

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 19 August 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs D Duffey (Holiday), R Gladstone (Personal)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1003 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1004 Police Report

PCSO Warby circulated a police report which contained the crime figures for July 2019 as well as information in respect of a firearms amnesty which had resulted in unwanted weapons and ammunition being taken off the streets of North Yorkshire. PCSO Warby advised that the police had received complaints following a recent meeting of Thirsk Races where large numbers of visitors had been dropped off from coaches in the Market Place and had congregated on the cobbles and on footpaths outside public houses. He indicated that the police had contacted the coach companies in question stating that passengers should not be dropped off in the Market Place. Cllr Elders advised that he had received a complaint in respect of coaches parking on double yellow lines on race days and noted the need for a parking enforcement officer to be on duty to prevent a reoccurrence.

C1005 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that new 30 mile per hour signs had been ordered to replace the old, faded signs on Newsham Road (close to the junction with Cemetery Road).

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council was in the process of establishing a crematorium and he anticipated further details would be available in the next few weeks.

Cllr Elders reported that a piece of fencing adjacent to the old recycling bins at Millgate car park had been removed as it had been in a poor state of repair and it was considered no longer to be necessary.

Cllr Elders reported that a retrospective planning application by Milanos takeaway had not been approved and that the signage was in the process of being removed. He understood that a more appropriate sign was being prepared.

Cllr Dadd referred to recent publicity surrounding a loan which Hambleton District Council had made to Broadacres Housing Association some years ago, stating that due diligence had been carried out and that the loan had been a good deal for both parties.

C1006 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C1007 Minutes

C1007(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 July 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1007(b) Matters Arising

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The Clerk advised that he would arrange for a meeting of the Climate Control Committee to be held in the near future.

C999(e) Planning Training for Parish and Town Councils

The Clerk indicated that an email had been sent to Hambleton District Council concerning planning training events for Town Councillors and he was awaiting a response.

C1008 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1008(a) Planning Committee – 15 July 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 July 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1009 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that repairs had been carried out to some sections of the cemetery footpath and it was believed that the rest of the footpaths were in a reasonable condition. As far as the cemetery railings were concerned, the Clerk indicated that a specialist contractor had undertaken an inspection and counted approximately 60 missing railings. The contractor had advised that new railings would need to be manufactured to the same specification, requiring the use of a foundry, which would be very costly. It was suggested therefore that repairs should not be undertaken at the present time, particularly as the area was very overgrown with foliage.

The Clerk reported that the entrance to the cemetery was also in a poor condition, with quite a large area in need of resurfacing. He indicated that there had been some question as to ownership of the area of land immediately outside the cemetery gate and stated that he would pursue the matter with North Yorkshire County Council.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Ian David Backhouse, Sandra Mary Campbell, Paula Gomersall, Derick William Marriott and David Samuel Williams be approved.

C1010 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1010(a) Toilet Twinning

The meeting received an email dated July 2019 from Mrs M Penson attaching a photograph of an advertisement by Toilet Twinning, an organisation which enabled toilets and clean water to be provided in poor communities. Members noted that Mrs Penson had suggested that some of the toilet donations could be used to support the scheme and that framed certificates could then be displayed in both the ladies and gents toilets.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £120.00 to the Toilet Twinning organisation to support the provision of toilets and clean water in poor communities.

C1010(b) Non-Competitive Cycling Sportive – Saturday, 12 October 2019

The meeting received an email dated 15 July 2019 from UK Cycling Events concerning a non-competitive cycling sportive due to take place on Saturday, 12 October 2019 out of Ripon Racecourse.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1010(c) Thirsk Community Library

The meeting received a letter dated 22 July 2019 from Thirsk Community Library thanking the Town Council for its donation towards the library's running costs.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1010(d) Hambleton Local Plan: Publication Draft

The meeting received a letter dated 30 July 2019 and emails dated 30 July, 6 August and 9 August 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Hambleton Local Plan Publication Draft. Cllr Jackson advised that this was not a public consultation but that representations were sought in respect of soundness and legal compliance.

Resolved: that the Town Council request to be provided with a hard copy of the Hambleton Local Plan Publication Draft.

C1010(e) National Association of Local Councils – Elections 2019

The meeting received an email dated 30 July 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a request by the National Association of Local Councils to circulate links to surveys to be completed by clerks and councillors.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1010(f) Street Naming and Numbering – Land off End of St Mary's Close, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 31 July 2019 from Hambleton District Council confirming the registration and formal postal address of the above development as Numbers 1 to 41 (excluding 13) Bluebell Court, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1010(g) Courtesy Crossing – Nationwide Building Society

The meeting received an email dated 29 July 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council and an email dated 8 August 2019 from Nationwide Building Society concerning a proposal by Nationwide that the existing courtesy crossing adjacent to Bakers Alley be replaced with a zebra/signal-controlled crossing. It was noted that the response from NYCC suggested that a zebra crossing may result in an increase in vehicle congestion along the Market Place and that police records showed only one recorded accident at the crossing point over the last five years. NYCC would not therefore support such a crossing in that location.

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C1010(h) Parks and People, Stronger Together – Community Empowerment Conference in Yorkshire and Humber

The meeting received an email dated 12 August 2019 from the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces concerning a series of conferences and a survey to obtain opinions about parks and green spaces.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1010(i) Newsham Road, Thirsk – Carriageway Resurfacing

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter dated 20 August 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that resurfacing works would commence at Newsham Road, Thirsk on 3 September 2019 and last for two working days.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1011 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 August 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1012 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that Thirsk and Sowerby Festival, which had been held on Sunday, 4 August 2019, had been another huge success and was growing year on year.

Cllr Potter raised a concern about the lack of white road markings on a cobbled section of the Market Place to indicate drivers should give way before accessing the main road. The Clerk advised that he would raise the matter with North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that an Art Fayre held at the Town Hall on the day of Thirsk & Sowerby Festival had raised a total of £846 which would be divided between four local charities.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that several low hanging branches of willow trees adjacent to Riverside Mews needed removing and she requested that the Town Council's amenity contractor be asked to carry out the necessary work.

C1013 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.54 pm.