

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 17 July 2017 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: H Dalgleish-Brown (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, A Trueman, S Ward, J Watson

Apologies: Cllrs: J Bell (Prior commitment), J Fisher (Prior commitment)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C714 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C715 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

The Meeting was advised that an email had been received from North Yorkshire Police which confirmed that a link had been set up on the police website to enable members of the public to report incidents such as HGVs travelling through the town in contravention of the weight restriction.

C716 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner had launched a public consultation which proposed changes to the county's fire and rescue service involving greater collaboration between the police and the fire and rescue service. He urged everyone to look at the proposals and participate in the consultation.

Cllr Dadd felt that the feedback from residents following the traffic cones trial on Cemetery Road was fairly positive and that the majority of residents appeared to support a double yellow lines restriction.

Cllr Dadd reported that the Town Council would shortly be receiving letters of acceptance in respect of grants for Thirsk & Sowerby Festival and the Long Street flower boxes.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported HDC had relaunched its Making a Difference grant fund scheme which made available grants of between £2,500 and £20,000 for community projects in each of the district's market towns and surrounding areas.

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended a "peer review" meeting at HDC as well as a number of meetings in respect of the "Vibrant Market Towns" initiative.

C717 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Former Town Councillor Freda Roberts attended the meeting to report that she had been invited to the Joint Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations on 15 July 2017 and had been presented with a Service Award in recognition of her 29 years' service as a Town Council YLCA representative

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C718 Minutes

C718(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 June 2017

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C718(b) Matters Arising

C702(d) Street Clean – Thirsk

In response to a query by Cllr Watson the Clerk advised that it appeared NYCC had been spraying weeds in various locations around the town.

C702(i) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Hambleton Branch Meeting

The Clerk advised that the next YLCA meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 25 October 2017 and that the meetings schedule for 2018 would be confirmed at that meeting.

C702(j) Town Clock

Cllr Watson pointed out that when work was carried out to upgrade the mechanism of the town clock it should be borne in mind that the work needed to be completed before Remembrance Day.

C719 Committee Minutes and Reports

C719(a) Planning Committee held on 19 June 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 June 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C720 Burial Board

The Clerk circulated copies of a letter concerning a proposed memorial for the late Hilary Frances Botwright. Cllr Adamson indicated that the matter should be considered at a meeting of the Burial Board.

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Cyril Downward, Marisa Merritt, Robert Henry Motson and Edgar Wood be approved.

C721 Vibrant Market Towns

Mr David McKnight, HDC's Vibrant Market Town Project Manager, delivered a presentation on the development of Thirsk as a market town. A number of issues were discussed and ideas put forward aimed at improving trading/the market and encouraging visitors. Mr McKnight advised that a report would go before HDC's cabinet in September which would list the priorities for each market town. Town Councillors thanked Mr McKnight for an interesting and informative presentation.

C722 Correspondence/Items Raised

C722(a) Hambleton, Richmondshire, Selby & District Citizens Advice

The meeting received a letter dated 14 June 2017 from Hambleton, Richmondshire, Selby & District Citizens Advice advising of the expansion of their service and the provision of a new weekly drop in session at The Clock commencing 21 June 2017.

Resolved: Town Councillors welcomed the provision of the new drop in service at The Clock.

C722(b) Todd Waste Management Group, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 26 June 2017 from Yorwaste/Todd Waste Management advising of the acquisition of the Todd Waste Management Group by Yorwaste.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C722(c) NHS Mental Health Services Consultation

The meeting received a media release dated 26 June 2017 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning a public consultation aimed at improving adult and older peoples' mental health services.

Town Councillors noted that the preferred option would result in the closure of the mental health wards at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton with patients and relatives having to travel further afield to access these services.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group expressing the Town Council's concern at the options put forward in the Mental Health Services Consultation.

C722(d) Street Naming and Numbering – 27A & 27B Stammergeate, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 28 June 2017 from Hambleton District Council confirming two new postal addresses at 27A and 27B Stammergeate, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C722(e) Exterior Lighting at St Mary's Church

The meeting received a letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Treasurer of St Mary's Church regarding an inspection of the church's electrical installation and enclosing two letters from the electrical contractor. Various matters had been raised regarding the exterior lights and a quotation had been provided to undertake work required.

The Clerk advised that electrical works were required to enable a safety certificate to be issued. Town Councillors noted the quotation which had been provided and suggested that a further quotation be obtained.

Resolved: that the Town Council obtain a further quotation in respect of works to the exterior lighting at St Mary's Church.

C722(f) Disposal of Hazardous Waste Consultation

The meeting received a letter dated 6 July 2017 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a consultation with regard to the disposal of hazardous household waste. Town Councillors noted that the consultation would run until 2 October 2017.

Resolved: that the Disposal of Hazardous Waste Consultation be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

C722(g) Litter Pick in Thirsk

Cllr Watson reported that Hambleton District Council had equipment available to assist community groups carry out litter picks and she suggested that the Town Council consider carrying out a litter pick. Although members of the Open Areas Committee had found cleanliness to be generally good on a recent walkabout, it was agreed that there may be some areas which would benefit from a litter pick. It was suggested that it may be more beneficial to undertake the work in the spring.

Resolved: that the suggestion to carry out a litter pick be reconsidered at the Town Council meeting in January 2018.

C723 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 July 2017 be approved and cheques signed.

C724 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Trueman reported that he had attended a recent Yorkshire Local Councils Associations meeting and hoped to attend their next meeting in October.

In response to a query by Cllr Watson, the Clerk advised that bollards were expected to be installed in the hatched area at the rear of Millgate public conveniences in the near future.

The Clerk indicated that the vacancy for the Assistant Clerk post would be advertised the following week and the cemetery groundsman's post would be advertised shortly thereafter.

Cllr Duffey reported that plans for the Thirsk and Sowerby Festival were in their final stages. He expected a good selection of attractions and stalls to be present as well as an art exhibition which would be held in the Town Hall.

Cllr Dagleish-Brown reported that she had recently met with two radio presenters from Minster FM and that she had been in further communication with a television company who were considering Thirsk as a location for a new television series.

C725 On-Going Items

Nothing noted.

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm.