

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 25 April 2022 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, C Hesmondhalgh, C Patterson, F Potter, B Smith, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs W Gibson-Brown (Alternative commitment), K Mountford (Alternative commitment), A Trueman (Alternative commitment)
County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1313 Declarations of Interest

None.

C1314 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had submitted a crime report containing the monthly crime figures which was circulated to Members.

C1315 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

Since County/District Cllr G Dadd and District Cllr D Elders were not in attendance, nothing was reported.

C1316 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mr and Mrs G Dodsworth attended the meeting. Mr Dodsworth expressed his concern at the amount of rubbish being left in various locations in Thirsk and Sowerby and requested that the Town Council consider installing additional signage and more litter bins. Areas of particular concern included the River Cod Beck in the vicinity of Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre and Locks Bridge. Mr Dodsworth showed Cllr Jackson some photographs on his mobile phone which Cllr Jackson requested he forward to the Town Council. The Clerk advised that the provision and servicing of litter bins was the responsibility of Hambleton District Council and that the Town Council could only place bins on land which it owned. He indicated that the Town Council could look at erecting further signage but that it was not easy to find suitable locations. Mr Dodsworth stated that members of Thirsk Angling Club regularly removed rubbish. Cllr Jackson advised that some of the areas which Mr Dodsworth mentioned were in the Parish of Sowerby and that the Town Council would forward the comments to Sowerby Parish Council. He thanked Mr Dodsworth for addressing the meeting and for his assistance with litter picking.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C1317 Minutes

C1317(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 March 2022

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

C1317(b) Matters Arising

C1310 Johnson Close Play Area

The Clerk advised that the play equipment at Johnson Close had been removed and that there had been no further reports of antisocial behaviour.

C1318 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1318(a) Planning Committee – 21 March 2022

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 21 March 2022. The Clerk indicated that a suggestion had been made that planning applications be considered either as part of or at the end of the monthly Town Council meeting instead of at a standalone meeting commencing at 6.30 p.m. Cllr Jackson advised that, for various reasons, Planning Committee meetings were generally much shorter than they used to be. The Clerk stated that he would need to check standing orders before any changes could be implemented.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1319 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that a complaint had been received in respect of a headstone which had been erected too close to an existing grave. The issue had now been resolved by the memorial being repositioned by the stonemason. Cllr Adamson reported that a very large tree had fallen during one of the winter storms and had damaged a large section of cemetery wall. He advised that a meeting of the Burial Board would need to be arranged to consider the matter. The Clerk stated that he would contact the insurance company before making a decision concerning rebuilding the wall.

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Edward Stuart Griffin, Peter Graham Phillips, Robert Pritchard and William & Dorothy Rukin be approved.

C1320 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1320(a) Proposed Woodland Creation Scheme – Crossland Hill, Abel Grange, Thirsk

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 23 March 2022 from Mr W Richardson concerning a proposed woodland creation scheme at Crossland Hill, Abel Grange near Thirsk.

Resolved: that Members have no objections to the proposed scheme.

C1320(b) Application for Variation of a Premises Licence – Thirsk Hall

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 7 April 2022 from Hambleton District Council concerning an application to extend licensable hours for one event per year.

Resolved: that Members have no objection to the variation of the premises licence.

C1320(c) Planned One Way Traffic Notification – Sowerby (Temporary one way)

The meeting received an email dated 8 April 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a one-way traffic restriction which would be in place between 16 May 2022 and 15 November 2023 but would only apply as required and would be indicated by the placing of traffic signs.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1320(d) Community Infrastructure Levy Contribution

The meeting received a letter dated 11 April 2022 from Hambleton District Council concerning a payment of Community Infrastructure Levy. It was suggested that the money could be utilised towards the cost of refurbishing Millgate Public Conveniences.

Resolved: that the Community Infrastructure Levy contribution be utilised towards the cost of refurbishing Millgate Public Conveniences.

C1320(e) Certificate of Registration for the Add of Alias Name

The meeting received a certificate dated 14 April 2022 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed that there was no objection to the add of an alias name of "Old Police House" for a property which had a formal postal address of 174 Hambleton Place, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1320(f) Request for Town Council Support for Provision of Double Yellow Lines

The meeting received four emails dated 6, 15 and 19 April 2022 concerning a request for the provision of double yellow lines on the road outside a residential property in Hambleton Place, Thirsk. The Clerk explained that North Yorkshire County Council would only carry out the work if the Town Council supported the request. Members observed that parking was very difficult in the area in question but that many other residential areas had similar parking issues. Although Members sympathised with the resident, they felt that, if the request was granted, this may set a precedent for other householders to request double yellow lines outside their properties which could create further difficulties.

Resolved: that Members felt unable to support the request for the provision of double yellow lines for the reasons indicated above.

C1320(g) Rotary Club of Thirsk – Wheel Friendly Footpath Project

The meeting received a letter and plan dated 14 April 2022 from the Rotary Club of Thirsk concerning a project to make some local footpaths more user friendly for wheeled users, particularly wheelchair users and parents with young children in buggies or on cycles. Cllr Jackson advised that the project had been in the pipeline for several years and he hoped it could be progressed. He noted that various concerns had been raised, such as damage to tree roots, but felt that these could be overcome and that Mr C Amy, the Town Council's amenity contractor, could give guidance on some aspects. It was suggested that a site meeting be held with representatives of the Rotary Club, North Yorkshire County Council and Mr C Amy to try to resolve some of the issues.

Resolved: that the Town Council requires further clarification of several aspects before consenting to the works being carried out.

C1321 Bank Holiday Monday Market – Market Place Parking

Cllr Jackson reported on issues which had arisen in connection with the Bank Holiday market on Easter Monday, 18 April 2022. He explained that the whole of the cobbled area near Thirsk Tourist Information had been subject to a parking suspension order which had resulted in the loss of approximately 36 parking bays, including disabled bays, and the loss of the electric vehicle charging point for the whole day. Unfortunately, there had been fewer market traders than had been expected and only two stalls had set up in that area. It was reported that many vehicles, including users of the disabled bays, had parked in the area and had subsequently received tickets. People had complained that the signage had not been very clear and that there had been nothing on the parking meters to indicate that parking was not permitted. Cllr Jackson advised that the regular market superintendent had been on annual leave that day and a deputy had been on duty. He was very concerned that visitors would be put off visiting the town in future and wanted to ensure the situation did not happen again. The Clerk advised that he had been handed a letter which had been signed by a large number of shopkeepers who

were very unhappy about what had occurred and he stated he would forward this to Hambleton District Council.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to the Chief Executive of Hambleton District Council to express the Town Council's concerns in connection with the Bank Holiday Monday Market.

C1322 Thirsk Town Council Tree Management Policy

The Clerk advised that the Town Council's amenity contractor, Mr C Amy, had prepared a draft tree management policy. A query was raised in respect of point number 4 and it was suggested that it may be appropriate to carry out a small amount of work in some circumstances. Cllr Duffey suggested that policies such as the tree management policy should be publicised on the Town Council's website.

C1323 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 25 April 2022 be approved and cheques signed.

C1324 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Ward reported that there was still some graffiti on the side of the wall of a property adjoining Nisa in Long Street. The Clerk advised that he would report this matter to the Safer Hambleton Hub although he believed that the cleaning of graffiti may be the responsibility of the owners as this was private property.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall continued to suffer with issues of social behaviour. She advised that the police had visited and had made some suggestions which included updating the CCTV and the use of anti-climb paint and metal strips on the roof, which appeared to have been successful. Cllr Duffey reported that a new leader had taken over at the Safer Hambleton Hub. He noted that the next meeting was currently set up as a Teams meeting and he asked if this could be changed to a face-to-face meeting.

Cllr Jackson thanked the Clerk for helping Members complete their election nomination forms.

The meeting closed at 8.24 p.m.