

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 15 May 2023 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs A Trueman (Chairman), D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, D Jackson, K Mountford, A Naughton, F Potter, B Smith, D Southward, S Ward

**Apologies:** None

**In attendance:** North Yorkshire Cllr G Dadd

**C1422 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1423 Police Report**

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had submitted a report containing the crime figures for April 2023 which was circulated to Members. Cllr Smith noted that the police had not attended a Town Council meeting for some time and asked that they be requested to attend future meetings.

**C1424 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk  
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported that NYC was planning to replace the footbridge adjoining the Marage footpath and had requested that the Town Council grant access through the picnic area to enable the works to be carried out.

Following a request by Cllr Jackson at the last meeting to be provided with advance notification of roadworks, Cllr Dadd advised that notifications would be of little use due to the number of changes when roadworks were being timetabled.

Cllr Dadd indicated that NYC had faced some significant challenges on 1 April 2023, the day of the transition to the unitary council, but most issues had now been resolved.

**C1425 Open Forum**

**Resolved: that standing orders be suspended**

A number of residents of Byland Avenue, Thirsk raised a concern relating to the grass cutting of a piece of land adjacent to some of their properties. One resident advised that the grassed area in question had been previously cut by a resident who had become unable to carry on cutting the grass and the area was now very overgrown. The lady indicated that other grassed areas nearby had been cut and that she had been advised by North Yorkshire Council that it was the duty of the Town Council to cut this grass. The Clerk stated that the area was not under Town Council ownership and had never been included on its grass cutting schedule. Cllr Dadd believed that the area had not been included on the schedule because the grass had been previously cut by a resident but that it should, in fact, be included. The Clerk stated the Town Council would cut the grass in the very near future, provided authorisation was received from NYC. Cllr Dadd stated that he would liaise with the appropriate person at NYC so that the matter could be resolved quickly. Another member of the public enquired as to who was responsible for the bridge on Millgate. The Clerk advised that this came under the remit of North Yorkshire Council.

**Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated**

## **C1426 Minutes**

### **C1426(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 April 2023**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 April 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

### **C1426(b) Matters Arising**

#### **C1417(b) Council Mowing Regimes for Grass Verges and Green Spaces**

Cllr Duffey pointed out that the resolution for this item stated that the emails be noted and he suggested that the resolution should more accurately reflect what had been agreed, i.e. that the Town Council would continue to mow as in previous years. The Clerk agreed that the minutes would be amended accordingly.

#### **C1417(c) Application for Premises Licence – Towlers, 66-68 Market Place, Thirsk**

The Clerk advised that the premises licence application had been approved by North Yorkshire Council.

#### **C1421 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Trueman indicated that Cllr Potter had set up an Instagram account for the Town Council and that she hoped to work on the Facebook account in the very near future.

## **C1427 Committee Minutes and Reports**

### **C1427(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 17 April 2023**

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2023.

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 April 2023 be received and noted.**

## **C1428 Burial Board**

**Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Derek Adamson and Rita Potter be approved.**

## **C1429 Correspondence/Items Raised**

### **C1429(a) Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No. 10.150/35, Thirsk Hall Estates**

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 14 March 2023 from Ms S Williamson, North Yorkshire Council, concerning the proposed diversion of a public footpath. Cllr Duffey noted that the path was part of a walk given out by Thirsk Tourist Information and that appropriate signage would need to be erected.

**Resolved: that the Town Council raises no concerns regarding the diversion of the public footpath subject to appropriate signage being erected.**

### **C1429(b) North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner – Online Public Meetings**

The meeting received an email dated 27 April 2023 from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner concerning the relaunch of online public meetings.

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

### **C1429(c) Topcliffe Road, Sowerby – Drainage Improvement Works – Phase 2**

The meeting received a letter dated 27 April 2023 from North Yorkshire Council concerning drainage improvement works which were scheduled to commence on 15 May 2023 for a period of 15 weeks.

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

### **C1429(d) Car Parking – Thirsk Market Place**

The meeting received an email dated 5 May 2023 from Mr K Hughes concerning car parking in Thirsk Market Place. Mr Hughes was concerned that modern systems of parking which necessitated the use of a smartphone would prevent drivers without

such devices from parking in the town. Members noted that there were no plans to change the system currently in use.

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

**(e) Marage Path Footbridge Replacement**

The meeting received an email dated 5 May 2023 from Mr J Calvert, North Yorkshire Council, concerning the replacement of the footbridge adjoining the Marage footpath with a request that the Town Council permit access through the picnic area to enable the works to be carried out. It was noted that the work was expected to take place between July and September and that it may be necessary to close the picnic area whilst some of the work was ongoing. Members noted that any unexpected damage caused by the contractor would be rectified and Cllr Trueman suggested that photographs be taken of the picnic area prior to the work commencing.

**Resolved: that the Town Council permit access through the picnic area to enable the work to be carried out provided that any damage caused by the contractor would be rectified.**

**C1430 Councillor Vacancy**

Members considered three applications for the Town Councillor vacancy and a private vote took place.

**Resolved: that Ms Stacey Holme be co-opted on to the Town Council.**

**C1431 Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had recently encountered some issues with its emails and it required assistance with managing and maintaining the website. He indicated that a quotation had been received from North Yorkshire Schools ICT to operate the website. Following discussion, Cllr Duffey felt that Members needed more time to consider the quotation and Cllr Trueman suggested that the matter be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 May 2023 be approved and cheques signed.**

**C1432 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Duffey advised that he had received a request from the web designer of the Visit Thirsk website to purchase an immersive camera at a cost of £554. He stated that Cllr Jackson supported the purchase and had offered to contribute £200 from the mayor's fund. Members agreed that the purchase would be a worthwhile investment and agreed that the Town Council would pay the balance.

Cllr Smith advised that the Visit Thirsk website was continuing to expand and requested that any businesses or organisations who wanted to publicise an event should get in touch.

Cllr Gibson-Brown gave an update in respect of an incident where she and her dog had been attacked by a Japanese Akita dog as she was leaving her shop on 26 April 2023. She stated that she had had to prepare statements via telephone and email and that the local police had still not visited. She was concerned that the dog was still being walked around the town. Cllr Smith stated that the police station was open from 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon but that it could be difficult to get a response.

**The meeting closed at 8.02 p.m.**

-----  
**Chairman**