

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 19 December 2016 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts, A Trueman, J Watson.

Apologies: Cllr: J Bell (Prior Commitment)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C628 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C629 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C630 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC were facing further pressures on their ability to provide adult social care following the Chancellor's autumn statement, though he stressed that the priority would be to protect services for the elderly and vulnerable.

Cllr Adamson queried whether Housing and Care 21 were in breach of their contract with NYCC when residents at the Meadowfields development were left without a food service at very short notice. Irrespective of the problems caused Cllr Dadd did not believe that there had actually been a breach of contract.

Cllr Duffy sought clarification from Cllr Dadd regarding relief on business rates which was granted to registered charities and would apply to the newly formed community libraries as from 1 April 2017. Cllr Dadd advised that Hambleton District Council had to apply 80% relief on business rates to registered charities but that there was a discretion as to whether or not 100% relief was applied. Cllr Dadd understood that community libraries in other districts in North Yorkshire would be granted 100% relief and that the cost to HDC, if it granted 100% relief to all newly formed community libraries, would actually be much less than had been reported.

(b) HDC

Nothing reported.

C631 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C632 Minutes

C632(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 November 2016

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 November 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C632(b) Matters Arising

C611 Burial Board

Following a query by Cllr Watson, the Clerk advised that the damp problem at Cemetery Lodge had been assessed and that a quotation to carry out repair works had been accepted.

C624(a) Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

The Clerk advised that he would request further details from Hambleton District Council regarding the preparation of a Community Resilience Plan.

C624(c) Local Plan Preferred Options Public Consultation - 31 October to 12 December 2016

The Clerk reported that the Planning Committee had submitted a response in respect of the Local Plan Preferred Options Public Consultation.

C624(g) Council Tax Referendum Principles

The Clerk advised that the council tax referendum principles would not be extended to town and parish councils at this time.

C626 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that he had inspected one of the alleyways close to the central part of the Market Place following a report of a high number of rubbish bins which had been spilling over. He stated that on the occasions when he had visited the area the bins had not been overflowing and that the number of bins was a matter for the individual businesses as these were provided by private operators, not Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Roberts reported that a recycling bin in Royal Oak Courtyard was overflowing and had not been emptied for several weeks. The Clerk advised that Hambleton District Council had inspected the bin and had advised that the waste was contaminated and therefore the bin would not be emptied.

C633 Committee Minutes and Reports

C633(a) Planning Committee held on 21 November 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 November 2016.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C633(b) Open Areas & Greens Committee held on 28 November 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas & Greens Committee held on 28 November 2016. Cllr Watson noted that English Heritage would need to be approached if any refurbishment/work was proposed in relation to the interpretation boards on Castle Garth.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C634 Burial Board

There were no applications for memorials to be considered.

C635 Correspondence/Items Raised

C635(a) Remembrance Sunday Parade & Wreaths 2016

The meeting received a letter dated 23 November 2016 from the Royal British Legion thanking the Town Council for the contributions in connection with the Remembrance Sunday event.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C635(b) Draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Durham Dales Easington and Sedgfield, Darlington, Tees, Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby

The meeting received a letter dated 24 November 2016 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising that a Draft Sustainability and Transformation Plan for the above areas would be published on its website on 25 November 2016.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C635(c) BT Public Payphone Consultation

The meeting received emails dated 30 November 2016 and 2 December 2016 from Hambleton District Council advising of a consultation which was being carried out by BT in preparation for the removal of public payphones in the HDC area. Cllr Roberts suggested that it would be useful to be provided with information regarding the usage of any payphone which had been identified as unnecessary and that a request be made to retain any payphone which was shown to be well-used.

Resolved: that BT be requested to provide details concerning the usage of the public payphone in Thirsk which had been identified as unnecessary or no longer viable.

C635(d) Integrated Community Equipment and Community Wheelchair Service Contracts

The meeting received a letter dated 5 December 2016 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning new contracts which had been awarded to provide community equipment and wheelchair services.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C635(e) Thirsk Christmas Lights

The meeting received a letter dated 7 December 2016 from Thirsk & District Business Association (Ladies Section) concerning the Christmas lights display and the switch-on event which took place on Friday, 25 November 2016.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to Thirsk & District Business Association (Ladies Section) to congratulate everyone involved in providing the Christmas lights display and switch-on event.

C635(f) Settlement Character Assessments – Hambleton Local Plan

The meeting received emails dated 8 December 2016 and 13 December 2016 from Hambleton District Council concerning Settlement Character Assessments which formed part of the emerging Local Plan.

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C636 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 December 2016 be approved and cheques signed.

C637 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that he had represented the Town Council at the Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday, 18 December 2016 and that the service had been very good and well attended.

Cllr Roberts reported that a vehicle had been parked regularly half on the cycle track and half on Stockton Road with no lights on which she felt could cause a hazard and she suggested that the police be requested to deal with the matter.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that volunteers at East Thirsk Community Hall had prepared a Christmas meal for senior citizens on Saturday, 3 December 2016.

Cllr Watson requested that the Town Council reiterate to the police that they warn cyclists of the dangers of riding without lights and that the police be requested to monitor cars driving with defective headlamps.

Cllr Gibson-Brown handed over a donation of £50 which had been raised by the Artists' Palette to contribute towards the running costs of Millgate Public Conveniences.

Cllr Watson reported that a large number of notices had been fly-posted in a variety of locations advertising an event to be held at Thirsk Farmers Auction Mart over the

Christmas and New Year period. The Clerk advised that he would contact North Yorkshire County Council so that they could take appropriate action in respect of notices which had been attached to lampposts.

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that Lianne Bell Cake Design had won the best dressed shop window competition organised by Thirsk & District Business Association. She also advised that she had assisted the Rotary Club of Thirsk on some of their Father Christmas sleigh runs.

C638 On-Going Items

- a) Nothing noted.
- b) The Clerk reported that work had not yet commenced on the tree survey.
- c) Nothing noted.

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm.