

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 20 March 2023 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Duffey, K Mountford, B Smith, D Southward, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs W Gibson-Brown (Illness), F Potter (Holiday)

In attendance: District Cllr D Elders

C1399 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1400 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C1401 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported. Cllr Dadd had submitted his apologies.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council was in the process of transferring over to the new unitary council on 1 April 2023 but noted that everything would not be in place on that date. He advised that this was his last attendance at a Town Council meeting and he thanked Town Councillors for the support given to him during his time as a District Councillor. Cllr Jackson expressed appreciation to Cllr Elders for his hard work during this time.

C1402 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Ms Jan Marshall addressed the meeting in respect of two matters. Firstly, she raised the issue of parking at the Town Hall and noted that, on occasions, vehicles parked in such a way which meant fewer vehicles were able to park there and blocked the emergency exit of the cinema. She asked if the Town Hall Management Committee had introduced a new policy on parking. Cllr Jackson advised that there was no new guidance on parking and that he would pass on the concern to the Town Hall Management Committee.

Ms Marshall then raised the issue of the roadworks on York Road. She noted that the road closures seemed very random in that the road was shut on some days and not on others. Cllr Elders understood that the contractors had encountered several issues with regard to collapsed drains. He advised that, as a general rule, the road closures were in place between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm and that on some days it had been unnecessary to close the road, dependent on the precise task being undertaken on any given day. He believed that the works were due to be completed by the end of March 2023

Mr David Tucker and Ms Yvonne Bowling addressed the meeting to advise of an event which it was proposed would take place at Sowerby Parochial Hall on Sunday, 7 May 2023 to celebrate the King's coronation. Mr Tucker explained that it was hoped to provide free drinks and entertainment and that both Sowerby Parish Council and Thirsk Town Council were being asked to make a contribution. Town Councillors suggested that Mr Tucker should also contact local supermarkets as it was felt they may be willing to contribute to the event.

Resolved:

(i) that the Town Council makes a donation of £100 with a further donation of £50 from the Mayor's fund towards the costs of hosting a Coronation Lunch on Sunday, 7 May 2023.

(ii) that standing orders be reinstated.

C1403 Minutes

C1403(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 February 2023

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

C1403(b) Matters Arising

C1396(i) Request for Temporary Installation – Thirsk Clock

The Clerk advised that he and Cllr Trueman had attended a meeting with representatives of Herriot Hospice Homecare with regard to installing a capital appeal indicator on the clock tower in the Market Place. He stated that the indicator was to be made of a plastic material and would be placed on one side only of the clock. He advised of the necessity to contact insurance companies, planning, Historic England and that a licence/agreement would need to be in place. Cllr Duffey was concerned that a precedent may be set for other local charities who may wish to install a similar indicator and Members agreed that each case would have to be considered on its own merits and that a funding limit may need to be applied. Cllr Smith suggested that the limit be set at one million pounds.

C1404 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1404(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 20 February 2023

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2023.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 February 2023 be received and noted.

C1405 Burial Board

The Clerk advised that it may not be possible to rebuild the damaged part of the cemetery wall for some time as he understood there were difficulties in gaining access to the adjacent field.

The Clerk reported that the tenants of Cemetery Lodge had given notice of their intention to vacate the property and that Joplings were in the process of letting the property to new tenants.

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Margaret Joy Parks and Connie Williams be approved.

C1406 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1406(a) Sowerby Road, Sowerby – Highway Works and Temporary One-Way System

The meeting received a letter and attachments dated 23 February 2023 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of highway works on Westgate and an associated temporary one-way system on Sowerby Road.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1406(b) Coronation Big Lunch – Sowerby Parochial Hall

This item was dealt with under C1402 Open Forum.

C1406(c) Planned Road Closure Notification – Cross Hill, Sutton Under Whitestonecliffe

The meeting received an email dated 10 March 2023 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a road closure at Cross Hill, Sutton Under Whitestonecliffe between 11 and 13 April 2023 to allow for Yorkshire Water to install a stop tap and chamber.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1406(d) Passenger Transport – Local Bus Services

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 10 March 2023 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning changes to local bus services. The Clerk advised that a number of local bus services were apparently commercially not viable. Cllr Smith noted that there was nothing to promote local bus services, except a small timetable, and it was suggested that NYCC be contacted to suggest that consideration be given to promoting local bus services.

Resolved: that the Town Council contact NYCC in connection with promoting local bus services.

C1406(e) Double Devolution – Expressions of Interest

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 17 November 2022 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and email correspondence dated 10 and 12 March 2023 between the Town Council and North Yorkshire County Council. Cllr Jackson advised that he and Cllr Duffey had met informally with the Chairman of Northallerton Town Council to consider the possibility of submitting a joint expression of interest in Thirsk and Northallerton Markets. He explained that, if the Town Council wanted to take part in a pilot project, an expression of interest had to be submitted by 31 March 2023 and he outlined some of the advantages in submitting a joint bid. Town Councillors expressed concern at the dwindling numbers of traders at the markets and felt it was important to do everything possible to ensure the market's survival. Cllr Duffey noted that either party had the option of withdrawing from the pilot at any stage prior to 1 April 2024.

Resolved: that the Town Council submit a joint expression of interest with Northallerton Town Council in respect of Thirsk and Northallerton Markets.

C1407 Town Councillor Vacancy

Members considered four applications which had been received in respect of the Town Councillor vacancy and a private vote took place.

Resolved: that Ms Anna Naughton be co-opted on to the Town Council.

C1408 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 March 2023 be approved and cheques signed.

C1409 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Southward reported that he had attended a meeting of the Safer Hambleton group with representatives from the police, HDC and Thirsk Youth Club. The police had not identified any particular concerns. He advised that funding had been obtained for an additional youth worker and that Thirsk Youth Club were looking for permanent premises.

Cllr Southward advised that he had attended a further meeting which included representatives from Hambleton District Council and the police, the prime purpose of which was to identify dangers within public accessible locations in the Town and prepare risk assessments.

Cllr Duffey reported that work was ongoing with regard to the new Visit Thirsk website and that additional material was being added to promote cycling in the area.

Cllr Smith reported that staff and councillors had attended the funeral of Cllr Derek Adamson on Monday, 13 March 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.24 p.m.

Chairman