

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 16 March 2026 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs: D Southward (Chairman), D Duffey, A Robinson, B Smith, A Trueman, K White

Apologies: Cllrs: S Ward, B Earley, S Holme, K Mountford, F Potter

In attendance: North Yorkshire Cllr G Dadd

C1741 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1742 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance, nor had a police report been received.

**C1743 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd was pleased with the progress of the new flagging in the Market Place, although this was taking longer than anticipated due to circumstances beyond their control.

Cllr Dadd stated that as yet no confirmation had been received as to the commencement of the refurbishment works to the Railway Station.

C1744 Open Forum

Two members of the public who were in attendance did not raise any matters.

C1745 Minutes

C1745(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 February 2026

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2026.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

C1745(b) Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

C1746 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1746(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 16 February 2026

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2026.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2026 be received and noted.

C1747 Burial Board Minutes/Report, Applications for Memorials

Resolved: that the memorial applications received in respect of Bernard (Brian) Saunders and Kenneth Seymour be approved.

**C1748(a) Planned Road Restriction Notification – B1448 Topcliffe Road
Railway Bridge, Sowerby**

The meeting received an email dated 16 February 2026 concerning overnight closures of the B1448 Topcliffe Road Railway Bridge, Sowerby. It was anticipated

that restrictions would be in place during the Thirsk & Sowerby Festival. Cllr Ben Smith advised that he had requested that North Yorkshire reconsider the timings.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1748(b) De Mowbray Music Festival

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 19 February 2026 from Mr Benjamin Ellin concerning plans for De Mowbray Music with a suggestion that a presentation be made to the Town Council.

Resolved: that the email be noted and further contact be made with Mr Ellin in relation to supporting the De Mowbray Music Festival.

C1748(c) North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison

The meeting received an email from Parish Liaison regarding drop-in surgeries. Cllr David Southward advised that he was willing to attend but had received no Agenda.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1748(d) Thirsk & Sowerby Festival

The meeting received an email dated 3 April 2024 from Cllr Ben Smith requesting a £2000.00 donation towards the 2026 festival.

Resolved: that the Town Council approve a donation of £2000.00 to Thirsk & Sowerby Festival for 2026

C1748(e) Thirsk Youth Club – Funding request

The Meeting received an email dated 3 April 2024 from Thirsk Youth Club requesting funding for urgent repair work to the building which they leased. Members felt it was inappropriate to put public money into undertaking repairs to a building that was not owned by the Youth Club but were happy to make a donation for the benefit of Youth Club members.

The Clerk advised that the budget included the sum of £2000 for youth activities.

Resolved: that the Town Council make a donation towards youth activities at the Youth Club.

C1749 Burial Board: Application for Exhumation at Thirsk Cemetery:

The meeting considered an email dated 8 March 2026 that had been sent to Johnson and Angela Cunningham regarding a proposed exhumation in Thirsk Cemetery, including procedures regarding exhumation and requesting further clarification from the family.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1750 Thirsk Millenium Green Trust

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by a resident who had assisted with keeping the Millenium Green tidy but had been placed on the list of trustees and was receiving emails from the charity commission regarding submission of overdue accounts which she was concerned about.

To help resolve the situation the Clerk had put his details forward as point of contact. An email had now been received from the charity commission regarding the charity not filing its annual accounting records.

The trustees listed on the charity commission site were not contactable for varying reasons and the Clerk suggested that the charity commission be contacted to establish whether the Town Council as a sole body could become the Trustee for the

Resolved: that enquiries be made in relation to the Town Council becoming the sole Trustee for the charity.

C1751 Citizen of the Year Award

Cllr Smith nominated Mrs J Miller for the Citizen of the Year Award, and this was seconded by other councillors.

Resolved: that Mrs Jill Miller be awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for 2026.

C1752 Car Parking Charges – North Yorkshire Council

The meeting noted that there had been recent publicity regarding a possible rise in parking charges. Cllr Dadd advised that the publicity was incorrect and he was hopeful there would be no rise in parking charges this year.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

C1753 Christmas in Thirsk

Cllr Smith circulated a document detailing the schedule of events and breakdown of costs. Gemma Symmonds and Hannah Tweddle confirmed that they were happy to continue to support the Christmas lights and the switch-on event and that many of the other volunteers would also continue to be involved.

Resolved: that the document be noted.

C1754 Accounts for Payment

Resolved:

- a) that the accounts for payment as at 16th March 2026 be approved and Cheques signed
- b) that Paula Jane Gittings be approved as a cheque signatory for the Town Council

C1755 Reports from Members/Representatives

There were no reports from members present.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman