

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 19 June 2023 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr A Naughton (Holiday), Cllr F Potter (Holiday)

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

**C1433 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1434 Police Report**

There was no police representative in attendance.

**C1435 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk  
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd stated that he was aware of a pre-planning consultation in respect of a proposal to build approximately 100 houses on a piece of land adjacent to Station Road. He noted that the land was designated as land for development in North Yorkshire Council's Local Plan.

Cllr Dadd indicated that the North Yorkshire mayoral election was expected to take place in May 2024 which it was anticipated would lead to a devolution deal which would unlock significant long-term funding for the county.

Cllr Smith queried whether progress had been made with regard to the installation of electricity charging points in the Market Place. Cllr Dadd stated that he had no update but that he would raise the matter with NYC.

Cllr Southward indicated that the residents who had attended the last Town Council meeting to raise a concern about grass cutting at Byland Avenue were very happy as the grass had been cut soon after the meeting.

**C1436 Open Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**C1437 Minutes**

**C1437(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 May 2023**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 May 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

**C1437(b) Matters Arising**

**C1423 Police Report**

Cllr Smith noted that there was no police representative in attendance and enquired as to whether they had been requested to attend Town Council meetings. The Clerk advised that an email had been sent requesting their attendance but there had been no response.

**C1438 Committee Minutes and Reports**

**C1438(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 15 May 2023**

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023.

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 May 2023 be received and noted.**

### **C1439 Burial Board**

**Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Ian Fenton & Sara MacPherson, Joyce Metcalfe, Ronald Mkhethiwa, Norman Spence and Ronnie Stevenson be approved.**

### **C1440 Correspondence/Items Raised**

#### **C1440(a) Coronation Big Lunch Report**

The meeting received an email/report dated 17 May 2023 from Mr D Tucker/Ms Y Bowling in respect of the Coronation Big Lunch which had been held on Sunday, 7 May 2023 at the Parochial Hall Field, Sowerby.

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

#### **C1440(b) Safeguarding Week 2023 – 19 – 23 June 2023**

The meeting received an email dated 12 June 2023 from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner which provided information in respect of a programme of free online sessions in connection with Safeguarding Week, 19 – 23 June 2023.

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

#### **C1440(c) Herriot Hospice@The Lambert – Fundraising Campaign**

The meeting received a letter dated 12 June 2023 from Mr T Collins, Chief Executive, Herriot Hospice Homecare advising of a fundraising campaign in respect of the Lambert Hospice.

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

#### **C1440(d) Town Council Website**

The meeting received quotations dated 12 May 2023 and 6 June 2023 in connection with the management/maintenance of the Town Council's website. Cllr Duffey considered that the website created by White Horse Web Solutions was very good and that it would be a waste of money to pay another company to carry out work which had already been undertaken. He proposed that the Town Council accept the quotation from White Horse Web Solutions and reassess the position after one year.

**Resolved: that the Town Council accepts the quotation dated 6 June 2023 from White Horse Web solutions to maintain/manage the Town Council website and reviews the position after one year.**

#### **(e) Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No. 10.150/15, Thirsk Station**

The meeting received an email dated 19 June 2023 from Ms S Williamson, North Yorkshire Council, concerning the proposed diversion of a public footpath at Thirsk Railway Station. The Clerk advised that this was an additional item which was not on the agenda but which required a response within two weeks.

**Resolved: that the Town Council has no objection to the proposed diversion of Public Footpath No. 10.150/15 as per the information set out in Ms Williamson's email dated 19 June 2023.**

### **C1441 Town Council Committees/Representatives**

Cllr Smith noted that more Members were needed to join some Town Council committees. Cllr Ward advised that she had previously offered to join the Public Conveniences Committee but that her name had not been included on the schedule. It was noted that the Millennium Green was not a Town Council committee and could be deleted from the schedule. It was suggested that the newest Members, Cllrs Holme and Naughton, should consider and indicate which committees they would like to join.

**Resolved:**

- (i) that Cllr Ward's name be added to the Public Conveniences Committee;**
- (ii) that Cllrs Holme and Naughton consider which committees they would like to join.**

**C1442 Annual Return 2022/2023**

The meeting received and considered the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for the Annual Return for 2022/2023. The Clerk went through the annual internal audit report, annual governance statement, accounting statements, bank reconciliation, risk management document, asset register and a document setting out the system of internal control. As a result of receipts/ payments exceeding £200,000 for three continuous years the accounts now had to be done on an Income and Expenditure basis. This included identifying debtors and creditors and showing all payments net of VAT.

Members noted that the Magna Carta document was currently at the library but not on display and it was suggested that Thirsk Museum may be a more appropriate place for it to be displayed.

**Resolved:**

- (a) that the Systems of Internal Control in place be approved;**
- (b) that the Internal Audit report for 2022/2023 be received;**
- (c) that the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023 be approved;**
- (d) that the Accounting Statements for 2022/2023 be approved.**

**C1443 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 June 2023 be approved and cheques signed.**

**C1444 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Jackson raised the issue of car parking enforcement and advised that an email which he had sent some time ago to Mr P Cole of the former Hambleton District Council had been forwarded to the Freedom of Information requests department at North Yorkshire Council. Cllr Jackson was concerned about what he considered to be over-zealous behaviour of parking wardens and was seeking answers to several questions which he had requested. Members agreed that the Town Council would pursue the matter.

Cllr Smith reported that a meeting of the Public Conveniences Committee had taken place on Thursday 8 June 2023, although the minutes of the meeting were not available. He advised that the committee had agreed that cleaning schedules would be displayed in the toilets so that the public could see the times/dates when the toilets had been cleaned and checked. He indicated that there had been some recent issues with blocked drains and loose toilet seats and that spot checks were being carried out to monitor the cleanliness of the toilets.

Cllr Trueman reported that he had participated in three events in his first month as mayor. He had opened the new BP Garage on York Road, met Thirsk vet Peter Wright who had stopped in Thirsk during a cycling challenge to raise funds for Herriot Hospice and he had opened the Royal British Legion Band's annual garden party.

**The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.**

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**Chairman**