

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 April 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, S Ward, J Watson

Apologies: Cllr A Trueman, County/District Cllr: G Dadd

C818 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C819 Police Report

PCSO Akhtar went through the monthly crime figures for Thirsk. She advised that the police were in the process of applying for a protection order so that signage could be erected on Thirsk Industrial Estate in an attempt to resolve issues in respect of waste which was being left by HGV drivers.

Cllr Fisher reported that he had observed another near accident close to the mini-roundabout on Long Street which he felt was caused by the lack of visibility created by a vehicle which was parked on the pavement very close to the roadside.

Although it was believed that the vehicle may not be parked illegally, PCSO Akhtar stated that she would pass on the concern and the Clerk indicated that he would contact North Yorkshire County Council so that they were aware of the matter.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that groups of youths who had been congregating in Mill Gardens appeared to have moved on to the Picnic Area and that damage had been caused recently to fencing adjacent to the river. She felt that the youths used the tall bushes in the Picnic Area to hide behind and she requested that these be reduced in height. The PCSO confirmed that the police continued to patrol the area.

C820 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended a meeting concerning a car parking review/provision of electric vehicle charging points and that a report was expected to go before HDC's cabinet in June.

Cllr Watson reported that a further public consultation in connection with the new Local Plan was expected to take place during the summer.

Cllr Watson advised that HDC was in the process of preparing a leaflet to be distributed to households advising of changes to refuse collections which were aimed at making operations more effective.

Following a query by Cllr Hesmondhalgh, Cllr Watson confirmed that HDC had made an offer to purchase the former Lambert Memorial Hospital but this had been rejected and it was now expected that the building would be sold on the open market to the highest bidder.

C821 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C822 Minutes

C822(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 March 2018

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

C822(b) Matters Arising

C811(b) Matters Arising (C805 Reports from Members/Representatives)

Cllr Jackson advised that the litter pick which had been due to take place in March had been rescheduled to take place on Sunday, 13 May 2018.

C803(n) Further Items of Correspondence (Grass cutting)

The Clerk reported that a new grass cutting contract had been agreed with a contractor who had previously undertaken work for Dean Landscapes Ltd and that a meeting was due to be held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 to discuss the new contract.

C816 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from NYCC following complaints about the condition of the public footpath which ran alongside the river between the Picnic Area and the Holmes which confirmed that funding was available to carry out the repairs and that quotations were in the process of being obtained.

C823 Committee Minutes and Reports

(a) Planning Committee – 19 March 2018

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 March 2018

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

(b) Open Areas and Greens Committee – 27 March 2018

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 27 March 2018.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C824 Burial Board

There were no applications for memorials to be considered. The Clerk indicated that the former cemetery groundsman had returned to Thirsk and had commenced working for the Town Council as a subcontractor. He was carrying out various works both at the cemetery and other Town Council properties and facilities.

C825 Correspondence/Items Raised

C825(a) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting – 17 May 2018

The meeting received a letter dated 13 March 2018 from Hambleton District Council concerning the next Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting which was due to be held on Thursday, 17 May 2018 at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton. Cllr Jackson confirmed that he would attend the meeting along with Cllr Trueman.

Resolved: that Cllrs Jackson and Trueman attend the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting on 17 May 2018 on behalf of the Town Council.

C825(b) Parish Survey on Vehicle Activated Speed Signs or Speed Indicator Devices

The meeting received an email dated 15 March 2018 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a review which would examine whether to provide parish/town councils with the opportunity to fund the purchase and maintenance costs of vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) or speed indicator devices (SIDs). The Clerk noted that the closing date for responses was Monday, 21 May 2018.

Resolved: that the survey be completed in terms that the Town Council request to be provided with an indication of the likely cost of purchasing and maintaining the speed signs/devices.

C825(c) Thirsk and District Business Association Launch Event - 22 March 2018

The meeting received information from the Launch Event of Thirsk and District Business Association. Cllr Dalglish-Brown advised that she had attended the event and was happy to answer any questions. Cllr Watson asked whether the Business Association had any plans concerning the empty shops in the Market Place and Cllr Dalglish-Brown stated that she would raise the matter with the Chairman of the Business Association.

Resolved: that the information be noted.

C825(d) Donation to the Great Pilgrimage 90

The meeting received a letter dated 25 March 2018 from The Royal British Legion thanking the Town Council for its contribution towards the cost of sending a Standard Bearer and a Wreath Layer to the Great Pilgrimage 90 event.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C825(e) CCG Statement on the Lambert Hospital Site, Thirsk

The meeting received an email and statement dated 27 March 2018 from NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which stated that the CCG had facilitated discussions between Hambleton District Council and NHS Property Services regarding the future of the Lambert Hospital site but was disappointed that this had failed to achieve an affordable community solution.

Resolved: that the email and statement be noted.

C825(f) Pontefract Magna Carta Group

The meeting received an email dated 5 April 2018 from Mr D Tucker which attached an invitation to attend a celebration of Magna Carta Day on Friday, 15 June 2018 at Pontefract.

Resolved: that the Town Council thank the President of the Pontefract Magna Carta Society but decline the invitation to attend the Magna Carta Day celebration at Pontefract.

C826 Finance

The Clerk indicated that Mr R Dickinson, the former cemetery groundsman, was in the process of painting Millgate Public Conveniences and had submitted invoices for the work done to date.

Cllr Watson advised that she had been given contact details of two people who she understood may be able to carry out repair work to the damaged mosaic on Millennium Green. Cllr Duffey suggested that the Town Council obtain a quote for the work and that it may be possible to submit an application for funding to Tesco's Bags of Help community grant scheme. Following discussion, it was agreed that this course of action be pursued.

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 April 2018 be approved and cheques signed.

C827 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that The Clock was about to lose its last full-time member of staff as the projects currently ongoing required the involvement of part-time employees only. He confirmed that The Clock was still receiving funding and that a substantial grant had just been received which would be in place for the next three years.

Cllr Gibson-Brown indicated that she would refurbish the interior of the notice board at the front of Thirsk Tourist Information and she would also repaint the faded sign in Bateman's Yard.

Cllr Watson reported that a partnership between the Lambert Hospital League of Friends and Herriot Hospice Homecare had been formed with the aim of expanding end-of-life care services in Thirsk and which could involve the construction of a new building to accommodate both day and overnight care. She advised that a constitution was in the process of being prepared and she anticipated that the matter would be heavily promoted in the near future.

Cllr Watson queried whether the Town Council ought to pay all its donations at the beginning of the financial year once the precept money had been received. Discussion took place and it was suggested that it would be more appropriate to wait until organisations had submitted their end-of-year accounts before making payments.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that it had been decided to postpone the mayor's ball until 2019.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that she had attended a book signing event by Tommy Banks, the Michelin star chef, at White Rose Books on Thursday, 12 April 2018.

C828 On-Going items

Nothing noted.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.