

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 January 2017 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, C Hesmondhalgh, A Trueman, J Watson

Apologies: Cllrs: J Fisher (Prior commitment), W Gibson-Brown (Holiday), D Jackson (Holiday), F Roberts (Illness)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C639 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C640 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C641 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC was in the final stages of setting the 2017/2018 budget and that the priority was to protect frontline services. He indicated that an extra £5 million had been received from the government to help fund highway repairs.

In answer to a query by Cllr Hesmondhalgh, Cllr Dadd agreed that there was a national crisis in social care funding and that council tax bills could increase by an additional 2% to help fund adult social care services.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that a meeting had been held with Mr C Thornton, Corporate Facilities Manager, Mr D McKnight, Vibrant Market Town Project Officer, District Cllr N Knapton and herself to discuss Thirsk market. She advised that HDC would be considering a number of proposals which had been put forward.

Cllr Watson indicated that she had discussed the issue of A boards with Mr Thornton who had stated that he would liaise with Mr M Harbottle, Head of Planning, with a view to preparing a joint guidance policy.

Cllr Watson advised that HDC would be examining an area in the Market Place adjacent to Heron Foods and Thirsk Tourist Information as part of its car parking review. She also indicated that HDC was to examine providing a hatched area, combined with bollards, outside the rear access service door of Millgate Public Conveniences as problems had been caused by drivers parking too close to the door.

Cllr Watson reported that discretionary business rates relief was due to be considered at a meeting of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee to be held on Tuesday, 24th January 2017.

C642 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C643 Minutes

C643(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 December 2016

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 December 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C643(b) Matters Arising

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The Clerk reported that the contaminated waste had been removed from the overflowing recycling bin in Royal Oak Courtyard by Cllr D Jackson and that the issue therefore appeared to be resolved.

C635(c) BT Public Payphone Consultation

The Clerk indicated that he had been unable to obtain details in respect of the usage of a public payphone in Thirsk which BT had identified as being unnecessary or no longer viable. He advised that the public consultation had now ended and that BT guidance stated that public payphones would not be removed in locations where there was felt to be a social or reasonable need for retention. Cllr Duffey noted that the payphone in question was close to elderly persons' accommodation in Norby. The Clerk stated that he would pursue the matter.

C637 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that he had contacted NYCC following the flyposting of a large number of notices advertising an event at the Auction Mart over the Christmas period. Cllr Watson noted that all notices appeared to have been removed immediately following the event.

C644 Committee Minutes and Reports

C644(a) Planning Committee held on 19 December 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 December 2016.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C644(b) Central Areas Committee held on 15 December 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 15 December 2016. Cllr Watson requested that she be copied into correspondence concerning A boards.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C644(c) Public Conveniences Committee – 21 December 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 21 December 2016.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C645 Burial Board

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Carole Janet Riley be approved.

C646 Correspondence/Items Raised

C646(a) Road Safety Issues

The meeting received an email dated 21 December 2016 from Acting Sergeant Mayes of North Yorkshire Police indicating that she had requested PCSO Warby to pursue a "no lights cycling initiative".

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C646(b) Dangerous Driving in and around Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 23 December 2016 from North Yorkshire Police confirming that the CCTV would be checked and appropriate action taken in respect of an allegation of dangerous driving in Thirsk Market Place.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C646(c) Thirsk Christmas Lights

The meeting received a letter dated 23 December 2016 from Thirsk & District Business Association Ladies Section thanking the Town Council for its donation towards the running costs of the Christmas lights.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C646(d) "Battle's Over" – A Nation's Tribute and WWI Beacons of Light

The meeting received an email dated 3 January 2017 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the lighting of beacons to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C646(e) Market Place – Proposed Bus Stop and Taxi Rank Areas

The meeting received emails dated 10 January 2017 and 13 January 2017 from Hambleton District Council concerning proposals to improve the layout of the bus stop/taxi rank area in the Market Place. Town Councillors noted that the revised proposal would retain the taxi rank as at present and that the work was expected to be completed prior to Easter 2017.

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C646(f) Notice of Joint Commissioning of Primary Care Committee Meeting

The meeting received an email dated 5 January 2017 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising that a Joint Commissioning of Primary Care Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C646(g) "Floodsax"

The meeting received an email dated 13 January 2017 from Hambleton District Council advising that a quantity of Floodsax was available to be distributed to Town and Parish Councils which had experienced flooding in recent years. Discussion took place concerning suitable locations for storage of the Floodsax and it was suggested that Mrs M Penson (Flood Warden) be consulted.

Resolved: that the Town Council request a supply of ten boxes (200 Floodsax).

C647 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16th January 2017 be approved and cheques signed.

C648 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Duffey gave an update on plans to hold Thirsk Festival in August 2017 and requested that the Town Council consider making a donation of £500 towards the costs of putting on the event.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £500 to Thirsk Festival.

Cllr Watson reported that HDC was preparing a Section 215 notice to be served on the owners of the Aspire building which would require the exterior of the building to be tidied up.

Cllr Watson advised that she had recently passed details to the police of a heavy goods vehicle which she had witnessed driving through the Market Place in excess of the weight restriction and that the police had shown little interest in pursuing the matter. She stated that the police had previously indicated that they would take action if they were provided with the necessary information and she suggested that a letter be written to North Yorkshire Police requesting that they take appropriate action when weight restrictions are ignored.

Resolved: that the Town Council writes to North Yorkshire Police requesting that appropriate action be taken when evidence of vehicles exceeding the seven and a half tonne weight restriction was provided.

C649 On-Going Items

Nothing noted.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.