

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held remotely on Monday, 15 February 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dagleish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, K Mountford, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

**Apologies:** None

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

**C1168 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1169 Police Report**

Members noted that the police had not submitted a crime report. Following a query from Cllr Jackson, the Clerk advised that he would invite a police representative to join the next Town Council meeting via Zoom.

**C1170 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd reported that COVID-19 rates in Hambleton were beginning to decline, although they were still at a high level. He advised that the police had issued several fixed penalty notices over the previous weekend. He indicated that the local COVID vaccination programme at The Forum, Northallerton was going well with the assistance of the Army, the NHS and a network of volunteers.

Cllr Dadd advised that NYCC council tax was likely to increase by 5 per cent for the next financial year,

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that a recommendation that council tax for HDC be frozen for the next financial year was to be put before a meeting of the full council.

Cllr Elders advised that work had commenced on the refurbishment of Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre and that the car park would remain closed to the public whilst the work was being undertaken.

Cllr Elders indicated that construction work was ongoing at the new Maple Park Crematorium.

**C1171 Open Forum**

No members of the public joined the meeting.

**C1172 Minutes**

**C1172(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 January 2021**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

**C1172(b) Matters Arising**

**C1166 Finance**

The Clerk advised that he had contacted Ms L Wilson, HDC, with regard to obtaining funding for the repairs which needed to be carried out to the clock at St Mary's Church and that Ms Wilson was investigating funding possibilities.

### **C1173 Committee Minutes and Reports**

#### **C1173 (a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 15 February 2021**

The meeting received a Summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 15 February 2021.

**Resolved: that the Summary be received and noted.**

### **C1174 Burial Board**

Cllr Adamson advised that there were no matters to report.

### **C1175 Correspondence/Items Raised**

#### **C1175(a) Local Elections – 6 May 2021**

The meeting received an email dated 14 January 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which stated that the government would review whether local elections on 6 May 2021 would go ahead.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1175(b) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Bulletin**

The meeting received an email dated 15 January 2021 from National Association of Local Councils which contained an item which stated that the Toilets Bill was moving “at a pace”.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1175(c) Licensing Application – Twisted Automotive, The Old Cinema, Long Street, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 21 January 2021 from Hambleton District Council in respect of a revised licensing application by Twisted Automotive following the withdrawal of the original application submitted in December 2020. Members noted that the times in respect of licensing hours had been amended.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1175(d) Remote Meeting Regulations**

The meeting received an email dated 29 January 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations regarding the power to hold remote meetings. Discussion took place and Members felt that individual councils should have the authority to meet in whatever way they felt was appropriate. Cllr Duffey requested that the Clerk respond to the email outlining the views of the Town Council.

**Resolved: that the Clerk respond to the email dated 29 January 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.**

### **C1176 St Mary’s Church – Clock Repairs**

The meeting received several emails and a quotation dated 5 January 2021 concerning repairs which were required to be carried out to St Mary’s Church clock. The Clerk advised that the Town Council was responsible for maintenance of the clock and the church floodlighting. Members agreed that it was essential that the repairs were carried out and the Clerk indicated that Ms L Wilson, HDC, was going to examine funding possibilities.

**Resolved: that the Town Council accepts the quotation provided by Smith of Derby to carry out repairs to St Mary’s Church Clock.**

### **C1177 The Future of Thirsk as a Vibrant Market Town**

Cllr Jackson commented on the state of some of the alleyways leading from the Market Place and noted that in many cases there was uncertainty in respect of ownership of these alleyways. The Clerk indicated that the Town Council’s amenity

worker could be requested to carry out some work to improve the appearance of the alleyways but that, where these were public rights of way, approval to carry out such works would have to be sought from North Yorkshire County Council.

### **C1178 Covid-19**

The Clerk indicated that no issues had been raised concerning the opening of playgrounds and public toilets. He advised that Hambleton District Council, through the government funding, had covered the cost of additional items which had been purchased to enable the public toilets to be reopened safely following the first national lockdown in 2020.

### **C1179 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 February 2021 be approved and cheques signed.**

Discussion took place concerning the Town Council's mobile CCTV camera which Members noted was presently sited on the bridge in Millgate. There was a query as to whether an approach could be made to Hambleton District Council to suggest the siting of a permanent camera at that location which would enable the Town Council's mobile camera to be moved to other location's such as the Johnson Close Play Area.

### **C1180 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported on the recent flooding at Mill Gardens and indicated that the water level from the Cod Beck had reached residential properties and that cars had had to be moved. She praised the efforts of the team from Hambleton District Council who had quickly delivered extra sandbags and suggested that it would be advantageous to have a sandbag collection/storage point near to Mill Gardens. Cllr Duffey asked if the Town Council could arrange for a storage point close to the river. The Clerk indicated that he would examine the matter.

Cllr Jackson reported that a meeting of the Safer Hambleton (Thirsk) group had taken place recently. He advised that North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue were to present a campaign in respect of water safety. He noted that Safer Hambleton had indicated they would be moving a CCTV camera to Racecourse Mews.

Cllr Hunter-Bell enquired about the possibility of receiving paperwork for Town Council meetings via email/in PDF form instead of hard copies. The Clerk advised that the notice of meeting had to be provided in hard copy format but stated that he would make enquiries to see if there were any possible alternatives.

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that flying would recommence at the Gliding Club on Sutton Bank within the next few weeks.

**The meeting closed at 19.58 pm.**