

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 21 September 2026 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Annex**

Present: Cllrs: S Ward (Chairman), D Duffey, Stacey Holme, F. Potter, A Robinson, A Trueman.

Apologies: B Smith (on holiday) D Southward (on holiday). K White (other)

Accepted

In attendance: There were no members of the public present.

C1804 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1805 Police Report

There was no Police presence neither had a report had been received.

**C1806 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Councillor Dad stated that a meeting date would be arranged between the Town Council, key stakeholders, North Yorkshire Highways, and the contractors undertaking the next phase of the Market Place improvement works at the top end of the Market Place. North Yorkshire Councillor Gareth Dadd stated that the company which installed the existing charging points in Thirsk and Northallerton had gone into liquidation and that the equipment installed was not of the required standard. He advised that a replacement contractor had been procured but had subsequently withdrawn at a late stage. Councillor Dadd further advised that North Yorkshire Council considered the reinstatement of the charging points to be a priority and was working hard to bring the facilities back into operation. However, the matter was currently at the procurement stage, which was causing delays. This aligns with information subsequently shared with the Council regarding the insolvency of the original contractor and the need to replace non-compliant equipment. Councillor Dadd advised that, if Mr Crick were a resident of Thirsk, he could contact North Yorkshire Council directly through him regarding the matter.

C1807 Open Forum There were no members of the public present.

C1808 Minutes

To receive the minutes of the meeting Town Council Meeting held on 21st September 2026.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21st September 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C1809 Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

C1810 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1810(a)Planning Committee.

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2026.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2026 be received and noted.

C1811 Burial Board

C1811(a) A request was made by Hilary Rees to install a stone memorial bench near her husband's grave. Concerns were raised about safety, precedent, and aesthetics.

The council does not permit ornamental structures due to risks (e.g., falling on children). Alternative solutions were proposed: placing a wooden bench in keeping with existing ones. The existing wooden benches across burial grounds are considered appropriate and safe.

Resolved that the Clerk contact Mrs Rees with this alternative proposal.

C1811(b)Memorial application. The meeting received a Memorial application for Linda Pritchard.

Resolved: that this be approved.

C1811(c)Cunningham Vault. The clerk updated the meeting that the family had decided against exhumation. However, the decision remains fragile as the faculty permit is valid for one year.

Resolved: That this be noted.

C1812 Correspondence /Items Raised.

C1812(a)Long Street Planters

The meeting received an email from Jayne Robson dated 24th August 2026 regarding the condition of Long Street planters. Cllrs. A Trueman, F Potter & A Robinson suggested the planters should be converted into low-maintenance, community-accessible herb gardens (e.g., rosemary, basil, chives) to encourage public engagement. Hardier, evergreen shrubs like box hedges were proposed for easier maintenance.

Resolved: that the Clerk to survey the condition of the planters, speak to the gardening company regarding replanting and ongoing maintenance, and keep the resident updated.

C1812(b)Thirsk in Bloom:

The meeting received an email from Tony Jordan dated 24th August 2026 regarding Ukrainian-inspired flower bed and funding request. The meeting discussed and decided against further funding for the current budget year. Previously rejected offers of assistance re weeding were also discussed. It was stated that the council will no longer engage unless he provides updates on fundraising or business sponsorship efforts.

Resolved: that the Clerk send an appropriate response advising that no further funding is available.

C1812(c)Electric Vehicle Chargers.

The meeting received an email from Michael Crick, dated 1 September 2026, regarding electric vehicle charging points which were currently out of commission. He advised that North Yorkshire Council had received funding through the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Scheme and suggested that the Town Council could explore opportunities to support the provision of charging infrastructure within Thirsk. He further suggested that a councillor meet with him to discuss potential opportunities and future proposals. Councillor Dadd advised that, if Mr Crick were a resident of Thirsk, he could contact North Yorkshire Council directly through him regarding the matter.

Resolved: that the Clerk contact Mr Crick with Cllr Dadds offer.

C1812(d)United Infrastructure on behalf of Yorkshire Water.

The meeting received Yorkshire Water Infrastructure Works Information from United Infrastructure/Yorkshire Water regarding replacement sections of the existing clean Water Network, helping to improve the reliability and resilience of the local water supply.

Resolved: Received and noted.

C1812(e)PowerPoint presentation from Thirsk Steering Group.

The meeting received a PowerPoint presentation from Thirsk Steering Group and a report stating the following.

- The Gateway 2 report received strong support from the TIP Programme Board.
- The shortlisted projects (those achieving the highest scores from the 32 projects previously circulated) are shown within the presentation slides.
- I have now started drafting the Thirsk Town Investment Plan, drawing on all previous engagement and evidence gathered.
- The next key milestone will be the public consultation on the draft plan.
- The consultation is now expected to take place in November, rather than October as originally planned.
- We are aiming to hold two events to launch and promote the consultation.

Resolved: That these be noted.

C1813 Christmas Lights update.

Cllr Robinson stated that she is awaiting a quote from Christmas Plus after consulting with Dressers and obtaining all the information needed regarding the project. Estimated cost was expected to exceed **£20,000**, though the final figure is pending.

Resolved: that this be noted.

C1814 Millenium Green Trust.

The clerk advised that she had found the contact details of two of the remaining four Trustees, one could not be found and that she was already in contact with the fourth. It was discussed that the clerk contact the Trustees to arrange a meeting.

Resolved: That the clerk contact the trustees.

C1815 Councillor Vacancy.

The meeting considered three applications received in respect of the current Town Councillor vacancy. Following consideration of the applications, Members voted to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Resolved: That William Hunter Bell be co-opted to serve as a Town Councillor on Thirsk Town Council.

C1815 Accounts for payment.

That Accounts for payment be approved.

Resolved: Approved.

C1816 Reports from Members/Representatives None received.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Chairman