

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 20 April 2026 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllr Shirley Ward (Chair) Cllrs D Duffey, Stacey Holme, Fiona Potter, B Smith, D Southward, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs Amy Robinson, Kirsty White.

In attendance: North Yorkshire Cllr G Dadd

C1756 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1757 Police Report

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

**C1758 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd stated that the Highway Funding reported on at the last meeting was making progress. York Road works would take place this year, the funds for which were available.

Cllr Dadd informed the committee of his intention to stand down from the North Yorkshire Council Executive Committee.

C1759 Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

C1760 Minutes

C1760(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 March 2026

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

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

C1761 Matters arising.

C1761(a) De Mowbray Music Festival. Cllr Duffy advised that he would contact Benjamin Ellin again and offer A donation of £500 on the basis that they would come back each year.

C1761(b) North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison

Cllr Southward had attended the meeting held at Galtres Centre where Resilience Plans had been discussed. It was decided that North Yorkshire Council were to be approached for details of contacts, as the plan is their responsibility.

C1761(c) Thirsk Youth Club - Cllr Duffy advised that he would contact Gill Gallanders about future activities scheduled / equipment needed for which a donation could be made. It was stated that there was £2000 currently in the budget. Cllr Trueman suggested a donation of up to £1000.

C1761(d) Citizen of the Year Award. Cllr Smith stated that Gill Miller had been made aware of her award, and that the presentation would be held at the Christmas Light Switch On.

C1761(e) Millenium Green Trust. The clerk advised that The Charities Commission had been contacted regarding the Thirsk Town council becoming Sole Trustee and that a reply was awaited.

C1762 Visit Thirsk Website. The meeting received statistical reports provided by Justin Greetham. Cllr Duffy advised on the content. It was noted that most 'hits' were on the Events page. Cllr Duffy suggested that The Ritz Cinema flyer should be included. Cllr Smith suggested that restaurants of the town be approached regarding a 'Restaurant Week' to be advertised on the website. Cllr Smith to approach the restaurants to discuss.

Resolved. Noted

C1763 Thirsk Christmas Lights & Switch on.

The meeting received an email dated 9 April 2026 from Cllr Smith regarding a proposed publicity document in respect of the Thirsk Christmas Lights Switch on.

Resolved. Noted

C1764 Sponsorship- World Double Bit Axe Throwing Championships.

The meeting received an email dated 5 April from Ian Radmore requesting sponsorship.

Resolved: It was decided to decline this request as the event would not benefit Thirsk town and its residents and businesses.

C1765 Exhumation at Thirsk Cemetery. Further information had been received by email, dated 2 April 2026 about the works to be carried out to the Cunningham vault.

Resolved: That the email be noted and that the Cunninghams submit their request to the Ministry of Justice.

C1766 Replacement of swings on the Holmes.

The meeting received three quotes from:

Park Lane Playgrounds for the sum of £10,002.00. (including VAT)

Streetscape for the sum of £10,250, (excluding VAT)

Sutcliffe Play for the sum of £12,921.54 (excluding VAT)

for the purchase and installation of the swings on the Holmes.

Resolved: Following Consideration, that the Park Lane quote be accepted and works to commence as soon as possible.

C1767 Committee Minutes and Reports.

C1767(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 16 March 2026

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

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2026 be received and noted.

C1768 Burial Board Minutes/Report, Applications for Memorials.

That the memorial application received in respect of Paul Stokell be approved.

Resolved: Approved.

C1769 Reports from Members / Representatives.

C1769(a) Cllr. B Smith announced the Fashion Show taking place on 22 May for the Thirsk & Sowerby Festival fund. He asked everyone to support and to 'spread the word.'

C1769(b) Cllr. B Smith stated that the new Yorkshire Trading Store will be opening in the next seven weeks.

C1770 Any other business.

C1770(a) A letter to be sent from the Mayor to Cllrs. B Early & K Mountford regarding their lack of attendance and commitment to Thirsk Town Council.

C1770(b) A vote of thanks was given to Howard Kemp, retiring Clerk, for his long and committed service.

PRIVATE SESSION In accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of the following exempt business.

C1771 Thirsk Mini Mart

The meeting received emails dated 31 March 2026 from the head of Trading Standards at North Yorkshire Council in respect of Thirsk Mini Mart
Cllr Duffey advised the meeting that the Mini Mart had been raided by Police and Trading standards in respect of issues concerning the sale of certain goods.
Following further discussion, it was: -

Resolved: that the Town Council send a letter to Trading Standards expressing its concern regarding the continued opening of the premises.