

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 April 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, C Hesmondhalgh, F Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs: D Adamson (Family), E Fraser (Illness), A Garbutt (Work)

C398 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C399 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

(b) HDC

Nothing reported.

C400 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C401 Minutes

C401(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 March 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 March 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to Minute No C391(b) being amended to quote Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of the donation to the Moorsbus Summer Sunday Bus Service.

C401(b) Matters Arising

C389 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that there had been an electrical fault at the pedestrian crossing on Long Street. It was understood that this had been repaired.

C394(c) Thirsk Library

The Clerk advised that Cllrs Watson, Adamson and Hesmondhalgh had attended a meeting on 24 March 2015 concerning the future of the library service. A response following the public consultation was still awaited.

C396 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had sent a letter to the Town Hall Secretary in support of work being undertaken to replace the windows and that the funding arrangements were being finalised.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had arranged to have the dog faeces cleared on the Millennium Green and that Hambleton District Council had been requested to erect appropriate signage.

C402 Committee Minutes and Reports

C402(a) Planning Committee held on 16 March 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 March 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C402(b) Central Areas Committee held on 23 March 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 23 March 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C402(c) Magna Carta Sub-Committee – 1 April 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Magna Carta Sub-Committee held on 1 April 2015 together with a report prepared by Mr David Tucker.

Resolved: that the Minutes and report be received and noted.

C403 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Kathleen Bailey, Gladys Downward, Susan Hudson and Marjorie Tostevin be approved.

C404 Correspondence/Items Raised

C404(a) Changes to the Highway Grass Cutting Service

The meeting received a letter dated 17 March 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a deferred payment offer to Parish Councils following reductions in the highway grass cutting service. The Clerk advised that the Town Council precept had been set prior to receiving the letter and had incorporated the additional financial outlay in respect of grass cutting.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C404(b) Thirsk Cricket Club Match Sponsorship

The meeting received a letter dated 12 March 2015 from Thirsk Cricket Club concerning sponsorship for the 2015 season.

Resolved: that the Town Council sponsors a Thirsk Cricket Club match ball during the 2015 season.

C404(c) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting

The meeting received a letter dated 2 April 2015 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on Thursday, 4 June 2015. The Clerk requested that he be advised by 29 May 2015 if any Town Councillors wished to attend.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C404(d) Area 2 Surface Dressing Programme 2015 – Hambleton

The meeting received a letter from North Yorkshire County Council concerning carriageway surface dressing at various locations within the Hambleton area.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C404(e) Cars Parking in Millgate

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter concerning cars parking on Millgate during the evening requesting that the matter be brought to the attention of the police.

Resolved: that the letter be submitted to the Police.

C405 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 20 April 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

(b) that the Balance Sheet ending March 2015 be received and approved.

(c) that the Budget Report ending March 2015 be received and approved.

C406 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that some grass cutting carried out recently in the Hambleton Place/Tranmire Close area was of a poor standard and looked untidy. The Clerk advised that he would investigate.

Cllr Duffey reported that a bid was about to be placed for funding for an all weather pitch at Thirsk Community Primary School. It was intended that the facility would be available for use by the school as well as the local community.

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations' recent meeting and had raised the matter of business rates applying to public conveniences.

Cllr Watson reported that she had met Mr Robin Gell of Alpha Signs regarding the replacement plaque for the clock tower. Discussion took place as to whether consent was required and as to the most suitable material for the plaque. The Clerk advised that he would make enquiries.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that there had been a good response to the questionnaires which had been sent to residents of Long Street regarding future planting. Many residents had indicated their willingness to assist in maintaining the flower beds/planters close to their properties.

Cllr Watson reported that Mr Cooper Harding was stepping down from his role as curator of Thirsk Museum. She requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr Harding.

C407 On-Going Items

(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

It was noted that no progress had been made in appointing a trustee for the Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust. The Clerk advised that he would obtain a copy of the appropriate regulations in an attempt to progress the matter.

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm.

**Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 18 May 2015
at 7.00 pm at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt, C Hesmondhalgh, F Roberts, J Watson.

Apologies:

Cllr: H Dalglish-Brown (Holiday).

1. Election of Chairman

Resolved: that Cllr D Adamson be elected Chairman of Thirsk Town Council for 2015/16.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved: that Cllr H Dalglish-Brown be elected Vice-Chairman of Thirsk Town Council for 2015/16.

3. Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 19 May 2014

Resolved: that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Committee Reports for the year ended 31 March 2015

The meeting received Committee reports.

Resolved: that the Committee reports for the year ended 31 March 2015 be received and noted.

6. Representatives' Reports for the year ended 31 March 2015

The meeting received representatives' reports.

Resolved: that the representatives' reports for the year ended 31 March 2015 be received and noted.

7. Appointment of Committee Members for 2015/16

Resolved: that Councillors submit their committee selections to the Clerk (Schedule A).

8. Appointment of Town Council Representatives for 2015/16

Resolved: that Councillors submit their representative selections to the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 7.11 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 May 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt,
C Hesmondhalgh, F Roberts, J Watson.

Apologies: Cllr: H Dalgleish-Brown (Holiday)

C408 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C409 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that Cllr John Weighell was stepping down after 14 years as leader of North Yorkshire County Council with Cllr Carl Les becoming the new leader and Cllr Dadd the deputy leader. Cllr Roberts joined Cllr Dadd in paying tribute to the work undertaken by Cllr Weighell. Cllr Dadd also reported that Mr Greg Clark MP had been appointed Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Cllr Dadd reported that the responses following the public consultation in respect of the library service were still being evaluated.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that some waste bins in Thirsk had not been emptied over the previous weekend as a result of operational difficulties but the problem appeared to have been resolved.

C410 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mr David Tucker gave an update on events to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. It was hoped that the framed copy of the Magna Carta and two large banners would be on display at the Medieval Festival to be held at Thirsk Racecourse on 13 June. Mr Tucker reported that the Rotary Club of Thirsk had requested that the Mayor present the Magna Carta to the people of Thirsk at the Festival's opening ceremony. Cllr Adamson indicated that he was happy to attend and make the formal presentation. It was noted that other Magna Carta themed events were being planned for the weekend of 13/14 June and that an event was to take place at Rural Arts during the school half term.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C411 Minutes

C411(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 April 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 April 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C411(b) Matters Arising

C404(e) Cars parking in Millgate

The Clerk advised that the car parking attendant was dealing with the car parking issues in Millgate.

C406 Reports from Members/Representatives

In answer to a query by Cllr Watson, the Clerk advised that he was awaiting a response from Hambleton District Council's Planning Department regarding the issue of planning permission for a replacement plaque for the town clock.

C412 Committee Minutes and Reports

C412(a) Planning Committee held on 20 April 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 April 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C412(b) Central Areas Committee held on 20 April 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 20 April 2015. Cllr Watson advised that an exterior door at the former Aspire premises had recently been found to be insecure although it had now been secured. Bearing in mind the residents in the flats above, it was suggested that the Town Council write to Camerons Brewery and the police advising of its concerns.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C412(c) Open Areas & Greens Committee – 30 April 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas & Greens Committee held on 30 April 2015. Cllr Hesmondhalgh gave an update on plans for the planting and maintenance at Long Street following a meeting with a group of residents. She advised that a number of residents had indicated they were prepared to carry out planting as well as maintenance of the boxes/planters and that savings had also been made in the purchase cost of the plants.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C413 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Dorothy Dolores Dowson, Patricia Heckles and David Paterson be approved.

C414 Correspondence/Items Raised

C414(a) Rotary Club of Thirsk – Medieval Festival

The meeting received a letter dated 26 March 2015 from the Rotary Club of Thirsk requesting that the framed copy of the Magna Carta be presented to the people of Thirsk at the Opening Ceremony of the Medieval Festival at Thirsk Racecourse on Saturday, 13 June and that it be on display during the Festival.

Resolved:

(i) that the Town Council gives approval for the Magna Carta copy to be on display at the Medieval Festival on 13 June 2015;

(ii) that the Mayor presents the Magna Carta copy at the Opening Ceremony.

C414(b) Workplace Pension Scheme

The meeting received a letter dated April 2015 from The Pensions Regulator concerning new legislation in relation to workplace pensions. The Clerk advised that he would contact the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations for guidance in ensuring that the Town Council complied with the new requirements.

Resolved: that the Council pursue the provision of a workplace pension.

C414(c) The Swale and Ure Drainage Board

The meeting received two letters dated April 2015 from the Swale and Ure Drainage Board concerning changes in "Cross Compliance" rules in regard to hedge and tree cutting. Cllr Watson requested that clarification be sought as to the location of the local liaison meeting to be held on 1 July 2015.

Resolved:

a) that the letters be noted.

b) that the location of the local liaison meeting on the 1 July 2015 be obtained.

C414(d) Size, Type and Tenure of New Homes – Supplementary Planning Document

The meeting received an email dated 12 May 2015 from Hambleton District Council advising of a consultation in respect of its draft, "Size, Type and Tenure of New Homes Supplementary Planning Document".

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C414(e) Horses Tethered on Roundabout

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from a visitor who had been upset at seeing horses tethered on a roundabout on the York Road entrance to Thirsk. It was noted that the roundabout was not within Thirsk parish and that the practise had been continuing for many years.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C415 Co-Option of Councillors

The Clerk advised that the Town Council would normally advertise Councillor vacancies in the local press and at Thirsk Tourist Information. Hambleton District Council had indicated that co-option should take place within seven weeks of the date of an election.

Resolved: that an article be prepared for publication in the local press and that applications be considered at the next Town Council Meeting.

C416 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 May 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

C417 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts suggested that the Town Council submit a resolution at the forthcoming AGM of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations pressing for the National Association of Local Councils to be more forceful in attempts to have business rates removed from public conveniences. Cllr Adamson suggested that Cllr Roberts prepare a draft resolution for submission to the YLCA.

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended the Magna Carta reception at the Mansion House in London on 12 May along with Cllrs Bell and Roberts and in the same week Cllr Roberts had been presented with a prestigious award for her services to the community and to charitable organisations.

Cllr Watson advised that the World of James Herriot had been named Small Visitor Attraction of the Year by the Visit England Awards for Excellence and requested that the Town Council send a letter congratulating the World of James Herriot on its achievement.

Discussion took place about furniture/rubbish which had been dumped in Nicksgate Alley adjacent to Finkle Street. Cllr Watson suggested that the Town Council write to owners of the properties requesting that the rubbish be removed. The Clerk advised that Hambleton District Council was aware of the issues and that Environmental Health would be investigating.

C418 On-Going Items

(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust

The Clerk advised that he would bring copies of the relevant regulations concerning the appointment of trustees to a future Town Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 15 June 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt, C Hesmondhalgh, H Dalgleish-Brown, F Roberts, J Watson

C419 Police Report

PCSO Walker reported the monthly crime figures for Thirsk. These included a spate of graffiti and the youths responsible were doing some restorative work. PCSO Walker also advised that the police would be carrying out their summer drink/drug drive campaign. Cllr Watson noted that a number of cars had been observed parking on the cycle path alongside Station Road and on pavements. PCSO Walker indicated that the police would ticket drivers if the parking created an obstruction.

C420 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that a report had been produced following the public consultation into library services and that it recognised the call for some paid staff to be available at community managed libraries.

Cllr Dadd reported that he had received a complaint from a resident living in Barbeck about the speed of vehicles using the main road and that he had made a request for the Town Council to seek the deployment of a speed recorder from the local highways office to monitor the speed of traffic.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that he had received complaints concerning the temporary closure of the footpath across the Bridge Garage site in Ingramgate. He advised that the closure was necessary on health and safety grounds due to demolition works and that the closure was temporary.

Cllr Dadd reported that a licensing application had been received for the former Aspire building in the Market Place and that the plan was for a new wine/tapas bar to operate from the premises.

Cllr Dadd advised that HDC had recently provided new rubbish bins in the Market Place.

Cllr Watson reported that the recent Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting had been well attended and that the next meeting would be held in November 2015.

Cllr Watson advised that HDC had issued new guidance in relation to street naming and numbering.

C421 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C422 Minutes

C422(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 May 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 May 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C422(b) Matters Arising

C412(c) Open Areas & Greens Committee – 30 April 2015

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the wooden boxes in Long Street had been stained by R Dickinson and then planted by local residents who had also agreed to carry out

watering and maintenance duties. She advised that the intention was to hold another meeting with residents with a view to forming a committee.

C417 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk reported that Cllr Roberts had prepared a resolution which was being forwarded to the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations for submission at their AGM concerning the issue of business rates being applied to public conveniences.

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Environmental Health concerning the furniture and rubbish which had been dumped in Nicksgate Alley, off Finkle Street, and it was understood that the persons responsible had left the area. Discussions had taken place with regard to removal of the rubbish but the matter was not straightforward as the land was privately owned and therefore the responsibility of individual owners.

C423 Committee Minutes and Reports

C423(a) Planning Committee held on 18 May 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 May 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C424 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that no applications for memorials had been received.

C425 Correspondence/Items Raised

C425(a) Consultation on Libraries

The meeting received an email dated 29 May 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that the results of the consultation on the County's libraries would be considered at the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 June before going to the Executive on 7 July. It was noted that the report was available on the NYCC website.

C425(b) Barbeck, Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 29 May 2015 from Cllr G Dadd and Ms R Adamson concerning the speed of vehicles travelling on the main road at Barbeck.

Resolved: that the Town Council request the deployment of a speed recorder to monitor the speed of traffic at Barbeck.

C425(c) Plaque on Town Clock Tower

The meeting received emails dated 4 June 2015 from Alpha Signs concerning the supply of a new plaque for the town clock tower.

Resolved: that an order be placed with Alpha Signs to supply a new bronze plaque for the town clock tower.

C425(d) Premises Licence Application – 3 Market Place, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 4 June 2015 from Hambleton District Council concerning an application for a new premises licence at 3 Market Place, Thirsk (formerly Aspire).

Resolved: that the Town Council support the premises licence application for 3 Market Place, Thirsk.

C425(e) Local Plan – Call for Sites

The meeting received an email dated 9 June 2015 from Hambleton District Council advising that work was starting on a new Local Plan which would set out the policies by which applications for new development would be considered and would also identify land suitable for development for housing, employment, etc.

Councillors indicated that they did not wish to submit any formal comments but requested to be kept updated.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C425(f) Footpath at Finkle Street, Thirsk

The Clerk advised that he had received a complaint from Sowerby Parish Council concerning the temporary closure of the footpath at Finkle Street. It was noted that the closure affected a walk which had had to be re-routed via the swimming pool.

C425(g) Blakey Bridge, Sowerby

The Clerk reported that he had just received an email from NYCC advising that Blakey Bridge would be closed from 15 to 19 June 2015.

C425(h) Bluestreak Arts – Creative Village

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from an organisation called Bluestreak Arts concerning the possible use of the Little Green to hold an outdoor arts activities event. It was noted that the event would be at no financial cost to the Town Council and that activities on the day would be free for those taking part. Following discussion it was considered that the Holmes may be a more appropriate venue for the event. Cllr Hesmondhalgh agreed to liaise with Bluestreak Arts.

Resolved: that the Town Council support the arts activities event proposed by Bluestreak Arts.

C426 Extraordinary Town Council Meeting

The Clerk confirmed the arrangement for an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 22 June 2015 at 6.30 pm to approve the annual return.

C427 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 June 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

C428 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had attended the medieval festival at Thirsk Racecourse on Saturday, 13 June to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and that it appeared to have been a professional and well-organised event. Cllr Adamson reported that Mr Lance Allan, the Town Clerk from Trowbridge who was cycling 800 miles to celebrate the Magna Carta anniversary, was due to arrive in Thirsk on the morning of Friday, 26 June and arrangements were being made to welcome Mr Allan and provide refreshments at the Golden Fleece Hotel.

C429 On-Going Items

(d) Tree survey/work

The Clerk reported that a follow-up tree survey was due and that he would seek quotations.

Part II

Resolved: that in accordance with the provision 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 8.22 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 July 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, S Greenslade, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson

Apologies: Cllr Garbutt (Holiday)

C433 Police Report

PCSO Walker reported the monthly crime figures for Thirsk which included a number of nuisance offences as well as offences of criminal damage and thefts from shops. She advised that the drink/drive figures and national crime statistics were available on the police website.

C434 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd anticipated that an announcement would soon be made concerning the relocation of Thirsk Library to the Meadowfields development on Chapel Street. He understood that the move would take place during August with the official opening being in September.

Cllr Dadd reported that the public right of way at the Bridge Garage in Ingramgate would be reinstated once the building works were complete. Cllr Fisher advised that Thirsk Tourist Information had produced a map of an alternative route/walk.

Cllr Dadd reported that North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service were undertaking a formal consultation procedure regarding their service. He noted that Thirsk was unaffected by the proposals.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that Thirsk had been awarded a total of £12,500 from HDC's Making a Difference fund and that the funding would be allocated to a variety of projects in Thirsk.

Cllr Watson reported that the scheme to open the former prison in Northallerton to the public had been a great success with all tours being fully booked.

C435 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C436 Minutes

C436(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 June 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 June 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C436(b) Matters Arising

C425(b) Barbeck, Thirsk

The Clerk reported that following concern expressed by a resident the Town Council had requested that a speed recorder be deployed to monitor speed of traffic at Barbeck, Thirsk.

C412(c) Open Areas & Greens Committee – 30 April 2015

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the residents of Long Street had held a further meeting and appointed a committee and chairman. She reported that favourable comments had been received in respect of the planting on Long Street.

C417 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk reported that the rubbish and furniture which had been dumped in Nicksgate Alley had been removed.

C425(c) Plaque on Town Clock Tower

The Clerk reported that an order had been placed for the supply of a new plaque for the town clock tower.

C425(h) Bluestreak Arts - Creative Village

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that, having looked at various locations, it was felt that the Little Green was the most suitable venue for the arts activities event which the organisation, Bluestreak Arts, were proposing to hold on Saturday, 15 August. Cllr Fisher requested that a supply of advertising leaflets be made available for Thirsk Tourist Information.

C437 Committee Minutes and Reports

C437(a) Planning Committee held on 15 June 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 June 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C437(b) Central Areas Committee

The Clerk advised that the Central Areas Committee needed to arrange a date for a meeting. It was agreed that dates would be looked at following the Town Council meeting.

C438 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for John Kenneth Coates, Thomas Darling, John Hudson, Valerie Lynne Jacobs, Margaret Lucy Parkinson and Howard Spence be approved.

C439 Correspondence/Items Raised

C439(a) Awards for Community Projects/Groups and Individuals

The meeting received a letter dated 5 June 2015 from Cllr D Jeffels, Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council, concerning the introduction of a new Community Awards Scheme which had been set up to recognise individuals, groups and projects in local communities. Town Councillors suggested a number of local organisations and projects which the Clerk advised he would forward to Cllr Jeffels.

C439(b) Local Transport Plan Consultation

The meeting received a letter dated July 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the renewal of the Local Transport Plan. Cllr Adamson suggested that if Town Councillors wished to respond they return the completed pro forma to the Town Council office so that forms could be passed to NYCC.

C439(c) Urban Highway Grass Cutting

The meeting received a letter dated 7 July 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning payment in respect of the urban highway grass cutting which the Town Council had agreed to undertake.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C439(d) Thirsk Old (New) Bridge, A61, Thirsk/Consultation on Planning Application

The meeting received letters dated 8 and 13 July 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of a scheme of maintenance works and a linked planning application in respect of the Thirsk Old Bridge, Ingramgate, Thirsk. The work was

expected to commence on Monday, 21 September and take approximately twelve weeks.

Resolved: that the letters be noted.

C439(e) Report by Mr David Tucker, July 2015

The Clerk advised that a report had been received from Mr David Tucker concerning the 2015 Magna Carta events and activities. Cllr Adamson suggested that Councillors consider the report on an individual basis and that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

C440 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 20 July 2015 be approved and cheques signed;

(b) that the balance sheet for June 2015 be approved;

The Clerk advised that the budget report was unavailable due to printing issues and that a new printer may need to be purchased. Town Councillors also noted the additional workload and inconvenience caused to Parish Councils by Hambleton District Council's decision to no longer supply plans with planning applications. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Mark Harbottle, Head of Planning at HDC, to raise the issue.

C441 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations Joint Annual Meeting on 18 July 2015.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that one of the Long Street residents had indicated that he might be able to provide the plants required for next year.

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that she had attended a recent meeting of Thirsk & District Business Association. She had also attended HDC's business awards ceremony where the World of James Herriot, Well Heeled and the Two Bees Treat Boutique had received awards.

Cllr Watson reported that the Town Hall Committee still required a Town Council representative. Cllr Jackson agreed to carry out this role.

Cllr Watson reported that there had been a delay in finalising the approval of the grant in respect of replacement windows for the Town Hall.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the Armed Forces Day at Stone Cross, Northallerton on 26 June.

Cllr Adamson reported that he and Mr David Tucker had welcomed Mr Lance Allan, the Trowbridge Town Clerk, to Thirsk on the morning of 26 June. Mr Allan was cycling 800 miles between the Magna Carta towns.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had spent an enjoyable morning and presented awards to schoolchildren at the annual swimming gala at Thirsk Swimming Pool on 14 July.

C442 On-Going Items

Nothing noted.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 17 August 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt, S Greenslade, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson

Apologies: Cllr: H Dalgleish-Brown (Holiday)

C443 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C444 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that matters of devolution were being looked at behind the scenes and that a number of difficult issues had to be considered.

Cllr Watson reported that the fencing at Thirsk Railway Station had been repaired.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that a new premises licence for the former Aspire premises had been granted. Approval was subject to a number of conditions including a smoking policy and bin storage facilities. Opening hours were noted to be from 8.30 am to 12.30 am.

C445 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

A resident of Topcliffe, Mr David Cooper, attended the meeting. Having recently moved to the area, he stated that he was very impressed with Thirsk and wanted to praise those responsible for making it such a nice place to live. Following on from the comments made in respect of the Aspire building he advised that had noticed the very poor state of the premises and explained that he had been involved in pressing the government to put pressure on landlords to look after their empty properties. He felt that Aspire was a particularly bad case. Cllr Adamson thanked Mr Cooper for attending and for his comments.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C446 Minutes

C446(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 July 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment in Minute No C425(h) where "The Little Green" should be substituted for "St James Green".

C446(b) Matters Arising

C437(b) Central Areas Committee

The Clerk advised that a date for a meeting of the Central Areas Committee would be arranged in the near future.

C439(a) Awards for Community Projects/Groups and Individuals

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had written to the organisations nominated by the Town Council for the new Community Awards Scheme and to Cllr Jeffels, Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council.

C447 Committee Minutes and Reports

C447(a) Planning Committee held on 20 July 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 July 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C447(b) & (c) Personnel Committee – 14 July 2015 & 11 August 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Personnel Committees held on 14 July 2015 and 11 August 2015. The Clerk advised that both sets of minutes needed ratification by the Town Council. Cllr Duffey gave a resume of matters. Following the meeting on 14 July he had undertaken an appraisal/review of staffing and office procedures with the Clerk and had prepared a report covering key areas of work, areas of concern and recommendations. He reported that the Personnel Committee on 11 August had unanimously agreed that the posts of Assistant Clerk and Administrative Assistant/Committee Clerk be amalgamated into a 28 hour per week position. Consideration had also been given to recruiting volunteers for the office as well as the Hambleton Apprentice Scheme, although it was felt that the apprentice scheme should not be looked at until the new office structure was in place and working. Income generation had also been considered and it was felt that there were a number of avenues which could be examined under the new structure.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 14 July and 11 August 2015 be received and ratified;

C447(d) Public Conveniences Committee – 24 July 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 24 July 2015. Cllr Roberts noted that favourable comments had been received regarding the condition of the ladies' toilets.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C448 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for George Victor Elliott, Victor James Sly Brown, Johanna Burnham and Kenneth Holliday be approved.

C449 Correspondence/Items Raised

C449(a) Fire and Rescue Service

The meeting received a letter dated 9 July 2015 from North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority. Although it had been previously noted that Thirsk was not directly affected by proposals, it was pointed out that Thirsk could be affected indirectly if cover were reduced in other towns.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C449(b) Magna Carta Activities for Thirsk

Mr David Tucker attended the meeting pursuant to a report which he had submitted in July. He advised that he had received a facsimile of a document which had been signed at the Mansion House Reception in May. Cllr Bell stated that he would arrange to have the document framed. It was noted that the Magna Carta facsimile, which was on display at St Mary's Church during the summer, would be displayed in the new library at Meadowfields during the winter months for the benefit of local people. Mr Tucker advised that he hoped to pursue the suggestion that had been made at the February meeting of Thirsk & District Business Association of a theme/image for Thirsk for the coming year. Cllr Adamson noted that one of the "Thirsk" entrance signs had been missing for several months and felt that it may be worthwhile to replace all the "Welcome to Thirsk" signs at the same time. He noted that approval from North Yorkshire County Council Highways would need to be obtained.

Resolved:

a) that Mr D. Tucker pursues examination of a theme/image for Thirsk for the coming year.

b) that the Town Council investigates the provision of new “Welcome to Thirsk” signs.

C449(c) Proposed Upgrade to Telecommunications Radio Base Station Installation on Land at Rear of Avenue Grange Farm, Newsham Road, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 7 August 2015 from Clarke Telecom concerning a proposed upgrade to the telecommunications radio base station installation at Newsham Road, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C450 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 August 2015 be approved and cheques signed;

C451 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended a meeting concerning the 2015 Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade.

C452 On-Going Items

(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had discussed the appointment of a Trustee for the Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust with Cllr Greenslade. The Clerk stated that he would bring the rules, regulations and requirements in respect of the trust to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 21 September 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs: J Bell (Recuperation), A Garbutt (Work commitments), S Greenslade (Work commitments)

C453 Police Report

PCSO Walker reported the monthly crime figures which included a breakdown of local incidents. She also advised of a recent county-wide operation aimed at tackling cross-border criminality.

C454 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised of his position concerning the announcement by South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust of the temporary ward closure at the Lambert Hospital. He considered that the handling of the matter by the Trust was unacceptable and advised of his intention to set up an informal working group with representatives from Town and Parish Councils which could monitor events, share information and take appropriate action. Cllr Adamson read out a letter written by Professor Tricia Hart, Chief Executive of the Trust, which indicated that some health services would continue to be provided by the hospital and that the decision to temporarily close the ward had been taken because of insufficient staffing levels. The letter indicated that the Trust would review the position in January, 2016 when it was hoped that the ward could be re-opened.

Cllr Dadd reported that Thirsk Library had moved into new premises at Meadowfields in Chapel Street and that favourable comments had been received.

Cllr Dadd advised that the maintenance works on Sutton Bank had been completed ahead of schedule.

Cllr Dadd reported that work was due to commence on the Finkle Street bridge and that traffic lights would be utilised which would avoid the need for any road closure.

Cllr Dadd advised that a further spending review was due to take place in November when it was expected that further local government cuts would be announced.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that there had been a delay in fitting new flaps to litter bins in the Market Place but these would be fitted within the next two weeks.

Cllr Watson reported that work was due to commence on a section of the Market Place at the rear of Thirsk Tourist Information. She advised that the area was to be pedestrianised and bollards would be installed.

Cllr Watson reported that she had sent further emails concerning a number of derelict properties in Long Street as well as the former Aspire premises, all of which were in a very poor condition. She advised that she would continue in her attempts to progress these matters.

C455 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

A resident attended the meeting and asked what the Town Council's plans were in connection with the temporary ward closure at the Lambert Hospital. Cllr Adamson advised that Cllr Dadd had indicated an intention to set up an informal working group

with representatives from Town and Parish Councils in order to monitor developments and apply pressure upon South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that the ward is reopened as quickly as possible.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C456 Minutes

C456(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 August 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 August 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C456(b) Matters Arising

C445 Open Forum

The Clerk advised that Mr D Cooper had sent further emails concerning empty properties which were not kept in good condition and about the possibility of a private bill aimed at ensuring that landlords maintained their empty properties.

C457 Committee Minutes and Reports

C457(a) Planning Committee held on 17 August 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 August 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C457(b) Central Areas Committee

The Clerk advised that a date for a meeting of the Central Areas Committee needed to be arranged.

C458 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for George Alfred Darnborough and Victor Hill be approved.

C459 Correspondence/Items Raised

C459(a) Lambert Hospital

Previously discussed in Minute Nos 454 and 455.

C459(b) Proposed Amendment of Existing Waiting Restrictions – B1448 Norby Front Street

The meeting received a letter dated 24 August 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a proposal to amend the existing “No Waiting at Any Time” restrictions on Norby Front Street.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C459(c) Temporary Road Closure at Thirsk and Sowerby

The meeting received a letter dated 9 September 2015 from Hambleton District Council concerning temporary road closures in connection with the Remembrance Sunday Parade and the Remembrance Day Two Minutes Silence on 8 November and 11 November 2015 respectively.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C459(d) Footpath between Fairfield and Darrowby Close

The Clerk advised that Cllr Dadd had received complaints about the state of a footpath between Fairfield and Darrowby Close which was overgrown with vegetation and shrubbery. North Yorkshire County Council owned the land at the side of the footpath and had previously maintained it but had indicated this would no longer be the case due to cutbacks in funding. Cllr Dadd had advised that there was some limited funding available for Thirsk which required the submission of a formal

application. Discussion took place and the view was expressed that if the Town Council became involved there would be an expectation that it would be responsible for maintenance in future when its budgets were also constrained.

It was also noted that a lot of similar pathways were not being cut and cleared.

Resolved: that the Town Council takes no action with regard to the footpath between Fairfield and Darrowby Close.

(e) Thirsk Entrance Signs

The Clerk reported that Mr R Gell, of Alpha Signs, had prepared a draft "Welcome to Thirsk" sign, copies of which were distributed. Concern was expressed as to the cost of any new signage and views were expressed that any new sign should be simple with wording kept to the minimum and that Mr Gell's design may be more suited to a location within the town rather than as a town entrance sign.

Resolved:

a) that the Town Council investigates the cost of provision of traditional "Thirsk" signs.

b) that Mr Gell be requested to provide an estimate for his "Thirsk" sign;

C460 Proposal to Vary Standing Order No 17 to Comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015

Cllr Adamson advised that the proposal to vary Standing Order No 17 was in accordance with wording suggested by the National Association of Local Councils.

Resolved:

a) that Standing Order no 17 be varied to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015

b) that the resolution to vary standing order no 17 stand adjourned until the next Town Council Meeting.

C461 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 September 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

C462 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson reported on the large posters which had been sited in a number of locations around Thirsk which advertised an event in Northallerton. Cllr Duffey advised that the action amounted to flyposting, which was a criminal offence, and that the matter should be reported to the police.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that a meeting of Long Street residents had been arranged for Wednesday, 30 September, 2015 and that the plants for winter and summer 2016 were to be sponsored by a local wholesaler.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that Bluestreak Arts had produced a report on the Creative Village event that took place on 15 August on the Little Green and that Bluestreak had expressed interest in holding a similar event in 2016. Cllr Hesmondhalgh stated that she was in favour of the proposal but had indicated that the Town Council was unable to contribute financially.

Cllr Roberts reported that an article in the September edition of the White Rose Update indicated that the Prime Minister had stated that he would examine the case for exempting Town and Parish Councils from business rates on public conveniences and that the National Association of Local Councils had requested that Town and Parish Councils write to their local MP and to the Prime Minister, setting out details of costs and the burden which was placed on Town and Parish Councils.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to the MP and to the Prime Minister in respect of the costs and burden of business rates on public toilets.

Cllr Adamson reported that the summer activities programme at The Clock had been very well subscribed and enjoyed by all concerned. He advised that further press releases were expected to be made by The Clock in the near future.

C463 On-Going Items

(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust - Appointment of Trustee

The Clerk advised that he would bring the rules and regulations in respect of the Trust to a future meeting.

(c) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Item to be removed from agenda.

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 8.27 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 19 October 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt, S Greenslade, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts

Apologies: Cllr: J Watson (Holiday)

C465 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C466 Police Report

No police representative was present.

The Clerk circulated the breakdown of crime figures for Thirsk for the period 21 September to 19 October 2015 together with details of national figures for the twelve month period ending June 2015 which confirmed that the County was the safest area in England.

C467 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported on the ongoing proposals for devolution with various formats and options being put forward.

Cllr Dadd advised that NYCC was to continue to provide services to those residents most vulnerable in society.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd commented on the application for the development of 20 properties in Carlton Miniott which was contrary to the Local Plan and Interim Policy for small development. He noted that a public meeting had been held at Carlton Miniott in this matter.

The Clerk reported that an email had been received by Cllr Watson from Helen Conti Planning Enforcement Officer regarding the ongoing matter of the derelict properties on Long Street.

C468 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mrs M Penson advised of several large boulders in the river adjacent to the bank at Mill Gardens which she considered were a hazard particularly in view of the bank eroding. Cllr Fisher agreed that the boulders could be dangerous in their current position. The Environment Agency had agreed to remove the boulders when the silt was being taken from under the bridge but there had been a breakdown in communication with their contractors and the work had not been carried out.

The Clerk advised that a quotation for the removal of the boulders had been obtained in the sum of £400 which included a mini digger and skip.

Mrs Penson also noted the number of A boards present in the Market Place and on surrounding footpaths. The Clerk advised that Cllr Watson had also raised this issue.

Resolved:

a) that the quotation to remove the boulders from the river at Mill Gardens be accepted and that any necessary permission be sought from the Environment Agency for the removal to proceed.

b) that the Town Council write to Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire county Council to ascertain the rules, regulations and policies in place in respect of A boards.

c) that standing orders be reinstated.

C469 Minutes

C469(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 September 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C469(b) Matters Arising

Min No C454 HDC

The Clerk advised that he understood that the bollards sited on the pavement at the rear of Thirsk Tourist Information were to be re-positioned.

C470 Committee Minutes and Reports

C470(a) Planning Committee held on 21 September 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 September 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C470(b) Long Street Community Gardeners Meeting held on 30 September 2015

The meeting received the Notes of the Long Street Community Gardeners Meeting held on 30 September 2015.

Resolved: that the Notes be received and noted.

C470(c) Open Areas and Greens Committee – 1 October 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 1 October 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C471 Burial Board

The Clerk advised that N Collinson of Dales had expressed concern that a memorial that did not comply with the standard size of 12” by 15” by 6” had been allowed in the Garden of Rest. Mr Collinson advised that these parameters had been set by the Burial Board in the 1980s. The Clerk noted that unfortunately these parameters had not been recorded in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations and Cllr Adamson was also not aware of this ruling. The Clerk suggested that the Rules and Regulations needed reviewing and updating particularly in respect of memorials.

Resolved:

a) that the Cemetery Rules and Regulations be reviewed and updated by the Burial Board.

b) that the application for memorial for Ethel Mary Norfolk be approved.

C472 Correspondence/Items Raised

C472(a) Thirsk Library

The meeting received the Minutes of the Thirsk Library Initial Stakeholders Meeting held on 9 September 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be noted.

C472(b) Thirsk 8 Park

The meeting received a letter dated 22 September 2015 from the Chairman of Thirsk 8 Park Limited requesting a donation to assist with its running costs.

Resolved: that a donation of £100 be made to Thirsk 8 Park under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

C472(c) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting

The meeting received a letter dated 24 September 2015 from Hambleton District Council inviting two representatives to the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting due to be held on Thursday, 19 November 2015.

Resolved: that any Member interested advise the Clerk.

C472(d) Hambleton South Neighbourhood Watch Association

The meeting received a letter dated 9 October 2015 from the Hambleton South Neighbourhood Watch Association outlining its objectives and requesting that the letter be passed to Neighbourhood Watch Associations in the Thirsk area.

Resolved: that the letter be passed on to any known Neighbourhood Watch Associations in Thirsk.

C472(e) Magna Carta Barons Association

The meeting received an email dated 13 October 2015 from Mr P Sinclair giving an update from the Magna Carta Barons Association.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C472(f) Market Place Footpaths/Lights

The Clerk reported on complaints received concerning the condition of the footpaths in the Market Place. A resident had complained that it was virtually impossible to push a wheelchair along the section of footpath from Heron Foods to Millgate and considered that the damage to the footpath was being caused by delivery wagons. Various complaints had also been received with regard to the number of street lights that were out of action in the Market Place with particular reference to the double column opposite Arabica which had been out for a considerable period of time.

Resolved:

a) that a letter be sent to North Yorkshire County Council regarding the condition of the footpaths in the Market Place with particular reference to the footpath from Heron Foods to Millgate.

b) that letters be sent to North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council regarding the lights not working in the Market Place.

C473 Proposal to Vary Standing Order No 17 to Comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015

Cllr Adamson advised that four replacement pages would be circulated to Councillors.

Resolved: that Standing Order No 17 be varied to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015

C474 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 October 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

C475 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she and Julie Harron had cleared the flower beds and boxes on Long Street in readiness for winter planting with assistance from local residents.

Cllr Adamson advised that housing proposals for Sowerby Gateway had been put forward by Linden Homes and Taylor Wimpey.

C476 On-Going Items

Resolved: that the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta be removed from on-going items.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 November 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt, S Greenslade, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson
Apologies: County Cllr G Dadd (Holiday)

C477 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C478 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C479 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended the County Council's Scrutiny of Health Meeting on Friday, 6 November and the Committee had been very critical of the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Concern had been expressed at the lack of progress in finding extra staff necessary to reopen the hospital and as to the whereabouts of various items of equipment which had been purchased by the Lambert Hospital's League of Friends. Cllr Watson advised that she had written to Mr Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton, and that Cllr Adamson had set up a Facebook page for the Lambert Hospital Action Group. She stated that the Action Group would continue to put pressure on the Hospital Trust to reopen the hospital as quickly as possible.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that a premises licensing application for the former Aspire premises had been withdrawn due to a number of issues. She advised that she would continue to pursue the matter with Hambleton District Council's Planning Enforcement Officer along with the issue of the derelict properties on Long Street.

C480 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C481 Minutes

C481(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 October 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 October 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C481(b) Matters Arising

C468 Open Forum

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Environment Agency concerning the removal of several large boulders from the River Cod Beck at Mill Gardens and that permission had just been received for the work to go ahead subject to adherence to several rules regarding crayfish.

C473 Proposal to Vary Standing Order No 17 to Comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015

Following the resolution to vary Standing Order No 17 at the last Town Council meeting, Town Councillors received four replacement pages.

C482 Committee Minutes and Reports

C482(a) Planning Committee held on 19 October 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 October 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C483 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Richard Aiden Brennan, Robert William Easby and Jim & Jean Rowe be approved.

C484 Correspondence/Items Raised

C484(a) Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2015

The meeting received a letter dated 23 September 2015 from PKF Littlejohn LLP following the completion of their review of the Town Council's Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015 advising of the timetable for 2015/16 and changes to the regulations.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C484(b) Speeding Concern – Main Road, Barbeck

The meeting received a letter dated 13 October 2015 from the Community Safety Manager at Hambleton District Council concerning a speeding concern at Barbeck which had been submitted by the Town Council. The letter indicated that a risk assessment of the location would be conducted and all speed concern reports in future would be dealt with by the North Yorkshire Police Traffic Bureau.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C484(c) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting

The meeting received a letter dated 28 October 2015 from Hambleton District Council inviting two Town Council representatives to the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting due to be held on Thursday, 19 November 2015.

Resolved: that any Member interested in attending advise the Clerk.

C484(d) Sponsorship of Highway Assets

The meeting received an email dated 30 October 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning sponsorship of highway assets.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C484(e) Celebration of Shakespeare

The meeting received an email dated 5 November 2015 from Thirsk Library concerning a meeting to look at ideas to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C484(f) Mini Recycling Centres

The meeting received a letter dated 4 November 2015 from Hambleton District Council concerning the removal of its mini recycling bank service as a result of the new kerbside recycling service being introduced in March 2016.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C484(g) Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2016/2017

The meeting received a letter dated 4 November 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of changes to urban highway grass cutting in 2016/2017.

Councillors noted that the Town Council had maintained the appropriate level of grass cutting during the current financial year.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C485 Parish Precept 2016/2017

The Clerk reported that he had advised Mr Ian Godfrey, Senior Finance Officer at Hambleton District Council, that the precept would be submitted in early January.

Resolved: that an Extraordinary Town Council meeting be held on Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at 6.30 pm.

C486 Finance

The Clerk advised that a cheque to Thirsk 8 Park needed to be added to the list of accounts for payment following the resolution at the last Town Council meeting to make a donation of £100 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. He stated that the balance sheet and budget report would be available for Committee Budget Meetings.

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 November 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

C487 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended Yorkshire Local Councils Associations' finance meeting and that increases in subscriptions to YLCA and to the National Association of Local Councils had been agreed.

Cllr Roberts reported that an old caravan had been parked on the grass verge on Stockton Road for some time and requested that this be reported to NYCC.

Cllr Duffey reported that he and the Assistant Clerk had visited a number of businesses around the Market Place in an attempt to increase advertising revenue at Millgate Public Conveniences. He stated that several shopkeepers had enquired about the use of A boards and he felt it would be helpful for Hambleton District Council to provide businesses with some guidance on the matter. The Clerk advised that letters had been sent to both HDC and NYCC requesting clarification of the rules and regulations but a response was still awaited.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had attended a dinner dance on Saturday, 14 November and that £4,000 had been raised for Thirsk's Christmas lights.

Cllr Fisher reported that Thirsk Tourist Information had won the Visitor Information Award at the Welcome to Yorkshire White Rose Awards ceremony in Leeds. Cllr Roberts requested that the Town Council write to the TTI congratulating the volunteers on their success.

Cllr Watson enquired if progress had been made with regard to the provision of new town entrance signs. The Clerk advised that the matter was still being pursued.

Cllr Watson reported that she had emailed NYCC regarding the poor condition of the road surface adjacent to Thirsk Ambulance Station.

Cllr Watson advised that difficulties had arisen in respect of the grant application for replacement windows at the Town Hall. She stated that a further application had been submitted but in order to avoid any further delays and so that replacement doors and windows could be fitted on the same occasion she requested that the cost of the replacement doors be funded jointly by Sowerby Parish Council and Thirsk Town Council in the event of any monetary shortfall.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the Ritz Cinema on Sunday, 1 November to view a short film produced by Rural Arts and a group of young people from Thirsk School following a project which involved exploring Thirsk's military history.

Cllr Adamson reported that the Annual General Meeting of The Clock would be held on Monday, 23 November at 6.30 pm.

Cllr Adamson noted that feral pigeon numbers around the Market Place appeared to have increased. The Clerk suggested that the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Central Areas Committee.

The Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand for the Christmas tree to be put up in the Market Place on the morning of Sunday, 22 November with the Christmas lights due to be switched on on Friday, 27 November at 6.30 pm.

C488 On-Going Items

a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

The Clerk indicated that he would bring details of the relevant regulations to a future Town Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 21 December 2015 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, S Greenslade, D Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson

Apologies: Cllrs: J Fisher (Alternative engagement), A Garbutt (Work commitments), C Hesmondhalgh (Illness)

In attendance: County Cllr: G Dadd

C489 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C490 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C491 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that the local government settlement figures had just been published and that the government grant to NYCC was being reduced by £21 million, which was £10 million more than had been anticipated. He warned that changes to services were inevitable, although he stressed that NYCC's priority was to support care for the elderly and vulnerable. He expected that the council tax for 2016/2017 may increase by up to 4%.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that a door at the former Aspire premises had recently been found to be damaged and insecure. The matter had been reported to Camerons Brewery and to the police. Cllr Watson advised that she was continuing to pursue the matter with the enforcement team at HDC as well as looking at possible action which could be taken in respect of two derelict properties on Long Street.

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended a further meeting concerning the temporary ward closure at the Lambert Hospital. She understood that a number of staff had been recruited by South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust but not in sufficient numbers to enable the ward to be reopened.

Cllr Dadd reported that HDC were pushing ahead with the introduction of the new kerbside recycling service due to commence in March and that households would be receiving information leaflets in the New Year.

C492 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C493 Minutes

C493(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 November 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C493(b) Matters Arising

C485 Parish Precept 2016/2017

The Clerk advised that the Extraordinary Town Council meeting to set the precept would be held in the upstairs room at the Town Hall on Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at 6.30 pm.

C487 Reports from Members/Representatives

With regard to the provision of new town entrance signs, the Clerk advised that he had received an email from North Yorkshire County Council giving guidance as to appropriate wording and that this would be put on the next agenda.

Following concerns about the apparent increase in numbers of feral pigeons around the Market Place, the Clerk advised that he had received some guidance from a local expert who had agreed to prepare some costings prior to the Extraordinary Town Council meeting to be held in January. A suggestion was made that signage could be erected requesting residents and visitors not to feed the pigeons and that clarification be sought from Hambleton District Council as to their position with regard to appropriate byelaws.

C494 Committee Minutes and Reports

C494(a) Planning Committee held on 16 November 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 November 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C495 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that a review of Burial Board fees had taken place at a meeting held on 15 December 2015 and it had been agreed that fees be increased by 5% as from 1st April 2016. He advised that fees for Thirsk Cemetery were lower than many cemeteries in the area, even taking into account the proposed increase. There were no memorial applications to be considered.

C496 Correspondence/Items Raised

C496(a) Great North Air Ambulance

The meeting received a letter dated 16 November 2015 from the Great North Air Ambulance requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to support its operation.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C496(b) Remembrance Sunday Parade & Wreaths 2015

The meeting received a letter dated 20 November 2015 from the Royal British Legion thanking the Town Council for its contribution towards the costs associated with the Remembrance Sunday events.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C496(c) Thirsk Christmas Lights

The meeting received a letter dated 3 December 2015 from Thirsk and District Business Association (Ladies Section) advising of the costs involved in purchasing new LED bulbs and requesting consideration of an increase in the amount donated by the Town Council.

Resolved: that the matter be considered at the Extraordinary Town Council meeting to be held on 12 January 2016.

C496(d) Business Rates on Public Toilets

The meeting received a letter dated 7 December 2015 from the Department for Communities and Local Government in response to a letter sent by the Town Council concerning the charging of business rates on public conveniences.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C496(e) Millgate Picnic Area

The meeting received a letter dated 9 December 2015 from the Rotary Club of Thirsk confirming its plans to refurbish Millgate Picnic Area in 2016.

Resolved: that a letter of thanks be sent to the Rotary Club following their offer to refurbish the picnic area.

C496(f) Former Library Building

The meeting received an email dated 2 December 2015 from Thirsk Infant School Trustees giving an update in respect of the former library building in Finkle Street.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C496(g) Tour de Yorkshire Roadshows

The meeting received an email dated 9 December 2015 from Welcome to Yorkshire concerning a community roadshow which was scheduled to take place in the New Year following the recent announcement that the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race would pass through Thirsk Market Place. Town Councillors noted that Hambleton District Council was planning to hold a similar event.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C496(h) Magna Carta Barons Association

The meeting received an email dated 12 December 2015 from the Trustees of the Magna Carta Barons Association giving an update on the Magna Carta commemorative events.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C497 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 December 2015 be approved and cheques signed.

C498 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts advised of increases in the cost of next year's subscriptions to the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and the National Association of Local Councils.

Cllr Watson reported that the result of the grant application for replacement windows at the Town Hall was not expected to be known until 21 January 2016. It was noted that if the application was unsuccessful, the matter could impact upon the Town Council's precept for 2016/2017. It was agreed that the precept figures would be considered and agreed at the Extraordinary Town Council meeting already planned for 12 January 2016 and that the Clerk would contact Hambleton District Council to request that he be permitted to submit the final precept figure as soon as the position regarding the Town Hall was known.

Cllr Watson reported that the Town Hall Committee had appointed a new caretaker who was due to commence his duties on 4 January 2016.

C499 On-Going Items

No matters to report.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 January 2016 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, A Garbutt, C Hesmondhalgh, F Roberts, J Watson

Apologies: Cllrs: S Greenslade (Illness), D Jackson (Holiday)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C500 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C501 Police Report

PCSO Walker reported the monthly crime figures for Thirsk. These included incidents of antisocial behaviour, criminal damage, email scams and four burglaries. Cllr Watson expressed concern about the increasing number of HGVs passing through the Market Place. PCSO Walker advised that she would pass the concerns on to the Traffic Unit.

C502 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported on the additional reduction in government funding which would mean further expenditure reductions being required.

Cllr Dadd circulated copies of a proposal which had been put forward following concerns being expressed to him as a result of some near misses on the narrow part of Cemetery Lane near St Mary's Church. The proposal was to make the road between the cemetery and Newsham Road one-way with no access from Cemetery Road to Newsham Road. Cllr Dadd wished to ascertain the views of the Town Council before formally pursuing the matter. Cllr Roberts suggested that the one-way system would be best served the other way along Cemetery Road and also Picks Lane. It was noted that vehicles entering Picks Lane from Kirkgate often did so at speed and that it might therefore be better if the traffic travelled in the opposite direction. Cllr Bell suggested that appropriate white lining in the middle of the road near the church may help with regard to vehicles keeping to the correct side of the roadway. Mention was also made regarding traffic management on Cemetery Road particularly in respect of the parking of vehicles.

Members agreed with the proposals and that this would be the best way forward.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson gave an update in respect of HDC's new kerbside recycling service due to commence on 29 February 2016.

Cllr Watson advised that a meeting of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group was due to be held on 28 January in respect of the temporary ward closure at the Lambert Hospital. She hoped to have further information following the meeting.

C503 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mrs M Penson raised a number of issues.

(a) Regarding the new kerbside recycling service, Mrs Penson indicated that residents of Riverside Mews used the recycling facilities at Millgate car park as they

had never been supplied with blue bags or boxes. She advised that she would contact HDC and request that a new combination recycling bin be installed at the car park following the removal of the current facilities.

(b) Mrs Penson referred to the "Clean for The Queen" litter campaign ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and asked for clarification in respect of enforcement of litter offences. Members agreed to seek clarification in the matter.

(c) Mrs Penson as Flood Warden gave a verbal report following a meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency on 2 January 2016. She had been disappointed at the slow reaction of the Environment Agency to alert people about possible flooding and suggested that a flood strategy be set up to deal with an event of serious flooding. She was also concerned about erosion of the river bank at Mill Gardens. Mrs Penson was advised that an emergency plan was already in existence. It was agreed that the bank erosion be referred to the Central Areas Committee

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C504 Minutes

C504(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 December 2015

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C504(b) Matters Arising

C493(b) Reports from Members/Representatives

Following a query from Cllr Roberts, the Clerk advised that he would seek clarification with regard to byelaws in respect of feeding the feral pigeons in the Market Place.

C505 Committee Minutes and Reports

C505(a) Planning Committee held on 21 December 2015

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 December 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C506 Burial Board

There were no applications for memorials to be considered.

C507 Correspondence/Items Raised

C507(a) Thirsk Entrance Signs

The meeting received an email dated 18 December 2015 from North Yorkshire County Council which included guidance as to the wording to be used on town entrance signs. Discussion took place and the general feeling was that the wording should be kept simple.

Resolved: that the Town Council obtain a new town entrance sign with the wording "Welcome to Thirsk" to replace the missing sign on York Road.

C507(b) The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons – 21 April 2016

The meeting received an email dated 23 December 2015 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the lighting of beacons around the country to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C507(c) Flooding Update

The meeting received an email dated 29 December 2015 from Mr Kevin Hollinrake MP giving an update on the flooding situation and the support that was available for areas affected by the recent floods.

Resolved: that an email be sent to Mr Hollinrake requesting that he visit the Riverside Mews area of Thirsk.

C507(d) Friends of Moorsbus

The meeting received a letter dated 29 December 2015 from the Friends of Moorsbus requesting that the Town Council makes a donation to support its operations during the 2016 summer season.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £100 to Friends of Moorsbus under Section 136 of the Local Government Act 1972.

C507(e) Recycling Centre Removal

The meeting received a letter dated 4 January 2016 from Hambleton District Council concerning the removal of its recycling bank service at the Tesco and Millgate car park sites in Thirsk.

Resolved: that HDC be requested to provide a mini recycling bin at Millgate car park following the removal of the current recycling facility.

C507(f) Hambleton Local Plan – Public Consultation, 11 January to 19 February 2016

The meeting received a letter dated 7 January 2016 from Hambleton District Council enclosing a copy of the Hambleton Local Plan Issues and Options document and giving details of a number of public consultation drop in sessions to be held across the District. Cllr Watson advised that she would obtain further copies of the consultation document for Town Councillors to consider prior to preparing a formal response.

Resolved: that a meeting be arranged to consider and prepare a formal response to the Hambleton Local Plan Public Consultation document.

C507(g) Thirsk Christmas Lights 2015

The meeting received a newsletter from Thirsk & District Business Association Ladies Section concerning the purchase of new LED bulbs following a request that the Town Council considers increasing the amount of its annual donation. Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that she had contacted Mrs J Miller who had agreed to forward a copy of the accounts to the Town Council for further consideration.

Resolved: that the Town Council reviews the amount of the annual donation to Thirsk Christmas Lights following examination of the accounts.

C508 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 January 2016 be approved and cheques signed.

C509 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that the Thirsk and Sowerby Relief in Need charity fund had been wound up by its trustees and passed over to the Rotary Club of Thirsk.

Cllr Watson reported that a decision in respect of the grant application for replacement windows at the Town Hall was expected to be known by Friday, 22 January 2016.

Cllr Watson reported that she and Cllr Roberts had attended a meeting organised by Hambleton District Council concerning the Tour de Yorkshire which is to pass through Thirsk on Sunday, 1 May 2016. She advised that Welcome to Yorkshire were planning to hold a meeting in February when further details would be available.

Cllr Fisher advised that Thirsk Tourist Information were preparing an information leaflet on the Tour de Yorkshire.

C510 On-Going Items

No matters to report.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 15 February 2016 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, D Duffey, J Fisher, S Greenslade, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson

Apologies: Cllr: H Dalgleish-Brown (Illness), District/County Cllr G Dadd (Personal)

C511 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C512 Police Report

PCSO Laws handed out the monthly crime figures but was unable to remain at the meeting. She requested that any questions or concerns be forwarded to her via the Clerk.

C513 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Watson reported that a letter had been received concerning a number of potholes on St James Green. The Clerk advised that the matter would be considered by the Open Areas and Greens Committee.

Cllr Watson advised that the surface of the footpath from the iron bridge to St James Green was in a poor state of repair. She understood this to be on NYCC's priority list.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that members of HDC's cabinet had recommended an increase in council tax of £5 for band D properties for the next financial year.

Cllr Watson reported that some guidance had been received from NYCC and HDC concerning the use of A boards in and around the Market Place and that the intention was to formulate a joint policy. The Clerk advised that he would prepare a full report on the matter.

Cllr Watson reported that she had contacted HDC's Senior Street Scene Officer concerning enforcement of litter offences and the response had been that the civil enforcement officers engaged by HDC to enforce parking offences had no powers to undertake enforcement of environmental offences such as littering.

Cllr Watson advised that a meeting of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group had been held on 28 January 2016 but there had been no indication as to when the Lambert Hospital would be re-opened.

C514 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C515 Minutes

C515(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 January 2016

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C515(b) Matters Arising

C502 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

The Clerk advised that he had sent an email to Cllr Dadd summarising the comments and suggestions made at January's Town Council meeting in respect of a

proposal which had been put forward to improve road safety on the narrow part of Cemetery Lane near St Mary's Church.

C507(c) Flooding Update

The Clerk advised that Mr Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton, was to be emailed to request that he visit the Riverside Mews area to meet with Mrs M.Penson in relation to flooding issues.

C516 Committee Minutes and Reports

C516(a) Planning Committee held on 11 January 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 11 January 2016.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C516(b) Planning Committee held on 18 January 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 January 2016.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C517 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Ronald Hesmondhalgh, Mary Murray, Christopher Alfred "Kit" Penty, Margaret Patricia Penty and Rose Roberts be approved.

C518 Correspondence/Items Raised

C518(a) Hambleton Local Plan – Public Consultation

The meeting went through the new Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation document prepared by Hambleton District Council. Town Councillors responded to each of the questions and made various comments and suggestions including the need for more single storey accommodation, improved transport links/infrastructure and amenity space.

Resolved: that the Clerk provides the Town Council's response to HDC's Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation by completing the on-line questionnaire.

C518(b) Fracking Investigation

The meeting received a letter dated 1 February 2016 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning responses to a planning application in respect of fracking at Kirby Misperton.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C518(c) Parish Council Consultations on Planning Applications and the Community Infrastructure Levy

The meeting received a letter from Hambleton District Council advising of a training session to be held on 24 February 2016 for Parish Councils concerning a proposed move to a more electronic format with regard to consultations for planning applications and in respect of the implementation of payments to Parish Councils under the Community Infrastructure Levy. A number of Town Councillors expressed interest in attending the event.

Resolved: that the number of places available for Town Councillors at the training session on 24 February 2016 be confirmed with HDC.

C518(d) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting – 31 March 2016

The meeting received a letter dated 4 February 2016 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on Thursday, 31 March 2016.

Resolved: that any Member interested in attending contact Cllr Watson.

C518(e) Tour de Yorkshire

Cllr Watson advised that she had contacted a number of local organisations including Thirsk & District Business Association and Rural Arts concerning the Tour de Yorkshire and that a meeting had been arranged for Wednesday, 17 February 2016 to consider and co-ordinate planning for the event. Cllr Watson noted that Welcome to Yorkshire were planning to host a business and community roadshow on Monday, 22 February 2016 at the Golden Fleece Hotel when it was expected that further information would be available.

C518(f) Thirsk Christmas Lights

The Clerk circulated copies of the accounts which had been received from Thirsk and District Business Association Ladies Section following a request that the Town Council considers increasing its annual donation. Town Councillors examined the accounts and noted that electricity costs over the coming years were expected to decrease following the purchase of new LED bulbs.

It was noted that the Town Council also paid for the Christmas tree and was responsible for the tree lights and surrounding festoon lights.

Resolved: that there be no change to the Town Council's annual donation to Thirsk Christmas Lights.

C518(g) Thirsk Entrance Sign

The Clerk reported that a number of quotations had been received for a new town entrance sign. The designs and costings were examined and it was agreed to purchase a new sign of the same design as the existing town entrance signs. Cllr Watson requested that a quotation also be obtained for a separate sign with the wording, "Magna Carta Town".

Resolved: that an order be placed for a new town entrance sign to replace the missing sign on York Road.

C519 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that a vacancy had arisen for a Town Councillor following the resignation of Cllr Anthony Garbutt. He advised that the vacancy would be advertised on the Town Council website, on the notice board and at Thirsk Tourist Information.

C520 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 February 2016 be approved and cheques signed.

C521 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had emailed the Long Street Residents Group to congratulate them on the success of the winter planting in the wooden boxes and planters.

Cllr Watson reported that the grant application for new windows at the Town Hall had been successful and that preparations were in hand for the work to commence in the near future.

Following a query in respect of the insurance for Carrs Field, the Clerk advised that he was still awaiting the invoice in respect of the insurance renewal. Cllr Roberts noted the ongoing difficulty in appointing a new trustee for the Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust.

Cllr Adamson noted the lack of progress in respect of the re-opening of the Lambert Hospital. He requested that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, to the Clinical Commissioning Group and to Cllr J Clark, Chairman of NYCC's Scrutiny of Health Committee, copied to Mr Kevin Hollinrake, MP, to express concern at the continued closure and to request an assurance that re-deployed members of staff be given the opportunity to return to work at the Lambert Hospital.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of South Tees NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust expressing concern at the continuing closure and requesting an assurance that re-deployed members of staff will be given the opportunity to return to work at the hospital.

C522 On-Going Items

No matters to report.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 21 March 2016 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D Adamson (Chairman), J Bell, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, J Fisher, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson

Apologies: Cllr: S Greenslade (Alternative Commitment)

In attendance: District/County Cllr: G Dadd

C523 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

C524 Police Report

The meeting received an email from PCSO Walker indicating that she was unable to attend the Town Council meeting. The Clerk read out the monthly crime figures which included incidents of criminal damage, thefts and highway related matters.

C525 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that he had no further information concerning the future of the Lambert Hospital other than the announcement that a public meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 22 March 2016 at Thirsk School and Sixth Form College when members of the public would have the opportunity to ask questions and to hear about the Hospital Trust's efforts to recruit staff.

Cllr Dadd reported that a meeting was due to take place on 22 March 2016 with council leaders in West Yorkshire in an attempt to move forward talks on devolution. Cllr Dadd advised that he had organised a litter pick to take place on the verges adjacent to the A19 York Road with the assistance of young people from The Clock.

(b) HDC

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended the Hambleton Community Awards ceremony on Thursday, 17 March 2016.

Following a query by Cllr Roberts concerning the issue of travellers parking on roadside verges, Cllr Watson advised that Hambleton District Council were looking into the matter and that further clarification was expected to be available in the near future.

C526 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C527 Minutes

C527(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 February 2016

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C527(b) Matters Arising

C507(c) Flooding Update

The Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged for Mr Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton, to visit the Riverside Mews area of Thirsk on Wednesday, 6 April 2016 to meet with Mrs M Penson, Flood Warden, in relation to flooding issues.

C518(c) Parish Council Consultations on Planning Applications and the Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr Roberts advised that she and members of the Town Council's Planning Committee had attended the training session on 24 February 2016 organised by Hambleton District Council. She felt that the session had been interesting and informative particularly with regard to the proposed electronic format for planning consultations.

C519 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk reported that a Notice of Vacancy needed to be displayed within the parish to give residents the opportunity of requesting an election before the Town Councillor vacancy could be advertised. Once the requisite period of time had elapsed, the vacancy would be displayed on the Town Council website, notice boards and at Thirsk Tourist Information.

C518(e) Tour de Yorkshire

Cllr Duffey gave an update on events which were being organised within the town. He advised that the clock side of the Market Place would be closed to traffic so that visitors could view the race on a large TV screen that was to be sited in this location.

C518(g) Thirsk Entrance Sign

The Clerk reported that a new "Welcome to Thirsk" sign had been ordered to replace the missing sign on York Road and this was expected to be fitted in the near future.

C521 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson advised that a letter had been sent to South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, to the Clinical Commissioning Group and NYCC's Scrutiny of Health Committee, copied to Mr Kevin Hollinrake, MP, concerning the future of the Lambert Hospital.

C528 Committee Minutes and Reports

C528(a) Planning Committee held on 15 February 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 February 2016. Following a query concerning works which were being carried out at the former Yorkshire Bank premises, Cllr Roberts advised that the hoarding which was currently in place and extending onto the footpath was a temporary measure whilst building works were being carried out.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C528(b) Central Areas Committee held on 28 January 2016

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 28 January 2016.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C529 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Thomas Darling, Peter Maltby, Anne Elizabeth Newton and John George Parkinson be approved.

C530 Correspondence/Items Raised

C530(a) Proposed Changes to the Financial Regulations

The meeting received a document concerning proposed changes to Financial Regulations as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. Cllr Adamson advised that it would be necessary to amend the Town Council's financial regulations and that the matter should be confirmed at the next Town Council meeting.

Resolved: that proposed changes to the Financial Regulations be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

C530(b) Lambert Hospital

The meeting received an email dated 7 March 2016 from Mr K Hollinrake, MP, indicating that he had been in frequent contact with the Chief Executive of South Tees NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust to press for confirmation that the Lambert Hospital will re-open and supporting the suggestion of a public meeting so that local concerns could be addressed.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C530(c) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting – 31 March 2016

The meeting received a letter dated 10 March 2016 from Hambleton District Council attaching an agenda for the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on Thursday, 31 March 2016. Cllr Jackson expressed interest in attending.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C530(d) Thirsk Cricket Club

The meeting received a letter dated March 2016 from Thirsk Cricket Club requesting that the Town Council continues to support the Cricket Club by sponsoring a match ball for the 2016 season. Discussion took place concerning the method by which the Town Council managed its allocation of donations/sponsorship to local organisations. It was noted that historically the Town Council have supported organisations which provided opportunities for the development of young people and it was agreed that each application for sponsorship and donations would continue to be considered on an individual basis.

Resolved: that the Town Council continues to support Thirsk Cricket Club by sponsoring a match ball for the 2016 season.

C530(e) Litter and Dog Fouling

The Clerk reported that a high number of complaints of litter and dog fouling had been received and he circulated an email which had been sent to Cllr Dadd which he felt encompassed a number of issues. He advised that the complaints had been passed on to Hambleton District Council and that additional signage had been requested. Cllr Watson indicated that she would contact Mr D Granger, Dog Warden for HDC, and request that he pay particular attention to the areas which had been highlighted in order that prosecutions could hopefully be brought against inconsiderate dog owners who failed to pick up dog excrement.

The Clerk advised that a resident had requested that a litter bin be placed on Stockton Road near to the petrol station in view of litter problems in the area.

Resolved: that Hambleton District Council be requested to provide a litter bin near to the petrol station on Stockton Road.

C530(f) Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Hambleton District Council concerning the appointment of a Trustee to the Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity following the resignation of Cllr Garbutt.

Resolved: that Cllr Dalgleish-Brown be appointed Trustee to the Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity.

C530(g) Refurbishment of Picnic Area

The Clerk reported that refurbishment works at the Picnic Area had recently been completed by Thirsk Rotary Club and that the Town Council had been requested to adopt the three seats adjacent to the river just outside the Picnic Area. It was noted that a quantity of rubble had been dumped in the River Cod Beck close to the Picnic

Area from a property where building works had taken place and it was requested that the matter be reported to the Environment Agency.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

C531 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 March 2016 be approved and cheques signed.

C532 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson reported that two new doors had been fitted at the Town Hall and that new windows were expected to be installed in the near future.

Cllr Watson advised that the new plaque had been fitted to the Town Clock.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended a number of informal meetings concerning the future of Thirsk Library. She indicated that a steering group would soon be formed and that she wished to represent the Town Council on the steering group but she would not take part in any vote. She advised that the Community Care Association had assisted in looking into possible grant applications and that it was hoped that it may be possible for the library to become exempt from paying business rates.

C533 On-Going Items

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm.