

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 20 January 2025 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs: S Ward (Chairman), D Duffey, S Holme, D Jackson, K Mountford, F Potter, A Robinson, B Smith, D Southward,

Apologies: Cllrs: A Naughton (Holiday), A Trueman (Holiday)

C1595 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1596 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

**C1597 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Nothing reported.

C1598 Open Forum

No items raised.

C1599 Minutes

C1599(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 November 2024

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 November 2024 be approved as a correct record.

C1599(b) Matters arising

Nothing raised.

C1600 Committee Minutes and Reports

**C1600(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 18 November 2024
and Summary dated 23 December 2024**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2024 and a Summary dated 23 December 2024.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2024 and the Summary dated 23 December 2024 be received and noted.

C1601 Burial Board

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Hilda May Chapman be approved.

C1602 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1602(a) Town Twinning

The meeting received an email dated 24 November 2024 from Ms Sandrine Cooke concerning the possibility of Thirsk being twinned with a French town. She advised that, if a twinning agreement did not exist, she was keen to set one up, if possible.

Resolved: that the requirements/conditions of a twinning agreement be examined.

C1602(b) Urban Highway Grass Cutting - 2025

The meeting received a letter dated 25 November 2024 from North Yorkshire Council regarding arrangements for urban highway grass cutting in 2025 and advising that the funding would be £999.32.

Resolved: that the Town Council undertakes the urban grass cutting of the identified visibility locations within the parish for 2025.

C1602(c) Planned Road Restriction Notification – Chapel Street, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 26 November 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a planned road restriction on Chapel Street, Thirsk between 17 and 21 February to facilitate the installation of a new water supply connection.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1602(d) Development of Parish Website

The meeting received an email dated 17 December 2024 from Mr P Cole, North Yorkshire Council, concerning the development of a bespoke Parish website by NYC.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1602(e) Thirsk Tourist Information

The meeting received an email dated 19 December 2024 from Thirsk Tourist Information which contained a summary of work carried out by Thirsk Tourist Information's volunteers and noting the work was undertaken without recourse to public funds. The Clerk advised that Tourist Information had approved the siting of a map board on the wall of their building in the Market Place which would reduce the cost involved. In view of the savings in this respect, members considered that a donation should be made to Thirsk Tourist Information.

Resolved: that a donation of £200 be made to Thirsk Tourist Information.

C1602(f) Riponian Stages Rally – Sunday, 9 February 2025

The meeting received an email dated January 2025 from Ripon Motor Sport Club Ltd concerning the route and timings in respect of the Riponian Stages Rally.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1602(g) Traffic Safety Issue – Masonic Lane, Thirsk

The meeting received emails dated 6, 7 and 10 January 2025 from Ms Patricia Lilburn, Ms K Sawyer and North Yorkshire Council concerning traffic safety concerns in Masonic Lane, Thirsk. North Yorkshire Council advised that they were installing a bolt-down rebound type of bollard and extending the white edge lines down from the corner further along the lane to just beyond Hazel Foxton's building to give vehicles a better guide through the area.

Resolved: that North Yorkshire Council be requested to examine any further options available to alleviate traffic safety concerns on Masonic Lane.

C1602(h) Climate Change, UK Policies and Targets – Free Online Workshop

The meeting received an email dated 10 January 2025 from North Yorkshire Council concerning an opportunity for Town/Parish Clerks and Councillors to take part in a free online workshop in respect of climate change, UK policies and targets and the implications and opportunities for the voluntary and community sector.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1602(i) Bellmoor Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 10 January 2025 from Mr C Rohman, Project Development Manager, NatPower providing an update on NatPower's proposals for a Battery Energy Storage System and nature recreation area, located on Hag Lane to the east of South Kilvington.

Resolved:

- i) that the email and information be noted.**
- ii) that the matter be considered when a formal consultation is received in respect of the planning application.**

C1603 Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Management Committee

The Clerk advised that Cllr K Mountford had indicated that she was stepping down from being the Town Council representative on the Town Hall Committee

Resolved: that Cllr A Robinson be appointed as a Town Council representative to the Town Hall Management Committee.

C1604 Budgets/Precept 2025/2026

The meeting considered the proposed budgets and the draft precept calculation for 2025/26. Discussion took place with regard to the increase for Thirsk in Bloom and it was felt that the budget should be capped for the foreseeable future. The income from toilet donations was well received and members felt that the introduction of a QR Code System would increase income. The Clerk advised that, on reflection, the Capital Fund should be set at £20,000 which would mean that the Precept would be £262,800.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Town Council sets the precept at £262,800 for the financial year 2025/2026;**
- (ii) that the Thirsk in Bloom Budget be capped at £5,000 for the foreseeable future.**
- (iii) that a QR Code System be introduced at the Public Conveniences for donations.**

C1605 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 January 2025 be approved and cheques signed.

C1606 Reports from Members/Representatives

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman