

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held remotely on Monday, 21 September 2020

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

Apologies: Cllr A Trueman (Holiday)

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

C1120 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1121 Police Report

It was noted that a police report containing the crime figures for August had been emailed to Members. Cllr Duffey noted that the report included an update in relation to coronavirus and he suggested that in future the agenda should include an item in respect of Covid-19. Cllr Jackson reported that some market stalls had again been set up very close to the walkways at the crossing points in the Market Place and he requested that Hambleton District Council be alerted to the difficulties which this created with regard to social distancing. Cllr Duffey noted that stickers had been placed on various sections of pavement around the town to remind people about the requirement to adhere to social distancing and he thanked the Town Councillors and the amenity worker who had positioned the stickers.

C1122 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that a road sign adjacent to the recently renovated building on Castlegate was to be moved a short distance to a more appropriate position and that a new sign for the community library in Meadowfields would be attached.

Cllr Dadd indicated that the roads on the Norby Estate had recently been resurfaced and he paid tribute to the residents who had co-operated with requests to move their vehicles whilst the work was carried out.

Cllr Dadd advised that Covid-19 infection rates were increasing once again and he expected that the government would announce further national restrictions on Tuesday, 22 September 2020.

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC was close to finalising a detailed submission in respect of the proposed local government reorganisation.

b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had recently held its first in person council meeting since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March.

Cllr Elders advised that approval for the refurbishment scheme for Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre had been granted and that the centre would benefit from the installation of a new roof and an extension to the gym facilities.

Cllr Elders reported that planning permission had been granted for HDC's new crematorium and that work was expected to commence towards the end of 2020.

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC had decided not to proceed with its commercial investment strategy at the present time.

Cllr Elders advised that the District Councils were currently working on a proposal in respect of local government reorganisation.

C1123 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1124 Minutes

C1124(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 July 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1124(b) Matters Arising

C1115 Reports from Members/Representatives

Following a report by Cllr Hunter Bell concerning grass cuttings which had been left at East Thirsk Play Area, the Clerk advised that he had discussed the matter with the grass cutting contractor and that the issue had now been resolved. With regard to the ditch adjacent to the Millennium Green, the Clerk indicated that Friends of the Earth could not be requested to clear out the ditch as they would be working on somebody else's land without permission and would not therefore be covered by public liability insurance.

The Clerk advised that the piles of branches and clippings which had been deposited at Mill Gardens had now been removed.

C1125 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1125(a) Planning Committee – Summaries dated 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020

The meeting received two summaries of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020.

Resolved: that the Summaries be received and noted.

C1126 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Nancy and Benjamin Chapman, Jimmy Earnshaw, Barbara Jewitt, Michael and Joyce Hopper, John Hughes and Rose Winifred Saxby be approved.

C1127 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1127(a) Funding for Supported Bus Services and Rural Mobility Fund 2020/21

The meeting received an email dated 27 July 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council which contained an update in respect of Funding for Supported Bus Services and Rural Mobility Fund 2020/21.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1127(b) Tree Planting Licence, Stockton Road, Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 30 July 2020 and 4 August 2020 from Mr Stephen Gray concerning a request for a tree planting licence in order that a dying Acacia tree on the verge at the front of a property on Stockton Road could be replaced. The Clerk advised that the decaying tree had now been removed and that the resident wanted to replace this with two new trees.

Resolved: that the Town Council has no objection to the granting of a tree planting licence, subject to:

- (i) the replacement trees being appropriate to the location;**
- (ii) the resident being responsible for the maintenance of the trees.**

C1127(c) BT Payphones

The meeting received an email dated 31 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council concerning a public consultation carried out by BT in preparation for the removal of six public payphones in the Hambleton area. Members noted that the consultation involved only one public payphone in Thirsk which had been used very infrequently.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes no observation in respect of the BT public consultation in preparation for the removal of public payphones.

C1127(d) Single Unitary Council for North Yorkshire

The meeting received a letter dated 4 August 2020 from Hambleton District Council and a letter dated 21 August 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning proposed changes to the two-tier system of local government. Members noted that both NYCC and HDC had not yet finalised their proposals and agreed that the Town Council should take a neutral position until more information becomes available.

Resolved: that the Town Council takes a neutral position in respect of the proposed local government reorganisation at the present time.

C1127(e) Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire – Funding Request

The meeting received a letter dated 6 August 2020 from Carol Shreeve, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire containing a request that the Town Council consider making a donation to assist with its operating costs.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £200 to Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire.

C1127(f) Parish Council Virtual Workshops – Highways Issues

The meeting received an email dated 20 August 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a proposal that virtual meetings be arranged for the purpose of discussing highways issues. The Clerk advised that highways issues were generally dealt with by email and he was uncertain as to whether there were sufficient issues to justify arranging virtual meetings.

Resolved: that the Town Council does not consider it necessary to hold virtual meetings to discuss highways issues at the present time.

C1127(g) Shire Road, Lynbrook Close & Whitelass Close, Thirsk – Carriageway Resurfacing Works

The meeting received an email dated 21 August 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that carriageway resurfacing works were scheduled to commence at the above location on 18 September 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1127(h) 2020-2021 National Salary Award – National Joint Council for Local Government Services

The meeting received an email dated 28 August 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations advising that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on new pay scales for 2020-2021. The Clerk indicated that the salary award equated to an all-round increase of 2.75%.

Resolved: that the email be noted and salary award implemented.

C1127(i) Johnson Close Play Area

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 2 September 2020 from Ms Katie Ward and an email and attachment dated 3 September 2020 from Mr C Amy concerning antisocial behaviour at the Johnson Close Play Area. The Clerk advised that the issues were long-standing and suggested that the Town Council could write to residents to ascertain their views in respect of the play area. It was also suggested

that Hambleton District Council could be requested to move its mobile CCTV camera to cover the area, but members noted that this would depend upon other unrelated issues.

Resolved: that the Town Council writes to the residents of Johnson Close to ascertain their opinions in respect of the Johnson Close Play Area.

C1127(j) Parking in Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 4, 5 and 6 September 2020 from Anita Kreft, the Clerk and Cllr D Elders concerning the provision of parking spaces for motor-homes and cars towing caravans. Cllr Elders noted that Hambleton District Council was seeking a variation of its off-street parking order which he understood would permit vehicles to occupy more than one parking bay (provided each bay occupied was paid for).

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C1127(k) Street Collection – Thirsk Royal British Legion Band

The meeting received an email dated 14 September 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising of a street collection by the Thirsk Royal British Legion Band on 21 December 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1127(l) National Association of Local Councils Statement – Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings and “The Rule of Six”

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 15 September 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and noted in particular a section which advised that local councils should continue to meet remotely.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1128 The Future of Thirsk as a Vibrant Market Town

Cllr Duffey reported that he and Cllr Jackson had recently attended a meeting with representatives from Hambleton District Council to discuss the development of Thirsk as a vibrant market town. Cllr Duffey understood that funding may be available which would help Thirsk to emerge from the effects of coronavirus if worthwhile proposals were put forward. He advised that the intention was to hold a further meeting in a few weeks' time and suggested that it may be beneficial if the Business Association and District Cllr Elders were invited to attend, as well as other Town Councillors who wished to become involved.

C1129 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 September 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1130 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Potter reported that some disabled parking bays in the Market Place were on occasions occupied by vehicles for almost an entire day and she queried whether a time limit could be introduced for parking in these bays. Cllr Elders advised that HDC was proposing several amendments to its off-street parking order and he understood that this included the introduction of a maximum parking period for some disabled bays.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall had now reopened to the public.

Part II

Resolved: that in accordance with the provision 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 8.23 pm.