

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 17 October 2022 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, K Mountford, F Potter, D Southward, A Trueman

**Apologies:** Cllrs D Adamson (Illness), C Hesmondhalgh (Illness), B Smith (Personal), S Ward (Holiday)

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

**C1357 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1358 Police Report**

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had submitted a report containing the crime figures for September 2022 which was circulated and noted. Cllr Jackson advised that he had attended a meeting of the Safer Hambleton Group on Thursday, 6 October 2022 where it had been felt that there had been generally less antisocial behaviour. He reported that the police had requested that one of HDC's mobile CCTV cameras be moved to cover East Thirsk Community Hall.

**C1359 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk**

**(a) NYCC**

Cllr Dadd advised that works to repair the Marage footpath were almost complete and that the footpath would be reopened as soon as new railings had been installed. It was noted that the iron bridge remained closed, and he stated that he had heard a rumour that the bridge was in a poor condition structurally. He stated that he would make enquiries in this regard.

Cllr Dadd was not happy at some recent press reports regarding proposed council tax reduction schemes as he believed some were very misleading. Proposals were to be put forward on 18 October 2022 in respect of two different schemes. On the topic of local government reorganisation, he advised that new schemes were starting to filter through, such as increased council tax payments on second homes.

Cllr Dadd advised that he considered that the provision of a bus shelter in the Marage car park would be a useful addition to the area and that he had asked the District Council for a figure and to consider the proposal.

In answer to a question from Cllr Jackson regarding the proposed improvements to Thirsk Railway Station, Cllr Dadd had no new information, but he believed the scheme would go ahead.

**(b) HDC**

Cllr Elders reported that a lot of work was going on behind the scenes into the merging of district councils into the new North Yorkshire Council and this was affecting normal staff workloads in some areas.

Cllr Trueman advised that he had been contacted by a lady who had previously maintained an area of shrubbery adjacent to the Millgate/Marage car parks and he had been asked if the area could become a community garden as it was currently not being maintained by anybody. Cllr Elders suggested that the new single authority should be approached, adding that he would support a proposal for it to become a community asset. Cllr Dadd advised that he would discuss the matter with the person who had raised this.

Cllr Trueman raised the issue of disabled parking bays in the Market Place, noting that on market days they were moved to an area behind the bus shelter. He suggested that it would be more appropriate and less confusing if this area was used for permanent disabled parking bays. Both Cllrs Dadd and Elders agreed that this was a sensible suggestion. Cllr Elders advised that he would make the suggestion but believed it was something that may happen following local government reorganisation in April 2023.

### **C1360 Open Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### **C1361 Minutes**

#### **C1361(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 July 2022**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.**

#### **C1361(b) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **C1362 Committee Minutes and Reports**

#### **C1362(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 18 July 2022 & Summary dated 20 September 2022**

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 and a Summary dated 20 September 2022.

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 July 2022 and the Summary dated 20 September 2022 be received and noted.**

### **C1363 Burial Board**

The Clerk advised that the large tree which had fallen in the cemetery during the previous winter had now been removed. He stated that quotations were being sought for the rebuilding of the damaged wall and that a claim would need to be made on the Town Council's insurance to cover the rebuilding cost.

**Resolved: that the applications for memorial for David Anthony Lee and Gerald Newton be approved.**

### **C1364 Correspondence/Items Raised**

#### **C1364(a) Thirsk Yarnbombers' Insurance**

The meeting received an email dated 3 August 2022 from Ms D Archibald which contained a request that the Town Council consider reimbursing the Yarnbombers' public liability insurance premium. Members noted that the insurance included a £100 handling fee which it was felt was excessive and suggested that this fee could be avoided by shopping around. It was also suggested that the Yarnbombers should be asked to supply a set of accounts in future.

**Resolved: that the Town Council reimburse Thirsk Yarnbombers the cost of the public liability insurance for 2022/2023.**

#### **C1364(b) The New Council for North Yorkshire**

The meeting received an email/update dated 17 August 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the progress towards the creation of the new single council for North Yorkshire.

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

### **C1364(c) Citizens Advice North Yorkshire - Request for Funding**

The meeting received a letter dated 26 August 2022 from Citizens Advice North Yorkshire containing a request that the Town Council consider making a donation to support its operating costs. Members noted that the Town Council had donated £200 in previous years but were unsure as to whether the organisation held any sessions in-person in Thirsk or whether the figures provided related to assisting people over the telephone.

**Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £200 to Citizens Advice North Yorkshire.**

### **C1364(d) Rotary Club of Thirsk – House-to-house collection (Santa Run)**

The meeting received an email dated 8 September 2022 from the Licensing Team, Hambleton District Council, advising of a house-to-house collection between 4 and 18 December 2022 in connection with the Santa run organised by the Rotary Club of Thirsk.

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

### **C1364(e) The Great North Air Ambulance Service – Request for Funding/Support**

The meeting received a letter dated 16 September 2022 from the Great North Air Ambulance Service which contained a request that the Town Council consider making a donation to support its running costs.

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

### **C1364(f) Application for Premises Licence – Heron Foods, Market Place, Thirsk**

The meeting received an email dated 3 October 2022 from the Licensing Team, Hambleton District Council which attached an application for a premises licence in respect of Heron Foods, Market Place, Thirsk. Members considered the application and expressed concern about a possible increase in litter and antisocial behaviour if the shop was permitted to stay open late and sell alcohol.

**Resolved: that the Town Council submits an observation to Hambleton District Council to the effect that it was considered that there may be an increase in antisocial behaviour in the immediate area of Heron Foods if the application was allowed.**

### **C1365 North Yorkshire Unitary Authority**

Cllr Jackson advised that it would be necessary at some point for the Town Council to indicate which, if any, assets it wanted to take ownership of following the local government reorganisation in April 2023. He noted that the Town Council would need to be able to justify that it was capable of taking over ownership of any such assets. He considered that the Town Council should express an interest in taking over Thirsk Market and a piece of land at the rear of Millgate Public Conveniences but advised that the full Council would need to vote on the matter at some point. He believed that no changes would take effect until 2024/2025.

**Resolved: that consideration be given to the Town Council making a formal expression of interest in Thirsk Market, land adjoining Millgate Public Conveniences and the area adjacent to Thirsk Tourist Information.**

### **C1366 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 October 2022 be approved and cheques signed.**

### **C1367 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Duffey reported that further progress was being made in connection with the new Visit Thirsk website and that more businesses now featured on the website.

Cllr Duffey noted that the Thirsk & Sowerby Festival in August had been a very successful event. However, he believed that funding would be a problem in the future and that it would be difficult to obtain sponsorship. He indicated that a meeting was due to be held in early November to discuss whether to hold a festival in 2023. He stated additional funding would be needed if the festival was to go ahead. Discussion took place and Members were keen that the festival should go ahead and wanted to support it.

Cllr Jackson reported that all arrangements had gone to plan following the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. He noted that the book of condolences needed to be sent to Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had spoken to Mr M Armstrong in connection with a visit by Town Councillors to view the workings of the clock at St Mary's Church.

Tuesday, 29 November 2022 at 5.00 pm was suggested as being a convenient date.

Cllr Jackson stated that he would make the necessary arrangements.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of Thirsk Youth Club on Sunday, 16 October. He indicated that the club was doing well and had 60 to 70 regular attenders each week.

Cllr Duffey noted that the refurbishment work at the public conveniences in Millgate was progressing well and suggested that photographs of the toilets be publicised.

**The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.**