

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 19 March 2018 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: H Dalglish-Brown (Chairman), D Adamson, J Bell, D Duffey, J Fisher, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, A Trueman, S Ward, J Watson

In attendance: County/District Cllr: G Dadd

C807 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item C812 (Committee Minutes and Reports – Planning Committee, 19 February 2018) and took no part in discussion concerning a planning application in respect of land at the end of St Mary's Close, Thirsk.

C808 Police Report

PCSO Akhtar went through the monthly crime report and noted that, unusually, it included four burglaries (outbuildings, shed and garage).

PCSO Akhtar advised that there had been fewer egg throwing incidents recently but there had been some complaints concerning snowballs and stones being thrown at properties on the Hambleton Estate and that a CCTV camera was to be installed in the area.

Cllr Fisher stated that he had observed a car which was parked on the pavement very close to the road/mini roundabout on Long Street and he was concerned that an accident may occur as a result of poor visibility. The PCSO advised that she would put in a request that the police monitor cars parked in this location.

C809 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that he had contacted a former television presenter and invited her to meet him to discuss some false allegations which she had made about Thirsk and its residents in connection with incidents of animal cruelty which had taken place at an abattoir outside of Thirsk. He was awaiting a response to his invitation and hoped that an apology would be forthcoming.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that that she had attended a recent meeting at HDC in connection with the new Local Plan and allocations of land to be used for new developments. She expected the matter to go to cabinet in the near future and that there would then be a further consultation period.

Cllr Trueman advised that he had been contacted by a resident who had raised issues concerning HGV drivers parking on Thirsk Industrial Estate and leaving waste very close to her property. He indicated that the resident had contacted HDC but had not received a satisfactory response. Cllr Dadd stated that the issues had been ongoing for some time but that finding a solution was difficult and needed a multi-agency approach. Cllr Watson advised that she would pursue the matter at Hambleton District Council and PCSO Akhtar stated that she would ensure that the police were aware of the issues.

C810 Open Forum

A member of the public who was in attendance did not raise any matters.

C811 Minutes

C811(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 February 2018

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C811(b) Matters Arising

C803(b) Royal British Legion, Thirsk & District Branch – Great Pilgrimage 90

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by Mr C Northridge concerning the Town Council's contribution towards the costs of participating in the Great Pilgrimage 90 event in August 2018 who had given further details concerning the expenditure of any monies raised through sponsorship. He advised that he had contacted Northallerton Town Council regarding funding but had not received a response.

Resolved: that the Town Council contribute £400 towards the costs of sending a Standard Bearer and a Wreath Layer to the Great Pilgrimage 90 event in August 2018.

C803(a) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Hambleton Branch Meeting

Cllr Trueman advised that the YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting which had been scheduled for Wednesday, 28 February 2018 had had to be cancelled as a result of adverse weather conditions.

C803(g) Tesco Bags of Help Funding – Long Street Flower Boxes, Thirsk

The Clerk indicated that he had checked the terms of the award to clarify precisely how the monies would need to be spent and he considered that it may have to be utilised to purchase new flower boxes, as opposed to the purchase of new plants.

C803(k) Thirsk Market

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Mr D McKnight, HDC's Vibrant Market Town Project Officer giving an update on the release of a radio commercial and leaflet which had been made to help promote the district's markets.

C803(m) Probation Service Community Payback Scheme

The Clerk stated that he would contact the representative from the Community Payback Scheme in the near future to discuss suitable tasks which it was hoped they could undertake.

C805 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Jackson advised that the litter pick which had been arranged for Sunday, 18 March 2018 had had to be cancelled because of very poor/snowy weather conditions on the day. He hoped that it would be possible to reschedule a litter pick some time during April.

C803(n) Further Items of Correspondence

The Clerk advised that he had contacted the former employee of Dean Landscapes Limited who had indicated he would not be able to fulfil the Town Council's grass cutting requirements. He had therefore contacted other grounds maintenance contractors and anticipated receiving quotations within the very near future. Once these had been received, these would be considered by himself with Cllrs Dalgleish-Brown and Duffey so that the contract could be settled as quickly as possible.

C812 Committee Minutes and Reports

(a) Planning Committee – 19 February 2018

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 February 2018. In response to a question from Cllr Adamson concerning the proposed redevelopment of the former Austin Reed site, Cllr Jackson stated that the Planning Committee had considered the potential increase in traffic along Station Road and had suggested that the speed limit be reduced to reflect this.

With respect to a planning application to develop land at the end of St Mary's Close, Cllr Duffey indicated that some concern had been highlighted by Thirsk Community Primary School as hedging had been cut down thereby causing a safety issue. Cllr Watson advised that she would raise the concern with HDC's Planning Department and request that an officer visit the site.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C813 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for John Armitage, Joyce & Ted Burkhill, Helen & Raymond Childs, Ava & Isabella Kane, Jean May Kirby and Emma Williamson be approved.

C814 Correspondence/Items Raised

C814(a) Thirsk & Sowerby Urban Orienteering Event – 21 April 2018

The meeting received an email dated 19 February 2018 from Mr K Hutson, Humberside & Lincolnshire Orienteers, concerning a proposed orienteering event which it was envisaged would take place on Saturday, 21 April 2018.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C814(b) Tour de Yorkshire – Yorkshire Air Ambulance – Official Charity

The meeting received an email dated 1 March 2018 from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Regional Fundraising Manager North concerning fundraising when the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race passes through Thirsk in May 2018. Cllr Duffey advised that he had already contacted the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and that it had been agreed that they would have a stall free of charge, free advertising on the big screen and arrange their own collections on the day.

Resolved: that the arrangements made by Cllr Duffey be endorsed by the Town Council.

C814(c) Thirsk4Business – Launch Event

The meeting received an email dated 1 March 2018 from Thirsk & District Business Association concerning the launch event of Thirsk4Business which was scheduled to take place at Thirsk Racecourse on Thursday, 22 March 2018. Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that she would attend the event.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C814(d) Hambleton District Council – Parish Plans and Surveys

The meeting received an email dated 5 March 2018 from Hambleton District Council concerning Parish plans and surveys.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C814(e) Update from Thirsk Yarnbombers

The meeting received a letter dated 5 March 2018 from the Chair of Thirsk Yarnbombers concerning proposed yarnbombing events in Thirsk.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C814(f) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Former Wisteria Cottage, 21 Station Road, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 6 March 2018 from Hambleton District Council confirming the formal postal address of the above new development to be numbers 1 to 11 Wisteria Park Gardens, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C814(g) Hambleton District Council Business Awards 2018

The meeting received a letter dated 8 March 2018 from Hambleton District Council concerning the launch of the Business Awards scheme for 2018.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C814(h) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin No 10: 9 March 2018

The meeting received an email dated 12 March 2018 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which the Clerk noted contained some useful information concerning the new General Data Protection Regulation.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C814(i) Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body Meeting – Thursday, 22 March 2018

The meeting received a notice dated 12 March 2018 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising that the next CCG Governing Body meeting would take place on Thursday, 22 March 2018.

Resolved: that the notice be noted.

C814(j) Street Collection Permits – Youth Cancer Trust

The meeting received an email dated 13 March 2018 from Hambleton District Council's Licensing Team advising that street collection permits had been issued for the Youth Cancer Trust for April 2018.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C815 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 March 2018 be approved and cheques signed.

C816 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson gave an update in respect of The Clock and advised that new contracts were being sought and that if new contracts were not forthcoming in the near future, The Clock may be facing closure later in the year.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the parent, baby and toddler group at East Thirsk Community Hall had been awarded funding from the Health Lottery which would enable the group to continue operating for a further twelve months.

Cllr Fisher reported Thirsk Tourist Information had received some complimentary remarks about the cleanliness of the Millgate Public Conveniences.

In answer to a query by Cllr Watson, the Clerk advised that no progress had been made regarding office accommodation.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that the public footpath which ran from the Picnic Area to the Holmes adjacent to the River Codbeck now had a huge crack in it and was in need of repair. The Clerk advised that he had reported this to NYCC on a number of occasions but would make a further request that they inspect the footpath and carry out necessary repairs.

C817 On-Going items

Nothing noted.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.