

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 November 2017 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

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

Apologies: None

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C762 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ward declared an interest in the agenda item concerning Thirsk Community Library and took no part in the discussion of that item.

C763 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance. The Clerk advised that a message had been received indicating that the police had hoped to attend the meeting but had been called away to deal with an urgent matter. Following a request by Cllr Watson, the Clerk indicated that he would contact the police to request that they submit a report if they were unable to attend Town Council meetings.

C764 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that he had attended an informal meeting with representatives of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group following the news that the Lambert Memorial Hospital was to be sold for redevelopment. He felt that NHS Property Services had reneged on previous indications that the site could be used for local healthcare needs and he stressed that all avenues would be explored to find an appropriate healthcare/community use for the building. He noted that the League of Friends of the Lambert Hospital had submitted an application for the building to be registered as a community asset which would allow some time for an investigation to be carried out into its potential future use.

Cllr Trueman remarked that the resurfacing works in the Millgate/Stammergate area appeared to have been completed successfully without causing too much disruption. Cllr Dadd advised that he had received some complaints from residents concerning night-time noise, but this had been unavoidable.

Cllr Dadd reported that he had received a number of complaints in respect of fireworks being let off in the weeks prior to Bonfire Night. He advised that this was a police issue and little could be done to prevent fireworks being discharged on private property.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson advised that the Making a Difference community grant scheme had received twelve applications from the Thirsk area and that successful bids included Thirsk & Sowerby Festival, Thirsk Clock, Thirsk Community Care Association and Carlton Lodge Activity Centre.

C765 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mrs C Ridsdale attended the meeting to raise concerns in respect of two issues. Firstly, she reported that the public footpath between St James Green and St Mary's Church was becoming very narrow, making it difficult for pedestrians with a

pram/pushchair, and that the path was starting to give way. The Clerk advised that the matter had been referred to NYCC previously. However, he would pursue the matter.

Mrs Ridsdale also raised concerns in connection with Carr's Field. She stated that people had been setting off industrial type fireworks in the weeks leading up to Bonfire Night and this had caused distress to nearby residents and animals. She felt that it may help to resolve some issues in Carr's Field if the hardstanding were to be removed. The Clerk advised that a quotation to remove the hardstanding had been received and passed to Hambleton District Council and the Trust was currently waiting for a response.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C766 Minutes

C766(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 October 2017

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 October 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment to Minute No C745(c) as Cllr Dalgleish-Brown had not attended the WI House Open Morning on 17 October 2017 due to a bereavement.

C766(b) Matters Arising

C757(b) Thirsk Heritage Trail

The Clerk advised that the email from the Managing Director of TrailTale had been passed to Mr Peter Rush of Thirsk Tourist Information and that Mr Rush had agreed to pursue the proposal to include Thirsk on the TrailTale computer app. Mr Rush had also suggested that he take over the Internet domain of Thirsk Past and Present since the website contained information pertaining to guided trails/walks in the area. Town Councillors agreed that Mr Rush's offer should be accepted.

C757(g) Community Infrastructure Levy

The Clerk suggested a number of projects which could benefit from Community Infrastructure Levy funding and it was agreed that the chairmen of each of the Town Council's committees meet to consider suitable projects and report to the Council.

C757(h) Premises Licence, Upstairs Downstairs

The Clerk indicated that he had discussed the premises licence application with the licensing team at Hambleton District Council and had explained the reasons for the Town Council's objection to alcohol being consumed outside the Upstairs Downstairs premises. He added that a separate approval from North Yorkshire County Council would be needed for this in any event. Discussion took place as to whether a 'no alcohol' zone was still in force in the Market Place and Cllr Watson advised that she would seek clarification from Hambleton District Council.

C759 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson asked for an update following news that the office premises had been put up for sale. The Clerk advised that he had not received any further information and so assumed the property was still on the market. Cllr Watson suggested that the Town Council actively investigate alternative office accommodation and that the matter be listed as an on-going agenda item.

C767 Committee Minutes and Reports

C767(a) Planning Committee held on 16 October 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 October 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C768 Burial Board

The Minutes of a Burial Board meeting held on 3 October 2017 were circulated.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Minutes be received and noted.**
- (ii) that the applications for memorial for Hilary Frances Botwright, Peter Francis Matthews, Robert Metcalfe and Angela Smith be approved.**

C769 Correspondence/Items Raised

C769(a) Community NHS Facilities, Hambleton and Richmondshire

The meeting received a media release dated 18 October 2017 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning the provision of "step-up/step-down" beds in the area.

Resolved: that the media release be noted.

C769(b) Outcome of Public Consultation about Mental Health Services in Hambleton and Richmondshire

The meeting received a media release dated 26 October 2017 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning the outcome of a public consultation about mental health services.

Resolved: that the media release be noted.

C769(c) Hambleton, Richmondshire, Selby & District Citizens Advice

The meeting received an email dated 2 November 2017 from Hambleton, Richmondshire, Selby & District Citizens Advice requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to help support the running of the Citizens Advice service. The Clerk suggested that the matter be considered at the Finance Meeting to be held in January 2018.

Resolved: that the request from Hambleton, Richmondshire, Selby & District Citizens Advice be considered at the Finance Meeting to be held in January 2018.

C769(d) Hambleton Online 'Contact Us Form'

The meeting received an email dated 6 November 2017 from Hambleton District Council passing on some complimentary remarks made by a visitor who regularly stopped off in Thirsk.

Resolved: that the Town Council writes to the visitor to thank her for her comments.

C769(e) Former Quaker Burial Ground, Barbeck, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 8 November 2017 from the Friends Meeting House concerning the possibility of providing a blue plaque to mark the former Quaker Burial Ground. Councillors were supportive of the proposal and suggested that the Friends Meeting House be asked to contribute towards the cost of a plaque.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the proposal made by the Friends Meeting House for a blue plaque to mark the former Quaker Burial Ground.

C769(f) Friarage Hospital Engagement

The meeting received an email dated 9 November 2017 from South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust concerning a programme of engagement events entitled

'Building a Sustainable Future for the Friarage'. Cllr Watson indicated that she had attended the event at the Golden Fleece Hotel but had found the presentation difficult to follow due to the format of the meeting. She advised that she had therefore requested that a further meeting be held at a different venue in Thirsk, which she would encourage everyone to attend.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C769(g) Community Right to Bid for the Lambert Memorial Hospital

The meeting received an email dated 13 November 2017 from Hambleton District Council advising that a nomination under the Community Right to Bid for the Lambert Memorial Hospital had been received from the League of Friends of the Lambert Hospital.

Resolved: that the Town Council submit a letter of support for the nomination to Hambleton District Council.

C769(h) Thirsk Community Library

The meeting received a letter from Thirsk Community Library requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to the library during the financial year 2018/2019. Members agreed that the Town Council should consider supporting the library by contributing towards its running costs during 2018/2019 subject to receipt and consideration of the library's accounts.

Resolved:

a) that the contribution towards the running costs of the library be considered at the Finance Meeting in January 2018.

b) that the library be requested to submit its financial Accounts.

C769(i) Thirsk and Sowerby Festival 2018

Cllr Duffey advised that the Organizing Committee had started to plan for next year's Thirsk and Sowerby Festival, scheduled to take place on Sunday, 5 August 2018. He stated that Hambleton District Council would be providing some funding and that both Sowerby Parish Council and Thirsk Town Council were being asked to contribute £500. Cllr Watson requested that the accounts for the 2017 Festival be made available.

Resolved: that the matter be considered at the Finance Meeting to be held in January 2018.

C769(j) Precept 2018/2019

The Clerk advised that a date needed to be arranged for an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting to set the precept for 2018/2019. A number of dates were proposed and the Clerk suggested that he send an email of possible dates so that Members could respond. He noted that all committees would need to arrange meetings within the next few weeks to consider budget requirements.

Resolved: that the Clerk sends an email to Town Councillors in order to agree a date for an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting in January 2018.

C770 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 November 2017 be approved and cheques signed.

C771 Reports from Members/Representatives

Members of the Planning Committee requested that a laptop computer be purchased to assist with the viewing of plans at Planning Committee meetings. Cllr Jackson noted that this had been approved previously and the Clerk indicated that he would purchase a laptop for this purpose. Members also suggested that it may be more

convenient to hold Planning Committee meetings in the Town Hall once a laptop had been purchased.

Cllr Bell reported that the NYCC sign denoting the public right of way through the Golden Fleece yard had not been replaced following refurbishment works. It was noted that a laminated notice had been put up near the side entrance to the hotel, but this was not the official NYCC sign.

Cllr Jackson reported that a number of comments on social media concerning the Christmas tree in the Market Place appeared to demonstrate a lack of understanding regarding the town's Christmas tree and lights. He suggested that the Town Council send a letter to the Ladies Group of Thirsk Business Association so that people could be made aware of the Town Council's contribution to the Christmas tree/lights. Cllr Trueman expressed concern at the amount of pigeon droppings in Bakers Alley. He advised that the alley had been power-washed by Hambleton District Council but within a day the alley had again become covered in pigeon mess. Members noted that the pavement outside Lloyds Bank was also very messy. It was suggested that the Town Council write to the owners of the buildings in these locations to request that they consider installing spikes to deter the pigeons and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to Lloyds Bank and to the owners of the building in question in Bakers Alley.

Cllr Watson noted that the wooden sign for Batemans Yard appeared to be in need of refurbishment. Cllr Gibson-Brown stated that she would repaint the sign if someone would remove it from the wall.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported continuing problems outside the pizza shop in Millgate with groups of youths congregating and causing a nuisance. Cllr Watson queried whether HDC's mobile CCTV could be utilised to monitor the area and the Clerk stated that he would make enquiries. Cllr Watson requested that the Clerk also pursue the question of publicity for the recently launched lorry watch scheme.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had attended the Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday events, both of which had been very well supported.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had attended a ladies dinner and fashion show in aid of the Bob Champion Cancer Trust where she had presented raffle prizes. She had also helped the Ladies Group of Thirsk Business Association to sell Christmas stockings at Tesco to raise funds for Thirsk Christmas lights.

C772 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 9.04 pm.