

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 20 September 2021 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr A Trueman (Holiday)

**In Attendance:** County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

**C1247 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1248 Police Report**

PCSO Graham circulated the police report and went through the crime figures for August 2021.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to ongoing incidents of antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of East Thirsk Community Hall. PCSO Graham indicated that the police had attended on one occasion in response to a call but the suspects had run off and disappeared when the police attended. PCSO Graham advised that the police had also been contacted in connection with an incident at the Johnson Close play area and that the area was now being checked regularly by the police.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern in respect of an incident of violence in the Market Place which the police had attended but not made any arrests and the youths had been allowed to remain in the area following the incident. The PCSO advised that the police did not have the authority to move people on in that situation. Cllr Gibson-Brown noted that there had been an occasion when football supporters had stopped off in the town, chanting obscenities and waving bottles around.

**C1249 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd reported that the proposal for a single unitary authority submitted by North Yorkshire County Council had been approved but still had to be passed by Parliament. He anticipated that the new authority would have a maximum of 90 councillors.

Cllr Dadd advised that NYCC was doing everything it could to progress repairs to the closed footpath and bridge between the Marage and St James Green but was unable to provide a timescale for when the work would be carried out.

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that the installation of additional electricity charging points in the Market Place had been delayed for various reasons and that he had raised the matter at HDC's cabinet.

Cllr Elders indicated that the refurbishment of Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre was expected to be completed by the end of October and that car parking at the centre would be restricted to a maximum of three hours.

Cllr Elders reported that construction work at the new crematorium had been delayed by a shortage of some building materials and that the facility was now due to be completed in January 2022.

**C1250 Open Forum**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

## **C1251 Minutes**

### **C1251(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 July 2021**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

### **C1251(b) Matters Arising**

#### **C1245 Reports from Members/Representatives**

The Clerk advised that several blue plaques had been removed and were in the process of being repainted by Cllr Gibson-Brown. The Clerk and Town Councillors thanked Cllr Gibson-Brown for undertaking the work free of charge.

The Clerk indicated that Mr C Amy, the amenity contractor, had stated that he would like to join members of the Open Areas & Greens Committee on a walkabout of open areas, if one were to take place. Cllr Hunter Bell advised that she would circulate some dates so that a walkabout could be arranged.

## **C1252 Committee Minutes and Reports**

### **C1252(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meetings held on 19 July 2021 and 9 August 2021**

The meeting received the Minutes of Meetings held on 19 July 2021 and 9 August 2021.

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

## **C1253 Burial Board**

Cllr Adamson reported that there had been some negative comments on social media concerning maintenance of the cemetery and headstones being covered in grass. He stated that the grass cutting contractor had indicated that he had been trying out a new machine and that he would ensure that this did not happen in the future. Cllr Adamson also advised that several amounts of excess soil had been dumped in various locations around the cemetery. The Clerk indicated that he had contacted local undertakers and stonemasons in respect of the matter.

**Resolved: that the application for memorial for John Walter Childs be approved.**

## **C1254 Correspondence/Items Raised**

### **C1254(a) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Certificate of Registration for New Development**

The meeting received a Certificate of Registration for New Development dated 15 July 2021 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal addresses of the former Dispol UK Ltd site, Station Road, Thirsk to be Nos. 1 to 15 Thomas Lord Drive, Thirsk.

**Resolved: that the Certificate be noted.**

### **C1254(b) Planned Road Closure Notification – Newsham Road, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 4 August 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Newsham Road, Thirsk for two days between 27 and 28 September 2021 to allow for works to provide a new BT customer connection.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

### **C1254(c) Thirsk Yarnbombers - Future Displays/Projects**

The meeting received an email dated 5 August 2021 from Ms I Marwood which outlined the Yarnbombers' plans for future displays and projects under consideration.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1254(d) Moorsbus – Application for Donation**

The meeting received an email dated 16 August 2021 from Ms H Gundry, Moorsbus CIC, which included a request that the Town Council consider making a donation of £400 to support the Moorsbus services for 2021. Discussion took place and it was noted that the service travelled through various parishes. Members agreed that the Town Council should donate the sum of £200.

**Resolved: that the Town Council donates £200 to Moorsbus CIC.**

#### **C1254(e) Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan Consultation**

The meeting received a letter dated 17 August 2021 from Mr P Allott, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner concerning a consultation on the Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan for 2021 – 2025. Members noted that the letter stated that Councillors had been written to individually but that no individual letters had actually been received.

**Resolved: that the Clerk and Town Councillors respond to the consultation on an individual basis.**

#### **C1254(f) Thirsk Tourist Information Centre – Asset of Community Value**

The meeting received an email dated 27 August 2021 from Hambleton District Council which indicated that Thirsk Tourist Information Centre had been nominated as an asset of community value and would be added to the Register of Assets of Community Value.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1254(g) Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire – Update**

The meeting received a letter dated 6 September 2021 from Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire which contained an update in respect of its services and a request that the Town Council consider making a donation to support its operations.

**Resolved: that the Town Council donates £200 to Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire.**

#### **C1254(h) Queen’s Green Canopy Initiative – “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”**

The meeting received an email dated 9 September 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning an initiative, backed by the North Yorkshire Lieutenancy, encouraging people to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”, thereby providing a legacy for future generations to enjoy whilst helping to tackle climate change. Cllr Mountford advised that Thirsk Community Primary School’s PTA was considering planting some trees and may be interested in becoming involved with the initiative.

**Resolved: that Cllr Mountford liaise with the North Yorkshire Lieutenancy and Thirsk Community Primary School’s PTA in respect of the Queen’s Green Canopy Initiative.**

#### **C1254(i) White Rose Update – Yorkshire Local Councils Associations**

The meeting received a newsletter dated 10 September 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.

**Resolved: that the White Rose Update/Newsletter be noted.**

#### **C1254(j) Thirsk and Sowerby Remembrance Parades 2021**

The meeting received an email dated 2 September 2021 from Hambleton District Council concerning temporary road closure orders in connection with the Remembrance Parades in November 2021.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1255 Johnson Close Play Area**

The meeting received email correspondence dated 28 August 2021 and 31 August 2021 concerning ongoing problems of antisocial behaviour at the Johnson Close

play area. The Clerk indicated that he and Cllrs Jackson and Trueman had visited the play area on Friday, 17 September 2021 and found the play area to be in a neat and tidy condition. Cllr Ward advised that residents who lived near the play area regularly removed litter which had been left by youngsters on an evening. The Clerk stated that he had requested Safer Hambleton to move the mobile CCTV camera to the play area but that this had not happened. Town Councillors considered a number of suggestions which had been put forward. These included the installation of fencing/locking the play area on an evening and, as a last resort, removal of the play equipment. Cllr Jackson suggested that the Clerk contact the manager of the Nisa shop on Long Street to see if he could help in any way.

**Resolved:**

- (i) that clarification be obtained in respect of planning conditions applicable to the play area;**
- (ii) that quotations be sought:**
  - (a) to install fencing and a lockable gate;**
  - (b) to remove the play equipment.**

**C1256 East Thirsk Community Hall - Antisocial Behaviour**

Cllr Hesmondhalgh updated Members in respect of ongoing antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of East Thirsk Community Hall. Cllr Smith suggested that Thirsk School be contacted to alert them of the difficulties and Cllr Jackson suggested that a representative from the school be invited to the next meeting of the youth group which was due to take place in October 2021.

**C1257 Covid-19**

The Clerk advised that there was nothing new to report.

**C1258 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 September 2021 be approved and cheques signed.**

**C1259 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Gibson-Brown asked whether Mr C Amy could be requested to remove some very low hanging branches near the river at Mill Gardens. The Clerk stated that he would visit the area to examine the nature of the work which needed to be carried out.

Cllr Gibson-Brown enquired if progress had been made with regard to storage facilities for sandbags which were provided by Hambleton District Council in the event of a flood risk. The Clerk advised that permission had been obtained from HDC to site two salt/grit bins on land adjacent to Millgate car park and that he would order the bins in the next few days.

Cllr Mountford noted that the fencing along the Holmes was being painted by the amenity worker and that it was looking much tidier.

Cllr Jackson advised that the churchwardens of St Mary's Church had agreed to show a small group of Town Councillors around the workings of the church clock and suggested that some Members might be interested in taking part in a visit.

**The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.**