

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 19 October 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, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: County/District Cllr G Dadd (Prior commitment)

In attendance: District Cllr D Elders

C1132 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hunter Bell declared an interest in respect of agenda item 9(a), Premises Licence - Thirsk Lodge Barns, and took no part in the discussion.

C1133 Police Report

It was noted that a police report had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting and that the report included the monthly crime figures and information in respect of an annual campaign where drivers are reminded about the importance of tyre safety.

C1134 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

b) HDC

Cllr Elders advised that HDC had received a letter from the government which required them to submit an outline proposal in respect of local government reorganisation by 9 November 2020 followed by a detailed proposal in December 2020.

Cllr Elders noted that some building work had commenced on a piece of land on Long Street which had been the site of a derelict building for many years.

Cllr Elders indicated that a meeting of HDC's Planning Committee which had been due to consider an application for the construction of a petrol filling station on land at York Road, Thirsk had had to be postponed for technical reasons. He understood that a hearing could be further delayed following requests in respect of an environmental impact report.

Cllr Elders reported that building work on HDC's new crematorium was expected to commence in the next few weeks and that the facility may be operational by summer 2021.

C1135 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1136 Minutes

C1136(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 September 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1136(b) Matters Arising

C1127 Correspondence/Items Received

C1127(i) Johnson Close Play Area

Following a query by Cllr Duffey, the Clerk advised that a letter would be sent to residents of Johnson Close concerning the play area within the next week.

C1137 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1137(a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 19 October 2020

The meeting received a summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 19 October 2020.

Resolved: that the Summary be received and noted.

C1138 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that there were no memorial applications to be considered.

C1139 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1139(a) Premises Licence – Thirsk Lodge Barns

The meeting received an email dated 25 September 2020 from Hambleton District Council which attached an application for a premises licence in respect of Thirsk Lodge Barns. Members noted that no objections had been received by the Town Council.

Resolved: that the Town Council raise no objection to the grant of a premises licence in respect of Thirsk Lodge Barns.

C1139(b) Rebuilding Communities – What are the Health Challenges Post Covid?

The meeting received a newsletter dated 5 October 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils concerning an online event which would look at how local councils can help their communities overcome local health challenges when the Covid-19 pandemic eases.

Resolved: that any Member who wishes to participate in the event should contact the Clerk.

C1139(c) Vibrant Market Town Grants – Public Toilets/Castlegarth Artwork

The meeting received an email dated 5 October 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the approval of grant applications towards the cost of additional artwork for the replacement interpretation boards on Castlegarth and towards the costs of reopening the public toilets following the coronavirus pandemic. The Clerk advised that HDC had funding available for projects which would benefit Thirsk in relation to Covid-19 and that the Town Council had been requested to consider and submit suitable proposals. Cllr Gibson-Brown suggested that a suitable project could be the installation of air sanitisation units in the Millgate public toilets.

Resolved: that the Clerk examine the suggestion of installing air sanitisation units in the Millgate public toilets.

C1139(d) Public Carol Singing Event – Churches Together

The meeting received an email dated 6 October 2020 from Captain Ian Haylett, Chairman of Churches Together, Thirsk & District, concerning the possibility of organising a “drive-in” carol singing event and requesting that the Town Council support such an event, if it were to go ahead.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the idea of a “drive-in” carol singing event.

C1139(e) Rebuilding Communities – Find Out how to Recognise Hidden Disabilities

The meeting received a newsletter dated 8 October 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils concerning an online event which would consider how local councils are best placed to understand hidden disabilities in their communities.

Resolved: that any Member who wishes to participate in the event should contact the Clerk.

C1139(f) Community Infrastructure Levy Contributions

The meeting received three letters dated 13 October 2020 from Hambleton District Council concerning payments of Community Infrastructure Levy. Cllr Jackson advised that the payments were in connection with developments on Station Road, Long Street and Alexander Close.

Resolved: that consideration in respect of expenditure of Community Infrastructure Levy payments take place at a Town Council meeting towards the end of the financial year 2020/2021.

C1139(g) Millgate Public Conveniences

The Clerk advised that he had been informed of further incidents of antisocial behaviour taking place both inside and outside the Millgate public toilets and that the cleaning operative had on occasions felt intimidated by groups of young people congregating in the vicinity of the toilets, particularly when it was dark. Members noted that there was a CCTV camera close by and Cllr Jackson suggested that the Clerk contact Ms Gina Allen of the Safer Hambleton Partnership so that her department and the police were made aware of the ongoing issues.

Resolved:

(i) that the opening times for Millgate public conveniences be amended to 8.00 am to 5.00 pm during the winter months (commencing Monday, 26 October 2020);

(ii) that the Safer Hambleton Partnership be advised of the ongoing issues of antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of Millgate public toilets.

C1139(h) Christmas Tree – Market Place, Thirsk

The Clerk reported that AQ Logistics had kindly agreed to assist with the transportation and installation of the Christmas tree in the Market Place. Cllr Duffey queried whether an announcement had been made concerning the switch-on of the Christmas lights and he asked the Clerk to seek clarification.

Resolved: that the Clerk seeks clarification in respect of an announcement concerning the switch-on of the Christmas Lights.

C1140 Covid-19

No further matters were discussed in relation to Covid-19.

C1141 Finance

The Clerk advised that two further invoices (for grass cutting and work to a tree at the Town Hall) needed to be added to the accounts for payment schedule.

Cllr Gibson-Brown referred to an invoice submitted by Mr C Amy and expressed concern about some of the charges and the amount of time it had taken for certain tasks to be completed. The Clerk advised that Mr Amy undertook necessary work on all the land managed and maintained by the Town Council which was quite considerable and therefore matters had to be addressed accordingly. It was noted that he had detailed knowledge of the many areas and the work he undertook was an essential part of the Town Council's services. Cllr Adamson observed that Mr

Amy now carried out additional work at the cemetery which would result in his invoices being higher than they were previously. Cllr Duffey suggested that the Open Areas & Greens Committee review the level of work performed by Mr Amy and report back to the Town Council.

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 October 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1142 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hunter Bell reported that the damaged mosaic at the Millennium Green had now been repaired and requested that some overhanging branches from a tree close to the mosaic be removed.

Cllr Gibson-Brown advised that NYCC Highways and County Cllr Dadd had visited Riverside Mews recently to consider ongoing parking issues. She indicated that the turning point had been blocked on occasions and that it had been suggested that double yellow lines be placed at the location.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown noted that a road sign in front of the old savings bank in Castlegate had been moved to a more appropriate position and that Thirsk Rotary in Bloom had recently put in new plants for the winter.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm.