

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 July 2018 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr: J Bell (Prior commitment)

In attendance: County/District Cllr: G Dadd

C853 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C854 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C855 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that he had contacted Yorkshire Water in connection with the burst water main in Finkle Street. He stated that he was very disappointed by the lack of urgency in completing the works but that he had been assured that the road would be reopened before the meeting of Thirsk Races on Tuesday, 17 July 2018. Cllr Jackson noted that local businesses had suffered a significant loss of trade as a result of the road being closed for four days.

Cllr Dadd referred to email communication concerning the flower boxes and planters on Long Street and hoped that a satisfactory solution would soon be found with regard to their future planting and maintenance.

Cllr Dadd reported that approval had been granted for North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner to take over responsibility for the area's fire service.

Cllr Dadd advised of difficulties which were being encountered in reaching agreement on a devolution deal for Yorkshire.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that two Artisan food and drink markets were being planned to take place on Saturday, 28 July and Saturday, 25 August and that the intention was that these would run alongside the regular market stalls.

C856 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C857 Minutes

C857(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 June 2018

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 June 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the correction of two spelling errors in Minute No C848(e) and an amendment in Minute No C851 (Cllr Duffey indicated that he had not met the new head teacher of Thirsk School at that time).

C857(b) Matters Arising

C843(b) HDC Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

The Clerk advised that he had sent an email to the police requesting that a meeting be held to consider issues of antisocial behaviour.

C851 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalglish-Brown indicated that she would provide an email address so that a request could be made to cut back the overgrown foliage on Station Road.

C858 Committee Minutes and Reports

(a) Planning Committee – 18 June 2018

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 June 2018.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C859 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Jean Calvert, Albert Colin Dunning, Elizabeth Mary (Betty) Macleod and Martin Anthony Patrick McAndrew be approved.

C860 Correspondence/Items Raised

C860(a) Cemetery Road, Thirsk – Proposed Parking Restrictions

The meeting received a letter dated 6 July 2018 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a new Traffic Regulation Order to introduce no waiting at any time restriction (double yellow lines) and to decrease the area of disc parking in Cemetery Road, Thirsk

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C860(b) Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall – Replacement Lights

The meeting received an email dated 9 July 2018 from Cllr J Watson concerning funding for replacement lights in the Town Hall annex. Cllr Jackson advised that the lights were obsolete and needed replacing as quickly as possible. He understood that Sowerby Parish Council had agreed to meet 50 per cent of the cost of new lights.

Resolved: that the Town Council agrees that new lights be purchased for the Town Hall annex (cost to be split 50/50 with Sowerby Parish Council).

C860(c) Flower Boxes – Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received a report from the Clerk concerning the planting and maintenance of the flower boxes and planters on Long Street. Members noted that the volunteers who had previously looked after the boxes were no longer able to continue and that the Rotary Club was also unable to undertake the work. It was suggested that consideration be given to reducing the number of boxes and that a leaflet drop to residents of Long Street be undertaken.

Resolved: that a meeting of the Open Areas & Greens Committee be arranged to consider the planting and maintenance of the Long Street Flower Boxes.

C860(d) Town Council Office Lease

The Clerk reported that the current office lease was due to expire in September 2018. He advised that he had been unable to locate any suitable alternative office accommodation at the present time.

Resolved: that the Clerk contacts the landlady to discuss the options in respect of the office lease.

C861 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 July 2018 be approved and cheques signed.

C862 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she and Cllr Duffey had recently met the new head teacher of Thirsk School and that, amongst other matters, had discussed issues of disorder and antisocial behaviour. Cllr Duffey explained that the head teacher hoped to develop a new mental health/segregation unit which would require funding of approximately £50,000. The school therefore planned to organise fundraising events and would be approaching various organisations with a view to obtaining the necessary finance.

Cllr Duffey advised that he was busy organising Thirsk & Sowerby Festival which would be held on The Flatts on Sunday, 5 August 2018.

Cllr Adamson advised that The Clock had recently obtained a number of new contracts, including one contract which was due to run for three years.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the afternoon tea events for the over 50s at East Thirsk Community Hall were proving successful and that guests had recently participated in Tai Chi.

Cllr Trueman noted that some town/parish councils used social media/Facebook and wondered whether this was something that Thirsk Town Council had considered. Members agreed that the Town Council should set up a Facebook page and that a meeting be arranged to take the matter forward.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that a large branch had broken off one of the trees adjacent to properties at Riverside Mews. Fortunately, the branch had fallen over the river and the Environment Agency had dealt with it. She advised that other trees in the area required pollarding but that there was currently an issue concerning ownership of the land.

Cllr Watson expressed concern in respect of inadequate car parking provision for users of Thirsk Railway Station and suggested that the Town Council write to Network Rail requesting that they provide additional parking spaces. It was agreed that the Town Council write to Network Rail and also email Mr Kevin Hollinrake MP to advise of the concerns.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had presented medals at the annual swimming gala at Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that she had attended a presentation by North Yorkshire Trading Standards on the topic of safeguarding vulnerable people in rural communities on Wednesday, 4 July 2018.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that the Picnic in the Park which had taken place at Thirsk Hall on Saturday, 7 July 2018 had been a well-attended and successful event.

C863 On-Going items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.