

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 24 May 2021 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, K Mountford, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

**Apologies:** None

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

**C1205 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1206 Police Report**

A police report, which contained the crime figures for April 2021, was circulated to Members. It was noted that no fixed penalty notices for breaches of coronavirus regulations had been issued during the week ending 16 May 2021.

**C1207 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd gave an update concerning the closure of the public footpath and bridge between The Holmes and St James Green. He advised that a site meeting had taken place and that NYCC needed to clarify issues in respect of ownership of land before carrying out repairs. He noted that the structure of the bridge was beginning to be affected and that the repair costs were likely to be very substantial.

Cllr Dadd reported that signs had been erected in the Market Place informing of roadworks which were scheduled to take place arising from the Sowerby Gateway development. He advised that attempts had been made to minimise disruption by condensing the works as much as possible and that he had requested that works at the Town End be deferred until October.

Cllr Dadd indicated that the public consultation in respect of local government reorganisation had now closed and that an announcement was expected to be made in July 2021 by the Secretary of State.

Cllr Dadd advised that coronavirus infection rates in North Yorkshire were currently below the national average and, despite some serious spikes in Selby, rates in Hambleton were very low.

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that refurbishment works at Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre were progressing well and that, once the work was completed, users would benefit from 24 hour access to the gym facilities.

Cllr Elders referred to a licensing application which had been submitted by The French Press, 52a Market Place, Thirsk and an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness which had been submitted by Wetherspoons (The Three Tuns Hotel). He noted that the establishments were next door to each other and that both had outside areas at the rear of the properties. Cllr Jackson advised that the Town Council had been consulted on the licensing application by The French Press but had not been consulted on the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness by Wetherspoons as this was a legal issue.

**C1208 Open Forum**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

## **C1209 Minutes**

### **C1209(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 April 2021**

**Resolved:** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 April 2021 be approved as a correct record, subject to Minute No C1204 being amended to read that “Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall had been awarded a grant of £16,000”, et cetera.

### **C1209(b) Matters Arising**

C1189 Jasmine Harrison – Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge

Cllr Trueman noted that the Town Hall Management Committee had agreed that a board in recognition of people who had been awarded the honour of Freeperson of the Parish of Thirsk or Sowerby could be placed in the Town Hall reception area and that a suitable board would cost approximately £200.

C1204 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that he had contacted both Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire County Council in respect of a proposal to site grit/salt bins on land adjacent to the Millgate public toilets and he was waiting for Hambleton District Council to give approval.

## **C1210 Committee Minutes and Reports**

### **C1210(a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 24 May 2021**

The meeting received a Summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 24 May 2021.

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

### **C1211 Burial Board**

Nothing reported.

## **C1212 Correspondence/Items Raised**

### **C1212(a) Thirsk Rotary in Bloom – Application for Grant 2021-2022**

The meeting received a letter dated 10 April 2021 from the Rotary Club of Thirsk concerning an application for a grant of £3,000 towards the running costs of Thirsk Rotary in Bloom. The Clerk advised that he had discussed the matter with members of the Rotary Club and had received clarification in respect of the accounts. He indicated that previously a grant of £2,500 had not increased for many years and he considered that a grant of £3,000 was reasonable in view of increased costs.

**Resolved:** that the Town Council approves a donation of £3,000 to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom for 2021-2022.

### **C1212(b) Community Infrastructure Levy Contribution**

The meeting received a letter dated 15 April 2021 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed that a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £371.25 was to be paid to the Town Council in connection with a development on Long Street, Thirsk.

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

### **C1212(c) Thirsk Yarnbombers – Forthcoming Events**

The meeting received an email dated 19 April 2021 from Ms I Marwood which provided details of forthcoming displays.

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

### **C1212(d) Mobile CCTV Camera**

The meeting received emails dated 19 April 2021 from Ms G Allen, Hambleton District Council, and the Clerk concerning a mobile CCTV camera which the Town Council purchased in 2018. Cllr Duffey felt that HDC appeared to have taken ownership of the camera and that, although the Town Council continued to pay an annual service/maintenance fee, any request to move the camera from its position on Millgate Bridge to another location had been refused. He suggested that the Town Council should no longer retain the camera and that the money saved could be better utilised in other areas. He also noted that the Police and Safer Hambleton were the relevant bodies to deal with issues of antisocial behaviour and that the Town Council had no powers or authority in these matters. Discussion took place and Members agreed that the Town Council should not continue to pay the annual service/maintenance charges for the camera.

**Resolved: that the Clerk contact Ms G Allen, Hambleton District Council, to discuss the possibility of HDC purchasing the Town Council's Mobile CCTV camera.**

### **C1212(e) Making a Difference Grants 2021-2022**

The meeting received two letters dated 21 April 2021 from Hambleton District Council concerning applications for Making a Difference Grants. The letters confirmed that an application to fund the setting up and running of a new Thirsk website had been successful but that an application to install solar powered lighting in various locations had not been successful.

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

### **C1212(f) Thirsk Youth Club**

The meeting received a letter dated 22 April 2021 from Revd J Gillanders concerning the setting up of a new Youth Club and a request that the Town Council consider making a donation towards the running costs. Cllr Jackson advised that the Town Council had set aside £5,000 for youth provision in the current financial year. He noted that the letter included costings for various items, and he requested that Cllr Mountford examine the figures and put together an overall amount.

**Resolved: that Cllr Mountford liaise with Revd J Gillanders and North Yorkshire Youth to confirm the amount of donation to be awarded.**

### **C1212(g) Closed Road Car Rally 2022 – Hambleton Stages**

The meeting received an email and letter dated 26 April 2021 from Mr A Hill, Ripon Motor Sports Club Limited, concerning a proposal to run a closed road car rally in the Hambleton region of North Yorkshire in June 2022.

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

### **C1212(h) Premises Licence – The French Press, 52a Market Place, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 30 April 2021 from Hambleton District Council which attached an application for a premises licence in respect of The French Press, 52a Market Place, Thirsk. The Clerk advised Members in respect of some of the detail contained within the application and discussion took place.

**Resolved: that the Town Council does not object to the grant of a premises licence for The French Press, 52a Market Place, Thirsk.**

### **C1212(i) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive's Bulletins**

The meeting received emails dated 30 April 2021 and 7 May 2021 from the National Association of Local Councils and noted the updates in respect of the legislation concerning the holding of remote meetings and an update in respect of the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill.

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

#### **C1212(j) News from the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton**

The meeting received an email and newsletter dated 10 May 2021 from NHS North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group which provided the latest news from the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

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

#### **C1212(k) Funeral Bier – Thirsk Museum**

The meeting received an email dated 10 May 2021 from Ms S Stephenson concerning the transfer of ownership of the Town Council's old funeral bier to Thirsk Museum. Cllr Adamson believed that the bier was built in approximately 1879, around the time when the cemetery opened. He proposed that the Town Council donate the bier to Thirsk Museum so that it could form part of the Museum's displays.

**Resolved: that the Town Council confirms the transfer of ownership of the funeral bier to Thirsk Museum.**

#### **C1212(l) Planned Road Closure Notification – Masonic Lane, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 11 May 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council which advised of the closure of Masonic Lane, Thirsk for a period of 11 hours between 16 and 17 June 2021.

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

#### **C1212(m) Resignation of Cllr Hazel Dalglish-Brown**

The meeting received an email dated 11 May 2021 from Cllr H Dalglish-Brown concerning her decision to resign from her position as Town Councillor. Cllr Jackson stated that he was sad to see Cllr Dalglish-Brown leave and suggested that a card and gift be purchased as a token of thanks and appreciation for her hard work on behalf of the Town Council, particularly during her time as Mayor.

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

#### **C1212(n) East Thirsk Community Hall**

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall had recently been affected by incidents of antisocial behaviour and asked if the Town Council could help in any way. She explained that damage had been caused on several occasions and users of the Hall had complained about incidents which they had witnessed. Cllr Duffey advised that the police were able to apply for a dispersal order in such circumstances.

**Resolved: that the Town Council would support an application for a dispersal order in respect of antisocial behaviour at East Thirsk Community Hall.**

#### **C1213 Vibrant Market Towns Group**

The Clerk indicated that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 6 May 2021 would be available at the next Town Council meeting.

#### **C1214 Covid-19**

The Clerk advised that consideration needed to be given to the running of the Town Council office in view of the government's easing of lockdown restrictions. He suggested that a protective screen be purchased for the barrier in the reception area and that the matter be further reviewed once all staff have been fully vaccinated.

**C1215 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 24 May 2021 be approved and cheques signed.**

**C1216 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she had enrolled to take part in some Flood Warden training organised by the Environment Agency.

Cllr Mountford reported that the amenity worker had done a great job in improving the appearance of Long Street as a result of weeding and re-staining the wooden flower boxes.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended an event in the Market Place on Saturday, 24 April 2021 when Jasmine Harrison had been presented with the awards of Freedom of the Parishes of Thirsk and Sowerby and her boat in which she had sailed the Atlantic Ocean had been on display.

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.**