday 20th October 2025 as a true and accurate record.

OS19. To review the Open Spaces Committee Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED to update the Open Spaces Committee Terms of reference:

To include **Goodenber Road Play Area** as a space to monitor and inspect.

To update the following to:

'Staff and/or a member of the Council' to perform weekly safety checks on the Phillip Harvey Playing Field and Goodenber Play Area and monitor any items that are brought to the attentions on the Council though either self or third-party inspections.

'Staff and/or a member of the Council' to keep records of the memorial safety checks in the Cemetery, every three years, and the resulting work required.

OS20. To receive an update from the Parish Caretaker and decide on further action if necessary.

OS20.1 To receive an overview of the Parish Caretaker's roles and responsibilities.

The Parish Caretaker gave an overview of recent works completed within their role.

OS20.2 To receive an update regarding land within the Parish that is owned by, or under the responsibility of, Bentham Town Council, and to consider any necessary action.

The Parish Caretaker provided an update:

Bentham Cemetery: the path has been cleaned, grass cutting will commence in the next month. TB expressed concerns around the health of the large ash tree at the Cemetery. **ACTION** Clerk to arrange tree surgeon to assess the tree.

Philip Harvey Playing Fields: the pond area cleared and liner removed. TB to price to remove last 4 small trees and for further works in pond area, and treat areas of the park for moss. Planned power washing of play equipment areas and path in March.

The Green at Low Bentham: TB to quote to move the stones from around the outer edge of the green to the wall edge, stacking them safely, and to monitor how the green performs over the year without the stones. TB to quote to tidy the green, clear spoil next to the Cross, and roll it level.

Rose Garden in Low Bentham: TB does not carry out any works on the Rose Garden at present.

Councillor Marshall has contacted electric board regarding trees that need cutting back, which are close to electric lines.

Goodenber Road Play Area: TB has power washed the play area which is looking much cleaner, has cut back the willow tunnel and the large beech hedge. TB to price for clearing and cutting back the overgrown hedge and trees in the park in Autumn.

School hill: TB to quote for carrying out weeding.

TB reports road junctions are clear, and will monitor moles at welcome wall signs.

TB to quote to clean Council owned benches and bench plinths around the parish.

OS21. To receive an update from the Street Lights contractor.

Clerk provided update from Street lights contractor, some lights have been updated to LED and photocells replaced. Scheduled to do check 05/03/26. **ACTION** Clerk to ask contractor to check for any trees or hedges which need to be cut back around Council owned street lights.

Clerk to ask the electrician to inspect the lights in Low Bentham car park that are not working and identify the cause of the issue.

OS22. **Goodenber Play Area:**

OS22.1 To consider creating a specification for the zip wire flooring.

Councillors visited Goodenber Play Area before the meeting and created a specification for the zip wire flooring, including preparing the area for soft fall flooring. **ACTION** Clerk to contact contractors to quote for works based on the specification.

OS22.2 To consider necessary maintenance/remedial works.

ACTION Clerk to contact a welder for a quote to repair the two sets of entrance gates.

ACTION Clerk to contact a local company to enquire about feasibility of installing CCTV using the existing post.

ACTION Clerk to contact Yorkshire Housing to enquire about the removal of the top entrance gate for safety reasons.

ACTION Clerk to enquire about any S106 funds that may be available for Goodenber Play Area.

OS22.3 To consider quotes for remedial works/replacement of equipment.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to remove the current seesaw. **ACTION** Clerk to contact companies to quote for replacement accessible seesaws.

ACTION Clerk to contact companies to quote for wet pour remedial works around kerb edges at Goodenber Play Area and PHPF.

RESOLVED to accept the quote of £150 for an engineer visit from the roundabout company to investigate repairs required, noting this cost will be discounted from the quotation for the repairs recommended following the visit.

RESOLVED to accept quote for missing screw on the climbing frame.

OS22.4 To consider signage at the play area.

ACTION Clerk to contact local company to design a new sign. To use the current play area logo, and to include: BTC logo, Town Clerk email contact details, terms and conditions, opening times dawn-dusk/when streetlights come on. Include strictly no dogs, no drones. Include please clean up litter. Include CCTV.

OS22.5 To receive an update from Yorkshire housing on the fallen fence (if received).

NOTED The fence has been replaced, however the fallen fence remains on the floor.

ACTION Clerk to contact Yorkshire Housing again to request removal of the fallen fence.

OS23. Phillip Harvey Playing Fields:

OS23.1 To consider a specification for the pond area.

Councillors visited PHPF before the meeting and created specification for the pond area, including to finish clearing the area, remove the fence, and level area ready for meadow seed wildflower mix.

ACTION Clerk to contact local contractors to quote for works based on the specification.

OS23.2 To consider the fallen wall at the play area.

NOTED Resident who owns the wall had arranged for it to be rebuilt.

OS23.3 To consider necessary maintenance/remedial works.

Parish Caretaker to price to treat all areas and path for moss. And to price for work on the MUGA including light power wash of the mossy areas around edge and then spray for moss.

OS23.4 To receive an update on the path into the park and decide a way forward.

ACTION Clerk to contact Public Rights of Way Officer to find if the path is a public footpath.

OS23.5 To consider a way forward for remedial work to the MUGA.

RESOLVED to await the Parish Caretaker cleaning the MUGA, after which it will be monitored and repaired with pitch if required.

OS23.6 To consider the quotes for the wet pour.

ACTION Clerk to contact 3 companies to quote for cutting out edges of wet pour 75mm or as recommended by company, to repair with coloured strip. Companies to also quote for necessary repairs to wet pour at Goodenber Play Area.

OS24. Cemetery matters:

OS24.1 To consider the cemetery extension.

RESOLVED to request a meeting with the Cemetery Architect in May to discuss options for burial plot space within legislative requirements, the extension of the memorial wall and path, and the addition of a reflection area.

NOTED that the Architect is gathering quotes from three companies for Groundwater Risk Assessments and is preparing a plan for burial plots within the available space in line with legislation.

OS24.2 To consider entrance to cemetery.

RESOLVED to await solicitors conveyancing and searches before proceeding further.

OS24.3 To consider the signage at the Cemetery.

RESOLVED to recommend to Council to accept the quote from Alpha Signs for a noticeboard with header board in green, to be fit by Parish Caretaker.

OS25. To consider the Parish caretake quote for works on Main Street banking.

RESOLVED to accept the quote for clearing kerb edges, and to ask tree surgeon to assess the overhanging trees.

OS26. The Cross at Low Bentham:

OS26.1 To consider options for remedial work required on the cross at Low Bentham, and refurbishment required on the green at Low Bentham.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the current cross be taken down and relocated to the edge of the green to serve as a monument. An architect will design a new stone plinth and cross, engraved to acknowledge the original 1902 cross and the date of the rebuild, commemorating the crowning of King Charles. To contact three companies for quotes for the creation of the new cross using architects design. The time capsule buried under the original cross will be carefully uncovered, and a new time capsule will be created to be placed beneath the new cross.

OS27. To consider a Bentham Town Council Tree Policy.

ACTION Clerk to make changes to the policy and contact a qualified tree surgeon to quote to carry out tree inspections, to bring back to Council for approval.

OS28. To consider School hill bedding plants for Spring.

Cllr Marshall to look into suitable spring plants for the Parish Caretaker to plant after Easter.

OS29. Highway Matters to note and decide further action where necessary:

OS29.1 To consider any necessary cutting back of highways vegetation around the parish.

RESOLVED for Councillors to contact Clerk if they notice any areas which need to be reported to North Yorkshire Council.

OS.30. Items for **next meeting and minor items for information** only.

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

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

OS.31. Date of **next meeting**.

To be confirmed.

Meeting closed: 21:40

E Langan

Emma Langan

Bentham Deputy Town Clerk

Friday 6th March 2026