

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 17 February 2020 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs D Duffey (Holiday), L Hunter-Bell (Personal), S Ward (Alternative engagement)

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

C1073 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1074 Police Report

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from PCSO Warby indicating that he was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk circulated copies of the police report provided by PCSO Warby which contained the crime figures for January 2020.

C1075 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd indicated that North Yorkshire County Council was expected to increase its council tax by 3.99% for the next financial year. He advised that the government had stated that they would carry out a fairer funding review as it had been shown that residents in North Yorkshire were paying more council tax than residents in Westminster. He stated that NYCC would continue to push for a better government settlement.

Cllr Dadd indicated that he had received complaints in respect of a footbridge on the Holmes and there was a concern that dogs or small children could fall through the railings. He advised that he had contacted NYCC's public rights of way department and would consider making a financial contribution from his locality budget to improve the safety of the footbridge.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council was expected to approve a council tax increase of £5.00 for a band D property.

Cllr Elders indicated that a report would be considered by HDC's full council on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 in respect of a car park improvement scheme which would see new payment methods being introduced, along with realignment of the parking bays and the introduction of electric car charging points. He advised that it was proposed that parking in the disabled bays would be limited to a maximum of three hours for Blue Badge holders.

Cllr Elders reported that a public consultation event concerning the proposed crematorium would take place on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 at Sandhutton Village Hall where members of the public would be able to view plans and make observations.

C1076 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mrs M Penson, flood warden, attended the meeting to express concern about recent high water levels and the risk of flooding in the Riverside Mews area. Mrs Penson was also concerned about erosion of the riverbank and requested that a site meeting be arranged with representatives of the Town Council, Hambleton District Council

and the Environment Agency. She suggested that the Environment Agency be requested to consider installing willow stakes in the riverbank to slow down erosion. Cllr Jackson requested that the Clerk contact the Environment Agency to request a site meeting and Cllr Dadd indicated that he would be happy to attend if a meeting could be arranged.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C1077 Minutes

C1077(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 January 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1077(b) Matters Arising

C1071 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Trueman noted that the Town Council's website had been updated to include the Climate Control Committee but requested that an amendment be made as Mr D Tonge had been incorrectly listed as Cllr D Tonge.

C1078 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1078(a) Planning Committee – 20 January 2020

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 January 2020.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1079 Burial Board

Resolved: that applications for memorials for John Garbutt and Wenanty & Kay Konieczny be approved.

C1080 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1080(a) New YLCA Website

The meeting received an email dated 23 January 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the launch of their new website at the end of January 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(b) ACT Awareness Sessions – National Counter Terrorism Awareness Initiative

The meeting received an email dated 24 January 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that an ACT awareness session was to be held on Thursday, 27 February 2020 at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(c) Thirsk Yarnbombers' Programme 2020

The meeting received an email dated 25 January 2020 from Thirsk Yarnbombers outlining their planned programme of displays for 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(d) Section 215 Notice – 91 and 91A Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 27 January 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that a Section 215 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) had been served in regard to the property of 91 and 91A Long Street, Thirsk because the amenity of the area was said to be adversely affected by the condition of the land. Town Councillors noted that the owner had until 28 February 2020 to appeal against the notice.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(e) Friends of Moorsbus – BBC Panorama

The meeting received an email dated 6 February 2020 from M Penson concerning an email from Moorsbus which advised that the BBC Panorama team was looking to make a television programme about the impact of cuts in public bus services and requesting that anyone who would like to be featured to contact Friends of Moorsbus.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(f) Carr's Field

The meeting received an email dated 4 February 2020 from Mr T Jordan, Trustee of Carr's Field, concerning a proposal by the Rotary Club of Thirsk to create a wheelchair walk around Carr's Field. The Clerk advised that a site meeting had taken place and that it had been agreed that the Rotary Club could go ahead with the proposal.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(g) Thirsk Castle, A Motte and Bailey Castle

The meeting received a letter dated 10 February 2020 from Historic England giving approval to replace the three ageing interpretation boards on Castle Garth. The Clerk hoped that the new boards would be installed early in the next financial year.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1080(h) Temporary Part-time Amenity/Cemetery Worker

The Clerk advised that the gentleman who had been recruited by the Town Council as a part-time amenity/cemetery worker had requested that his start date be postponed until May 2020. In the meantime, therefore, in order to cover the position until that time, the Town Council had taken on a temporary member of staff.

C1081 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 February 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1082 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the parent, baby and toddler group at East Thirsk Community Hall had recently received a grant of £173,873 from the Health Lottery community fund which would enable the group to continue operating for a further five years. Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that an official opening would take place on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 and she asked Cllr Jackson if he would invite members of Thirsk Rotary Club to the event.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that toilet rolls had recently been taken from the public toilets in Millgate and strewn around the trees in Mill Gardens. She queried whether it would be worthwhile closing the toilets earlier during the winter months to reduce the likelihood of this type of incident. The Clerk advised that, following the incident, stronger, metal toilet roll holders had been fitted in the gents' toilets. Cllr Jackson indicated that Cllr Gibson-Brown's suggestion would need to be considered by the Public Conveniences Committee.

Cllr Jackson reported that a further meeting of the youth project group had taken place comprising representatives from North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Youth, Ms J Gillanders, a curate from St Mary's Church, and the Town Council. He indicated that Ms Gillanders had managed to get a session for young people up and running at East Thirsk Community Hall and that the group was attempting to set up some further provision for older teenagers, hopefully on a Friday evening.

Cllr Gibson-Brown advised that a defibrillator training session would be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 19 February 2020. She advised that this was a free event for anyone wishing to attend.

Part II

Resolved: that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of confidential business

C1083 Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust

The Clerk indicated that he had placed this item in Part II on the agenda as the Charity Commission's documentation contained the names and addresses of individuals who had been trustees when the scheme was set up in 1997. He advised that the Charity Commissioners scheme for the Trust provided for three nominated trustees and two co-opted trustees. Discussion took place and Members agreed that further efforts should be made to appoint trustees in order to comply with the Charity Commission's scheme. It was suggested that enquiries be made with the present trustee, Thirsk Rotary Club and with Ms J Gillanders, a curate at St Mary's Church, to see if anyone was interested in becoming a trustee.

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm.