

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 21 August 2017 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: H Dalgleish-Brown (Chairman), D Adamson, J Bell, J Fisher, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs: D Duffey (Holiday), S Ward (Bereavement), J Watson (Holiday)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C726 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C727 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C728 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that some progress appeared to have been made in respect of devolution and a possible move to create a wider Yorkshire authority.

In respect of the public consultation concerning proposed changes to the county's fire and rescue services, Cllr Dadd indicated that NYCC would not support a takeover by the police authority but may support an agreement to improve greater collaboration between the two authorities.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that the draft Local Plan would be going for final approval in October and the final version was expected to be ready in the early part of 2018.

C729 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C730 Minutes

C730(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 July 2017

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C730(b) Matters Arising

C717 Open Forum

The Clerk reported that former Town Councillor Freda Roberts had featured on the front page of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations' newspaper when she was presented with her Service Award.

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

The Clerk advised that he had arranged for a further quotation to be provided in respect of works to the exterior lighting at St Mary's Church.

C724 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that the Thirsk and Sowerby Festival held on The Flatts on Sunday, 6 August had been a huge success. Cllr Gibson-Brown added that the Art Fayre in the Town Hall had also been very well attended and had raised £785 for local charities.

C731 Committee Minutes and Reports

C731(a) Planning Committee held on 17 July 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 July 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C731(b) Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 13 July 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 13 July 2017.

Following a representation which had been received about the height of the foliage on Whitemare roundabout, the Clerk indicated that he had made enquiries with regard to replanting the roundabout with low level planting/bedding plants and had been advised that replanting would be both costly and impractical and that the existing planting could be reduced to a height of approximately twelve inches to allow greater visibility over the roundabout. He had therefore requested that this work be carried out in the near future.

The Clerk reported that a contractor who had examined two seats adjacent to Whitemare roundabout which had been considered to be in a poor state of repair had advised that the seats were in a reasonable condition and merely needed cleaning/painting. As it was felt that these seats were well used, the Clerk advised that a further inspection would be carried out.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C732 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that Cemetery Lodge would be placed with a management letting agent in the near future following which a rent review would be undertaken.

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Michael Joseph Dundon, Evelyn Lawrence, Michael Anthony Saxby, Cyril Stamp and Joyce Whiteley be approved.

C733 Correspondence/Items Raised

C733(a) Disposal of Hazardous Waste Consultation

The meeting received a letter dated 6 July 2017 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a public consultation in connection with the disposal of hazardous household waste.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C733(b) Minerals and Waste Joint Plan – Addendum of Proposed Changes to the Publication Draft Plan

The meeting received an email dated 13 July 2017 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations advising of a consultation in respect of proposed changes to the Waste Joint Plan.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C733(c) Public Consultation: Working Better Together: Options to Improve Collaboration between Fire and Police Services in North Yorkshire

The meeting received an email dated 17 July 2017 from the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire concerning a public consultation in respect of improving collaboration between emergency services in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that members complete the on-line consultation on an individual basis.

C733(d) Traffic Sensitive Streets Review

The meeting received an email dated 28 July 2017 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a consultation in respect of a "Traffic Sensitive Streets" review.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C733(e) Media Release – Local NHS asks Service Users, Carers, Staff and the Public to have a say on Mental Health Services

The meeting received an email dated 28 July 2017 from NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG concerning a formal consultation in respect of adult and older people's mental health services. The Clerk advised that the matter was considered at July's Town Council meeting and that a letter had been sent expressing concern at the options which were put forward in the consultation.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C733(f) Flower Boxes at Long Street

The meeting received an email from the Tesco Bags of Help Team which confirmed that the project to renew the Long Street flower boxes had been shortlisted and would be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores during September and October 2017.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C733(g) North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service – Safe & Well Service

The meeting received a letter dated 10 August 2017 from North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service advising of a new Safe & Well service. Following a query by Town Councillors, the Clerk advised that he would request to be supplied with a poster promoting the scheme which could be placed on the Town Council noticeboard.

Resolved: that the Town Council welcome the introduction of the new Safe & Well Service.

C733(h) Consultation for Street Names – New Development at Land Adjacent to Bellingham Close

The meeting received an email dated 11 August 2017 from Hambleton District Council concerning a consultation in respect of a street name for a new development adjacent to Bellingham Close. The Clerk advised that Cllr Watson had suggested that if the name "Willow Mews" was chosen, then Sutton Road should be included as part of the new address.

Resolved: that the Town Council responds in accordance with the observation made by Cllr Watson.

C733(i) Town Clock

The Clerk advised that he had arranged for work to upgrade the town clock's mechanism to commence on Friday, 25 August 2017 and that the work was scheduled to be completed by 15 September. He indicated that he had made further enquiries concerning the upgraded mechanism and had been advised that a more advanced unit was available at an additional cost of £482 which would deal more effectively with a power cut situation. Members suggested that clarification be obtained regarding battery-back up costs in this respect and the Clerk confirmed that he would ensure this was done before proceeding.

Resolved: that the advanced mechanism be purchased subject to confirmation in respect of the battery back-up.

C733(j) Thirsk Tourist Information - Defibrillator

The Clerk advised that an email had been received concerning an awareness/training session to be held by Thirsk Community First Responders following the installation of a defibrillator on the Thirsk Tourist Information building.

Town Councillors felt that it would be more beneficial for TTI volunteers to attend the session and indicated that they would try to fit in with whichever date was agreed.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact Mr P Rush of Thirsk Tourist Information to arrange a date for a defibrillator awareness/training session to be held.

C733(k) Tourism Strategy

The Clerk indicated that he had received an email from Mr D Tucker asking whether the Town Council may feel it worthwhile to develop a tourism strategy and that his response had been that the Town Council dealt with any issues that arose on their individual merits.

C733(l) Office Closure

The Clerk advised that the Town Council office would be closed on Thursday, 31 August and Friday, 1 September 2017 and that he had informed local undertakers accordingly.

C734 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 August 2017 be approved and cheques signed.

C735 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that some painting and gardening jobs at East Thirsk Community Hall had been carried out by volunteers from North Yorkshire County Council.

Cllr Adamson reported that The Clock had provided a good selection of activities during the school summer holidays and these had been well-attended.

Cllr Trueman reported that he had received a complaint concerning overgrown foliage at the Picks Lane side of Thirsk Ambulance Station. The Clerk advised that he would pass this on to NYCC.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had carried out a number of engagements in the previous month including visiting a children's nursery at Allanbrooke Barracks, helping Thirsk Yarnbombers to put out their latest creations early one morning, attending the opening of the new Aldi store on Topcliffe Road and meeting residents at Sowerby House.

C737 On-Going Items

Nothing noted.

Part II

Resolved: that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of confidential business

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.