

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 18 March 2024 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs A Trueman (Chairman), D Duffey, S Holme, K Mountford, A Naughton, B Smith, S Ward

**Apologies:** Cllrs D Jackson (Alternative commitment), F Potter (Holiday), D Southward (Holiday)

**C1510 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1511 Police Report**

There was no police representative in attendance. However, a police report which contained the crime figures for February 2024 was circulated and noted by Members.

**C1512 Citizen of the Year Award 2024**

Cllr Trueman presented the Citizen of the Year Award 2024 to Mrs Freda Roberts in recognition of her support and fundraising for numerous charitable organisations over many years as well as her long service as a Councillor on the former Hambleton District Council and Thirsk Town Council. Cllr Trueman thanked Freda for all her hard work and remarked that Thirsk would be a very different place without her.

**C1513 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk  
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported that work had begun on the process of preparing a new Local Plan and that it was hoped the new Plan would be approved by 2027. He indicated that very many organisations needed to be consulted and that the housing shortage meant that more new homes needed to be built.

Cllr Dadd advised that Bridge Street was due to be closed for a few days in the near future which he believed was for the purpose of resolving the flooding issue in the area.

Cllr Smith raised the topic of the markets in Thirsk, stating that rents had recently increased and that stallholders were threatening to leave the markets. Cllr Dadd advised that there had been no policy change at NYC in respect of running the markets following the local government reorganisation in April 2023 and he understood that rents had been increased by six per cent. Discussion took place, with Members noting that shopping habits had changed considerably in recent years and that artisan and farmers markets appeared to be more successful than traditional markets.

**C1514 Open Forum**

**Resolved: that standing orders be suspended**

A member of the public addressed the meeting about the bus service to and from Thirsk Railway Station. He circulated a list of bus times and train times from which it was noted that the buses were not very frequent and that there were no buses to or from the station during rush hour. Another member of the public complained about the poor bus service in and around Thirsk and stated that she had to use patient transport to get to Northallerton Hospital. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile

contacting North Yorkshire Council to highlight the issues, if these were subsidised bus services.

Another resident complained about the lack of facilities at Thirsk Railway Station, noting that a new car park which included disabled spaces had been provided but that there was no sign of a lift which he stated had been promised some time ago. Town Councillors understood that there was a proposed refurbishment plan in place, which included the provision of a lift, but that developers were still waiting for funding to become available.

A member of the public requested that a dropped kerb be installed near Europark on Station Road as the footpath in that location was difficult to access with a wheelchair. It was noted that this request would need to be passed to North Yorkshire Council.

**Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.**

### **C1515 Minutes**

#### **C1515(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 February 2024**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.**

#### **C1515(b) Matters Arising**

##### **C1506(d) Knife Bins**

Cllr Ward enquired whether there was an update with regard to the siting of a proposed knife amnesty bin. The Deputy Clerk advised that North Yorkshire Council were considering locating an amnesty bin in the Millgate/Marage car park.

### **C1516 Committee Minutes and Reports**

#### **C1516(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 19 February 2024**

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2024.

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2024 be received and noted.**

### **C1517 Burial Board**

The Deputy Clerk circulated a new schedule of Burial Board fees which it was proposed would take effect from 1 April 2024. She stated that the new figures represented an increase of five per cent on the current fees.

**Resolved:**

- (i) that the Town Council approves a five per cent increase in Burial Board fees to take effect from 1 April 2024;**
- (ii) that the application for memorial for Michael Herbert Joseph Knaggs & Dorothy May Knaggs be approved.**

### **C1518 Correspondence/Items Raised**

#### **C1518(a) Planned Road Restriction Notification – Carlton Road, Carlton Miniott**

The meeting received an email dated 19 February 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning works to a section of Carlton Road, Carlton Miniott which would involve the closure of the road between 2 and 8 April 2024 and then two-way traffic lights between 9 and 16 April 2024.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

#### **C1518(b) North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy**

The meeting received an email dated 19 February 2024 from the Office of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner concerning a public consultation on the draft North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy which will run until 30 April 2024.

**Resolved: that any Town Councillors who wishes to take part in the consultation will do so on an individual basis.**

**C1518(c) Local Nature Recovery Strategy for North Yorkshire and York - Webinar**

The meeting received an email dated 4 March 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a webinar update for Town and Parish Councils on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for North Yorkshire and York on Tuesday, 26 March 2024.

**Resolved: that the email be noted.**

**C1518(d) Renewal of Contracts for Supported Local Bus Services**

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 8 March 2024 from North Yorkshire Council which included a summary of changes to local bus services funded by North Yorkshire Council. Cllr Trueman noted that there was very little change to the bus services in and around Thirsk.

**Resolved: that the email and attachment be noted.**

**C1519 Town Councillor Vacancy**

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

**Resolved: that Ms Amy Robinson be co-opted on to the Town Council.**

**C1520 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 March 2024 be approved and cheques signed.**

**C1521 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Duffey reported that he had visited more local businesses with the aim of including them on the Visit Thirsk website.

Cllr Naughton reported that she had met Mr Tony Jordan and discussed matters relating to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom.

Cllr Trueman reported that he had attended Thirsk Rotary Club's annual dinner at Alanbrooke Barracks on Saturday, 16 March 2024.

**The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.**

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**Chairman**