

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

Present: Cllrs: S Ward (Chairman), D Duffey, D Southward, A Trueman, Kirsty White.

Apologies: Cllrs: Stacey Holme (away), F Potter (away), A Robinson (work commitments), B Smith (work commitments). **Accepted**

In attendance: There were three members of the public present.

C1790 Declarations of Interest

C1790(a) There were no declarations of interest.

C1790(b) The Clerk stated that new declaration forms had been requested by NYC. Councillors present received hard copies to complete. Absent members had been sent these by email.

C1791 Police Report

There was no Police present, but a report had been received. An award attributed to North Yorkshire Police was noted and required no council action.

**C1792 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd was not present. The Clerk stated that she had received his apologies.

C1793 Open Forum

C1793(a) Station Road.

The members of the public in attendance raised concerns over the ongoing smell on Station Road which had improved at the Carlton Miniott end but seems to have become worse at the Tesco area. It was also stated that the weeds on Station Road were restricting a disabled wheelchair on the Tesco side and that the entrance to Millbank Court was very high with weeds. On the opposite side there was a tree with growth at its base and encroaching onto the pavement.

Resolved: That the clerk contact NYC regarding these matters although Gareth is aware of this, and he states this is in hand.

C1793(b) The Railway Station.

A member of the public asked for an update on the works to the Railway Station. Cllr. Southward stated that Network Rail was to begin the works during this parliamentary term.

C1794 Minutes

C1794(a) To receive the minutes of the meeting Town Council Meeting held on 15 June 2026

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 June 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C1795 Matters arising.**C1795(a) The old Sluice Gate at the weir on the Holmes.**

Cllr. Southward proposed installing a beam with a slotted back to secure it. The Clerk had coordinated with Neil Ashton, who could assist with both railing and sluice gate repairs.

Resolved: That Cllr. Southward and Neil Ashton would take the project forward.

C1795(b) Sensory Gardens Interpretation Board.

Progress remains on hold pending receipt of a suitable photograph of Salem Chapel from Jan Marshall.

Resolved: That the Clerk continue to liaise with Jan Marshall and Alpha Signs.

C1795(c) Welcome to Thirsk plinth on the York Road entrance to the town.

The Clerk advised that she had not received a reply to her email enquiry (16th June 2026) and would contact Area 2 again.

Resolved: That the Clerk contact NYC.

C1796 Committee Minutes and Reports**C1796(a) Planning Committee.**

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

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2026 be received and noted.

C1797 Burial Board

C1797(a) The meeting did not receive hard copies of the applications for additional inscriptions for Margery Collinson, Karen Hope Windross, Anne Ogden and Bridget Saunders.

Resolved: That the Clerk circulate these on 21st July 2026.

C1797(b) The meeting received a letter dated 8 July 2026 from the Diocese of York regarding the Exhumation of ashes from Thirsk Cemetery on 13 July 2026. The document be noted and that this be recorded in the minutes.

Resolved: Noted and recorded.

C1797(c) The meeting received a letter dated 14 July 2026 from the Diocese of York regarding the Exhumation at Thirsk Cemetery of Thomas & Violet Cunningham. The document be noted and that this be recorded in the minutes.

Resolved: Noted and recorded.

C1798 Correspondence/Items Raised**C1798(a) Thirsk Museum**

The meeting received an email from Jan Marshall re Thirsk Museum and the new proposed CIO status. She requested interest from councillors regarding involvement in the museum's transition to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status. No members expressed an interest in participating.

Resolved: That this be noted.

C1798(b) The meeting received an email from David Burns at Micro Press regarding publication of A Thirsk Town Guide.

Resolved: That the Clerk direct this enquiry to Tourist Information.

C1798(c) The meeting received an email from Tony Jordan, Thirsk in Bloom suggesting that volunteers revert to maintaining the floral displays and leave all weed & litter control (or lack of it) to TTC & NYCC. Offers of help and requested dates had been declined. Cllr. Trueman suggested we approach White Horse Gardening Services to look after this area next year. Cllr Trueman also mentioned other problem areas which included the Marage (NYC responsibility) and the Market Place tree trunk grids. In the interim Cllr Duffey suggested that the Probation Service could be contacted to help.

The Clerk stated that the works carried out in the Sensory Garden by White Horse Gardening Services was going well.

Resolved: That the Clerk contact the Probation Service and White Horse Gardening Services and draft a suitable reply to the email Tony's email.

C1798(d) Long Street Planters.

The meeting received an email Kate Foster dated 6 July 2026 regarding the flower tubs on Long Street. The Clerk had advised her that some points raised within her email were not the responsibility of the Town Council. Cllr. Southward stated that he had looked at these and thought there was no sign of rotting and that they could benefit from repainting and planting.

Resolved: That the Clerk contact White Horse Gardening Services to inspect and advise.

C1798(e) Litter.

The meeting received an email Kate Foster dated 6 July 2026 regarding Litter and discarded cigarette ends in the town. Cllr. Duffey stated that he had been advised that street cleaners were in the town each day but had seen no evidence. NYC are legally obliged to keep the streets litter free.

Resolved: That the streets be monitored.

C1799 Christmas Lights.

The Clerk stated that Turner electrical were happy to quote but needed further information. Dresser had been contacted but no reply had been received after several attempts. NYC had been contacted in order to locate the power points. In Cllr. Robinsons absence the Clerk stated that a breakthrough had been made and that Dressers were putting a plan together.

Resolved: That Cllr. Robinson would be meeting with Dressers.

C1800 Millgate Toilets.

C1800(a) The meeting received a quote from TWC Hygiene services. The Clerk stated that the service by Rentokil Initial had been unsatisfactory both recently and historically. The quote was comparable to the contract of Rentokil Initial.

Resolved: That the Clerk organise the change of service provider.

C1800(b) The meeting received two quotes for rework to the service area where leaks were apparent.

Resolved: That the Clerk contact Mark Preston to carry out the works to the service area and the problem cubicle in the ladies' toilets.

C1801 Accounts for payment.

That Accounts for payment be approved.

Resolved: Approved.

Part 2 Private Session

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.

C1802 Staffing

Members received an update regarding the Deputy Clerk.

- Sharon's employment was terminated following an extended probation period.
- Persistent concerns remained regarding performance, particularly administration and IT competency.
- Training and support had been provided throughout the initial and extended probation periods.
- Appropriate procedures and documentation were completed.

Resolved: That Recruitment for a replacement had commenced through:

- Jobcentre
- Council website
- Social media channels

C1803 Internal Auditor Appointment

The external auditor flagged that the internal auditor must be formally appointed and documented in the minutes annually. Though Barker Partnership remains the choice, the council reaffirmed their appointment to comply with audit requirements.

Resolved: To reaffirm the appointment of **Barker Partnership** as the councils Internal Auditor for the current year financial year.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Chairman