

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 December 2017 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr: J Bell (Alternative Engagement), District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C774 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C775 Police Report

PCSO Nagina Akhtar reported the recent crime figures and noted that these included a number of incidents of criminal damage and theft and an increase in reports of antisocial behaviour.

PCSO Akhtar advised of an ongoing police campaign which was directed at cyclists who were stopped without lights during the dark nights.

In answer to a query by Cllr Watson concerning fireworks being discharged from Carr's Field, PC Akhtar confirmed that the police had found the remnants of a large number of fireworks but no arrests had been made.

In response to a question concerning the policing of the Kirby Misperton fracking demonstrations and how this affected policing at Thirsk, PCSO Akhtar advised that the sergeant was presently away at Kirby Misperton and that normally two police officers and one police community support officer would be on duty at Thirsk.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that issues concerning youths congregating around the pizza shop in Millgate were ongoing.

C776 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Watson confirmed that the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race would pass through Thirsk in May 2018 and that a number of road show events would be planned for the New Year at which point further information would become available.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that an additional meeting had been arranged to take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 20 December 2017 concerning the future sustainability of the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

Cllr Watson advised that a number of meetings and discussions had taken place concerning the future usage of the Lambert Memorial Hospital and that Hambleton District Council had agreed to fund a feasibility study which would examine possible social, health and community uses of the building, as well as its potential for workspace.

In answer to a query by Cllr Adamson, Cllr Watson indicated that she would request an update from HDC regarding the realignment of parking spaces in the Market Place and at the same time raise the issue of parking to the rear of Thirsk Tourist Information.

C777 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C778 Minutes

C778(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 November 2017

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C778(b) Matters Arising

C769(j) Precept 2018/2019

The Clerk confirmed that an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting had been arranged for Thursday, 11 January 2018 in the upstairs room at the Town Hall.

C771 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown indicated that the wooden sign for Batemans Yard was very firmly fixed to the wall and that she may have to repaint it in situ.

Cllr Watson indicated that she had spoken to Ms G Allen of HDC concerning the lorry watch scheme and Ms Allen had advised that companies which utilised heavy goods vehicles had been contacted and reminded of the weight restriction which was in place through the town.

C779 Committee Minutes and Reports

(a) Planning Committee – 20 November 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2017.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

(b) Open Areas and Greens Committee - 4 December 2017

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2017. Cllr Duffey advised that he had contacted the Rotary Club of Thirsk concerning the future maintenance and planting of the Long Street flower boxes and beds and that the matter was being considered.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C780 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Kathleen Griffiths and Thomas Hutton Hogg be approved.

C781 Correspondence/Items Raised

C781(a) Street Lighting Improvement

The meeting received a letter dated 21 November 2017 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a programme to replace the county's standard street lighting with new LED lanterns.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C781(b) NALC's Campaign for the Removal of Business Rates on Public Toilets

The meeting received an email dated 22 November 2017 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the campaign to remove business rates on public toilets. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had completed the on-line survey.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C781(c) Shop Windows

The meeting received an email dated 22 November 2017 from Thirsk Community First Responders concerning a proposal to place a board in one of the empty shop windows in town in an attempt to recruit more members and at the same time helping to keep Thirsk looking tidy. Whilst Town Councillors were in favour of the

proposal, it was noted that the shop owners/agents in question would need to be approached.

Resolved: that the Town Council responds to the Community First Responders and suggests that they contact the relevant shop owners/agents.

C781(d) Minerals and Waste Joint Plan – Notification of Submission

The meeting received an email dated 1 December 2017 from the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Team advising that the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for North Yorkshire, York and the North York Moors National Park had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for independent examination.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C781(e) Trial Parking Restriction – Cemetery Road, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 4 December 2017 from North Yorkshire County Council which gave an update on the trial parking restriction on Cemetery Road, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C781(f) Closure and Future of the Lambert Hospital

The meeting received an email dated 6 December 2017 from A Goodall concerning the proposed sale and redevelopment of the Lambert Memorial Hospital. Members noted that the issues raised in the email had already been discussed under Minute No C776(b), Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C781(g) St Mary's Church, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 7 December 2017 from the Treasurer of St Mary's Church, Thirsk thanking the Town Council for dealing with the issues concerning the church floodlighting in a swift and efficient manner.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C781(h) Police Precept Consultation

The meeting received an email dated 11 December 2017 from Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, concerning the launch of a consultation requesting the public's views in respect of setting the police precept for 2018/2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C781(i) Chairman's Ball

Cllr Duffey sought the approval of the Town Council for a proposal to organize an event such as a Chairman's Ball, the intention of which would be to raise funds to give to charity. He advised that he had made some preliminary enquiries and would be looking for support in terms of volunteers, sponsorship and prizes.

Resolved: that the Town Council approves the proposal to organize an event such as a Chairman's Ball to raise funds for charity.

C781(j) Tour de Yorkshire

Following the announcement that the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race would pass through Thirsk in May 2018, Cllr Duffey indicated that the Rotary Club had been requested to erect the bunting which had been retained from the previous Tour de Yorkshire. He hoped that funding would be made available and he welcomed any new ideas/volunteers to help prepare for the event.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports Cllr Duffey's proposals to mark the Tour de Yorkshire in 2018.

C782 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 December 2017 be approved and cheques signed.

C783 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Duffey reported that he had attended the Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday, 17 December 2017 and had given a reading.

Cllr Ward reported that two of the Community Library's trustees had decided to step down and that replacement trustees were being sought.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that there had been a further incident of vandalism at East Thirsk Community Hall and that an arrest had been made.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had assisted with serving Christmas lunches at East Thirsk Community Hall to older members of the community.

Cllr Watson noted that she had contacted Ms G Allen of HDC concerning Carr's Field and had been advised that Hambleton District Council may not be able to fund the removal of the hardstanding as Carr's Field was looked after by a charitable trust.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that the Christmas Fayre weekend, which included the Christmas lights switch-on and the Squires Toy Run, had been a huge success. She advised that she had attended a number of events in the last month which included The Clock's Annual General Meeting, a service at Ripon Cathedral and Christmas Lunch with Thirsk Yarnbombers.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that Salon 54 had won the Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition and she congratulated all the businesses who had won awards at the recent Flavours of Herriot Awards Ceremony.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council office would close between Christmas and New Year.

C784 On-Going items

Nothing noted

Part II

Resolved: that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of confidential business

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.