

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 21 October 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall**

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

**Apologies:** None

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

### **C1026 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **C1027 Police Report**

PCSO Warby circulated a police report which incorporated the crime figures for Thirsk and a summary of incidents which the police had attended. The report also included figures published by the Office of National Statistics which indicated that North Yorkshire continues to have the lowest crime rate in England and Wales despite a 12% increase in recorded offences.

Cllr Dadd referred to the slow response times for calls to the police 101 non-emergency telephone number and asked if the officer was aware if there had been any improvement. Cllr Dadd also noted that there appeared to be a lot of speed camera vans in the area and enquired about speed detection ratios. PCSO Warby did not have any information in respect of these matters.

### **C1028 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

#### **(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd reported that following a recent spending review the financial outlook for North Yorkshire County Council appeared to be better than it had for some time. Despite this good news, Cllr Dadd was cautious as he anticipated that extra demands may be put upon NYCC as the improved financial position became known. Cllr Dadd advised that NYCC's scrutiny committee was working on a number of measures with regard to climate control and that a subcommittee was also examining measures which could realistically be put in place.

#### **(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had approved plans to establish a crematorium and that the proposed site was located between Busby Stoop and Skipton-on-Swale.

Cllr Elders advised that HDC had recently purchased two electric vehicles and that this was the start of an ongoing process to replace its aging vehicles with new electric vehicles, wherever possible.

Cllr Elders reported that delays had been occasioned to works to realign the parking spaces in the Market Place for a number of reasons. He understood that North Yorkshire County Council was investigating the possibility of replacing the footpaths around the Market Place and noted that all works needed to be co-ordinated.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she had attended a planning training event and queried whether there may have been a breach of planning control in respect of a derelict property in Long Street, Thirsk. Cllr Dadd advised that Hambleton District Council was aware of the matter and was seeking to try and resolve the issue.

## **C1029 Open Forum**

### **Resolved: that standing orders be suspended**

Mr David Tonge, local resident, advised Members that he had set up a Thirsk Friends of the Earth group and that the group hoped to co-operate with North Yorkshire County Council, Hambleton District Council and Thirsk Town Council. He stated that the group was very supportive of a proposal to install a drinking water fountain in Thirsk. He advised that the group was particularly concerned about air pollution and in attempt to reduce vehicle emissions in the Market Place he queried whether it may be possible to erect notices requesting that drivers turn off their engines when stationary. Cllr Duffey indicated that Thirsk Community Primary School was already investigating this proposal. Mr Tonge advised that he wanted to organise a series of litter picks, not in the Market Place but on minor roads and country lanes. Cllr Duffey advised that the matter would be considered at a meeting of the Climate Control Committee.

Mr Stuart Mountford introduced himself as a co-ordinator for Thirsk Community First Responders and explained that the Community First Responders had purchased and installed 18 defibrillators in the Thirsk area, including one attached to Thirsk Tourist Information. Mr Mountford was very concerned about the proposal by BT to remove the public payphone in the Market Place as he was aware that this phone had been used by people to dial 999 to obtain the code to access the defibrillator.

**Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.**

## **C1030 Minutes**

### **C1030(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.**

### **C1030(b) Matters Arising**

#### **C1021(g) Parking Enforcement**

The Clerk advised that he had written to both Hambleton District Council and Scarborough Borough Council in connection with parking enforcement in Thirsk but had not received a reply. Cllr Duffey requested that a further letter be sent asking for a response.

#### **C1022 Thirsk Past and Present – Interpretation Boards, Castle Garth**

The Clerk indicated that he had written to Historic England with regard to replacing the interpretation boards on Castle Garth and that he was still awaiting a response.

## **C1031 Committee Minutes and Reports**

### **C1031(a) Planning Committee – 16 September 2019**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 September 2019.

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

### **C1031(b) Climate Control Committee – 10 September 2019**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Climate Control Committee held on 10 September 2019.

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

### **C1031(c) Open Areas and Greens Committee – 19 September 2019**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 19 September 2019.

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

### **C1032 Burial Board**

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting of the Burial Board would be held in November and suggested that the meeting incorporate a visit to the cemetery. He hoped that a new energy performance certificate for Cemetery Lodge would be obtained soon so that the property could be re-let as quickly as possible.

**Resolved: that applications for memorials for Peter Cartman, Elizabeth Elliott, Sheila Rose and Kenneth Neil Walker be approved.**

### **C1033 Correspondence/Items Raised**

#### **C1033(a) BT Consultation – Removal of Public Payphones**

The meeting received emails dated 20 September 2019 and 7 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning a consultation by BT in preparation for the removal of 18 public payphones in the HDC area. The Clerk noted that 520 calls had been made from the public payphone in the Market Place in the last 12 months and that the phone had been used by people who needed to use the defibrillator which had been installed at the Thirsk Tourist Information building. It was noted that BT also proposed to remove the public payphone located on Dowber Way, Thirsk.

**Resolved: that the Town Council strongly objects to the removal of the public payphone in Thirsk Market Place on the following grounds:-**

- a) The phone is well used with 520 calls in the last 12 months which suggests that the phone continues to serve a clear need.**
- b) The payphone is sited next to a public access defibrillator which requires a 999 call to be made to obtain the key code from the operator.**
- c) Thirsk is a major tourist town and therefore it can be expected that both residents and visitors will use the facility.**

#### **C1033(b) Citizens Advice – Mid-North Yorkshire**

The meeting received a letter dated 26 September 2019 from Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to assist with its running costs. Discussion took place as to when the Town Council had last made a donation to Citizens Advice. The Clerk stated that he would check the position and suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

**Resolved: that the Clerk check the position with regard to the Town Council's donations to Citizens Advice.**

#### **C1033(c) Application for Premises Licence – Uno Ristorante, 17 Market Place, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 26 September 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning a premises licence application for Uno Ristorante, 17 Market Place, Thirsk.

**Resolved: that the Town Council has no objections in respect of the premises licence application for Uno Ristorante.**

#### **C1033(d) Road Closures – Remembrance Sunday/Remembrance Day**

The meeting received a notice dated 2 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning road closures in connection with the Remembrance Sunday/Remembrance Day events.

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

#### **C1033(e) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The meeting received two letters dated 9 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning payments of Community Infrastructure Levy. Cllr Hesmondhalgh

suggested that some of the money could be utilised towards the purchase and installation of a water/drinking fountain. Cllr Duffey advised that it may be possible to apply for a grant to help finance a water/drinking fountain.

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

#### **C1033(f) A19 Trunk Road – Resurfacing of South Kilvington Roundabout**

The meeting received an email dated 10 October 2019 from Autolink Concessionaires Limited advising of resurfacing works at South Kilvington roundabout due to be carried out under a series of night-time road closures between 20 October 2019 and 2 November 2019.

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

#### **C1033(g) Friarage Hospital, Northallerton – Public Consultation**

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 30 August 2019 from the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning a public consultation on the future of the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. Cllr Duffey suggested that Members respond individually to the consultation and that the Town Council also submits a collective response.

**Resolved: that the Town Council submits a collective response to the public consultation on the future of the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.**

#### **C1033(h) North Yorkshire Local Access Forum – Recruitment of Voluntary Members**

The meeting received an email dated 11 October 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the recruitment of volunteers to become members of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum.

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

#### **C1033(i) North Yorkshire County Council – Your Services, Your Say Consultation**

The meeting received an email dated 14 October 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning an online consultation inviting people to have their say on how NYCC should prioritise key ambitions.

**Resolved: that the Town Council submits a response to NYCC's online consultation.**

#### **C1034 Extraordinary Meeting – Precept 2020/2021**

The Clerk advised that the Town Council normally held an Extraordinary Meeting towards the end of January to enable Members to consider and approve the draft precept figure for 2020/2021.

**Resolved: that the Clerk email Town Councillors to confirm the date of an Extraordinary Meeting to be held in January 2020.**

#### **C1035 Finance**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 October 2019 be approved and cheques signed.**

#### **C1036 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that the Thirsk & Sowerby Festival organising committee had held a debrief meeting and had agreed that the next festival will take place on Sunday, 2 August 2020. She indicated that the organisers were looking for new sponsors and that if anybody had any suggestions in this regard to contact herself or any member of the committee.

Cllr Adamson reported that Thirsk Clock had changed its status from being a limited company and was ready to merge with the Community Care Association.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended a recent meeting of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and he advised that the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) website was available for the benefit of Town Councillors as well as the Clerk.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had spoken to the Chief Executive of Thirsk Clock regarding services for young people in Thirsk and had learnt that there was currently very little provision for older teenagers. He stated that he and Cllr Duffey were looking to see what assistance could be offered to improve the situation.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she and other members of the Planning Committee had attended a planning training event hosted by Hambleton District Council and she had found the session to be interesting.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she wanted to make progress with regard to repairing the damaged mosaic on Millennium Green. She advised that she would request a quotation for the work and then examine funding opportunities.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had attended the official opening of the new Herriot Hospice Homecare shop in the Market Place and he had presented awards at a swimming gala at Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre. He had also attended a meeting with the police and members of the Safer Hambleton Group where matters of antisocial behaviour were considered. He advised that the intention was to hold these meetings every three months and he hoped that they would be given increased publicity in future.

Cllr Duffey advised that he had recently met with Ms Sally Burton, Chair of the Trustees of Thirsk Community Library, and they had discussed the possibility of obtaining funding to enable the library to engage the services of a full-time paid employee.

### **C1037 On-Going Items**

Nothing reported.

**The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.**