

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 4th April 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 7th March 2002
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 7th March 2002
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To discuss street cleaning and refuse collection in Thirsk.
6. To discuss seat maintenance, 2002.
7. To appoint a signatory for transfer of land at Craig's Way
8. To receive committee reports
9. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 4th April 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Hubbard, Murkett, Pack and Salmon, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Hall, Jackson, Marshall and Roberts: accepted.

Minutes: 7th March 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Pack seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A58: Pole, St James Green/ path to Carrs Field: Clerk asked to write to the chairman of BT, explain the problem and ask for response and action; Carrs Field Trust to write also.

Cllr Adamson arrived.

Coop delivery vehicles, Gillings Court: Councillors suggest the area could be cobbled /concreted so that if wagons do run on the area there would not be any problem; to suggest to NYCC contact Coop re responsibility.

Skate park: Cllr Robinson reported it had been agreed to look at a site near the swimming baths; if this fails then other sites would be considered: Mr D Goodwin, HDC is studying all aspects that may be affected and also the leasing of the land; a report back is expected shortly.

Toilets, Market Place: Cllr Robinson reported he had contacted HDC re the state of the toilets; it was agreed to write to HDC Environmental Health Officer, copy to Chief executive, as the present situation is not satisfactory to either residents or visitors of the town.

Old notice, in Tan Express window: removed.

It was agreed to ask a Consignia representative to next amenity meeting to explain changes in service to the town.

Correspondence:

Mr Walker, grass cutting contractor, has reported that the area he has been asked to cut at Hambleton Drive/Whitestone Court is all brambles; NYCC to be asked to clear or exclude from grass cutting contract.

Brochure of designs and details of self-closing gate show; noted.

HDC Street cleaning reply, (All Councillors had been given a copy): Discussion on the time that it is taking for new schedules to be implemented; agreed to ask Mr Amy re litter being picked and put in HDC bins; there was some debate re the position if the Town Council undertook the street cleaning in the town; Cllr Robinson said he had been informed that the Town Council would not be able to take on the work.

Seats:

Agreed that the clerk contacts the same contractors as had tendered last year.

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Signatory, Craigs Way:

Cllr Adamson proposed seconded Cllr Murkett that Cllr Roberts should sign, agreed.

Committee Reports:

Thirsk in Bloom: Cllr Pack reported on the recent judging by Yorkshire in Bloom; judges had been impressed by the 'water buggy' and the brochure put together showing the work in progress of group; Cllr Robinson explained that due to illness Cllr Roberts had been unable to welcome the judges. Cllr Pack raised her concerns re Mill Gardens and will confer with Cllr Hubbard.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Robinson reported that the new Tourist Information Centre had been opened the previous week, both Town and District councillors had not been told; short opening hours were discussed; there had been a better service provided when the TIC was in the Museum and at The World of James Herriot; letter to be sent to Mr D Goodwin asking for some explanation of the situation, copies to HDC Chief Executive, Mr S Quartermaine, HDC and the Leader of the Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Adamson reported that on Little Green there are 2 trees that have been snapped off; Cllr Robinson said the Greens Committee will be meeting soon and will look at them.

Press reporter left the meeting (9.11pm).

Cllr Robinson reported on the last meeting of the Market Towns Regeneration: now all the schemes for 3 years have to be submitted; it is estimated that the proposed Drop-in cafe will use £180,000, more than half the budget.

Exclusion of press and public for "commercial in confidence" item, proposed Cllr. adamson, seconded Cllr Murkett.

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Confidential Item:

A 61: Minutes: Add ' Cllr Salmon proposed that tender 1 be accepted on Quality basis', therefore unanimously agreed on both financial and quality grounds. Approval proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Pack, agreed. The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 15th April 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

- Agenda
1. To receive Apologies for absence.
 2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 18th March 2002.
 3. To receive Police report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
 4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
 5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 18* March 2002.

6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To receive Planning Committee report.
8. To approve accounts for payment.
9. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
10. To receive correspondence.
11. To receive Burial Board report.
12. To adopt The Town/Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 (S.I. 3576)
13. To delete Standing Orders No 50 to 52 & amendment to S.O. No 53.
14. To discuss the opening hours of the new Tourist Information Centre.
15. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 15th April 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllr Roberts, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Hall, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Robinson, 1 Police officer, 3 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Salmon, Cllrs Pack and Bull (late arrival attending Town Clock cafe meeting), accepted.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Minutes:

P1274: add 'developing Arts policy'.

Cllr Adamson arrived.

Correction: Cllr Marshall was asked to chase response to correspondence re boundary changes and parish responsibility.

Cllr Hubbard arrived.

P1276: change" Councillors cannot restrict issue of licence as others already have the same licences"

Cllr Hall arrived.

Approval of the minutes after correction proposed Cllr Murkett seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Police officer arrived.

Police Report:

PC A. Studd gave a brief report of an incident that had taken place in the Market Place on the previous Saturday night; Councillors raised their concern at the age of the offenders and that there had been 9 police vehicles present; groups of people, though not illegal, can be very intimidating, particularly to the elderly, so Councillors asked if CCTV had shown the problem developing? PC Studd reported that there had been 2 arrests one of which had later been charged.

Cllr Marshall raised the incidents of vandalism that had occurred recently in the St. Mary's Walk area of the town; a letter passed to the Town Council for information by Mrs Storm from a resident was read.

All councillors felt that a police presence in uniform around all areas of the town would stop most of the reported problems that are happening.

Cllr Hall asked if any progress towards having community wardens had been made? PC Studd was unable to give a specific reply but outlined some of the advantages and disadvantages of having community wardens.

Cllr Hubbard reported that there was a possibility of a 'community watch' type warden system being introduced; in the meantime the police rely on members of the public reporting incidents; Cllr Murkett said that now there are only 2 incident rooms

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for Yorkshire the staff are unlikely to know the area a caller is referring to and this causes delay and problems.

PC Studd was thanked for attending the meeting and asked to remain for Open Forum.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Marshall seconded, agreed.

Open Forum:

Mrs Robinson, Three Tuns Hotel, expressed her great concern re the incident in the Market Place, the age of the group and questioned the responsibility of their parents; did not think the

proposed coffee bar in the town centre a good idea as it would not last; concerns re the number of cars racing round the town at night and the parking in the Market Place where the car radios are played very loudly.

Mrs Dodds reported the problem caused by children sitting around the clock area persistently pressing the button to stop traffic at the pedestrian crossing; this matter to be reported to Mr C Lewis, Thirsk School.

Mr Twiss raised the issue of the delay in the installing and correction of existing dropped kerbs; Cllr Marshall replied that NYCC have agreed to the requirements and the funding is available this year; Mr Twiss hoped that someone experienced in the requirements of the disabled had been consulted.

Mr Twiss expressed concern re the road surface at the entrance to the library; Cllr Marshall gave details of the problems there had been and still are with the developer of the adjacent site. The number of signs on Station Road warning motorists of a "slippery surface" seems to be excessive; NYCC to be asked for a explanation.

Mrs Dodds complained about the hours of opening at the TIC; the fact that an accommodation list is now displayed in the window is a poor substitute for personal service; more staff and volunteers are expected to mean that the centre will be open longer.

Resumption of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Matters Arising:

P1273: Cllrs Bull and Pack are attending the first meeting of the committee of Town Clock Cafe.

P1274: Land ownership at the rear of the Coop/Gillings Court will hopefully be established by the next Amenity meeting.

York Road: No response to date.

County Council report:

Cllr Marshall reported that J Smith & Sons had got the contract to run the town service; new bus timetables are out.

NYCC Gritting, Thirsk Division will be discussed at a County Council meeting on 21st June 2002.

Thirsk cycle plan, approved by the Area committee; there is to be consultation on Station Road to town centre and Stockton Road to Kilvington schemes; to be completed this year.

District Council Reports:

Cllr Robinson reported: that repair work on the toilets in the Market Place has begun; various Councillors had reported the problems to HDC; problems with the contractor were to blame for the delay in repair; Cllr Jackson suggested that the problems could be solved by having attendant supervised toilets; the situation is to be monitored. Cllr Marshall reported: Thirsk Local Plan meeting next Monday will be discussing the District Wide Local Plan to 2016: at the

next meeting of HDC Cultural Committee further progress on the Arts policy will be made. HDC have cleared the footpath between Gormire Close/Hambleton Ave (refuse deposited), Tramire Ditch and the ditch behind Rymer Way and East Thirsk Community Hall.

Planning Report:

YLCA had provided the following details re consultation on planning applications: committee must meet; suggested twice per month; minutes of meeting recorded; decisions and details sent to HDC to be recorded; approval at next meeting. Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Murkett seconded that the method suggested by YLCA be tried for 6 months, agreed. (5 for 3 abstained)

As Cllr Murkett had to leave the meeting he informed members that he was to attend The Standards Board for England on behalf of NALC on 30th April at which there would be workshops; he asked Councillors which workshop they wished him to attend, 1st choice - Registering of Interests, 2nd Choice Role of Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Murkett left the meeting.

Cllrs Bull and Pack arrived.

Planning

Applications: Granted:

2/01/152/0357B Prop: Provision of a new shop and change of use of existing first floor and seconded floor office and domestic accommodation and of existing third floor domestic accommodation to associated storage accommodation.

Location: 5-5a Finkle Street, Thirsk

Applicant: Bathroom Emporium (TC no objections)

2/02/152/00679 Prop: Ground floor extension to existing dwelling house.

Location: 3 Herriot Way, Thirsk.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Huxley. (TC no objections)

Refused:

2/01/152/0671 Prop: Construction of boundary fence as amended and as plan as received by HDC on 7th February 2002 and supplemented by letter and photographs dated 27th February 2002.

Location: 21 St Mary's Walk, Thirsk.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Garbutt (TC refused)

Applications:

2/01/152/0141N Prop: Application for LBC for an extension to existing gas supply pipe.

Location: 65-67 Market Place, Thirsk

Applicant: Yorkshire Co-operatives Ltd (TC no objections)

2/01/152/0216 Prop: Change of use of workshop/office to a dwelling
Location: Porters Vaults, Chapel Street, Thirsk (TC no objections but)
2/02/152/0334N Prop: Retrospective LBC Application for the erection of a replacement non-illuminated fascia and projecting signs. Location: 48 Market Place, Thirsk
Applicant: Imperial Cancer Research Fund (TC no objections)
2/02/152/0598A Prop: Proposed lifting and thinning of ash tree
Location: The Bungalow, Picks Lane, Thirsk
Applicant: Mrs B J Binns (TC no objections)
2/02/152/0681 Prop: Construction of a domestic garage.
Location: 23 Craigs Way, Thirsk.
Applicant: W L Neesam (TC refused) 2/02/152/0683 Prop: Alterations to existing shop
Location: 17-19 Millgate, Thirsk Applicant:
Mr A Denton (TC refused) 2/02/152/0684 Prop: Conservatory extension to existing dwelling house
Location: 63 Norby, Thirsk Applicant:
D J Moon (TC no objections)

Accounts:

Cllr Adamson declared a pecuniary interest.

Payment of the following accounts proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Hall, agreed.

C Amy: Weekly insp, play/amenity areas £162.80
Mill Gardens £120.00
Picnic area £40.00
Castlegarth, pick litter, cut back snow berry/brambles £ 55.00
White Mare shrubbery/roundabout, litter/weed £10.00
East Thirsk Play area: surfacing gateways £ 80.00
Carrs Field, hedge cutting £15.00
Thirsk Cemetery, plant beech hedge £90.00
K. Dickinson, clean office windows £6.00
Staples, stationery £70.91
Yorkshire Water, Cem. Lodge £134.96
Yorkshire Water, office £42.00
Power Point Ltd, bolts Burial Board £4.84
Thirskweb.com, Basic Web Hosting service £32.00
A Swift, Burial Board oil leak repairs £96.12
Kettlewell Fuels Ltd, replacement fuel Burial Board £113.03
Northern Electric, office £175.33
HDC C Tax, office DD £120.45

Correspondence:

NYCC Winter Maintenance Review, Cllr Marshall has given details to NYCC of more areas that require gritting.

HOC, York Road, Thirsk, reply noted.

HDC, Bench, Millgate Car park in memory of John Gormley; councillors felt that it will not be used much in evenings as lorries are in the park.

HDC, Parish Liaison meeting, minutes: passed for Councillors to read.

HDC request for temporary road closure, Woolmoor Close: noted.

NYCC, temporary 40mph speed limit, A170: noted.

NYCC Environmental Management Best Value Consultation: to be copied to each Councillor for individual filling in.

Henry Hyams, renewal of Bingo Licence, Regent Bingo: amendment to application for the provision of gaming machines; request for the machines to be kept in a restricted area for use by persons aged over 18 years.

NYCC, Restriction of waiting, A61, Station Road, copy of order: noted.

Workhouse play area: Cllr Marshall read a letter to HDC from Mrs Fixter and HDC response; Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Pack seconded that the transfer to Town Council should go ahead as soon as possible so that the equipment can be installed, agreed.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Hall reported:

There had been an oil leak at Cemetery Lodge, now repaired, hence the payment for replacement oil in this month's accounts.

Notice board now almost complete; will be installed soon; work on grassed footpath to commence shortly; donated seat has been installed; first grass cut has taken place. Water pipe to the Garden of Rest area/ separate metering not to be undertaken; supervision would be difficult.

Adoption of Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 (S.1.3576):

Proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

To delete Standing Orders no: 50 to 52 and amendment of Standing Order no: 53:

Proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Further details required, to be considered at next Amenities meeting; Cllr Adamson and the clerk to compile and circulate. Cllr Adamson gave details of how the Register of Interests would be kept; in special binder; copied to HDC with restriction on publicity by any means; Town Council will have to do own advert re adoption of the code and Councillor's registration of interests.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Jackson, agreed.

Tourist Information Centre:

Cllr Marshall has spoken to Mr S Quartermaine HDC and to Mr D Goodwin, HDC, who have assured her that the present opening hours are only temporary; there will eventually be 2

employees (job sharing) and a team of volunteers; discussion on present situation followed; agreed to monitor the situation.

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Representatives Reports:

Thirsk Clock Cafe: Cllr Bull reported that Cllr Pack and himself are now directors of the Trust; charitable status is being applied for; possible funding has been agreed; a business plan being compiled; looking for premises.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Hubbard reported that the opening hours of the TIC had been discussed; HDC officer to be asked to next meeting to explain the policy and hear traders views.

East Thirsk Community Association: Cllr Adamson reported that at the recent AGM Cllr Marshall had agreed to remain chairman for the coming year.

Further suspension of Standing Orders for 10 minutes proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Members Reports:

Cllr Marshall wished to commend Mrs Wilde for the clearing and planting she had done at the rear of Thirsk Museum/Abbeyfield.

Cllr Pack has been approached by the Girl Guides re planting in Millgate car park, where the seat in memory of Mr J Gormley is to be installed; Councillors suggested in front of the Thirsk Hall in Kirkgate would be more suitable.

Cllr Robinson had a meeting with Mr C Vincent and Mr G Holder, HDC re ownership and responsibility of areas a the side of Little Green/Todds Court area; further investigations are to follow.

Cllr Hubbard asked what stage flood protection schemes had reached? Cllr Marshall replied that The Environment Agency survey was not yet complete.

Cllr Jackson raised his concerns re 33 Market Place, time taken; car parking spaces being used as builders yard; understood work was to be completed by Easter; now parking vehicles opposite; letter to HDC, copy to NYCC, requesting cleaning of 'builders yard' and restoration of parking spaces.

Cllr Bull reported that the Summer Fayre at East Thirsk Community Primary School to held be on 28th June 2002.

Exclusion of press and public proposed for Legal and "commercial in confidence" items proposed Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

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Confidential Item:

P1279: Approval proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Matters Arising:

21 St Mary's Walk: Letter sent after consultation with YLCA re planning procedure and that no further correspondence will be entered into; no further correspondence has been received; copy HDC letter re planning refusal and asking compliance with HDC planning regulations read.

New Office; Mr D Shield's latest estimated date of completion is still the end of May. Personnel Committee: Advert for assistant to the Clerk will be in D/S Times and Northallerton Bedale times on Friday and the free papers next week.

Thirsk Town Hall Ownership:

Letter from Eccles Heddon re Charity Commission view on ownership read; agreed to wait for a response from Sowerby Parish Council.

Town Hall, Annex:

Final accounts have been received from Blue Stone (formally Snape Roberts) and Kaye Consultancy; meeting of representatives of the Town Hall Management Committee and the Councils to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 10.21pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 2nd May 2002 at 7.30pm**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 4th April 2002
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 4th April 2002
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To discuss plaques and their content.
6. To receive committee reports
7. To receive other items of interest and information.

There will be a confidential item at the end of this meeting.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 2nd May 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall and Roberts, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Pack and Salmon, accepted.

Minutes:

4th April 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Hubbard seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Cllr Roberts arrived.

Matters Arising:

A62: Cllr Robinson reported on the slow progress in the repair of the gent's toilet in the Market Place; names of contractors had been supplied to HDC; Cllr Adamson reported that although some work had been done the toilets were still in an appalling state with some cubicles still out of order; Councillors are to continue to monitor the situation.

A63: Cllr Marshall reported that the 'opening' of the new TIC recently was not the official opening which is planned for a later date; there are still problems with the short opening hours; staff and volunteer shortages that are hopefully to be resolved soon seem to be the cause; it must be remembered that Thirsk is heavily dependant on volunteers for the Museum, TIC and the many charity shops in the town. The anticipated spending on the Thirsk Clock Cafe by Market Towns Regeneration is to be much less than the figures given at the last meeting.

Correspondence:

BTCV: A letter offering the services of BTCV volunteers for possible work during 2002/3 was read; path clearing and improvement Hambleton Drive/St Mary's Walk and the ditch behind Rymer Way were suggested; Mr P Penny, NYCC Rights of Way, to be contacted to see if CPI funding would be available for the work.

Plaques, in the town:

Cllr Jackson reported he had contacted 5 suppliers; prices ranged from just under £100 to approximately £400 each; 2 samples were shown; one cast (the cheapest) the other heavy moulded Plastic; agreed to use English Heritage recommended colours, 18" in diameter; Cllr Jackson had made a list of possible buildings, people or events that could be recorded by a plaque; Sowerby Parish Council to be asked if they wish to be involved; research on facts to be on the plaques needed; Cllr Adamson volunteered to research the Lambert Hospital, Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall and Millgate Bridge; Clerk to write to Mr M Jewitt, HDC to get overall view of HDC and permission as some will be within the conservation area and on listed buildings; Cllr Jackson said that Mr Cooper Harding had already compiled the details for a plaque at the museum; agreed that the Town Council pays for this one to be made and it used as a specimen.

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Committee Reports:

Central Areas:

Cllr Hubbard asked for HDC to be contacted re supplying a sign to be put up in Millgate coach/car park indicating the Picnic Area.

Open areas:

Cllr Marshall gave a brief details of the meeting held on 23rd April 2002 in the Town Office when tenders, for equipment for Craigs Way play area, from 4 play equipment suppliers had been considered; agreed that Councillors need to visit the site; Mr A Brooke, Record Playground Equipment is willing to attend a site meeting; date for a walkabout meeting,

including site visit to Craigs Way to be arranged at the end of this meeting.

Greens & Ingramgate:

Cllr Robinson reported on the recent meeting with Mr C Vincent, HDC, Mr G Holder, HDC, Cllr Roberts and himself re the areas on Little Green near Todd's Court to discuss ownership, responsibility and the poor state in which they had been left/ handed over in; Town Council to decide what should be on the areas then Mr M Jewitt, HDC to be asked for a contribution towards this work as the Town Council feel that the areas were not left in a reasonable state by the developer.

Long Street Enhancement Working Party:

Cllr Marshall reported that the exhibition on the proposed improvements is to be held in East Thirsk Community Hall on 11th May 2002 from 10.00am - 4.00pm and 12th May 2002 from 10.00am - 1.00pm; agreed to deliver a leaflet with details of the exhibition to each house/business on Long Street, Stockton Road and Barbeck, York Road; Cllr Marshall to compile, clerk to type and have copied A5 size, Cllrs Robinson, Roberts and Bull agreed to distribute.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Hubbard showed samples of bunting; Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Roberts seconded that pennant bunting be purchased by the Town Council, agreed; 26th May 2002 is the date arranged for fixing.

Cllr Marshall reported that there is money in the budget re Thirsk Festival; Mr Gardener, Thirsk Rotary Club, to contact the clerk with details.

Cllr Roberts reported that the riverbank behind the bottle bank in Millgate car park is slipping away; this has already been reported to HDC/IDB.

Cllr Bull reported that there is to be a concert at Thirsk Community Primary school on 20th June 2002.

Exclusion of the press and public (9.17pm) for the purpose of opening Seat Maintenance Tenders (Commercial In Confidence) proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

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Confidential item:

A65: Approval of the minutes proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed.

Tenders for Annual maintenance of Seats:

Tender A-£1975.00

Tender B - £950.00.

Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Hubbard seconded that tender B be accepted providing that the standard of work of the person tendering is known to be satisfactory; the clerk revealed the tender A was from Mr M Burnett and tender B from Mr C Amy; the above proposal was agreed.

It was agreed to purchase a supply of green bags, to be used by Mr Amy when collecting

rubbish on any areas for which the Town Council are responsible, after the complaint by HDC re rubbish collected by a Town Council employee being left near a HOC bin for the HDC street sweeper to remove.

Cllr Adamson said he intends to respond to a letter in North Yorkshire News re the Chapel of Rest correcting the details included in it.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

**The Annual Town Council Meeting
will be held on Monday 20th May 2002
in the Upper Room, Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall at 7.00pm**

AGENDA.

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.
2. To elect the Chairman for 2002/2003.
3. To elect the Vice Chairman for 2002/2003.
4. To receive minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 21st May 2001
5. To consider matters arising from the minutes, 21st May 2001.
6. To consider reports from Representatives for year ending 31st March 2002.
7. To consider committee reports for the year ending 31st March 2002.
8. To elect Council representatives for the coming year.
9. Other Items of Interest and Information.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Town Council
held on Monday 20th May 2002 at 7:00pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present:

Cllrs Roberts, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Robinson, Ms Ladbrooke CCA, 1 press reporter, 3 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Hubbard and Salmon, accepted.

Cllr Roberts thanked all the Councillors and the clerk for their support during her term of office and wished her successor every success.

Election of Chairman for 2002/3:

Cllr Robinson nominated by Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson; nomination accepted; unanimously agreed.

Cllr Robinson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which he then read to the meeting and thanked members for electing him and took the chair.

Cllr Jackson gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Council to Cllr Roberts for all her effort and devotion during her time as chairman of the Council.

Cllr Pack arrived.

Election of Vice Chairman:

Cllr Adamson nominated by Cllr Jackson seconded by Cllr Bull; nomination accepted; unanimously agreed.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting of 21st May 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Cllr Adamson asked for guidance from YLCA re the approval and signing of the minutes of this meeting to be obtained.

Matters arising:

None.

Representative's reports:

Written reports received by the clerk had been copied and circulated to all Councillors with the agenda for this meeting.

Cllr Pack asked to make an addition to her report on Thirsk in Bloom that Thirsk had gained 6th place in the Yorkshire in Bloom Small town Section in the spring judging; copies of the marks were given out; public areas of the town need more attention; more support from the public is needed; Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Pack and the whole Thirsk in Bloom team for their hard work.

The list of representatives for 2002/3 was agreed as far as possible; to be completed when absent Councillors are consulted.

Committee Reports:

Written reports had been copied and circulated to all Councillors.

The committee list for 2002/3 was passed round for Councillors to fill in the committees that they wished to serve on.

Sgt Hunter and 1 member of the public arrived.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

None.

The meeting closed at 7.22pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
after the Annual Parish Council meeting
on Monday 20th May 2002
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 15th April 2002.
3. To receive details of the CCA, Voluntary Car Scheme from M/S V. Ladbrook.
4. To receive Police report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
5. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
6. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 15! April 2002.
7. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
8. To receive Planning Committee report.
9. To approve accounts for payment.
10. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
11. To receive correspondence.

12. To receive Burial Board report.
13. To consider response to HDC on a request for a street fair to be held in the Market Place, annually.
14. To amend Standing Order no: 64 and adopt Standing Order no: 67.
15. To discuss and respond to the District Wide Local Plan amendment.
16. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives,
 - b) Members.

There will be a confidential item at the end of this meeting.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 20th May 2002
after the Annual Town Council Meeting
in the Annexe, Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Roberts, Ms Vi Ladbroke CCA, Sgt Hunter, 1 press reporter, 3 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Murkett and Salmon, accepted.

Cllr Robinson reported that Cllr Hall was no longer a Councillor, as he had not registered his interests; he had been a member of the Town Council since 1987; it was unanimously agreed to send a letter of thanks for his service to the Council and electorate.

Minutes, 15th April 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Police Report:

Sgt Hunter had no report to make.

Cllr Robinson asked why there had not been a visible police presence in the Market Place on the recent race day? Sgt Hunter explained that policing the last meeting had been a problem due to staff shortages.

Cllr Marshall asked if there had been any further developments from the incident reported at

the last Town Council meeting and inaccurately reported in the D/S Times? Sgt Hunter felt the incident had been over emphasised and that 1 person had been charged.

Sgt Hunter had no further information re the possibility of Community Policing in the town.

Sgt Hunter to try to find out why the Police Liaison meetings seem to have lapsed. Cllr Robinson asked if the problem of cyclists performing wheelies on the road, sometimes along the white line could be stopped as they are causing a dangerous problem?

Cllr Jackson asked if personnel who know the region and its residents could do some of the call centre work for Thirsk at Thirsk? Sgt Hunter explained the staffing of police stations and call centres.

Sgt Hunter gave his views against the request to hold a fair in the Market Place. He said there would be an added expense to the police in the providing of extra police; resources, financial and personnel are already very stretched; likely to bring an undesirable element to the town centre. Sgt Hunter felt it could be staged in a more suitable area of the town.

Cllr Robinson thanked Sgt Hunter for attending the meeting

Sgt Hunter left the meeting.

Cllr Robinson introduced Ms Vi Ladbroke from the Community Care Association. Ms Ladbroke had accepted the invitation of the Town Council to attend the meeting to explain the Voluntary Car Scheme that the CCA runs in the area. The person requiring transport pays the expenses of the volunteer driver; drivers need special

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training, have an upper age limit of 73 years and need permission from their insurance company; CCA do not make any profit from the payment made by the person requiring a driver so funding for the organising of the scheme and training the drivers is always required. The miles covered have almost doubled since Ms Ladbroke took over. Councillors asked questions before Cllr Robinson thanked Ms Ladbroke for attending the meeting.

Ms Ladbroke left the meeting.

Suspension of standing orders proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

Open Forum:

Mrs Storm asked if the Town Council could do anything to solve the problem being experienced by elderly residents who feel intimidated by the some of the youth in the town? Councillors thanked Mrs Storm for informing them; any specific incidents should be noted.

Ms Barnett raised the question of where the cycleway will be in Long Street; Cllr Marshall said the position shown on the plans displayed at the recent Long Street Enhancement consultation was purely to show there would be a cycleway included but the exact details would be put out to consultation at a later date; the working party preferred the use of the road to the pavement. Mrs K Reynard explained that she had planted some surplus bulbs in the Picnic area; said it

was a shame that some previously planted areas were being allowed to grass over. Cllr Marshall replied that it had been decided to have the areas grass after repeated vandalism to the trees, plants and shrubs there; turf had been then been put down only to be removed by vandals; the areas are now being allowed to grass over. The Council are already aware of the litter problem in Castlegarth reported by Mrs Reynard and are attempting to solve it.

Resumption of standing orders proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Pack, agreed. 1 member of the public left the meeting.

Matters arising:

P1281: add 'North'

P1282: It was reported that the toilets in the Market Place had been closed part of the previous week for repair; the work still not complete'

P1284: Cllr Jackson asked if the extension of time allowed for the use of parking spaces outside 33 Market Place had been further extended? Clerk to make enquiries at HDC.

P1285: Cllr Marshall reported the Environment Agency have completed their report re flooding in the town; HDC are considering the contents.

Little Green, areas needing attention: Cllr Roberts reported that Mr J Bell, land owner, was in favour of the areas being grassed.

County Council report:

Cllr Marshall reported Cllr David Ashton now chairman and Cllr Cliff Wilson vice chairman of NYCC; support had been given to a special study on A64 corridor to the coast; further work on the survey of dropped kerbs in Thirsk necessary; could mean

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an increase in cost. Cllr Marshall is now a member of the Business and Consumer Affairs committee.

District Council Reports:

Cllr Robinson reported that HDC has been awarded 'Beacon status' for tackling crime and disorder in rural areas; HDC Cabinet is to consider the Government White paper on Regional Government in June; HDC has the 3rd lowest Council Tax in England. HDC chairman for 2002/3 is Cllr Percy Featherston and vice chairman is Cllr David Smith.

Details of the cost of moving and installing the CCTV centre to the Civic Centre were given. Special equipment is to be fitted in HDC Council Chamber to assist people with impaired hearing at a cost of £11,000.

Cllr Marshall reported: the signs for the TIC are to be changed or replaced as necessary. Cllr Marshall has raised the dilapidated state of the street furniture in Thirsk with HDC.

Planning Report:

Minutes of Planning Committee meetings have been circulated; Councillors raised nothing.

Planning Applications:

Granted:

2/02/152/141N Prop: Application for LBC for an extension to existing gas supply pipe.

Location: 65-67 Market Place, Thirsk

Applicant: Yorkshire Co-operatives Ltd (TC no objections)

CAT 2/02/152/0246C Prop: Proposed crown lifting of 1 Yew tree.

Location: 24 Kirkgate, Thirsk.

Applicant: Jane O'Brien (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0293H Prop: Extensions to existing ground floor restaurant and first floor living accommodation.

Location: 42 Long Street, Thirsk.

Applicant: Mr Ahmad (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0396C Prop: Construction of a boundary fence to replace existing fence

Location: 37 Darrowby Close, Thirsk

Applicant: M Turner (TC refused)

CAT 2/02/152/0598 Prop: Proposed lifting and thinning of Ash tree.

Location: The Bungalow, Thirsk

Applicant: Mrs B J Binns (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0681 Prop: Construction of a domestic garage

Location: 23 Craigs Way, Thirsk

Applicant: W L Neesam (TC refused)

2/02/152/0682 prop: Construction of a boundary fence

Location: 35 Darrowby Close, Thirsk

Applicant: (TC refused)

2/01/152/0680 Prop: Ground floor extension to existing dwelling house.

Location: 9 Darrowby Close, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Choules (TC no objections)

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2/02/152/0683 prop: Alterations to existing shop as amended by plans received by HDC on 18th April 2002

Location: 17-19 Millgate, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr A Denton (TC no objections)

Appeal:

2/01/152/0670 Prop: Two-storey extension to existing dwelling house

Location: 19 Favenfield, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Metcalfe (TC noted)

Applications:

2/02/152/007D Prop: Warehouse extension and office facilities

Location: Thirsk Industrial Park, York Road, Thirsk

Applicant: Thirsk Developments (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0542B Prop: Display of 2 externally illuminated fascia signs

Applicant: Home Entertainment (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0334N Prop: Retrospective LBC application for the erection of a replacement non-illuminated fascia and projecting sign

Location: 48 Market Place, Thirsk

Applicant: Imperial Cancer Research Fund (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0629 A Prop: Layout of and extension to existing clothing warehouse

Location: Station Road, Thirsk

Applicant: Austin Reed Group (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0683 Prop: Alterations to existing shop

Location: 17-19 Millgate, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr Denton (TC approve)

2/02/152/0684 Prop: Construction of conservatory extension

Location: 84 Dowber Way, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Meehan (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0685 Prop: Construction of an extension to the side of existing house

Location: 82 Dowber Way, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr E Handford (TC no objections)

Telecommunications mast, NYCC Depot, Norby, Thirsk

(TC no objections)

Accounts:

Payment of the following accounts proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

Northern Electric, office £181.32

YLCA, 2 Essential Guides £5.44

SLCC membership £50.00

P M Burniston, Burial Board Cem. Maint. £78.00

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall, room hire £256.00

Ackrill Newspapers, advert £231.90

RS Hall Engineering, bolts, Cem. £ 49.08

YLCA, ABA membership £ 30.00

YRCC, membership, 2002/3 £ 35.00

Cornhill insurance, 2002/3 £1,849.77

CE & CM Walker, grasscutting £2,143.20

HDC Sports Council membership £ 6.00

Thirsk Hall, wayleaves £ 5.00

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Amberol Ltd, baskets, Th. in BL £1,145.63

Todd Waste Management, (2) skip empty, Burial Board £226.22

K Dickinson, office windows £6.00

C Amy: Weekly insp, play/open areas £212.80
Mill Gardens, litter/weed £120.00
Picnic area £40.00
Castlegarth £40.00
Holmes, management £90.00
Little Green, weed £15.00
Sutton Road, bench £30.00
Cemetery, strimmer guards £70.00

Paid since last meeting:

C Pattison, office rent £780.00
Newsquest, advert £187.96
BT, office phone £63.49
A M Wilkinson, salary £707.29

Memorials:

Applications deferred to the next meeting.

Correspondence:

NYCC, acknowledgement of letter re York Road.
Dept Culture Media & Sport, application to lay electricity cable across Castlegarth: Cllr Marshall proposed seconded Cllr Adamson that the application is refused, site a scheduled ancient monument, alternative route should be found, agreed (7 for 1 abstain).
NYCC Review of County Council boundaries, details; to be on next Council meeting agenda.
St Mary's Church, invitation to Golden Jubilee celebrations
All Saints Roman Catholic Primary School, Duck race.
YLCA conference, 6/7September: Cllr Adamson wishes to go; anyone else wishing to go to contact the clerk.
YLCA, meeting to meet Standards Board for England's Head of Policy & Guidance, noted.
YPFA, membership renewal, agreed.
HDC copy letter re 73 Market Place, request to comply with planning appeal conditions, noted.
HDC copy letter re 33 Craigs Way, planning application necessary for fence, noted.

Burial Board Report:

Clerk gave details of progress with the notice board; grasscutting satisfactory to date; path in process of being repaired, awaiting turf; strimmer guards have been placed round newly planted beech hedge

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Request for a Street Fair, Market Place, Thirsk:

Councillors discussed all the problems and issues having a Street Fair over 3 days in the Market Place could bring to the businesses, residents and visitors; it was agreed that the Market Place was not suitable, other locations in the town are more suitable. Cllr Robinson

reminded the meeting that the decision rested with HDC Cabinet. Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Bull seconded that HDC be informed that the Town Council is against the fair being held in the Market Place but not against one on another more suitable site in the town, unanimously agreed. Copies of all the letters received by the Council on the subject are to be sent to HDC.

Standing Orders:

The amending of Standing Order no: 64 and the adoption of Standing Order no: 67 proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

District Wide Local Plan:

Cllr Marshall said that HDC have restricted affordable housing in villages resulting in too many expensive larger houses in villages and too many smaller ones in the towns.

Suspension of Standing orders proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

Cllr Jackson felt that more flexibility in the number of houses allowed per hectare was a step in the right direction; any further comments to be given to the clerk by 6th June 2002.

Representatives Reports:

East Thirsk Community Assn: Cllr Adamson reported that arrangements for joint Golden Jubilee celebrations with Millennium Green Trust were going well.

Carrs Field Trust: Cllr Hubbard reported on the sudden appearance of ponies grazing in Carrs Field; police had been contacted for removal and to establish ownership; owner eventually tracked down; ponies removed, grass well grazed by this time. Skate Park plans: Trust has decided to go ahead with the original application for a single ramp and landscaping to be completed as soon as practicable.

Mr R Ballard has resigned as a trustee, vacancy still to be filled.

Millennium Green Trust: Cllr Marshall said that post cards of the mosaic on the Millennium Green had been distributed in East Thirsk.

Members Reports:

Cllr Adamson asked for a Burial Board meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Cllr Pack expressed concern re the removal of trees from the banking on Thirsk Industrial Park.

Cllr Hubbard extremely concerned re graffiti on the rear of the fence of Tesco filling station facing Castlegarth; Town Council to ask Tesco to remove it or give permission for the Town Council to paint over it.

Cllr Jackson asked for a decision on the size of the plaques, diameter 16" or 18"; agreed to have 16" (6 for 1 abstain).

Cllr Marshall reported that the Ritz Cinema had managed to gain permission for the 3 screenings of "It Shouldn't Happen To A Vet".

Joint Skateboard meeting: Cllr Roberts reported after consideration the Swimming Pool site was preferred; Mr D Goodwin, HDC has written to Flatts Trust

re permission; Mr Robson has asked for a meeting of the Trust; this has not taken place yet. Cllr Robinson has had concerns expressed to him re the state of Swales Garage area Long Street; unanimously agreed to write to HDC asking for a Town & Country Planning Act Notice 215 to be served on the owners.

Exclusion of the press and public to discuss personnel matters proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

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Confidential item:

P1286:

Minutes: approval proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Office committee:

A meeting in the new office is to be arranged as soon as a key is given to the Town Council.

Personnel committee:

Vacancy has occurred with Cllr Hall leaving the Council. Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Marshall seconded that Cllr Pack should join the committee; Cllr Pack agreed to be on the committee.

Town Hall Steering Group:

Cllr Robinson reported on recent meeting: still a few outstanding problems; contractors and consultants are in consultation with Cllr M Robson;

The meeting closed at 10:17pm

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 6th June 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To elect a chairman for 2002/3.
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 2nd May 2002.
4. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 2nd May 2002
5. To receive correspondence.
6. To receive committee reports
7. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 6th June 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Roberts and the clerk.

Apologies for absence: .

Received from Cllrs Bull, Robinson, & Salmon, accepted. .

Election of Chairman 2002/3.

Cllr Adamson was nominated by Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Murkett; accepted nomination; unanimously agreed. .

Cllr Adamson took the chair. .

Minutes, 2nd May 2002:.

Approval proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed. .

Matters Arising:.

A66: The state of the gent's toilets in the Market Place has not improved very much; repairs are still needed; Cllr Murkett proposed that HDC be asked to close the toilets for safety reasons until the repairs are completed and the cause of the smell cured, seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed. .

Plaques: Cllr Jackson is getting the details finalised on the sample plaque for the Thirsk Museum; Cllr Murkett asked that accurate information included on the plaques is paramount. .

A67: Bunting has been torn down by a delivery van visiting the Royal Hotel; Letter to the landlord asking why it had not been put back up? The clerk has retrieved the length of bunting. .

Correspondence:

FWAG: notification of day courses, noted. .

Workhouse play area: Copy of letter received by HDC from Wardhadaway, developer's solicitor, that had been sent to Sutton Bank Mews (Management) Ltd demanding an early conclusion to the debate which has developed re the taking over of the play area; also stating that if the Section 106 obligations were not adhered to there could be financial implications that the management company would have to meet, noted. .

NYCC: Request for a passenger information board in the Market Place; more details to be requested. .

Invoice re felling of tree, Mill Gardens: Authorisation established (Cllr Hubbard); Cllr Roberts requested other trees in the vicinity should be surveyed; Agreed that the Town Council should have a survey done only for the trees for which it is responsible; ownership of trees to be established. .

Town Council website: Cllr Adamson read a letter received from Newsquest re the cost of keeping the website and its links; Cllr Hubbard proposed Cllr Marshall seconded not to continue the site as it is difficult to access, agreed. .

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Sub Committee Reports:

Cllr Marshall asked that in future Committee Reports should list the committees plus Thirsk in Bloom on the Amenity agenda, agreed. .

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack reported that the next Yorkshire in Bloom judging will take place on 12th July 2002; 3 more flower boxes had been placed on the library fence; there are now 62 hanging baskets; some tubs in the Market Place have been replaced; asked for the clock steps to be cleaned. .

Christmas Lights:

Cllr Jackson asked for a meeting after the next Amenity meeting. .

Central Areas:

Mill Gardens:

Cllr Hubbard has asked various contractors for quotes re repairs and improvements. Seats within the walls: planks to be replaced as soon as possible. .

Picnic Area:

Damaged gate has now been repaired. .

Market Place:

Clock tower, removal of graffiti, Mr Collinson has been asked to carry out the work; clock door needs painting; stone work in need of repair near the door, Mr Collinson to be asked to do the work; posts near the clock need repair/paint. .

Finger post requires painting; signs in the Market Place need attention. .

Cllr Murkett left the meeting. .

Open areas:

Cllr Marshall gave a detailed report on the meeting held on 23rd April 2002; further site meeting to be arranged soon. .

Castlegarth: HDC to be asked to supply 2 dog/litter bins, to be sited near each seat. It was agreed that English Heritage to be asked for help re lack of contact by Mr Emerick. .

McCleans play area: Cost of replacement chippings to be known by the next meeting. .

Long Street Enhancement:

Cllr Marshall reported on the recent exhibition of the proposals for improving the area; approx 160 people attended and over 40 questionnaires have been received to date; Mr T Robinson, HDC is doing a review; responses will be copied to all committee members. .

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Pack reported that the Market Place is not cleared up properly after the markets; discussion on cleaning in the town followed; Cllr Marshall proposed the Mr S Quartermaine, HDC and the cabinet member responsible for Environmental Services be asked re the state of the toilets and cleaning of the town to the next Amenity meeting, unanimously agreed; Councillors to collect photographic evidence. .

Cllr Hubbard reported that the removal graffiti on the rear side of Tesco filling station

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removal by Tesco or permission for the Town Council to remove it; no reply has been received; clerk to visit the Manager. .

Cllr Marshall has asked Mr G Holder, HDC to look at the street furniture in the Market Place; clerk to contact BT re the painting of the boxes hi Millgate and the Market Place. .

Thirsk Map, Thirsk Library: It was removed while decoration took place and has not been replaced; clerk to contact Cllr Salmon. .

Bakers Alley: Cllr pack to contact Mrs. V Charles to ask if there can be some improvements made. .

Planning committee: Cllr Adamson agreed to be a member of the committee.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 17th June 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 20th May 2002.
3. To approve Minutes of the Town Council Annual Meeting, 20th May 2002.
4. To receive Police report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
5. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
6. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 20th May 2002.
7. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
8. To receive Planning Committee report.
9. To approve accounts for payment.
10. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
11. To receive correspondence.
12. To receive Burial Board report.
13. To discuss the proposed NYCC boundary changes.
14. To consider a donation to CCA for training of voluntary drivers.
15. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

There will be a confidential item at the end of this meeting.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 17th June 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Roberts, 3 parishoners, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr Murkett, Robinson and Salmon, accepted.

Minutes:

Annual Parish Council meeting, 20th May 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

Town Council meeting, 20th May 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Pack seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Police Report:

No police present.

Cllr Roberts concerned re the number of vehicles left on Swales garage forecourt.

Clerk explained that NYPA are to arrange a special meeting in Thirsk instead of attending a meeting of the Town Council, details to follow.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Suspension of standing orders proposed Cllr Jackson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Open Forum:

Mrs P Bell expressed her concerns for the properties in Finkle Street that had been flooded on the previous Friday when a freak thunderstorm occurred; drains on the pavement appear to be permanently blocked; the new skateboard shop floor was ruined. Cllr Marshall explained that there are plans in place to try to remedy the problem that she understands will be done before the traffic calming/resurfacing in Finkle Street. A site visit between Mike Roberts NYCC, Town Councillors and occupiers of property in Finkle Street will be arranged proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed.

Press reporter arrived.

The problem of the properties flooding has been greatly increased since the slope on the footpath was altered. Some occupiers complained that they are now expected to pay for sandbags; HDC to be contacted for confirmation.

Resumption of standing orders proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Jackson, agreed. 3 members of the public left the meeting.

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Matters Arising:

P1287: Vacancy on the Town Council has now been established;

Cllr Adamson reported on the response from the Standards Board for England re the new Code of conduct;

P1288: 33 Market Place, HDC have extended the use of the cobbles and parking spaces by the developer who has been requested to keep the area being used to a minimum.

P1291: Objections to the proposal to lay a cable across Castlegarth, for added electricity supply to an adjacent business, have been made.

P1292: Cllr Marshall reported that there had been 3 very successful showings of the archive copy of 'It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet'; Mr J Wight, Dr R Page and the original producer present at one of the shows.

Cllr Marshall asked if there had been any progress made re having a skateboard area in the town; Cllr Roberts had heard that a meeting of Flatts Trust has been arranged when hopefully the proposals for an area near the baths will be discussed.

Graffiti, Castlegarth fence: Clerk to approach Tesco manager to ask for its removal.

County Council report:

Cllr Marshall reported on the meeting of the Committee for Hambleton held on 27th May 2002; village hall grants have been oversubscribed; concern is growing re the increasing number of motorbike accidents in the county; to date NYCC have not received many applications for grant aid for projects within the parishes; winter maintenance routes, details have been sent to NYCC; to be copied to Cllr Marshall.

District Council report:

Cllr Marshall reported that The World of James Herriot has won an award and now has 'museum' status.

Review of the District Wide Local Plan Deposit Draft is taking place.

There are to be changes to the system for grants for buildings/offices in town centres, a fund for each market town.

HDC have received the 105 Report from the Environment Agency.

HDC to be contacted re the problem caused by street sweeping blocking some drains. Culture & Social committee, arts study now looking into the closure of rural pubs and shops.

Planning:

Cllr Marshall asked for more details and clearer information on the minutes of the planning meetings in future, agreed.

Cllr Adamson is now a member of the planning committee.

Granted:

2/02/152/0542B Prop: Display of one externally illuminated fascia sign

Location: 89 Market Place, Thirsk

Applicant: Home Entertainment (TC no objections)

2/00/152/0593 A Prop: Alteration to existing vehicular access.

Location: Grizzle Field House, Thirsk

Applicant: The National Grid Company (TC refused)

2/02/152/0684 Prop: Conservatory extension to existing dwelling house.

Location: 63 Norby Estate, Norby, Thirsk. (TC no objections)

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2/02/152/0685 Prop: Construction of extension to side of existing dwelling house.

Location: 82 Dowber Way, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr E Handford (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0686 Prop: Construction of conservatory extension to rear of existing dwelling house.

Location: 84 Dowber Way, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Meehan (TC no objections)

Refused:

2/02/152/0334N Prop: Retrospective LBC application for the erection of a non- illuminated fascia and projecting signs

Location: 48 Market Place, Thirsk

Applicant: Imperial cancer Research Fund (TC no objections)

Applications:

2/02/009/0211 Prop: Construction of a building for supplies, sales & storage of agricultural requisites.

Location: Thirsk Industrial Park, York

Applicant: Farmway Ltd (TC no objections)

Cat 2/02/152/0192B Prop: Proposed felling of 2 Ash trees

Location: 21 Finkle Street, Thirsk

Applicant: Rachel Ritchie (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0246D Prop: Application for LBC for the provision of 2 replacement windows

Location: 24 Kirkgate, Thirsk

Applicant: J O'Brien (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0534B Prop: Alterations and extension to existing dwelling.

Location: 4 Porters Vaults, Chapel Street, Thirsk (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0687 prop: Conservatory extension

Location: 22 Whitelass Close, Thirsk.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Kilvington (TC no objections)

2/02/152/0688 Prop: Porch extension to existing dwelling house.

Location: 7 Norby Estate, Thirsk
Applicant: Mr Cameron (TC no objections)

Accounts:

Approval for payment of the following accounts proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

Chamber of Trade, donation for Golden Jubilee celebrations £500.00
BT, office phone £158.02
YLCA membership 2002. £474.00
Gasforce, heater, Town Hall (1/2 to be paid by Sowerby PC) £3,995.00
C Amy:
Thirsk Cemetery path removal/turfing £1,250.00*
Mill Gardens, removal fallen tree £475.00
Wkly insp. play/open areas £208.50
Mill Gardens £150.00
Picnic Area, litter pick/sweeping £50.00
Castlegarth, litter pick/repair fence £53.00

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Little Green, weed/ mulch shrubbery £20.00
White Mare roundabout and shrubbery weeding £10.00
Petty Cash £50.00
K Dickinson, clean office windows £6.00
Staples, stationery etc £144.04
HDC, C Tax, office, DD £125.00
A M Wilkinson, salary £707.29
AM Wilkinson, refund of expenses B Bd seminar £33.81
Paid since last meeting:
C Pattison, rent correction £219.37

*It was agreed to defer payment to C Amy for the path at the cemetery until satisfactory rolling has been completed.

Memorials:

Approval of the following applications proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Application to erect a memorial:

Florence Darnbrough

William Peake

Nellie Tyreman

Application for additional inscription:

Ruby Bateman

Olive Brown

Correspondence:

HDC District Wide Local Plan Alteration No 1 Second Deposit Draft, received and circulated
HDC, Street naming /numbering, Kings Arms Court, noted.
HDC Parish Council Audit Fees, meeting, 20th June 2002, Cllr Marshall and the clerk to attend.
HDC copy letter to Cancer Research, 48 Market Place, Thirsk, noted.
Sowerby Parish Council, Right of Way Three Tuns yard, reply already sent.
NYPA, nomination form, police officer of the year, noted.
Miss A McKintosh, building on Floodplains, copy of letter, noted.
Miss A McKintosh, letter re 21 St Mary's Walk, noted.
Shirtcliffe, 46 St James Green re Rights of Ways on St James Green, already replied.
DLTR, Consultation Paper, Local investigation & determination of misconduct allegations, being circulated.

Burial Board report:

Cllr Adamson reported on the last meeting: path has been grassed over; needs rolling; when rolled it is proposed to cut from end to end; memorials looked at; some of the new beech hedge not growing; notice board finished but not installed. Cllr Adamson it is hoped that a national standard for graveyard/cemeteries will be created shortly; details to be published September/October.

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Cllr Marshall raised the problem of weeds near the cemetery wall; price for spraying to be obtained from Mr Walker.

Proposed changes to boundaries by NYCC:

Councillors agreed on option 2, to leave Thirsk and Sowerby together as the area is an integral unit; Councillors not in favour of change just for numerical reasons.

Donation, CCA Voluntary Drivers Training Scheme:

Cllr Adamson proposed seconded Cllr Jackson a donation of £100, agreed.

Representatives Reports:

Millennium Green Trust/East Thirsk Community Hall: Cllr Marshall reported on the joint Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Detached Youth Worker: Cllr Bull reported another youth worker is still required; youth workers have been provided with waterproof clothing; contact and links are gradually being established.

Clock Cafe: Cllr Pack reported that acquiring premises still the main priority; considering some premises in the Market Place; waiting for funding.

Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr Roberts reported that a new treasurer had been appointed.

Cllr Roberts congratulated Cllrs Pack and Robinson for their fundraising efforts at the Golden Jubilee market; they raised £150 to be shared between Christmas lights and Thirsk in Bloom.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Hubbard reported that the Chamber of Trade is unhappy at the level of

policing in the town during the jubilee weekend.

East Thirsk School Community Primary School: The school is to be decorated during the summer holidays; Summer Fair to be held on 25th June 2002.

Members Reports:

Cllr Marshall asked for a letter to be sent to HDC asking when the result of the Environment Agency Report will be known?

Cllr Marshall asked for NYCC to give an explanation for the extending of the closure of Picks Lane.

Cllr Bull reported that East Thirsk Community Primary School has purchased 2 marques that are available for hire.

Cllr Bull asked if the problem of the uncut grass near Lynbrooke Close could be raised with NYCC?

Suspension of standing orders for a further 30 minutes proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Cllr Pack reported on the missing 'Thirsk' sign on York Road; NYCC to be contacted re replacement.

Press reporter left the meeting.

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Cllr Roberts reported that the previous Government introduced the Police Liaison meetings, that have now lapsed, NYCC Cllr Turton and NYCC Cllr W Barton had organised the meetings in this area.

Cllr Hubbard asked if other possible skate board areas in the town could be considered as many residents are complaining of the noise and nuisance near their homes and progress was slow on the possible site near the swimming baths? It was agreed after discussion to organise a preliminary site meeting at Station Road/Newsham Road with NYCC Highways, a HDC Planning officer and Cllrs Hubbard and Bull.

Cllr Jackson asked for a decision re the size of the lettering on the plaques; showed a sample of the size of the lettering; it was agreed to have the smaller one; debate followed as to whether 'Jubilee 2002' should be on them if they were not installed during this year; to be put on the next Amenity meeting agenda. Cllr Jackson asked for a Christmas Lights committee meeting after the next Amenity meeting.

It was reported that interviews are to take place for the appointment of an Assistant to the clerk. Work on the new office progressing; moving date still to be decided.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 2nd July 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 6l June 2002.
3. To welcome Mr S Quartermaine, HDC Director of Planning & Environmental Services & HDC Cabinet member for responsible for Environmental Services.
4. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 6th June 2002
5. To receive correspondence.
6. To consider the future of the plaques project.
7. To discuss possible implications of new regulations re vehicular access across common land.
8. To receive reports from the following committees:
Greens & Ingramgate; Central Areas; Open Areas; Carrs Field; Millennium Green; Christmas Lights; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party
7. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 4th July 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Roberts and Robinson, Mr S Quartermaine Head of Environmental & Planning HDC, Mr M Kneebone HDC, 3 members of the public, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull and Salmon.

Minutes:

“Website” delete ‘the’, add ‘keeping their Thirsk’; delete ‘continue’ add ‘subscribe’. Approval proposed Cllr Jackson seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Suspension of Standing Orders Cllr Jackson seconded Cllr Robinson, agreed

Cllr Adamson welcomed Mr Quartermaine and Mr Kneebone to the meeting.

Mr Quartermaine gave a short introduction and brief details of the visit to the town he and Mr Kneebone had made the previous week to look at the street cleaning of the town and the public toilets in the Market Place.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

It was reported to the meeting that the cleanliness of the town had improved greatly since the personnel responsible for the cleansing had known of the visit to the town by Mr Quartermaine. Cllr Jackson raised the possibility of an attendant in the toilets as a remedy for the cleanliness and the vandalism of the toilets; Mr Quartermaine explained the problems this would entail.

Cllr Roberts arrived.

Councillors felt that Thirsk is a tourist town and should have toilets of a much higher standard; Mr Quartermaine said that having an attendant in the new toilets in Northallerton slightly different as the toilets were built to accommodate an attendant and are being monitored; problems with mending the existing furniture of the toilets was due to obtaining the design originally fitted; Mr Quartermaine reported that the plans for the improvement and refurbishing of the toilets was already in hand, will be put to the HDC Cabinet for their approval on 25th July 2002; if approved work should be underway in 6-8 weeks. Mr Quartermaine agreed to make sure that the toilets would be kept clean in the meantime.

Street Cleaning in the town was discussed; it is being reviewed at the moment; at present there is no regular cover for the weekends; extra cover for the duration of the forthcoming festival will be looked into; agreed that some key areas do need more attention (area round the clock and near some of the public houses); education by poster campaign and school visits recommended; HDC do already have a litter campaign. Cllr Marshall asked if the area near the clock could be steam cleaned to get rid of the grease that has built up from fish and chips being eaten frequently in the area?

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Mr Quartermaine outlined the need for 2 wheelie bins, black and green, per household; problems are envisaged at the outset; needed to meet the targets for recycling etc set by the

Government.

Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Pack seconded that the members of the public could ask relevant questions for 5 minutes, agreed.

Mrs Reynard asked whose responsibility are the weeds that grow between buildings and the pavement? - mainly NYCC Highways; HDC in conjunction with NYCC have promised to clear the gullies across the pavements in the Market Place. Cllr Robinson asked for the press to ask members of the public to weed near their premises before the next Yorkshire in Bloom judging on 12th July 2002.

Cllr Adamson thanked Mr Quartermaine and Mr Kneebone for attending before they left the meeting.

3 members of the public left the meeting.

Resumption of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A69: Request for passenger information notice board in the Market Place: Clerk has contacted NYCC re details of site, design etc; still to be finalised; Town Council will be consulted before a decision is made.

Cllr Robinson asked if the Town Council had data protection? Cllr Adamson has the matter in hand.

Cllr Marshall raised the issue of the safety of the trees in Mill Gardens/Riverside Mews area; letter received from Mrs Penson read; ownership of the rest of the trees (i.e.: those not belonging to the Town Council) proving difficult to establish; town Council having a survey done on the trees it is responsible for; Town Council will continue to try to establish ownership of the rest.

A70: Chippings, McCleans Playarea: 2 quotes for the supply have been received; details read and discussed: Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Marshall seconded that the Town Council accept the quote No: 1, agreed; it was revealed that the quote for the chippings and the laying was from Mr Amy; agreed for the necessary drainage to be done at the same time.

Bus shelter, repairs required: Clerk to get quotes; painting to be carried out after repairs completed.

Finger post, painting: Mr Cowells to be contacted for this and the painting of the milestones.

Thirsk sign, York Road: Replacement sign not in budget; timescale of delivery and cost for replacement required; Cllr Marshall reminded Councillors that the Thirsk sign on Stockton Road still needed to be moved into Thirsk parish as agreed with NYCC some time ago; Cllr Marshall proposed Cllr Pack seconded that the sign on York Road could be 'on loan' until permission for its removal into Thirsk parish has been agreed.

Graffiti, Castlegarth fence: Cllr Hubbard reported it had been 'painted out'.

Dog/litter bins, Castlegarth: Agreed to purchase 3 to be placed near each entrance.

A71: Thirsk Map: Clerk has not been able to contact Cllr Salmon.

Grasscutting, York Road: Copy letter has been received, from NYCC to HDC, stating that the area not being cut is outside the urban boundary so it is cut as a rural area – twice per season.

Correspondence:

Mrs Penson, Riverside Mews, re tree survey: Ownership of the trees outside Town Council area proving difficult to prove; Town Council to continue to try.

Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: request from Rev. Norris for go ahead to get a guide price for the installation of lights, agreed.

Centenary Field: Request from Mr Amy to top the grass, agreed.

Nicks Gate Yard, letter from Mrs J Miller, re dumping of litter: read, to be forwarded to HDC Environmental Health.

Interpretation Boards, Castlegarth: Details from Mr Emerick, English Heritage given; approximate cost for A3 size - £600.00; suggests 3 one at each entrance with different content; Mr C. Harding has agreed to assist with content of boards; English Heritage could help with funding.

G Garbutt, re website: Cllr Adamson had already replied to Mr Garbutt over the unclear minutes re the Newsquest website; Mr Garbutt had replied and praised the design of the Town Council website.

Vehicle Access across Common Land.

Details of proposals from DEFRA had been circulated; Cllr Marshall asked that Mr Armstrong to be contacted re the implication on land which we have on a long lease. Cllr Adamson had printed a full copy available on the Internet; to be copied and given to Mr J Bell, landlord.

Plaques Project:

Cllr Jackson requested clarification as to whether the project is a Golden Jubilee project, which he had assumed had the support of the Town Council, and if the plaques should bear the date 'Jubilee 2002'; Councillors fully support the project and agreed the plaques should bear the date.

Cllr Marshall that there is money in the budget; a joint bid for funding along with the interpretation boards for the town to be made to Market Towns Initiative.

Committee Reports:

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack reported that support and sponsorship are increasing all the time; next judging for Yorkshire in Bloom on 12th July 2002. Cllr Marshall commended the work carried out by Mrs Dodds and Mrs Reynard on the cobbled area near the White Horse roundabout.

Central Areas:

Cllr Hubbard reported that all matters needing attention were being undertaken.

Christmas Lights:

Cllr Jackson said a meeting is to be held after this meeting.

Open Areas:

Cllr Marshall is to arrange the date for a 'walkabout' meeting.

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Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Roberts reported that Cllr Pack has been elected as vice chairman of the Town Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Marshall informed the meeting that the Commonwealth Games baton relay is to pass through the town on 11th July 2002; Cllr Marshall will carry the baton from Westgate to Millgate at approximately 3.00pm; Councillors wished her well.

Press reporter left the meeting.

Information leaflet from the National Grid has been circulated; it was agreed that the Town Council would pursue their original request for monetary recompense for the town.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 15th July 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 17th June 2002.
3. To receive Police report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 17th June 2002.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To receive Planning Committee report.
8. To approve accounts for payment.

9. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.

10. To receive correspondence.

11. To receive Burial Board report.

12. To receive reports from:

- a) Representatives,
- b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 15th July 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Hubbard, Jackson. Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Roberts, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull and Salmon.

Minutes:

Town Council, 17 June 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Police report:

Cllr Adamson asked for an incident in which the horn of a stationary car was being sounded in the Market Place at 11.10pm to be reported to the Police. Cllr Hubbard asked if the Police could control the number of motorbikes speeding around the town.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Cllr Robinson reported that the Town Council have been informed that there is to be an open meeting organised by North Yorkshire Police (CAP) in the town, probably early August.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present

Matters Arising:

P1295: Clerk reported that Hambleton District Council do make a charge of £1 per bag (to be

collected) to businesses.

P1296: Proposed Castlegarth cable; according to the Dept. Culture, Media and Sport, landowners and lessee have to make the final to decision.

It was agreed that the format of the Planning minutes is satisfactory.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall is now a member of the Business and Community Services Committee; this committee is responsible for libraries; after failing to reach required standards, North Yorkshire County Council libraries have been given a further year to reach these targets, like hours open, stock available, and time taken to obtain a book when ordered.

NYCC are considering 'one stop shop' venues at centres around the county; agreed there is a need for one in Thirsk.

Flooding, Finkle Street; Cllr Marshall has been assured that development/ flooding/ drains will be attended to, possibly in September; road closure will be necessary; Town Council to ask for work to be undertaken at a 'quiet time'; Cllr Robinson asked that signs warning of road closure be placed early, at previous junctions.

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Dropped kerbs; delay, no date has been given for commencing.

District Council Report

Cllr Robinson reported:

National Strike 17th July 2002: essential services will be maintained.

2 telephones in Market Place near the clock are to be removed.

Training for Parish Councillors: poorly attended.

Thirsk Swimming Pool, summer promotion; free on Fridays during school holidays. Proposed Street Fair, Thirsk; has been rejected by HDC Cabinet.

Conservation Area Assessment has been adopted, with only a few amendments. HDC Councillors attendance record passed round.

Cllr Marshall reported:

Flooding report from Environment Agency: HDC have found flaws in it; Environment Agency to examine its findings again.

Wheelie bins; Thirsk a 'trial area' Councillors have received many comments and criticism; discussed.

Planning Report:

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2002 had been circulated to Councillors; no meeting held on 4th July 2002 as no applications had been received from HDC.

Accounts:

C Amy: Weekly Insp – playareas/open spaces £162.80

Mill Gardens £150.00
Picnic area, litter pick etc £90.00
Castlegarth, litter pick, weeding, gate repair £60.00
St James Green, fence repairs £25.00
Wilgro, Thirsk in Bloom, plants £749.05
Wilgro, Thirsk in Bloom, pots £100.02
Amberol, Thirsk in Bloom, baskets/liners £874.77
Econo-move, crane hire, Mill Gardens £176.25
M L Burnett, path (Carrs Field/waterfall) £750.00
M L Burnett, rails/stone etc Carrs Field entrance £118.80
M L Burnett, path (Whitlass/ Stockton Road) £1730.68
M L Burnett, Repair vandalism to fence Stockton Road £186.12
CE & CM Walker, grasscutting £1428.80
Selby Screen Prints, double sided banners £1188.51
HDC, stamp duty, 49A Market Place £5.00
Staples, stationery etc £167.53
DJ Mann, clean bus shelter windows £52.00
K Dickinson, clean office windows £6.00

Paid since last meeting:

Post Office Counters Ltd, forwarding of mail £42.00
A M Wilkinson, salary, June £707.29

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Memorials:

Approval of the following applications proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Application for additional inscription:

Elsie May Bickers
Mary Chapman
Edith Mary Maltby
Donal Murphy
Ernest Walter Calvert
Rossie Eggleton
Reginald Scott

Correspondence:

HDC District Wide Plan review: Circulated.

HDC Street naming, noted.

HDC, Swales Garage, Long Street: reply to request for the area to be improved, noted.

Bow House Publishing, Herriot Country 2003, Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Murkett seconded that the Town Council have a half page, as last year, content to be put together and agreed later; suggestions of a new photograph and mention of the flowers in the town for inclusion.

Miss A McKintosh, MP, noted.

NYCC, Flooding, 2000, leaflets distributed.

Yorkshire Water, Forum 18th July 2002, details noted.

WRVS: Request for financial support; agreed to be put on next Town Council agenda.

National Grid: letter and leaflets of installation details; agreed to again request some recompense to the town and surrounding area having had the pylons forced upon it.

Cllr Jackson left the meeting.

From tabled correspondence:

Consignia: Thirsk as a trial area for new postal services/deliveries has been delayed one month, noted.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that a photographic survey of memorials will have to be carried out; records kept; will need to be stored on CD.

There are problems re extra soil from grave digging to be considered at next burial board meeting.

Cllr Roberts said the Town Council had compliments paid re the tidy state of the cemetery.

Personnel Meeting

Cllr Robinson, chairman, requested that Town Council approves the recommendation of the committee to appoint Julie Harron as assistant to the clerk, unanimously agreed, to begin on 5th August 2002; working 10 hours per week; Mrs Harron to be introduced at the next amenity meeting.

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Representatives Reports:

Thirsk Community Primary School; Cllr Adamson reported that decoration of some rooms will take place during the summer holidays.

Thirsk Chamber of Trade; Cllr Hubbard reported that an emergency meeting had been held on 23rd June re policing, safety etc in the Town, which the Chamber of Trade had sent to the North Yorkshire Police, etc, circulated, members of the Chamber of Trade have offered to man CCTV monitors.

Flatts Trust Meeting; At the recent meeting it was agreed in principal to give support to an area near the Swimming Baths being made into a skateboard park; awaiting further details from Mr D Goodwin HDC.

Cllr Marshall reported on the meeting at which a representative from the Standards Board for England gave details of changes faced by Town/Parish Councils; agreed to hold a Finance Committee meeting on 8th August 2002, in the Town Council office.

Suspension of Standing Orders for 15 minutes proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Members Reports:

Cllr Adamson reported that he was gravely concerned about the items (old gas heater etc) left in the entrance to the Town Hall; Cllr Roberts replied that the management committee was fully aware of the Health & Safety issues and had only recently obtained details of a firm who would remove the offending items, which is to be done as soon as possible.

Cllr Marshall reported on the Long Street Enhancement consultation, at East Thirsk Community Hall: about 150 people visited the exhibition and 50 filled in written responses; the Working Party have agreed to ask HDC and Thirsk Regeneration Scheme for financial help, then have professional plans drawn up.

Queen's Golden Jubilee Baton Run; Cllr Marshall reported she had been privileged to take part; she ran from the Market Place to St. James Green and felt it was a shame that HDC had not taken the baton carrying on board for their area.

Cllr Murkett had attended the Queen's Golden Jubilee Service in St. Paul's Cathedral on 4th June 2002, representing the 10,000 parish councils of England and Wales; he felt very privileged to attend and witness the atmosphere and pageantry of the event.

Cllr Robinson reported that the Town Council Office had moved the previous Friday (12th July 2002); he thanked all who helped.

The meeting closed at 10.09 pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 1st August 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 6th June 2002.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 6th June 2002
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To receive reports from the following committees:
Greens & Ingramgate; Central Areas; Open Areas; Carrs Field; Millennium Green; Christmas Lights; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party
6. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 1st August 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Roberts, and Robinson, the new assistant to the clerk Mrs Julie Harron and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Pack and Bull (late arrival) Cllr Salmon.

Cllr Robinson arrived.

Minutes:

4th July 2002: A72: add 'this would require some building'

Approval proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed.

Cllr Marshall arrived and presented Cllr Robinson who had recently been in hospital a basket of

fruit from his fellow District Councillors.

Matters Arising:

A72: Cllr Jackson reported to the meeting that the state of the toilets in the Market Place had been so bad on July 23rd that he had asked the clerk to report the matter to Mr S Quartermaine HDC; Mr Quartermaine had given his assurance that he would make sure matters reported would be attended to immediately; Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that HDC Cabinet had approved that £23,500 which had been intended for improvement work on the toilets in Bedale had now been allocated to Thirsk; Cllr Jackson proposed that HDC be contacted with a request for attendant supervision to be included when the remedial work to the toilets is undertaken.

Cllr Bull arrived.

Discussion followed; Cllr Hubbard seconded the proposal, (2 for, 4 against, 1 abstained)

A73: Mill Gardens Trees: Ownership still not known; clerk pursuing with NYCC; tree survey on Town Council owned trees is awaited.

Bus shelter repairs: Clerk still trying to find a contractor to do the work.

A74: Thirsk Map, Thirsk Library:

Cllr Salmon to be contacted re the map being put back in the Library.

Floodlighting, St Mary's: Letter re confirmation re the guide price estimate has been sent to Rev. Norris.

Nicks Gate Yard: Letter forwarded to HDC.

A75: Commonwealth Games baton relay, 11 July 2002: Cllr Marshall carried the baton from Market Place to St James Green; Cllrs congratulated Cllr Marshall.

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Cllr Adamson introduced Mrs Julie Harron, the new assistant to the clerk to all the Councillors present.

It was agreed that the clerk should send a fax to Mrs Carolyn Thorpe, Darlington & Stockton Times reporter, re Cllr S Hubbard, Chairman of Town Council Committee for the Central Areas.

Cllr Pack arrived.

Correspondence:

Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that work in Castlegate on the gas main was scheduled to begin 5th August 2002 for approximately 6 weeks.

Committee reports:

Greens & Ingramgate: Cllr Robinson will organise a meeting shortly.

Central Areas:

Cllr Hubbard reported he is still waiting for a price for proposed work on the stonewalling in Mill Gardens; clerk to ask Mr Burnett re price for relocating circular seat round two trees.
Cllr Hubbard reported on the recent meeting between Mr M Roberts NYCC, Town Councilors and shopkeepers of Finkle Street re flooding problems; Mr Roberts offered ramps into shops, to improve drainage and asked for trader's suggestions. The road will need to be closed while work takes place.

Open Areas:

Cllr Marshall on site visit held on 18th July 2002: Craigs Way: Mr A Brooke, Record Play Equipment Representative explained heights, areas etc; quote for green Wetpour to be sent; safety surfacing to be in one piece not as diagrams in quote.

Cllr Marshall looked at ½ 7 acres; long grass/ragwort a problem; clerk to contact NYCC re overgrown footpath.

McCleans Playarea: Seat collapsed, rotten due to drainage problem; C. Amy has removed to cemetery.

Millennium Green: Playdale to be asked for remedial work (to be done when work on Holmes is undertaken)

East Thirsk: Well used; Record/Wicksteed to be asked to quote for Wetpour under large swings; gate to be considered at later date.

Long Street: Kompan to be asked for quote to re-site springers.

Shire Park: Slide in need of repair. Panels faded – Playdale to be asked why? goal post area needs 'filling' with earth; bin to be moved to the other side of the fence. Whitelass: Clerk to ask Mr Amy if he had done the strimming; steps in need of repair, earth filling; clerk to ask Mr Amy and Mr Burnett for prices and when the work can be done.

Centenary Field: FWAG to be contacted for advice.

Sluice gate: Mr Amy to get price for either restoring or replacing the damaged bars. Holmes: Mr Kevin Smallwood has visited the site, noted the repairs and promised a price for this meeting; Prices for 2 more picnic tables near the play equipment to be

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obtained; Mr J Bell needs to give permission; Cllr Pack has seen some 'duck springers' in Abbey Park, Leicester; Leicester City Council to be contacted for supplier's name.

Millennium Green: Mosaic has been repaired, postcards of mosaic now in the office.

Christmas Lights:

Mr R Hall has been asked to be a non-voting member on this committee; Mr G Johnston has been contacted re light bulbs;

Cllr Jackson has to contact Mr H Woodhead about a tree; Mr C Amy has agreed to put the fence around the tree.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Summer judging took place on 12th July 2002; The results are due early September; Cllr Pack gave an itinerary of the judging to the clerk for Town Council file; insurance cover is being set up; Todds have donated 16 containers and have agreed to put in position; possible sites being Ingramgate, Norby (near WI House), The Marage, Library, White Mare roundabout (bollards would be removed for this); Mr A Jackson has agreed to plant and maintain these tubs; flower box has been installed on Town Hall; hayrack could be installed on Town Council office.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Jackson suggested laminating the office windows for security; sign for office, clerk to contact Mr M Cann HDC.

Cllr Jackson had visited Yorkshire Water meeting for Sowerby (meeting for Thirsk will be held later); plans on display were poor; Cllr Jackson has had two letters re planned wastewater treatment.

Cllr Bull had attended a meeting of Thirsk Clock Café: The trust has first refusal on 22 Market Place; change of use and Conservation Area Consent will be necessary; it is hoped to form a management committee by the end of September.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had been in touch with Mrs Harvey Dowdy re application to Market Town Regeneration Initiative funding for Long Street and plaques/interpretation Board schemes;

Mr M Roberts NYCC has to study the legal side of parking and selling on Long Street.

Dropped kerb installation should have begun on Monday.

HDC is reviewing car parking in the District; Cllr Marshall will copy all Thirsk extracts; suggestions made – more long stay required, reduce parking time in Market Place to 1 hour; improve access to Nursery site car park and re-designate to long stay; make park near swimming pool short stay and improve access to it from the Market Place; new long stay parking area urgently needed.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 19th August 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 15th July 2002.
3. To receive Police report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.

5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 15th July 2002.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To consider a donation to WRVS.
11. To receive Planning Committee report
12. To receive Burial Board report.
13. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives,
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 19th August 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Hubbard, Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Roberts, 1 press reporter, 1 member of the public, the clerk and assistant clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Jackson and Salmon.

Minutes:

Town Council, 15th July 2002:

P.1302 : add 'payment of the following accounts proposed by Cllr Roberts seconded by Cllr Pack, agreed.

P. 1304 : delete 'awaiting for further details from Mr D Goodwin HDC; add 'a letter'

Cllr Pack arrived.

Approval, after the above amendments, proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Murkett, agreed.

Cllr Robinson introduced Mrs Julie Harron, the new assistant to the clerk, to the councillors who had not been present at the recent Amenities meeting.

Police Report:

None present.

Cllr Murkett gave details of the meeting NYCC has arranged to be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall on 27th August 2002, at 7.30pm, which is open to the public.

Cllr Adamson concerned at lack of information from the police re the recent alleged assault in Castlegate, exaggerated rumours were being circulated around the town; these could have been avoided by a small press release by the police; agreed to express these concerns to Insp. Broadley.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Murkett, seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Open Forum:

Mrs K Reynard enquired if any progress had been made re the replacement 'THIRSK' sign for York Road; Town Council working with NYCC Highways for replacement. Resumption of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Murkett, agreed.

Matter Arising:

P1301: Cable across Castlegarth; Cllr Murkett disgusted at the state that area has been left in by the contractors; Cllr Adamson reminded Cllr Murkett that 6 months is always allowed for such work to settle and be restored to its former state.

Finkle Street flooding/drains etc; Cllr Marshall has been assured that the work will take place September/October; no exact date has yet been given.

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P1302: Dropped kerbs: work has begun; progress is slow as the work is being done at weekends; Cllr Murkett raised his concerns about the position of the one in Castlegate; Cllr Marshall reminded Councillors that the Town Council had been consulted on the positions; Cllr Murkett proposed a letter to Mr Roberts, NYCC, expressing concern for the safety of users of the dropped kerbs in Castlegate, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed (4 for, 3 abstain).

Cllr Hubbard asked would it be possible for a pelican crossing to be installed in Castlegate/Westgate as crossing the road was necessary for many people visiting The Ritz Cinema and the Town Hall? Councillors explained some of the problems it would create.

P1304: Skateboard area, Swimming Baths, Chapel Street; Cllr Marshall asked what progress had been made since the last meeting? Cllr Roberts is to meet an equipment provider tomorrow to establish the amount and type of equipment suitable for the area; Flatts Trust have agreed to the idea in principal and have given HDC permission to sub-let the land, but other bodies such as the Swimming Baths Trust will also need to be consulted. Flatts Trust wish to be informed of any proposals and give their consent before any planning application is made;

agreed the clerk should book the Large room, Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annex for a meeting of all interested people towards the end of September; Cllr Roberts has a list of all who attended the first two meetings. Possibility of skateboard area, Newsham Road site: It was agreed that the clerk should set up a meeting between NYCC Highways/HDC Planning Officer/Police/Town Cllrs Hubbard and Bull as soon as possible.

Cllr Hubbard reported the plans for skateboard equipment to be installed on Carrs Field had come to an abrupt halt due to the BT pole on St James Green which now blocks the access for any large vehicle to Carrs Field; attempts to contact BT have to date drawn a blank; Cllr Hubbard and clerk to continue their attempts.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall reported that efforts to get St Mary's Walk/Dowber Way/Hambleton Drive included in the winter maintenance gritting programme had failed; had managed to get a vote on it but had lost.

Flooding problems: A meeting between Mr M Moore NYCC /Internal Drainage Board/ Environment Agency/Yorkshire Water has taken place; Cllr Marshall has not been given any details of the result of the meeting:

District Council Report:

Cllr Robinson reported there is a possibility that Farmer's Markets will be run alongside the normal markets in Hambleton District.

Litter bins in the Market Place and surrounding area and Sowerby were not emptied on Saturday; agreed Town Council should inform Mr Kneebone (copy to Mr Quartermaine) that the Town Council are still not happy with the cleaning service in the town.

Wheelie bin trial: Many problems are being put to District Cllrs Marshall, Murkett and Robinson; All agreed the trial scheme on East Thirsk had proved a great success and wished HDC had extended it to other areas.

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Accounts for Payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Murkett, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

C Dale, clean signs, Holmes/remove graffiti, town clock £70.50

York & N Y PFA, info sheet £2.00

Record Playground Equipment, cradle seats, East Thirsk £220.90

A. Oxtoby, windows bars, office £200.00

CE & CM Walker, grasscutting £1428.80

Amberol, brackets etc £102.35 Vertical Blinds Direct, office windows £99.00

K Dickinson, clean office windows, 3 weeks £6.00

Weekly insp. playareas/open spaces £203.50

Mill Gardens £150.00

Castlegarth £50.00
Picnic Area £50.00
Centenary Field; topping £148.50
Seats, annual maintenance £950.00
BT:
Telephone account £32.08
Telephone account £13.03
Moving telephone line £117.47
Moving line £135.32

Paid since last meeting:
A M Wilkinson, salary £707.29
YLCA, Annual meeting £58.50

Correspondence:

Hambleton Community Safety partnership, meeting, 3rd September 2002. The Lord Nelson, St James Green, Thirsk at 2.00pm: Councillors agreed the time of day was inconvenient for most people; letter to be sent giving Town Council comments; Cllr Robinson to attend; Cllrs Roberts and Hubbard hope to attend.

British Legion Remembrance Service, meeting, 18th September 2002, at 7.30pm: Cllr Robinson to attend.

CAB, representative: Cllr Roberts willing to continue for coming year.

YLCA, Annual meeting, 7th September 2002: Cllr Adamson is to attend, was given details and agenda.

HDC proposed lighting scheme, Gormire Court; agreed.

Boroughbridge Town Council, invitation to inaugural meeting of 'Market Towns Forum': It was agreed that a Councillor should attend this meeting and report back what the aims and objectives are to be; Cllr Hubbard agreed to attend.

Childline, skydive; noted.

HDC, car parking survey and strategy: To be copied to all councillors; written comments to be given to clerk at September Council meeting.

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British Red Cross, Annual Assembly and Awards Ceremony, 12th September 2002: Cllr Roberts invited, unable to attend. Cllr Roberts agreed to attend in his place.

Thirsk Festival: Letter of thanks from The Rotary Club of Thirsk: read and noted.

Bow House Publishing, 'Come and Stay in Herriot Country 2003': Agreed wording should be same as 2002: Cllr Adamson to take some photographs for inclusion in the half page space agreed last month.

DEFRA: Parish and Town Councils to retain role in Planning: Letter received from Deputy Prime Minister's Office copied and given to each Councillor present. Harrogate Ladies Darts

Team Bed Push 31st August 2002: Cllr Robinson reminded Councillors and asked the press to publish details as it passed through the town at approximately 2.30 pm.

Donation to WRVS:

Cllr Robinson said that it had been agreed at the last meeting to include this item on the agenda; Cllr Roberts proposed a donation of £100 seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report; Cllr Marshall asked if the weeds near the wall had been treated yet; the contractor has been asked to do the work on his next visit; the notice board has not been installed yet.

Representatives Reports:

East Thirsk Community Association: Cllr Adamson reported that the booking clerk is leaving; hopes a replacement will be found shortly; Christmas party for Senior Citizens will be held on 14th December 2002.

Finance Committee: Cllr Marshall reported that a meeting had been called to look at responsibilities under the new regulations.

Town Clock Cafe: Cllr Pack reported that there had been two meetings; still trying to lease premises (20b Market Place); objectives and way forward taking shape.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Hubbard reported that Mr D Moore, chairman, was retiring and leaving the area; Mr R Bedford has resigned for the Chamber of Trade but will retain his interest in the Christmas Lights; bunting put up in the town for the Queen's Golden Jubilee and Thirsk Festival was taken down last week.

Members Reports:

Cllr Robinson reported the stone planter near the NatWest Bank had been damaged by a motor bike; Cllr Hubbard and Cllr Pack to liase on the repairs.

Cllr Roberts asked if sandbags distributed for recent flooding would be collected; it was understood that properties had been advised to store them.

Cllr Roberts asked if the two mini roundabouts in the town could be painted; N YCC Highways to be asked.

Cllr Robinson reminded members of the Market Towns Initiative meeting now rearranged for Tuesday 20th August 2002.

Cllr Murkett asked if anything could be done to the roundabouts on the approaches to the town? Sponsorship suggested as used in other towns; Cllr Pack said Thirsk in Bloom are making enquiries about them, even though they are not in the Thirsk Parish, re sponsorship, insurance etc.

The Press Reporter left the meeting.

Cllr Hubbard asked if there could be a suitable place for a pelican crossing on Westgate? It was

agreed to write to Mr M Moore NYCC and ask for a progress report re 20 mph speed limit in the town centre, traffic calming etc, particularly now the dropped kerbs were being installed.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 5th September 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda;

- 1 . To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 1st August 2002.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 1st August 2002.
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To complete representatives list.
6. To discuss BT pole, St James Green.
7. To receive reports from the following committees:
Carrs Field Trust; Central Areas; Christmas Lights; Greens & Ingramgate; Millennium Green Trust; Open Areas; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party.
8. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 5th September 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Hubbard, Marshall, Pack, Reynard, Roberts, and Robinson, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Jackson, Murkett and Salmon, accepted. Cllr Adamson welcomed Cllr Kathleen Reynard to the Council.

Cllr Roberts asked if the Town Council has a ruling in Standing Orders re attendance of meetings, apologies for absence and reasons given for absence? Discussion followed; Cllr

Robinson, chairman and Cllr Adamson, vice chairman, to look into the matter.

Minutes, 1st August 2002:

A76: Toilets, Market Place: add 'Toilets'

Approval of the minutes, after the amendment, proposed Cllr Pack, Seconded Cllr Robinson, agreed.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Matters Arising:

A76: Thirsk Map: Clerk had contacted Cllr Salmon; representatives meeting to be called.

Trees, Mill Gardens: Ownership of some of the trees still not known; HDC to be asked to do a land search re ownership.

Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Clerk reported that an estimation for the cost of the work has been done; Rev Norris has not received a written quote yet; will forward a copy to the Town Council as soon as he receives it.

A77: Gas Work, Castlegate: Agreed to ask contractors to inform the businesses and residents only of the date when definitely will be carried out.

Shire Park, play equipment: Still waiting for advice re fading of paintwork on equipment.

Finkle Street, drainage/flood work: No specific date yet; scheduled for September/October.

A78: Signs for Office, Clerk meeting Mr M Cann, Hambleton District Council to discuss type allowed.

Dropped Kerbs: Work being undertaken at weekends but appears to have stopped with some half finished.

Correspondence:

BT: Reply to objection to position of pole, noted; reply from relevant department to come.

Recreation provision, re skate park provision: copy letter from HDC and HDC response, noted.

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Bow House Publishing, Harriot Country 2003: Cllr Adamson to take new photograph as soon as possible.

HDC Code of Member Conduct Advertisement of Adoption: Agreed to be included in HDC advertisement.

HDC Register of Interests, address at which is available: Agreed to be included in the HDC advertisement.

Representatives list:

The two vacancies were filled as follows:

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Committee Representatives: Cllr Robinson agreed to replace Cllr Murkett.

Hambleton Sports Council - Cllr Robinson.

Committee reports:

Central Areas/Mill Gardens:

Minutes of recent meeting circulated, Cllr Hubbard raised various points from the Central Areas meeting held recently; Cllr Marshall asked for action on the trees in Mill Gardens; price needed re the 3 trees in need of remedial work; HDC need to be informed that work is to be carried out; C Amy to be asked to put forward a programme similar to the one on the Holmes; agreed. It has been reported that there is a big tree down on Waterside; Councillors are asked to keep a record of litter. Residents of Nursery Gardens are reporting nuisance and noise problems from skateboarders in the area; Cllr Marshall had visited the area; all agreed that the need for a designated site should relieve the problem.

Green & Ingramgate:

Minutes of recent meeting circulated. Agreed to write to residents of 39 St James Green re storage of building materials on the roadway and footpath.

Open Areas: Minutes of recent meeting circulated; quote from Playdale for repairs of equipment on Holmes accepted proposed Cllr Roberts, Seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed. Clerk to ask C Amy for cost of survey of trees on Holmes and Whitelass.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack reported that the Homes and Gardens event at the Bank Holiday weekend had been well attended; Yorkshire in Bloom results due on 16th September 2002; Public Liability Insurance has been taken out; next meeting in October.

It was agreed that in future councillors would be notified of all committee meetings by letter and agenda so that confusion of details can be avoided.

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Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Marshall proposed that Mr M Armstrong, Eccles Heddon be contacted re an approach to Barretts on behalf of Town Council and Millennium Green Trust re ownership responsibility of Tramire Ditch seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Cllr Marshall asked for Town Council to write to Mr Ian Dawson HDC asking for a streetlight at the junction of Hambleton Place/School entrance; plan on site to be supplied.

Cllr Marshall asked for Town Council to write to Mr Ian Dawson HDC asking for a streetlight at the junction of Hambleton Place/School entrance; plan on site to be supplied.

Cllr Marshall has contacted Mr M Moore NYCC re Thirsk Market Place Safety Scheme to introduce 20mph in the Town; progress being made; expects Town Council to be consulted in approximately 3 months time.

Cllr Hubbard reported on skate park meeting at Newsham Road/Station Road Junction, 4th September 2002; Police liked the site, camera surveillance good; M Roberts NYCC saw no

problems re access; agreed to arrange a meeting with the land owner, Mr J Bell, Cllrs Robinson and Hubbard Mr T Wood HDC planning to send his observations on the site.

Carrs Field landscaping plan submitted to HDC Planning in May; clerk to investigate delay.

Cllr Reynard reported that Mr D Collinson has two pieces of old pine, which the Town Council could use to repair the sluice gate near the waterfall.

The path Norby/Marage/St James - needs cutting; has been reported to NYCC.

Cllr Pack asked if sandbags to Finkle Street could be retained and stored for future use?

Cllr Robinson expressed concern re dead trees near Finkle Street bridge; Clerk to write to landowner Mr J Bell re concern.

'Thirsk' sign, Sutton Road; coping has been knocked off: Mr Burnett has been asked to repair.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 16th September 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 19th August 2002.
3. To receive Police report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 19th August 2002.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To discuss the implications of Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act.
11. To receive comments on HDC Car Parking Survey & Strategy.

12. To receive Planning Committee report

13. To receive Burial Board report.

13. To receive reports from:

- a) Representatives,
- b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 13th September 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Jackson, Pack and Roberts, 4 members of the public, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Received from Cllrs Bull, Hubbard, Marshall, Murkett, Reynard and Salmon.

Cllr Roberts proposed that apologies for absence were accepted from all the above except Cllr Bull, seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Minutes, 18th August 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Police Report:

No police present.

Cllr Adamson reported that the 'incident' in Castlegarth had been greatly exaggerated.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Open Forum:

Mrs Penson raised her concern that the NYCC leaflet on 'Flooding November 2000' had not been circulated to all those living in areas affected by the floods in November 2002; Thirsk Library had run out of the leaflets.

The Press reporter arrived.

Mrs Penson asked were sandbags available in Thirsk and could some be stored near the most vulnerable properties? Councillors explained the system as they understand it; sandbags are now stored at HDC Depot, York Road; concern was expressed that not all properties have somewhere to keep enough for their own use; it was agreed to ask NYCC for enough copies of

the leaflet for all the affected properties. Mrs Penson raised the lack of street cleaning in the Town Centre during the last weekend and today; a coach from a Town Planners Conference (including Mr Jewitt HDC) visited Thirsk today; Cllr Pack brought to the meeting bags of rubbish gathered from around the clock area on Saturday as she was so ashamed of the town. Councillors agreed to ask Mr S Quartermaine HDC for an explanation for the very bad service. Mrs S Dodds concerned about the growing number of black bags of rubbish being left by bin collectors.

Resumption of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Matters Arising:

P1305: Councillors requested that any alterations to the previous minutes have details given as well as alterations.

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Thirsk Sign: Details of cost and fixing have been received from NYCC; Councillors agreed to pay £23.76 for the sign and that the Town Council will undertake the fixing. P1306: Skateboard area, near Swimming Baths: Cllr Roberts reported on her meeting with Mr A Brooks, Record Playground Equipment; area proved to be too small; Cllr Roberts has been invited to attend a Skate Park Symposium run by HDC; Cllr Roberts asked for the proposed skate park meeting on 25th September 2002 to be cancelled; this had already been done.

Dropped Kerbs: Cllr Robinson concerned about the dropped kerb crossing which has been installed in Westgate near the Town Hall; there is a need for double yellow lines to prevent parking where the crossing has been installed; NYCC to be contacted. Farmer's Market: Discussion of the position and loss of car parking took place; it was agreed that the regular and farmers stalls would be better all on one side of the Market Place; this would also reduce the loss of parking places and make the disabled spaces near the toilets accessible; agreed to put these observations to HDC. P1307: Market Town Forum: Cllr Hubbard had attended the initial meeting in Ripon on behalf of the Town Council; a written report circulated to Councillors; agreed that Cllr Hubbard as Town Council representative, should attend the next meeting on 30th September 2002.

British Red Cross Meeting: Cllr Roberts had been unable to attend on behalf of the Town Council.

Herriot County 2003: Cllr Adamson had taken a very good photograph of the clock looking east for inclusion in the Town Council's half page advertisement.

County Council Report:

None - County Cllr Marshall not present (Holiday).

District Council Report:

Cllr Robinson reported:

Conservation Area, Long Street: HDC Cabinet has decided that there needs to be more consultation with the residents; there had not been sufficient response on the extension of the

conservation area made in the recent Long Street Enhancement Consultation. Flooding in Hambleton: HDC plan to establish a forum of all parties, residents and businesses involved in each area affected to hopefully find a 'partnership' solution. In the future at HDC Development Control meetings when a planning application is being discussed 1 person will be allowed to speak for and 1 against the application, as will a representative of the Town/Parish Council for the area of the application.

Accounts:

Payment of the following account proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Jackson, agreed.

Fox's of Thirsk, photocopy, stationery £95.31
Action for Market Towns, annual sub. £92.53
C E & C M Walker -Grasscutting: £1,428.80
BT, office phone £92.56
DPR: Online Notification Process £35.00
PM Burniston, cemetery maint/paint & oil seats etc £233.08
District Audit, audit fees £555.19

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Thirsk Millennium Green: £687.25
GP Services, office removal £59.00
HDC, quarterly rent £660.94
C Amy:
Weekly insp, open areas £162.80
Mill Gardens, weed/prune/litter pick £120.00
Castlegarth, litter pick £40.00
Picnic Area, litter pick £40.00
Mill Gardens, consultant/safety officer £180.00
Mill Gardens, survey/report £235.00
Allerdale Close, drainage £150.00
Allerdale Close, replace chippings £1,350.00
East Thirsk/Shire park/Long St, hedge cut £50.00
White mare roundabout, weed/prune £15.00
K Dickinson, clean office windows £8.00
Petty Cash £8.00
Clerks & Councils Direct, annual sub. £66.00

Memorials:

Approval of the following applications to erect memorials proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Marjorie Morton
Katie Louise Barwick
Jimmy Farrally

Len Bickerton

Further details re Edna Collins needed before approval.

Correspondence:

Ware & Kay, Transfer of licence, Three Tuns, Market Place: Councillors had no objections; new licensee to attend appropriate training course.

HDC Election confirmation; Cllr K Reynard unopposed, noted.

HDC Amendment to Model Code of Conduct and Repeal of Surcharge: copies had been circulated to Councillors with agenda of this meeting.

HDC Code of Member Conduct, advertisement of adoption, circulated to Councillors.

DEFRA Rural Services Standard: Circulated to Councillors.

NYCC, Committee for Hambleton meeting, 23rd September 2002 & 7th October 2002. Noted.

HDC Lease for Office: Received copy.

Mrs S Dodds, copy letter to HDC re concerns of incorrect signs for T.I.C., incorrect plans for town, old photograph being used; Councillors thanked and backed Mrs

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Dodds for writing and expressing these long standing problems; agreed to write to HDC supporting Mrs Dodds;

Cllr Adamson offered a new photograph of the clock and Market Place.

From Tabled Correspondence:

Thirsk Fair: Cllr Adamson read from a newspaper cutting re Mr Crow's efforts to gain support for a fair in the town; Mr Crow now has the support of the Showman's Guild.

Chamber of Trade minutes: the minutes included an inaccurate statement that 'the Town Council will assume responsibility for condition of alleyways', noted.

Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Cllr Adamson had studied the information supplied; Town Council needs to prepare a document to be submitted between 1st October 2002 and 31st December 2002; NALC have produced a model document; Cllr Adamson offered to compile a document for the Town Council.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998:

Cllr Robinson proposed that this item should be deferred until the next meeting due to the small number of Councillors present, agreed.

HDC Car Parking Survey and Strategy:

Councillors made the following points:

Councillors wished to know where and the number of parking spaces that could be available for public parking (long and short stay) from the edge of centre sector car parks before making comments. Councillors agreed that at least 60 new spaces need to be created; need for extra coach parking as well as provision for a park and ride scheme to be used in busy periods.

There is a need for improved signage as well as pedestrian access from short stay car parks. Nursery Car Park: Town Council to request again for this park to be made long stay; no pedestrian link would be necessary, businesses on Finkle Street could loose trade if such a link was created.

Councillors expressed concern re extra use of parking at the swimming baths; no good for users of the baths and extra traffic in Chapel Street and on the Castlegate/Westgate junction.

Millgate Car Park: Councillors wished to see 6 spaces made into 3 hour long stay (for Herriot Centre visitors) and if the car park at Nursery Gardens was made long stay part of Millgate could become 2 hours only.

Most Councillors wished to leave the Market Place 2hour stay as it is now; parking permits for workers in the town could be considered by HDC.

As one of the town's traffic wardens, Mrs Penson, was present at the meeting Cllr Adamson proposed the suspension of standing orders, seconded Cllr Jackson so that her knowledge of parking in the town could be heard, agreed.

Mrs Penson agreed with many of the points that had been raised but explained that only on a few occasions in the year had there been a need for extra coach parking and that 4 hour parking for 'working visitors' to the town would be helpful.

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Resumption of standing orders proposed Cllr Jackson seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Planning Committee Report:

Minutes of the planning committee meetings held on 19th August and 5l September 2002 that had been circulated to Councillors were accepted without further comment.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that recently the wall of the cemetery had been damaged when it had been struck by a 'blue vehicle'; he had taken photographs of the damage; quotes for the repair work are necessary; a meeting will be arranged after the quotes have been received.

Representative Reports:

YLCA Annual meeting, 7th September 2002:

Cllr Adamson gave a brief report of 'the best meeting of YLCA' he had ever attended; guest speaker Mr Robin Bailey, Environment Agency had been excellent.

In the future Town/Parish Councils will be able to submit resolutions to the meeting.

Town Hall Management Committee: Cllr Pack had not attended due to illness. Cllr Roberts reported that the leaflet re the Town Hall facilities has been printed and that 'Man and a van' have removed the 'rubbish' from the entrance to the main hall.

Thirsk Clock: Cllr Pack reported the plans for 20 Market Place have been submitted to HDC; funding is available; press release being complied; have been given charitable status and are a Company by Guarantee.

Thirsk in Bloom: Yorkshire in Bloom has awarded Thirsk 2 trophies this year - for 'the most improved small country town' and 'the most improved in the County'; celebrations have been arranged on Wednesday in The Golden Fleece; Cllr Pack hopes that the trophies can be displayed in the Tourist Information Centre. Cllr Robinson, on behalf of the Town Council, congratulated all the workers for Thirsk in Bloom for their dedication and work throughout the year, especially during the summer.

Cllr Robinson reported that he had attended a meeting of Hambleton Community Safety Partnership held in The Lord Nelson, St James Green at which many issues had been raised.

Members Reports:

Cllr Roberts reported a 'hole' in the wall in Stead's Yard which is growing as more cobbles are being removed; Cllr Roberts to investigate ownership.

Cllr Pack asked if the Town Council is aware that elections for the Internal Drainage Board are to take place shortly; clerk to get details and forward to Cllr Pack.

Cllr Robinson reported that he had reported a tree in the Cod Beck that was hindering the flow of the beck near The Flatts to the Internal Drainage Board; it had been removed very promptly; clerk to thank the IDB when getting the details of the election.

Cllr Robinson has had some complaints re access through the gates to Castlegarth for pushchairs and wheelchairs; clerk has already been in conversation with Mr P Penny NYCC public footpaths, re the problem.

Cllr Robinson asked for the problem of gravel on the pavement outside Tesco filling station to be reported to NYCC Highways.

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Exclusion of press and public for a commercial in confidence item, proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

As the public and press left the meeting Mrs Penson expressed thanks to the Councillors for such an interesting meeting.

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Confidential Items:

Flood Lighting, St Mary's Church.

Details of an estimate for installing lighting, as a plan received previously, which had been received from Rev. Norris were given to councillors; after discussion Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Adamson seconded that 2 further estimates need to be obtained and that the Town Council should go ahead with the project if further estimates are acceptable as the extra cost could be considered in next year's budget, agreed.

Change of signatures at the bank.

Problems re having all Councillors as signatories have occurred; Barclays Bank are about to change its rules (in line with all other banks) and in future will only allow 3 names per business account to sign and only 2 need to sign; clerk to insist that Town Council require 4 with 3 to sign, agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.03 pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 4th October 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 5th September 2002.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 5th September 2002.
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To complete representatives list.
6. To receive reports from the following committees:
Carrs Field; Central Areas; Christmas Lights; Greens & Ingramgate; Millennium Green; Open Areas; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party.
7. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 3rd October 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Bull, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Reynard, Robinson and Salmon and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Hubbard and Roberts.

Minutes, 5th September 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Cllr Salmon arrived.

Matters Arising:

A79: Office signs: Cllr Robinson said that an Office Committee meeting is to be held when details of the signs are received from Mr R Cowells.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Acceptance of apologies for absence: Cllr Robinson reported that the matter is not part of the Standing Orders; discussion ended when Cllr Robinson proposed no further action, seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Thirsk Map: Cllr Salmon to attend to the matter of re-hanging the map as soon as possible.

A80: Bow House Publishing: proof of advert shown; photo of clock not satisfactory; clerk to contact re larger area devoted to photograph.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Representative: clerk has informed Management Committee of change.

Central Areas:

Pollarding of 3 trees: C Amy had submitted an estimate of £400.00 for the work; discussion on what was involved was; agreed to ask Mr Amy to do the work as soon as possible. It was agreed to get more estimates in future.

York Stone raised flowerbed, Nat West Bank corner: Cllr Pack reported no progress re repair and possible alteration of the size of the planter Thirsk in Bloom Committee has not had a meeting.

Bus Shelter: R Cowells to repaint.

Litter/bins/general cleanliness: Video sent to Mr S Quartermaine, HDC; has used it to show his officers of the problems.

Mill Gardens:

Planks: Clerk meeting representative next week.

Replacement bin: HDC has been contacted.

Octagonal seat: On the list for Mr Burnett.

Pollarding of 3 willows (prompt action recommended in survey) £400 from Mr C Amy acceptance proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Salmon, agreed. Millgate Car Park: Clerk had met Mr G Holder HDC; letter has been received giving details of work to be carried out; HDC do not supply seats, suggests sponsorship.

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Picnic Area:

Cllr Adamson concerned re funding for planting by Thirsk in Bloom; Cllr Pack to investigate. Quote £120 for re-staining picnic tables/benches accepted, proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Robinson. (6for 2 abstain)

Greens & Ingramgate:

Storage of building materials on the St James Green: Letter from Mrs Delderfield 39 St James Green asking for retrospective permission and details of time before work is completed read; Cllr Robinson said since the letter from Town Council the materials had been tidied up and now have warning tape round; Cllr Marshall proposed, Cllr Salmon seconded that the amount stored should diminish as materials are used on site (i.e. no increase in the kerbside storage) that the materials be kept tidy; that all should be cleared by 15th December 2002; if any damage to the road surface has occurred the Town Council will hold Mr and Mrs Delderfield responsible; situation will be monitored by Town Council; if these conditions are not adhered to permission will be terminated, agreed.

Parked cars, Little Green; Cllr Marshall reported that HDC has posted notices on the offending vehicles.

Returfing of 2 areas, Little Green: Mr Amy to undertake shortly.

Open Areas:

Craigs Way: Play equipment to be installed week beginning 14th October 2002; notices have been delivered to all residents.

Johnston Close: Clerk has met Kompan representative Mr Roddy Symcox re resiting and safety of springers and repair of slide steps; promised quote by this meeting (has not been received). Clerk discovered scaffolding had been erected by builders doing work at 72-74 Long Street; reported to Cllr Robinson who visited, asked for safety fencing to be installed immediately and that a letter asking for permission to install (retrospectively), fenced off within one hour of request; letter read to meeting stated work expected to be completed in about a week.

Allerdale Close: Drainage of play area, completed; chippings installed; Mr Amy tidies chippings (blown and spread by children) regularly; Mr Amy had stained inside tower (to cover graffiti) agreed to stain exterior as well; bright paint on exterior still to be completed; broken dog litterbin has been reported to HDC.

Centenary Field: A message has been left on FWAG answer-phone; still to get back re when a meeting can take place.

Railings near Sluice Gate: Repair has been approved; Mr Amy has item in hand. Duck Springers; Clerk has contacted Leicester City Council; no reply to date.

A81: Ownership, Tranmire Ditch; Mrs D Pearse HDC willing to loan her file to Mr Armstrong, Eccles Heddon for background information re letter to Barretts. Street Light Hambleton Place/East Thirsk Community Primary School: Request to HDC has been made.

Skate Park Meeting: Meeting on 25th September 2002 cancelled due to lack of available information and clash of dates; re arranged for Wednesday 23rd October 2002 at 7.39pm.

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Offer of piece of pine to repair Sluice gate: Town Council to send a letter thanking Mr Collinson for the offer; offer will be considered later.

Norby/Marage//St James path: Has been cut; Cllr Reynard to contact Mr Roberts NYCC as cutting not satisfactory; path not cleared.

Cllr Salmon asked if Cllr Adamson had received the detail he had requested from Sage; had been given to Cllr Adamson at the beginning of the meeting.

Cllr Salmon left the meeting.

Correspondence:

HDC, ownership of trees Mill Gardens: Town Council requested to mark a plan which trees Town Council own and are responsible for.

Mouchel, Finkle Street drainage repairs/resurfacing: Details of diversion via South Kilvington given while road closed; clerk has been promised prior notification; work on pavement has begun.

Commercial bin storage, Market Place: A letter from Mrs Sunley, White Horse Cafe was read to the meeting; concerns expressed re storage area for waste and collection of waste from premises in the Old Post Office building; the problem has been discussed many times before; agreed to respond stating that the Town Council looks forward to being consulted on a scheme devised between, HDC, the owners and lessees of the Old Post Office building and Mrs Sunley.

Committee Reports:

Thirsk in Bloom are to hold an open meeting on 9th October 2002; award certificates are to be framed and displayed in the Town Office; Thirsk in Bloom have asked permission from NYCC to plant bulbs at Norby and on Sutton Road.

Other Items on Interest and Information:

Cllr Marshall reported that a resident had contacted her, as well as the Town Office, re the removal of the telephone kiosk in Millgate Car Park; Town Council had not been made aware that the removal was to take place.

Cllr Bull reported that the lease for Thirsk Clock Cafe had been received; to advertise shortly for a project manager.

Cllr Pack expressed her concerns re Mill Gardens; needs pruning and planting; to be done when Mr Burnett has done the remedial work on the walls.

Cllr Robinson reported that Hambleton Community Safety Partnership Group meeting is on 29th October 2002 at 10.30am.

Cllr Jackson had received the first plaque, which he had brought to show Councillors; Cllr Marshall took it to show at Conservation Area Group meeting and Market Towns Initiative meeting.

Cllr Adamson showed members 2 photographs of the view from his home - before and after the installation of a pylon.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 21st October 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 16th September 2002.
3. To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 16th September 2002.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To consider and approve the Freedom of Information Act.
11. To discuss the implications of Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act.
12. To consider NALC Draft of Development Strategy 2002.
13. To receive Planning Committee report
14. To receive Burial Board report.
15. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 21st October 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Reynard and Roberts, 1 member of the public, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr Salmon.

Minutes, 16th September 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Police Report:

No police present.

Cllr Murkett disappointed that again there was no police presence at the meeting; asked when are the police going to fulfil their commitment to the Town Council; concerns raised re the proposal to take police from the rural areas to work in urban areas.

Cllr Pack arrived.

Cllr Murkett proposed asking the new Chief Constable to a Town Council meeting seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson agreed.

Open Forum:

No one wished to speak.

Resumption of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson agreed.

Matters Arising:

P1310: NYCC Flooding leaflets had been obtained and passed to Mrs Penson for distribution to properties affected by flooding.

P1311: Farmer's Market: Cllr Jackson pleased the second market had attracted many shoppers to the town; liked the quality and variety of items for sale; discussion followed re the siting of the market; the virtues and problems of where the stalls of the regular and farmer's market are sited or could be sited; traders in the past had refused to move to the 'sunnier' side of the Market Place; Cllr Robinson reminded Councillors that if the stalls were moved to the other side would mean all the signs would have to be changed; HDC as owners of the Market Place would need to make legal changes if the market stalls were to move; Cllr Marshall agreed with Cllr Hubbard who welcomed the Farmer's Market but felt the stalls should be on the same side to help shoppers and give consideration to car parking on the Market Place; Cllr Reynard felt that the residents should be asked for their views.

'Thirsk' sign, York Road: Cllr Robinson reported that he had 'found' the sign near the 'Thirsk' sign at Sutton Road.

P1313: Cllr Pack felt that the correction of signs in the Market Place giving directions for the T.I.C. should have been done by now; HDC have missed a whole season. Cllr Murkett raised concerns re response to HDC Car Parking Survey & Strategy; Councillors explained reasons for their response.

P1314: Cllr Adamson informed the meeting that copies of the presentation by Mr Robin Bailey, Environment Agency are now available; Town Council to obtain a copy. Cllr Adamson reported that a quote is still to come re damaged wall of cemetery.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall asked had her reply from Mr J Walker NYCC been read to the meeting; details had been reported.

Flooding/Drainage Work, Finkle Street; as much work as possible is being done without closing the road; it is possible that the road will be closed for 24 hours next weekend.

Traffic calming, St Mary's Walk: Cllr Marshall has had a request for traffic calming; NYCC have confirmed traffic calming is on their list but not a priority unfortunately.

Report on NYCC Libraries as expected not very good; computers to be installed at 350 branches throughout the County; 8 computers to be installed in Thirsk Library; Cllr Adamson had read that £1M to be spent by NYCC on Library improvements and asked what else was proposed; Cllr Roberts asked where would computers be put in Thirsk branch which does not have much space.

NYCC Hambleton Area Committee meeting held on 7th October 2002 at East Thirsk Community Hall had been well attended but Cllr Marshall very disappointed that no one from either Thirsk Town Council or Sowerby Parish Council had been present; Cllr Marshall also sorry that the press had not attended either.

Cllr Robinson expressed his concern re signs laid down on the grass and paths on Stockton Road, outside our parish, towards South Kilvington as a danger to pedestrians and cyclists who use the path.

District Council Report:

Cllr Robinson reported that there is a seminar on Thursday after HDC Development Control meeting to consider how the alternative refuse collection (wheelie bins) trial is going. HDC are to have a peer review by 5/6 people who will study Council on how it is run and performs.

2001 Census has been completed; population of HDC has grown;

Tourism Section has attended Shows at Birmingham NEC and a British Day at Zeebrugge.

New manager of the World of James Herriot, Sue Dalton, starts on 28th October 2002.

The renovation of Thirsk toilets is expected to begin early December.

Cllr Marshall has met to discuss signage/seats etc in the Market Place with Mr G Holder and Mr C Vincent HDC; Mr Holder thinks that HDC installed seats but handed the maintenance over to Town Council; Cllr Marshall has no knowledge of this; until recently maintenance has been done by HDC.

Flooding Forum: Cllr Marshall and Cllr Roberts had attended; good presentation on

Northallerton scheme by Mr M Moore; work proposed for Thirsk to be published shortly; Town Council and members of the public will be consulted on the proposals; Cllr Marshall said that residents of areas prone to flooding need to be reminded regularly where sandbags are available.

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Closure of village pubs and post offices: study finished.

Services to Youth; this study beginning on 5th November 2002.

Cllr Marshall and Cllr Robinson expressed concerns that HDC are keeping the cost of services provided low in order to be on target for a low Council Tax.

Accounts:

Cllr Marshall asked if the Town Council had been consulted re payment for the roof repair at the Town Hall? Cllr Roberts explained the position the management committee had been in and regretted that a request for permission and details had not been given to both councils. It was agreed that a polite reminder be sent to the management committee re asking permission and supplying details to both Councils.

Payment of the following accounts proposed Cllr Murkett seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall, room hire £120.00

Thirsk & Sowerby Town hall, repairs to roof (1/2 costs) £ 286.00

Y&NY PFA, membership 2002/3 £30.00

BT, office phone a/c £54.15

C Amy:

Weekly insp, play areas £162.80

Mill Gardens: weed/litter pick/pruning etc £120.00

Picnic area: litter pick etc £ 70.00

Castlegarth, litter £40.00

Allerdale Close, painting /staining tower £81.00

East Thirsk, repair swings £40.00

East Thirsk, repairs to path/strim verge £40.00

Holmes, replace railings at sluice gate/parallel bars £206.00

Little Green/St James Green, remove/prune trees £80.00

CE & CM Walker, grasscutting £1,428.80

Croft Castings, jubilee sign £180.00

Workcrafts, Mill. Green, litter pick etc £58.50

K Dickinson, clean office windows, 3 weeks £6.00

Paid since last meeting:

J Harron, salary, August/September £ 476.66

AM Wilkinson, salary August/September £1,414.58

Memorials:

Approval of the following applications proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Jackson, agreed.

Application to erect a memorial:

Muriel Forth

Application for an additional inscription:

Albert Addison

Correspondence:

HDC Street naming and numbering - 5 Finkle Street: Noted.

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HDC -33 Market Place, (2 letters) re complying with planning conditions: Noted.

HDC Nat West Bank, re resisting of satellite dish

Royal British Legion - Remembrance Sunday Service details: Noted.

NYCC, reply dropped kerbs; NYCC have change of yellow lines in hand.

HDC Letter to Market Cross Jewellers; re removal of sign that was refused planning permission: Noted

HDC Street Cleaning (2 letters): Councillors discussed in detail Mr Kendall, HDC's reasons and promises re poor cleaning of Market Place; Councillors still not satisfied with street cleaning in both Thirsk and Sowerby; agreed that cobbles are a problem but other towns overcome the problem of litter; Cllr Robinson said that HDC should employ a Litter Warden with the right to fine 'on the spot'; education to all necessary; should begin in schools; Cllr Reynard cannot understand why standard achieved by HDC before the Yorkshire in Bloom judging cannot be the same all the year round.

NYCC Heritage Strategy: Noted to be circulated.

Bond Pearce, Transfer of Licence, Tesco's; agreed: Ask new licensee to attend suitable training course.

Somerfield, transfer of licence, Kwik Save: Agreed; ask new licensee to attend suitable training course.

HDC Grants Roadshow 2002, 19th November 2002: Noted.

HDC Firework Safety, poster; to be displayed.

One stop - Moors & Coast and 2003 Accommodation Guide; Councillors agreed not to advertise in this publication.

Sowerby P.C: A letter received was read; Right of Way, Three Tuns Yard: request for copies of letters and details on town Council file discussed and agreed to; clerk to also give further details re how the town Council had been misinformed as to how to speed up progress; Cllr Marshall suggested that the Town Council write to Mr J Walker NYCC again to ask what position on the list for consideration the right of way through Three Tuns Yard is? The Town Council understands that Mr Walker has been asked to attend a meeting of Sowerby Parish Council; the Town Council are interested in attending any meeting on this issue.

Firework Display 26th October 2002, Thirsk Racecourse at 8.30pm, noted.

Cllr Marshall asked if YLCA had been informed that she is now a Town Council representative on the Hambleton Branch with Cllr Roberts as she had not received her agenda for the meeting on 23rd October 2002; YLCA had been informed; clerk to check so that Cllr Marshall will receive

agenda in future.

Cllr Roberts had received a letter from Mr G Garbutt, 21 St Mary's Walk which had been passed to the Council, copies had been given to Councillors; after discussion it was agreed to reply, sending copies of the requested documents with a compliments slip attached.

From Tabled Correspondence:

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall minutes: Cllr Adamson pleased that the area to the rear of the stage is to be refurbished.

Freedom of Information Act:

Cllr Adamson asked Councillors to look at the copy they had been given to read of the form that N.A.L.C. has compiled and issued as a guide to what Town/Parish Councils need to complete in order to comply with the act.

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Cllr Adamson had studied and researched the details on behalf of the Councillors; he read and explained the reasons for his proposals; Councillors questioned if the Town Council should charge for any requested information; it was thought that the extra accounting required would outweigh any revenue generated but if requests became increased greatly then the situation could be reviewed.

Cllr Adamson proposed that the clerk as responsible officer to be signatory should be the clerk as Proper Officer, all agreed.

Cllr Robinson expressed thanks to Cllr Adamson for all the time and work he had undertaken on the behalf of the Town Council.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act:

Cllr Robinson said he had asked for this item to be on the agenda after reading his copy of the Act issued to the Town Council as he realised to do nothing is no longer an option. He drew Councillors attention to particular paragraphs of the Act; discussion on how the Council deals and should deal with crime prevention followed; Cllr Murkett reminded the Town Council that a close relationship with the Police and all relevant bodies that could help to prevent crime is paramount.

NALC Draft Development Strategy:

Councillors had already seen a copy of the draft and had received YLCA comments and recommendations with the agenda; Cllr Murkett explained the details of a rise in subscription of 0.5p per elector over 3 years would mean in the forward planning; that NALC could then undertake a better service to its members; it would remove the need for regional offices; initially training for clerks will be given and eventually for Councillors.

Y.L.C.A. supports the draft.

Cllr Marshall proposed Cllr Adamson seconded that the Town Council gives its support to the draft, agreed.

Planning Report:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2002 had been circulated with the agenda and minutes of this meeting; had been approved at the Planning meeting held at 6.30pm in the town office tonight.

As the Town Council had not received any plans for consultation the meeting that would have been held prior to the Amenity meeting had been cancelled.

Cllr Robinson: Asked why the committee had responded to an application with 'no comment'; committee members gave their reasons in this particular case and agreed it is much better to comply with the three statements that HDC suggest.

Burial Board:

Cllr Adamson reported that a meeting will be held shortly; hopefully by then a quote for the repair of the wall will have been received; weeds along outside of the wall discussed; it will be considered at the next meeting if Mr Burniston should be asked to remove them.

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Representatives Reports:

East Thirsk Community Primary School Governors AGM: Cllr Adamson had attended; reported that a policy had been formulated for staff and pupils re access to the Internet on school computers; as to what can and cannot be done.

Thirsk Clock; Cllr pack reported the plans have been passed; hopes lease will be signed by 1st November 2002; studying funding to renovate and furnish premises. Cllr Bull said it is hoped to run training courses during the day; education will be available on how to use computers; architect drawing up plans for building regulations application; have advertised for a project manager; interviews to be held shortly.

Thirsk Chamber of Trade: Cllr Hubbard reported that the meeting on 12th November 2002 is the AGM and will be held in the conference room, Three Tuns Hotel.

Market Towns Forum: Cllr Hubbard reported that at the last meeting of the Forum final arrangements had been made to invite a further 21 market towns to join; an open day is to be held on 23rd November 2002 at?? Food provided with speakers from Yorkshire Forward and DEFRA and Ripon Town Centre manager.

Flood meeting HDC: Cllr Roberts had attended recently; good meeting; Mr D McGloin is to supply reports; Mr C Dyke said a new leaflet will be issued in November in which collection points for sandbags will be identified.

Skate park meeting HDC: Cllr Roberts and Cllr Hubbard had attended and felt it was worthwhile. The next meeting organised by Thirsk Town Council will be on 28th October 2002 in the Large Room Annex at 7.30pm; Mr D Goodwin HDC will give a presentation.

Market Towns Initiative: Next meeting AGM in The Town Hall on Tuesday 29th October 2002 at 7.00pm.

The Press left the meeting. (9.40pm)

Millennium Green Trust: Cllr Marshall said the AGM is to be held soon.

Cllr Robinson as Mayor, had represented the Town Council at the HDC Civic Service and Lunch held at Coxwold Church and Aldwark Manor.

Members Reports:

Cllr Marshall reported on the progress being made re application to MTI for funding of the plaques/interpretation boards for the town; the sample plaque had been show at the last Conservation Area meeting; Sowerby Parish Council wishes to be included in the scheme and are identifying names /places to be added to those Cllr Marshal already had on the list; Sowerby Parish Council want their name or joint names on those in their parish; Councillors were asked to consider; cost of scheme will hopefully be covered by MTI funding.

Suspension of Standing Orders for 10 minutes proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Finance committee minutes had been circulated; Cllr Marshall reminded all committees of the need to meet to consider budgets for next year.

Cllr Jackson reported that Mr H Woodhead is to supply a Christmas tree for the Market Place; lights to be switched on at 3.00pm on 1st December 2002; dates for installing lights to be got from Mr R Bedford; still to speak to Mr R Hall for his help.

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Cllr Jackson showed a 'junk fax' with many inaccuracies on it; hopes BT can stop these being sent to consumers; thinks Trading Standards need to be informed.

Exclusion of press and public for Staff In Confidence confidential item proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

1 member of the public and Cllr Murkett left the meeting.

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Confidential Items:

Little Green, abandoned cars:

Mr Maudsley, HDC has informed the Town Council that HDC have the powers to remove abandoned cars. The Town Council has to formally request the removal of the 2 cars on Little Green; the cost is £25 per car plus £37.00 administration, total for both; Cllr Roberts proposed seconded Cllr Marshall to go ahead, agreed.

Clerk's salary:

Details have been received re salaries for 2002/3. Cllr Adamson agreed to study; to be on next agenda.

The meeting closed at 10:25pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 7th November 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda;

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 3rd October 2002.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 3rd October 2002.
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To complete representatives list.
6. To receive reports from the following committees:
Carrs Field; Central Areas; Christmas Lights; Greens & Ingramgate; Millennium Green; Open Areas; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party.
7. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 7th November 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Marshall, Pack, Roberts, Robinson, 1 member of the public, and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Murkett, Reynard and Salmon; accepted.

Minutes, 3rd October 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A82: Flower bed near Nat West Bank: Cllr Pack reported that there is to be a Thirsk in Bloom

committee meeting next Tuesday; committee members are to inspect plan proposed; consult with Mr Roberts NYCC; agrees repair work becoming more urgent.

A83: Little Green, re-turfing has taken place.

Craigs Way Playarea: Cllr Marshall proposed that a letter should be sent to Mr Philip Day, Record Playground Equipment, expressing Town Council disappointment re the installation of equipment; area safety surfacing not as agreed by committee and Mr A Brook, representative; promised installation during school summer holidays; did not give agreed time of notice (needed for Town Council to inform residents of inconvenience of work vehicles etc) so further delay happened; stated work would take 3-4 days to complete and when 'wet pour' put down would be guarded by night watchman to prevent being walked on; remedial work to surface necessary as there had not been a guard there; payment of invoice to be withheld until satisfactory, agreed.

Johnson Close, playarea: Quotes for work received from Kompan.

A84: Millgate Car Park Telephone kiosk removal: Cllr Marshall reported that she had contacted Mr A Goodwin, Head of Tourism, HDC, who is to contact the tour operators who use the car park regularly as a 'pick up and drop' point for their tours re the problem being faced by passengers going on the tours who wish to make arrangements for transport home, asking for passengers to be dropped off in the Market Place; it is thought that a misunderstanding re parking of the coaches visiting the World of James Herriot is to blame for the problem.

Hambleton Community Safety Partnership Group: Cllr Robinson reported on the recent meeting giving details of the requirements made by those present; such as copies of correspondence between the Town Council and HDC Environmental Health Department; The Group are to ask for better lighting in the Market Place.

Plaques: Cllr Marshall reported that there had been good feedback to the proposed scheme when it had been displayed at the Market Towns Regeneration AGM.

Correspondence:

Letter from Sowerby Parish Council re meeting when Mr K Watkins, Rights of Way Officer will attend to explain the position re Three Tuns Yard; Cllr Robinson to attend.

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Signage for Town Office: It was agreed to accept the quote from Mr R Cowells of £90; details to be sent to Mr M Cann, HDC for approval.

Fingerpost, Market Place painting: Quote of £100 from Mr R Cowells accepted.

Milestones, Stockton Road/Sutton Road: Quote of £40 from Mr R Cowells accepted; ask for the sign near Spa Farm to be painted as well; Sutton Road sign to be investigated as to its whereabouts.

Thirsk in Bloom: Letter of thanks from Thirsk in Bloom committee thanking Town Council for its support throughout the year.

FWAG, Centenary Field: Cost of survey requested by Open Areas committee will be £33 per hour estimated time required 3-4 hours; agreed to go ahead.

Farmer's Market: Reply from Mr M Kneebone, HDC re siting of the market on the same side of

the Market Place as the regular weekly market. Cllr Robinson proposed Cllr Pack seconded that Town Council reply stating disagreement.

Craigs Way playarea: Letter from a resident, Miss Tunnicliffe re the height of the surrounding fence; problems with footballs hitting cars parked on designated space; letter to explain 'open aspect' of playarea essential; Town Council will monitor the situation.

Mr Cross, Guisborough, Market Place Toilets, copy of letter sent to Mr S Quartermaine, HDC: Visitor expressing dismay at condition of toilets; reply to be sent explaining improvement work by HDC promised for early December; Cllr Marshall proposed, Cllr Pack seconded that the letter be copied and sent to the Leader of HDC, Cllr J Imeson, agreed.

HDC Flood Forum meeting: 18th November 2002 at 2.30pm, HDC Council Chambers.

Kompan quote, Johnson Close: repair steps up to slide and moving of both springers, surrounding ground worn: It was agreed not to go ahead at the moment as work was not absolutely necessary.

Playdale quotation - Holmes/Millennium Green/Shire Park: Holmes quote re repairs - £194.20 (agreed at earlier Amenity meeting)

Millennium Green: repairs - £77.20 - agreed.

Shire Park: Discounted price to replace faded panels; not acceptable; clerk to have meeting with Mr K Sellwood.

Duck springers, Abbey Park, Leicester: Clerk has contacted Amenity and Park Services Dept of the City Council; Ms Jarvis is unable to trace any duck springers and asked that we research the exact site and get back in touch; Cllr Pack to look again when in the area. Hambleton

Community Safety Partnership:

Action required from Town Council - details of evidence re litter clearing etc in Market Place - copies to be provided.

Record Playground Equipment: Seats/anti wrap bars East Thirsk: Clerk reported that Mr A Brook had taken the broken equipment to be laboratory tested; result that 'big kids' had been using it; Record had offered to discount replacements; Councillors agreed that the parts were not made of materials suitable to the purpose of the equipment; clerk to get back from Record; contact Trading Standards Dept; to inform Record that Town Council regret having paid for them as they only lasted 22 days.

Cllr Murkett had asked for the poor state of the footpath leading to the Town Office to be raised with HDC. Cllr Marshall explained that ownership is being looked into and is part of a market town Initiative scheme for improvement; agreed Town Council will take no action this time.

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Proposed Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: A meeting between Church officials, Diocesan architect, Town Councillors and an electrician with a sample light will be held on Wednesday 27th November 2002 at 4.30pm to agree positions etc of light. There will be a short meeting after the on site demonstration of lights; Clerk to give this information to Harvey Dowdy, Market Towns Initiative.

NYCC Committee for Hambleton meeting: to be held on 11th November 2002 in Committee Room, County Hall at 6.00pm, noted.

January Amenity Committee meeting to be held on 9th January in the Town Office if the Town Hall is booked for the Annual Pantomime.

Committee Reports:

Christmas Lights - Switch on 1st December 2002 at 3.00pm; tree to be installed on Friday 29th November by R S Hall Engineering; C Amy has agreed to put up fence around tree.

Green and Ingramgate - Cllr Robinson reported that the turf has been laid at Little Green; St James Green repairs to pot holes to be sorted next week.

Wheelie bins/black bags photographs shown Ingramgate: Cllr Robinson expressed concerns re the number of bags of rubbish left near bins not being removed by HDC; rubbish shown in Ingramgate was reported by Cllr Robinson so was collected; Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Pack seconded that the Town Council should contact Mr Ian Strong, YLCA re the statutory duty of HDC re waste collection, agreed.

Millennium Green: Annual General Meeting will be held on 20th November 2002 at 7.30pm.

Open Areas: Holmes picnic tables - wood being seasoned.

Finance Committee meeting arranged for 6th December 2002 at 8.00pm in Town Office. Budgets to Councillors - committees need to meet to consider budgets for 2002/3; chairmen to inform clerk of date; written notification to be sent to all committee members.

Thirsk in Bloom: Cllr Pack reported that TIC have agreed to display trophies won in Yorkshire in Bloom; original certificates to be framed and hung in Town Office; meeting to be held on 12th November 2002; bulb planting at 'entrances' to town has taken place; 60 hanging baskets now on display; tower to be removed to make way for Christmas tree.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Marshall has had a meeting with Mr G Holder and Mr C Vincent re trees/bins/signs etc in Market Place; problems of tree roots to be attended to as they are a hazard; Mr Holder has now accepted that HDC have some seats in Market Place; scheme of work being compiled by HDC. East Thirsk Community Association, OAP Christmas party will be held on 14th December 2002. Cllr Robinson has fixed 'Thirsk' sign back on York Road.

Cllr Roberts again asked for the 'mini' roundabouts to be painted as a safety measure; clerk to contact NYCC again.

Cllr Roberts reported on the recent Skate park meeting; a large number of skateboarders had attended as well as those who had attended earlier meetings; Mr D Goodwin, Head of Leisure Services HDC outlined the process that would have to be followed to get a skate park in the town; need to form a committee to take project

forward; next meeting on 25th November 2002; Cllr Roberts to draft letter for Mr B Charlton to distribute.

Cllr Marshall recommended that a film made by The Wheelers to assist skateboarders in Northallerton contained good information and was worth watching.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

The members of the public left the meeting.

The Planning Committee meeting arranged to take place before this meeting was not quorate so it was agreed that the Councillors present (except Cllr Robinson) should consider the plans before the Planning Committee for consultation. Details of decisions have been included on the minutes of the Planning meeting which had to be abandoned.

Exclusion of the press and public for a "Staff-in-Confidence" item proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

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Confidential Item:

Resignation of Town Clerk.

Cllr Robinson read a letter of resignation he had received from the Town Clerk. Councillors expressed their surprise and then thanked the clerk for her work. Personnel meeting arranged for Monday 11th November 2002 at 7.30 in the town Office.

The meeting closed at 10:20pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 18th November 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 21st October 2002.
3. To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 21st October 2002.

6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To receive Planning Committee report
11. To receive Burial Board report.
12. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

There will be a confidential item at the end of this meeting re staff replacement.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 18th November 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Hubbard, Marshall, Pack, Reynard and Roberts, 1 member of the public, 2 Police Officers, the clerk and the assistant clerk.

Apologies:

Received from Cllrs Jackson, Murkett and Salmon.

Minutes, 21st October 2002:

P1318: County Council report add 'Mr J Walker NYCC, Chief Executive, and re footpath Three Tuns Yard'.

P1320: Typing space error - should read 'Sowerby PC: a letter received was read re Right of Way Three Tuns Yard etc.etc.

After alterations approval proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Police Report:

Sgt Hunter and PC Dundon in attendance. Sgt Hunter asked why police attendance at Town Council meetings had been questioned as Insp Broadley had explained at a Town Council meeting some time ago that the police would attend when work allowed or if a particular issued

raised by either the Town Council or the police made attendance necessary and the Town Council had agreed to this; Councillors explained the misunderstanding that had arisen from a query raised by Cllr Murkett and minuted in Police Report of the last meeting.

Cllr Bull arrived.

Sgt Hunter explained that the latest 'purse snatch' incident appeared to be connected to the incident earlier in Millgate car park.

Cllr Hubbard raised the problem the town had experienced when football coaches with Leeds and Liverpool supporters. The police unable to prevent coaches visiting the town; do not have the manpower to cope with so many supporters; towns with football clubs within their boundaries are equipped to deal with large numbers on a regular basis; Councillors were pleased to hear of a 'network' between the police and landlords to help cope with a sudden influx of either football supporters or the racegoers.

Cllr Marshall complimented the Police and CCTV coverage of the problems faced in the Market Place.

Cllr Bull asked if any further details re an incident on Shire Park on Sunday could be given; police did not have much further information.

Cllr Robinson felt there had been fewer incidents in the town since the Community Safety Partnership had been formed.

Cllr Robinson thanked the police for attending before they left the meeting.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

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Matters Arising:

Farmer's Market, position in the Market Place: Cllr Hubbard asked if anything had been done; letter had been sent to Mr Kneebone HDC requesting that the stalls are placed next to the regular stalls; Cllr Robinson had raised the problem with Cllr A Barker, deputy leader HDC; Cllr Hubbard reported that Thirsk Chamber of Trade agreed with the Town Council - all the stalls should be on same side.

Flooding in Finkle Street: Cllr Marshall had been told the recent problem had been caused by leaves; work still unfinished; Finkle Street to be closed on Sunday 24th November 2002.

Tourist Information signs in town: Cllr Marshall reported that she had been assured that the new ones, with the correct direction would be in position for the new season.

The annual accounts to be completed and presented at the next Amenity meeting.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall reported the order to repaint the mini roundabouts at Town End and Stammergate/Long Street had gone out.

Three Tuns Yard, Right of Way: Cllr Marshall had spoken of the problem at NYCC Council meeting; Mr K Watkins, NYCC Rights of Way Officer had visited Sowerby Parish Council

meeting; he had given evidence of use from 1950's; he had visited the site before Sowerby Parish Council meeting, had met the new owners and is to visit again the following day; if proved as a right of way new wall will be removed; to be on agenda of next NYCC Committee for Hambleton meeting, 9th December 2002, at Great Ayton.

Cllr Marshall reported that the police precepts for 2003/4 would be higher than last year's increase.

A library survey has taken place; room for improvement in all aspects.

District Council Report;

Cllr Robinson reported that Hambleton Community Safety Partnership had appointed a Drugs Officer - Tricia Thornton.

CCTV has now officially moved to HDC offices.

Cllr Marshall reported she had not attended the HDC Flood Forum meeting held today; as it was for the Northallerton areas affected; scheme for Thirsk due, will be issued shortly.

Wheelie bins: HDC producing further leaflets for every household; HDC have learned a lot and are now getting less complaints; during Christmas period there is to be a 'black bin collection' each week.

Market Place Toilets: Cllr Marshall gave 2 dates for work to be done - beginning 2nd December for 3 weeks or 3 weeks in January; Cllrs discussed then voted, 4 for 4 against - chairman's casting vote was against December closing, therefore work to be done in January 2003; Cllr Marshall to inform Mr S Quartermaine; Cllr Reynard asked for notices to be displayed in the toilets informing the public of closure and nearest toilets; HDC to be asked to do this.

Cllr Pack asked if HDC are intending to extend the 'green box' collection of waste for recycling; scheme to be kept as it is without extension at the moment.

A member of the public arrived.

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Accounts:

The payment of the following accounts was proposed by Cllr Bull seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

CE & CM Walker, grasscutting £714.40

Zurich Municipal, safety conference £99.88

Yorkshire Water, cemetery £134.96

Todd, empty skip £115.55

Curtains & Blinds, office windows £152.75

K Dickinson, clean office windows £6.00

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall, room hire £200.00

C Amy:

Weekly insp. Playareas £203.50

Mill Gardens, litter pick, prune etc £150.00

Picnic area, litter pick reinstate grass £95.00

Castlegarth, weekly litter pick £40.00

Holmes/Centenary/Carrs Field, hedges £150.00
Little Green, remove soil/turf £800.00
White Mare roundabout/Shrubbery, prune/weed £25.00
Staples, office furniture/stationery £456.70
Petty Cash £50.00
HDC, C Tax office DD £125.00
Since the last meeting:
J Harron, salary £ 238.33
FD Todd & Sons, empty 3skips £286.70
Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust, insurance etc £344.58

Memorials:

The approval of the following applications proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.
Application to erect a memorial;
William R Forster
William J. Harm J.P.
Emmeline (Cissie) Marshall
Application for additional inscription to an existing memorial
Frances Nolan Gray

Correspondence:

G Garbutt, copied to Cllrs, details noted; discussion followed re the request for 'reasons' to be given in detail with decision made on a planning consultation in Town Council planning minutes; agreed to ask YLCA for advice.
Transfer of Licence, Blacksmiths, Arms, agreed, usual terms for new licensee to attend suitable course.
Transfer of Licence, Lord Nelson, St James Green, Thirsk, agreed, usual terms for new licensee to attend suitable course.

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HDC - Development Services Best Value Review, Challenge Event, 13th December 2002, date noted.
HDC Council Tax for Parishes, 2003/2004, noted.
HDC, street naming, houses in Three Tuns yard: Cllr Roberts suggested Three Tuns Court and Cllr Robinson Three Tuns Mews.
CAB - Request for funding, to be put on next Town Council agenda.
NYCC Rights of Way, Three Tuns Yard, letter informing Town Council of meeting held at Sowerby Parish Council.
HDC Community Safety Partnership information request: Cllr Robinson had given details of the meeting; copies of Town Council/HDC contact re cleanliness and toilets in the town to be supplied as requested. Graham Flatt - Thank you letter, read.

From Tabled Correspondence:

Royal Mail pilot scheme in the area has finished; Councillors felt the decision in principal had been made; single delivery per day no problem; some areas too late in the day, needs to be earlier; opening hours for collection of mail poor, needs to be more customer friendly. YRCC meeting, 28th February - 2nd March 2003, Scarborough: Cllr Adamson wishes to go on Saturday 1st March 2003, agreed to book now.

Planning Report:

Minutes - 21st October 2002 and 7th November 2002:

Approval for both meetings proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Burial Board:

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report; meeting will be held shortly re budget and future plans.

Representatives Reports:

East Thirsk Community Association; Cllr Adamson reported that a new booking clerk and new caretaker had been appointed; details to be supplied to the Town Office; GAP party to be held on 14th December 2002.

Carrs Field: Cllr Hubbard reported that the appointment of a Town Council nominated trustee had expired; proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed to re nominate Mrs S Dodds (5 year term).

The landscaping scheme had finally been accepted and agreed by HDC. BT pole - time given for response by Eccles Heddon has expired; Town Council to follow up their letter.

All the companies who agreed to donate work or materials to the original skateboard area are still willing to help; work could begin within a month of the pole being removed.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Hubbard reported on the recent AGM; Mr D Moore had agreed to remain chairman, even though he is retiring; vice chairman - Mrs P Bruce has agreed to stand again. The Chamber of Trade are very concerned re the loss of car parking in the town when the Farmer's Market is held; agree with Town Council that it should be sited on the same side as the regular weekly market; proposals that Chamber/Town Council/HDC to meet to discuss position of stalls. Wheelie bin confusion, black bags for flats and black bags uncollected had been discussed.

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North Yorkshire Market Towns Forum: Cllr Hubbard reported that there are 28 market towns in North Yorkshire; meeting 25th January 2003 in Masham Town Hall or Thirsk Racecourse; representatives from NYCC etc to attend; Harvey Dowdy to speak at this event. There will be invitations for 3 from each town to attend -suggested it should be one councillor, the clerk and a member of the Chamber of Trade.

YLCA Hambleton Branch meeting; Cllr Marshall had attended.

Thirsk Clock Cafe: Cllr Pack reported; she had not been at the recent meeting; hopefully a manager had been appointed (still to accept appointment).

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall: Cllr Roberts reported that the secretary had resigned; post will be advertised in Thirsk Advertiser (December edition). The new toilets at the rear of the stage are now completed.

HDC Flood Forum meeting: Cllr Roberts had attended on behalf of the Town Council; the meeting mainly for flood areas in Northallerton/Brompton/Romanby. New appointments to oversee sewage/water treatment should localise the knowledge and therefore improve services. The plan for Thirsk area is ready; Mr D McGloin is contacting involved landowners before publication.

Remembrance Day Service: Cllr Robinson reported on the day and thanked Councillors for attending.

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative: Cllr Roberts reported that the AGM had taken place followed by a public meeting at which there were displays of work done/in progress/and that which is being planned. It was reported that the project for Thirsk Forrest is to go ahead. There had been a question and answer session.

Members Reports:

Cllr Adamson enquired if the donation to CCA had been made; clerk to attend to this.

Cllr Hubbard said he was pleased with the improvements being made to drains etc in Finkle Street.

Cllr Bull: Asked for details of Skateboard Park meeting that was held on 25th October 2002; Cllr Roberts gave brief details; a further meeting will be held to form a trust; Mr Charlton, Thirsk community Education is to distribute details to parents; Cllr Hubbard informed the meeting that Thirsk Racecourse were in favour providing noise was kept to a minimum.

Cllr Marshall: Long Street Enhancement is to have a feasibility study done by HDC.

Cllr Pack: Planter in need of repair near Nat West Bank - will bring plan to Amenity meeting.

Cllr Marshall reported on recent 'film making' project; results had been very good and shown on 2nd November 2002.

Exclusion of press and public for a "Staff-in-Confidence" item proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

1 member of the public and the press reporter left the meeting.

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Confidential Items:

Personnel Committee:

A meeting had been held in the Town Office on 11th November 2002; Cllr Pack had been elected chairman; it is recommended that the post of clerk should be full time; funding for this proposal available in the Burial Board budget, some had been delegated for use re the clerk's salary; Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Roberts seconded that the post should be advertised full time, unanimously agreed. Applications for the post will have to be received by 6* December (12

noon); meeting 9th December 2002 to open and shortlist applications; interviews to be held before Christmas.

The clerk and the assistant clerk left the meeting while the next item was discussed.

Clerk's Salary:

It was agreed that the clerk's salary should have an increase in line with NALC recommendations, backdated to April 2002.

The time of the closure of the meeting was not recorded

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 5th December 2002 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 7th November 2002.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 7th November 2002.
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To approve accounts for 2001/2.
6. To complete representatives list.
7. To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field; Central Areas; Christmas Lights; Greens & Ingramgate; Millennium Green; Open Areas; Thirsk in Bloom; -Town Development Working Party.

8. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 5th December 2002 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Hubbard, Marshall, Pack, Reynard, Robinson, the clerk and the assistant clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Jackson, Roberts and Salmon. Acceptance proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Minutes, 7th November 2002:

Should read 'D Goodwin'.

Approval proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A85: Flower bed near Nat West Bank: In need of urgent attention as loose bricks causing concern; Cllr Pack to contact Mr Burnett to ask for quote; clerk to contact Mr Burnett for urgent repair.

Johnson Close playarea: clerk has replied to Kompan re quotes.

Three Tuns Footpath: Cllr Marshall reported that this is on the agenda of Hambleton Area Committee meeting on 9th December 2002 at Great Ayton Village Hall; members need to be satisfied that use of the footpath has been sustained since 1966; Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that the landlady of the Three Tuns Hotel is objecting to the right of way as it did not appear in the land search that she had done on purchasing the hotel, and has appointed a barrister to represent her.

A86: Town Office: Pictures of the proposed signage have been sent to Mr M Cann, HDC; a rail has been installed around the ramp at the entrance to the office but gullies are needed to prevent water entering the office door; it was agreed that ownership of the footpath needs to be determined before any improvements to the footpath can be made; an objection had been received from an elderly member of the public to the ramp which now blocks part of the footpath.

Fingerposts: Repainting of the finger post is on hold due to weather conditions. Farmer's Market.

No reply from Mr M Kneebone re re-siting the market stalls.

Craigs Way Playarea: Reply has been sent to Miss Tunnicliffe re ball games on the play area.

The Holmes/Millennium Green Playareas: Play dale are due to undertake work week beginning 16th December 2002.

Seats/anti wrap bars, East Thirsk: Still waiting for the return of the damaged equipment from Record Playground Equipment.

A87: Proposed Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Cllr Hubbard and Cllr Robinson attended a site meeting on 27th November 2002; number of lights is to be reduced to 8 to make the scheme cost effective as current funding is £4,500. It was proposed that the majority of lights be 150W, with 2 at 75W to prevent dazzle; report of planned positions and recommendations to be sent by Diocesan architect to Mr Wilkinson, PCC who will forward a copy to the Town Council. Cllr Marshall suggested Thirsk Regeneration Initiative would put money towards scheme; Cllr Robinson explained that the church had no funds available to add and that Town Council would be

expected to make funds available for the budget; Cllr Hubbard added that some churches have

sponsorship of lights to illuminate them; Cllr Marshall proposed contacting HDC re planning and archaeological advice and that 4 or 5 quotes be obtained from local electricians seconded Cllr Robinson, agreed.

January Amenity Committee Meeting will be held on 9th January 2003 in the Upper Room of the Town Hall.

Greens and Ingramgate - The new turf laid at Little Green is badly damaged due to cars driving over it; arrangements have been made to remove the abandoned cars but it has not happened to date.

Wheelie bins/black bags: A reply re the obligation of the District Council to collect rubbish has been received and copied to each Councillor.

Finance Meeting: The Finance meeting scheduled for Friday 6th December 2002 will now take place on Thursday 12th December 2002 at 8.00pm in the Town Office. It was suggested by Cllr Robinson that Friday was not a popular night to attend meetings.

Mini roundabouts, repainting: The clerk has identified the 'mini' roundabouts in need of painting to NYCC.

Cllr Hubbard reported on the recent skatepark meeting at which 6 people had been present, namely B Franks, W Charlton, Dr Kaysee, Cllrs Roberts Bull and Hubbard; no parents were present; Cllr Bull, W Charlton and B Franks have met to draw up a constitution; meeting is planned for 13th January 2003 to form a committee and progress as a community project. Cllr Adamson suggested that the names of all interested parties be passed to Mr W Charlton, Thirsk Community Education, for future communications and that he be asked to contact all schools in the area. It was suggested that an allowance be made in Town Council budget for funding and that Sowerby and Carlton Miniott Councils be contacted re the possibility of a community funded project.

Correspondence:

Letter from Eccles Heddon re Millennium Green/Tranmire Ditch: Cllr Marshall outlined the background history regarding ownership of Tranmire Ditch and proposed the appointment of Eccles Heddon to do a pre-feasibility study to establish ownership, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Mill Gardens: Permission has now been granted for the necessary work to be carried out on the Crack Willow trees; work expected to start next week.

Community Safety Partnership: Ms. Tricia Thornton has been appointed as drugs officer.

Carrs Field, Ethel Johnson Bequest, Trustee vacancy: Mr Ray Ballard has retired from the Trust: Cllr Adamson proposed Mr T. Jordan as nominated trustee; seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Letter thanks from Mrs J Burrows, St James Green re new turf, noted.

Invitation from Lord Mayor of York, 13th January 2003 to Thirsk Mayor: Cllr Robinson unable to attend; Cllr Adamson agreed to accept the invitation.

NYCC Highways Act re Rights of Way, Stoneybrough Farm, York Road: details noted.

ROSPA report: Copied and distributed to Councillors on Open Areas Committee.

Accounts 2001/2002.

This item to be added to the Town Council agenda as accounts were not available at this meeting.

Representatives List:

Not available at this meeting.

Planning:

Councillors considered the planning applications for consultation that should have been considered by the planning committee (not quorate) prior to this meeting.

It was agreed to keep a copy of all planning forms sent to HDC for Town Council records. Cllr Robinson took no part in the planning consultation.

Committee Reports:

Mill Gardens - A larger waste bin has been ordered; the broken plank in the seat has been repaired; the seat around the tree has been removed for repair.

Christmas Lights - Councillors remarked that the lights in the town looked good and offered their thanks to Mr H Woodhead, Mr R S Hall and Mr G Johnstone.

Open Areas: Skateboard Areas - Cllr Marshall suggested a contribution towards the skateboard area should be included in the Town Council budget for 2003.

Ginnels in the Town: Cllr Marshall hopes that match funding from Thirsk Regeneration will be available for a footpath improvement scheme.

A question was asked as to who is responsible for cutting the grass area outside the ambulance station; clerk to investigate.

Holmes, Footpaths/bridges/steps; Work to be carried out shortly.

Thirsk in Bloom - 6 pots are available free of charge from Todds to replace the old ones at The Holmes; Thirsk in Bloom will organise planting; Thanks were given to Mr Hall for removing the flower 'tower'.

Central Areas; Cllr Hubbard asked for flower tub repair (NatWest) to be done as a matter of urgency.

Other Items of Interest and Information.

Cllr Hubbard reported that there is a large quantity of leaves on the path from Little Green to Ingramgate; clerk to contact Mr P Penny, NYCC Paths Officer.

Cllr Hubbard informed the meeting that funding (£1,500) has been allocated for a 3 day Christmas Fair in the town in 2003; Ms Harvey Dowdy hopes to employ someone to organise the scheme; meeting in January to set the project up.

Cllr Adamson reminded members that East Thirsk OAP Christmas party is on 14th December 2002.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 16th December 2002 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 18th November 2002.
3. To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 18th November 2002.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To approve accounts for 2001/2
11. To resolve donation to Citizens Advice Bureau
12. To receive Planning Committee report
13. To receive Burial Board report.
14. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 16th December 2002 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present:

Cllrs Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Jackson, Marshall, Murkett, Reynard and Roberts, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Hubbard and Pack.

Apologies accepted proposed Cllr Murkett seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Minutes, 18th November 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Police Report:

No police present.

Cllr Jackson had interpreted the arrangement with the Police 'being present regularly' as attending each month; Cllr Murkett took the arrangement to mean at least 3 or 4 times per year; Cllr Roberts added that the misunderstanding that had arisen had been correctly explained in the minutes. Cllr Murkett still not satisfied.

Press reporter arrived.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising:

P1326: Cllr Roberts asked why the mini-roundabouts were still not painted. Clerk reported that NYCC had put an instruction out for the work to be done.

Cllr Reynard asked had notices of closure been put up in the toilets in the Market Place? Not known; Cllr Marshall to enquire at HDC.

P1328: Clerk reported on the meeting with BT re pole on St James Green; Cllr Hubbard, Clerk and Mr Pepperday BT, and BT Technician had met and agreed suitable position for the pole to be moved to; way leave necessary; hopes for work to be done in early January.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall reported that the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday would be preparing the budget for 2003/4.

Recent Performance Assessment of NYCC by Audit Commission had averaged out at 'fair' - some departments quite good whilst others not so good. Cllr Marshall read out details, which showed on balance, NYCC to be around the middle; gave some details of how improvements are to be made.

From Committee for Hambleton meeting (Great Ayton): Cherry Garth will continue, giving a better service and a full consultation will take place before any major changes occur.

Three Tuns Yard Footpath: The decision had been deferred; the report presented showed that the footpath had been well used for many years; improved evidence (including from Sowerby Parish Council) to be put forward at March Committee for Hambleton meeting.

Long Street, speed of traffic: Cllr Marshall had details of a survey carried out while work was being carried out on the A19 and Finkle Street; in general under 30mph but some vehicles travelling much faster. Cllr Murkett asked if a similar survey on entry to the town on Northallerton Road could be done and suggested 40mph should be extended before bends in order to steady speed.

Cllr Robinson felt 20mph in all built-up areas would be the answer. Cllr Reynard said that traffic calming is urgently needed near St Mary's Church. Cllr Robinson asked if changes of Parliamentary boundaries had been agreed; Cllr Marshall said that the preliminary plan would be out for consultation in February; North Yorkshire is set to lose a seat.

District Council Report:

Cllr Robinson HDC had received money from DEFRA for recycling objectives.

HDC had been awarded Beacon Status for helping the homeless (giving advice etc).

Article 4 Direction had come into force in November - some new areas in Thirsk.

Cllr Marshall has seen proposed plan of 'wall' for Mill Gardens area to prevent flooding; experts are being consulted as to where water will go if it is built. Cllr Adamson felt that a wall could just be moving the problem further along the beck.

Cllr Marshall reported the HDC Culture & Social Scrutiny Committee are looking to make a decision for regulating drinking in public areas in Northallerton and Great Ayton and have decided to consider District as a 'whole'.

Accounts:

Payment of the following accounts proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Adamson,

Aire Valley Tree Services, Town Hall tree £87.50

Bow House Ltd, advert Herriot Country 2003 £666.23

Playground Management Services, inspection £408.90

Cod Beck Internal Drainage Board, drainage rate £19.25

Staples, stationery £38.34

BT, office phone £163.21

Sowerby Parish Council: grasscutting, Flatts/ Miss Warner's land £457.33

HDC, office rent(1/06/02 - 31/08/02) £443.65

Colour Centre, filler/scrapper £5.98

D J Mann, clean bus shelter windows £81.00

Carrs Field, Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust, insurance/nets £344.58

C. Amy:

Weekly insp, playareas £162.80

Mill Gardens, litter etc £120.00

Picnic Area, litter etc £40.00

Castlegarth, litter picking £40.00

Picnic Area, clean/stain benches £120.00

K Dickinson, clean office windows, £6.00

J Harron, salary December £238.33
A Robinson, Mayor's allowance £400.00
J Balmain, repair of seat, Mill gardens £50.00

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Paid since last meeting:

J Harron, salary, November £ 238.33
YRCC, meeting 1st March 2003 £50.53
Trevor lies Ltd, litter bin, Mill Gardens £446.50
Johnston Publishing, advert, new clerk £169.77

Correspondence:

Information Commissioner - Freedom of Information Act: Town Council scheme has been accepted.

NYCC proposed waiting restrictions, York Road: discussed and noted.

HDC Register of Electors, 2003: received and noted (to be kept in Town Office).

HDC Street naming and numbering, Chapel Street, 1-4 Chapel Mews: noted.

HDC Public Path Diversion Order No 2002/01, development Picks Lane: noted.

HDC Christmas tree recycling: depots noted.

VOA, rateable value of Town Office: noted.

Sowerby Parish Council, Town Hall, necessary tree surgery: noted.

15A Castlegate, pre-application plans: Councillors studied the plans; acceptable as far as details shown; Councillors wish to see the area developed.

Approval of Accounts 2001/2002:

Cllr Marshall explained the significant increase in amounts in the accounts, both in and out, were due to the building of the Town Hall Annex. It was proposed to send a covering letter to accountants explaining the situation. Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed (6 for 1 abstain).

Cllr Marshall proposed Cllr Roberts seconded that the following item be added to the published agenda, agreed.

Precept 2003/2004:

Cllr Marshall explained the details of the precept agreed at the recent finance meeting at which the budgets of all the committees had been discussed. The Finance Committee had agreed on a precept of £96,000 for 2003/4. However after looking at the proposals again Cllr Marshall had reduced it to £95,000. Cllr Marshall proposed that the Town Council should precept for £95,000 seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed (6 for 1 abstain).

Cllr Roberts declared in the next item and took no part in the decision.

Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau:

Cllr Marshall proposed Cllr Murkett seconded the donation that had been included in the year's budget, agreed. It was agreed to send a letter giving the CAB the support of the Town Council and to ask for more hours in Thirsk on any day other than Monday.

Planning Committee Report:

Minutes: 18th November 2002: Approval proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

5 December 2002: Approval proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Reynard, agreed.

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Burial Board:

Cllr Adamson did not have anything to report.

Representative's Reports:

Thirsk Infant's School Charity: Cllr Marshall said that Thirsk Library is celebrating its 21st Birthday tomorrow with a small presentation and a cake.

YLCA: Cllr Roberts had attended a meeting where discussion on planning took place; it appears that some developers are putting in applications for 2 small developments rather than one larger one to avoid paying cash for the creation of playareas; YLCA are monitoring the situation.

Citizen's Advice Bureau: Cllr Roberts reported that the AGM is on 19th December 2002 at 5.30pm at Northallerton.

East Thirsk Community Association: Cllr Adamson reported that there had been 2 new appointments, a booking clerk and a caretaker; recent OAP Christmas Dinner had been a success; the entertainer had not charged.

Thirsk Community Primary School: Cllr Adamson said that the Internet Access agreement (an agreement made between the school and parents which allows pupils to access the internet) had come into force.

On Thursday 19th December 2002 the school choir will be singing in St Mary's Church.

East Thirsk Youth Club: Cllr Robinson gave a report on a recent meeting at which it had been agreed that the club should be wound up; funds in hand to be distributed; £1,000 to Thirsk Clock Cafe; £1,000 to skate park area when properly constituted; the remainder to East Thirsk Community Hall.

Cllr Murkett had represented North Yorkshire Local Councils Association at NALC AGM; Cllr Murkett has been returned as vice chairman for the coming year.

Millennium Green: Cllr Marshall reported that there had been a Millennium Green conference in York; an association for Millennium Greens had been formed to give help and support in the future.

Members Reports:

Cllr Jackson thanked all those who had worked towards the success of the Christmas tree and

lights; the display in the town continues to improve.

Cllr Roberts expressed her concern re the use of tarmac on the pavements in the Market Place; the latest, a large patch outside the Black Bull; clerk to contact Mr M Roberts, NYCC and Mr G Holder HOC asking for the areas to be paved.

Cllr Robinson thanked Cllr Marshall for her work on preparing this year's precept.

Exclusion of press and public for a "staff-in-confidence item" proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

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Confidential Item.

New Clerk.

The Personnel Committee reported that three applications have been received and it had agreed to interview all the applicants; interviews to take place in the Town Office on the 17th December 2003.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in the Town Hall Upper Room
on Thursday 9th January 2003 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda;

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 5th December 2002.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 5th December 2002.
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To discuss grass cutting contracts for 2003.
6. To receive reports from the following committees:
Carrs Field; Central Areas; Christmas Lights; Greens & Ingramgate; Millennium Green; Open Areas; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party.
7. To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 9th January 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Upper Room, Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Bull Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Reynard, Roberts and Robinson and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Murkett, Pack and Salmon and the press reporter and Cllr Marshall late arrival).

Minutes, 5th December 2002:

Approval proposed Cllr Hubbard seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Matters Arising:

Flower tub, Nat West Bank - has been repaired.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

Three Tuns Yard, Right of Way: It was suggested that Mr H Woodhead could have photographs and information.

Farmer's Market, position of stalls: Still no reply from Mr Kneebone, HDC.

Holmes/Millennium Green: Playdale are due to carry out work week beginning 13th January 2003.

Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Queries have been raised by most of the electricians contacted re details supplied by Church architects and surveyors.

Proposed Skate Park: Clerk has given all relevant information to Mr W Charlton, Thirsk Community Education. Town Council will pay for the hire of the Town Hall for meetings held to date; clerk to inform Mr Charlton.

Mill Gardens: Waste bin has been installed.

Flood Wall: Cllr Marshall showed small diagram of proposed wall, to be discussed at next Flood Forum, 20th January 2003.

Concern that there had not been any flood warning when the beck was within 6 inches of coming over.

Damaged seats, Holmes: Clerk to inform the new HDC Dog Warden.

Correspondence:

HDC, Refurbishment Toilets, Market Place: A fax has been received from Mr Kendall stating that there will be a delay in the commencement of the refurbishment to the third week in February; Town Council will be notified of exact date when known.

70-73 St James Green, Letter from Mr R Todd re a flood wall: details given were discussed; agreed to reply saying that the Town Council is interested and sympathetic to the situation; to say that planning permission would be necessary and that the wall is within the Article 4 Direction area and to ask the following questions: had it been established where the water that flooded the properties came from? And had the Internal Drainage Board and Environment agency been consulted at any stage?

Mrs Brown, 43 St Mary's Walk, re trees etc near her home: Passed to Cllr Adamson to study.

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Thirsk Community Woodlands Group, Founder Tree Planting: Councillors suggested the following areas - open area, White Rose Way, Open spaces on South Dowber lane, Centenary Field, Carrs field, Jungle field and Sutton Road (old road); Clerk to contact Mr M I' Anson.

HDC, Flood Forum: Meeting, 20th January 2002, Civic Centre, Northallerton; minutes to follow.

HDC, Proposed Footway Lighting, Castlegarth: Councillors studied plan supplied; Cllr Marshall gave newer Councillors a 'potted' history of the area; had already spoken to Mr N Bailey, HDC

with reasons not to go ahead as proposed and details why; Councillors agreed; clerk to inform in writing.

Grasscutting, 2003:

newly grassed areas on Little Green to be added; tender forms to be sent to the usual contractors; to be sent back by next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Central Areas: Cllr Hubbard reported that a lamp standard in the Market Place had been knocked down; felt NYCC needed to be complimented on their prompt response; Town Council to request matching lamp.

Christmas Lights: Cllr Jackson asked that the Chamber of Trade be congratulated on the fine display this year.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Three Tuns Yard, Right of Way: Cllr Marshall read a letter she had received from Mr M Moore, NYCC, on how Mr Watkins, Rights of Way Officer, had compiled the details presented to Sowerby Parish Council and for the NYCC Committee for Hambleton; Sowerby supported the Town Council and it was agreed to work together; letter from Sowerby to be brought to the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Robinson had received notice that the work by Transco for British Gas in Castlegate is to begin week commencing 13th January 2003.

The meeting closed at 10.01pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 20th January 2003 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 16th December 2002.
3. To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 18th November 2002,
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council

7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To elect a representative for the Skate Park Committee
11. To consider forming a Working Party for the Church Lighting project.
12. To receive Planning Committee report
13. To receive Burial Board report.
14. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 20th January 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllr Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Reynard, Roberts and Salmon, Sgt J Hunter, 1 member of the public, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

(for late arrival) Cllrs Bull, Marshall and Murkett.

Minutes:

16th December 2002.

P1331 - Police Report, add 'and Cllr Jackson' not satisfied.

PI334 - East Thirsk Community Primary School Report, change 'prevents' to 'allows'.

After the above amendments were made approval was proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Police Report:

Sgt Hunter gave brief details re the recent spate of 'walk in' burglaries for which 2 people are being held in custody and of the burglaries in St Mary's Walk area in the early evening time.

The traffic problems of Sutton Bank were discussed.

Sgt Hunter asked if he had misunderstood the arrangement where by the Police attend meetings when shifts and work permit and if specially requested to do so by the Town Council. Cllr Adamson said that the Town Council had always accepted that police work had to come first and therefore the minutes of the previous meeting were correct.

Cllr Robinson asked if Sgt Hunter had seen the barriers around the roadworks in Castlegate? He will look as he leaves the meeting.

Thanks expressed to Sgt Hunter for attending.

Sgt Hunter left the meeting.

Open Forum:

No one wished to speak.

Matters Arising:

PI 331: Notice in the toilets, Market Place: Cllr Reynard asked if a notice had been put up re the closure by HDC? Clerk to check and request if not done.

Chief Constable Della Canning is to attend the Annual Parish meeting on 17th March 2003.

PI332: Flood Wall, Mill Gardens: Cllr Robinson reported on the HDC Flood Forum meeting he had attended earlier in the day; the cost of the wall, if built, could be £75,000; the points raised at the last amenity meeting had been put to the Forum by Cllrs Marshall and Robinson.

Cllr Pack asked what the residents of the area thought of the proposal? Not known as they had not been represented at the meeting.

PI333: Tarmac repairs to paving, Market Place: Concern that paving had still not been re installed after underground work has taken place; (near Royal Hotel/Black Bull) clerk to contact Mr Clive Thornton, HDC.

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Cllr Bull arrived.

District Council Reports:

Cllr Robinson reported that HDC had obtained a portable showcase so that items of interest and value can be displayed by organisations in locations previously restricted.

Herriot Centre: Free admission to Hambleton residents on 24th/25t /26l January -proof of residing in Hambleton District area needed.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Farmer's Market, Thirsk: Cllr Robinson read details provided by HDC officers to the committee in which it stated that Thirsk Town Council had made a 'negative response' when all the Town Council had requested was that the stalls be put on the same side as the regular market stalls in order to save valuable parking spaces and for safety reasons;

Thirsk Chamber of Trade has asked Mr S Quartermaine, HDC to attend their next meeting to discuss the situation;

Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Jackson seconded that a letter should be sent tomorrow to Mr P Simpson, HDC Chief Executive, complaining re the lack of consultation and pointing out the inaccuracies in the report; asking for the letter to be made available to HDC Councillors before the decision is made on Thursday;

Cllr Robinson is to attend the meeting at which he will be allowed to speak for 3 minutes. Cllr Robinson expressed his disgust at the information given to Council Tax payers re the collection of wheelie bins over the Christmas period resulting in bins, green and black, plus bags of rubbish being left out everywhere in the town.

Cllr Marshall reported on the HDC Flood Forum meeting held today; further details and concerns to be addressed before consultation can take place.

Cllr Murkett arrived.

IDB have asked for a study of possible effects on surrounding areas; to look at areas for holding water before the town; not much space for this as already working fairly well; warning systems had been queried; the silting of the river near the bridges needs attention again; Cllr Murkett reported this problem had only occurred since a local builder, who used to remove the gravel, had retired.

Cllr Adamson raised the matter of the meeting being 'private' when the leaflet issued by HDC referred to residents being included in discussion re the future plans.

Cllr Marshall reported that HDC officers had looked at the bollards etc in the Market Place and necessary work has gone out to tender; trees in the Market Place are in need of attention, roots protruding above paving are a danger; survey on the best approach being carried out.

Drinking in public places has been under discussion at HDC for Northallerton and Great Ayton; Cllr Salmon queried why these towns had qualified so quickly when Thirsk had been refused at least twice; Cllr Robinson explained that new powers are now in existence but the decision had been 'called in' and is supposed to be a pilot scheme with public consultation taking place; discussion on race day drinking in the town followed.

Hambleton Community Safety Partnership is studying the safety of footpaths and ginnels with the possibility of closing some.

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County Council Report.

Cllr Marshall reported that the NYCC Committee for Hambleton meeting had discussed the budget for 2003/4.

Community Education meeting at Thirsk; There are now 2 Detached Youth Workers, who work twice a week; 60 students are doing Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Accounts:

M Burnett:

Remove seat, Cemetery Lane, remove sign old office, fit metal shelves new office, pictures etc
£60.00

Refit stone coping, sign Sutton road,

Remove seat & metal legs, Mill Gardens,

Fill metal posts, Town Clock,

Repair door, town clock,

Carrs Field & Whitelass repair steps with stone £250.00

1 tonne crusher run, for steps £18.00

Take down & rebuild stone corner, (Nat West Bank) trough £65.00

Make and fit notice board, new office £36.00

Lockwood, hinge: notice board £18.75

Mill Gardens, remove litterbin, move litterbin, install new litterbin £50.00

Castlegarth, reposition seat and secure £36.00

C Amy:

Weekly insp, playareas, plus Millennium Green, plus Craigs way £302.80 Mill Gardens,
£120.00

Picnic area, litter pick £40.00

Castlegarth, litter pick, clear glass £40.00

Millennium Green, remove blackthorn £140.00

Mill Gardens, tree surgery £400.00

Holmes Management plan £380.00

East Thirsk play area, hedge cutting £15.00

Christmas Lights, fencing £ 80.00

Staples, stationery £37.53

HDC, office rent £660.94

K Dickinson, clean office windows £4.00

Paid since last meeting:

Thirsk Chamber of Trade, donation Christmas Lights £300.00

Community Care Association, donation £500.00 A M Wilkinson, salary 2 months £1414.58

Memorials:

Application to erect a memorial:

Robert Stuart

Emily Elisabeth Stuart

This application was deferred; Burial Board to consider.

P1339

Application for an additional inscription: Lily Dalton Approval
proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Suspension of Standing Orders:

To 10.30pm proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Correspondence:

NYCC - North Yorkshire Market Towns Seminar 25th January 2003. Cllr Marshall had already accepted invitation to attend; agreed to report back to Town Council.

HDC - signs at Town Council Office: Details and design have been agreed with HDC.

Sowerby Parish Council - Three Tuns Footpath: Letter read; agreed to have a joint meeting with Sowerby Parish Council before the NYCC Committee for Hambleton meeting on 10th March 2003; Cllr Robinson asked for the press to report that anyone with evidence photographs or written, please send it to the Town Council Offices as soon as possible.

HDC Flood Forum, agenda: 20th January 2003; Cllr Marshall had given a report in her District Council report; Cllr Roberts asked why she as Town Council representative had not received an agenda and details; to be followed up with HDC .

Henry Hyams, renewal of licence, Regent Bingo Club: Cllrs had no objections. DLA

Transfer of Licence, Coop Late shop, Market Place, Thirsk: Cllrs had no objections and asked for new licensee to attend a suitable training course.

HDC, leaflet re Speaking at Development Control Committee meetings; The Town Council/Parish Council, 1 objector and applicant (or agent or supporter) will each be able to speak for 3 minutes only.

Refurbishment of toilets, Market Place: Work to begin week beginning 3rd February 2003 and are expected to be closed for 3 weeks.

HDC Community Plan, circulated to Councillors; questionnaire to be completed by each Councillor; Cllr Marshall asked for it to be included on the February Council agenda.

NYCC Waste Local Plan; Clerk to obtain a copy.

RBL, Poppy appeal: Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Roberts seconded a donation of £50, agreed.

NYCC, notice for one-way traffic, Picks Lane; noted.

HDC Standards Committee, appointment of Parish Council Representative; Councillors discussed the problem of nominating someone with elections so near; agreed to contact HDC for clarification.

HDC, Farmers Market, response: read, details of Town Council views had been made in District Council report.

HDC, Street naming, 3 Westgate: to be named Flat 1 & 2: noted.

From Tabled Correspondence:

YRCC, Transport Plan: Cllr Marshall asked that details be obtained.

Yorkshire and Humberside Training for Councillors and Clerks: Town Council to take up the offer.

Skate Park Representative:

It was agreed that Cllr Hubbard should be the Town Council representative on the Skate park committee: Cllr Roberts reported that a constitution had been drawn up; it

is hoped it will be agreed at the next meeting on 27th January 2003, to be held at Thirsk School.

Working Party for Floodlighting, St Mary's Church:

Cllr Robinson felt that in order to help this project make progress a working party should be formed; it was agreed that Cllrs Hubbard, Jackson and Roberts should be on the working party.

Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts, chairman of the planning committee, gave a brief report.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson, chairman, said a meeting would be called in the next couple of weeks.

Representative's Reports:

Carr's Field: Cllr Hubbard reported that the new BT pole, St James Green, had been installed; duct from old position and wiring still to take place; old one still to be removed; clerk to contact Mr Pepperday, BT to ask when remaining work to take place.

Community Care Association: Cllr Salmon reported on the recent AGM at which Cllr Adamson became the new chairman.

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative: Cllr Roberts reported on the meeting held last week when the position of projects in progress had been reported; Thirsk Clock Cafe - hopefully funding almost secured;

Thirsk Community Woodland - making good progress;

Young Film Makers - has taken place, great success.

Cllr Marshall added that the 'leaflet group' project was almost complete and that HDC are undertaking a feasibility study for Long Street Enhancement.

Millennium Green Trust:

Cllr Marshall reported that sadly a valued member of the Trust, Mr Ian Hall, had been killed whilst on holiday in the USA.

Members Reports:

Cllr Adamson reported that he had asked the clerk to find out why Cemetery Road was not being swept by the mechanical sweeper.

He asked for support in the BT Broadband Scheme - a printed leaflet of details and how to register is coming out soon.

Cllr Roberts had been concerned by the smell in Kirkgate; had asked clerk to report, Cllr Marshall said she too had reported it.

Cllr Jackson raised his concerns re staff parking at Tesco's supermarket; it was proposed to write to the manager asking him to ensure that in future staff use the car park designated for

their use (5 for 1 against 4 abstain). Cllr Reynard declared an interest in this item.

Exclusion of press and public for a staff in confidence item, proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

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Confidential item.

Personnel Committee, Appointment of New Clerk:

Cllr Robinson reported that at the last meeting, 16th January 2003, it had been agreed to offer the post to Ms E Coulson, with a 6 months review clause. Councillors supported this proposal (10 for 1 abstained); clerk to write offering Ms Coulson the post; clerk to inform the unsuccessful applicants.

The meeting closed at 10:40pm

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 6th February 2003 at 7.30pm.**

Agenda;

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 9th January 2003.
3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 9th January 2003.
4. To receive correspondence.
5. To receive reports from the following committees:
Carrs Field; ' Central Areas; Christmas Lights; Greens & Ingramgate; Millennium Green; Open Areas; Thirsk in Bloom; Town Development Working Party.
6. To receive other items of interest and information.

There will be a confidential item at the end of this meeting to consider grasscutting tenders.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 6th February 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Bull, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Reynard, Roberts and Robinson, Ms Coulson, 1 press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr Salmon.

Minutes, 9th January 2003:

Approval proposed Cllr Hubbard seconded Cllr Bull, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A93

Three Tuns Yard, Right of Way: Cllr Jackson has been approached by Mr R Ballard and Mr A Whitehead with verbal details of use of the way through the yard; to ask both of them and any

others to write down details and send to the Town Council. Holmes/Millennium Green, Playdale repairs: work has been carried out but still to be checked.

Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: A second set of details has been sent to Wired; Cllr Hubbard expressed surprise that details supplied to the Town Council by the Diocesan architects did not contain a plan; clerk to write and ask for professional plans as the scant details supplied are insufficient for contractors to quote from; agreed not to pay fees until satisfactory details received.

Refurbishment of toilets in the Market Place began on 3rd February 2003.

A94:

Cllr Robinson reported on the traffic problems that the work by Transco is causing in Castlegate; expected to last at least a fortnight; the number of large vehicles passing through the town is more obvious with traffic lights being in use; Councillors considered that there is a need for the Police to become involved in controlling the use of the town by large and articulated vehicles unnecessarily.

Cllr Marshall arrived.

Correspondence:

Elected Regional Assemblies; Councillors voted by a show of hands on the issues asked by HDC/NYCC in the questionnaire received today and to be returned by 14th February 2003.

2 letters from Mr S Quartermaine, HDC re his visit to Thirsk Chamber of Trade meeting, 4th February 2003.

Hambleton Paddlers: letter asking for support and funding; clerk to ask for further details as to what funding to be spent on; how much is expected from the Lottery application and any other sources of funding before making a decision; Cllr Jackson asked if use of equipment etc could be proportionate to membership in the area? Hambleton Community Safety Partnership: Home Safety Roadshow to be in Thirsk on 17th March 2003.

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Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Evening to be held on Tuesday 18th February 2003 in the Golden Fleece, Thirsk, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm.

Mrs S Brown, 43 St Mary's Walk, re tree and other problems near her home: Letter read to meeting; discussion followed; Cllr Marshall outlined the history of the path/tree/ditch; It was agreed to send a copy of the letter received by the Town Council from NYCC Area 1 Rights of Way Officer to Mrs Brown, to suggest that she contacts her solicitor re search carried out when purchasing her bungalow as the Town Council are unable to help any further.

Community Care Association: Office to move to new premises, opening 17th February 2003. It was agreed that Cllr Salmon should continue as the representative of the Town Council for the Community Care Association. The CCA AGM will be held on 27th February 2003 in the Friends Meeting House.

Committee Reports:

Open Areas: Cllr Marshall has been contacted by Mr M I'Anson, Thirsk Community Woodlands Group re possible suitable sites for a tree or small group of trees within the Parish.

Green and Ingramgate: Cllr Marshall raised the problem of blocks and bricks being stored outside 39 St James Green; clerk to ask when completion of work is likely to be.

Thirsk in Bloom: Cllr Reynard reported that the proposed plans for 2 troughs near the Nat West Bank will be shown to Councillors at the next Amenity meeting.

The clerk gave details of the work to be carried out at and on White Mare Roundabout by Yorkshire Water; it was agreed that the shrubs could not be removed, stored and replanted, therefore new planting soil etc (paid for by Yorkshire Water) would be asked for; Thirsk in Bloom could possibly be interested in a scheme; a letter of details of timing of scheme etc to be sent to the town Council by Yorkshire Water's contractors.

Cllr Reynard reported that Thirsk in Bloom wished to site 3 tubs on St James Green; possibly a resident would look after them; would like to see a small area on the Green planted with bulbs and evergreens.

Cllr Robinson, chairman of Greens and Ingramgate, felt the Greens should be left 'green'; Cllr Hubbard suggested asking the residents for their views.

Cllr Reynard requested that Thirsk in Bloom be allowed to 'plant' the top of the bus shelter in the Market Place; modification to level roof would be necessary.

Cllr Reynard concerned re litter on York Road and York Road roundabout; all agencies involved to be contacted.

Cllr Marshall reported that a pilot project by NYCC linked to Market Towns Initiative which is studying the 'entrances' to Thirsk; suggested Thirsk in Bloom talks to Mrs Harvey Dowdy; Town Council to write to Mrs Dowdy.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Roberts reported on the meeting which Mr S Quartermaine HDC attended; the position of the Farmer's Market was the main point of discussion; Mr Quartermaine informed those present that HDC were monitoring the situation for a further 6 months. Litter and the collection of wheelie bins etc were discussed at length; refuse collectors have now been instructed not to take any rubbish piled on top of bins as well as the previous instruction not to take black bags left at the side; Councillors saw this will add to an already unacceptable situation in the town and the surrounding villages.

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Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Hubbard reported that the Skateboard Park Committee had held its inaugural meeting last week; members to visit 2 Skate Parks; next meeting to be held on 24th February 2003; the constitution drawn up had been accepted; to obtain charitable status; lease being drawn up.

Cllr Marshall suggested Mr D Goodwin should be asked to the next Skatepark meeting.

Cllr Bull asked for NYCC to supply a salt bin at the entrance to Shire Park; the slope and pavements have been hazardous recently.

Cllr Marshall asked for the slope, into and out of St Mary's Walk to be gritted when icy conditions prevail.

Cllr Marshall reported on progress being made by the Long Street Enhancement Working Party; cash required for feasibility study being done by HDC; Mrs Harvey Dowdy has applied to Yorkshire Forward and turned down; Cllr Marshall had raised this at the Market Towns Forum meeting in Masham.

Cllr Marshall reported that the Plaques, Interpretation Boards and signs working group is a sub

group of the Tourism and Culture Market Towns Initiative Focus Group.

Cllr Robinson raised the matter of a meeting being held in the Town Council Office; Cllr Marshall explained that the Town Council were taking the lead in 'pulling all issues together'; struggling to get funding; scheme has grown because Sowerby wished to be included; Councillors felt Sowerby should join in and share work and funding etc; Mr Cooper Harding will be charging for any work he is involved in; clerk to find out details of necessary planning permission from Mr M Cann, HDC. Cllr Jackson reported that he was unaware that the scheme had grown so much; Cllr Marshall said she had made regular reports and would be disappointed if the Town Council did not continue to back the scheme; agreed that if Sowerby wished to have plaques a contribution in effort and funding needed; agreed that 2 castes should be used (Thirsk Town Council and Sowerby Parish Council); Sowerby to be asked for a representative on Working Groups; agreed as Town Council backing the project the clerk should do minutes, agenda, correspondence etc.

The Press Reporter left the meeting.

Cllr Jackson suggested that permission to install the plaque for the museum should be sought from HDC; clerk to contact HDC; Sowerby Parish Council to be asked for a representative on the Working Group.

Staff Car Parking, Tesco Supermarket: Cllr Jackson reported that the park is still not being used and that members of staff are using customer spaces.

Suspension of Standing Orders for 10 minutes proposed Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Exclusion of press and public for consideration of grass cutting tenders proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

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Confidential Item.

Grasscutting Tenders 2003/4.

Cllr Adamson reported that two tenders had been received; clerk reported that two further contractors had informed the Council that due to the amount of bulbs planted at random in grass in the town they did not wish to tender as there was extra cost and time involved to strim around the bulbs.

Contractor no. 1. £635 per cut.

Contractor no.2. £887 per cut.

Details read to councillors.

Cllr Robinson proposed contractor no.1 providing he had the required insurance cover etc. seconded Cllr Roberts, unanimously agreed.

Cllr Adamson revealed to councillors that:

Contractor no. 1 - C E & C M Walker.

The meeting closed at 10 03pm.

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council
will be held in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
on Monday 17th February 2003 at 7.15pm
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda.

1. To receive Apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the previous Council meeting, 20th January 2003.
3. To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police.
4. Open Forum, (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 20th January 2003.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve application for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To elect a representative to Thirsk Clock Cafe.
11. To consider the Draft Hambleton Community Plan.
12. To receive Planning Committee report.
13. To receive Burial Board report.
14. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 17th February 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present:

Cllr Robinson, in the chair, Adamson, Hubbard, Jackson, Marshall, Pack, Roberts and Salmon, 4 members of the public, PC Helen Mackie and the clerk.

Apologies: Cllrs Bull, Murkett and Reynard.

Minutes, 20th January 2003:

PI338: Memorials - delete 'to consider' add 'decision deferred'

PI 340: Millennium Green Trust - delete 'Mr Ian Hill' add 'Mr Ian Hall'

Members reports - delete 'to join', add 'register'

Exclusion of press and public: add 'for staff in confidence'

After amendments approval proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Police Report:

P C Helen Mackie reported that those responsible for the recent spate of burglaries had been caught and charged and were from out of the district. Cllr Jackson asked what monitoring of the traffic problems caused by the road works (gas) in Castlegate the Police had been undertaking? P C Mackie said the Police had been unable to do much to relieve the situation; Cllr Robinson asked had the large number of heavy goods vehicles been noted? P C Mackie said these were being constantly monitored and questioned on destination etc by the Police. P C Mackie was thanked for her attendance before she left the meeting.

Cllr Roberts arrived.

Open Forum:

Cllr Robinson asked if any members of the public wished to speak; none did.

Matters Arising:

PI336: Refurbishment, Toilets, Market Place: Cllr Robinson reported that progress seemed slow but he'd been assured the toilets would be re opened on time.

P1337: Cllr Marshall asked for to be added.

Farmer's Market, Thirsk: Cllr Pack asked for any new information; HDC have decided on a further 6 months trial; being monitored by HDC and Cllr Robinson; discussion on how 'success' of the market would be assessed.

Cllr Adamson queried if the letter sent to Mr P Simpson, Chief Executive, HDC had been copied to committee members; Cllr Robinson confirmed it had.

P1339: Office signboards: Clerk to contact R Cowells again.

Flood Forum, HDC: Cllr Roberts to get agenda, minutes etc via Town Council Office in future.

Right of Way, Three Tuns Yard: a letter re confirmation of use has been received; Councillors asked for more press coverage in order that the views of the parishioners are known by the next NYCC Committee for Hambleton.

Cemetery Lane, road sweeping: Cllr Adamson asked for Mr M Kneebone, HDC to visit; clerk to contact HDC again.

Broadband, Thirsk: Cllr Adamson reported that the target number of registrations required by BT had been reached.

Cllr Salmon arrived.

Staff parking at Tesco: Cllr Jackson concerned that no reply has been received; Cllr Adamson asked for letter to be sent to Tesco Head Office, Property Services asking why no response had been made.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall reported that the next meeting of NYCC, on Wednesday would be discussing the budget which would mean a proposed increase of 11.5%; various possible cuts were highlighted, such as the amount given to voluntary services who are very dependant on such contributions for their survival.

Libraries had now got the promised computers installed.

The Corporate Plan has been produced; to come out shortly.

The mini roundabouts in the town had been painted the previous weekend.

Cllr Marshall to meet Mr G Cressey, NYCC, re the proposed '20 mph' scheme for the Market Place.

Cllr Jackson raised the problem of safety re signage at Town End roundabout; Cllr Marshall to ask if the promised survey of traffic there had been carried out.

District Council Reports:

Cllr Robinson reported on the wheelie bin trials; have been deemed a success; wheelie bins will be issued, in stages, throughout HDC; councillors felt the Town Council should have been consulted. Discussions of the recycling bins being continually full, hope for expansion of the green box scheme and fortnightly collections followed.

Cllr Robinson reported that outline planning permission has been given for 160 houses on the 'Auction Mart' site; Town Council had not been consulted; delay in receiving planning lists from HDC to be checked.

Cllr Marshall reported that HDC Thirsk Local Plan Committee, will be meeting in March and HDC Cultural and Social Committee is studying services for young people.

Concern re services not being provided by HDC in order to keep Council Tax low.

Accounts:

The following accounts were approved for payment proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Salmon, agreed.

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall, room hire, skate board park £40.00

Thirsk & Sowerby Town, insurance (half share) £744.75

Workcrafts, litter pick etc, Mill Green £85.50

Fox's Copy Centre, photocopy etc £122.36

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Evershed Products, seat Cemetery Lane £358.38

Guy Johnson, Christmas Lights £414.71

CE & CM Walker, grasscutting £1,428.80

Thirsk Hall Farms, grazing licence, Castlegarth £120.00

K Dickson, clean office windows £6.00

HDC, Little Green £91.65

C Amy:

Weekly Insp. play areas/open areas, 5 wks £228.50

Mill Gardens: litter pick, etc, 5 wks £150.00

Picnic Area, litter pick £50.00

Castlegarth, litter pick, clear glass etc £50.00

Little Green, shrubbery maintenance £50.00

White Mare Roundabout, shrubbery maintenance £20.00

Paid since last meeting:

J Harron, salary, January £238.33

A M Wilkinson, salary, Dec/Jan £1,138.98

Public Works Loan Board, (3rd payment) £9,231.25

Memorials:

Cllr Adamson reported that the approval of the application deferred at the last Town Council meeting had been given as the Burial Board did not have a policy covering this type of memorial.

Correspondence:

NYCC, Environmental Services: Red gravel outside Tesco Filling station, noted.

NYCC, temporary closure, A61, noted.

HDC, Appointment of Parish Representative to the Standards Committee. Cllr Adamson agreed to be nominated.

HDC, Street naming and numbering, Chapel Street, noted.

HDC, Street naming and numbering, Kirkgate, agreed on 'Kirkgate Mews, Kirkgate'.

HDC, Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Public path diversion, noted.

HDC, Proposed Floodlighting St Mary's Church, details of planning procedure and application form received.

HDC, Best Value Review of Cleansing, 25th February, 2003, Cllr Pack to attend.

YLCA, Hambleton Branch, meeting 5th March 2003, minutes have been given to Cllrs Roberts and Marshall.

Data protection, receipt, awaiting registration, noted.

Cllr Adamson added 2 items received by E-mail; Mr Garbutt asked for a copy of the budget and details of how it was arrived at; agreed to be provided.

Representative, Thirsk Clock Cafe:

Cllr Bull had informed the clerk that he no longer wished to represent the Town Council on this committee.

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Cllr Reynard, although absent, had indicated that she was willing to fill the vacancy; unanimously agreed. Cllr Pack to supply the address of the chairman so the Thirsk Clock Cafe can be informed of the change.

2 members of the public left. Cllr Hubbard arrived.

Draft Hambleton Community Plan:

Councillors had each seen the copy of the Draft and had filled in their copy of the questionnaire (had been returned to clerk).

Cllr Marshall supported reducing the amount of waste going to land fill sites by recycling, the introduction of wheelie bins and extension of the 'green box' scheme; Town Council agreed that the organisation of the above needed to be improved in order that HDC reaches the targets set by Government.

Cllr Marshall wished to see the flood warning services improved; the improved service, promised to be in place by 2007, should be brought forward to 2003/4; HDC should commit themselves by being positive and responsible for their own actions. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to HDC with the above points as well as the Councillors' completed forms.

Planning Report:

Councillors had received the minutes of the meetings held since the last Town Council meeting. Cllr Marshall declared an interest in the application to extend East Thirsk Community Hall.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported on the meeting held on 1st February 2003.

There is a need for a policy to be formed re the fixing of memorials; a price for the removal of the Rowan tree had been received; re tree now felled; brash to be removed.

Representative's Reports:

Thirsk Community Primary School, School Governor's meeting: Cllr Adamson reported that the last meeting had been cancelled.

Market Town Forum: Cllr Marshall had attended the meeting at Masham Town Hall; had been very interesting and informative; Cllr Marshall had taken the opportunity to ask Yorkshire Forward for an explanation of their refusal of funding for Long Street Enhancement; refusal had been on the basis of being an environmental project and not economic (i.e. providing employment); the audience had been amazed; Cllr Marshall felt environmental improvement is necessary and leads to economic development of an area.

Suspension of Standing Orders proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

North Yorkshire Market Towns Forum was officially inaugurated. (Richmond the only town to vote against)

Cllr Marshall reported that there are companies within the area of the NYMTF who would be willing to work with the NYMTF, perhaps giving help 'in kind'.

Community Care Association: Cllr Salmon reported that the offices of the CCA have moved from Chapel Street to the offices previously used by HDC (14a Market Place)

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Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr Roberts reported that as always funding is still a problem.

Thirsk Skatepark: Cllr Hubbard reported that there is to be a meeting on 24th February 2003.

Carrs Field - Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust: Cllr Hubbard said the next meeting is on 19th February 2003.

Market Towns Initiative Business Focus Group: Cllr Hubbard had attended a meeting of the group earlier this evening; there is to be a 'Thirsk magical Christmas Fair' this year; Mr M Watson has been elected the project manager for the fair which it is hoped will be held on 6th - 8th December 2003 and possibly on the 9th as well; the committee are aiming high on organising a spectacular event with special focus on children during the day and adults in the evenings.

Thirsk Clock Cafe: Cllr Pack reported that a project manager has been appointed; aiming to get to know the youth of the town; lease due to be signed shortly; alterations of the building to be completed by April/May; AGM to be held in March in the Town Hall.

Member's Reports:

Cllr Adamson reminded the meeting of the Community Care Association AGM on 27th February 2003 in the Friends Meeting House, Kirkgate at 7.00pm.

Cllr Adamson said the renewal of the Domain name of the Town Council is due for renewal; agreed this should be an agenda item at the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Marshall asked for progress towards a Quality Council to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Clerk to write to the accountants in Finkle Street to ask if they wish to be considered as an internal auditor to the council.

Cllr Roberts reported there are trees in Cod Beck; IDB have already been informed.

Cllr Hubbard reported a seat in Castlegarth has been 'ripped' from its base.

Cllr Jackson reported his surprise that Ms Harvey Dowdy expects 'all the plaques to be in place by the end of the year'; he expressed his concern about the research necessary for each plaque in this timescale.

Cllr Pack expressed again her concern re the amount of litter in York Road and on the roundabout; agreed all agencies and HOC and NYCC should be contacted.

Cllr Pack presented the framed certificates won by Thirsk in Bloom in 2002 to be displayed in the Town Office.

Cllr Robinson reported that he had been asked for vehicular access to Castlegarth by contractors wishing to re roof the building on Castlegarth; awaiting written confirmation; English

Heritage and Mr John Bell to be contacted.

Cllr Robinson reminded Councillors of the Joint Meeting with Sowerby Parish Council tomorrow night at 7.00pm in the Upper Room, Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.22pm.

**A meeting of the Amenity Committee
of Thirsk Town Council will be held in the Town Hall Annex
on Thursday 6th March 2003 at 7.30pm.**

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting, 6th February 2003.
 3. Matters arising from minutes of meeting, 6th February 2003.
 4. To receive correspondence.
 5. To consider seat maintenance for 2003/4
 6. To discuss visit of North Yorkshire Police Chief Constable Ms. D. Canning.
 7. To discuss and clarify the roll of the Town Clerk and the roll of Councillors.
 8. To resolve the dates of the Town Council meeting (April) and the Amenity meeting (May).
 9. To receive reports from the following committees:
Carrs Field
Central Areas;
Christmas Lights;
Greens & Ingramgate;
Millennium Green;
Open Areas;
Thirsk in Bloom;
Town Development Working Party.
- To receive other items of interest and information.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 6th March 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs Adamson, in the chair, Bull Hubbard, Pack, Reynard, Roberts, Robinson, 1 member of the public, the clerk and the retiring clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Jackson, Marshall and Salmon.

Minutes, 6th February 2003:

Approval proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Hubbard, agreed.

Matters Arising:

P95: Three Tuns Yard, Right of Way: A meeting is to be held on 10th March 2003.

Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: The working party has not met as yet. Another member is required and Cllr Reynard agreed to join the working party. A letter had been received from the Church Architect, together with a schedule. Cllr Adamson felt the schedule should be interpreted into a plan and Cllr Hubbard offered to do this. Mike Wilkinson to be asked to provide a scale drawing of the church.

Refurbishment of toilets, Market Place: This has not yet been completed. Hambleton Paddlers: further details requested re the request for support and funding; no reply as yet.

Mrs S Brown, 43 St Mary's Walk, re tree and other problems near her home: Cllr Adamson advised that this is ongoing. County Council may be prepared to prune the tree, but without accepting any responsibility for the fence.

P96: Open areas: Thirsk Community Woodlands group re possible sites for a tree or small group of trees – Cllr Marshall has met Mike I'Anson re this.

Greens & Ingramgate – The blocks/bricks are still being stored outside 39 St James Green.

Work to be carried out to the White Mare Roundabout by Yorkshire Water – details of timing etc still awaited.

Pilot project by NYCC linked to MTI re "entrances" to Thirsk – a letter is to be sent from the Town Council to Harvey Dowdy.

Wheelie bins: Cllr Robinson had received many complaints about the wheelie bins obstructing pavements when they have been put out for collection and are often out for up to 24 hours. Cllr Robinson to seek clarification as to whether these should be left on the kerb side or within the boundaries of individual properties. He was also asked to find out what instructions were given to the refuse collectors.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

P97: Salt bin at entrance to Shire Park has been requested.

Gritting of slope in to and out of St Mary's Walk – this has been requested. Long Street

Enhancement Project: Cllr Reynard asked when it is likely to start. It is now back to consultation. Match funding is required. HDC are drawing up the plan and doing the feasibility study, but are not prepared to finance it.

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Plaques, Interpretation Boards: Letter to Cooper Harding has been done. Forms have been obtained to apply for LBC to install the plaque on the Museum.

P98: Staff car parking, Tesco Supermarket: a letter has been sent.

Grasscutting: Cllr Adamson pointed out that there may be a problem with grasscutting in future years because of the random planting of bulbs. Cllr Reynard replied that the bulbs have been planted in clumps and in places where they should not cause problems to the grass cutters. Cllr Adamson suggested that in future this should be on the tender documents.

Correspondence:

HDC – no interest in the matter of flower containers/hay rack on the Town Council Office and we can therefore proceed with this.

Letter re a Morgan Sports Car Club meeting on Sunday 5th October 2003: Request to cordon off a section of the Market Place, support for a treasure hunt, prize contribution and a walk around Thirsk incorporating the Herriot Centre. Also a request for the Mayor to present the prizes. Reply to be sent advising that the cordoning off will require the consent of HDC. We will do our best to assist with their other requests.

HDC re erection of plaques/interpretation boards: Planning permission not required, but LBC will need to be obtained where applicable. Copy to be given to Cllr Marshall.

Letter from Chris Amy enclosing a quote for a survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas in the amounts of £1000 and £1400 respectively. The clerk to ask Chris Amy for a price for a safety survey only and also to obtain a quote from DBD Contracting.

The seats of some of the swings on the Holmes have been damaged by dogs; the Dog Warden has been informed.

The hedge outside the perimeter fence of a house on South Dowber Way has been cut down to about 6 foot. Cllr Pack to look at this.

Reports received from Chris Amy; the see saw on the MacLean's Play Area has been damaged beyond repair and has been put next to the skip in the cemetery; a quantity of logs which were blocking Whitelass Beck have been removed.

Notice from Hambleton and Richmondshire Carers Centre re a Carers Forum to be held on 19th March 2003 at Bedale Hall.

Notice re the next meeting of the County Committee for Hambleton to be held on 10th March at the Methodist Church Hall, Easingwold.

To consider seat maintenance for 2003/4:

Survey of seats carried out, but none in need of repair.

Specification of painting required to be sent to Chris Amy, Malcolm Burnett and John Balmain inviting them to tender.

To discuss visit of North Yorkshire Police Chief Constable, Ms Della Cannings:

Cllr Adamson to greet Ms Cannings at 6.50pm. To be advertised in the 'Darlington & Stockton Times' and on Radio York. Notices to be done, including one for East Thirsk Community Centre.

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To discuss and clarify the role of the Town Clerk and the role of Councillors:

It was stressed that to avoid confusion in the future, the point of contact for requests to Hambleton and all other outside bodies must be the Clerk. There is to be no exception to this

unless Councillors have been specifically asked to take certain actions themselves.

To resolve the dates of the Town Council Meeting (April) and the Amenity Meeting (May):

It was agreed that the April Town Council meeting be held on 14th April 2003. The Annual Parish Council meeting to be held at 7.00pm on 12th May 2003 followed by the Town Council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack that there be no Amenity meeting in May and any Amenity Committee items be brought to the Town Council on 12th May 2003. Notice of these dates to be sent to Councillors.

To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field: Nothing to report.

Central Areas: Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate: Cllr Robinson reported that the potholes have been filled in. Chris Amy is still trying to get the wood for the fence. The door on the litter bin on the Little Green is sprung open. The landlord of the Lord Nelson would like the lower branches of the tree outside his pub removed – Chris Amy recommends this be done. Cllr Reynard said that the lower branches of a tree on The Holmes and also one near the waterfall need to be removed – Cllr Marshall to be consulted and Chris Amy to be asked to do this. Chris Amy had mentioned the tree which was nearly touching the electric line and this will be reported to Northern Electric. Cllr Robinson has given consent for the tree on the Green to be attended to.

Millennium Green: Nothing to report.

Open Areas: Nothing to report.

Thirsk in Bloom: Cllr Pack reported that the entry form for the competition has gone in. A lot of bulbs have been planted. The potting shed is being demolished. It was felt that the planters near the Nat West Bank should be higher. Cllr Robinson pointed out that these were put in by Thirsk in Bloom and not the Town Council; Cllr Reynard said permission was obtained. Cllr Pack said they were looking at the possibility of extending the planters near the crossing, but Cllr Robinson was concerned this would obstruct the vision of children crossing the road – Thirsk in Bloom were asked to reconsider and then obtain quotes for an amended scheme. The possibility of looking at sponsorship was mentioned and Cllr Hubbard was asked to consider whether this could come out of Central Areas budget.

Town Development Working Party: Nothing to report.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Bull referred to the very potholed surface of the road to the tip. Cllr Robinson advised that Balfour are to re surface it after the work has finished.

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Cllr Bull advised that a Mini rally is starting from Thirsk on 23rd March. Permission to cordon off part of the Market Place has been sought from Hambleton.

Cllr Hubbard referred to the opening hours of the Tourist Information Centre – currently 11am to 4pm. The Clerk to write to David Shields at Hambleton to ask whether the hours could be extended, e.g. 10am to 6pm. It was pointed out that there is a waiting list of volunteers and it

was suggested they should make greater use of this.

Cllr Hubbard referred to the proposed Christmas Fair. Malcolm Watson has been appointed Project Leader and it is hoped to work with the various organisations in the town. £3,000 is required to get the project underway and this will be match funded by Thirsk Regeneration Initiative. Cllr Robinson suggested this could come out of the Christmas Lights budget – agenda item for Town Council meeting. Cllr Hubbard explained about the plans for the Christmas painting competition at the schools from which lights will be made and sponsors will be sought to cover cost of this. Mr Watson has applied to the County Council and the police for permission to close off part of the market square and is looking at park and ride facilities.

Cllr Pack referred to a piece of ground at the bottom of Craigs Way which has been planted up and which is used as a cut through to St Mary's. The clerk to find out who is responsible for this.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

**The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
will be held on Monday 17th March 2003 AT 7:00pm
in the Annex, Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Agenda:

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.
 2. To receive Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15th March 2002.
 3. To receive the Chairman's Report.
 4. To receive contributions from the electors of the Parish.
 5. Other Items of Interest and Information.
- The Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police Force will give a short presentation

**A meeting of Thirsk Town Council will be held
on Monday 17th March 2003 after the Annual Parish meeting
in Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annex
for the transaction of annexed business**

Agenda:

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve Minutes of the Previous Council meeting, 17th February 2003.
3. To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the police.
4. Open Forum (15 minutes): Members of the public may raise matters with Town Council.
5. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 17th February 2003.
6. To receive reports from:
 - a) County Council
 - b) District Council
7. To approve accounts for payment.
8. To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials.
9. To receive correspondence.
10. To consider change of domain name.
11. To resolve Town Council funding for Christmas fair.
12. To discuss way forward re Quality Councils.
13. To receive Planning Committee report.
14. To receive Burial Board Report
15. To receive reports from:
 - a) Representatives,
 - b) Members.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 17th March 2003 after the
Annual Parish Meeting
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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Present:

Cllrs Robinson (in the chair), Adamson, Bull, Marshall, Pack, Reynard, Roberts, Salmon, D&S

reporter, 3 members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr Murkett who was at the launch of the NALC Quality Councils initiative, Cllr Jackson.

Minutes:

PI342: Matters arising PI337 sentence needs to be completed.

P1343: Accounts - insert 'Hall' between 'Town' and 'insurance'.

After amendments approval proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson, agreed.

Open Forum:

Cllr Robinson asked if any members of the public wished to speak. This was confirmed and it was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Adamson that standing orders be suspended for this item.

PI 343: A member of the public requested an update was requested on the proposed 20mph scheme in the Market Place. Cllr Marshall replied that it will be going out to consultation shortly. It was asked whether it will include improved crossings and Cllr Marshall said these are planned for the Finkle Street junction with two others suggested where Millgate and Kirkgate meet the Market Place.

Cllr Salmon arrived.

A member of the public queried whether the Open Forum should be later in the meeting in order that questions could be raised on matters discussed. Cllr Robinson explained that it was in its present slot in order that members of the public did not have to stay for the whole meeting if they did not wish to do so.

Matters Arising:

P1342: The Market Place toilets have now been reopened.

P1342: Cllr Salmon asked how the Farmers Market is going - Cllr Robinson replied that it is holding its own. Hambleton are looking at imposing business rates on the market holders.

PI342: Office sign boards: now received, but external light needs to be moved.

PI343: Cemetery Lane has still not been swept; the Clerk to chase this up. Right of Way, Three Tuns Yard: Cllr Hubbard asked for an update - Cllr Marshall to report later.

PI343: Wheelie bins: At the County Council Area Committee for Hambleton Cllr Robinson had brought up the fact that the wheelie bins are obstructing the pavements.

P1343: Broadband: Cllr Adamson reported it is coming to Thirsk on 14th May 2003.

PI 344: Cllr Adamson said that Mr Garbutt is still waiting for a copy of the budget.

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Cllr Pack reported that she and Cllr Reynard had attended the meeting on the Best Value Review of Cleansing. Problem with leaves throughout the district. There is to be a forum to look at this.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall reported an 11.5% increase in the County Council's precept. The Library entrance is being done. Consultation will shortly be coming out on the proposed 20mph limit and the changes connected with this. Hambleton area Committee met on 10th March - it has money it can award. £5K has been awarded to the Ritz Cinema towards the redevelopment of the Cinema, but nothing to the Thirsk Broadband Campaign.

Three Tuns footpath: The County Council went against their officers' recommendations and decided it was not deemed a right of way. Cllr Salmon felt we should appeal against this. Cllr Marshall said that Sowerby want a joint meeting with Thirsk to decide on the way forward and this will be arranged.

District Council Reports:

Cllr Robinson said it is suggested the Tourist Information Centre increase its hours by 20 per week.

Cllr Marshall reported that Hambleton have set their precept - this is a low figure, but there is concern that they may be losing the ability to provide good quality services because of such a low council tax.

Cllr Marshall reported that Yorkshire Forward gave £25K to Hambleton to spend in Thirsk in connection with the alleviation of flooding. However, this has been lost by Hambleton and they are now looking for £16K to fund a survey. Letter to be sent to Harvey Dowdy requesting that the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative should not fund this as it is not felt that this is an appropriate use of their money. Cllr Adamson asked that a letter be sent to Hambleton congratulating them on losing £25K for the town.

Cllr Marshall reported on the Local Plan update - one of the proposals is to build 700 - 900 houses in each of Northallerton and Thirsk. Cllr Marshall said it was felt this number should be spread over the area and not just concentrated in Thirsk. Hambleton are now prepared to include retail as well as tourism. Cllr Marshall had visited Thirsk School and interviewed some young people on the services Hambleton provide to youth and other issues.

Cllr Marshall reported that the Tourism Department at Hambleton are prepared to spend £2K to fund 20 plaques.

To approve accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Salmon, agreed.

K. Dickinson, clean office windows £8.00

F.D. Todd, Stone - St. James' £110.33

Smiths of Derby Ltd., Clock maintenance £130.43

Yorkshire Water - Cemetery Lodge £144.20

BT - Office phone £155.94

SLCC Membership £54.00

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HDC - Office rent £660.94

Rowleys - Bouquet - Burial Board £20.00

NYCC - "Thirsk" nameplate £27.92

Amberol - Baskets etc., Thirsk in Bloom £257.33

M. Burnett: Repair seat £100.00 Fix new seat £ 36.00

Playdale - Repairs, Holmes and Millennium Green £318.90

Staples - Stationery £141.94

Additions to list:

Town Hall, hire of room £250.00

M L Burnett, seat repairs £40.00

YRCC, Membership 2003-4 £25.00

Cllr Pack requested that payment to Amberol Ltd (on list issued) be deferred until next financial year.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

Applications received from;

Paul A Hunter - Memorial tablet for George Frederick Burton.

Auckland Memorial - Headstone for Colin A A Gredzinski.

Cllr Adamson requested that, as we had not dealt with Auckland Memorials in the past, they should be asked for details of one or two other burial authorities for whom they had done work. Subject to this, it was proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack that the applications be approved, agreed.

To receive correspondence:

HDC District/Parish Councils' liaison meeting, 2nd April 2003 - noted.

National Missing Persons Helpline - Walk, 30th May 2003 - they will be passing through Thirsk and would like to meet the Mayor. Agree if possible, but pointing out that there is an election on 1st May 2003.

NYCC Temporary speed restriction, C168 Newsham Road from 20th February - 12th March.

NYCC Temporary speed restriction, C168 Newsham Road from 13th March - 29th June.

NYCC Temporary closure of A61 Finkle Street, Thirsk from 2nd March - 6th March.

Data Protection Act 1998 - Confirmation of Entry in the Register.

Thirsk & Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust, confirmation that Cllr Robinson is the Town Council Representative.

Ferrey & Mennim Chartered Architects - Floodlighting, St Mary's Church.

DLA - Notice of Transfer, Co Op Late Shop, Market Place, Thirsk - approved, subject to the comment that they undertake some training procedures. The clerk to ascertain whether Transferees of Licences go on the courses.

Action for Market Towns Membership Scheme - further details re the subscription rates to follow. Cllr Adamson urged the Town Council to look at these carefully when they arrive.

HDC - copy of letter to Mr E J Hall confirming his address as The Hollies, Barbeck, Thirsk.

HDC - Standards Committee. Four nominations put forward. It was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Salmon that we vote for Cllr Adamson.

To consider change of domain name:

Cllr Adamson explained this is currently WWW.thirsk.org. and this is due for renewal later this year. He suggested it should be changed to WWW.thirsk.gov.uk as we are the only body in the town entitled to the name. It was agreed that the name be changed to WWW.thirsk.gov.uk, proposed Cllr Adamson seconded Cllr Hubbard. It was further agreed that the Town Council retain ownership of WWW.thirsk.org, but Thirsk Regeneration Initiative (who are looking for an e-mail address) could use it, pay the fee and then return it to the Town Council next year.

To resolve Town Council funding for Christmas Fair:

Cllr Hubbard gave an outline of the proposed Fair. The Town Council are asked to fund £500 towards Malcolm Watson's fee as Project Manager. It was proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that it be taken from the Christmas lights budget, agreed.

To discuss way forward re Quality Councils:

Cllr Marshall suggested the way forward is to set up a Working Group to look seriously at this and she felt this should be done shortly after the Election. Cllr Salmon urged exercising caution with this in view of the expense and time which could be spent on it. Internal audit: Cllr Marshall to obtain details of prospective internal auditors.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Salmon referred to the fact that the Town Council had not objected to the recent application by Farmway and expressed concern at the traffic management aspect of this development and the removal of an oak tree.

Cllr Robinson advised that the application had been granted and at the planning meeting he had brought Cllr Salmon's concern about the road to the notice of the planners. Originally 2 trees were to be removed, but this has been reduced to one and new trees are to be planted. Cllr Robinson suggested that an application be submitted for a TPO on the remaining tree and this was agreed.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the Burial Board has not met. The cemetery is looking good and we are going ahead with repairing the wall at a cost of £550. The amenity contractor has been told not to put rubbish from other parts of the town in the cemetery skip and the seat is to be removed from the shed in the cemetery to the shed on the Little Green.

To receive reports from:

Representatives

Cllr Adamson: East Thirsk Community Association held their AGM recently and reported another good year. They are looking forward to having the extension built and brought into use as soon as possible. School:

The last Governors' meeting was re-scheduled and Cllr Adamson was unable to attend. Cllr

Reynard: Thirsk Clock Cafe is now progressing very successfully.

Cllr Pack: Town Hall Management Committee: Cllr Pack report on this, mentioning the bin outside the Town Hall which is to be replaced with a smaller one

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Members

Cllr Adamson: Attended the Annual Parish Government Conference run by YRCC -mainly planning orientated.

Suspension of standing orders for 10 minutes, proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts.

Cllr Pack: Trees across Cod Beck - to be removed by Chris Amy as part of the general maintenance programme.

Cllr Marshall: Large amounts of litter collected in various parts of the Hambleton Estate and the Tranmire Ditch is full of rubbish. Letter to be sent to Hambleton requesting they clear it. More litter bins are required on the Northallerton Road near the Norby Depot.

Market Towns Initiative: Over £0.5m investment into the town.

Cllr Pack: Wheelie bins chained to the litter bin outside the Mind shop. Cllr Marshall concerned at the restricted pavement width because of wheelie bins and enquired what permission was required for installing wheelie bins in a Conservation area, particularly those chained to buildings. Letter to be sent to Mr Quartermaine.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.