

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

**Present:** Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-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

**C1181 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1182 Police Report**

Members noted that the police had submitted a crime report which detailed the crime figures for February 2021. The Clerk advised that he had invited the police to join the meeting via Zoom but had been informed that the police did not use Zoom on their work systems.

**C1183 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd reported that the repairs to the damaged footpath at the Marage would be substantial and would take some time to be carried out.

Cllr Dadd reported that local Covid-19 infection rates had reduced during the current national lockdown and that the police had issued further fixed penalty notices to individuals who had contravened the coronavirus regulations.

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that the refurbishment works to Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre were proceeding on schedule.

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council had been allocated £4.7 million from the government's new carbonisation fund and that the monies would be shared between the district's four leisure centres which it was estimated would result in savings of approximately £39,000 per annum.

Cllr Elders indicated that work was progressing at the new crematorium and that the steelwork was due to be erected during March.

Cllr Elders reported that resurfacing works had been carried out at the Millgate coach park.

**C1184 Open Forum**

No members of the public joined the meeting.

**C1185 Minutes**

**C1185(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 February 2021**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

**C1185(b) Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

## **C1186 Committee Minutes and Reports**

### **C1186 (a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 15 March 2021**

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

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

### **C1186(b) Open Areas & Greens Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 9 February 2021**

The meeting received the Minutes of a Meeting held on 9 February 2021.

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

## **C1187 Burial Board**

Cllr Adamson reported that Burial Board fees would increase by 5 per cent as from 1 April 2021 and that two memorial applications had been approved during March.

## **C1188 Correspondence/Items Raised**

### **C1188(a) Local Government Reorganisation**

The meeting received an email dated 15 February 2021 from Ms G Mulderrig and a letter dated 18 February 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning local government reorganisation in North Yorkshire.

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

### **C1188(b) A Rural Market Town Group**

The meeting received an email dated 19 February 2021 from Mr D Inman which contained an invitation for the Town Council to join a Rural/Market Town Group which had formed over the last year. Members felt that the Thirsk Town Improvement Group was proceeding with all appropriate matters and that there would be no benefit in joining the other Group

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

### **C1188(c) Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2021/2022**

The meeting received an email dated 22 February 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning urban highway grass cutting payments for 2021/2022.

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

### **C1188(d) Elections – Thursday, 6 May 2021**

The meeting received an email dated 24 February 2021 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election scheduled to take place on Thursday, 6 May 2021.

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

### **C1188(e) Chief Executive's Bulletin – National Association of Local Councils**

The meeting received an email dated 26 February 2021 from the National Association of Local Councils which Members noted contained some useful information on several topics.

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

### **C1188(f) Thirsk Yarnbombers – Programme of Displays**

The meeting received an email dated 1 March 2021 from Thirsk Yarnbombers which advised of their plans to put up a display to mark the achievement of Atlantic rower, Jasmine Harrison, followed by a display on the theme of "Happiness".

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

### **C1188(g) Marage Road, Thirsk - Planned Road Closure Notification**

The meeting received an email dated 8 March 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Marage Road, Thirsk for a period of 11 hours between 16 and 17 March 2021.

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

### **C1188(h) Commemorating Adam Bamlett**

The meeting received an email dated 9 March 2021 from Mr D Tucker concerning a proposal to mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Adam Bamlett, the engineer who had built a farm machinery business in Thirsk. Cllr Adamson indicated that he would be happy to be involved with the proposal as he had some literature which he felt could be useful.

**Resolved: that the Town Council support Mr Tucker's proposal to commemorate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Adam Bamlett.**

### **C1188(i) Community First Yorkshire – Building Connected Communities**

The meeting received details from Community First Yorkshire which included a suggestion that the provision of a welcome pack was a way of making new residents feel welcome in the community. Cllr Jackson suggested that the Town Council prepare a welcome pack which would include contact details of local organisations.

**Resolved: that the Town Council prepares a welcome pack for the benefit of new residents in the community.**

### **C1188(j) Thirsk Market**

Cllr Jackson indicated that a meeting had been held with representatives of Hambleton District Council to consider ways of improving the market in Thirsk. One suggestion was that the new market superintendent, Ali Bearpark, would provide information in respect of the market stalls which were in attendance each Monday morning so that the information could be posted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

Cllr Jackson advised that the Vibrant Market Towns Group had discussed a proposal that the Town Council purchase a market stall which would be let out at its discretion to new market traders. Mr P Cole, HDC, had stated that funding may be available for the project.

Cllr Jackson noted that Stokesley Town Council had recently installed a large map for the benefit of visitors to the area and suggested that the Town Council could provide something similar in Thirsk. He requested that enquiries be made as to the likely cost for the supply and installation of such a map.

### **C1188(k) Tidy Up of Thirsk Market Place**

Cllr Duffey suggested that the Market Place would benefit from a "Tidy Up" prior to the reopening of non-essential shops on Monday, 12 April 2021. He advised that Hambleton District Council had agreed that some areas could be power-washed in the coming weeks and that the Town Council's amenity worker would put down some new social distancing stickers on the pavements in the next few days.

Discussion took place concerning the state of alleyways leading from the Market Place. Cllr Duffey felt that the appearance of some of the alleyways could be improved and that some would benefit from a coat of whitewash.

**Resolved: that a check of the Market Place and surrounding areas be carried out every six months and the matter be considered at six monthly intervals at Town Council meetings.**

### **C1189 Jasmine Harrison – Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge**

The Clerk advised that Sowerby Parish Council had granted Jasmine Harrison the honour of Freeperson of the Parish of Sowerby in recognition of her achievement in becoming the youngest solo female to row across the Atlantic Ocean. He indicated that Sowerby Parish Council had also agreed that an event be held in the Town Hall and that a blue plaque be erected at Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre following its reopening in September 2021. Discussion took place and Cllr Trueman suggested that a board could be made and placed in the Town Hall in recognition of people of Thirsk and Sowerby who had achieved such an honour.

**Resolved: that Jasmine Harrison be granted the honour of Freeperson of the Parish of Thirsk in recognition of her achievement at becoming the youngest solo female to row across the Atlantic Ocean.**

### **C1190 Covid-19**

The Clerk advised that the rules in relation to public toilets and play areas remained the same.

### **C1191 Accounts for Payment**

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

### **C1192 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Gibson-Brown enquired about the storage of sandbags which had been obtained from Hambleton District Council to help residents cope with the recent flooding at Mill Gardens. The Clerk suggested that lockable grit boxes may be suitable for the storage of sandbags and that these could be located on the grassed area opposite the Millgate Public Conveniences.

Cllr Adamson reported that the legislation governing the holding of remote meetings was due to end in May 2021 and that the government had refused to extend the legislation despite protests from the National Association of Local Councils. He noted that NALC was working with a group called Lawyers in Local Government who had secured a court hearing because they contended that the provision for local councils to meet in whatever they chose already existed in the Local Government Act 1972.

Cllr Trueman reported that Mrs K Reynard had advised him of recent damage to plants in Mill Gardens. It was suggested that Cllr Trueman advise Mrs Reynard to report the matter to the police and to obtain a crime incident number.

**The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.**