



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Tuesday 22nd September 2026

Minutes of the Bentham Town Council Open Spaces Committee Monday 21st September 2026, 7:30pm, Lower Hall, Bentham Town Hall

Attendance: Cllrs Marshall, Adams and Taylor

Town Clerk: C Burrow

MOP: 0

OS26. **Apologies** from members unable to attend:

OS26.1 To note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Mac-Eley-Young

OS26.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reasons requested.

AGREED

OS27. **Declaration of interest:** -

OS27.1 To note declarations of interest not already declared under members code of conduct or members register of disclosable pecuniary interest.

NONE

OS27.2 To approve dispensation request – if dispensation request received.

NONE

OS28. **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

OS29. To **approve the Open Spaces Committee meeting minutes** of Thursday 28th May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of Thursday 28th May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

OS30. To **approve the extraordinary Open Spaces Committee meeting minutes** of Wednesday 10th June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of Wednesday 10th June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

OS31. To consider quotes received for works and replacement of equipment at Goodenber Play area.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Pentagon for £20,789.00 plus VAT for the proposed playground works, including the installation of a new seesaw and new swing sets, removal of obsolete equipment, installation of Playbond surfacing in the cableway area and Playbond surfacing around the fire pit, slide and ski slider.

ACTION the Clerk to accept the quotation and arrange for the works to be undertaken. An on-site meeting is to be held before works commence, attended by the Clerk and members of the Open Spaces Committee, to confirm the areas to be infilled and covered as included within the quotation and to recheck the fall spaces around the equipment.

RESOLVED the Clerk to liaise with the relevant contractors to arrange commencement of the works and to notify the public of the temporary closure of the play area, ensuring appropriate measures are in place to maintain public safety throughout the works.

OS32. To consider the grass tender with maps for the period 2027-2030.

RESOLVED that the grass-cutting period will run from 1st April to 1st October. The play areas, cemetery and The Green will be cut weekly. Verges will be cut fortnightly at 12 times during the season and junctions cut tri-weekly at 9 cuts during the season with the option to reduce the frequency of cutting during drier periods when grass growth is reduced.

RESOLVED the maps will be updated, with Map 5 to be removed.

RESOLVED the contract will remain for an initial period of three years, with an option to extend for a further two years.

RESOLVED that the tender will be advertised on social media and the Council website, inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors.

RESOLVED the tender documentation will also be sent directly to relevant contractors.

RESOLVED the deadline for submission of tender prices will be Friday 13 November at 12 noon.

OS33. To consider purchasing and installing two 'No Dogs' signs at the Green in Low Bentham.

RESOLVED to purchase and install one 'No Dog Fouling' sign at the Green in Low Bentham.

OS34. To consider the Bentham Town Council tree policy and the tree survey with maps.
RESOLVED to adopt the Tree Management Policy, subject to the amendment of Section 9 to include the wording 'as soon as reasonably possible' and the removal of Section 5.1, 'Inspection Regime'.

RESOLVED NOT to undertake a tree survey of areas owned or leased by Bentham Town Council. This decision is contrary to the recommendation of the Clerk. It was further resolved that the Council will include provision within the 2027/2028 precept for the cost of the tree survey, estimated at £775 for a three-year period.

OS35. To consider remedial works for autumn/winter around the Parish including tree works.

RESOLVED NOT to proceed with the outstanding tree works, as the trees are located on third-party land. The Council has no jurisdiction or authority to undertake or fund works on land it does not own or control and would not assume liability for these trees.

RESOLVED: To ask the Parish Caretaker, if willing, to cut back the vegetation along the roadside from Mill Lane to the Punch Bowl in Low Bentham, given the location is on a busy public highway.

OS36. **Council** Items for next meeting **and minor items for information** only.

For the tree survey to include photographs of trees within or on areas leased or owned by the Council.

OS37. Dates of **next meeting**:

**On site meeting at Goodenber Road Play Area tbc.
February 2027 tbc**

Meeting closed at 20:57

C. Burrow

**C. Burrow
Bentham Town Clerk and RFO**