

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 May 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, R Gladstone, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllr F Potter (Prior commitment)

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

C969 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C970 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C971 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd congratulated Cllr Duffey on his appointment as Mayor. He remarked that Cllr Dalglish-Brown had been an exemplary mayor, noting in particular her support for charitable causes and her recognition of volunteers.

Cllr Dadd advised that he hoped to assist in moving a road sign which had been positioned directly in front of one of the windows of the old savings bank building in Castlegate. He was also supporting Thirsk Community Library in their efforts to have new directional signage erected.

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC had recorded an underspend of 0.77 per cent at the end of the 2018/2019 financial year.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders thanked everyone who had voted for him in the district council election on Thursday, 2 May 2019.

Cllr Elders reported that a tarmac repair to a cobbled area in the Market Place had been a temporary measure and he understood that the cobbles were to be re-laid during the week commencing Monday, 27 May 2019.

C972 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mr David Tonge addressed the meeting and stated that he hoped to persuade the Town Council to declare a climate emergency. Mr Tonge explained that the purpose of declaring a climate emergency would be a symbolic action which he felt was necessary to exert pressure in order to bring about environmental changes more quickly. Cllr Duffey suggested that if Mr Tonge wanted to provide some written documentation for Members to consider, he was happy to include the matter on the agenda for the June Town Council meeting.

Resolved:

(i) that the matter be placed on the agenda for the Town Council meeting to be held on Monday, 17 June 2019;

(ii) that standing orders be reinstated.

C973 Minutes

C973(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 April 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C973(b) Matters Arising

C965(h) East Thirsk Play Area – Damage to Wetpour Safety Surface

Cllr Duffey reported that the Open Areas & Greens Committee had met on Thursday, 16 May 2019 and considered the ongoing issues at East Thirsk Play Area. He indicated that quotations to repair the damaged safety surfaces had been accepted but that the Committee wanted the mobile CCTV camera to be moved to cover the play area before carrying out the work. Cllr Duffey added that he had spoken to the headmaster at Thirsk Community Primary School about the recent damage and that the police were intending to visit the school to talk to pupils about issues of antisocial behaviour.

C967 Reports from Members/Representatives

Following the report of overgrown foliage on a verge on Sutton Road, the Clerk advised that he had visited the area in question and that he would seek a quotation for the foliage to be cut down and the area tidied. Members agreed that a quotation should be obtained.

C974 Committee Minutes and Reports

C974(a) Planning Committee – 15 April 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 April 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C975 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that he had been made aware of damage which had been caused to the railings at Thirsk Cemetery over the weekend. He understood that repairs to the railings may be very costly. Discussion took place and Members felt that the railings should be repaired and retained if at all possible. Cllr Duffey suggested that options for repairing the railings be explored and that a quotation be obtained for the installation of a motion activated spotlight/CCTV camera.

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Thomas Lowey and Mason Robert Pearson be approved.

C976 Correspondence/Items Raised

C976(a) Thirsk Royal British Legion Band – Shine TV Donation

The meeting received a letter dated 19 April 2019 from Thirsk Royal British Legion Band thanking the Town Council for approving the donation from the Shine TV community monies to assist with the purchase of new uniform blazers.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C976(b) Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 25 April 2019 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of new properties as 1 to 6 St James Lodge, Masonic Lane, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C976(c) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Appointment of Council Representatives

The meeting received an email dated 1 May 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the appointment of Town Council representatives to attend YLCA Branch meetings in the area and to represent the Town Council as voting representatives at those meetings.

Resolved: that Cllrs Jackson and Trueman continue to fulfil the role of YLCA representatives.

C976(d) Non-Competitive Cycling Sportive – Sunday, 11 August 2019

The meeting received an email dated 1 May 2019 from UK Cycling Events concerning a cycling sportive due to take place on Sunday, 11 August 2019 out of Thirsk Racecourse.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C976(e) Morris Dancers – Thirsk Market Place

The meeting received an email dated 4 May 2019 from Kemp's Men of Norwich concerning a dancing tour of North Yorkshire and a performance scheduled to take place in Thirsk Market Place on Monday, 27 May 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C976(f) Notice of CCG Governing Body Meeting – Thursday, 23 May 2019

The meeting received a notice dated 13 May 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising that the next Governing Body meeting was due to take place on Thursday, 23 May 2019.

Resolved: that the notice be noted.

C976(g) 1st Thirsk Scout Group – Fundraising Request

The Clerk advised that an email dated 18 May 2019 had been received from the Chair of the 1st Thirsk Scout Group concerning fundraising to enable essential refurbishment works to the scout hut to be undertaken. Town Councillors made suggestions with regard to funding sources and suggested that the scouts be requested to supply a copy of their accounts so that the matter could be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

Resolved: that the 1st Thirsk Scout Group be requested to provide a copy of their accounts to enable the matter to be considered at the Town Council meeting to be held in June 2019.

C977 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 May 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C978 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had participated in a raffle organised by Thirsk Yarnbombers which had raised £750 for the Freddie's Fight funding campaign. She advised that she had presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers at Thirsk & District Business Association and Thirsk Royal British Legion Band and she had presented cheques of £7,180 each to Thirsk School & Sixth Form College for their new inclusion unit and to Herriot Hospice Care.

Cllr Adamson reported that amalgamation between The Clock and the Community Care Association was progressing, although he anticipated that the amalgamation may not be completed until some time in 2020.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the grant which funded the parent, baby and toddler group at East Thirsk Community Hall was to come to an end in July and that

endeavours were being made to obtain a further grant of £150,000 to enable the group to operate for a further five years.

Cllr Trueman advised that he had received an email and photographs from a resident who was concerned about groups of people drinking on the pavements outside public houses in the Market Place on race days. It was suggested that the photographs be forwarded to the Licensing Team at Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Gibson-Brown advised she had contacted the Environment Agency in respect of fly-tipping into the river in connection with building works which were ongoing in the Waterside/Todd's Court area.

Cllr Gibson-Brown indicated that she had been approached by the family of a resident of Riverside Mews who had passed away and the family wanted to attach a small plaque on a bench adjacent to the lady's former property. Cllr Gibson-Brown explained that the resident had helped keep the riverside area tidy for many years and that the family had confirmed that they would look after the bench. Cllr Duffey suggested that in the circumstances the Town Council could accede to the request, subject to receiving written confirmation that the family would maintain the bench.

C979 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.