

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 16 November 2020**

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, K Mountford, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllr L Hunter Bell (Illness)

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

C1143 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1144 Police Report

It was noted that a police report had been emailed to Town Councillors prior to the meeting.

C1145 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that coronavirus infection rates had continued to increase, particularly on the east coast, and that enforcement of the regulations in North Yorkshire was the highest in the country.

Cllr Dadd advised that North Yorkshire County Council's highways maintenance contract was to be brought back under the direct control of NYCC.

Cllr Dadd indicated that NYCC had agreed upon a proposal which would be put forward in respect of local government reorganisation.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that work had commenced on the district's new crematorium which was to be named Maple Park Crematorium. He advised that planning permission had been granted for the refurbishment of Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre and that the centre would benefit from the installation of a new roof and improved fitness studios.

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC had decided not to submit a proposal in respect of local government reorganisation as it was felt that it was not the right time to undergo such a major change to local government.

C1146 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1147 Minutes

C1147(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 October 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1147(b) Matters Arising

C1136(b) Matters Arising

C1127(i) Johnson Close Play Area

The Clerk advised that several replies had been received in response to a letter which had been sent to residents who lived in the vicinity of the Johnson Close play area. A range of opinions had been expressed which would be considered at the next meeting of the Open Areas and Greens Committee.

C1139(c) Vibrant Market Town Grants – Public Toilets/Castle Garth Artwork
The Clerk indicated that he had contacted a local company following a suggestion that air sanitisation units be installed at the Millgate public toilets and he was awaiting a quotation.

C1139(h) Christmas Tree – Market Place, Thirsk

Cllr Jackson reported that the Christmas tree had been put up in the Market Place during the previous week. Members noted that the Christmas lights switch-on event would not take place this year due to Covid-19 although it had been inadvertently advertised as going ahead. The Clerk advised that the correct information would be posted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

C1148 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1148(a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 16 November 2020

The meeting received a summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 16 November 2020. The Clerk advised that an email dated 13 November 2020 had been received from Hambleton District Council's Planning Department concerning a consultation on a notification to operate a caravan rally at Thirsk Racecourse for a period of 10 nights from 1 April 2021 to 11 April 2021.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Summary be received and noted;**
- (ii) that the Town Council has no objection to the notification to operate a caravan rally at Thirsk Racecourse in April 2021.**

C1149 Burial Board

No matters were reported.

C1150 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1150(a) Proposed Wildlife Area on The Holmes

The meeting received a letter and attachment dated 13 October 2020 from Mr C Amy concerning a proposal to create a wildlife area on the Holmes. Members noted that, if the project were to go ahead, there would be a change in the grass cutting regime on the southern end of the Holmes and the project would need to be trialled over two or three seasons to monitor its success or otherwise. Members discussed the proposal and suggested involving local school children in the project and erecting signage to explain why the grass was not being cut.

Resolved:

- (i) that a costing be obtained to remove a picnic bench on the southern end of the Holmes;**
- (ii) that the matter be considered further by the Open Areas and Greens Committee.**

C1150(b) Local Government Reorganisation

The meeting received letters dated 27 October 2020 and 9 November 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council which set out details in respect of its proposals for local government reorganisation.

Resolved: that the letters be noted.

C1150(c) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 28 October 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a property to be The Stables, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1UN.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1151 The Future of Thirsk as a Vibrant Market Town

The meeting received the Minutes of a meeting held remotely on Thursday, 5 November 2020. Cllr Duffey advised that he was in the process of preparing an action plan which he would email to all group members. The Clerk noted that Cllrs Potter and Trueman had expressed interest in joining the group and Cllr Duffey advised that he had spoken to Cllr Mark Robson about a suggestion that a representative from Sowerby Parish Council be invited to join. Town Councillors discussed some of the ideas which had been considered, one of which was to widen some of the footpaths in the Market Place. Cllr Jackson understood that North Yorkshire County Council had objected to an application by Bianco's restaurant to place tables and chairs on the pavement due to the width of the pavement.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1152 Covid-19

The meeting received a newsletter dated 10 November 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils which included an article in respect of the NHS Test and Trace regulations. The Clerk indicated that the Town Council had registered for an NHS QR code and that the official poster was displayed in the office.

Resolved: that the newsletter be noted.

C1153 Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council

The Clerk advised that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council needed to be held in January 2021 for the purpose of setting and approving the precept for 2021/2022. He suggested that Monday, 11 January 2021 may be a convenient date.

Resolved: that the Clerk will email Members to confirm the date of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council to be held in January 2021.

C1154 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 November 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1155 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Jackson noted that the market stalls appeared to have been appropriately set back from the pavements over the last three to four weeks.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall was closed to the public during the current period of national restrictions but that the playgroup was allowed to continue operating.

Cllr Ward reported that Thirsk Community Library remained open for its click and collect and delivery services but not for the public to browse.

Cllr Potter advised that Cllr Hunter Bell had set up an Instagram page for Thirsk which aimed to promote local businesses.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had attended a low-key Service of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday and observed two minutes' silence in the Market Place on Armistice Day.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.