

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 15 June 2020**

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

C1094 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1095 Police Report

Town Councillors noted that a police report had been submitted by PCSO Warby which contained the latest crime figures and a section dealing with coronavirus.

C1096 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd observed that many people both at NYCC and volunteers had gone the extra mile in helping to look after vulnerable members of the community during the coronavirus pandemic and that the Community Works organisation had recruited additional volunteers to deliver food and medications to people who needed to self-isolate. He advised that the total cost of the pandemic to NYCC was expected to be in the region of £76 million and, although some government funding had been received, the County Council would still be left with a massive shortfall which could have a detrimental effect on some capital schemes.

Cllr Dadd reported that a number of local organisations had benefited from his locality budget. These included The Clock, to assist with coronavirus support, to the Ethel Johnson Trust, to remove the hardstanding in Carrs Field, and to Thirsk Falcons Football Club, to help replace property which had been destroyed in a recent arson attack.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had paid out £27.9 million in emergency grants to businesses during the coronavirus pandemic. He advised that a further local government discretionary grants scheme had been set up which aimed to assist those businesses which had fallen outside the scope of previous grant fund schemes.

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC's refuse collections had continued to operate throughout the coronavirus pandemic, having been assisted by the redeployment of some leisure centre employees who had been unable to carry out their normal duties.

Cllr Elders advised that the Civic Centre in Northallerton had now reopened to the public, although many employees were still working from home. He was also pleased to see the reopening of non-essential shops as from 15 June 2020.

Cllr Elders noted that a planning application to convert the former Hudson's butcher's shop in Millgate into a takeaway had been refused by HDC's Planning Department.

Cllr Dadd referred to a planning application for a development of up to 17 houses on land adjacent to Stockton Road and stated that the site was not in the local plan and

that he would oppose the application. Cllr Jackson added that the Town Council's Planning Committee had recommended that the application be refused.

C1097 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1098 Minutes

C1098(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1098(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

C1099 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1099(a) Planning Committee – 16 March 2020

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 March 2020 and a summary of applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee up to 20 April 2020.

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

C1100 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that work had commenced to repair the potholes at the entrance to the cemetery and that the job would be completed in the near future.

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Richard David Blain be approved.

C1101 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1101(a) Christmas Lights Donation

The meeting received an email dated 10 March 2020 from Thirsk & District Business Association, on behalf of the Business Association and The Thirsk Ladies Group, thanking the Town Council for its donation towards the Christmas lights.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(b) Thirsk Rotary in Bloom – Application for Grant 2020/2021

The meeting received a letter dated 10 March 2020 from the Rotary Club of Thirsk requesting that the Town Council increase its annual donation from £2,500 to £3,000. The Clerk advised that he had discussed the matter with Mr A Watson of the Rotary Club and it had been agreed that any surplus funds remaining at the end of the financial year would be returned to the Town Council. Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she, like many other local businesses, had sponsored a Thirsk in Bloom flower tub some time ago but had not been asked for any sponsorship money recently. The Clerk stated that he would raise the issue with Thirsk Rotary in Bloom.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £3,000 to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom (with a proviso that any surplus funds at the end of the financial year will be repaid to the Town Council).

C1101(c) Moorsbus Operations Cancellation

The meeting received an email dated 19 March 2020 from the Friends of Moorsbus advising that a decision had been made to cancel the Moorsbus operations for 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(d) Cemetery Lodge – Council Tax Banding

The meeting received a letter dated 30 March 2020 from Hambleton District Council indicating that the Council Tax banding for Cemetery Lodge had been amended from Band E to Band D with effect from 1 April 1993.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1101(e) NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group - Update

The meeting received an email dated 31 March 2020 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which gave an update on how the CCG was responding to the coronavirus pandemic and supporting frontline health and care delivery in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(f) Community Infrastructure Levy

The meeting received a letter dated 20 April 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that the Town Council was due to receive a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £75.00.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1101(g) Hambleton Local Plan

The meeting received an email dated 24 April 2020 from Hambleton District Council which indicated that the Notice of Submission of the Hambleton Local Plan would be available to be viewed and commented upon between 24 April 2020 and 30 September 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(h) Hambleton District Council – Vibrant Market Towns Project

The meeting received an email dated 24 April 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that HDC intended to consult with local businesses and stakeholders in the next few weeks to find out about the issues they were facing and what support was needed once the coronavirus lockdown restrictions were lifted. The Clerk indicated that some discussion had taken place concerning the possibility of setting up a website to promote Thirsk and to provide information to prospective visitors. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile to include Cllrs Dadd and Elders in future discussions.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(i) North Yorkshire Scrubs

The meeting received an email dated 27 April 2020 from Sarah Pym thanking everyone who had donated and assisted in supplying scrub sets to local hospitals. The email confirmed that over 400 scrub sets had been made and sent out as at 27 April 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(j) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Rear of 131 Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received a Certificate of Registration dated 4 May 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal addresses of a development on land at the rear of 131 Long Street, Thirsk to be numbers 1 to 4 Wensleydale Mews, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the Certificate of Registration be noted.

C1101(k) Reopening High Streets and Market Towns

The meeting received a letter from Dr J Ives, Chief Executive, Hambleton District Council (attached to an email dated 10 June 2020) concerning the reopening of high

streets following the coronavirus lockdown. The Clerk noted that HDC had prepared a plan of action and that Town Councillors had been requested to submit observations.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1102 Coronavirus/Public Toilets

Cllr Elders reported that he had been approached by several people who had asked about the reopening of the public toilets in Millgate. The Clerk indicated that a risk assessment had been carried out and issues such as cleaning, sanitisation and social distancing had been carefully considered. He suggested that, to assist with social distancing and sanitisation, the urinal in the gents' toilets be boxed off, that the opening hours be amended to 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and that an additional clean be undertaken in the middle of the day. Appropriate PPE was available for the cleaning operative and training was being undertaken to ensure all aspects in relation to cleaning and sanitising were addressed. He advised that appropriate signage and wall fixed sanitisers had been obtained and anticipated that the toilets could be reopened during the week commencing 22 June 2020.

Resolved: that the Millgate public conveniences be reopened during week commencing 22 June 2020 on completion of all necessary measures.

C1103 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 June 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1104 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that new security cameras had been installed in the alleyway adjacent to The Pantry and Milano's takeaway in Millgate.

Cllr Duffey advised that the Thirsk and Sowerby Festival had been cancelled for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic but he hoped that a Festival would take place in 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.