

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 17 November 2025 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs: S Ward (Chairman), D Duffey, S Holme, B Smith, D Southward, A Trueman, K White

Apologies: Cllrs: K Mountford, A Robinson

C1708 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1709 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance, nor had a police report been received.

**C1710 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk
North Yorkshire Council**

Cllr Dadd reported that North Yorkshire Council was currently awaiting news in respect of the local government finance settlement.

C1711 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

A member of the public raised a concern regarding sewage on Station Road. Cllr Dadd advised that drainage issues were the responsibility of Yorkshire Water. Another member of the public asked if there was any update in respect of the proposed refurbishment work at Thirsk Railway Station. Cllr Dadd indicated that he was not aware of any update. He added that the operators of the railway station were responsible for refurbishment works but that North Yorkshire Council was supportive of the proposals.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated

C1712 Minutes

C1712(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 October 2025

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2025.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 October 2025 be approved as a correct record.

C1712(b) Matters arising

C1704(b) Thirsk and Sowerby in Bloom

Cllr Southward asked if a quotation had been received from the grass cutting contractor with regard to weed spraying. The Clerk stated that the grass cutter and Mr Tony Jordan needed to look at the various locations together before providing a quotation and that the work would not be carried out until the early spring of 2026.

C1713 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1713(a) Personnel & Office Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 2 October 2025

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2025.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2025 be received and noted.

C1713(b) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 20 October 2025

The meeting received the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2025.

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

C1714 Burial Board Minutes/Report, Applications for Memorials

Resolved: that the memorial applications for Shirley Anne Armstrong & Peter John Armstrong and Shirley Armstrong (baby) be approved.

C1715 Correspondence/Items Raised**C1715(a) North Yorkshire Council – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Programmes**

The meeting received an email dated 5 November 2025 from North Yorkshire Council concerning a programme to deliver electric vehicle charging points in rural communities in North Yorkshire. Members noted that the programme was intended to support communities in isolated rural areas and, as such, did not apply to Thirsk.

Resolved: that the email be noted

C1715(b) Picnic Area/Millennium Garden - Cleaning

The meeting received an email dated 10 November 2025 from Mr Tony Jordan concerning a quotation for cleaning the picnic tables, benches and paving in the Picnic Area. The Clerk indicated that the quotation included the cleaning of three benches outside the Picnic Area which belonged to North Yorkshire Council. Members agreed that the Town Council would contribute towards the cost of cleaning within the picnic area but considered that the work should not be carried out until next spring.

Resolved:

- (i) **that the Town Council contribute £300 towards the cleaning of picnic tables, benches and paving in the Picnic Area;**
- (ii) **that the Town Council suggest that the work is not carried out until next spring.**

C1715(c) Thirsk in Bloom Projects Update Report – November 2025

The Clerk circulated a report which had been received from Thirsk in Bloom on the morning of the meeting. Cllr Potter noted that the report did not mention any plans regarding fundraising.

C1715(d) North Yorkshire Justice for Palestinians

The Clerk advised that two emails dated 4 November 2025 and 17 November 2025 had been received from Mr Andy Croft, North Yorkshire Justice for Palestinians, which included an invitation for the Town Council to attend a meeting to discuss ways of defusing tensions locally and safeguarding public spaces. Following discussion, Members agreed that the matters raised did not come under the Town Council's remit.

Resolved: that the Clerk responds to the emails in the terms outlined above.

C1716 Town Councillor Vacancy

Members considered four applications which had been received in respect of the Town Councillor vacancy and a private vote took place.

Resolved: that Mr Ben Earley be co-opted as a Town Councillor.

C1717 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 November 2025 be approved and cheques signed.

C1718 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Potter reported that she had attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade on 9 November 2025 as Cllr Ward had been unable to attend.

Cllr Southward advised that he had attended a Local Prevent Group meeting on 6 November 2025 which he stated had been an interesting fact-finding mission.

Cllr Duffey reported that a meeting of the Personnel & Office Committee had been held on 2 October 2025 and that it was intended to interview two applicants for the Clerk's position in early December. He hoped that a new Clerk would then be appointed and able to commence duties in the New Year.

Cllr Smith asked if the Town Council wanted to appoint a new representative to the Town Hall Management Committee following the resignation of Cllr David Jackson and stated that he would be more than happy to fulfil the role. Members accepted this offer and the Clerk indicated that he would advise Mr Mark Robson of the appointment.

The meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.

Chairman