

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 15 July 2024 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs A Trueman (Chairman), D Duffey, S Holme, D Jackson, K Mountford, F Potter, A Robinson, B Smith, D Southward, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs A Naughton (Illness)

C1553 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1554 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had emailed a report which was circulated to Members. Cllr Jackson observed that some of the information in the report was not relevant to Thirsk. It was noted that the figure for incidents of violence was quite high and that it would have been helpful to have been provided with more detail in respect of some of the incidents. The Clerk suggested that the police could be requested to attend Town Council meetings or, where that is not possible, that more detail be provided in respect of the crime figures.

**C1555 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported that he had recently visited Thirsk School & Sixth Form College and that he had agreed to give £5,000 from his locality budget to help support the school's inclusion unit.

Cllr Dadd advised that he was aware of some flyers which had been circulated by an individual who was planning to hold a public meeting on Sunday, 11 August 2024. He stated that he wanted to have more information about what was being proposed and noted that there was already quite a number of voluntary organisations in Thirsk. Cllr Dadd indicated that he had some concerns about government funding following the recent general election, particularly with regard to a £12 million rural services grant which he was worried may be phased out eventually.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Cllr Dadd advised that he was not aware of any updates in respect of the proposed improvement works at Thirsk Railway Station.

In answer to a query by Cllr Jackson, Cllr Dadd understood that the hardware for NYC's CCTV system may be moved from Stone Cross at some point but that there were no plans to reduce the CCTV system and that, if anything, the service would be enhanced.

C1556 Open Forum

The members of the public who were in attendance did not address the meeting.

C1557 Minutes

C1557(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 June 2024

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 June 2024 be approved as a correct record.

C1557(b) Matters Arising

C1545 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk – North Yorkshire Council

Cllr Jackson asked if the Town Council had received an update concerning the appointment of NYC community network officers. Cllr Trueman stated that he had been contacted by someone who he understood to be the new network officer for the area. However, the Clerk advised that the Town Council had not received any information in this respect

C1552 Reports from Members/Representatives

Following the community gardening day on Sunday, 23 June 2024 when a group of Town Councillors and volunteers had tidied several areas around the town, Cllr Potter asked if North Yorkshire Council could be requested to spray the areas so that they could be more easily maintained. The Clerk suggested that he could ask the Town Council's grass cutter how much he would charge for spraying and Cllr Trueman stated that he would send photographs of the areas in question.

C1558 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1558(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 17 June 2024

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2024.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2024 be received and noted.

C1558(b) Open Areas & Greens Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 17 June 2024

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2024.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2024 be received and noted.

C1559 Burial Board

Following a complaint about the standard of maintenance at the cemetery, the Clerk indicated that he had visited the cemetery and that he had not noticed anything which caused him concern. The only issue he was aware of was a stretch of kerb edging at the side of a footpath which it was intended would be replaced.

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for June Lee, Susan Minican, Jeanne Marie Rees and John Patrick Ruecroft be approved.

C1560 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1560(a) Keep North Yorkshire Clean – New Anti-Littering Campaign

The meeting received an email dated 13 June 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning the launch of a new anti-littering campaign which included a request that the Town Council put up posters to encourage residents and visitors to dispose of their litter correctly. Cllr Jackson was concerned that NYC had the powers to deal with enforcement of littering offences but failed to carry out enforcement action. It was also suggested that posters needed to be put up in areas where littering problems had been identified and that it may be difficult to find appropriate locations to display the posters.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1560(b) Planned Road Restriction Notification – Piper Lane, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 1 July 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a planned road restriction on Piper Lane, Thirsk for a period of three days between 22 and 24 July 2024.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1560(c) Planned Road Restriction Notification – Sowerby Road, Sowerby

The meeting received an email dated 3 July 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a planned road restriction on Sowerby Road, Sowerby for a period of 19 days between 26 August 2024 and 13 September 2024.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1560(d) Let's Talk Rubbish Campaign

The meeting received an email dated 8 July 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a campaign entitled, "Let's Talk Rubbish", which comprised a consultation about household waste and proposals for future changes to recycling collections.

Resolved: Cllr Trueman suggested that Members look at the survey online and, if they wished to submit an observation, this should be done by emailing the office so that a collective response could be submitted.

C1560(e) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Thirsk (LCWIP)

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 8 July 2024 from Cllr Duffey concerning the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Thirsk. Cllr Duffey advised that a lot of discussion had already taken place and that the next steps would be to consider each location in detail and for a report to be provided.

Resolved: that the email and attachment be noted.

C1560(f) St Mary's Church Clock

The Clerk referred to two emails from Mr Michael Armstrong concerning issues with the clock mechanism at St Mary's Church. He advised that significant sums of money had been spent on servicing and repairing the clock in recent years and that the Town Council was currently in receipt of a quotation for £1,907 for work to restore the clock's hammers. He indicated that a local clock expert had been contacted and he suggested that the Town Council seek his opinion and advice on the best way forward.

Resolved: that the Clerk will liaise with a local clock expert and seek advice with regard to repairs to be carried out to St Mary's Church Clock.

C1561 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 July 2024 be approved and cheques signed.

C1562 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Mountford reported that she had received a request from Mr Justin Greetham that he be permitted to use a colour logo for the Town Council in connection with the marketing of Thirsk and Sowerby Festival. No objections were raised in this regard.

Cllr Duffey complained about fly-posting at Mill Gardens following an event which had been held at Thirsk Racecourse, stating that the organisers had been keen to put up posters and banners but failed to remove them after the event

Cllr Trueman reported that he had been contacted about fly-tipping in the River Cod Beck near the Millennium Green. The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency was responsible for the River Cod Beck but that Barratt Homes owned the ditch at the Millennium Green. He added that the Town Council's amenity worker checked the River Cod Beck every week and had not mentioned any fly-tipping incidents.

Cllr Trueman thanked everyone who had taken part in the community gardening day on Sunday, 23 June 2024. He reported that it had been a very successful day, 38 bags of rubbish had been filled and that several areas around the town looked much tidier.

The meeting closed at 8.08 p.m.

Signed