

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 21 July 2025 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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

Apologies: Cllr: F Potter (Holiday)

In attendance: County Cllr G Dadd

At the beginning of the meeting the Clerk read out an email in which Cllr David Jackson tendered his resignation from the Town Council. The Clerk indicated that Cllr Jackson was a Town Council representative on several organisations in Thirsk and had offered to continue in these roles until other people came forward. Cllr Ward stated that she was very grateful for Cllr Jackson's hard work and support which he had provided throughout his 10 years of service as a Town Councillor.

C1665 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1666 Police Report

A police report which contained the monthly crime figures was circulated to Members. The officer who attended the meeting advised that he had spent some time engaging with young people in Thirsk and he felt that he had built up a rapport with many of them. Cllr Smith reported that a banner promoting Thirsk and Sowerby Festival which had been attached to a tree adjacent to the waterfall had been burnt and destroyed.

The officer reported that PC Jonathon Harrison was due to retire on 31 July 2025 and that his replacement, PC Darren Rosamond, would commence his duties in August.

Cllr Dadd indicated that he had received several complaints of vehicles speeding in Norby. The officer stated that individuals should complain to the police traffic bureau in order for action to be taken.

**C1667 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd advised that NYC was awaiting the local government settlement figures. Cllr Dadd reported that the resurfacing works on Station Road had been delayed by a drainage issue.

C1668 Open Forum

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

C1669 Community Works, Thirsk

Ms Sara Gill, CEO, and Mr Tim Ward, Chair, Community Works, Thirsk attended the meeting. A handout was circulated which included information about the team at Community Works, its mission and values, and contained a summary of the services provided. Ms Gill advised that, since becoming CEO in May 2025, she had been surprised to discover how little people knew about Community Works. She stated that a survey had been launched which was intended to assist in reviewing its services and to help create a five year plan. Cllr Ward thanked Ms Gill and Mr Ward

for attending and for providing Members with an insight into the work carried out by Community Works.

C1670 Minutes

C1670(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 June 2025

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

C1670(b) Matters arising

C1658(c) Headstone Cleaning Services – Thirsk Cemetery

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the lady who had enquired about providing a headstone cleaning service in the cemetery and that she had decided not to pursue the matter.

C1671 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1671(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 16 June 2025

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2025.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2025 be received and noted.

C1672 Burial Board

The Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting at the cemetery to resolve the issue of rebuilding part of the cemetery wall which had been damaged by a falling tree. He indicated that it had been agreed that the owner of the adjacent field would plant hedging along the line of the damaged wall and would remove the bricks.

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Hermine Keene, Terence Keene and Roger Koller be approved.

C1673 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1673(a) The Holmes, Thirsk – Spikes in River

The meeting received a letter dated 25 June 2025 and emails dated 11 July 2025 and 15 July 2025 from North Yorkshire Council, Mr J Bell and the Town Council concerning some spikes which it was believed were in the river in the vicinity of the waterfall at the Holmes. The Clerk stated that it was understood that they were not actually spikes but possibly posts which had been installed to catch debris in the river. He advised that the Environment Agency had stated that they were not responsible. He had therefore contacted a gentleman who had offered to use an underwater drone in an effort to gather more information about the posts. He added that the matter was complicated because of the issue of responsibility for the posts and that the agreement which the Town Council had for managing the Holmes was not very clear. Following discussion, Councillors agreed that they should wait to see if the drone investigation provided more information before making a decision as to the next steps.

Resolved: that the Town Council await the outcome of the underwater drone investigation and consider the matter again at the next meeting.

C1673(b) Thirsk Rotary in Bloom - Watering

The meeting received an email dated 11 July 2025 from Mr Tony Jordan, Thirsk Rotary in Bloom. The Clerk advised that Thirsk Rotary in Bloom had also provided an update which contained a summary of tasks completed by the organisation. Mrs Kath Reynard attended the meeting on behalf of Thirsk Rotary in Bloom. She advised that the number of volunteers had reduced significantly in recent years and

that more volunteers were needed to help with planting, watering and maintaining all the tubs and containers. Cllr Smith stated that he had offered to help with watering on several occasions but had not received a response. Mrs Reynard explained that it was necessary for a Rotarian to drive the watering vehicle for insurance purposes and that Mr Jordan was dealing with the matter.

Mrs Reynard also raised concerns in respect of the maintenance of Mill Gardens. She advised that she had stopped looking after the area last year but that since that time not enough work had been done to keep the area looking attractive. She stated that both Mill Gardens and the picnic area were very well used and that it was important that they were maintained to a high standard. It was suggested that a professional gardener might be needed to carry out the work.

Resolved:

- i) **that anyone who wished to volunteer for Thirsk Rotary in Bloom should contact Mr Tony Jordan.**
- ii) **that the Town Council examines letting a contract for a gardener to maintain Mill Gardens.**

C1674 Double Devolution – Thirsk Market

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 9 July 2025 from Northallerton Town Council which included some financial information in respect of Thirsk and Northallerton markets. It was noted that Northallerton Town Councillors were keen to meet with Thirsk Town Councillors to consider the next steps and had suggested meeting on Saturday, 26 July 2025 at Northallerton Town Hall. Cllr Smith advised that some stall holders had also been invited to meet the two Town Councils on the same date. Following discussion, Members considered that the financial information was not very clear and that a decision could not be made on the information provided.

Resolved: that the Town Council seek clarification in respect of the financial information concerning Thirsk and Northallerton Markets.

C1675 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 July 2025 be approved and cheques signed.

C1676 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Robinson advised that she had recently received some positive comments about the tidiness of Thirsk Cemetery.

Cllr Ward reported that she had attended the licensing ceremony of The Reverend Mary Rolls at St Marys Church, Thirsk. She had been invited to Hambleton Grange Care Home to judge a flapjack competition, and she and Cllr Southward had attended the Hambleton Branch meeting of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and had met the new Mayor of Northallerton. She had also attended at the official opening of a wildlife pond area at Sowerby Community Primary School which had been finished with the help of Thirsk Men's Shed and the PTA.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Chairman