

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 2 April 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts.

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (abroad) J. Marshall (illness)

1. Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Mr Mills of Hambleton Place advised that he had raised the issue of allotments with the Town Council 14 months ago but had received no communication since that time.

He was concerned that various projects were proceeding such as the Sensory Garden but nothing appeared to be happening with the provision of allotments and there had been no mention in the Town Council minutes.

Cllr Watson advised that the Town Council had written to John Bell to question whether he had any land available which was suitable for the provision of allotments and the Central Areas Committee had recently agreed to send a follow up letter.

Mr Mills suggested that other landowners should be approached.

Cllr Watson confirmed that the Town Council were pursuing the matter and took receipt of contact details for Mr Mills.

Mr Hinton referred to the Minutes of the last Town Council Meeting and he reaffirmed that he was happy to assist in relation to cleaning up Nicks Alley.

Cllr Watson advised that the proposed meeting with PC Brooks was currently on hold in view of his absence due to illness. She advised that the Town Council had noted Mr Hinton's comments and interest and confirmed that the Town Council would be in contact when the matter proceeded.

Sergeant Hannan advised of the situation regarding staffing and noted that if an Officer was not able to attend a meeting any items raised by the Town Council should be telephoned or emailed.

Inspector Osborne had commenced duties on the 1 April, and the Police Station in the Market Place was to be used for working from on a regular basis.

Cllr Watson noted the problems that had occurred at Castlegarth, the picnic area and Johnson Close in respect of alcohol.

Sergeant Hannan advised that the drinking ban in force related to persons of 18 years and above and was working in the Market Place. It did not however cover children under that age group and did not address or solve the underage drinking problem.

Cllr Morton reported on problems that had been encountered on Friday and Saturday nights in the Church porch way.

Cllr Watson thanked Sergeant Hannan for attending the meeting.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

2. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16 March be approved and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of 10/1 on P126

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 5 March 2009

3.1 Plinth A61 Station Road

As reported at the last Town Council Meeting, the site meeting had taken place and it had been agreed that a different sign be erected with a flowerbed around the base.

3.2 CAA Payroll Bureau/BACS

The Clerk advised that the payroll proposal had been agreed and accepted.

The business manager at Barclays Bank had advised that the minimum number of employees for BACS usage was five and he had suggested online banking.

Cllr Watson had discussed credit transfer with the Branch and they had agreed to accept a cheque and staff paying-in books to undertake the function.

3.3 Cobbles in Kirkgate

Cllr Dadd had raised the issue with the County Council and advised that it was extremely unlikely that any cobbles would be removed.

A letter setting out the Town Council's concerns had also been sent.

3.4 Press Release – Car Parking Charges.

The press release had been published in the Darlington and Stockton Times.

3.5 Former Mayors Bank Account

The account had been closed and the monies paid into the Town Council Account pending the Mayor choosing a charity.

Resolved: that the reports be noted.

4. Correspondence

4.1 Letter dated 19 March 2009 from NYCC re: Gravel Hole Lane

The letter advised that the County Council was due to carry out highway maintenance works as part of a rolling programme.

4.2 Letter dated 19 March 2009 from NYCC re: A167 Wellfield Farm

The letter advised that highway maintenance would be carried out as part of the rolling programme of works.

4.3 Letter dated 20 March 2009 from Environment Agency re: Great Crested Newt Survey.

As part of the study for a proposed flood alleviation scheme a survey would be undertaken to determine the presence of Great Crested Newts in the vicinity of Cod Beck.

4.4 Email dated 27 March 2009 from Peter Cole HDC

Advising that Sport England had confirmed funding towards Thirsk Swimming Pool improvement project and that work would hopefully start from 20 April with a planned opening for October 2009.

4.5 Letter dated 1 April 2009 from Elaine Coulson.

Cllr Watson reported receipt of a letter thanking the Town Council for the National Savings cheque in respect of the gratuity payment.

5. Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

The Clerk noted that the schedule and a simplified list had been circulated at the Meeting on 5 March and it had been agreed that Members would examine the documents and report back.

It was noted that the simplified version could be incorporated into the actual Agenda.

Resolved: that the simplified list of outstanding Amenity items be utilised.

6. Minutes/Reports from Committees/Working Parties

6.1 Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts reported that the Trust had requested Cllr Dadd to pursue extending the drinking ban to include Carrs Field.

6.2 Central Areas.

The Meeting received the minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 24 March 2009.

Cllr Watson advised that it was intended to pursue the situation concerning pigeons and discuss the matter further with Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Roberts noted the condition of pavements with pigeon droppings and considered that Hambleton DC should be asked to arrange for the Street Scene Staff to sweep the problem areas.

Resolved:

a) That the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 24 March 2009 be received and noted.

b) That Hambleton DC be requested to arrange for the sweeping of the pavement areas in the Market Place affected by pigeon droppings

6.3 Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that the Committee had accepted a revised quotation from M. Burnett in the sum of £2792.33 for provision of birdmouth fencing on the Little Green, and it was intended that this would be partly funded from the 2008/09 Long Street Enhancement budget.

The plasticrete provision had been given until the end of June to prove satisfactory.

Planters on Long Street were to be repaired and renovated to a maximum budget of £500.

Resolved: That the acceptance of the quotation of £2792.33 for birdmouth fencing on Little Green and use of the 2008/09 Long Street Enhancement Budget be ratified.

6.4 Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the East Thirsk Primary School had undertaken a school project on the green spending time in the area.

6.5 Open Areas

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with Playdale in respect of the East Thirsk Play Area and revised plans were to be prepared utilising some or all of the existing safety surfacing.

A further meeting of Open Areas Committee would be held when the plans were received.

6.6 Sensory Garden

The Clerk reported that the transfer of the land was still awaited.

The final draft of the Agreement for access over the library car park had been submitted.

This included provisions to pay a fair proportion of the cost of maintenance and repair, weight restriction and that the line of access could be altered if necessary with the Town Council being responsible for any reasonable boundary delineation required.

Resolved: That Cllrs Watson and Pack be authorised to sign the Agreement document for and on behalf of the Town Council

7. Items of Information

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted the problems with rubbish at Dowber Way and Tranmire Ditch.

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk in Bloom AGM was to be held on 13 April in the Town Hall.

Cllr Morton noted that there was a constant accumulation of rubbish near to the post box between St. Marys Avenue and St. Marys Walk where a mobile unit was in place.

Cllr Watson advised that the Planning Enforcement Officer was examining a development issue at Batemans Yard which had arisen during the surface reinstatement.

The Clerk advised that the host company for the Town Council Thirsk Heritage web site required paying for the hosting account in the sum of £21.00, but would only accept credit card payment.
Resolved: that the Clerk examine the usage of the website

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 20 April 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs C. Pack (in the Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (abroad) J. Watson (abroad)

8. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 2 April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of Minute 7 to read 'near to the post box on St Marys Walk'.

9. Police Report

No representatives were present.

10. Reports on Matters pertaining to Thirsk

10.1 North Yorkshire County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that he had taken up the issue of parking at the children's centre in East Thirsk and was to visit the site with the Highways Officer.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays were the most appropriate days to visit the area.

In view of the forthcoming County Council elections Cllr Dadd advised that he would not be attending any further Meetings prior to June 4 to ensure an equal and fair platform and would deal with any matters raised through correspondence or via the Clerk.

10.2 Hambleton District Council

Cllr Dadd reported that the positioning of the CCTV camera in Millgate was being examined with a view to moving it.

Hambleton District Area Forum was to approach relevant bodies and statutory authorities with regard to Café Culture.

The District Council was looking to provide a three week holiday on car parking charges on the run up to Christmas.

Cllr Adamson advised that the Licensing Committee had approved the licence for White Horse Stores on Long Street.

The Employers Side of the NJC had offered an across the board pay increase of 0.50% for 2009/10.

11. Open Forum

No members of the Public were present.

12. Matter arising from the Thirsk Town Council Meeting held on 16 March 2009

12.1 Meetings

The Clerk advised that the item had been discussed at the Personnel Committee in conjunction with staffing issues and in this respect suggested that it might be prudent to consider the item in Part II of the Meeting.

Resolved: that the item be considered in Part II of the Meeting

12.2 Provision of sign at Nursery Garden Car Park

The Clerk advised that the matter had not yet been pursued.

Cllr Pagram advised of concerns regarding cyclists using the cut between Chapel Mews and Nursery Garden car park and possible conflict with vehicles and pedestrians.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: i. that the provision of an appropriate sign at Nursery Garden Car Park be pursued

ii. that the relevant Authority be requested to examine the provision of a barrier at the cut between Chapel Mews and Nursery Garden Car Park to prevent cyclist, pedestrian and vehicle conflict.

12.3 NYCC Disc Parking/Prohibition of Waiting Order 2009

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the meeting which had considered this matter.

The County Council had undertaken considerable checking in relation to the order and provision of yellow lines and had considered the various submissions made with some ideas taken on board.

12.4 Hambleton DC: Thirsk Area Forum

Cllr Adamson noted that the issue concerning pigeons had been raised at the Area Forum.

He considered that the issue might be classed as a statutory nuisance and therefore subject to statutory provision.

Cllr Penson noted that a copy letter had been received from J. Proud setting out the various issues regarding feeding pigeons.

13. Finance

13.1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts for payment at 20 April 2009 be approved (Appendix A)

13.2 Monthly Balance Sheet/Budget Report

The monthly balance sheet was circulated.

The Clerk advised that he was still checking the budget report documents.

Resolved: i. that the balance sheet for March be received.

ii. That the report be noted

14 Correspondence/Items Raised

14.1 Gifts and Hospitality Protocol – Letter dated 11 March from HDC

Letter enclosing recently adopted Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality.

Resolved: that the Protocol be copied to Councillors.

14.2 Town Hall Room Hire Charges – Letter from Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Letter advising of charges from April 2009 based on an average 2% increase.

14.3 Parking Proposals – Letter dated 17 March 2009 from NYCC

Letter advising of the parking proposals under the Disc Parking/Prohibition of Waiting Order 2009.

Members noted that the letter did not respond to the specific items raised by the Town Council in its letter of 26 February.

Resolved: that NYCC be requested to respond specifically to the issues raised by the Town Council.

14.4 Urban Grass Cutting – 2 letters dated 7 April 2009 from NYCC

Letter advising of the County Councils financial contribution for grasscutting in 2009/10, and a letter identifying an additional area of land adjacent to the Church.

14.5 Newslines – joint newsletter from District and County Councils of North Yorkshire

The Clerk reported receipt of Newline and noted that it incorporated proposals for Parish and Town Council liaison arrangements.

14.6 Disposal and Landfill Tax Increases April 2009 – letter dated 1 March from FD Todd and Son Letter advising of the increase in Landfill Tax for active general waste and prices from 1 April 2009.

14.7 Street Naming and Numbering – Letter dated 9 April 2009 from Hambleton DC Letter advising of numbering of new properties as 5A, 5B, 5C Front Street.

14.8 Parking Space adjacent to Castle Colour Printers/Upstairs Downstairs.

The Clerk advised that he had been approached regarding the car parking space which was at a right angle to the other spaces and had been requested to seek the Town Councils support in pursuing the space being converted into a bicycle stand area.

There were a considerable number of incidents with cars reversing into the space either damaging or blocking access to cars parked in the adjoining space and egress from the space was onto the bend in Finkle Street. Bicycles were also constantly left leaning against the windows of the Printers.

Cllr Pagram considered it would be beneficial to have a bike stand on both sides of the Market Place and would promote the various current health and transport issues.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that Hambleton DC be requested to consider converting the car space adjacent to Castle Colour Printers/Upstairs Downstairs into a bicycle stand area.

14.9 Carlton Miniott Signs on Station Road

The Clerk reported that he had been approached by a resident regarding the removal of the Carlton Miniott signs on Station Road which were actually in Thirsk parish following the last boundary change.

The resident had advised that they caused confusion to visitors who were not aware of the parish boundary.

Members noted that the signs had been in place both before and after the boundary change and that the matter was a County Council responsibility.

Resolved: that the matter be noted.

15 Burial Board Report/Approval of Applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson advised that there were no matters to report and no applications for memorials had been received.

16. Reports

16.1 Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported on TRI including the on-going Comedy Festival.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Yorkshire Society were supporting the comedy festival in Thirsk and it was felt that it would be of benefit if the Town Council became a member.

Members noted that the Yorkshire Society were responsible for organising Yorkshire day and it was felt that Thirsk could benefit by the Town Council becoming a member.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the East Thirsk Community Hall Caretaker had been in post for six weeks, and a new booking clerk was to start in May.

Resolved: that the Town Council apply for membership of the Yorkshire Society

16.2 Members

Cllr Adamson noted that pavements in East Thirsk had been tarmacadamed.

Cllr Penson advised that she was undertaking the watering of the newly laid turf at Mill Gardens. The Black Bull public house had Karaoke on a Friday night which was designated to finish at midnight but had exceeded this time zone.

Cllr Marshall reported that the last blue plaque, in respect of Hannah Packer, which was on 35 Market Place, was to be officially unveiled in late May by Cooper Harding.

Part II Confidential Items

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

17. Meetings

The Clerk advised that he had reported on meetings and connected staffing matters to the Personnel Committee following the discussion at Full Council.

This included the time spent on preparation of agenda, notices and minutes for dealing with two Full Council Meetings per month, together with the varying length of time between the meetings.

The Report referred to repetition at meetings, committee minutes being presented, the various committees and other local authority's committee systems.

The Clerk also noted the hours and work undertaken by the previous Clerk.

Following on the Clerk advised that he had suggested to the Personnel Committee that the appointment of a Committee Clerk would assist.

The Committee Clerk would help in preparation and dispatch, issue of notices, taking and production of Council Minutes. Other office work such as filing could be undertaken if time allowed.

This would help free-up the Clerks time to concentrate on the work generated by the Council.

Based on an average of 12 hours per month using NJC Scale 1 the cost to the Council would be approximately £1000 per year.

The purchase of a laptop computer was also suggested to allow flexibility in the Office.

The Clerk advised that he would do a full report for Members to consider options available in respect of meetings.

Resolved: i. that the Town Council appoint a Committee Clerk based on a minimum of 12 hours per month on a point within NJ&C Scale1 according to knowledge and experience.

ii. That a computer laptop be purchased.

iii. That the Clerk presents a report on the options for Meetings/Committees to the Council Meeting to be held on the 18 May.

18. Clerks Probationary Period/Salary Review

Cllr Pack reported the completion of the probationary period by the Clerk and put forward the salary review details.

Resolved: that the Clerk be placed on Point 23 of Local Council Scale 1(a)

The Meeting Closed at 8.40pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 7 May 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chair) D.Adamson, C. Hesmondalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, M. Penson, F. Roberts.

Apologies: Cllrs J Jackson (abroad), C. Pack (bereavement), A Pagram (appointment)

19. Open Forum

PC Mayes was present to present the police report.

She advised that a mobile CCTV camera was to be sited on premises in Millgate.

In response to various problems at Castlegarth the respective CCTV camera was to give attention to the area, and a letter drop was to be undertaken.

Problems in Carrs Field were being examined with various options being put forward for consideration.

Councillors noted problems with graffiti in the Mill Gardens area and drinking at the Millennium Green.

Discussion took place with regard to the church porch where various problems were ongoing and PC Mayes questioned whether the gate could be locked. Cllr Morton agreed to examine the matter.

Cllr Marshall advised that the sensory garden was now well underway and she questioned whether this could be incorporated into the no drinking area. PC Mayes advised that she would ask Duncan Pears to examine the matter.

Cllr Watson reported receipt of a letter dated 20 April from NYCC regarding Alcohol Respect Campaign in Thirsk which was a follow on from the successful pilot in Bedale.

Mention was made of the present position concerning Nicks Alley.

Cllr Watson thanked PC Mayes for attending the meeting and Members wished her well for her forthcoming childbirth.

20. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 20 April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 2 April 2009

21.1 Sweeping of Pavement Areas in the Market Place

The Clerk advised that John Proud had confirmed that the pavement areas in the Market place affected by pigeons would be regularly swept and he had also arranged for power washing of the alleyway adjacent to the TIC.

The Clerk noted that John Proud had also responded to a request via members of Thirsk in Bloom for removal of weeds and litter adjoining the library railings and seat area.

21.2 Thirsk Heritage Website

The Clerk advised that the provision of a website was a condition of the grant received in respect of the interpretation boards. Cllr Marshall gave details of the Website.

22. Correspondence

22.1 Letter dated 1/4/09 from the Environment Agency re Flood Alleviation Scheme – Tree survey. Letter advising that consultants would be undertaking a survey of trees on land adjacent to the river.

22.2 Letter date 7/4/09 from Diane Sue and Myra re Picnic Area.

The letter gave a report on the years work undertaken on the Picnic Area and proposals for the coming year. Confirmation was sought that the finance of £100 would be available for the forthcoming year.

Resolved: i) that an account be set up at Baldersby Garden Centre to enable the purchase of plants for the Picnic Area.

ii) That a letter of appreciation be sent with regard to the work undertaken on the Picnic Area together with confirmation regarding the finance

22.3 Email dated 20/4/09 from HDC re May Street Collections

The Clerk reported the Street collections in Thirsk for May.

22.4 Letter dated 3/05/09

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Mrs M Prior from Lincolnshire who highly complimented the Town following a recent visit.

23. Outstanding Amenity Items

23.1 St James Green

Cllr Adamson questioned what progress had been made by the Greens Committee in relation to the Byelaws. Cllr Marshall advised of the complex situation with regard to the Byelaws.

24. Minutes/ Reports from Committees /Working Parties

24.1 Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts noted that Mr T Jordan had advised that he wished to attend a meeting to give a full report on proposed activities in respect of Carrs Field.

24.2 Central Areas

Cllr Watson circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2009 which included the turfing of Mill Gardens, problems with graffiti on Millgate Bridge and progressing allotments.

24.3 Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised of the progress made with Taylor Wimpy with regard to the work on the Holmes.

The East Thirsk Play Area was now subject to Playdale providing an amended scheme to take into account utilising some of the existing safety surfacing.

24.4 Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall updated the meeting on the progress with acquisition and transfer of the areas of land, and advised of the work being undertaken including the provision of summer bedding plants by volunteers.

Cllr Marshall advised that there had been no further progress in respect of the small triangle of land owned by Taylor Wimpy and proposed that the Town Council instruct Jopling's to formally value and negotiate the acquisition of the land.

Resolved: that Jopling's be instructed to value and negotiate the acquisition of the triangular area of land at Sensory Garden

24.5 Ditches

The Clerk advised that he had been approached by a resident in the St Marys walk area with regard to an open ditch causing considerable problems and which the resident felt should be culverted.

Members of the ditches working party were to call a meeting and would include the item for discussion.

25. Items of Information

Cllr Marshall advised that the Thircon Roundabout was extremely overgrown and that a pony was actually tethered on the roundabout which she considered was inappropriate.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Hannah Packer Plaque was to be unveiled by Cooper Harding at 2 PM on Friday 29 May, with light refreshment at the Black Lion afterwards.

It was reported that there were potholes at the top of St Marys on Stockton Road.

Cllr Watson advised that she had attended the launch of the one stop cop shop on 17 April.

Resolved: that the condition of the Thircon Roundabout be brought to the attention of NYCC

26. Application for Memorial Permit

Cllr Adamson reported receipt of an application for a memorial permit for a wooden cross.

The method of installation had been discussed and agreed

Resolved: that the memorial permit for N. Palliser be approved.

Part II

Part II

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

27. Salaries

The Clerk reported the implementation of the 2008/09 National Final Salary award and implementation of the Cemetery workers holiday pay, based on 1/12, for all hours worked for the Town Council.

Resolved: that the report be noted and approved.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 18 May 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson.
Apologies: Cllrs C. Pack (Bereavement) J Jackson (abroad).

27. Minutes

Resolved : that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th May 2009 be approved as correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of Sgt to PC under Minute 19, the amendment of Taylor Wimpey and Jopling's under Minute 24.4, the amendment of Thircon under Minute 25.

28. Police Report

No members of the police were present

29. To receive reports on matters pertaining to Thirsk

29.1 North Yorkshire County Council

It was noted that Cllr Dadd had advised that he would not be attending meetings prior to the election on 4 June to ensure a fair and level platform.

29.2 Hambleton District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that the District Council were examining legislation regarding 'Happy Hours' and the consultation document was 87 pages.

30. Open Forum

Tony Jordan advised that he was present as Chair of the Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust in relation to Carrs Field.

He understood that the Town Council had approved a budget of £2500 and following meetings with the police and representatives of HDC the Trust was looking to replace the gates for the main entrance and enhance the security of the field, particularly in relation to preventing travellers and joy riders accessing the land.

He presented two quotations in respect of the proposal.

Cllr Roberts questioned why accounts and reports had not been submitted and Mr Jordan advised that the former treasurer had left the Trustees with a considerable number of matters to resolve. Mr Jordan questioned whether the Town Council would like him to attend appropriate meetings to report on the Trust.

Cllr Roberts *referred to* the various proposals put forward by F W A G in relation to Centenary Field, The Holmes and Carrs Field and suggested that the plans should be turned over to the Trustees for them to examine and pursue.

Following further discussion Cllr Adamson thanked Mr Jordan for attending the meeting and advised that the Town Council would consider the quotations.

31. Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 20th April 2009

31. 1. Meetings

The clerk advised that he had not yet prepared a report.

31.2. Gifts and Hospitality Protocol

The Clerk advised that the protocol would be circulated.

31.3. Membership of the Yorkshire Society.

The Clerk advised that he had received details and an application form in respect of the Yorkshire Society.

31.4 Unveiling of Hannah Packer Plaque

Cllr Marshall noted that the unveiling had been confirmed for 2 pm on Friday 29th May.

32. Finance

32.1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the schedule of Accounts for payment as at 18th May 2009 be approved (see attached schedule)

32.2 Monthly Balance Sheet/Budget Report - April 2009

Cllr Marshall advised that the budget report was work in progress and now included income as well as expenditure. It was intended that the budget report and balance sheet cumulative figures would eventually correspond. It was noted that the income over expenditure figures in the monthly balance sheet had a typographical error.

Resolved: that the monthly balance sheet and budget report for April 2009 be accepted and approved subject to the amendment of the cumulative figures of income over expenditure.

33 Correspondence /Items raised

33.1 Public sector duties – letter dated 14.4 from Equality Human Rights Commission

Resolved: that the letter be noted

33.2 Animal Aid Compassionate Charter – letter dated 14.4 from Animal Aid

Resolved: that the letter be noted

33.3 Gliders operating from RAF Topcliffe – copy letter dated 18.4 from Mrs Suffield.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

34. Burial Board Report / Approval Applications for Memorial

Cllr Adamson noted that R M Dickinson was continuing to do an extremely good job in the Cemetery. Members considered applications for memorials received from Dales of Thirsk and Scott Memorials. Cllr Watson questioned the progress in relation to a review of the stability of headstones and monuments.

Cllr Adamson reported that the headstone count had now been concluded but the whereabouts of the original plans was in question.

The Clerk advised members of the provisions of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 and noted that a professional survey of headstones and monuments should be undertaken.

Cllr Marshall questioned what had happened with regard to a problem in relation to a shallow grave in the previous week.

Cllr Adamson noted that a proposed second interment in a grave could not comply with the regulations with regard to depth. The Clerk advised that following discussions the undertaker had agreed to adhere to the Recommended Code of Practice from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's Policy Relating to Shallow Graves, whereby the coffin was hermetically sealed in a walled grave or vault.

Cllr Adamson advised that he intended to place the policy in front of the Burial Board with a view to it becoming the adopted policy.

Resolved: that the applications for memorials and additional inscriptions in respect of M. J. Hall, J. Smith, E. Powell, S. Bindoff, R. Armstrong, D. Abbott, J. Dobson received from Dales of Thirsk and the application for a memorial for P. Lennon received from Scott Memorials be approved subject to the stonemasons being advised of the requirement to leave a six month period between the date of interment and erection of a memorial.

35. Reports

35.1 Representatives

Cllr Watson noted that she had attended the launch of Shop Local and had bought the first card.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Infant School Trustees had agreed the library lease.

Cllr Roberts noted that Action for Market Towns were to hold their summer meeting in the cinema in Thirsk.

35.2 Members

Cllr Watson expressed concern that the post office had recently been closed between 1.30 to 2.30 pm due to staff shortages and whilst she sympathised she considered it was totally inappropriate for the closure to take place at lunchtime.

Cllr Watson commented on the vandalism to the bus shelter which resulted in three of the glass panels being replaced. She had contacted the police and was awaiting a response *following examination of the CCTV footage*.

There had also been problems on Castle Garth and it was hoped that the CCTV would provide evidence in relation to the perpetrators.

Cllr Robinson expressed concern with regard to people drinking within the exclusion area when a police caravan had been present in the Market Place and he had asked officers to address the situation.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had been approached with regard to the alleyway between the TIC and the Darrowby Inn in respect of litter and cigarette ends.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that the problems with litter in the alleyway be examined with a view to resolving the situation.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 04 June 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present - Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, F. Roberts.

Apologies - Cllrs C. Pack (Bereavement)A. Pagram (appointment)M. Penson (Election staffing) J. Watson (Election staffing).

36. Open Forum

The Police representative advised that there were currently three operations being undertaken one of which was the national drink drive campaign over a two week period.

Operation Arc was being undertaken with Trading Standards and targeted the sale of alcohol to underage youths and children.

Under Operation Ladybird there would be a high presence of police in the Market Place at weekends.

37. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Town council meeting held on the 18 of May 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of 'Cllr Roberts *referred to*' under minute No 30, and ' was awaiting a response *following examination of the CCTV footage*' under Minute 35.2.

38. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7th may 2009.

38.1 Account at Garden Centre

The Clerk advised that he had spoken to Diane Miller, regarding the matter and she was arrange to set up an appropriate account. It was noted that Baldersby Garden Centre was most appropriate for provision of the plants in this instance.

38.2 Land at Sensory Garden: appointment of Jopling's.

The Clerk advised that he and discussed the matter with Malcolm Parker and had sent a formal letter of appointment.

38.3. Condition of *Thircon* Roundabout.

The Clerk noted that the roundabout grass had been cut following it being reported to the County Council.

39. Correspondence/Items Raised.

39.1 Quotations re: Gates at Carrs Field for Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust.

The Clerk advised members that representatives had met with the Police and the Trustees were looking to improve the security of the field by the provision of metal gates.

Two quotations had been submitted by the Trust from SGS and AA Contractors.

Following further discussion it was:

Resolved: a) that the Trustees be advised that the Town Council accept the quotation from S.G.S.

b) The Trustees be requested to ensure that the gates provided are as vandal proof as possible.

39.2 Letter dated 1st May 2009 from NYCC re: Cobbles on Kirkgate.

The County Council advised that the whole area of cobbles along the side of Kirkgate would have to be renewed at the same time to maintain the structural integrity of the area and this would have to be considered as a scheme proposal submission. In the meantime the strip would be maintained and any hazardous defects would be made safe.

Resolved: That the letter be noted.

39.3 Letter dated 4th May.2009 from Dr J Cuthbert re: Feral Pigeons.

The Clerk read the letter from Dr J Cuthbert which gave advice regarding feral pigeons.

Resolved: that the letter be noted and Dr Cuthbert be thanked for the information and advice.

40. Outstanding Amenity Items.

40.1 Plasticrete on Little Green

Cllr Marshall questioned whether any response had been received from Hambleton District Council and the Clerk advised that there had been no further communication.

Resolved: that the provision of plasticrete at the Little Green be pursued with HDC.

40.2 Relocating Ducks

Cllr Jackson questioned whether any progress had been made in respect of relocating ducks and Cllr Marshall advised that some information had been received from Natural England.

Cllr Jackson noted that Gordon Buckley would probably be able to assist in this matter.

Resolved: that the Town Council contact Gordon Buckley in this matter.

41. Minutes / Reports from Committees/Working Parties.

41.1. Central Areas.

The Clerk reported that the agents acting on behalf of the National Westminster Bank in relation to the erection of the decorative archway had advised that the Bank had no objections but required a formal licence to be prepared. The Town Council would have to be responsible for the legal fees involved in the preparation of the license which amounted to £750.00 plus VAT.

Resolved: that the Town Council confirm acceptance of responsibility for the National Westminster Bank's legal fees in the sum of £750 plus VAT in relation to the preparation of a formal licence.

41.2 Greens and Ingramgate.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that the White Mare Roundabout would require watering and questioned whether it was possible for R Dickinson, the Cemetery Groundsman, to undertake this work.

Resolved: a) that R Dickinson be approached with regard to watering of the Roundabout
b) that Yorkshire Water be contacted for the stand pipe licence.

41.3 Millennium Green

Cllr Adamson advised that the next meeting of the Committee was to be an open air meeting at the Green.

41.3 Open Areas.

Cllr Marshall referred to the recent play area inspection by Julie Harron and noted that the new bench and path had been provided on The Holmes by Taylor Wimpey but only a narrow gap had been left which was inadequate for wheelchairs. She advised that it would be necessary for removal of part of the fence in this respect.

Cllr Marshall advised of the history of the East Thirsk Play Area and the various quotations received from 2007 to the present time. She noted that the latest quotation included two new items which had not previously been included, namely inspection chambers for single mast activity net at £1150.00 and welfare facilities at £1826.00.

At no time during the various discussions with Playdale had there been any indication of these items. Following further talks Playdale had increased the discount to the maximum 20% but the quotation was still in the sum of £56895.00 which was in excess of budget.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: i) that M. Burnett be instructed to remove part of the fence adjacent to the new path at The Holmes to enable wheelchair access.

ii) that the quotation dated 3 June 2009 in the sum of £568965.00 from Playdale in respect of East Thirsk Play Area be accepted due to the timescale involved.

iii) that Playdale be advised of the Towns Councils concern and disappointment with regard to the service received from the company.

41.4. Sensory Garden.

Cllr Marshall updated members on the current position regarding the Sensory Garden and noted that the land was still not in the ownership of the Town Council although it was hoped that progress could now be made.

She advised that work was still progressing and questioned whether the Town Council wanted to continue expending money until such time as the various issues were resolved.

Following further discussion it was:

Resolved: That no further work to the sensory garden be undertaken until such time as all land transfer and legal issues have been resolved.

41.5 Ditches.

Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting of the Ditches working party had been held.

A letter had been received by the Town Councils Solicitors from Keeble Hawson, who acted for Barratt Homes, questioning whether the Town Council would take over the responsibility for the ditch across the Millennium Green together with the Tranmire Ditch. The Ditches Working Party had advised that the Town Council would not take over responsibility of the ditch on the Millennium Green.

The meeting had also considered an issue concerning the ditch to the rear of *Darrowby* Close and were to advise the person concerned that the ditch was in private ownership.

42. Items of information

Cllr Marshall advised that the unveiling of the Hannah *Packer* Plaque had gone successfully and had been well attended including the chairman of NYCC and the Chairman of Hambleton District Council together with the daughter of Bill Hayes, the contact in Uruguay, and her children.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh *noted the requirement for notice boards on the industrial estate.*

Cllr Jackson questioned whether any information had been received from HDC with regard to the attendant supervised toilets at Northallerton.

Cllr Morton advised that the area adjoining the post box at St Marys walk still required cleaning.

It was also noted that the roadway on the Industrial Estate was subject to cars parking resulting in problems for lorries on the estate. Cllr Roberts questioned whether a one way system would assist in this respect.

Resolved:

- i) That Hambleton District council be requested to provide information and details in

- respect of the attendant supervised toilets at Northallerton.
- ii) That an item regarding the access road at Thirsk Industrial Estate be placed on the agenda for the Town Council meeting to be held on 2 July 2009

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 15 June 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, F. Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs A.Morton (injury), C.Pack (bereavement), A.Pagram (illness), M.Penson (holiday), J. Watson (holiday)

43. Minutes.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 4 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of minute no.38.3 to read *Thircon*, minute no.41.5 to read *Darrowby Close*, Minute no.42 to read *Packer* and Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted *the requirement for notice boards on the industrial estate*.

44. Police Report

No representatives were present.

45. Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

45.1 NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that he was delighted to have been re-elected to the County Council.

Cllr Jackson questioned the position regarding the possible replacement of Thirsk Secondary School. He noted that the property had been erected at a time when build quality was not very good and that the building was in a bad condition. He therefore felt that the replacement should be treated as a priority for the Town.

Cllr Dadd advised that there was a programme which was subject to prioritisation criteria, timescales and funding. He confirmed that he would examine the matter and report back.

Cllr Marshall questioned whether any progress had been made with regard to the car parking problem at East Thirsk.

Cllr Dadd advised that the Highways Officer was trying to reach an appropriate agreement and long term solution.

45.2 HDC

Cllr Adamson noted that a survey on behalf of HDC and NYCC was to be undertaken in respect of the provision for teenagers around the Town.

Cllr Marshall noted that it had been reported that HDC had £50,000 available for new play schemes and questioned if this included re-visiting existing play areas.

Resolved: that HDC be requested to provide details of the finance available for play schemes.

46. Open Forum

No members of the public wished to speak

47. Matters arising from the Meeting held on 18 May 2009

47.1 Membership of Yorkshire Society

The Clerk advised that the Membership form was completed and that a cheque for the fee of £150.00 was included for signing in the accounts for payment.

47.2 Unveiling of Hannah Packer Plaque

The Clerk reported on the event that had taken place on 29 May.

The attendees had included the Mayor, Chairman of NYCC, Chairman of HDC and the daughter of the original contact in Uruguay.

The Clerk noted that Cllr Marshall had undertaken the majority of the preparation work for the event which had been much appreciated.

47.3 Burial Board Report/Headstone Count

Cllr Adamson advised that the Cemetery Groundsman had undertaken and completed the headstone count, with a figure of 1650 memorials.

He noted that the next Burial Board Meeting would consider the appointment of a firm to undertake and log a stability check of memorials.

47.4 Shop Local

Cllr Marshall noted that Cllr Watson had attended the launch of Shop Local and proposed that the relevant person be invited to present the scheme to the Town Council.

Resolved: that a presentation in respect of Shop Local be arranged.

47.5 Bus Shelter

Cllr Marshall questioned whether there had been any progress in relation to the CCTV footage of the incident at the bus shelter.

48. Finance

48.1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts be approved for payment (see appendix A)

48.2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for May

The Clerk advised that the budget report would be updated for the next appropriate meeting.

Resolved: that the monthly balance sheet be approved.

48.3 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009

The Clerk advised that as the month to month accounts were undertaken on a receipts and payments basis he had presumed that this was the system used by the Council.

The Council did in fact convert the receipts and payments to an income and expenditure basis at the end of the financial year.

The external auditors had advised that on the amounts involved the Council could utilise either system and the year ended 31 March 2009 had been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. It was noted that the previous year's figures had to be amended to receipts and payments for the statement of accounts submission.

Copies of the statement of accounts and annual governance statement were circulated.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: a) that the Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 prepared on a receipts and payments basis be approved and signed by the chair.

b) that numbers 1 to 8 inclusive on the annual governance statement be agreed and the statement be signed by the chair.

49. Correspondence/Items Raised

49.1 Email dated 28 May 2009 from NYCC re: Traffic Matters in Thirsk

The Clerk reported the email from NYCC which advised that the timing of the pedestrian crossing in the Market Place had not been changed, but on inspection a fault had been found.

With regard to the junction of Chapel Street and Westgate, the Highway Authority had recognised the need to improve the junction and had placed it on the reserve list of schemes awaiting funding where it would compete against other schemes.

The issues concerning Chapel Street and Chapel Mews had been passed to HDC to deal with.

Resolved: that the letter be received and noted.

49.2 Letter dated 1 June 2009 from HDC re: Car Parking Charges – Christmas 2009

The Clerk reported receipt of the letter which sought the Town Councils views on the introduction of free parking in the Town during the Christmas shopping period.

Resolved: that HDC be advised that the Town Council opposes car parking charges in the Town and therefore would support free parking over the whole of the Christmas shopping period.

49.3 Letter dated 1 June 2009 from I. W. McQuade re: Allotments

The Meeting considered the letter which requested the provision of an allotment.

The Clerk advised that he had examined the allotment file which contained the various applications received.

It was considered that it would be beneficial to obtain appropriate press coverage resulting in landowners becoming aware of the situation.

Cllr Marshall noted that some land had been identified in a District Wide Plan by HDC as allotments and suggested that this could be pursued.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: a) that appropriate press coverage be pursued

b) that HDC be approached with regard to land allocated for allotments.

50. Burial Board Report/Approval of Applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson noted that the Burial Board was to meet to discuss Memorials, following the headstone count and issue of further advice by government, and the shallow grave policy.

51. Reports

51.1 Representatives

Cllr Roberts noted that a working party was examining disbanding the NY Playing Fields Association.

Cllr Adamson reported on the Millennium Green open air meeting, at which it had been decided to prune some trees and take out the goalposts.

Cllr Marshall noted the need for more Trustees and the requirement to change the Trust document.

It was reported that the venues and acts for the comedy festival had been booked.

Cllr Adamson reported that the Thirsk Clock had received final notice which expired in September and that the alternative premises in Chapel Street had fallen through.

51.2 Members

Cllr Roberts reported on behalf of Cllr Morton that the area adjacent to the post box on St Marys Walk was still in need of cleaning.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported the pothole at the top of St Marys onto Stockton Road.

Cllr Marshall noted that Kirby Lonsdale in the Lake District ran the local market, and as a matter of interest suggested that the Town Council try and trace the Market Charter.

She proposed that the NYCC be requested to examine the provision of an appropriate highway crossing adjacent to Barclays Bank.

Cllr Jackson advised that the Museum Society had decided not to pursue registration of the museum in view of the complicated process and outcome.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the opening of Alphacare which was a member of Disability Action Yorkshire and the unveiling of the Hannah Packer Plaque.

Resolved: a) that the existence of a market charter be examined

b) that NYCC be requested to examine the provision of an appropriate highway crossing adjacent to Barclays Bank.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 2 July 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson

Apologies: Cllrs A. Morton (prior engagement)

52. Open Forum (15 mins)

No Members of the public were present.

53. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 15 June be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of minute no 51.2 to read:-

'Provision of a *zebra* crossing adjacent to Barclays Bank'; and 'decided not to pursue *accreditation* of the museum in view of the complicated process *which meant that it was an inappropriate system for small volunteer led museums*'.

54. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4 June 2009 54.1

Plasticrete on Little Green

The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to HDC. Cllr Adamson referred to a report to the District councils Standards Committee on review of complaints, which included the issue concerning the plasticrete and which advised that the complaint had not been upheld.

Resolved: that a further letter be sent to HDC requesting full details of the complaint outcome and comments given.

54.2 Relocating Ducks

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Gordon Buckley who was very knowledgeable on the subject and who was willing to assist.

Cllr Marshall suggested that he be invited to discuss the matter with the Town Council.

Resolved: that Gordon Buckley be invited to discuss the relocation of ducks with the Town Council.

54.3 Archway – National Westminster Bank.

The Clerk advised that the Engrossment Licence had been received.

The Town Councils Solicitors had examined the document and had confirmed that it was acceptable.

Resolved: that the Engrossment Licence be duly signed for and on behalf of the Town Council.

54.4 Watering of White Mare Roundabout.

The Clerk reported that the application form for the standpipe had been received and that R. Dickinson was available to undertake the watering.

54.5 East Thirsk Play Area

The Quotation had been formally accepted.

54.5 Toilets

HDC requested to provide details of attendant supervised toilets. Cllr Adamson noted that the HDC report on complaints had also included the state of the toilets and lack of cleaning and it had been accepted that there were problems.

55. Correspondence/Items Raised

55.1 Proposed Zebra Crossing – Topcliffe Road

Letter dated 16 June 2009 from NYCC advising of a scheme to install a zebra crossing on Topcliffe Road in the vicinity of Sowerby Road Junction.

Resolved: that NYCC be advised that the Town Council supports the scheme.

55.2 Membership of the Historic Towns Forum

Letter dated 23 June 2009 from Historic Towns Forum advising that membership was now open to parish councils.

55.3 Nursery Garden – Section 106 Agreement

Letter dated 23 June 2009 from HDC enclosing re-drafted Land Registry Transfer document.

Resolved: that Cllrs Adamson and Hesmondhalgh be authorised to sign the Land Registry Transfer document.

55.4 Visit by French Teacher and children.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had been approached by a Teacher from France who was going to work at Queen Marys School at Topcliffe for the summer camp.

She was interested in organising an event in Thirsk with the French children.

Members felt that it would be best dealt with through the school, particularly in respect of safety and insurance requirements.

56. Access Road at Thirsk Industrial Estate

The Meeting considered problems associated with vehicular access and parking and the requirement for more notice boards.

It was noted that FC Todd and Sons had submitted a planning application to NYCC to increase its operations.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that one notice board had been provided but there were still A boards on the Estate and further notice boards were required.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that further consideration be given following the outcome of the planning application.

57. Outstanding Amenity Items

57.1 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch

The Clerk advised that the resident who had raised the issue of the ditch to the rear of his property in Darrowby Close had established that it was in the ownership of the original property developers. The ditch went under St Marys walk and Cllr Morton was concerned that it may be blocked under the roadway due to the backup of water in wet weather conditions.

Resolved: that NYCC be advised of the concerns regarding the ditch where it runs under St Marys Walk

57.2 St James Green

Cllr Marshall advised that the Greens Committee were to examine the update of the Bylaws in conjunction with the Clerk.

58. To receive Minutes/Reports from Committees/Working Parties:

58.1 Central Areas

The Minutes of the Committee held on 9 June 2009 were circulated.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Rotary Club were to undertake repair and renovation work to the benches and tables in the Picnic Area and questioned whether these items were included in the seating maintenance contract.

Cllr Penson advised that there had been a meeting with C. Amy to discuss the work undertaken and required in Mill Gardens, and Mike I' Anson had been approached with regard to specifications. The matter would be discussed at the next Meeting of the Committee.

Cllr Watson advised that there was to be no prosecution in respect of the damage to the bus shelter due to insufficient evidence.

Resolved: a) that the Minutes be received and noted

b) that the seating maintenance contract be checked.

58.2 Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Marshall advised that bird mouth fencing had been erected at St James Green, but the completion of the fencing on the north side was still awaited.

58.3 Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that everything was in order.

58.4 Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that a grant claim had been submitted to HDC to cover the financial difference on the East Thirsk Play Area contract as previously reported.

A walk around had taken place and a list of items had been submitted to the office.

It had been noted that litter bins were full and in need of emptying and HDC had been informed.

A project plan had been prepared for the East Thirsk Play Area which would be closed to allow removal of the old equipment and redevelopment of the area.

It was hoped that the School Council would be able to comeback for the official opening.

58.5 Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall noted that there was no funding available for further works at the present time and various funding allocations were being examined.

58.6 Ditches

A meeting was to be timetabled.

59. Items of Information

Cllr Watson noted that there were plants growing in the grids in Bakers Alley and adjacent to the hairdressers in Finkle Street.

Cllr Marshall reported that the Plinths in Long Street had not been planted and she considered that these were an important welcome to Thirsk.

Cllr Roberts noted the difficulties in watering.

Cllr Pack confirmed that she would arrange for the planting-up and maintenance through Thirsk in Bloom.

Cllr Marshall advised of an article in the January edition of Rural Arts about the Thirsk Interpretation Board trail.

Cllr Marshall was concerned that the article was factually inaccurate and considered that the Town council should have been consulted prior to its publication.

Resolved: that Rural Arts be advised of the inaccuracies and be requested to consult appropriate parties in respect of future articles.

Cllr Penson reported that the Environment agency had undertaken drilling works in the middle of Mill Gardens leaving a large area requiring reinstatement.

Cllr Pagram advised that dog dirt on the cobbles near to Timsons appeared to have been sprayed with yellow paint.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had attended the Environment Agency Drop-In Meeting regarding the flood alleviation scheme which had shown the options available.

He had advised the representatives of the availability of EU finance and had questioned whether the scheme could be upgraded if additional finance was provided, which was theoretically possible.

Resolved: that the Environment Agency be requested to examine EU finance available in respect of the Flood Alleviation Scheme

Cllr Watson noted the short length of cycle track adjacent to Lidl and questioned the need for it.

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 20 July 2009 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson

Apologies: Cllrs C. Pack (unwell), A. Pagram (family illness)

60. Minutes.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 2 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of Apologies to read *Cllr*:

61. Police Report

No representatives were present.

62. Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

62.1 NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that John Savage was Chairman and Caroline Seymour was Vice-chair of NYCC.

He noted that he was again the Chair of the Scrutiny of Health Committee with John Blackie as Vice-chairman.

There was some concern in East Thirsk with regard to the planning application submitted by Todd's and Cllr Dadd was going to request a site visit.

Cllr Dadd advised of the suspension of paediatric services at the Friarage and noted that the service was to be transferred to the James Cook hospital.

The resumption date for the service was 26 October 2009.

Cllr Marshall noted that promises had been made that services would continue in Northallerton.

The parking issue in East Thirsk had raised a number of complaints from residents and the Police had been asked to pay attention to it.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the Community Centre had contacted the Children's Centre and had now established a good working relationship.

The Highways department were to look at the drainage problem in Finkle Street.

Cllr Jackson questioned whether any further information in respect of the replacement of the Secondary School had been obtained.

Cllr Dadd advised that Thirsk School was in package 10 of the BSF programme and this would be one of the last projects to enter the programme.

The prioritisation criteria for BSF took account of deprivation, attainment, capacity, and building need.

Cllr Jackson noted that the school had been built at a time of economic austerity and he was concerned for the long term life of the building. He considered that the replacement school should still be pushed for.

Cllr Marshall questioned the position in relation to replacement elderly person's facilities and Cllr Dadd advised that negotiations were still proceeding to secure the site

62.2 HDC

The meeting was advised that the CCTV for Mill Gardens was not yet installed due to an equipment problem.

The Council was pursuing enforcement in respect of the garage on Long Street.

Cllr Roberts referred to notices in relation to a variation of the premises licence for the Royal.

Resolved: that Hambleton District Council be advised that Thirsk Town Council request that the application for variation of the premises licence at the Royal Hotel receive careful and appropriate consideration.

63. Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Mrs M. Corpson advised the meeting of matters surrounding the death of her husband due to an aneurysm, from the request for an ambulance, when he had been taken to the Friarage and then transferred to James Cook.

She was concerned about the medical facilities available for residents of Thirsk.

Members expressed concern in respect of the issues raised.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Council could not become directly involved in the specific issues but could ask the NYCC Scrutiny of Health Committee general questions in relation to health issues.

Resolved:

a) that standing orders be reinstated

b) that the NYCC Scrutiny of Health Committee be requested to examine service provision, recording of calls and subsequent storage.

64 Matters arising from the Thirsk Town Council Meeting held on 15 June 2009

64/1 HDC Finance available for Play Schemes

The Clerk advised that NYCC had been allocated 1.1 million pounds through the Playbuilder scheme, and through the District Council schemes at Easingwold and Stokesley had been approved in the first year. Schemes could be submitted for the second year based on natural play for 8 to 13 year olds.

64/2 Presentation in respect of Shop Local

The Clerk advised that Cath Grimsey would be available to attend the Town Council Meeting on 17 August 2009

64/3 Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2009

The Meeting was advised that the internal audit had been completed and the annual return signed.

64/4 Allotments

The Clerk advised that HDC had been trying to let the land, between South Dowber Lane and the A19, to voluntary and charitable groups.

M. I 'Anson's woodland group had planted trees along the border of the land to create a natural barrier.

The Clerk advised that he had not yet visited the area to establish its suitability and had not confirmed its allocation in planning terms.

Cllr Robinson advised that the area was well used for dog walking and the provision of allotments would be opposed by residents.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Town Council were merely exploring the use of the land.

64/5 Market Charter

Cllr Roberts noted that Eric Thompson's book of Thirsk advised of the failed attempts to locate a Market Charter.

65. Finance

65/1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts for payment as at 20 July 2009 be approved subject to clarification of the payment to Thirsk Garden Centre.

65/2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for May 2009

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that the budget figure for the millennium green was not correct.

Resolved:

- a) that the balance sheet for June 2009 be received
- b) that the budget report for June be received and that the budget figures be checked

66. Correspondence/Items Raised

66/1 Letter dated 23 June 2009 from Mrs H. Fowler re: Allotments

Letter requesting provision of an allotment.

66/2 Letter dated 6 July 2009 from HDC re: Street Naming and Numbering

Letter regarding naming of Lidl store.

66/3 Letter dated 7 July 2009 from HDC re: Pay and Display machine locations.

Letter advising that 8 machines had been proposed for the Market Place.

Members considered that that the number was excessive and following discussion it was

Resolved:

- a) that Hambleton D.C. be advised that the Town Council consider that eight machines would be too many for the Market Place and suggest that the two machines to be sited on the pavement, which could cause obstruction, and the one machine near to the road be deleted.
- b) that it be questioned whether planning permission will be required for installing the machines in the conservation area and if English heritage have been consulted.

67. Burial Board Report/Approval of Applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson advised that the new grasscutting contractors were doing a good job in the cemetery and he had not received any complaints in respect of the work carried out in this sensitive area.

Resolved:

a) that the report be noted

b) that the memorial applications from Dales of Thirsk in respect of Wigmore, Smith, Cook and Bell be approved subject to the six month rule being applied.

68. Reports from Representatives/Members

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that she had attended the Forces Day concert which had been a wonderful event.

Cllr Morton advised that the Swimming Baths Trust intended to put up notices regarding the useage of the car park in anticipation of the introduction of car parking charges.

Cllr Adamson had presented trophies at the inter-school swimming gala and he had been amazed at the enthusiasm of the children. He had also opened the new Lidl supermarket on the 23rd of July.

Cllr Watson advised that NYCC was undertaking a Local Transport Plan Survey.

Cllr Robinson considered that the comedy festival had not been well advertised, and noted that three events in the Town Hall had been cancelled.

Cllr Marshall advised that the cinema contribution to the festival had been well attended.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 6 August 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson.

Apologies: None

69. Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Mr A. Newton advised of the problems with litter, broken glass and the condition of the footpath at Castle Garth. He expressed concerns about a lack of public policing.

Cllr Marshall explained the situation regarding Castle Garth and the facts concerning the public right of way and CCTV at Tesco's.

She also noted that in the past the Town Council had set up a problem solving group but this had ceased meeting due to matters being resolved.

She suggested that in the light of recent events the group may have to be resurrected.

The Clerk referred to emails with the District Council and the Police Authority regarding Castle Garth.

Mr R. Hinton questioned the progress in relation to Nicksgate Alley.

Cllr Watson advised that a site meeting had been held with P. Penny NYCC and A. Maudsley HDC when the options available had been discussed.

There was an ongoing legal issue as to whether a public footpath was a highway, which could be cleaned by a Local Authority, and whilst NYCC and HDC were examining the matter it was unlikely it would be resolved in the near future. Cllr Watson advised that it may be that the owners and residents would have to address the current issues.

The Central Areas Committee were to discuss the matter further and HDC Environmental Health were to be contacted to ensure that the alleyway complied with all relevant legislation

Resolved:

- a) That standing orders be reinstated
- b) That the condition of the footpath at Castle Garth be raised with NYCC
- c) That the problem solving group be re-established.
- d) That the tree(s) obstructing the CCTV camera be pruned.

70. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of Town Council Meeting held on Monday 2 July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

71. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2 July 2009.

71.1 Nursery Garden – Section 106 Agreement

Re-drafted Land Registry Transfer document signed and returned to HDC.

71.2 Visit by French Teacher and Children

Event to be organised through Queen Marys School

71.3 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch

The Clerk advised that HDC Environmental Health were pursuing the issues in respect of the ditch to the rear of Darrowby Close.

71.4 EU Finance/Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Clerk advised that he had contacted the Environment Agency on the matter and had sent a letter requesting details of any outcome.

71.5 Toilets

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from HDC giving details of the attendant supervised toilets at Northallerton.

The meeting discussed the toilet facilities at Thirsk and how they could be improved.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved:

- a) that HDC be requested to provide details of its future intentions in respect of the toilet facilities at Thirsk
- b) that the running costs of the toilets at Northallerton and Thirsk be obtained.

72. Correspondence/Items Raised

72.1 PLasticrete Surfacing – Access Road adjacent Todd’s Court

Letter dated 23 July 2009 from HDC advising that a report was being taken to the prosperity board about infrastructure assets and their maintenance.

The Senior Engineer advised that he understood the outcome the Town Council was seeking to achieve and the issues HDC were seeking to resolve and he needed to discuss further how a satisfactory conclusion could be reached.

Following discussion it was

Resolved: that the Town Council’s Solicitors be consulted for their views on the on-going matter.

72.2 Re-Location of Ducks

Letter dated 10 July 2009 from P. Mason who owned a 100 acre farm with ponds and who would be willing to take any ducks that were to be relocated.

The Clerk advised that he had talked to G. Buckley and had agreed that the best way forward would be to write to the RSPCA and Natural England for a complete and detailed procedure.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to the RSPCA and Natural England for a detailed procedure.

72.3 Meeting for Remembrance Sunday Service.

Letter from the Royal British Legion regarding a meeting for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

72.4 Flower Tubs on Long Street

The Clerk advised that he had received a request to move a Flower Tub from a resident of Long Street who was having difficulty parking due to the re-opening of the Fish and Chip shop.

The resident had also noted that the play area in Johnson Close was littered with broken bottles and cans after being used by youths on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Flower Tubs had been positioned following agreement with local residents, although she considered that the plan should be examined in case there had been movement following the incident with the Gas Board.

It was also noted that moving a full flower tub might cause a stability issue.

The Clerk advised that the Amenity Contractor had been instructed to examine the play area.

Resolved: that the location plan for the Flower Tubs in Long Street be examined to confirm that the tubs were in the correct position.

72.5 Whitemare Roundabout

The Clerk advised that he had been approached regarding highway visibility at Whitemare Roundabout in relation to the lavender plants in the centre.

The Clerk had written to NYCC as Highway Authority for its opinion.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

72.6 Hambleton Strollers Launch of Thirsk Walk Packs

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Thirsk Strollers who were to launch the Thirsk Walk Packs on 19 August 2009. Cllr Adamson advised that he would examine attending the event.

72.7 N.A.L.C Direct information Service

The Clerk advised that NALC produced a fortnightly news service which provided all the latest information relevant to Town and Parish Councils. The cost of the email version for one year was £90 plus VAT.

The Meeting discussed the Council Direct Magazine received which went to all Councillors.

Resolved

a) that the email version of Direct Information Service be ordered for 1 year.

b) that 2 copies of Council Direct be ordered

73. Ongoing Amenity Items

73.1 St. James Green

Cllr Marshall advised that she had discussed the issue of the Byelaws with the Clerk with a view to the matter moving forward

74. Minutes/Reports from Committees/Working Parties

74.1 Central Areas

The Meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 7 July 2009.

Cllr Watson advised that she was impressed with the archway feature.

Cllr Penson noted that the Police would be the responsible authority for monitoring parking on the side of roads under the NYCC scheme. She also advised that the parking bays were not being individually marked for vehicles.

Members expressed concern that the various parking signage was not being covered until it was legally enforceable.

Cllr Watson noted that the Central Areas Committee considered that allotments should be a full Town Council issue.

74.2 Ditches

Cllr Marshall advised that a ditches Meeting had been timetabled but cancelled.

No further progress had been made in relation to the transfer of the land.

74.3 Greens and Ingramgate

The position regarding the byelaws had been reported under on-going amenity items.

74.4 Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that the East Thirsk Play Area was to be officially opened by members of the school council on Monday 10 August.

She reported that a request had been received for high netting on Shire Park to prevent footballs being kicked out of the area and advised that costings would be obtained.

With regard to Castle Garth Cllr Marshall expressed concern regarding the number of police officers available in Thirsk and noted that as far as she was aware there was only one neighbourhood police officer.

Cllr Penson noted the opening times and staffing of the Police Station.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that the Chief Constable be advised of the Town Councils concerns regarding levels of policing in Thirsk

75. Items of Information

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised of an incident at Dowber Way when a person selling Sky TV had gained access to an elderly couple's house.

It was noted that the cold calling incident should be reported to Trading Standards.

Cllr Penson advised that a chocolate shop was to open.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern at the lack of ventilation in the Town Council Offices and suggested that an Office Meeting should be held to review the matter.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 17 August 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson.

Apologies Cllr. A. Pagram (family visiting)

76. Shop Local

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Cath Grimsey from the Chamber of Trade in Bedale gave a presentation in respect of the Shop Local scheme.

Shop Local included eight other Towns, and was a loyalty card scheme involving independent retailers which produced small promotions discounts and offers.

Thirsk had become part of the scheme in May and there were currently 20 local members.

The Chair thanked Cath Grimsey for attending.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

77. Minutes

Resolved:

a) that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6 August 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of Resolution 71.5 (b) to read 'at Thirsk and Northallerton'.

b) that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6 August 2009 be received.

c) that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Burial Board held on 8 August 2009 be received.

78. Reports on matters pertaining to Thirsk

78.1 North Yorkshire County Council

The Clerk advised that Cllr Dadd had submitted his apologies.

78.2 Hambleton District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that Licensing was to go online initially just with decisions.

79. Matters arising from the Thirsk Town Council Meeting held on 20 July 2009

79.1 Variation of Premises Licence – The Royal

The Meeting was advised that the application was to go before the Licensing Committee on 3 September.

79.2 NYCC Scrutiny of Health Committee – service provision/recording of calls/storage

The matter was to be referred to the Committee.

79.3 Pay and Display Machine locations

HDC advised of the Town Councils comments.

79.4 Allotments

Cllr Marshall confirmed that the land between South Dowber Lane and the A19 had been identified in 3 local plans as Allotments. She noted that the Town Council could pursue the matter as a facilitator for an Allotment Association.

80. Finance:

80.1 Accounts for payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts for payment as at 17 August 2009 be approved.(see attached schedule)

80.2 Monthly balance sheet and budget report for July 2009

Cllr Marshall advised that the donations for CCA and CAB included in the budget needed to be paid.
Resolved:

- a) That the monthly balance sheet and budget report for July 2009 be approved
- b) That the donations to CCA and CAB be paid.

81. Correspondence/Items Raised

81.1 NYCC Local Transport Plan Survey

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated August 2009 from NYCC advising of the development of the new Local Transport Plan and enclosing a questionnaire for Parish and Town Council comments on their satisfaction with the Highways and Transportation service.

Resolved: that the Survey questionnaire be circulated to all Councillors for comments.

81.2 Swine Flu – Collection Points

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 17 August 2009 from Mrs P. Dunning advising that there were no designated collection points for Tamiflu in Thirsk and expressing concern at this.

Resolved: that the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust be requested to provide full details regarding collection points.

81.3 Access to land surrounding Cod Beck

A letter dated 12 August 2009 was received from N. Angelopoulos and M. Smith who were students undertaking work investigating how river morphology affected fish and who wished to gain permission from landowners for access to the Cod Beck.

Resolved: that the Town Council gives permission for access across land under its control and advises the students of other contacts.

82. Burial Board Report / Approval of applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson referred to the meeting of the Burial Board held on 8 August.

He noted that the YLCA were to be contacted to utilise their network to establish the availability of companies to undertake memorial inspection.

It had also been decided to seek tenders for renovation of the roadway.

Resolved: that the report be noted

83. Reports from Representatives/Members

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that there had been a spate of broken windows at the East Thirsk Community Hall.

Cllr Jackson reported that the Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust had made progress on the changing rooms but were seeking assistance in finishing the project.

It was agreed that consideration of the matter be deferred pending receipt of final details and a formal approach.

Cllr Morton advised that the work at the swimming pool was well ahead of schedule.

Cllr Roberts noted that the guides wished to plant bulbs between Thirsk and Kilvington as part of their centenary year.

It was agreed that the area within Thirsk Parish could be undertaken as part of Thirsk in Bloom and that the Parish Council and Hambleton District Council should be consulted with regard to the area outside of Thirsk parish.

Cllr Watson noted that NYCC had not yet progressed the replacement Thirsk/Carlton Miniott sign.

Cllr Pack advised that the NYCC had undertaken signage in Westgate in relation to the forthcoming parking restrictions.

Cllr Jackson advised that an Office Committee Meeting held before the Burial Board Meeting had agreed to contact HDC regarding the installation of air conditioning in the office.

Cllr Morton questioned the issue regarding visibility at Whitemare roundabout.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Town Council had written to NYCC in this respect.

Cllr Pack agreed to contact S. Turner to undertake any necessary work.

84. On-Going Items

Cllr Watson questioned whether there had been any response from HDC regarding the provision of a bicycle stand area. The Clerk would pursue the matter.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 3 September 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson.

Apologies: Cllrs D. Adamson (hospital)

85. Minutes

- a) Resolved: that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- b) that the minutes of the planning committee held on 17 August 2009 be received.

86. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6 August 2009

86.1 Castle Garth – Footpath/Trees

It was noted that the intended pruning of the trees had never taken place.

Cllr Watson advised that PC Brooks was initially involved in the matter but had since been on long term absence. She was to contact Duncan Pears to pursue the matter. The condition of the footpath was being pursued through NYCC.

86.2 Running Costs of Toilets

The Clerk circulated details of the running costs of the Thirsk and Northallerton toilets supplied by HDC. Cllr Jackson noted that repair and maintenance figures appeared twice for Northallerton, with one set being identical to Thirsk Millgate.

Resolved: that clarification and further information be obtained in respect of the running costs of the toilets.

86.3 Plasticrete Surfacing

The Town Councils solicitors were to be contacted for their views on the ongoing dispute.

86.4 Re-Location of Ducks – RSPCA/Natural England

RSPCA and Natural England were to be contacted.

86.5 Flower Tubs on Long Street – location plan

The location plan had been found and the siting of the tubs was to be examined.

86.6 Policing in Thirsk – Letter to Chief Constable

Letter regarding levels of policing, opening of police station and community police officers to be sent.

87. Correspondence/Items Raised

87.1 Tree Assessment Survey

The Clerk advised that landowners had a duty of care to take reasonable measures to ensure the safety of the trees on the land.

A tree inspection by an Arboriculturist would be required and the Clerk gave details of the survey and possible costs.

It was noted that the majority of the land the Town Council was responsible for was owned by John Bell and the Clerk advised that he would check the terms of the tenancy documents.

A previous survey had been carried out at the Holmes following which a management plan had been put in place.

Resolved:

- a) That the Clerk examines the tenancy documents of land controlled by the Town Council
- b) That quotations for a Tree Survey be obtained.

88. Outstanding Amenity Items

88.1 Footpaths/Footways Ingramgate

The current position was clarified.

The Clerk noted that the quotations originally received were substantially different and the contractors had also proposed various ways forward.
It was felt that a specification should be produced for the work and following further discussion it was

Resolved: that HDC be approached with regard to providing a specification for improving the footpaths/footways in Ingramgate.

88.2 Whitemare Roundabout

It was noted that the lavender had been cutback.

89. To receive Minutes/Reports from Committees/Working Parties:

89.1 Central Areas

The Meeting received the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4 August 2009.

The re-turfing of the area in Mill Gardens was being pursued through the Environment Agency and problems in the Market Place had been referred to HDC.

89.2 Christmas Festivities

It was noted that the Christmas tree required ordering with a view to it being sited following Remembrance Day and Jill Miller to be contacted to establish the switch-on date.

89.3 Open Areas

The Clerk advised that a safer grass tile had been removed at East Thirsk.

89.4 Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall advised that the issues relating to the land transfer were still on-going.

The type of memorial stone was being examined and regular garden maintenance by volunteers was being carried out.

90. To Receive Items of Information.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Environment Agency had agreed to keep the Town Council updated on the flood alleviation scheme and considered that it would be beneficial for a meeting to take place.

Cllr Penson was concerned about some of the proposals in the most recent plans.

Cllr Jackson noted the ongoing problems with the office heating and ventilation.

Cllr Marshall suggested that the Office Committee be added to the list of reporting committees.

Cllr Jackson advised of subsidence on the north side of Station Road.

Resolved:

- a) that the Environment Agency be invited to a Town Council Meeting.
- b) that the Office Committee be included in the list of reporting committees.
- c) that NYCC be informed of the subsidence on Station Road.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 21 September 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), J. Jackson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson.

Apologies Cllrs. D.Adamson (hospital) A. Morton (holiday), J. Watson (holiday)

91. Minutes

Resolved:

- a) that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 21 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the addition of '*and therefore misleading*' in Minute no.86.2 after Thirsk Millgate.
- b) that the minutes of the planning committee held on 21 September 2009 be received.

92. Police Report

No representatives of the Police were present.

Cllr Marshall advised that the seat near to the Calvert Carpet building in Castle Garth had been vandalised. She noted that the damage had been quite substantial and must have taken some time to do which raised the question that somebody may have seen it occurring.

The Clerk advised that Duncan Pears had identified which trees needed to be pruned with regard to the CCTV coverage.

Cllr Robinson advised that the Police needed to look at the Hostel in Westgate which was generating various complaints.

93. Reports on Matters pertaining to Thirsk.

93.1 North Yorkshire County Council

Cllr Dadd reported on the meeting of the South Tees NHS Trust in respect of the Friarage Hospital and advised of a pledge to improve communications and that services were to be re-introduced on 26 October.

The NHS was to hold an informal consultation meeting on 29 September in respect of the night time minor injury service at the Lambert Hospital.

Cllr Dadd advised that the NYCC would have to be more efficient and would need to review services in view of the financial outlook.

Tenders were being obtained for the re-surfacing of the Marage footpath, from Northallerton Road. The problems regarding parking at the East Thirsk Community Hall had not been resolved and a meeting between all interested parties was to be held.

93.2 Hambleton District Council

Geoff Lodge was looking into problem solving groups for East Thirsk and Castle Garth and he was to meet with the District Commander and Sergeant of the Neighbourhood Police Team. Cllr Marshall noted the work carried out by the Town Council in relation to Castle Garth and questioned what was happening in relation to East Thirsk.

HDC was examining the sale of its commercial waste operation.

Cllr Robinson provided copies of a Members Bulletin which gave details of the shared services with Richmondshire. He noted that a new Assistant Chief Executive had been appointed, *creating a new post*.

Hambleton Sports Council was to be disbanded.

HDC was to examine issues with car parking charges in relation to carers and volunteers.

94. Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 17 August.

94.1 Variation of premises licence – The Royal

The meeting was advised that Environmental Health had withdrawn the items raised and therefore the premises licence had been approved without it being referred to the Licensing Committee.

94.2 CCA and CAB Donations.

The Clerk advised that cheques were ready for signing.

94.3 NYCC Local Transport Plan Survey/Parish & Town Council Survey

The Clerk advised that the surveys had to be submitted by 30 September.

94.4 Swine Flu – Collection Points

Letter to be sent to the Primary Care Trust.

94.5 Provision of bicycle stand area.

The Clerk had reminded C. Thornton.

Cllr Robinson noted that the area to the rear of the bus shelter was not owned by the District Council and he considered that it would be an ideal location for a bicycle stand.

95. Finance:

95.1 Accounts for payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts for payment as at 21 September 2009 be approved. (see attached schedule)

95.2 Monthly balance sheet and budget report for July 2009

Resolved:

That the monthly balance sheet and budget report for August 2009 be approved

96. Correspondence/Items Raised

96.1 Letter dated 18 August 2009 from HDC re: Gambling Act2005

Letter advising that a draft statement in respect of licensing policy was available for inspection at various locations.

96.2 Letter dated 9 September 2009 from HDC re: Off-Street Parking Places Order 2009

Letter advising that the order would come into operation on the 12 October 2009.

96.3 Email dated 15 September 2009 from P. Cole re: Choice Based Lettings Consultation

Advising of a consultation event between 4.30pm and 7pm on 23 September.

Cllr Roberts confirmed she would be attending.

96.4 Email dated 15 September 2009 from P. Cole re: Neighbourhood and Country Watch Scheme.

Advising of a meeting on 28 September to revitalise the schemes and improve joint working practises.

96.5 Letter dated 1 September 2009 from Thirsk 8 Park Committee re: Donation

Letter advising of the progress made and finances raised and required.

The meeting discussed the facilities that were to be provided.

Resolved:

a) that the sum of £5000 be placed in the precept for the financial year 2010/11

b) that the Thirsk 8 Committee be congratulated on their achievements.

96.6 Letter dated 15 September 2009 from Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust re:

Changing Facility

Letter advising of a financial shortfall to complete the changing facility and requesting both Thirsk Town and Sowerby Parish Council to consider a financial contribution.

Cllr Jackson detailed the work, time and effort that been undertaken in respect of the project and advised that the Trust had been unable to reclaim the VAT.

Cllr Marshall agreed for the ½ seven acre budget to be utilised for any contribution.

Resolved:

a) that a contribution of £3500 be made to the Changing Facility project

b) that the contribution be taken from the 1/2 seven acre budget.

96.7 Email dated 18 September from Richmondshire DC re: Temporary Road Closure.
Road closure for 8 November for Remembrance Day parade and 11 November for two minutes silence in the Market Place.

97. Burial Board Report / Approval of applications for Memorials

The Clerk advised that there had been some vandalism to memorials with eight stone crosses being pushed over, several of them breaking.

The Clerk had advised the Police noting that apart from the obvious distress such action caused the people involved could seriously injure themselves.

98. Pay Settlement 2009

The Clerk reported the pay settlement with an increase of 1.25% on SCPs 4 to 10 inclusive and 1.00% on SCPs 11 to 49 inclusive, effective from 1 April 2009.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

99. Reports from Representatives/Members

99.1 Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the AGM of the East Thirsk Community Centre Trust was 21 October at 7.30pm

99.2 Members.

Cllr Robinson noted that the Council could be responsible for the on-going maintenance of alleyways.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Clock was not lit on an evening. Cllr Robinson advised that the bulbs would require replacing.

Cllr Marshall advised that the finger post adjacent to the Millgate car park had been removed by HDC during work being carried out to install a parking meter.

HDC had confirmed that the post would be re-sited.

Cllr Jackson noted that a sign was required in Gillings Court to indicate the location of the museum.

Cllr Marshall reported that on inspecting the plans for the flood alleviation scheme it was evident that work was planned where the new railings had been sited alongside the beck at the Sensory Garden.

100. On-Going Items

Cllr Penson questioned the progress in relation to the provision of Councillors photographs on the notice board.

It was agreed that this be deferred until Cllr Adamson was available.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 1 October 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), J. Jackson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson

Apologies: Cllrs D. Adamson (hospital), A. Morton (holiday)

101. Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme

Richard Hartley the Environment Agency Project Manager circulated details of the scheme, which included project background, appraisal, the preferred option, outline design, construction constraints and the programme.

The preferred option provided flood storage north of Thornton le Street, embankment along bottom of gardens at St James Green, raising of road between Todds Court and The Crescent, raised kerbs, existing defences and floodwalls.

The project appraisal report would be submitted for approval in December.

It was noted that the design was merely in outline and if approval was given consultation would be carried out on the detailed design.

Cllr Marshall noted the work carried out at the Sensory Garden and the fact that the coping stones and railings would have to be removed to allow for the wall to be raised.

Cllr Penson expressed concern at the installation of floodwalls which she felt could have a detrimental effect on the visual aspect of Thirsk and could affect existing trees.

Cllr Roberts considered that other areas of the country were in far greater need of flood defences. Richard Hartley advised that there would be some impact on Thirsk but this was balanced against flood damage and the resulting distress.

It was noted that a water sump may be required as part of the proposals which could be located in the library car park.

It was agreed that Richard Hartley would attend a meeting of the Town Council in January following the submission of the scheme for approval.

102. Open Forum

A resident of Riverside Mews read a statement expressing concern at aspects of the proposed flood alleviation scheme which it was considered would be detrimental to Thirsk.

She noted that a lot of views had been expressed to the Environment Agency at the Public Forum but did not appear to have been examined.

103. Minutes

Resolved:

- a) That the minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 21 September 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of '*creating a new post:*' after 'He noted that a new Assistant Chief Executive had been appointed' in Minute 93.2
- b) That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 September be received.

104. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3 September 2009

104.1 Running Costs of Toilets.

Further information awaited from HDC

104.2 Tree Assessment Survey

Plans to be prepared indicating trees on land managed by the Town Council to enable quotations to be sought for a survey.

104.3 Footpaths/footways Ingramgate

Specification to be sought from HDC/NYCC

104.4 Christmas Festivities

The Clerk advised that the tree had been ordered and the electrician was to provide sight of his public liability insurance and advise on bulbs required.

105 Correspondence/Items Raised

105.1 Letter dated 25 September 2009 from HDC re: Hambleton Local development Framework-Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal Supplementary Planning Document.

Consultation on conservation area character appraisals.

The Clerk noted that an exhibition was to be held in Thirsk on Thursday 15 October.

Resolved: that the consultation be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting

105.2 Letter dated 23 September 2009 from Mr and Mrs Pearson: re Castle Garth

Letter expressing concern regarding incidents in and around Castle Garth.

Cllr Watson noted that Duncan Pears had identified the trees which needed attention to enable the CCTV camera proper view of the area, one of which was in within the Tesco site.

Cllr Marshall noted that re-establishing a problem solving group was being progressed.

Resolved: that Mr and Mrs Pearson be advised of the action being taken.

106. Outstanding Amenity Items

No matters to report.

107. Minutes/Reports from Committees/Working Parties.

107.1 Central Areas

The Meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 2 September 2009.

Cllr Marshall noted that the third arch under Mill Bridge was silted-up and questioned if this was a continued responsibility of NYCC.

Cllr Watson advised that the original work carried out by NYCC had been a one-off.

107.2 Ditches

Cllr Marshall reported that Barratts Solicitors had advised that they were experiencing difficulties in obtaining a response and had requested that the Town Council contact Barratts to move the matter.

107.3 Greens and Ingramgate

A meeting was to be held in the near future.

107.5 Office

Cllr Jackson noted that some appropriate heating units had been available but had now been sold.

107.6 Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that the seat on Castle Garth had been broken and would be repaired when the CCTV had clear view of the area.

The access to the pathway on the Holmes opposite Mill Gardens had been made accessible to disabled buggies.

Cllr Marshall and the Clerk had met with officers of the Environment Agency to discuss the waterfall adjacent to the Holmes and seek advice in relation to the walls.

It had been suggested that the stability of the footbridge should be examined by the NYCC bridges section.

Cllr Marshall advised that bolts and fastenings had been deliberately removed from the play equipment at the East Thirsk Play Area which had resulted in two swings being taken down. She was concerned at the apparent ease that fastenings had been removed and the manufacturers were to be contacted in this respect.

107.7 Sensory Garden

The legal issues in respect of the land transfers were still on-going.

108. Items of Information.

Cllr Penson advised that three of the new parking meters in the Market Place had been vandalised.

Cllr Pack noted that the gutters in Finkle Street were blocked, with grass growing out of the drainage holes.

Cllr Watson advised that photographs of various items in and around the Town Centre had recently been sent to HDC and NYCC but she considered that members of the public needed to take responsibility for some of the issues such as litter and cigarette ends.

Cllr Roberts noted that in York fixed penalties of £80 were issued in respect of litter on the streets and she questioned whether HDC took any action.

Cllr Marshall questioned if a reply had been received in respect of the items raised regarding parking meters.

Resolved:

- a) That Hambleton District Council be requested to take action in respect of street litter offences.
- b) That a reminder letter be sent to HDC regarding questions raised in respect of parking meters.

Part 2

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 19 October 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), D. Adamson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson

Apologies: Cllrs. J. Jackson (abroad), C. Pack (unwell), M. Penson (abroad).

110. Minutes

Resolved:

- a) that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 1 October 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- b) that the minutes of the planning committee held on 1 October 2009 be received.

111. Police Report

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Inspector T. Osborne and Sergeant S. Findlay were present.

Inspector Osborne referred to issues raised by the Town Council. He advised of the current staffing and working arrangements in Thirsk which included the Safer Neighbourhood team and ten response officers who covered the area working from the station. Traffic officers and the armed response unit were based at Vale House. The opening hours of the Police Station had been affected by long term sick leave.

Inspector Osborne went through the various operations and activities that had been undertaken in Thirsk which included working with Trading Standards in relation to young people obtaining alcohol and enforcement of the DPPO.

Sgt Findlay advised of the progress made in relation to items raised, including the cemetery and East Thirsk Play Area and of the initiatives being undertaken in respect of young people.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh thanked Inspector Osborn and Sergeant Findlay for the reports.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

112. Reports on Matters pertaining to Thirsk

112.1 NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that services at the Friarage were to resume with effect from Monday 26 October. The County Councils over 50's road show was to be in the library on Wednesday 25 November between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

The national pay settlement had been agreed at 1.00% to 1.25%.

He advised that he had supplied the Clerk with the planning decision for Todd's Site which included the various conditions applied.

Cllr Watson noted that the road surface adjacent to Tesco Petrol Station was in a bad condition.

Cllr Marshall noted concern regarding the road surface on Long Street to Barbeck, including the anti-skid surface adjacent to the roundabout.

Cllr Morton noted the condition of road signs where the information could not be read due to the accumulation of dirt.

112.2 HDC

Cllr Robinson noted that the cobbles in the Market Place were to be replaced.

Cllr Watson questioned the timescale for replacing the cobbles.

Cllr Robinson advised of proposals going to the Prosperity Board regarding Northallerton and Thirsk Markets including the purchase of lightweight stalls and tarpaulins which would be offered to all permanent traders.

Cllr Marshall noted the car park usage following the introduction of parking charges, and questioned when the District Council would review the effect of car parking charges on Thirsk.

Cllr Robinson noted that there had not been the displacement that had been envisaged.
Resolved: that Hambleton District Council be requested to advise when a review of the effects of car parking charges on Thirsk would be undertaken.

113. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 21 September 2009

113.1 Choice Based Lettings Consultation Event

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended the consultation event which had been well staffed with various leaflets and information brochures available.

Only three other people had attended the event by 6.50pm.

113.2 Contribution to Thirsk and Sowerby Preservation Trust

Cheque for signature in accounts for payment,

113.3 Pay Settlement 2009 – Cemetery Worker

The Clerk noted that the Town Council had accepted the National Pay award but that this did not relate to the Cemetery Workers fixed rate.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved:

a) that an increase of 1.25% be effected from the 1 April 2009 in respect of the rate of pay.

b) that the Burial Board examine the rate of pay.

113.4 Consultation Meeting re: night time minor injury service at the Lambert Hospital

Cllr Marshall advised of the meeting and noted the security facilities at the hospital and the GP out of hours led service. She considered that not many people had been aware of the service offered.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that the York and North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust be requested to supply details of the basis for setting up the service, how it was managed and financed, and how the service would be replaced.

114. Finance:

114.1 Accounts for payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts for payment as at 19 October 2009 be approved. (see attached schedule)

114.2 Monthly balance sheet and budget report for September 2009

The Clerk advised that the budget report was not available but would be circulated for budget preparation.

Resolved:

That the monthly balance sheet for October 2009 be approved

114.3 Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall advised of the current situation with regard to the land ownership but noted that it would be beneficial for the planting of shrubs to be undertaken at the present time which would cost £500.

Resolved: that £500 be spent on shrubs for the Sensory Garden.

115. Correspondence/Items Raised

115.1 Letter dated 25 September from HDC re: Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal

Conservation area character appraisals had been prepared for 5 market towns and HDC were consulting on the documents.

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended the exhibition on the 15 October and noted the items included in the document.

It was noted that the cinema was not within the area.

Resolved: that the letter and documents be noted.

115.2 Letter dated 29 September 2009 from HDC re: Car Parking at Tesco Store

Hambleton DC was to consider removing the condition regarding unrestricted public car parking and Tesco's proposed to introduce a time limit of two hours.

Cllr Robinson considered that a three hour limit would be required to enable linked shopping in the Town Centre.

Resolved: that HDC be advised that the Town Council considers that the condition should be varied to stipulate that members of the public shall have unrestricted free use of the car park for three hours every day.

115.3 Letter dated 2 October 2009 from NYCC re: Raised Crossing Point at Bakers Alley
Letter advising that a zebra crossing facility would not comply with transport regulations due to the proximity of the controlled crossing.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 19 October from NYCC advising that work would be carried out on 25 October and 1 November to remove, repair and reinstate the road surface at the crossing points adjacent to Bakers Alley and Millgate.

Cllr Watson advised of a previous meeting with the NYCC and expressed concern that the Authority was continuing with the crossings.

Resolved: that NYCC be advised that the Town Council still continues with its concerns regarding the raised crossing facilities.

115.4 Email dated 23 September 2009 from Sowerby Parish Council re: Traffic Congestion
Copy Email from NYCC noting that the raised crossing points operated well on a courtesy basis and contributed to the traffic calming measures.

115.5 Proposed Replacement Sign on Station Road/A61

The meeting received a plan of the proposed replacement sign.

Resolved: that NYCC be advised that to make the signage more visibly pleasing the nameplate should be the same size as the Carlton Miniott sign with the name being centred and if possible appropriately enlarged.

115.6 Letter dated 12 October 2009 from NYCC re: Carriage Resurfacing Works – B1448
Letter advising of works to be carried out from 9 November for two weeks.

116. Burial Board Report / Approval of applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson advised that Jopling's had carried out an inspection of the Cemetery Lodge noting that the property was clean and tidy throughout with minimal wear and tear.

He noted the vandalism that had happened at the Cemetery and the ages of the children that had been responsible. He asked whether the school governors would note to the schools the dangers of such actions together with the upset that could be caused.

Resolved

a) that the report be noted

b) that applications for memorials for Wood, Peacock, Fitch and Barker be approved.

117. Reports from Representatives/Members

117.1 Representatives

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the Chairman's Civic Service at Northallerton Methodist Church and an event organised by the White Rose Camcorder Club with David Bellamy as guest.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that the AGM of the East Thirsk Community Hall was on Wednesday.

117.2 Members.

Cllr Morton advised that on his recent holiday to Slovenia he had noted how clean the streets were and a wheelie bin with a two stroke engine and tube was used for cleaning.

Cllr Adamson noted the arrangements for the Remembrance Day service at St Marys Church.

Cllr Robinson advised that Alan Blundell had retired from HDC after 40 years service.

Cllr Marshall advised that the cinema was to show to several films from the British Film Institute under the title Britain at Bay on Friday 23 October.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to Alan Blundell wishing him well for his retirement.

The Meeting closed at 9.32pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 5 November 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Morton, C. Pack, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (abroad), J. Marshall (ill)

118. Minutes

Resolved:

- a) that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the inclusion of Cllr A. Morton and the deletion of Cllr C. Pack in the attendance list.
- b) that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 October 2009 be received subject to it being noted that the decision for 09/02232/FUL was 'refused' not 'observations'.

119. Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

A member of the public questioned why coaches were allowed to park free in the HDC coach park. Cllr Adamson advised that he would examine that matter and pass on his findings.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

120. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1 October 2009

120.1 Castle Garth

Residents advised of actions being taken

120.2 Street Litter Offences

A forum was to be set-up to examine all issues in relation to litter.

120.3 Items Raised re: Parking Meters

A reminder letter had been sent to HDC

120.4 Gratuity

The Clerk advised that a gratuity using the revised formula had been calculated and agreed with the former Clerk.

It was noted that the former Clerk had been most helpful and understanding and following further discussion it was

Resolved:

- a) that the report be noted
- b) that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs E. Coulson

121. Correspondence/Items Raised

121.1 White Mare Roundabout Sponsorship

The Clerk advised that the current year's sponsorship had been received from Calvert's Carpets, in relation to three-quarters, and Miller's, in relation to a quarter.

Jill Miller had advised that they had sponsored the roundabout for three years and requested that a new sponsor be found for the forthcoming year.

Two businesses had previously expressed an interest in sponsorship of the roundabout.

The Clerk noted that a sponsorship opportunity may become available at the Sensory Garden at some future stage and it would be raised at the next working party meeting.

Resolved: that the quarter roundabout sponsorship be discussed with the business that first expressed an interest.

121.2 Tourist Information Centre

Councillor Penson advised of the background of the TIC and of her concerns regarding the new position in respect of brochures and leaflets.

She considered that everyone should be able to visit the TIC and get information on all of Britain.

Cllr Roberts noted that Ian Ashton the Vice Chair of Moors and Coast was to raise the matter at the next meeting of Moors and Coast.

Mention was made of networked TIC's and information carried.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that the Chair of Moors and Coast be requested to advise on the information to be carried by the TIC.

121.3 Car Parking at Tesco Store

The Clerk referred to a report to the Development Management Committee of Hambleton District Council which recommended that the parking condition be modified to allow the restriction of free car parking for three hours.

Discussion took place with regard to the period applicable to the three hours.

Resolved: that the report be noted

121.4 Police Report

The Clerk read an email from Sgt Findlay in respect of 'Not in my Neighbourhood' Week from 2 to 6 November which advised of what would be happening locally.

121.5 NYCC Items.

The Clerk read an email from Cllr Dadd in respect of items raised.

The sign design team had been asked to investigate the directional signing around St James Green.

Cllr Morton noted that the issue concerned the dirty condition of the signs.

The tactile crossing on Westgate whilst cracked was not considered dangerous.

Notice had been served on the utility company responsible for the defects in the carriageway around Tesco's.

Further investigation was required in respect of the junction of Newsham Road with Station Road and it had been added to the Traffic Management Priority List of schemes awaited.

122. Outstanding Amenity Items

No matters to report

123. Minutes/Reports from Committees/Working Parties.

123.1 Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts referred to an email received from T. Jordan which referred to the insurance renewal, planned tree planting by the Woodland Group, maintenance work to be undertaken, a planting area plan and a litter pick as part of 'not in my neighbourhood week'.

123.2 Central Areas

The Meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 6 October 2009.

It was noted that NYCC had advised that the drains in Finkle Street were working correctly.

123.3 Christmas Festivities

Cllr Adamson advised that the Christmas tree was to be erected on Sunday 15 November with the lights being lit on 29 November at 4.00pm

123.4 Ditches

Cllr Morton reported that there were rats in the ditch that went under St Marys Walk.

Resolved: that HDC Environmental Health Department be advised.

123.5 Greens and Ingramgate

The minutes of a Meeting of the Greens Committee held on 13 October 2009 were circulated.

123.6 Millennium Green

No items to report.

123.7 Office

The office heating was being examined by the staff.

123.8 Open Areas

The minutes of the meeting of the Open Areas Committee held on 13 October were circulated.

123.9 Sensory Garden

A meeting was to be held on Monday 9 November 2009.

124. Items of Information.

Cllr Penson advised that the proposed relocation of the post office would result in less room in the new premises, particularly for the staff.

It was noted that the formal consultation would be an agenda item for the next Town Council Meeting.

Resolved: that the Post Office be requested to supply plans and dimensions of the proposed facilities.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16 November 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: D. Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson.

Apologies Cllrs: J. Jackson (abroad), J. Marshall (appointment), A. Morton (engagement), C. Pack (appointment).

125. Minutes

It was noted that there had been no Meeting of the Planning Committee on 5 November.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 5 November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

126. Police Report

The Clerk advised that he had talked to Sgt Findlay and the seat on Castle Garth had been discussed. A number of responses from residents at the Police Market Stall had suggested removal of the seat. It had been decided to review the matter following the removal of the obstruction to the CCTV camera.

Cllr Dadd advised that he had raised Police succession policy with the Chief Constable as he felt that human resources needed to look at the long term issue.

127. Reports on Matters pertaining to Thirsk

127.1 NYCC

The Marage footpath was to be closed on 23 November for resurfacing.

Cllr Dadd noted that he had no strong views either way on the road crossing points in Thirsk but that he had received 27 emails since the repair work began from people hoping that they were to be replaced.

127.2 HDC

Cllr Dadd noted that the District Council was to amend the Tesco car parking condition to allow 3 hours parking. For any other revision a planning application would have to be submitted.

An Area Forum was to be held on Thursday to discuss the markets and Market Traders were invited to attend.

The District Council was looking at providing free car parking in the run up to Christmas on the basis of 2 hours in the Market Place and three hours in the long stay car parks.

Cllr Adamson advised that the rules and regulations on Licensing were being reviewed including application requirements, licence conditions and the consultation element.

128. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 19 October 2009

128.1HDC Review of effects of car parking charges

The Senior Engineer HDC was to raise the matter.

128.2 Lambert Hospital Night Time Minor Injury Service

York and North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust to be contacted.

128.3 Car Parking at Tesco Store

HDC advised of Town Councils observations.

128.4 Raised Crossing Facilities

NYCC made aware of Town Councils concerns.

128.5 Replacement Sign on Station Road/A61

NYCC requested to make the Thirsk nameplate to the same size as the other nameplate with the lettering being centred and enlarged appropriately.

129. Finance:

129.1 Accounts for payment

Resolved: that the schedule of accounts for payment as at 16 November 2009 be approved. (see attached schedule)

129.2 Monthly balance sheet and budget report for October 2009

Resolved: That the monthly balance sheet and budget report for October 2009 be approved

130. Correspondence/Items Raised

130.1 Letter dated 20 October 2009 from NYCC re: Budget and Council Plan Consultation

The meeting considered the documents provided.

It was noted that in relation to the question on the level of tax increase the figures started at 2.0%.

Resolved: that NYCC be advised that the Town Council considers that the level of council tax increase should be set below 2%.

130.2 Letter dated 26 October 2009 from the Post Office re: Branch Relocation

The meeting was advised that a plan with dimensions had been requested but had not been received.

Cllr Penson advised that no backroom facilities were to be provided and that the Post Office would be located in one room.

Resolved: that the Post Office be advised that the Town Council considers that backroom facilities should be provided to enable certain functions to be undertaken away from the public area.

130.3 Letter dated 3 November 2009 re: Millgate/Marage car/coach parks

The letter referred to problems arising from overnight parking of Lorries and coach parking.

The matters had been raised with HDC some years ago and a reply had indicated that there would be increased monitoring.

Resolved: that the letter be referred to HDC and the Police for their attention and comments.

130.4 Letters dated November 2009 from North Yorkshire Police re: Neighbourhood Profile Guides

Members were requested to find local people who would be willing to volunteer to join a county wide team in compiling Neighbourhood Profile Guides.

131. Burial Board Report / Approval of applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson circulated photographs of the vandalism damage that had occurred.

The Clerk advised that the Police were to undertake a follow up in this respect and had requested copies of the photographs.

132. Reports from Representatives/Members

Cllr Roberts noted that the Town Council had applied to take a colour printer from the TRI.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the ETCA had two new members.

133. On-Going Items

133.1 HDC: Provision of bicycle stand area.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 13 November from HDC advising that they would be reluctant to reduce the number of parking bays in the Market Place, but would look at how the parking layout outside upstairs/downstairs could be improved.

A possible location for a bicycle rack was adjacent to the Nat West Bank which would result in four standard parking bays instead of the existing short bays.

Resolved:

a) that HDC be advised that the Town Council would welcome an additional bicycle stand area and would have no objection to the location.

b) that HDC be requested to consider the area adjacent to the parking meter to the rear of the bus shelter as an alternative location

133.2 Parking Meters

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 13 November from HDC advising that planning permission had not been required and that consultations had been carried out.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

Part II

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 3 December 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, C. Pack, M. Penson, J. Watson.

Apologies: J. Jackson (abroad), A. Morton (ill), F. Roberts (holiday)

118. Minutes

The Clerk noted that he had been advised that Carlton Miniott Parish Council had responded to the Post Office relocation consultation and had requested that the functions of the village Post Office be extended to include the issue of car tax discs and stocking of passport forms.

Resolved:

- a) that the Minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16 of November be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.
- b) that the response to the Post Office consultation regarding the relocation includes support for the request by Carlton Miniott Parish Council.
- b) that the Minutes of the planning committee held on 16 November 2009 be received.

119. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 5 November 2009.

119.1 Street Litter Offences

The Clerk advised that John Proud was setting up a meeting with interested parties to discuss litter problems.

Cllr Watson expressed an interest in attending.

119.2 Tourist Information Centre

The meeting was advised that Moors and Coast had amalgamated with Harrogate and District.

119.3 Christmas Festivities

Cllr Adamson advised that the turn on of the Christmas Lights on 29 November had been very well attended even though the weather had been poor.

120. Correspondence/Items Raised

120.1 RSPCA: Re-location of Ducks

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the RSPCA in response to the Town Councils enquiry regarding relocation of ducks.

The RSPCA believed that relocation would probably not solve the problem as it was quite possible that any mallard relocated could simply fly back to the original site.

The RSPCA also gave details of the various statutes that applied.

Following further discussion it was:

Resolved: that the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust be contacted for their advice.

120.2 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust

The Clerk advised that the AGM was to be held on 15 December at 7.00pm at the Town Hall.

120.3 Development Management Committee Site Visits

The Clerk advised that a site visit was to be held on 7 December in respect of the revised application for 8 St James Green.

121. Finance

Resolved: that a meeting of the Finance Committee be held on Tuesday 15 December 2009 at 7.00pm.

122. Outstanding Amenity Items

Resolved: that Yellow Lines on Pick Lane be removed from the schedule.

123. Minutes/Reports from Committees /Working Parties

123.1 Carrs Field

Cllr Marshall noted that Thirsk Community Woodland Group together with other groups had planted trees on Carrs Field as part of the BBC Tree O'clock. She wished that the Town Council had also been approached as managers of land in Thirsk.

123.2 Central Areas

The Meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 2 November.

Cllr Watson advised that Tuesday's meeting had been cancelled and was to be held the following Monday.

It was intended to write to all residents of Nicksgate Alley in respect of the one-off clean by NYCC and the responsibility for future maintenance.

123.3 Christmas Festivities

Cllr Adamson reported that the machine used in erecting the tree had broken down for the original date and the work had been rearranged.

T. Iveson who supplied the tree had suggested that the tree stem hole in the Market Place should be made bigger and it was felt that two bollards needed replacing with removable types to enable better access to the site.

Resolved: that HDC be contacted regarding work to the Market Place for future siting of the Christmas tree.

123.4 Ditches

Cllr Marshall reported that the Solicitors acting on behalf of Barratts had requested the Town Council to contact Barratts in this matter.

123.5 Greens and Ingramgate.

Cllr Marshall advised that it was intended to have a survey carried out for preparation of a scheme for Ingramgate.

Cllr Watson noted that it was intended that a survey of an area of land off Millgate between Queen Bead and the sweet shop leading up to Gillings Court would be undertaken at the same time.

123.6 Open Areas

Cllr Marshall reported that a joint committee meeting had set the budgets for open areas, greens and Ingramgate and other amenity items that did not come under any specific committee.

She noted that Long Street would be finished by the siting of two additional planters.

The Long Street enhancement budget heading would be replaced by Ingramgate enhancement.

Cllr Marshall advised the meeting that planning permission had been given for the work to the tree at Castlegarth in order to enable CCTV coverage of the seat and bin.

She noted that although the County Council had undertaken repairs to the footpath, there were still repairs required at the Tesco end of the path.

The ROSPA report had been received with no major problems reported.

Playdale had been to East Thirsk to carry out an inspection and were to produce a report on the findings.

123.7 Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall advised that an application for Yorkshire Forward monies through TRI had not been sanctioned due to it being considered that the land ownership would not be resolved before the end of the current financial year.

124. Items of Information

Cllr Watson advised that she was to have her meeting with Inspector Tim Osborne on the following Monday.

She intended to raise the issue of heavy wagons proceeding through Thirsk and the issue of vehicles parked on cycle paths, particularly in Station Road

Cllr Marshall advised that there had been no flood warning or flood watch for Thirsk on the Environment Agency Website and suggested that the Environment Agency be asked to check the sensors in the river.

She noted that there was debris on Station Road alongside the racecourse.

Cllr Marshall reported that the Thirsk Past and Present Website had gone down and apparently Streamline who hosted it required £61 .36.

Cllr Adamson suggested that Streamline be contacted to ensure that information was still available.

Cllr Marshall advised that stocks of the Past and Present leaflet had run out.

The leaflet had originally been funded by lottery local heritage.

The cost of reprinting was £403 for 5000 £605 for 10000.

Resolved:

- a) that the Environment Agency be requested to check the water sensors
- b) that the Thirsk Past and Present Website be reinstated
- c) that 10000 Past and Present leaflets be reprinted.
- d) that TIC, Sowerby Parish Council and Hambleton DC be asked for a contribution to the cost of reprinting the Past and Present leaflets.

Part II

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 21 December 2009 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson.

Apologies: A. Morton (ill), C. Pack (other engagement)

127. Open Forum

Cllr Adamson advised that in view of the numbers attending and the meeting to be held at the Methodist Church he intended to take the open forum as the first item.

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Representative speakers on behalf of the residents of St James Green advised that it had become apparent that Thirsk Clock was in the process of a move to the Methodist Church Hall. Residents had a strong depth of feeling in the matter and were particularly concerned that they had not been initially told or consulted.

It was stressed that the residents were not opposed to Thirsk Clock and the work it carried out, but it was considered that the proposed relocation into a residential area was inappropriate.

Cllr Adamson noted that the Town Council could not become involved in a private transaction between the two parties but would take into account the comments and representations made if a planning application was submitted in respect of the premises.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

128. Minutes

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 3 December 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

129. Police Report

Cllr Watson reported on her monthly meeting with Inspector Osborne.

The Police were holding monthly crime surgeries at Tesco's, were undertaking youth functions in association with other groups including Allenbrook Barracks, the project at Carrs Field was still progressing, another youth disco had been held at Aspire on the 11 December, neighbourhood watch was to be re-promoted, Clare Mayes was to visit local schools on a weekly basis, country watch was being expanded, anti-social behaviour was being targeted in the Town.

Cllr Watson agreed to take up an issue raised by Cllr Jackson at her next meeting.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be noted
- b) That the Police be complimented on their endeavours.

130. Reports on Matters relating to Thirsk

130.1 Hambleton District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that the cabinet decision on markets had been called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

131. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 16 November 2009.

131.1 Police Report

Cllr Marshall advised that planning permission had now been received to carry out work to the tree obstructing the CCTV camera.

131.2 Replacement Sign on Station Road/A61

Cllr Marshall questioned whether a date had been fixed for the provision of the new sign.

The Clerk advised that the County Council were in the process of appointing a contractor but he was not aware of the date for commencement of the works.

131.3 Post Office Re-location

The Clerk advised that two letters had been received from the Post Office acknowledging the comments made by the Town Council and confirming that the relocation would proceed as planned.

132. Finance

132.1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 December 2009 be approved.

132.2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for November 2009

Resolved: that the balance sheet and budget report be approved.

133. Precept

The meeting received the minutes of the finance committee held on 15 December 2009 together with the revised precept calculation.

Cllr Marshall noted the various matters discussed at the Finance meeting and the resulting precept calculation.

Resolved: that the Town Council request a precept of £99000 for the financial year 2010/11.

134. Correspondence/Items Raised

134.1 Remembrance Sunday Refreshments

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 26 November 2009 from the Royal British Legion requesting the Town Council to make a contribution to the refreshment costs for Remembrance Sunday.

It was noted that the budget included the sum of £300 for the wreath contribution and refreshment costs contribution.

134.2 Jopling's

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 11 December from Jopling's advising of a change of personnel.

134.3 St James Green

The Clerk reported receipt of two letters from residents regarding the relocation of Thirsk Clock to St. James Green

135. Burial Board Report/Applications for Memorials

Resolved: that memorial applications from Dales of Thirsk in respect of Daniel, Fitch, Jackson, McGuigan, Windross, Brennan, Cartman, and Cattle be approved.

136. Reports

136.1 Representatives

Cllr Roberts noted that TRI had approved the application for grant aid submitted in respect of a seat and a litterbin.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Thirsk Infant School Trustees had allocated grants to East Thirsk Community Hall, Thirsk *Community* Primary School and Thirsk School.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended the AGM of the Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust .The windows had been ordered for the new changing rooms and the Town Council and other bodies responsible for donations had been thanked.

136.2 Members

Cllr Robinson reported that part of the fence around the Christmas tree was down.

137. On-Going Items

Cllr Marshall questioned the position regarding land for allotments.

The Clerk advised that he was still waiting to hear from HDC.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 18 January 2010 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs D.Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, J. Watson.

Apologies: None

138. Open Forum

Cllr Adamson advised that in view of the numbers attending he intended to take the open forum as the first item.

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

A representative speaker on behalf of the St James Green Residents Association advised that the Methodist Church had agreed to sign the lease of the hall to Thirsk Clock.

Although it had been reported that the Police had been to see the premises the visit had been by a Police Architectural Liaison Officer.

The residents had noted that the Town Council would consider the views put forward when considering any planning application and it was questioned as to how a planning application would be dealt with.

Cllr Adamson advised that in the particular circumstances any relevant application would be put to a full Council Meeting.

It was confirmed that the Residents Association would be advised if a planning application was received.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

139. Police Report

Cllr Watson reported on her monthly meeting with Inspector Osborne.

It was noted that a meeting was to be held on Friday 22 January at the Town Hall to discuss Castle Garth with residents.

The Clerk advised that the Amenity contractor had been instructed to undertake the work to the tree.

Cllr Watson advised that the next meeting with Inspector Osborne would be on 9 February.

Cllr Marshall suggested that a Police view on the Clock being re-sited to St James Green would be useful.

Resolved: That the report be noted

140. Reports on Matters relating to Thirsk

140.1 NYCC

Cllr Dadd referred to the proposed parking order for Kirkgate and Millgate which had been put into motion following a request from Hambleton District Council. He noted that he was totally opposed to the proposal and that the proposed waiting times were not appropriate for Kirkgate.

NYCC were considering a 2.5% council tax increase.

140.2 Hambleton District Council

Cllr Adamson advised on the shared services with Richmond, the ten year plan and projected savings per year.

141. Minutes

141.1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 December 2009

Resolved:

- a) that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendment of 'Thirsk *County*Primary school' to Thirsk *Community*Primary school in minute number 136.1.
- b) that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 December 2009 be received.

141.2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Cllr Marshall questioned when there would be a report from Hambleton District Council on the markets. Cllr Adamson advised that he had emailed the Chair questioning when the matter was to be discussed. He envisaged that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would consider the matter in February and taking into account the normal process it was likely to be April when the matter would be concluded.

142. Finance

142.1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 January 2010 be approved and cheques signed.

142.2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for December 2009

Resolved: that the balance sheet and budget report be approved.

143. Correspondence/Items Raised

143.1 Waiting and Loading Restrictions/Disc Parking/Residents Parking – Kirkgate/Millgate

The meeting received Notice of a proposed order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Cllr Roberts advised that the notice proposed half an hour waiting time when in fact it should be one hour to be in line with other parking times. She did not agree with the proposals particularly noting parking requirements in Kirkgate in relation to the Church.

The Clerk advised that he had received several letters and had been contacted by the Rector of St. Marys Church in relation to the proposals for Kirkgate.

Resolved: that the Town Council object to the proposed order and put forward that the existing waiting and parking regulations are appropriate for Kirkgate and Millgate and should continue to remain in force.

143.2 Floodlights, St Marys Church

The Meeting received a letter dated 4 January 2010 from the Parochial Church Council advising that it appeared that no payment had been made to the PCC in respect of the electricity supply for the floodlights, which the Town Council had agreed to be responsible for.

The PCC suggested that they could forward a meter reading on an annual basis.

Resolved:

- a) that the monetary value in relation to the current meter reading be calculated and a cheque issued to the Parochial Church Council.
- b) that the PCC be requested to provide an annual reading to the Town Council.

143.3 LIDL

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Kerry Nelson the District Manager of LIDL which supported charities and fund raising events throughout the UK and were keen to actively participate in local events and activities.

144. Burial Board Report/Applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson advised that a Burial Board Meeting was to be held which would set the fees for the forthcoming financial year.

145. Reports

145.1 Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that there had been 50 OAP's at the party at the East Thirsk Community Hall and that Johnsons the Butchers had provided food at £3.00 per head.

145.2 Members

Cllr Watson reported on the meeting held with John Proud regarding litter issues. It was intended to approach businesses and public houses and to form a band of volunteers for litter picks.

Cllr Morton advised of further problems with fires being lit in the Church porch. Members questioned whether the installation of gates should be reconsidered.

Cllr Morton agreed to raise the matter with the Parochial Church Council.

Cllr Adamson noted that rubbish was still being deposited in the Tranmire Ditch.

Cllr Penson reported that the Cod Beck had overflowed on the previous Saturday morning.

Cllr Marshall advised that there had been no flood warnings or alerts on the Environment Agency website since 2008 and she questioned whether the trigger levels were set correctly.

The Clerk noted that he had contacted the EA but had received no further information.

Cllr Roberts reported that a new edition of Standing Orders for Local Councils was available for £25.00 from YLCA.

Resolved: that the Environment Agency be contacted again in respect of the flood warning trigger levels

146. On-Going Items

Cllr Watson questioned whether the insurance document had been received from the Carr's Field Trust.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 4 February 2010 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, M. Penson, F. Roberts J. Watson.

Apologies: Cllrs: D. Adamson (hospital), C. Pack (unwell), A. Pagram (baby sitting)

147. Minutes

Resolved:

a) that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 18 January 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

b) that the minutes of the planning committee held on 18 January 2010 be received.

148. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 3 December 2009.

148.1 Re-location of ducks

The Clerk reported that he had talked to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust who had advised regarding the legislation and the licensing body.

The representative was meeting with Natural England in February and he would raise the issue.

148.2 Greens and Ingramgate

The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation for a topographic survey of Ingramgate and the yard off Millgate in the sum of £270.

Resolved: that the topographic surveys be undertaken by ADH Site Surveys Ltd.

148.3 Environment Agency – Water Sensors

The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency had been contacted regarding checking the sensors.

148.4 Tree Survey

A. Whitehead and Associates had been instructed to undertake the tree survey.

149. Correspondence/Items Raised

149.1 Church Floodlights

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by the Parochial Church Council regarding turning off the floodlights for Lent.

Members felt that the floodlights drew attention to the church and were concerned about security.

Resolved: that the Parochial Church Council be advised that the Town Council would prefer to have the floodlights lit.

149.2 Flat Headstone – Garden of Rest

The Clerk reported that he had been approached regarding the siting of a flat headstone in the Garden of Rest.

Resolved: that a flat headstone in the garden of rest be accepted.

150. Outstanding Amenity Items

150.1 Yellow lining on cobbles.

Cllr Watson requested that the matter be pursued with the NYCC.

150.2 Running Costs of Toilets

Cllr Jackson enquired as to whether any further information had been received.

The Clerk agreed to follow up the matter with Hambleton District Council.

151. Minutes/Reports from Committees /Working Parties

151.1 Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts advised that tree planting and a litter pick involving children had been undertaken

151.2 Central Areas

The Meeting received the minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 7 December and 4 January. It was noted that work to the trees on the riverside had been undertaken by Broadacres.

151.3 Greens and Ingramgate.

As previously reported a topographic survey was to be undertaken.

151.6 Open Areas

Cllr Marshall reported that the next Committee Meeting was to consider the ROSPA report, but there were no particular problems noted.

Cllr Watson questioned when the play area provision was to commence at Mill Gardens. Cllr Marshall advised that the land provision was conditional on the number of houses occupied and was regulated by the Planning Authority.

151.7 Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall advised that Mike Armstrong had attended the last Sensory Garden Meeting to advise on the issues outstanding. The Meeting had also discussed the Harbour Wall and agreed that as part of the industrial heritage of the Town it would make sense to pursue having it listed.

152. Items of Information

Cllr Watson noted that the Gas Board were dealing with a pipe fracture in Kirkgate but it had already been 5 weeks and no apparent progress was being made.

Cllr Penson advised that she understood the Tourist Information Centre was to be relocated to the Herriot Centre.

Cllr Penson noted that not all plastic items could be recycled through the NYCC waste disposal units.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern at the condition of the roads following the severe weather.

Resolved:

- a) that Officers from Hambleton District Council and Moors and Coast be invited to attend the Meeting of the Town Council to be held on 15 February 2010.
- b) that NYCC and HDC be requested to advise on their policies of recycling.

Part II

The Meeting ended at 8.50pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 15 February 2010 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, A. Pagram, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson.

Apologies: Cllr D. Adamson (hospital)

154. Minutes

Resolved:

- a) that the minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 4 February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair.
- b) that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 February 2009 be received.
- c) that the minutes of the Burial Board held on 4 February 2010 be received.

155. Police Report

Inspector T. Osborne was in attendance.

Inspector Osborne advised that YO7 divert was progressing and the relationship with Allenbrooke Barracks was proving to be a major success. He reported on personnel changes, including a new PCSO.

Cllr Robinson commended the work the Police had undertaken in the Market Place.

Incidents occurring at the property in Westgate managed by Foundation Home were noted together with the ongoing issues at the Church.

156. Reports on Matters relating to Thirsk

156.1 NYCC

Cllr Dadd noted that the parking proposals for Kirkgate had been dropped following representations from various sources.

156.2 Hambleton District Council

Cllr Dadd noted that the report on the TIC was to be considered at the cabinet meeting on Tuesday and that he had written formally to the cabinet requesting full consultation to be carried out including the Area Forum.

Cllr Robinson advised on the Council Tax set for the next financial year and new rules to be applied in respect of applications for premises licences whereby any interested members could have an input.

157. Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Mr T. Naisbitt advised that he was attending the meeting to put forward his comments and views in respect of the proposal to move Thirsk TIC to the world of James Herriot and he noted that he was not a spokesman for the TIC staff and volunteers.

A report on the future of the Centre prepared by Mr Naisbitt was circulated and he went through the various details including recent events, the service provided and questions raised by the ongoing proceedings. Mr Naisbitt advised that his report had also been submitted to the HDC Cabinet.

Members thanked Mr Naisbitt for the detailed information provided.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

158. Thirsk TIC

The Meeting referred to the Report being presented to HDC Cabinet on 16 February recommending that the Thirsk TIC be relocated to the World of James Herriot and that 49 Market Place be disposed of.

Cllr Marshall expressed great concern at the proposals and advised of the history of the TIC which had been moved from the Herriot Centre to its present location.

She noted that Thirsk was a Tourist Town unlike other Towns within Hambleton and it particularly relied on Tourism.

Cllr Jackson was concerned at the lack of appropriate information in the report to the Cabinet.

Cllr Robinson noted that Ward Members had not been consulted and he considered that full consultation with all interested parties should be carried out before any decision was made.

Following further discussion it was:-

Resolved: that Emails be sent to the Chief Executive and the Leader of Hambleton District Council requesting that the Cabinet defer consideration pending full consultation with all interested parties being undertaken.

159. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of 18 January 2010.

159.1 Waiting and Loading Restrictions/Disc parking/residents parking – Kirkgate/Millgate.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from NYCC confirming that the existing parking and waiting restrictions would continue in Kirkgate.

159.2 Environment Agency – Flood Warning Trigger

The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency had sent a survey team to Thirsk and the warning trigger had been reset.

160. Finance

160.1 Accounts for Payment

Resolved:

a) that the accounts for payment as at 15 February 2010 be approved and cheques signed.

160.2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for December 2009

b) that accounts incorporating amenity work to various areas be itemised on the accounts schedule.

160.2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for January 2010

Resolved: that the balance sheet and budget report for January be approved.

161. Correspondence/Items Raised

161.1 RAF Leeming

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 9 February 2010 from the new Station Engagement Officer advising of his role at RAF Leeming.

162. Burial Board Report/Applications for Memorials

The Meeting noted that the Burial Board had agreed a 2.5% increase on fees for 2010/11.

163. Reports

163.1 Members

Cllr Marshall advised that progress was being made on re-establishing the Thirsk Past and Present Web Site using a local company. Discussion took place in respect of obtaining a Bank Procurement card for payments where cheques were not accepted.

Cllr Penson noted the letter to the Rt Hon Lord Adonis, Secretary of State for Transport by D. Tucker in the Thirsk Weekly News in respect of rail services.

Cllr Robinson requested an agenda item for the meeting to be held on 15 March 2010 in respect of the future closing of public toilets in Thirsk.

164. On-Going Items

Cllr Marshall questioned whether any progress had been made in respect of the registration of land with the Land Registry. The Clerk advised that with the outstanding workload no progress had as yet been made. Members discussed ways to assist in alleviating the workload and it was:-

Resolved: that the Office be closed to members of the public on Wednesdays to enable uninterrupted working.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 4 March 2010 at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C. Hesmondhalgh (Chair), J. Jackson, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts J. Watson.

Apologies: Cllrs: D.Adamson (unwell), J. Marshall (appointment)

165. Minutes

Resolved:

a) that the minutes of the meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on 15 February 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

b) that the minutes of the Planning committee held on 15 February 2010 be received.

166. Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 4 February 2010.

166.1 Running Costs of Toilets

The Clerk advised that he had requested clarification in respect of the figures supplied by HDC.

166.2 Gas Board - Kirkgate

Cllr Watson noted that the works had been completed.

167. Correspondence/Items Raised

167.1 Letter from PCT re: Application by Tesco Instore Pharmacy for full consent prior to inclusion in the pharmaceutical list at Tesco Superstore, Station Road, Thirsk.

The meeting received a letter from the PCT regarding an application by Tesco to establish a pharmacy. The first application had been approved in October 2008 but the consent expired in July 2009.

Resolved: that the Town Council maintains its original objections to the pharmacy.

167.2 Letter from Hambleton LDF/Allocations DPD Examination re: Notice of Pre-Hearing Meeting.

The Meeting received notice of a pre-hearing meeting in respect of the Hambleton LDF Allocations Development Plan Document which was to be held on 10 March at the Civic Centre.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

167.3 Blakey Bridge, Sowerby.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Jacobs/NYCC advising that NYCC was planning to carry out maintenance works at Blakey Bridge which would comprise general masonry repairs and bridge widening to allow safe passage of traffic.

Resolved:

that Jacobs be advised:-

a) That Sowerby Parish Council should be consulted

b) That the bridge is a registered ancient monument

c) That the Town Council is concerned about the effects of widening in respect of increased heavy traffic.

167.4 Public Footpath Grass Cutting

The Clerk reported that the Town Council's Amenity Contractor had advised that Town and Parish Councils could undertake the grass cutting of public footpaths. NYCC had confirmed that it would pay 10 pence per metre per cut for up to three cuts per year.

Members felt that the responsibility should be left with the County Council in this instance.

Resolved: that the cutting maintenance of public footpaths remain with NYCC.

167.5 Litter Bin adjacent to Railway Station

The Clerk reported receipt of an email from Carlton Miniott Parish Council who had asked HDC for a litter bin on the piece of land at the western approach to the railway station.

The bin had however been sited next to the seat on the eastern side which was within Thirsk.

It was suggested that it may be beneficial to have a bin on both sides of the railway bridge.

Members felt that the location of the bin was appropriate.

Resolved: that the Town Council agrees to the purchase/retention of the waste bin adjacent to the railway station.

167.6 TIC/Herriot Visitors Centre

The Clerk noted that consideration of the issues in relation to the TIC and the Herriot Visitors Centre needed to be undertaken at the Town Council meeting on the 15 March.

Members considered that Peter Simpson and David McGloin of HDC should be asked to attend the meeting.

Resolved: that Peter Simpson and David McGloin of HDC be invited to attend the Meeting of the Town Council on 15 March 2010.

168. Minutes/Reports from Committees /Working Parties

168.1 Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts noted the work the Woodlands Group had been undertaking.

168.2 Central Areas

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2010.

Cllr Watson advised that it was intended to invite quotations for the horticultural revamp of Mill Gardens. M. Burnett was to undertake work in respect of the paved area and wall at Mill Gardens and was to paint the bus shelter before Easter.

169. Items of Information

Cllr Morton advised that he had attended the official opening of the new dry area at the swimming pool.

Cllr Penson noted the number of empty shops in the Town Centre and questioned whether the windows could be decorated to improve the visual amenity. Cllr Roberts advised of simulated displays in empty shops in Tyneside.

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday 15th March 2010 at 7:00pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Present:

Cllrs. D. Adamson (Chairman), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson & F. Roberts

Apologies:

Cllrs. J. Jackson, A. Pagram & J. Watson

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th March 2009

resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising

3. Chairman's report

Cllr. Adamson presented his report which mentioned Hambleton District Council's proposal to move the TIC, the re-location of Thirsk Clock, the start of parking charges and the recession, and the proposals in relation to the Herriot Centre and market stalls.

He thanked the Town Council staff and fellow Councillors for all their hard work over the last twelve months and the Vice Chair Cllr. Cynthia Hesmondhalgh

4. Representations from Electors of the Parish

None received

5. Other Items of Interest and Information

None received

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 15th March 2010 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Present:

Cllrs: D. Adamson (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson.

Apologies:.

Cllrs: J. Jackson (abroad), A. Pagram (baby-sitting)

170. Thirsk Tourist Information Centre/Herriot Visitor Centre

David McGloin, Assistant Director Hambleton District Council, was in attendance for consideration of the item.

Members were advised of the discussion at the Thirsk Area Forum meeting on 9 March and the decision reached.

Discussion took place with regard to the proposals by the HDC Cabinet, the history and district wide benefit of the TIC and the Herriot Centre, the various figures put forward and the use of 49 Market Place.

Following further consideration it was.

Resolved:

That the Town support the decision of the Thirsk Area Forum held on 9 March 2010 with regard to the recommendation to Cabinet to defer any action in respect of the TIC at this time pending a full strategic review of the proposed move of the TIC and the overall Tourism Strategy.

a) That the Town Council works with Hambleton District Council and the Thirsk community to find a suitable solution.

b)

c) 171. Minutes.

Cllr Watson entered the Meeting.

The Clerk advised that due to illness the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March were not available for approval.

Resolved:

a) That the minutes of the 4 March be approved at the next meeting of the Town Council.

b) That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 February 2009 be received.

172 Police Report

Cllr Watson advised that she was meeting with Inspector Osborne on the 16 March.

Cllr Marshall requested that the CCTV coverage of Castlegarth be raised.

173. Reports on Matters relating to Thirsk

173.1 NYCC.

Cllr Dadd advised that gas pipes were to be replaced in October and November and the Utility Company responsible were formulating plans at an early date with a public meeting to be held to detail the works.

The traffic calming measure on Norby Front Street was to be removed as it was deemed to be unsafe. Cllr Dadd advised of a prosecution by Trading Standards and the Police.

Cllr Watson noted the bad condition of Gillings Court roadway.

173.2 Hambleton District Council.

The meeting was advised that the Cabinets proposal regarding market stalls was to be examined by Prosperity and Places OSC in the coming week.

174. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of 18 January 2010.

174.1. Thirsk Past and Present Website.

Cllr Marshall advised that the website was now re-established using a local company for hosting.

175. Finance.

175.1 Accounts for Payment.

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 March 2010 be approved and cheques signed.

175.2 Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for February 2010.

Resolved: that the balance sheet and budget report for February be received at the March Meeting.

176. Burial Board Report/Applications for Memorials

Cllr Adamson advised that it was intended to hold a Burial Board meeting in the near future.

Resolved: that the applications to erect memorials for Ernest Reginald Harris, Joyce Mary Bumby and William Swallow be approved.

177. Reports.

177.1 Members.

Cllr Roberts noted the condition of the road surface on Long Street following the winter weather.

Cllr Marshall advised that some issues concerning the road surface had previously been raised with Cllr Dadd.

Cllr Marshall reported on requests for information and the Councils adopted practise.

Resolved: That the NYCC be advised of the condition of the road surface on Long Street.

178. On-Going Items.

178.1 Sign – A61/Station Road.

The Clerk advised that confirmation regarding payment for the sign had been sent some time ago to NYCC .

Part II.

(Private session) .

The meeting closed at 8.40pm