

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 November 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr Dalglish-Brown (Illness)

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

C1038 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Adamson and Hesmondhalgh declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Frequency/Location of Town Council Meetings) in respect of East Thirsk Community Hall and took no part in the discussion.

C1039 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. The Clerk circulated copies of a report prepared by PCSO Warby which contained the crime figures for October 2019 and a warning urging shoppers to be on their guard against bogus supermarket vouchers which were being shared on social media.

C1040 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd indicated that although the financial outlook for North Yorkshire County Council appeared to be better than it had previously, the local government settlement figure was still to be confirmed.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that a seminar in connection with the proposed crematorium was to take place on Tuesday, 19 November 2019.

Cllr Elders advised that an appeal hearing was to be held on 10 December 2019 following Hambleton District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a development on land adjacent to Shire Road (off Stockton Road).

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC's planning committee had refused to grant planning permission for a proposed development of houses on land occupied by the properties, Burniston and Stonehall, on Stockton Road.

Cllr Trueman enquired if it was possible to place a time restriction on vehicles using the disabled parking bays in the Market Place as he had been contacted by a driver who held a Blue Badge who had noticed that one particular vehicle frequently occupied a disabled parking bay for an entire day which meant that the bay was unavailable for other Blue Badge drivers. Cllr Elders stated that he would investigate the matter.

C1041 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C1042 Minutes

C1042(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 October 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1042(b) Matters Arising

C1030(b) Matters Arising – C1021(g) Parking Enforcement

The Clerk advised that he had received a lengthy email from Mr C Thornton, HDC's Corporate Facilities Manager, in response to the Town Council's email concerning parking enforcement. The Clerk summarised the email and noted that Mr Thornton had indicated that he would discuss the issues raised with Scarborough Borough Council.

C1033(a) BT Consultation – Removal of Public Payphones

The Clerk indicated that the Town Council had objected in strong terms to the proposed removal of the public payphone in the Market Place and also to the removal of a public payphone situated on Dowber Way, Thirsk.

C1043 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1043(a) Planning Committee – 21 October 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 October 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1044 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that the letting of Cemetery Lodge had been placed with Joplings and that several prospective tenants had shown interest in renting the property.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Bill Carver, Mary Coster, Peggy Dundon, William Anthony “Tony” Knowles and Marion Margaret Lennon be approved.

C1045 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1045(a) Citizens Advice – Mid-North Yorkshire

The meeting received a letter dated 26 September 2019 from Citizens Advice, Hambleton Office, requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation towards its running costs. The Clerk advised that the Town Council had previously approved a donation of £200 to Citizens Advice in the last financial year.

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

C1045(b) VE Day 75 – 8 May 2020

The meeting received an email dated 17 October 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. Discussion took place and it was agreed that St Mary's Church be requested to ring their bells as part of the nationwide “Ringing out for Peace” on the evening of Friday, 8 May 2020. Members also suggested that the Town Council should contact Mr C Northridge MBE and Thirsk Yarnbombers so that they were aware of the proposed celebrations.

Resolved: that the Town Council request that St Mary's Church ring their bells as part of the nationwide “Ringing out for Peace” on Friday, 8 May 2020.

C1045(c) NHS Media Release – GP Advice On How To Stay Well This Winter

The meeting received an email dated 24 October 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which contained advice on how to stay well during the cold weather.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1045(d) Public Consultation on the Future of Urgent Care at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

The meeting received a letter dated 29 October 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which contained an update in respect of the public consultation on the future of urgent care services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. Members noted that a public meeting was due to be held at East Thirsk Community Hall on Friday, 22 November 2019.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1045(e) Certificates of Registration for the Merge and Change of Name/Address

The meeting received three certificates dated 30 and 31 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council confirming the registration and formal postal addresses of properties as Wishing Well Folly, Sutton Road, Thirsk, Thistle Cottage, Sutton Road, Thirsk and No 85A Market Place, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the three certificates be noted.

C1045(f) General Election, 12 December 2019 – Guidance for Local Councils

The meeting received an email dated 5 November 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which contained guidance for local councils for the pre-election period prior to the General Election on Thursday, 12 December 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1045(g) Merger Approved for Three North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups

The meeting received an email and briefing dated 5 November 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which indicated that approval had been received to merge three CCGs – NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG, NHS Harrogate and Rural District CCG and NHS Scarborough and Ryedale CCG - on 1 April 2020 to create the North Yorkshire CCG.

Resolved: that the email and briefing be noted.

C1045(h) Hambleton Safety Advisory Group

The meeting received an email dated 11 November 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Hambleton Safety Advisory Group which had been set up to provide advice and guidance on events at which large numbers of people are expected to attend.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1045(i) York Disabled Workers Co-operative

The meeting received a letter dated 11 November 2019 from the York Disabled Workers Co-operative requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to support its operations.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1046 Co-option of Town Councillor

Members considered three applications which had been received to fill the Town Councillor vacancy and a paper vote took place.

Resolved: that Mrs Kate Mountford be co-opted onto the Town Council.

C1047 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 November 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1048 Frequency/Location of Town Council Meetings

Cllr Duffey advised that he and Cllr Jackson had been examining how the Town Council conducted its business and suggested that the number of meetings could be reduced to 11 and that the August meeting be dropped. He also noted that it had been identified as good practice for meetings occasionally to be held at a different venue and he suggested that at least one meeting per year be held at a location such as East Thirsk Community Hall.

Resolved: that the Town Council Standing Orders be amended so that 11 meetings are held each year with at least one meeting being held at a venue other than Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

C1049 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Duffey reported that the Remembrance Sunday events had been very well attended both at St Mary's Church and at Sowerby War Memorial.

Cllr Duffey advised that he had been contacted in respect of ongoing issues of antisocial behaviour at Mill Gardens. Discussion took place and Cllr Duffey advised that he would raise the issues at the next meeting with the Safer Hambleton Thirsk Working Group.

Cllr Duffey indicated that he had recently been made aware of the lack of facilities for young people in Thirsk and that there was currently no provision for teenagers. He advised that he and Cllr Jackson were investigating and looking at ways of improving services for young people.

Cllr Hunter Bell advised that she had obtained a quotation to repair the damaged mosaic at the Millennium Green and she hoped to receive a second quotation in the next few days.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that the Thirsk Chamber of Trade Ladies Group had held their winter ball at the Town Hall on Saturday, 16 November 2019 to raise money for the Christmas lights. Cllr Duffey thanked Cllr Gibson-Brown for her hard work and assistance in decorating the Town Hall for the event.

C1050 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.