

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 April 2020.

A resolution was passed at the March meeting that because of the onset of coronavirus no meeting would be held this month.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 May 2020.

The meeting was due to be held remotely but due to last minute technical problems the meeting could not go ahead.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 15 June 2020**

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

Apologies: None

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

C1094 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1095 Police Report

Town Councillors noted that a police report had been submitted by PCSO Warby which contained the latest crime figures and a section dealing with coronavirus.

C1096 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd observed that many people both at NYCC and volunteers had gone the extra mile in helping to look after vulnerable members of the community during the coronavirus pandemic and that the Community Works organisation had recruited additional volunteers to deliver food and medications to people who needed to self-isolate. He advised that the total cost of the pandemic to NYCC was expected to be in the region of £76 million and, although some government funding had been received, the County Council would still be left with a massive shortfall which could have a detrimental effect on some capital schemes.

Cllr Dadd reported that a number of local organisations had benefited from his locality budget. These included The Clock, to assist with coronavirus support, to the Ethel Johnson Trust, to remove the hardstanding in Carrs Field, and to Thirsk Falcons Football Club, to help replace property which had been destroyed in a recent arson attack.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had paid out £27.9 million in emergency grants to businesses during the coronavirus pandemic. He advised that a further local government discretionary grants scheme had been set up which aimed to assist those businesses which had fallen outside the scope of previous grant fund schemes.

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC's refuse collections had continued to operate throughout the coronavirus pandemic, having been assisted by the redeployment of some leisure centre employees who had been unable to carry out their normal duties.

Cllr Elders advised that the Civic Centre in Northallerton had now reopened to the public, although many employees were still working from home. He was also pleased to see the reopening of non-essential shops as from 15 June 2020.

Cllr Elders noted that a planning application to convert the former Hudson's butcher's shop in Millgate into a takeaway had been refused by HDC's Planning Department.

Cllr Dadd referred to a planning application for a development of up to 17 houses on land adjacent to Stockton Road and stated that the site was not in the local plan and

that he would oppose the application. Cllr Jackson added that the Town Council's Planning Committee had recommended that the application be refused.

C1097 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1098 Minutes

C1098(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1098(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

C1099 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1099(a) Planning Committee – 16 March 2020

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 March 2020 and a summary of applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee up to 20 April 2020.

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

C1100 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that work had commenced to repair the potholes at the entrance to the cemetery and that the job would be completed in the near future.

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Richard David Blain be approved.

C1101 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1101(a) Christmas Lights Donation

The meeting received an email dated 10 March 2020 from Thirsk & District Business Association, on behalf of the Business Association and The Thirsk Ladies Group, thanking the Town Council for its donation towards the Christmas lights.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(b) Thirsk Rotary in Bloom – Application for Grant 2020/2021

The meeting received a letter dated 10 March 2020 from the Rotary Club of Thirsk requesting that the Town Council increase its annual donation from £2,500 to £3,000. The Clerk advised that he had discussed the matter with Mr A Watson of the Rotary Club and it had been agreed that any surplus funds remaining at the end of the financial year would be returned to the Town Council. Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she, like many other local businesses, had sponsored a Thirsk in Bloom flower tub some time ago but had not been asked for any sponsorship money recently. The Clerk stated that he would raise the issue with Thirsk Rotary in Bloom.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £3,000 to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom (with a proviso that any surplus funds at the end of the financial year will be repaid to the Town Council).

C1101(c) Moorsbus Operations Cancellation

The meeting received an email dated 19 March 2020 from the Friends of Moorsbus advising that a decision had been made to cancel the Moorsbus operations for 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(d) Cemetery Lodge – Council Tax Banding

The meeting received a letter dated 30 March 2020 from Hambleton District Council indicating that the Council Tax banding for Cemetery Lodge had been amended from Band E to Band D with effect from 1 April 1993.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1101(e) NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group - Update

The meeting received an email dated 31 March 2020 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which gave an update on how the CCG was responding to the coronavirus pandemic and supporting frontline health and care delivery in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(f) Community Infrastructure Levy

The meeting received a letter dated 20 April 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that the Town Council was due to receive a Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £75.00.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1101(g) Hambleton Local Plan

The meeting received an email dated 24 April 2020 from Hambleton District Council which indicated that the Notice of Submission of the Hambleton Local Plan would be available to be viewed and commented upon between 24 April 2020 and 30 September 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(h) Hambleton District Council – Vibrant Market Towns Project

The meeting received an email dated 24 April 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that HDC intended to consult with local businesses and stakeholders in the next few weeks to find out about the issues they were facing and what support was needed once the coronavirus lockdown restrictions were lifted. The Clerk indicated that some discussion had taken place concerning the possibility of setting up a website to promote Thirsk and to provide information to prospective visitors. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile to include Cllrs Dadd and Elders in future discussions.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(i) North Yorkshire Scrubs

The meeting received an email dated 27 April 2020 from Sarah Pym thanking everyone who had donated and assisted in supplying scrub sets to local hospitals. The email confirmed that over 400 scrub sets had been made and sent out as at 27 April 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1101(j) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Rear of 131 Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received a Certificate of Registration dated 4 May 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal addresses of a development on land at the rear of 131 Long Street, Thirsk to be numbers 1 to 4 Wensleydale Mews, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the Certificate of Registration be noted.

C1101(k) Reopening High Streets and Market Towns

The meeting received a letter from Dr J Ives, Chief Executive, Hambleton District Council (attached to an email dated 10 June 2020) concerning the reopening of high

streets following the coronavirus lockdown. The Clerk noted that HDC had prepared a plan of action and that Town Councillors had been requested to submit observations.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1102 Coronavirus/Public Toilets

Cllr Elders reported that he had been approached by several people who had asked about the reopening of the public toilets in Millgate. The Clerk indicated that a risk assessment had been carried out and issues such as cleaning, sanitisation and social distancing had been carefully considered. He suggested that, to assist with social distancing and sanitisation, the urinal in the gents' toilets be boxed off, that the opening hours be amended to 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and that an additional clean be undertaken in the middle of the day. Appropriate PPE was available for the cleaning operative and training was being undertaken to ensure all aspects in relation to cleaning and sanitising were addressed. He advised that appropriate signage and wall fixed sanitisers had been obtained and anticipated that the toilets could be reopened during the week commencing 22 June 2020.

Resolved: that the Millgate public conveniences be reopened during week commencing 22 June 2020 on completion of all necessary measures.

C1103 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 June 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1104 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that new security cameras had been installed in the alleyway adjacent to The Pantry and Milano's takeaway in Millgate.

Cllr Duffey advised that the Thirsk and Sowerby Festival had been cancelled for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic but he hoped that a Festival would take place in 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 20 July 2020**

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

Apologies: None

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

C1105 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1106 Police Report

It was noted that a police report containing the latest crime figures had been emailed to Members.

C1107 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported on the financial situation at North Yorkshire County Council, noting that the cost of the coronavirus pandemic was expected to be approximately £74 million.

Cllr Dadd reported that progress was being made with regards to a potential devolution deal and that NYCC, the City of York Council and the seven District Councils had agreed to submit information requested by the government. He noted that the proposal would see the abolition of the District Councils and the formation of one or two larger unitary councils.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that Hambleton District Council had declined to provide funding to Welcome to Yorkshire, the tourism organisation, following the expenses scandal surrounding its former chief executive.

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council's leisure centres were set to reopen on Saturday, 25 July 2020. He advised that a refurbishment project for Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre would be considered by HDC's cabinet on Tuesday, 28 July 2020 and that, if the scheme was approved, the leisure centre would close for six months whilst the work was carried out.

Cllr Elders advised that a bill was currently going through Parliament which would enable businesses selling food and drink to apply to their local authority for a pavement licence which would permit them to place tables and chairs on the highway adjacent to their premises.

Cllr Elders reported that a Farmers Market was due to take place in the Market Place on Sunday, 2 August 2020 and on the first Sunday of each month thereafter.

C1108 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1109 Minutes

C1109(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 June 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1109(b) Matters Arising

C1101(h) Hambleton District Council – Vibrant Market Towns Project

Cllr Duffey advised that he had received costings for setting up a website designed to promote Thirsk and its businesses to prospective visitors. He indicated that he would contact Sowerby Parish Council as he felt that the matter would be best pursued as a joint venture.

C1102 Coronavirus/Public Toilets

The Clerk reported that the public toilets were currently open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and that a request had been received to extend the opening hours as there were now more visitors in the town following the easing of lockdown restrictions. He indicated that he had discussed the matter with the cleaning operative who had stated that she would be happy to keep the toilets open until 6.00 pm.

Resolved: that the Millgate Public Conveniences be open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm daily.

C1110 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1110(a) Planning Committee – Summaries dated 18 May 2020 and 15 June 2020 and Minutes dated 6 July 2020

The meeting received two summaries of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 18 May 2020 and 15 June 2020 and the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020.

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

C1111 Burial Board

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Philip Raymond Nanson be approved.

C1112 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1112(a) Thirsk Friends of the Earth – Recovery from Covid-19

The meeting received an email dated 22 June 2020 from Thirsk Friends of the Earth concerning the town's recovery from Covid-19 and advising of an online community survey which had been set up for local people to voice their opinions.

Resolved: that if Members wished to respond to the survey, they do so on an individual basis.

C1112(b) North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner - Update

The meeting received an email dated 23 June 2020 from J Mulligan which provided information in respect of grants for road safety projects in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that if Members had any suggestions in respect of road safety grants, they should contact the Clerk.

C1112(c) Norby Estate – Carriageway Resurfacing Works

The meeting received a letter dated 26 June 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that carriageway resurfacing works were due to commence on the Norby Estate on 21 July 2020.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1112(d) Thirsk Yarn Bombers – Resumption of Programme

The meeting received an email dated 27 June 2020 from I Marwood, Chair of Thirsk Yarn Bombers, in which advice was sought with regard to resuming their programme of displays.

Resolved: that Thirsk Yarn Bombers be advised that a risk assessment should be undertaken before resuming their programme of displays.

C1112(e) A170 Sutton-Under-Whitstonecliffe – Carriageway Patching Works

The meeting received a letter dated 3 July 2020 and an email dated 15 July 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning carriageway patching works on the A170 between Sutton-Under-Whitstonecliffe and Sutton Bank.

Resolved: that the letter and the email be noted.

C1112(f) National Association of Local Councils – Supporting Local Councils to Reopen Playgrounds Safely

The meeting received an email dated 3 July 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils which contained guidance in respect of the safe reopening of playgrounds. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had reopened all of its play areas and put up appropriate signage regarding using the play equipment safely.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1112(g) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Hideaway, Ingramgate, Thirsk

The meeting received a certificate dated 9 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a property to be Hideaway, Ingramgate, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1112(h) Town Clock - Barriers

The meeting received emails dated 8 and 9 July 2020 from Cllr D Elders concerning the barriers which were in place around the town clock. Cllr Elders indicated that he had been asked regularly when the barriers would be removed. Cllr Duffey explained that the Town Council had worked with Hambleton District Council to identify areas around the town which were considered to be “pinch points” and that the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the clock had been identified as a location where social distancing could not be achieved, particularly if people were seated at the side of the clock near to the crossing. Cllr Trueman suggested that a notice could be attached to the barriers explaining why they were in place.

Resolved: that the barriers around the town clock remain in place for the purpose of achieving social distancing.

C1112(i) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Bulletin

The meeting received an email dated 10 July 2020 from J Owen, Chief Executive, National Association of Local Councils, which contained some useful information including an update in respect of the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill 2019-21.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1112(j) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – 19 Market Place, Thirsk

The meeting received a certificate dated 14 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of properties at 19A and 19B Market Place, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1112(k) Street Collection – Herriot Hospice Homecare

The meeting received an email dated 15 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising of a street collection by Herriot Hospice Homecare on Saturday, 1 August 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1113 Annual Return

The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Internal Control Review Committee and an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council needed to be arranged to consider the Annual Return.

Resolved: that a meeting of the Internal Control Review Committee take place on Thursday, 23 July 2020 and that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council take place on Monday, 27 July 2020 (both remotely).

C1114 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 July 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1115 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall was expected to reopen on 1 September 2020.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she had been contacted about large amounts of grass cuttings which had been left at East Thirsk Play Area and asked if this could be tidied up. The Clerk explained that the grass at the play areas had not been cut during lockdown and therefore the grass had been left to grow longer than it would do normally. He stated that he would discuss the matter with the grass cutting contractor.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she had also been contacted regarding the ditch adjacent to the Millennium Green which had been noted to be full of rubbish. The Clerk advised of difficulties in establishing ownership of the ditch, although noted that it had been cleaned out previously. Cllr Trueman suggested that Thirsk Friends of the Earth be contacted to see if they would be prepared to assist in cleaning the ditch.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that there were several piles of branches and clippings on the grassed area at Mill Gardens which still needed to be taken away.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Town Hall Management Committee was due to meet on Thursday, 23 July 2020 and he hoped that the Town Hall would reopen on Saturday, 1 August 2020.

Cllr Ward indicated Thirsk Community Library had reopened to the public for a limited number of hours and was still operating the click and collect delivery service. Cllr Duffey asked that his thanks be passed on to all the library volunteers.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

Thirsk Town Council was not scheduled to meet in August 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held remotely on Monday, 21 September 2020

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

Apologies: Cllr A Trueman (Holiday)

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

C1120 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1121 Police Report

It was noted that a police report containing the crime figures for August had been emailed to Members. Cllr Duffey noted that the report included an update in relation to coronavirus and he suggested that in future the agenda should include an item in respect of Covid-19. Cllr Jackson reported that some market stalls had again been set up very close to the walkways at the crossing points in the Market Place and he requested that Hambleton District Council be alerted to the difficulties which this created with regard to social distancing. Cllr Duffey noted that stickers had been placed on various sections of pavement around the town to remind people about the requirement to adhere to social distancing and he thanked the Town Councillors and the amenity worker who had positioned the stickers.

C1122 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that a road sign adjacent to the recently renovated building on Castlegate was to be moved a short distance to a more appropriate position and that a new sign for the community library in Meadowfields would be attached.

Cllr Dadd indicated that the roads on the Norby Estate had recently been resurfaced and he paid tribute to the residents who had co-operated with requests to move their vehicles whilst the work was carried out.

Cllr Dadd advised that Covid-19 infection rates were increasing once again and he expected that the government would announce further national restrictions on Tuesday, 22 September 2020.

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC was close to finalising a detailed submission in respect of the proposed local government reorganisation.

b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had recently held its first in person council meeting since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March.

Cllr Elders advised that approval for the refurbishment scheme for Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre had been granted and that the centre would benefit from the installation of a new roof and an extension to the gym facilities.

Cllr Elders reported that planning permission had been granted for HDC's new crematorium and that work was expected to commence towards the end of 2020.

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC had decided not to proceed with its commercial investment strategy at the present time.

Cllr Elders advised that the District Councils were currently working on a proposal in respect of local government reorganisation.

C1123 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1124 Minutes

C1124(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 July 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1124(b) Matters Arising

C1115 Reports from Members/Representatives

Following a report by Cllr Hunter Bell concerning grass cuttings which had been left at East Thirsk Play Area, the Clerk advised that he had discussed the matter with the grass cutting contractor and that the issue had now been resolved. With regard to the ditch adjacent to the Millennium Green, the Clerk indicated that Friends of the Earth could not be requested to clear out the ditch as they would be working on somebody else's land without permission and would not therefore be covered by public liability insurance.

The Clerk advised that the piles of branches and clippings which had been deposited at Mill Gardens had now been removed.

C1125 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1125(a) Planning Committee – Summaries dated 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020

The meeting received two summaries of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 17 August 2020 and 21 September 2020.

Resolved: that the Summaries be received and noted.

C1126 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Nancy and Benjamin Chapman, Jimmy Earnshaw, Barbara Jewitt, Michael and Joyce Hopper, John Hughes and Rose Winifred Saxby be approved.

C1127 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1127(a) Funding for Supported Bus Services and Rural Mobility Fund 2020/21

The meeting received an email dated 27 July 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council which contained an update in respect of Funding for Supported Bus Services and Rural Mobility Fund 2020/21.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1127(b) Tree Planting Licence, Stockton Road, Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 30 July 2020 and 4 August 2020 from Mr Stephen Gray concerning a request for a tree planting licence in order that a dying Acacia tree on the verge at the front of a property on Stockton Road could be replaced. The Clerk advised that the decaying tree had now been removed and that the resident wanted to replace this with two new trees.

Resolved: that the Town Council has no objection to the granting of a tree planting licence, subject to:

- (i) the replacement trees being appropriate to the location;**
- (ii) the resident being responsible for the maintenance of the trees.**

C1127(c) BT Payphones

The meeting received an email dated 31 July 2020 from Hambleton District Council concerning a public consultation carried out by BT in preparation for the removal of six public payphones in the Hambleton area. Members noted that the consultation involved only one public payphone in Thirsk which had been used very infrequently.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes no observation in respect of the BT public consultation in preparation for the removal of public payphones.

C1127(d) Single Unitary Council for North Yorkshire

The meeting received a letter dated 4 August 2020 from Hambleton District Council and a letter dated 21 August 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning proposed changes to the two-tier system of local government. Members noted that both NYCC and HDC had not yet finalised their proposals and agreed that the Town Council should take a neutral position until more information becomes available.

Resolved: that the Town Council takes a neutral position in respect of the proposed local government reorganisation at the present time.

C1127(e) Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire – Funding Request

The meeting received a letter dated 6 August 2020 from Carol Shreeve, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire containing a request that the Town Council consider making a donation to assist with its operating costs.

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

C1127(f) Parish Council Virtual Workshops – Highways Issues

The meeting received an email dated 20 August 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a proposal that virtual meetings be arranged for the purpose of discussing highways issues. The Clerk advised that highways issues were generally dealt with by email and he was uncertain as to whether there were sufficient issues to justify arranging virtual meetings.

Resolved: that the Town Council does not consider it necessary to hold virtual meetings to discuss highways issues at the present time.

C1127(g) Shire Road, Lynbrook Close & Whitelass Close, Thirsk – Carriageway Resurfacing Works

The meeting received an email dated 21 August 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that carriageway resurfacing works were scheduled to commence at the above location on 18 September 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1127(h) 2020-2021 National Salary Award – National Joint Council for Local Government Services

The meeting received an email dated 28 August 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations advising that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services had reached agreement on new pay scales for 2020-2021. The Clerk indicated that the salary award equated to an all-round increase of 2.75%.

Resolved: that the email be noted and salary award implemented.

C1127(i) Johnson Close Play Area

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 2 September 2020 from Ms Katie Ward and an email and attachment dated 3 September 2020 from Mr C Amy concerning antisocial behaviour at the Johnson Close Play Area. The Clerk advised that the issues were long-standing and suggested that the Town Council could write to residents to ascertain their views in respect of the play area. It was also suggested

that Hambleton District Council could be requested to move its mobile CCTV camera to cover the area, but members noted that this would depend upon other unrelated issues.

Resolved: that the Town Council writes to the residents of Johnson Close to ascertain their opinions in respect of the Johnson Close Play Area.

C1127(j) Parking in Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 4, 5 and 6 September 2020 from Anita Kreft, the Clerk and Cllr D Elders concerning the provision of parking spaces for motor-homes and cars towing caravans. Cllr Elders noted that Hambleton District Council was seeking a variation of its off-street parking order which he understood would permit vehicles to occupy more than one parking bay (provided each bay occupied was paid for).

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C1127(k) Street Collection – Thirsk Royal British Legion Band

The meeting received an email dated 14 September 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising of a street collection by the Thirsk Royal British Legion Band on 21 December 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1127(l) National Association of Local Councils Statement – Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings and “The Rule of Six”

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 15 September 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and noted in particular a section which advised that local councils should continue to meet remotely.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1128 The Future of Thirsk as a Vibrant Market Town

Cllr Duffey reported that he and Cllr Jackson had recently attended a meeting with representatives from Hambleton District Council to discuss the development of Thirsk as a vibrant market town. Cllr Duffey understood that funding may be available which would help Thirsk to emerge from the effects of coronavirus if worthwhile proposals were put forward. He advised that the intention was to hold a further meeting in a few weeks' time and suggested that it may be beneficial if the Business Association and District Cllr Elders were invited to attend, as well as other Town Councillors who wished to become involved.

C1129 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 September 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1130 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Potter reported that some disabled parking bays in the Market Place were on occasions occupied by vehicles for almost an entire day and she queried whether a time limit could be introduced for parking in these bays. Cllr Elders advised that HDC was proposing several amendments to its off-street parking order and he understood that this included the introduction of a maximum parking period for some disabled bays.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that East Thirsk Community Hall had now reopened to the public.

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 8.23 pm.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 19 October 2020**

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

Apologies: County/District Cllr G Dadd (Prior commitment)

In attendance: District Cllr D Elders

C1132 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hunter Bell declared an interest in respect of agenda item 9(a), Premises Licence - Thirsk Lodge Barns, and took no part in the discussion.

C1133 Police Report

It was noted that a police report had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting and that the report included the monthly crime figures and information in respect of an annual campaign where drivers are reminded about the importance of tyre safety.

C1134 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

b) HDC

Cllr Elders advised that HDC had received a letter from the government which required them to submit an outline proposal in respect of local government reorganisation by 9 November 2020 followed by a detailed proposal in December 2020.

Cllr Elders noted that some building work had commenced on a piece of land on Long Street which had been the site of a derelict building for many years.

Cllr Elders indicated that a meeting of HDC's Planning Committee which had been due to consider an application for the construction of a petrol filling station on land at York Road, Thirsk had had to be postponed for technical reasons. He understood that a hearing could be further delayed following requests in respect of an environmental impact report.

Cllr Elders reported that building work on HDC's new crematorium was expected to commence in the next few weeks and that the facility may be operational by summer 2021.

C1135 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1136 Minutes

C1136(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 September 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1136(b) Matters Arising

C1127 Correspondence/Items Received

C1127(i) Johnson Close Play Area

Following a query by Cllr Duffey, the Clerk advised that a letter would be sent to residents of Johnson Close concerning the play area within the next week.

C1137 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1137(a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 19 October 2020

The meeting received a summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 19 October 2020.

Resolved: that the Summary be received and noted.

C1138 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that there were no memorial applications to be considered.

C1139 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1139(a) Premises Licence – Thirsk Lodge Barns

The meeting received an email dated 25 September 2020 from Hambleton District Council which attached an application for a premises licence in respect of Thirsk Lodge Barns. Members noted that no objections had been received by the Town Council.

Resolved: that the Town Council raise no objection to the grant of a premises licence in respect of Thirsk Lodge Barns.

C1139(b) Rebuilding Communities – What are the Health Challenges Post Covid?

The meeting received a newsletter dated 5 October 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils concerning an online event which would look at how local councils can help their communities overcome local health challenges when the Covid-19 pandemic eases.

Resolved: that any Member who wishes to participate in the event should contact the Clerk.

C1139(c) Vibrant Market Town Grants – Public Toilets/Castlegarth Artwork

The meeting received an email dated 5 October 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the approval of grant applications towards the cost of additional artwork for the replacement interpretation boards on Castlegarth and towards the costs of reopening the public toilets following the coronavirus pandemic. The Clerk advised that HDC had funding available for projects which would benefit Thirsk in relation to Covid-19 and that the Town Council had been requested to consider and submit suitable proposals. Cllr Gibson-Brown suggested that a suitable project could be the installation of air sanitisation units in the Millgate public toilets.

Resolved: that the Clerk examine the suggestion of installing air sanitisation units in the Millgate public toilets.

C1139(d) Public Carol Singing Event – Churches Together

The meeting received an email dated 6 October 2020 from Captain Ian Haylett, Chairman of Churches Together, Thirsk & District, concerning the possibility of organising a “drive-in” carol singing event and requesting that the Town Council support such an event, if it were to go ahead.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the idea of a “drive-in” carol singing event.

C1139(e) Rebuilding Communities – Find Out how to Recognise Hidden Disabilities

The meeting received a newsletter dated 8 October 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils concerning an online event which would consider how local councils are best placed to understand hidden disabilities in their communities.

Resolved: that any Member who wishes to participate in the event should contact the Clerk.

C1139(f) Community Infrastructure Levy Contributions

The meeting received three letters dated 13 October 2020 from Hambleton District Council concerning payments of Community Infrastructure Levy. Cllr Jackson advised that the payments were in connection with developments on Station Road, Long Street and Alexander Close.

Resolved: that consideration in respect of expenditure of Community Infrastructure Levy payments take place at a Town Council meeting towards the end of the financial year 2020/2021.

C1139(g) Millgate Public Conveniences

The Clerk advised that he had been informed of further incidents of antisocial behaviour taking place both inside and outside the Millgate public toilets and that the cleaning operative had on occasions felt intimidated by groups of young people congregating in the vicinity of the toilets, particularly when it was dark. Members noted that there was a CCTV camera close by and Cllr Jackson suggested that the Clerk contact Ms Gina Allen of the Safer Hambleton Partnership so that her department and the police were made aware of the ongoing issues.

Resolved:

(i) that the opening times for Millgate public conveniences be amended to 8.00 am to 5.00 pm during the winter months (commencing Monday, 26 October 2020);

(ii) that the Safer Hambleton Partnership be advised of the ongoing issues of antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of Millgate public toilets.

C1139(h) Christmas Tree – Market Place, Thirsk

The Clerk reported that AQ Logistics had kindly agreed to assist with the transportation and installation of the Christmas tree in the Market Place. Cllr Duffey queried whether an announcement had been made concerning the switch-on of the Christmas lights and he asked the Clerk to seek clarification.

Resolved: that the Clerk seeks clarification in respect of an announcement concerning the switch-on of the Christmas Lights.

C1140 Covid-19

No further matters were discussed in relation to Covid-19.

C1141 Finance

The Clerk advised that two further invoices (for grass cutting and work to a tree at the Town Hall) needed to be added to the accounts for payment schedule.

Cllr Gibson-Brown referred to an invoice submitted by Mr C Amy and expressed concern about some of the charges and the amount of time it had taken for certain tasks to be completed. The Clerk advised that Mr Amy undertook necessary work on all the land managed and maintained by the Town Council which was quite considerable and therefore matters had to be addressed accordingly. It was noted that he had detailed knowledge of the many areas and the work he undertook was an essential part of the Town Council's services. Cllr Adamson observed that Mr

Amy now carried out additional work at the cemetery which would result in his invoices being higher than they were previously. Cllr Duffey suggested that the Open Areas & Greens Committee review the level of work performed by Mr Amy and report back to the Town Council.

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 October 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1142 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hunter Bell reported that the damaged mosaic at the Millennium Green had now been repaired and requested that some overhanging branches from a tree close to the mosaic be removed.

Cllr Gibson-Brown advised that NYCC Highways and County Cllr Dadd had visited Riverside Mews recently to consider ongoing parking issues. She indicated that the turning point had been blocked on occasions and that it had been suggested that double yellow lines be placed at the location.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown noted that a road sign in front of the old savings bank in Castlegate had been moved to a more appropriate position and that Thirsk Rotary in Bloom had recently put in new plants for the winter.

The meeting closed at 8.11 pm.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 18 January 2021**

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

Apologies: None

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

C1156 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1157 Police Report

It was noted that a police report had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting which all Members confirmed they had read.

C1158 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported on the budget setting process at North Yorkshire County Council. He advised that COVID-19 had cost approximately £100,000,000. He indicated that it was likely that council tax would increase by 1.99% in the next financial year.

He acknowledged that nobody wanted to increase council tax but that there was little alternative as reserves were being used at present. He noted that the peak of the pandemic was expected to occur in the next week and that the NHS was currently facing the most acute phase. He advised that North Yorkshire Police was taking robust action with regard to complaints of house parties and flouting of the coronavirus regulations.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh requested that Cllr Dadd pass on her good wishes concerning the organisation of the vaccination programme, which was taking place at the Forum, Northallerton. Cllr Dadd advised that more vaccination centres would be opening within the county in the coming weeks.

b) HDC

Cllr Elders echoed Cllr Dadd's comments in respect of budgets for the next financial year. He noted that residents and carers in local care homes had been receiving the Pfizer/Astrazenica vaccines.

Cllr Elders advised that he had been made aware of the crumbling condition of the surface of the Millgate coach park and advised that HDC intended to carry out repair works in the next few weeks.

Cllr Elders reported that the work to upgrade Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre was due to commence on 1 February 2021 and that it was anticipated the work would be completed in September 2021. He noted that the work would result in the leisure centre becoming a 24-hour premises.

Cllr Elders advised that it was hoped that HDC's new crematorium would be completed by September 2021.

Cllr Elders indicated that the planning application to construct a BP filling station on land adjacent to York Road had been approved.

C1159 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1160 Minutes

C1160(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 November 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1160(b) Matters Arising

C1127(i) Johnson Close Play Area

The Clerk advised that the Town Council would submit an application to Hambleton District Council's Making a Difference programme for funding to install solar powered lighting at the Johnson Close Play Area.

C1161 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1161(a) Planning Committee – Summaries dated 21 December 2020 & 18 January 2021

The meeting received summaries of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 21 December 2020 and 18 January 2021.

Resolved: that the Summaries be received and noted.

C1161(b) Open Areas & Greens Committee – Minutes dated 10 December 2020

The meeting received the Minutes of a meeting of the Open Areas & Greens Committee dated 10 December 2020.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1162 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that there had been one application for a memorial which had been approved. He advised that there had been some mole activity at the cemetery and that work to resolve the issue would be carried out in the next few weeks.

C1163 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1163(a) Citizens Advice Mid-North Yorkshire - Donation

The meeting received an email dated 17 November 2020 from Citizens Advice Mid-North Yorkshire thanking the Town Council for its donation of £200.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1163(b) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 19 November 2020 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a new property to be 56A Hambleton View, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1163(c) Census 2021

The meeting received a letter dated 1 December 2020 from the Census Engagement Manager, Office for National Statistics, which advised that the Census for England and Wales would take place on 21 March 2021.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1163(d) York Disabled Workers Co-operative

The meeting received a letter dated 11 December 2020 from York Disabled Workers Co-operative which outlined the work carried out by the organisation and requested the support of the Town Council.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1163(e) Licensing Application – Twisted Automotive, The Old Cinema, Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 23 December 2020 from Hambleton District Council which attached a licensing application by Twisted Automotive. Members noted that the licensing application submitted by Twisted Automotive had been withdrawn.

C1163(f) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Training Bulletin

The meeting received a training bulletin dated 24 December 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which gave details of various training sessions and forums available for Members to attend.

Resolved: that the training bulletin be noted.

C1163(g) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 8 January 2021 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and postal address of a property at 2B Millgate, Thirsk, YO7 1AA.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1164 The Future of Thirsk as a Vibrant Market Town

Cllr Duffey reported on a meeting held with members of the Town Council, Sowerby Parish Council HDC officers and the Business Association. He advised that the group had prepared an aspirational plan and that work was ongoing. Cllr Hunter Bell had set up an Instagram account which aimed to promote Thirsk and the surrounding area and she was examining the possibility of setting up a new website to promote the area. It was noted that other individuals may wish to join the group.

C1165 COVID-19

The Clerk reported that he had reviewed the Town Council's risk assessment in relation to COVID-19. Cllr Gibson-Brown stated that she had witnessed incidents where visitors to Thirsk from other areas had openly broken the coronavirus regulations. The Clerk indicated that he was unaware of any information which suggested that play areas should be closed during the current national lockdown.

C1166 Finance

The Clerk advised that Mr C Amy had not yet submitted an invoice. He indicated that an invoice in the sum of approximately £2,800 had been received to cover the cost of repairs which needed to be carried out to the clock at St Mary's Church. It was suggested that Hambleton District Council may be able to assist with regard to funding and the Clerk stated that he would contact Ms Lisa Wilson, HDC's Communities Manager.

Resolved:

(i) that the accounts for payment as at 18 January 2021 be approved and cheques signed.

(ii) that an item in respect of St Mary's Church Clock be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting to be held on Monday, 15 February 2021.

C1167 Reports from Members/Representatives

There were no further matters to report.

The meeting closed at 7.47 pm.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 15 February 2021**

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

Apologies: None

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

C1168 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1169 Police Report

Members noted that the police had not submitted a crime report. Following a query from Cllr Jackson, the Clerk advised that he would invite a police representative to join the next Town Council meeting via Zoom.

C1170 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that COVID-19 rates in Hambleton were beginning to decline, although they were still at a high level. He advised that the police had issued several fixed penalty notices over the previous weekend. He indicated that the local COVID vaccination programme at The Forum, Northallerton was going well with the assistance of the Army, the NHS and a network of volunteers.

Cllr Dadd advised that NYCC council tax was likely to increase by 5 per cent for the next financial year,

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that a recommendation that council tax for HDC be frozen for the next financial year was to be put before a meeting of the full council.

Cllr Elders advised that work had commenced on the refurbishment of Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre and that the car park would remain closed to the public whilst the work was being undertaken.

Cllr Elders indicated that construction work was ongoing at the new Maple Park Crematorium.

C1171 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1172 Minutes

C1172(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 January 2021

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

C1172(b) Matters Arising

C1166 Finance

The Clerk advised that he had contacted Ms L Wilson, HDC, with regard to obtaining funding for the repairs which needed to be carried out to the clock at St Mary's Church and that Ms Wilson was investigating funding possibilities.

C1173 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1173 (a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 15 February 2021

The meeting received a Summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 15 February 2021.

Resolved: that the Summary be received and noted.

C1174 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that there were no matters to report.

C1175 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1175(a) Local Elections – 6 May 2021

The meeting received an email dated 14 January 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which stated that the government would review whether local elections on 6 May 2021 would go ahead.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1175(b) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Bulletin

The meeting received an email dated 15 January 2021 from National Association of Local Councils which contained an item which stated that the Toilets Bill was moving “at a pace”.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1175(c) Licensing Application – Twisted Automotive, The Old Cinema, Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 21 January 2021 from Hambleton District Council in respect of a revised licensing application by Twisted Automotive following the withdrawal of the original application submitted in December 2020. Members noted that the times in respect of licensing hours had been amended.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1175(d) Remote Meeting Regulations

The meeting received an email dated 29 January 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations regarding the power to hold remote meetings. Discussion took place and Members felt that individual councils should have the authority to meet in whatever way they felt was appropriate. Cllr Duffey requested that the Clerk respond to the email outlining the views of the Town Council.

Resolved: that the Clerk respond to the email dated 29 January 2021 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.

C1176 St Mary’s Church – Clock Repairs

The meeting received several emails and a quotation dated 5 January 2021 concerning repairs which were required to be carried out to St Mary’s Church clock. The Clerk advised that the Town Council was responsible for maintenance of the clock and the church floodlighting. Members agreed that it was essential that the repairs were carried out and the Clerk indicated that Ms L Wilson, HDC, was going to examine funding possibilities.

Resolved: that the Town Council accepts the quotation provided by Smith of Derby to carry out repairs to St Mary’s Church Clock.

C1177 The Future of Thirsk as a Vibrant Market Town

Cllr Jackson commented on the state of some of the alleyways leading from the Market Place and noted that in many cases there was uncertainty in respect of ownership of these alleyways. The Clerk indicated that the Town Council’s amenity

worker could be requested to carry out some work to improve the appearance of the alleyways but that, where these were public rights of way, approval to carry out such works would have to be sought from North Yorkshire County Council.

C1178 Covid-19

The Clerk indicated that no issues had been raised concerning the opening of playgrounds and public toilets. He advised that Hambleton District Council, through the government funding, had covered the cost of additional items which had been purchased to enable the public toilets to be reopened safely following the first national lockdown in 2020.

C1179 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 February 2021 be approved and cheques signed.

Discussion took place concerning the Town Council's mobile CCTV camera which Members noted was presently sited on the bridge in Millgate. There was a query as to whether an approach could be made to Hambleton District Council to suggest the siting of a permanent camera at that location which would enable the Town Council's mobile camera to be moved to other location's such as the Johnson Close Play Area.

C1180 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported on the recent flooding at Mill Gardens and indicated that the water level from the Cod Beck had reached residential properties and that cars had had to be moved. She praised the efforts of the team from Hambleton District Council who had quickly delivered extra sandbags and suggested that it would be advantageous to have a sandbag collection/storage point near to Mill Gardens. Cllr Duffey asked if the Town Council could arrange for a storage point close to the river. The Clerk indicated that he would examine the matter.

Cllr Jackson reported that a meeting of the Safer Hambleton (Thirsk) group had taken place recently. He advised that North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue were to present a campaign in respect of water safety. He noted that Safer Hambleton had indicated they would be moving a CCTV camera to Racecourse Mews.

Cllr Hunter-Bell enquired about the possibility of receiving paperwork for Town Council meetings via email/in PDF form instead of hard copies. The Clerk advised that the notice of meeting had to be provided in hard copy format but stated that he would make enquiries to see if there were any possible alternatives.

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that flying would recommence at the Gliding Club on Sutton Bank within the next few weeks.

The meeting closed at 19.58 pm.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held remotely on Monday, 15 March 2021**

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

Apologies: None

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

C1181 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1182 Police Report

Members noted that the police had submitted a crime report which detailed the crime figures for February 2021. The Clerk advised that he had invited the police to join the meeting via Zoom but had been informed that the police did not use Zoom on their work systems.

C1183 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that the repairs to the damaged footpath at the Marage would be substantial and would take some time to be carried out.

Cllr Dadd reported that local Covid-19 infection rates had reduced during the current national lockdown and that the police had issued further fixed penalty notices to individuals who had contravened the coronavirus regulations.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that the refurbishment works to Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre were proceeding on schedule.

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council had been allocated £4.7 million from the government's new carbonisation fund and that the monies would be shared between the district's four leisure centres which it was estimated would result in savings of approximately £39,000 per annum.

Cllr Elders indicated that work was progressing at the new crematorium and that the steelwork was due to be erected during March.

Cllr Elders reported that resurfacing works had been carried out at the Millgate coach park.

C1184 Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

C1185 Minutes

C1185(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 February 2021

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

C1185(b) Matters Arising

No matters arising.

C1186 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1186 (a) Planning Committee – Summary dated 15 March 2021

The meeting received a Summary of planning applications which had been considered by the Planning Committee dated 15 March 2021.

Resolved: that the Summary be received and noted.

C1186(b) Open Areas & Greens Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 9 February 2021

The meeting received the Minutes of a Meeting held on 9 February 2021.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1187 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that Burial Board fees would increase by 5 per cent as from 1 April 2021 and that two memorial applications had been approved during March.

C1188 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1188(a) Local Government Reorganisation

The meeting received an email dated 15 February 2021 from Ms G Mulderrig and a letter dated 18 February 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning local government reorganisation in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that the email and the letter be noted.

C1188(b) A Rural Market Town Group

The meeting received an email dated 19 February 2021 from Mr D Inman which contained an invitation for the Town Council to join a Rural/Market Town Group which had formed over the last year. Members felt that the Thirsk Town Improvement Group was proceeding with all appropriate matters and that there would be no benefit in joining the other Group

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1188(c) Urban Highway Grass Cutting 2021/2022

The meeting received an email dated 22 February 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning urban highway grass cutting payments for 2021/2022.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1188(d) Elections – Thursday, 6 May 2021

The meeting received an email dated 24 February 2021 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election scheduled to take place on Thursday, 6 May 2021.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1188(e) Chief Executive's Bulletin – National Association of Local Councils

The meeting received an email dated 26 February 2021 from the National Association of Local Councils which Members noted contained some useful information on several topics.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1188(f) Thirsk Yarnbombers – Programme of Displays

The meeting received an email dated 1 March 2021 from Thirsk Yarnbombers which advised of their plans to put up a display to mark the achievement of Atlantic rower, Jasmine Harrison, followed by a display on the theme of "Happiness".

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1188(g) Marage Road, Thirsk - Planned Road Closure Notification

The meeting received an email dated 8 March 2021 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Marage Road, Thirsk for a period of 11 hours between 16 and 17 March 2021.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1188(h) Commemorating Adam Bamlett

The meeting received an email dated 9 March 2021 from Mr D Tucker concerning a proposal to mark the 110th anniversary of the death of Adam Bamlett, the engineer who had built a farm machinery business in Thirsk. Cllr Adamson indicated that he would be happy to be involved with the proposal as he had some literature which he felt could be useful.

Resolved: that the Town Council support Mr Tucker's proposal to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the death of Adam Bamlett.

C1188(i) Community First Yorkshire – Building Connected Communities

The meeting received details from Community First Yorkshire which included a suggestion that the provision of a welcome pack was a way of making new residents feel welcome in the community. Cllr Jackson suggested that the Town Council prepare a welcome pack which would include contact details of local organisations.

Resolved: that the Town Council prepares a welcome pack for the benefit of new residents in the community.

C1188(j) Thirsk Market

Cllr Jackson indicated that a meeting had been held with representatives of Hambleton District Council to consider ways of improving the market in Thirsk. One suggestion was that the new market superintendent, Ali Bearpark, would provide information in respect of the market stalls which were in attendance each Monday morning so that the information could be posted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

Cllr Jackson advised that the Vibrant Market Towns Group had discussed a proposal that the Town Council purchase a market stall which would be let out at its discretion to new market traders. Mr P Cole, HDC, had stated that funding may be available for the project.

Cllr Jackson noted that Stokesley Town Council had recently installed a large map for the benefit of visitors to the area and suggested that the Town Council could provide something similar in Thirsk. He requested that enquiries be made as to the likely cost for the supply and installation of such a map.

C1188(k) Tidy Up of Thirsk Market Place

Cllr Duffey suggested that the Market Place would benefit from a "Tidy Up" prior to the reopening of non-essential shops on Monday, 12 April 2021. He advised that Hambleton District Council had agreed that some areas could be power-washed in the coming weeks and that the Town Council's amenity worker would put down some new social distancing stickers on the pavements in the next few days.

Discussion took place concerning the state of alleyways leading from the Market Place. Cllr Duffey felt that the appearance of some of the alleyways could be improved and that some would benefit from a coat of whitewash.

Resolved: that a check of the Market Place and surrounding areas be carried out every six months and the matter be considered at six monthly intervals at Town Council meetings.

C1189 Jasmine Harrison – Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge

The Clerk advised that Sowerby Parish Council had granted Jasmine Harrison the honour of Freeperson of the Parish of Sowerby in recognition of her achievement in becoming the youngest solo female to row across the Atlantic Ocean. He indicated that Sowerby Parish Council had also agreed that an event be held in the Town Hall and that a blue plaque be erected at Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre following its reopening in September 2021. Discussion took place and Cllr Trueman suggested that a board could be made and placed in the Town Hall in recognition of people of Thirsk and Sowerby who had achieved such an honour.

Resolved: that Jasmine Harrison be granted the honour of Freeperson of the Parish of Thirsk in recognition of her achievement at becoming the youngest solo female to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

C1190 Covid-19

The Clerk advised that the rules in relation to public toilets and play areas remained the same.

C1191 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 March 2021 be approved and cheques signed.

C1192 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Gibson-Brown enquired about the storage of sandbags which had been obtained from Hambleton District Council to help residents cope with the recent flooding at Mill Gardens. The Clerk suggested that lockable grit boxes may be suitable for the storage of sandbags and that these could be located on the grassed area opposite the Millgate Public Conveniences.

Cllr Adamson reported that the legislation governing the holding of remote meetings was due to end in May 2021 and that the government had refused to extend the legislation despite protests from the National Association of Local Councils. He noted that NALC was working with a group called Lawyers in Local Government who had secured a court hearing because they contended that the provision for local councils to meet in whatever they chose already existed in the Local Government Act 1972.

Cllr Trueman reported that Mrs K Reynard had advised him of recent damage to plants in Mill Gardens. It was suggested that Cllr Trueman advise Mrs Reynard to report the matter to the police and to obtain a crime incident number.

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.