

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 20 June 2022 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, K Mountford, F Potter, B Smith, A Trueman, S Ward

**Apologies:** Cllrs W Gibson-Brown (Holiday), C Hesmondhalgh (Illness)

**C1335 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1336 Police Report**

PCSO Warby circulated a police report which contained the crime figures for May 2022. It was noted that the report also included information in respect of a road safety campaign and courier fraud scams.

**C1337 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd reported that North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council were working together towards the creation of the new unitary authority. He stated that most residents should not notice much difference initially but that big savings in staffing costs would result from the reorganisation. He advised that steps to recruit a new chief executive had been put in place. He added that the authority faced challenges in terms of staff shortages in certain areas and that budgets had been adversely affected by significant increases in energy costs.

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that Radio York had broadcast from Thirsk Market Place earlier in the day and had interviewed a number of local people, including Cllr Jackson, as part of a series of interviews which were being carried out in market towns across the area.

Cllr Elders reported that 100 cremations had taken place (up to 31st May) at the new crematorium since its opening on 28 March 2022 and that everything appeared to be running smoothly. He advised that the café facility would be contracted out and open to anyone passing the crematorium as well as catering for small wakes/gatherings.

In response to questions from Cllr Duffy, Cllr Elders indicated that he had not received any further update following publication of the consultants' report in respect of funding/improvements to Thirsk's infrastructure. Cllr Elders believed that a large part of the £50,000 which had been set aside for Thirsk had been spent on consultancy fees. Cllr Duffey noted that there had been three drafts of the consultants' report and he felt that large parts of the report appeared to have been taken from the Thirsk Vibrant Market Town Group's action plan.

In response to questions from Members, Cllr Elders had no further updates concerning the installation of electricity charging points in the Market Place or in respect of an application for a licence which would enable market traders to sell alcohol.

Cllr Jackson advised that a market stall which was to be loaned to prospective stall holders free of charge was expected to arrive later in the week and would be available for use in the very near future.

### **C1338 Open Forum**

The newly appointed County Councillor for Sowerby, Mr Dave Whitfield, attended the meeting but did not participate.

### **C1339 Minutes**

#### **C1339(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 May 2022**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.**

#### **C1339(b) Matters Arising**

No matters were raised.

### **C1340 Committee Minutes and Reports**

#### **C1340(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 30 May 2022**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 2022. Members noted that Cllr Potter had been elected Chair of the Planning Committee for 2022/2023.

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

#### **C1340(b) Public Conveniences Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 9 June 2022**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2022 were circulated. In answer to a query from Cllr Trueman, Cllr Duffey advised that the refurbishment of the toilets was expected to take place in the autumn. Cllr Duffey requested that the Clerk obtain quotations for additional CCTV, including to the exterior of the toilets, and for new external signage.

**Resolved that the Minutes be received and noted.**

### **C1341 Burial Board**

**Resolved: that the application for memorial for Hilda Mary Reed be approved.**

### **C1342 Correspondence/Items Raised**

#### **C1342(a) National Association of Local Councils Survey on 2022 Elections**

The meeting received an email dated 13 May 2022 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a survey in respect of the 2022 elections issued by the National Association of Local Councils.

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

#### **C1342(b) Proposed Changes to Fire and Rescue Services**

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 23 May 2022 from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire and York concerning proposed changes to fire and rescue services.

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

#### **C1342(c) The New Council for North Yorkshire**

The meeting received an email/letter dated 31 May 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council which contained an invitation for Members to attend an online briefing concerning the transition to the new North Yorkshire Council.

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

#### **C1342(d) Street Collections – June 2022**

The meeting received emails dated 31 May 2022 and 13 June 2022 from Hambleton District Council advising of street collections due to take place in June 2022.

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

#### **C1342(d) Town Councillor Vacancy**

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 8 June 2022 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Town Councillor vacancy. Members noted that the vacancy would be filled by co-option unless 10 or more electors of the Parish requested an election.

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

#### **C1342(e) Play Equipment – The Holmes**

The Clerk reported that an item of play equipment on The Holmes was broken and needed to be either replaced or removed as soon as possible. Members noted that the area had been taped off for safety reasons until the work could be carried out. The Clerk advised that the cost of the replacement part was £650 and that there would also be a charge for labour. As an alternative, he stated that the play inspection company had advised that the remaining play equipment would not be affected if this item were to be removed.

**Resolved: that the faulty item of play equipment at The Holmes be removed as quickly as possible.**

#### **C1343 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 June 2022 be approved and cheques signed.**

#### **C1344 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Trueman reported that the grass verges outside Lidl and Thirsk Ambulance Station were overgrown and looked untidy. The Clerk advised that the Town Council had no responsibility for this land.

Cllr Smith advised that plans were progressing well with regard to Thirsk & Sowerby Festival, which was due to take place on Sunday, 7 August 2022.

Cllr Smith indicated that trading at the markets was generally slow and that two regular stalls were no longer attending. He hoped that a pizza stall which had attended recently would become a regular trader.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended several events in June 2022. These included an event hosted by Herriot Hospice Homecare at Thirsk Lodge Barns on 17 May concerning the transformation of the former Lambert Memorial Hospital. On the 26 May he had attended a tree planting event at Thirsk Community Primary School and he thanked Cllr Mountford for her involvement in organising the event. He had attended a tea party on Sunday, 12 June for Ukrainian families who were residing in the Thirsk area along with their host families. On Wednesday, 15 June he had attended Ripon Scouts Annual General Meeting at the Golden Fleece Hotel and noted that they needed to recruit more volunteers. On 16 June he had attended a ceremony where Bellway Homes had presented cheques to charitable causes including a cheque of £300 to Thirsk Youth Club.

**The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.**