

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 October 2017 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, J Bell, J Fisher, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, A Trueman, S Ward, J Watson

Apologies: Cllr: H Dalgleish-Brown (Bereavement)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C750 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C751 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C752 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that the public consultation following the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to take over responsibility for the county's fire and rescue service had concluded and that all seven district councils and the City of York Council had objected to the proposal.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended a site meeting with Mr C Thornton, HDC's Corporate Facilities Manager, following concerns being raised about pedestrian safety at the courtesy crossing near to Bakers Alley. She advised that a suggestion had been made that visibility for car drivers might be improved if changes were made to some of the parking bays adjacent to the crossing and that the matter would be considered at a cabinet meeting in the near future.

Cllr Fisher raised concerns about vehicles parking at the rear of Thirsk Tourist Information which he felt created a risk to pedestrian safety. Cllr Watson confirmed that HDC was aware of the concerns and that the area formed part of the ongoing parking review.

Cllr Watson advised that seven additional members of staff were to be recruited in HDC's planning department as the department had been short-staffed for some time and had struggled to meet the demands of the service, particularly with regard to enforcement issues.

C753 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C754 Minutes

C754(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 September 2017

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 September 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C754(b) Matters Arising

C733(i) Town Clock

The Clerk reported that the work to upgrade the Town Clock mechanism had been completed.

C745(b) Ex-Forces Support and Community Support/Volunteering North Yorkshire

The Clerk advised that the letter from Community First Yorkshire had been forwarded to Mr Colin Northridge, Royal British Legion.

C745(c) WI House Open Morning – Cpad

The Clerk indicated that several Town Councillors had attended the Open Morning at WI House, Norby on Tuesday, 17 October 2017.

C745(g) Office Computers

The Clerk advised that the new computers had been delivered to the office and he expected the installation work to be carried out in the near future.

C755 Committee Minutes and Reports

C755(a) Planning Committee held on 18 September 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 September 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C755(b) Long Street Community Gardeners Group held on 26 September 2017

The meeting received the Notes of the Long Street Community Gardeners Group meeting held on 26 September 2017.

Resolved: that the Notes be received and noted.

C756 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that the Burial Board had met on Thursday, 5 October 2017 and had accepted the proposed memorial design in respect of the late Hilary Botwright.

Cllr Adamson advised that the Burial Board had reviewed its fees and had agreed to increase all fees by 5% with effect from April 2018.

Cllr Adamson reported that the Burial Board had considered the contents of a letter received from Bernard Nicholson, Funeral Directors, and had agreed to set aside a section of the cemetery to be used solely for babies and children under 12 years of age.

Resolved:

- (i) that the application for memorial for David Faulkner be approved;**
- (ii) that Cllr Adamson's report be noted.**

C757 Correspondence/Items Raised

C757(a) NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 32

The meeting received an email dated 20 September 2017 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which attached the latest bulletin from the Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils.

Resolved: that the email and bulletin be noted.

C757(b) Thirsk Heritage Trail

The meeting received an email dated 25 September 2017 from the Managing Director of TrailTale concerning a computer app which provided self-guided walking routes. Discussion took place and it was suggested that the email be passed to Mr Peter Rush of Thirsk Tourist Information.

Resolved: that the email be forwarded to Mr Peter Rush of Thirsk Tourist Information to examine the application.

C757(c) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting

The meeting received a letter dated 2 October 2017 from Hambleton District Council advising that the next Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting was to be held on Thursday, 16 November 2017 at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton.

Resolved: that HDC be advised that Cllrs Jackson and Trueman will attend the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting on behalf of Thirsk Town Council.

C757(d) Notice of Extraordinary Governing Body Meeting of NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group

The meeting received an email dated 5 October 2017 from NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning an Extraordinary Governing Body meeting to be held on Thursday, 26 October 2017 for the purpose of reviewing reports and making a decision on the “Transforming Mental Health Services” public consultation.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C757(e) Building a Sustainable Future for the Friarage

The meeting received an email dated 5 October 2017 from South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which gave details of a programme of engagement events entitled “Building a sustainable future for the Friarage.”

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C757(f) Resurfacing Work in Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 6 October 2017 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of road resurfacing works due to commence on Monday, 16 October 2017 in the Market Place, Millgate, Bridge Street, Stammergate and Long Street, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C757(g) Community Infrastructure Levy

The meeting received letters dated 6 October 2017 from Hambleton District Council concerning payments of Community Infrastructure Levy which had been made to the Town Council. Discussion took place as to projects for which the money could be utilised and the Clerk suggested that a committee be set up for the purpose of considering and recommending suitable projects. Cllr Watson suggested that any recommendations put forward by the committee should be approved by the full Council.

Resolved: that the Town Council set up a committee for the purpose of considering/recommending suitable projects for the Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

C757(h) Premises Licence, Upstairs Downstairs

The Clerk advised that an email dated 16 October 2017 had been received from Hambleton District Council which attached a premises licence application in respect of Upstairs Downstairs. Members noted that the application referred to the supply of alcohol both on and off the premises and expressed concern if the intention was for alcohol to be consumed outside the Upstairs Downstairs premises which it was felt was not a suitable location in the middle of town with the limited amount of pavement area/space around the premises and which could result in various issues including free passage along the pavements..

Resolved: that the Town Council object to the premises licence if the intention was for alcohol to be supplied/consumed outside the Upstairs Downstairs premises.

C757(i) Carr’s Field

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Mr T Jordan requesting that the Carr’s Field budget be utilised to cover the cost of him attending a hedge laying course. Discussion took place and it was felt that further details were needed before a decision could be made.

Resolved: that further details be obtained in respect of the request that the Carr’s Field budget be utilised to cover the cost of attending a hedge laying course.

C758 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 October 2017 be approved and cheques signed.

C759 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that Thirsk Clock was having to scale back some of its operations, partly as a result of NYCC taking a project back to be governed in-house. He added that strenuous efforts were being made to obtain new contracts.

The Clerk reported that the landlord had decided to sell the Town Council office and the upstairs flat and that both premises were due to go to auction on 14 November 2017. He advised that the lease agreement would remain in place until September 2018, even if the property was sold, and the matter would need to be considered by the Personnel & Office Committee when further information became available.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that a member of the public had commented on the lack of signage for the new library at Meadowfields, particularly when approaching the library from the Westgate side of town.

Cllr Gibson-Brown noted that the Town Council had received an email from Ms G Allen, HDC's Safer Hambleton Co-ordinator, following reports of "boy racers" in and around the Millgate car park. She had been disappointed to read that the CCTV operators had not picked up any vehicle registration numbers, despite having full coverage of the car park.

Cllr Watson advised that she was unaware of any publicity having taken place to promote the new Lorry Watch scheme which had been set up to enable members of the public to report heavy goods vehicles travelling through the Market Place in contravention of the weight restrictions. Cllr Duffey suggested that the Town Council send a letter requesting that the Lorry Watch scheme be given greater publicity.

C760 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 8.30 pm.