

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 16 September 2024 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs A Trueman (Chairman), D Duffey, S Holme, D Jackson, K Mountford, A Naughton, A Robinson, B Smith

Apologies: Cllrs F Potter (Holiday), D Southward (Holiday), S Ward (Prior commitment)

In attendance: Cllr G Dadd

C1563 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1564 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had emailed a report which was circulated and noted by Members.

**C1565 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported that the roadworks on Long Street were expected to be completed within the allotted timeframe.

Cllr Dadd hoped that the Town Council would support a proposal to extend the double yellow lines at the entrance to Norby Estate.

Cllr Dadd advised that he had attended an informal meeting in connection with the provision of new electric vehicle charging points. He hoped that it may be possible to short-cut some matters which were said to be causing delays in providing new charging points.

Cllr Dadd indicated that he supported a request from residents of Station Road to reduce the speed limit to a continuous 30 mile per hour restriction. He advised that the police would need to support the proposal and he hoped that the Town Council would too. As far as the request for resurfacing the road and cycle track was concerned, he stated that this was already on a capital programme for resurfacing, which meant that the work would be done as and when funding was available.

Cllr Dadd advised that some exploratory works had taken place with a view to replacing the pavements around the Market Place but that it would be very expensive for these to be replaced with York Stone.

Cllr Dadd reported that North Yorkshire Council's locality teams had been in place for a few weeks and were working as community support structures.

Cllr Dadd indicated that the government's target for house building in North Yorkshire had risen from around 1,300 per year to 4,300 per year. He feared that house building could become something of a "free for all" as it would be more difficult to refuse planning permission if not enough houses were being built.

In answer to question from a member of the public concerning the proposed refurbishment of Thirsk Railway Station, Cllr Dadd believed that some measuring up work had taken place but he had no other information.

C1566 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Ms Jo Show, a resident of Station Road, attended the meeting along with two neighbours and requested that the Town Council support a proposal to reduce the speed limit on Station Road to a continuous 30 mile per hour restriction and to

resurface the road and cycle path. Ms Shaw stated that 100 residents had signed a petition in support of the proposal. She advised that the police had previously not supported a 30 mile per hour speed limit but hoped that that would change as the road was now much busier with more houses having been built and a children's play area located very close to the road. She indicated that she intended to raise the matter at a meeting of the Thirsk & Malton Area Committee on Friday, 27 September 2024. Cllr Jackson advised that the Town Council's Planning Committee had stated that the speed limit should be reduced to 30 mph back in 2018 when it had considered a planning application in respect of the former Austin Reed site. As far as the cycle track was concerned, Cllr Duffey indicated that North Yorkshire Council employed an external group to look at cycling and walking infrastructure and that there was already an agreement that Station Road needed to be prioritised. He understood that a plan was in the process of being produced but noted that everything was subject to funding being available.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

C1567 Minutes

C1567(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 July 2024

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

C1567(b) Matters Arising

C1560(f) St Mary's Church Clock

The Clerk advised that he had discussed the issues with the clock at St Mary's Church with a local clock expert and had requested a meeting with Smith of Derby so that the issues could be discussed and resolved as quickly as possible.

C1568 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1568(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 15 July 2024 and Summary dated 19 August 2024

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2024 and a Summary dated 19 August 2024.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2024 and the Summary dated 19 August 2024 be received and noted.

C1569 Burial Board

The Clerk reported that the Town Council's amenity worker would be replacing a section of kerb edging at the cemetery in the near future.

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Kim Hook, Will Peterken and Richard John Simmons be approved.

C1570 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1570(a) Request for Public Bench

The meeting received an email dated 21 July 2024 from Ms P Dunning requesting that the Town Council consider providing a bench on the south side of the Market Place in one of the recesses in front of the former Barclays Bank. Members considered the request and noted that North Yorkshire Council was responsible for the area, not the Town Council.

Resolved: that the Town Council forward the email to North Yorkshire Council.

C1570(b) Strategy to Combat Serious Violence

The meeting received an email dated 23 July 2024 from the York & North Yorkshire Office for Policing, Fire, Crime and Commissioning concerning a survey in connection with the development of a joint strategy to combat serious violence.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1570(c) Parish Liaison – Parish Consultation Panel

The meeting received an email dated 15 August 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a proposal to establish a consultation panel of Town and Parish Clerks from across the county as part of its work to improve communication.

Resolved: that the Clerk liaises with Mr Peter Cole of North Yorkshire Council concerning his involvement with a consultation panel.

C1570(d) Norby Estate, Thirsk – Proposed Parking & Waiting Order

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 21 August 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a proposal to extend the waiting restrictions at Norby Estate, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the proposal to extend the waiting restrictions at Norby Estate, Thirsk.

C1570(e) North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre – Request for Donation

The meeting received an email dated 4 September 2024 from North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre which included a request that the Town Council consider making a donation towards its running costs. It was noted that the Town Council had previously made donations of £200 but, as this figure had not been increased for many years, it was suggested that it could be increased to £250.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £250 towards the running costs of North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre.

C1570(f) Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The meeting received an email dated 4 September 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning the delay in providing new electric vehicle charging points in Thirsk Market Place. (This topic was also discussed under agenda item C1565).

Resolved: that the email be noted

C1570(g) Meeting of Hambleton Branch of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations

The meeting received an email dated 9 September 2024 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the next meeting of the Hambleton Branch of YLCA which was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 16 October 2024.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1570(h) North Yorkshire Council Survey – Let's Talk Active

The meeting received an email dated 9 September 2024 from North Yorkshire Council concerning an informal survey asking people about their physical activity levels and the use of NYC leisure facilities.

Resolved: that the email be noted

C1570(i) "Making Station Road Safer"

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 9 September 2024 from Ms J Shaw concerning a request to reduce the speed limit to 30 miles per hour on Station Road and Carlton Miniott and to resurface the road and cycle track.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to Ms Shaw, advising that the Town Council fully support the request and that the Town Council had supported a 30 mph limit when recommending approval of the planning application in respect of the development of the former Austin Reed site in 2018.

C1571 Committee Meetings

Members noted that meetings of the Office & Personnel, Open Areas & Greens and the Public Conveniences Committees all needed to be arranged. As far as the Office & Personnel Committee was concerned, it was noted that Cllr Southward was currently away and it was therefore suggested that a meeting be arranged following his return in around two weeks' time. Regarding the Open Areas & Greens Committee, it was suggested that Cllr Ward should email other Committee members to agree a convenient date and time. As far as the Public Conveniences Committee was concerned, it was agreed that a meeting be held on Monday, 23 September 2024 commencing at 6.30 p.m. in the Town Council office.

C1572 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 September 2024 be approved and cheques signed.

C1573 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Duffey reported that he had recently attended a meeting in connection with the Visit Thirsk website. He indicated that the website had grown 100 per cent in the last year, going from 6,000 to 12,000 users, and that there were around 500 requests for the Visit Thirsk newsletter. He advised that more businesses continued to be included on the website and that it was hoped to include some new content which would be aimed at highlighting Thirsk as a place for cyclists to stop.

Cllr Jackson reported that he and Cllr Trueman had recently attended a meeting of Thirsk Youth Club. He advised that the youth club was looking to secure its own premises but that cost was a significant factor.

Cllr Jackson was disappointed to note that meetings of a group which had been set up to deal with issues of antisocial behaviour were to be replaced with a different type of meeting.

Cllr Mountford thanked everyone who had supported Thirsk & Sowerby Festival and stated that the organisers had received some positive feedback.

Cllr Smith reported that the local markets were struggling. He advised that North Yorkshire Council had produced some posters and banners to help publicise the markets but that a banner which had been attached to the railings outside the public toilets in Millgate had disappeared. He stated that Thirsk market had just lost its fruit and vegetable stall and he feared that there could be an increase in rents for market traders in Thirsk as he understood that NYC was planning to align market traders' fees across North Yorkshire.

Cllr Trueman reported that he had enjoyed a pleasant day celebrating Yorkshire Day on 1 August 2024 which had included a service at York Minster, lunch and a journey on one of York's new electric buses. Cllr Trueman thanked Cllrs Mountford and Smith for their hard work in putting on Thirsk & Sowerby Festival. Cllr Trueman reported that he had attended at Meadowfields to present one of its residents with a card and flowers in celebration of her 100th birthday. Cllr Trueman advised that he had attended the official opening of Ruby Lodge Care Home as well as the reopening of Crafts of Thirsk following a move to new premises. He also advised that a new clothes shop called Jane & Sarah would be opening in Thirsk in the near future.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Signed