

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council  
held on Monday, 18 September 2023 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs W Gibson-Brown (Alternative commitment), A Naughton (Alternative commitment), A Trueman (Holiday)

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

**C1455 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C1456 Police Report**

There was no police representative in attendance. A police report containing the crime figures from 1 August 2023 to 18 September 2023 was circulated. Members noted the unusually high numbers of incidents of violence and antisocial behaviour and requested that further information be sought in respect of these.

**C1457 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk  
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported that work to replace the Marage Path footbridge was ongoing and he thanked the Town Council for allowing the contractors access through the picnic area.

Cllr Dadd advised that funding had been obtained for the installation of a bus shelter at Millgate Coach Park and that the work would be carried out in the near future.

Cllr Dadd stated that he had contacted Mr C Thornton, North Yorkshire Council, regarding the installation of electricity charging points in the Market Place. He was unable to provide an update in this regard but understood that an announcement in respect of works to the Market Place footpaths would be made soon.

Cllr Dadd reported that the annual maintenance works at Sutton Bank had just been completed and that a number of resurfacing works had been programmed to take place in the near future, with dates still to be confirmed.

Cllr Dadd indicated that NYC was carefully considering its budgeting plans for the years ahead and noted that these were difficult times financially but that the priority would always be to the county's most vulnerable residents.

Cllr Southward observed that the recent resurfacing works on Sutton Road had been carried out to a very good standard.

In answer to a question from Cllr Jackson, Cllr Dadd stated that he was not aware of a date for works to be carried out at the mini-roundabout at the Town End.

**C1458 Open Forum**

**Resolved: that standing orders be suspended**

A local resident, Mr Howe, attended the meeting and raised concerns in respect of youths riding bicycles on the pavements around Thirsk. He stated that he had received verbal abuse and nearly been knocked over by young men who had no consideration for pedestrians. He advised that he had noticed "no cycling" signs when visiting Saltburn recently and suggested that similar signage be erected in Thirsk. The Clerk indicated that signage was a matter for North Yorkshire Council and that the police had the power to take action. Cllr Dadd stated that NYC tend to

be criticised if they erect too much signage but that he would support a request for temporary signage to be erected.

**Resolved: that the Town Council write to NYC Highways requesting that consideration be given to erecting temporary “no cycling” signs in appropriate locations around Thirsk.**

#### **C1459 Minutes**

##### **C1459(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 July 2023**

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

##### **C1459(b) Matters Arising**

C1454 Reports from Members/Representatives

In answer to a question from Cllr Jackson, the Clerk confirmed that repair work to St Mary’s Church Clock had now been completed.

#### **C1460 Committee Minutes and Reports**

##### **C1460(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 17 July 2023 and Planning Summary dated 22 August 2023.**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2023 and a Planning Summary dated 22 August 2023.

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2023 and a Planning Summary dated 22 August 2023 be received and noted.**

#### **C1461 Burial Board**

The Clerk reported that he was still pursuing the rebuilding of a section of the cemetery wall which had been damaged during a winter storm but he was unsure if the work could be completed in the short period of time when the farmer would permit access into the adjacent field.

**Resolved: that the application for memorial for Norman McAllan Johnston be approved.**

#### **C1462 Correspondence/Items Raised**

##### **C1462(a) Remembrance Day Events**

The meeting received a joint letter dated 12 July 2023 from North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Council Highways concerning traffic management arrangements for Remembrance Day Events.

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

##### **C1462(b) Whole Council Training**

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 11 August 2023 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning Whole Council Training. The Clerk advised that four Town Councillors had stated they would wish to attend a Whole Council training session but that the cost of the training was based on the number of filled seats on the Council. Discussion took place and it was considered that some of the newer Members may benefit from some form of training. Cllr Holme suggested that it may assist if the Clerk provided some information/guidance to the newer Members and that if anyone felt they needed further guidance at that stage they should advise the Clerk.

**Resolved:**

- (i) the Town Council do not participate in a Whole Council training session;**
- (ii) the Clerk circulate further information/guidance to Town Councillors.**

### **C1462(c) Managing Speed Limits in North Yorkshire**

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 16 August 2023 from North Yorkshire Council concerning the Council's new approach to managing speed limits.

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

### **C1462(d) Thirsk Yarnbombers - Insurance**

The meeting received an email dated 23 August 2023 from Trish Radford, Thirsk Yarnbombers, in which she thanked the Town Council for its recent donation covering the cost of the Yarnbombers' annual insurance.

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

### **C1462(e) Delivery Plan for the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner**

The meeting received an email dated 11 September 2023 from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner concerning the publication of a delivery plan for the OPFCC, mapping out the work undertaken by its employees and how they make a positive difference for the public.

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

### **C1463 Car Parking Enforcement**

Cllr Jackson referred to an email dated 21 June 2023 from Mr C Thornton, North Yorkshire Council, which had been circulated to Members and was in response to an email from Cllr Jackson seeking information in respect of car parking enforcement. He advised that the gov.uk website contained useful statutory guidance which should be applied by local councils. He suggested that the Town Council write to North Yorkshire Council to point out that NYC do not appear to be complying with the statutory guidance. Cllr Ward thanked Cllr Jackson for his efforts in pursuing this matter.

**Resolved: that the Town Council write to North Yorkshire Council regarding compliance with the statutory guidance in relation to car parking enforcement.**

### **C1464 Thirsk Town Improvement Group**

Cllr Duffey advised that the Thirsk Town Improvement Group had not met for some time but that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with representatives from North Yorkshire Council's Highways. He noted that prosperity funding may become available for a feasibility study in respect of various infrastructure projects. He advised that NYC had agreed to prioritise works to the footpaths in the Market Place and would shortly be undertaking test pits to evaluate the ground conditions before commencing any works.

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

### **C1465 Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 September 2023 be approved and cheques signed.**

### **C1466 Reports from Members/Representatives**

Cllr Mountford reported that a number of trees which had been planted at Thirsk Community Primary School had been vandalised over the weekend and that the matter had been reported to the police.

Cllr Duffey advised that he had had a meeting with an individual from a village "safer cycling" group who was concerned about the safety of cyclists using the roads around Thirsk and Sowerby. Discussion had taken place around the possibilities of

creating more cycling tracks, for example from Sowerby Gateway to Thirsk Railway Station.

Cllr Smith reported that there had been a number of problems at Millgate Public Conveniences following the refurbishment works but he understood these were in the process of being resolved.

Cllr Smith advised that Cllr Mountford was the new Chair of the Thirsk and Sowerby Festival Committee and that he was Vice-Chair. He stated that if anyone wanted to help to organise the festival for 2024, they should contact him.

**The meeting closed at 7.58 p.m.**

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**Chairman**