

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 20 November 2023 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs A Trueman (Chairman), D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, S Holme, D Jackson, K Mountford, A Naughton, F Potter, B Smith, D Southward, S Ward

Apologies: None

In attendance: North Yorkshire Cllr G Dadd

C1478 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1479 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had submitted a report containing the crime figures for November 2023 which was circulated to Members.

A police representative was to attend the February meeting to discuss domestic violence.

**C1480 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported to the meeting that the town centre roadworks had been completed. Cllr Dadd was to continue to pursue the need for road improvements on Stockton Road and Station Road, Thirsk.

Cllr Dadd stated that trail hunting had been rejected at full council.

Cllr Dadd informed the meeting that a by-election was to take place in Sowerby.

In response to a question by Cllr Jackson he advised that there had been no further progress in relation to lifts being installed at Thirsk Railway Station.

Cllr Dadd stated that he would make enquiries regarding disabled bollards in front of Greggs Bakery in the Market Place in response to an enquiry from Cllr Smith.

C1481 Open Forum

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

C1482 Minutes

C1482(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 October 2023

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 October 2023 be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to show that Cllrs Gibson-Brown and Ward were present.

C1482(b) Matters Arising

The Clerk read to the meeting an email from the Highways Department of North Yorkshire Council regarding cycling on footpaths, advising that they were unable to pursue signage in the Market Place. Cllr Mountford stated that she would inform Mr Howe, a local resident, of the outcome of his request for signage to be installed in Thirsk.

C1483 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1483(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 16 October 2023

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2023.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 October 2023 be received and noted.

C1484 Burial Board

Resolved: that the applications for memorials for Thelma Sinfield and Audrey Barrett be approved.

C1485 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1485(a) Citizens Advice - Request for Donation

The meeting received an email dated 13 October 2023 from Ms Carole Shreeve, CEO of Citizens Advice, requesting that the Town Council make a donation.

Resolved: that the Town Council donate £200 to Citizens Advice.

C1485(b) Draft Housing Strategy 2024 - 2029

The meeting received an email dated 16 October 2023 from John Burroughs, Housing Strategy and Development Officer, North Yorkshire Council, attaching a draft housing strategy.

Resolved: that Town Councillors respond individually.

C1485(c) Temporary 40mph speed restriction

The meeting received an email dated 18 October 2023 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a new speed restriction on York Road, Thirsk near the new services.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1485(d) Planned Road Closure Notification – Front Street, Sowerby

The meeting received an email dated 24 October 2023 from North Yorkshire Council outlining the period when Front Street, Sowerby would be closed to allow Yorkshire Water to install a new water connection.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1485(e) Annual Statutory Budget Consultation

The meeting received an email dated 24 October 2023 from North Yorkshire Council attaching a briefing note.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1485(f) Thirsk Rotary in Bloom – Application for Grant 2024

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 6 November 2023 from Thirsk Rotary in Bloom requesting the yearly donation for 2024.

Resolved: that the Town Council allocate £4,000 to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom in the budget for the financial year 2024/25.

C1485(g) National Joint Council Cost of Living Increase

The meeting received an email dated 7 November 2023 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations detailing the salary scales applicable from 1 April 2023.

Resolved:

(a) that the Town Council approves the implementation of the new NJC salary scales.

(b) that appropriate increases be applied to the Amenity Worker and Toilet Cleaning Operative.

C1485(h) Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The meeting received an email dated 7 November 2023 from North Yorkshire Council indicating that the Council is required to prepare a Local Nature Recovery Strategy under legislation from the Environment Act 2021 with an aim to reverse the decline in nature. An introductory webinar was to take place on Tuesday 21 November 2023.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1485(i) Planned Road Closure Notification – Newsham Road Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 8 November 2023 from North Yorkshire Council outlining the closure of Newsham Road for three days between 5 and 7 December 2023

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1485(j) Great North Air Ambulance Service – Request for Donation

The meeting received a letter dated 8 November 2023 from Great North Air Ambulance Service requesting that the Town Council make a donation towards its operating costs.

Resolved: that more information regarding the service provided be requested.

C1485(k) Double Devolution – Thirsk and Northallerton Markets

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 9 November 2023 from Mrs Rachel Joyce, North Yorkshire Council, inviting Thirsk Town Council to join with Northallerton Town Council to put forward a full business case. A meeting is to take place with members of Northallerton Town Council on Tuesday, 21 November 2023 following which more information will be available.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1485(l) Public Engagement in Planning – Consulting on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement

The meeting received an email dated 9 November 2023 from North Yorkshire Council regarding public engagement in planning and how the community can be effectively involved in local planning.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1486 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 November 2023 be approved and cheques signed.

C1487 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Holme stated that a young child had asked if there could be any additional equipment at a play park.

Cllr Ward reported that she had attended an enjoyable evening with 2337 Air Cadets in Northallerton recently.

Cllr Mountford indicated that the 2024 Thirsk & Sowerby Festival would be on Sunday, 4 August 2023 and that an extra hour had been granted.

Cllr Trueman reported that he had attended the Remembrance Service Parade which had gone well. He informed the meeting that he had had a badge modified for the Mayor's consort to wear.

Cllr Trueman reported that the goal posts on Carr's Field had been moved. The Clerk stated that he would contact the Carr's Field Trust in this respect.

The Clerk confirmed that there would be no December meeting of the Town Council.

Cllr Potter asked if it would be possible to have higher seats installed in the Market Place. The Clerk stated that he would approach North Yorkshire Council regarding the request.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman