

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 14 April 2025 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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

Apologies: Cllrs: D Duffey (Holiday), S Holme (Alternative commitment), D Jackson (Holiday), F Potter (Holiday)

C1630 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1631 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance and a police report had not been received.

**C1632 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Nothing reported as Cllr G Dadd was unable to attend the meeting.

C1633 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

A member of the public asked if there was any update in respect of the planned upgrading works at Thirsk Railway Station. Cllr Smith reported that he had recently spoken to Mr Kevin Hollinrake MP who had advised that the work was ready to commence but that Network Rail was currently prioritising other projects.

Another member of the public reported that a dropped kerb at the entrance to the Bellway development on Station Road had still not been constructed. Cllr Trueman advised that the matter would be passed on to North Yorkshire Council as highways authority.

The matter of the overflowing bins at Bamlett House, adjacent to Tesco, was raised and it was noted that this would need to be dealt with by the landlord/letting agent as the premises were privately let.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C1634 Minutes

C1634(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 March 2025

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

C1634(b) Matters arising

C1615 Cod Beck Project

Cllr Southward advised that he had been unable to assist with a litter pick which had been coordinated by Friends of the Earth due to personal circumstances.

C1626 Thirsk in Bloom

The Clerk read out an email dated 4 April 2025 from Mr T Jordan which advised that a Thirsk in Bloom working party would be weeding around the stone trough planters at the Whitemare roundabout/corner of Ingramgate on Tuesday, 15 April 2025. Mr Jordan stated that Town Councillors were welcome to attend, if only to understand the need for a planned maintenance regime to control the weeds at this location.

C1628 Accounts for Payment

Cllr Southward enquired if any progress had been made regarding the obtaining of additional cheque signatories. The Clerk advised that he was looking to change the bank mandate so that two individuals could sign cheques as opposed to the current requirement for three signatures. It was also intended that more invoices would be paid by bank transfer instead of by cheque. However, the Town Council's Financial Regulations would need to be amended and approved before these changes could be implemented.

C1635 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1635(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 17 March 2025.

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 March 2025.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 March 2025 be received and noted.

C1636 Burial Board

The Clerk reported that it had not been possible to make any progress with regard to rebuilding the collapsed cemetery wall but that he intended to arrange for a meeting to take place with the owner of the adjacent field and the building contractor who had quoted for the work. There were no applications for memorial to be approved.

C1637 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1637(a) Consultation on Draft Recommendations for Division Boundaries in North Yorkshire

The meeting received an email dated 1 April 2025 from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England concerning a consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in North Yorkshire. Cllr Robinson understood that the Thirsk boundary had been extended. The Clerk believed that the boundary was not affected but stated that he would double-check the position.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1637(b) NALC Revised Standing Orders 2025

The meeting received an email dated 4 April 2025 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning Model Standing Orders which had recently been revised by the National Association of Local Councils. The Clerk advised that the Standing Orders covered all aspects and changes in legislation and that the Town Council's Standing Orders would need to be updated and adopted.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1637(c) New Police and Crime Plan 2025 - 2029

The meeting received an email dated 4 April 2025 from the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority concerning the launch of the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2025 - 2029.

Resolved: that the email be noted

C1637(d) Planned Road Restriction Notification – St Mary's Walk, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 7 April 2025 from North Yorkshire Council concerning the closure of St Mary's Walk, Thirsk for a period of two days between 13 April 2025 and 17 May 2025.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1637(e) Cemetery Lodge

The Clerk advised that an email dated 9 April 2025 had been received from Linley & Simpson, the letting agent for Cemetery Lodge, which contained a recommendation

that the rent be increased by £55 to £750 per month. It was noted that the tenants had been in the property for two years and that the rent had not been increased during this time. Discussion took place with Members noting the current cost of living and the fact that there had been no issues with the current tenants.

Resolved: that the rent for Cemetery Lodge be increased by £25 to £720 per month.

C1638 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 14 April 2025 be approved and cheques signed.

C1639 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Southward reported that a member of the public had recently tripped when using the urinal at Millgate Public Conveniences as he had failed to see the step in front of the urinal. The Clerk advised that a builder was going to provide an estimate for work which would facilitate access to the back of the urinal and at the same time would look at improving the safety of the step in front of the urinal.

Cllr Robinson reported that she had been advised by members of the public that the grass cutters had had no consideration for flowers which had been placed on graves for Mother's Day when carrying out strimming work at the cemetery. She requested the comments be passed on to the grass cutter. The Clerk advised that the matter would be addressed.

Cllr Trueman raised the issue of the blue plaque which had previously been attached to the exterior wall of the former Lambert Memorial Hospital. The Clerk advised that the plaque was currently stored in the office and could be re-fixed to the building following the completion of renovation works.

The Clerk reported that he had been approached regarding a blue plaque that was missing on Castle Garth. He indicated that he had been in contact with the company which had manufactured the missing plaque in order to confirm the wording and to manufacture a new plaque.

The meeting closed at 7.58 p.m.

Chairman