

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 21 February 2022 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, K Mountford, F Potter, B Smith, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllr C Patterson (Illness)

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

C1290 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ward declared an interest in Agenda Item 9(a) concerning Thirsk Community Library and took no part in the discussion.

C1291 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C1292 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that North Yorkshire County Council had approved a council tax increase of 3.99 per cent for 2022/23. He recognised that many people were struggling financially but stated that the increase was necessary in order to maintain services particularly for the county's most vulnerable residents.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council was expected to increase its council tax by an average of £5 per household for 2022/23. He indicated that HDC had frozen its council tax for the last financial year but that an increase was necessary to continue delivering its services.

Cllr Elders reported that an open day was to be held at the new crematorium on Thursday, 24 February 2022 with a formal opening ceremony taking place at 10.00 am. He advised that the facility was expected to be ready for cremations to take place at the end of March.

Cllr Elders reported that Thirsk was to receive funding of £50,000 as part of a market towns investment programme. He advised that a firm of consultants engaged by HDC had submitted a report which was expected to be approved in May 2022. Cllr Jackson noted that the Thirsk Vibrant Market Towns group had put on hold any further meetings until the report was made available.

C1293 Open Forum

No members of the public attended the meeting.

C1294 Minutes

C1294(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 January 2022

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

C1294(b) Notes of Informal Discussion held on 17 January 2022

Resolved: that the notes of the Informal Discussion be received and noted.

C1294(c) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

C1295 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1295(a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 17 January 2022

The meeting received a Planning Summary dated 17 January 2022. The Clerk raised the issue of Committee meetings, noting that the only Committee to hold meetings since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic had been the Planning Committee. Several Members requested that Committee meetings should now be reinstated.

Resolved: that the Planning Summary be received and noted.

C1296 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that there had been some issues arising from grave diggers disposing of soil in areas of the cemetery instead of using the skip which had been provided. He advised that a designated area for soil disposal would shortly be made available which it was hoped would resolve the issues.

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Kathleen Banthorpe and Eric & Stella Windross be approved.

C1297 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1297(a) Thirsk Community Library - Application for Funding

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 2 January 2022 from S Burton which contained a request that the Town Council consider making a donation to Thirsk Community Library. The Clerk noted that Members had already approved a donation of £1,000 within the budget. Cllr Duffey queried how the money would be utilised and was advised that it would be used to cover running costs as well as some redecorating. Cllr Jackson requested that the Town Council be provided with a set of accounts if further funding is sought.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £1,000 to Thirsk Community Library.

C1297(b) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had received several emails in connection with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. He suggested that Members might want to provide something tangible such as a commemorative seat which would benefit both residents and visitors to the town. A photograph of a seat which incorporated the official Platinum Jubilee logo was circulated to Members.

Resolved: that the Town Council provide a commemorative bench in Thirsk Market Place to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

C1297(c) Thirsk Yarnbombers – Summary of Events for 2022

The meeting received an email dated 15 January 2022 from I Marwood which provided a summary of planned yarnbombing events for 2022.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1297(d) Street Collection – Thirsk Market Place

The meeting received an email dated 17 January 2022 from Hambleton District Council, advising of a street collection by Christian Aid to take place in December 2022.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1297(e) Thirsk Youth Club – Application for Funding

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 23 January 2022 from K Leonard, the treasurer for Thirsk Youth Club, which included an application for funding to support the activities of the newly formed youth club.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £2,990 to Thirsk Youth Club.

C1297(f) Outbreak of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

The meeting received a letter dated January 2022 from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs concerning an outbreak of avian influenza (also known as bird flu) in the Thirsk area.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1297(g) Thirsk 10 Mile Road and Wheelchair Race/Road Closure - 13 March 2022

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 30 January 2022 from K Wood and an email dated 9 February 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the Thirsk 10 mile road and wheelchair race and associated road closure.

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C1297(h) Town Centre Response Plans

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 2 February 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning resilience planning in North Yorkshire and the development of town centre response plans.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1297(i) 20s Plenty for North Yorkshire

The meeting received emails dated 2 and 4 February 2022 from ActionNetwork.org concerning a campaign supporting 20 mile per hour speed limits.

Resolved: that Members support the 20s Plenty Campaign in principle.

C1297(j) Street Collection – Thirsk Market Place

The meeting received an email dated 3 February 2022 from the Licensing Team, Hambleton District Council, concerning a street collection by Thirsk Royal British Legion Band to take place on 7 May 2022.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1297(k) Gas Mains Replacement Works – Planned Road Closure Notification

The meeting received an email dated 3 February 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council and emails and attachment dated 7 February 2022 from Northern Gas Networks concerning road closures between 14 March 2022 and 8 April 2022 to allow for a major gas main replacement scheme. Members noted that the works would impact traffic flow through the town and that Northern Gas Networks had indicated they would like to give something back to the community by making a donation to a charity or community group.

Resolved: that the Town Council suggests that Northern Gas Networks consider making a donation to Thirsk & Sowerby Festival and/or Thirsk Community Library.

C1297(l) The Anne Robson Trust – Pre-Bereavement Charity

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 8 February 2022 from S Brown of The Anne Robson Trust which provided information about the Trust's services including a free national helpline which was available to anyone who was struggling to cope with a terminal diagnosis or the imminent death of someone they care about.

Resolved: that the Town Council offers to support the Anne Robson Trust by displaying promotional material on its noticeboard.

C1279(m) Local Government Reorganisation – Microsoft Teams Meeting with Town and Parish Councils

The meeting received an email dated 9 February 2022 from N Irving, North Yorkshire County Council, advising of a remote meeting to be held on Monday, 28 February 2022 to discuss the development of a parish charter and arrangements for double devolution.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1279(n) Thirsk Infant School Charity Trust

The meeting received an email dated 14 February 2022 from J Marshall concerning the appointment of Cllr A Trueman and Mr P Miller as Town Council nominated trustees of the Thirsk Infant School Charity Trust, subject to the Town Council's agreement.

Resolved: that Members approve the appointment of Cllr A Trueman and Mr P Miller as Town Council nominated trustees of the Thirsk Infant School Charity Trust.

C1279(o) Parish/Town Council Elections – Thursday, 5 May 2022

The meeting received an email dated 14 February 2022 from Hambleton District Council concerning both parish elections and North Yorkshire County Council elections scheduled to take place on Thursday, 5 May 2022. The Clerk advised that all Members who wished to stand again would be required to complete and submit nomination forms.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1280 Johnson Close Play Area

The Clerk indicated that letters had been sent to residents who lived close to the Johnson Close Play Area advising that consideration was being given to removing the play equipment as a result of ongoing issues of antisocial behaviour. He reported that four responses had been received and that a variety of suggestions had been made regarding possible alternative usage of the area. It was noted that previous attempts to resolve the issues had not been successful and that some proposals which had been put forward were outside the Town Council's control.

Following discussion, it was: -

Resolved: that the Town Council arranges for the removal of the play equipment and introduction of appropriate shrubbery and wildflowers at the Johnson Close Play Area.

C1281 Delegated Powers and Responsibilities – Scheme of Delegation

Cllr Adamson referred Members to page 37 of the agenda attachments which included an extract from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22 March 2020 when discussion had taken place in respect of the Town Council's functioning during the coronavirus pandemic. He proposed that the resolution contained in Minute No C1093 be rescinded and that the Town Council adopt a scheme of delegation which would become part of the Financial Regulations and reviewed annually.

Resolved: that Resolution No C1093 from the Town Council meeting held on 22 March 2020 be rescinded and the Town Council adopts the Scheme of Delegation proposed by Cllr Adamson.

C1282 Accounts for Payment

The Clerk reported that the Town Council's grass cutting contractor had advised of an increase in his charges which was mainly due to recent increases in the cost of fuel. It was considered that the new charges were justified in light of increases in costs and had been anticipated when setting the budget.

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 February 2022 be approved, and cheques signed.

C1283 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown expressed concern at the road closures which were scheduled to take place around the Market Place in March and April and noted the difficulties that would be caused to both residents and businesses.

Cllr Mountford reported that Thirsk Community Primary School had received a "Good" status in its recent Ofsted inspection and that the school intended to undertake some promotional work.

The meeting closed at 8.23 p.m.