

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 18 October 2021 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, C Hesmondhalgh, K Mountford, F Potter, B Smith, S Ward

**Apologies:** Cllrs W Gibson-Brown (Illness), L Hunter Bell (Illness), A Trueman (Holiday)

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

The Clerk advised that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr L Hunter Bell advising that, unfortunately, due to her involvement in Thirsk Lodge Barns, she was unable to commit time to the Town Council.

**C1260 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1261 Police Report**

There was no police representative in attendance. Members noted that PCSO Graham had submitted a police report by email which included the crime figures for September. Discussion took place concerning ongoing problems of antisocial behaviour at East Thirsk Community Hall.

**C1262 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd reported that contractors would soon be commencing work to repair the riverside footpath on the Marage.

Cllr Dadd advised that at the present time there was only informal feedback in respect of the new unitary authority.

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that the refurbishment of Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre was almost complete and that it was hoped that the handover by the builders would take place by the end of October. He noted that the car park would then be open for use by leisure centre users and the surrounding apartments.

Cllr Elders advised that the new crematorium was now expected to be completed early in the New Year and that invitations would be sent to parish councils to visit the facility.

Cllr Elders reported that the Making a Difference funding scheme had been re-launched and was again open for applications.

Cllr Elders noted that some visitors to Thirsk had been unhappy at receiving parking tickets as they felt that the signage was unclear. Cllr Potter commented that she was frequently asked whether a ticket was required.

**C1263 Open Forum**

**Resolved: that standing orders be suspended**

Three residents from Johnson Close attended the meeting and told of their personal experiences regarding the daily behaviour of youths attending this area, ranging from doors and windows being knocked on, youths urinating on the play equipment, drug taking, drinking alcohol and threatening behaviour. One resident stated that he had been informed that the park had a reputation locally as being the place to meet. The police are called regularly by 999 calls.

Suggestions were put forward regarding fencing and locking the park each evening but there were issues in respect of locking the area. There was discussion regarding the removal of the play equipment which would result in smaller children being deprived of a place to visit and play. The majority of the trouble in the area occurred between 4.00 pm and 10.00 pm on weekday evenings and throughout the day on weekends and school holidays.

Cllr Duffey stated to the residents that the Town Council has requested Safer Hambleton to site a mobile CCTV camera on Johnson Close but this had not been approved. Cllr Mountford stated that a group of youths had recently been on the roof of East Thirsk Community School, throwing toys from the nursery around. Cllr Elders encouraged the residents present to continue to report each matter to the local police. Cllr Jackson stated that the headmistress of the local secondary school had been contacted. The Clerk advised that the Safer Hambleton Group and the police had advised that the level of the problems reported did not justify a camera being sited. Cllr Jackson suggested that another approach be made to the Safer Hambleton Group with the support of Cllr Elders and Cllr Dadd. Cllr Hesmondhalgh asked if the same residents might attend the next meeting of the Town Council on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 when the local police should be in attendance.

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

#### **C1263 Minutes**

##### **C1263(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 September 2021**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

#### **C1264 Committee Minutes and Reports**

##### **C1264(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 20 September 2021**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 September 2021.

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

#### **C1265 Burial Board**

Cllr Adamson reported that there had been an issue regarding grass cuttings on headstones and this had been taken up with the contractors.

**Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Mary Lee, Marjorie Thompson and Adrianna Carver be approved.**

#### **C1266 Correspondence/Items Raised**

##### **C1266(a) Great North Air Ambulance Service**

The meeting received a letter dated 17 September 2021 from the Great North Air Ambulance Service which contained a request that the Town Council consider making a donation towards its operating costs. Members noted that the service was not local to Thirsk.

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

##### **C1266(b) Planned Road Closure Notification – Thirsk Industrial Park, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 27 September 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of the road on Thirsk Industrial Park to enable the installation of a new water main.

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

### **C1266(c) North Yorkshire County Council – Respect & Protect Covid Campaign Signage**

The meeting received a letter dated 27 September 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning awareness and understanding of the Covid campaign to take place in the area until the end of the winter.

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

### **C1266(d) Hambleton Local Plan: Schedule of Main Modifications**

The meeting received an email dated 28 September 2021 from Hambleton District Council concerning a schedule of main modifications of the local plan and the dates when viewing and comments could take place.

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

### **C1266(e) White Rose Update – Yorkshire Local Councils Associations**

The meeting received a newsletter dated 1 October 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which contained matters of interest, local NALC news, funding and vacancies.

**Resolved:**

**i) that the newsletter be noted;**

**ii) that future newsletters be emailed to Councillors.**

### **C1266(f) Climate Change**

The meeting received a letter dated 9 October 2021 from Mr N Folkard concerning climate, energy and how low carbon transport has a role in society.

**Resolved: that the letter be noted and that support from the Town Council be expressed.**

### **C1266(g) Thirsk Angling Club**

The meeting received an email dated 12 October 2021 from Thirsk Angling Club concerning the removal of young trees from various walls near to the Cod Beck in Thirsk.

**Resolved: that confirmation be obtained that all appropriate licences/consents are in place for the work to be undertaken.**

### **C1266(h) Yorkshire Water Work between Felixkirk and Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 12 October 2021 from Yorkshire Water concerning the installation of 4.5 km of water pipe from Felixkirk to a location near to Thirsk Industrial Park and outlining the various phases of the work.

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

### **C1266(i) Street Collections**

The meeting received an email dated 12 October 2021 from Hambleton District Council advising that street collections will take place in Thirsk on 2 December 2021 and 18 December 2021.

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

### **C1267 Johnson Close Play Area**

Following on from the discussion in Open Forum the Clerk advised of the present position. Quotations were being sought to establish the costs of providing a suitable fence and for removing the play equipment. NYCC were going to be approached to pursue the provision of another street light and Nisa were going to be contacted to enquire whether they would consider placing a light and CCTV camera on the side of their premises. The removal of hedging and vegetation was also to be examined. Following the Open Forum discussion, the Clerk confirmed that another approach would be made to Safer Hambleton in respect of the siting of a portable CCTV camera at Johnson Close.

**Resolved: that Safer Hambleton be approached regarding siting a mobile CCTV camera on Johnson Close.**

**C1268 Vibrant Market Towns – Thirsk Town Improvement Group**

The meeting received the Minutes of a meeting held on 15 July 2021.

**C1269 Covid-19**

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

**C1270 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 October 2021 be approved and cheques signed.**

**C1271 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllrs Duffey and Jackson both attended a cycle workshop organised by Hambleton District Council which examined how businesses could become cycle-friendly. It was reported that there were plans to open a cycle track from Sutton Bank to Thirsk, a 170-mile cycle route going through the National Parks. Cllr Jackson reported that Sutton Bank cycling events were well-attended.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended his first event since taking office, a squirrel event held by the local scout group.

**The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.**