

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 February 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: H Dalglish-Brown (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, R Gladstone, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Potter, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs: J Fisher (Illness), S Ward (Alternative Commitment)

In attendance: County/District Cllr: G Dadd, District Cllr: D Elders

C936 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C937 Police Report

PCSO Kate Graham circulated a crime report covering general incidents and crimes reported during January 2019. Members noted that, in addition to several reports of violence, arson/criminal damage, burglary and road traffic incidents, there were 20 reported incidents of antisocial behaviour. The report also contained information concerning Operation Checkpoint which the officer explained was a major operation targeting rural crime involving six police forces across the north of England.

Cllr Dadd expressed concern in respect of the police 101 non-emergency number as people had complained that calls frequently took too long to be answered so that they were deterred from reporting incidents. He requested that the PCSO pass on his comments via the appropriate channels.

Cllr Duffey requested that additional information be provided in the police report so as to include the locations where incidents of antisocial behaviour had occurred.

The PCSO advised that incidents in January had occurred in various locations, including Mill Gardens, the Market Place and housing estates. The officer stated that she would also pass on Cllr Duffey's observations.

C938 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC's council tax was expected to increase by an overall 4.99% which comprised a 2.99% increase in general council tax plus an additional 2% to fund social care services. He advised that NYCC still faced a significant financial shortfall and that the priority would be to continue to deliver services for the county's most vulnerable residents.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council was set to increase its council tax by £5 for a band D property for the 2019/2020 financial year.

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had introduced a new discretionary rate relief scheme whereby many small businesses would benefit from a one-third reduction in business rates.

Cllr Elders reported that three farmers markets were to be held in Thirsk on 23 June, 22 September and 17 November 2019 as part of the Vibrant Market Towns initiative. Cllr Elders indicated that the public meeting held on 11 February 2019 to discuss the future use of the Lambert Hospital building had been well attended with a number of proposals being put forward.

C939 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C940 Minutes

C940(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 January 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C940(b) Matters Arising

C931(c) Castle Garth – Antisocial Behaviour/Request for Additional Street Lighting

The Clerk referred to email correspondence concerning antisocial behaviour in the Castle Garth area and noted that there had been a request for additional street lighting on Picks Lane as well as on Castle Garth. Discussion took place concerning the current lighting on Castle Garth and Members considered that this came under the remit of Hambleton District Council whereas street lighting on Picks Lane would be a matter for North Yorkshire County Council. The Clerk stated that he would refer the request for extra lighting on Picks Lane to NYCC.

C931(i) Shine TV Finance – East Thirsk Community Association

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the new tables for East Thirsk Community Hall had been obtained at a reduced price of £863.32, rather than £899.32 as had been originally quoted.

C934 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that the trees on a piece of land adjacent to Riverside Mews had been pollarded.

C941 Committee Minutes and Reports

C941(a) Planning Committee – 21 January 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 January 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C942 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Brian Haw and George Thomas Turner be approved.

C943 Correspondence/Items Raised

C943(a) Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate of registration dated 17 January 2019 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a new property as No 4A Barbeck, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate of registration be noted.

C943(b) Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Shine TV monies

The meeting received a letter dated 18 January 2019 from Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall thanking the Town Council for approving a donation from the Shine TV community monies to be utilised for the purchase of new furniture.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C943(c) Royal British Legion Band – Application for Shine TV donation

The meeting received a letter dated 18 January 2019 from Thirsk Royal British Legion Band requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation from the Shine TV community monies towards the cost of purchasing new uniform blazers.

Resolved: that the Town Council approves a donation of £500 to Thirsk Royal British Legion Band to be utilised for the purchase of new uniform blazers.

C943(d) Thirsk Tourist Information – Thirsk Guide

The meeting received a letter dated 23 January 2019 from Thirsk Tourist Information thanking the Town Council for the donation towards the cost of printing and distributing the new Thirsk Guide leaflet.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C943(e) Planned Road Closure Notification – LA19406 – Masonic Lane, Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 29 and 30 January 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of the closure of Masonic Lane, Thirsk for one night between 20 and 21 February 2019 and one day on 22 February 2019.

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C943(f) Hambleton District Council Standards Hearing Panel – Appointment of Parish Council Representatives

The meeting received a letter dated 29 January 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning nominations for parish council representatives on the District Council's Standards Hearing Panel.

Resolved: that any nomination be submitted no later than Friday, 1 March 2019.

C943(g) New Website to help Local People Access Mental Health Therapies/ Mental Health Services in Hambleton and Richmondshire

The meeting received a media release dated 31 January 2019 from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust concerning the launch of a new website to make it easier for people experiencing mental health difficulties to access help and support.

Resolved: that the media release be noted.

C943(h) Thirsk Christmas Lights

The meeting received a letter dated 7 February 2019 from Thirsk Ladies Group/Business Association requesting that the Town Council make a donation of £500 towards the cost of installing, removing and running the Christmas lights. The Clerk confirmed that he had received a copy of the previous year's accounts.

Resolved: that the Town Council approves a donation of £500 to Thirsk Ladies Group/Business Association towards the cost of Thirsk Christmas lights.

C943(i) Update – Parish Council Elections – 2 May 2019

The meeting received an email dated 8 February 2019 from Hambleton District Council giving further guidance in respect of the Parish Council elections due to take place on Thursday, 2 May 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C944 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 February 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C945 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Duffey reported that he had enjoyed watching a performance given by the Songwires singing group at the Town Hall on 9 February 2019.

Cllr Duffey advised that preparations were being made for the Thirsk and Sowerby Festival to be held in August 2019 and he requested that the Town Council consider making a donation of £500 towards the costs of the event.

Resolved: that the Town Council approves a donation of £500 to Thirsk and Sowerby Festival 2019.

Cllr Adamson referred to a letter which he understood the Town Council had received concerning the planting and maintenance of a planted area at which the Thirsk/Carlton Miniott sign was sited near to Thirsk railway station. He noted that Mrs Loveden had looked after this location for many years on a voluntary basis and suggested that the Town Council send a letter of thanks to Mrs Loveden for her hard work.

Resolved: that the Town Council send a letter of thanks to Mrs Loveden for maintaining the planted area at the location of the Thirsk/Carlton Miniott sign.

Cllr Trueman noted that the metal sign above Bakers Alley appeared to be in poor condition and queried whether it would be possible to have the sign repainted. Cllr Gibson-Brown stated that she would be happy to assist with repainting, subject to appropriate safety measures being put in place.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that she had recently visited Holyrood House and had been advised that a number of fund raising events were to be held to enable the freehold of the property to be purchased.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had taken part in a photoshoot to promote the installation of the new mobile CCTV camera and Hambleton District Council's Shopwatch scheme.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown indicated that she had presented further certificates of appreciation to several organisations in Thirsk in recognition of the contribution made by volunteers. She thanked Cllr Gibson-Brown for undertaking the calligraphy work on the certificates.

Cllr Dalgleish Brown reported that she had been interviewed on Radio York to talk about an unclaimed National Lottery ticket in the Hambleton area.

Cllr Adamson reported that a proposed merger between Thirsk Community Care Association and The Clock was to go ahead. Following the merger, the number of trustees would be reduced from 14 to 10 and there would be no representatives from Thirsk Town Council or Sowerby Parish Council.

C946 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.