

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 20 July 2020**

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalgleish-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

C1105 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1106 Police Report

It was noted that a police report containing the latest crime figures had been emailed to Members.

C1107 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported on the financial situation at North Yorkshire County Council, noting that the cost of the coronavirus pandemic was expected to be approximately £74 million.

Cllr Dadd reported that progress was being made with regards to a potential devolution deal and that NYCC, the City of York Council and the seven District Councils had agreed to submit information requested by the government. He noted that the proposal would see the abolition of the District Councils and the formation of one or two larger unitary councils.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that Hambleton District Council had declined to provide funding to Welcome to Yorkshire, the tourism organisation, following the expenses scandal surrounding its former chief executive.

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council's leisure centres were set to reopen on Saturday, 25 July 2020. He advised that a refurbishment project for Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre would be considered by HDC's cabinet on Tuesday, 28 July 2020 and that, if the scheme was approved, the leisure centre would close for six months whilst the work was carried out.

Cllr Elders advised that a bill was currently going through Parliament which would enable businesses selling food and drink to apply to their local authority for a pavement licence which would permit them to place tables and chairs on the highway adjacent to their premises.

Cllr Elders reported that a Farmers Market was due to take place in the Market Place on Sunday, 2 August 2020 and on the first Sunday of each month thereafter.

C1108 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1109 Minutes

C1109(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 June 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1109(b) Matters Arising

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

Cllr Duffey advised that he had received costings for setting up a website designed to promote Thirsk and its businesses to prospective visitors. He indicated that he would contact Sowerby Parish Council as he felt that the matter would be best pursued as a joint venture.

C1102 Coronavirus/Public Toilets

The Clerk reported that the public toilets were currently open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and that a request had been received to extend the opening hours as there were now more visitors in the town following the easing of lockdown restrictions. He indicated that he had discussed the matter with the cleaning operative who had stated that she would be happy to keep the toilets open until 6.00 pm.

Resolved: that the Millgate Public Conveniences be open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm daily.

C1110 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1110(a) Planning Committee – Summaries dated 18 May 2020 and 15 June 2020 and Minutes dated 6 July 2020

The meeting received two summaries of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 18 May 2020 and 15 June 2020 and the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020.

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

C1111 Burial Board

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Philip Raymond Nanson be approved.

C1112 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1112(a) Thirsk Friends of the Earth – Recovery from Covid-19

The meeting received an email dated 22 June 2020 from Thirsk Friends of the Earth concerning the town's recovery from Covid-19 and advising of an online community survey which had been set up for local people to voice their opinions.

Resolved: that if Members wished to respond to the survey, they do so on an individual basis.

C1112(b) North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - Update

The meeting received an email dated 23 June 2020 from J Mulligan which provided information in respect of grants for road safety projects in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that if Members had any suggestions in respect of road safety grants, they should contact the Clerk.

C1112(c) Norby Estate – Carriageway Resurfacing Works

The meeting received a letter dated 26 June 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that carriageway resurfacing works were due to commence on the Norby Estate on 21 July 2020.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1112(d) Thirsk Yarn Bombers – Resumption of Programme

The meeting received an email dated 27 June 2020 from I Marwood, Chair of Thirsk Yarn Bombers, in which advice was sought with regard to resuming their programme of displays.

Resolved: that Thirsk Yarn Bombers be advised that a risk assessment should be undertaken before resuming their programme of displays.

C1112(e) A170 Sutton-Under-Whitstonecliffe – Carriageway Patching Works

The meeting received a letter dated 3 July 2020 and an email dated 15 July 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning carriageway patching works on the A170 between Sutton-Under-Whitstonecliffe and Sutton Bank.

Resolved: that the letter and the email be noted.

C1112(f) National Association of Local Councils – Supporting Local Councils to Reopen Playgrounds Safely

The meeting received an email dated 3 July 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils which contained guidance in respect of the safe reopening of playgrounds. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had reopened all of its play areas and put up appropriate signage regarding using the play equipment safely.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1112(g) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Hideaway, Ingramgate, Thirsk

The meeting received a certificate dated 9 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a property to be Hideaway, Ingramgate, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1112(h) Town Clock - Barriers

The meeting received emails dated 8 and 9 July 2020 from Cllr D Elders concerning the barriers which were in place around the town clock. Cllr Elders indicated that he had been asked regularly when the barriers would be removed. Cllr Duffey explained that the Town Council had worked with Hambleton District Council to identify areas around the town which were considered to be “pinch points” and that the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the clock had been identified as a location where social distancing could not be achieved, particularly if people were seated at the side of the clock near to the crossing. Cllr Trueman suggested that a notice could be attached to the barriers explaining why they were in place.

Resolved: that the barriers around the town clock remain in place for the purpose of achieving social distancing.

C1112(i) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Bulletin

The meeting received an email dated 10 July 2020 from J Owen, Chief Executive, National Association of Local Councils, which contained some useful information including an update in respect of the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill 2019-21.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1112(j) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – 19 Market Place, Thirsk

The meeting received a certificate dated 14 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of properties at 19A and 19B Market Place, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1112(k) Street Collection – Herriot Hospice Homecare

The meeting received an email dated 15 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising of a street collection by Herriot Hospice Homecare on Saturday, 1 August 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1113 Annual Return

The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Internal Control Review Committee and an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council needed to be arranged to consider the Annual Return.

Resolved: that a meeting of the Internal Control Review Committee take place on Thursday, 23 July 2020 and that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council take place on Monday, 27 July 2020 (both remotely).

C1114 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 July 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1115 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall was expected to reopen on 1 September 2020.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she had been contacted about large amounts of grass cuttings which had been left at East Thirsk Play Area and asked if this could be tidied up. The Clerk explained that the grass at the play areas had not been cut during lockdown and therefore the grass had been left to grow longer than it would do normally. He stated that he would discuss the matter with the grass cutting contractor.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she had also been contacted regarding the ditch adjacent to the Millennium Green which had been noted to be full of rubbish. The Clerk advised of difficulties in establishing ownership of the ditch, although noted that it had been cleaned out previously. Cllr Trueman suggested that Thirsk Friends of the Earth be contacted to see if they would be prepared to assist in cleaning the ditch.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that there were several piles of branches and clippings on the grassed area at Mill Gardens which still needed to be taken away.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Town Hall Management Committee was due to meet on Thursday, 23 July 2020 and he hoped that the Town Hall would reopen on Saturday, 1 August 2020.

Cllr Ward indicated Thirsk Community Library had reopened to the public for a limited number of hours and was still operating the click and collect delivery service. Cllr Duffey asked that his thanks be passed on to all the library volunteers.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.