

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 3rd April 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0001

Present:

Cllrs Adamson, Hubbard, Marshall, Murkett, Pack, Reynard, Roberts, Robinson,
press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs Bull, Jackson and Salmon, accepted.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed (1 amendment noted)

The Chairman proposed that Item 5 be dealt with as the next item, agreed.

To consider and discuss the Long Street Project:

Cllr Marshall introduced Chris Vincent of Hambleton, explaining he was engaged to carry out a feasibility study, the funding for which is to come from the Market Towns Initiative. The objective is to incorporate the grass verges and trees and to rationalise parking, although it was pointed out that at the South End parking is to be retained. It is hoped to reduce the number of bollards at the junction of Stammergate, and to have a location for public art as a focal point. Cllr Pack said they are looking at having planters to replace some of the bollards and installing some seats on Long Street.

Cllr Roberts joined the meeting.

To comply with County Council regulations it may also be necessary to have a cycle route crossing the road. The predicted cost of the project is £215K, although this could increase. The scheme could be implemented in one go or could be done in stages. Cllr Marshall said we need to use the feasibility study to try and obtain funding. Cllr Robinson made the point that it is necessary to go to consultation and Cllr Marshall said there is a lot of support for the scheme from residents of Long Street.

Matters Arising:

A99: Three Tuns Yard, Right of Way: Letter from County Council confirming that Hambleton Area Committee have resolved that such a Right of Way does not subsist. Can lodge an appeal within 28 days. The letter had been sent to 15a Castlegate and a week had been lost. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Graham Cressey and to the Chief Executive requesting a time extension because of this and they are to come back to her on it. Cllr Robinson felt we should find out how much it would cost if this proceeds to Appeal and said he understands that if the Town Council win the case the landlady of the Three Tuns could put in a stile on the path. Cllr Murkett proposed that a joint meeting with Sowerby be held and that we then proceed to Appeal. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to the Parish Clerk of Sowerby and, in view of the time constraints, Sowerby Parish Council asked that the Town Council lodge the Appeal and then meet later. Cllr Hubbard pointed out that at the original meeting it was

agreed that should this go against the Town Council that they would proceed to Appeal. Cllr Robinson expressed his opposition to this.

A99: Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: A letter had been sent to Mr Mike Wilkinson requesting a plan of the church and a reply had been received advising that such a plan can only be obtained from Ferrey and Mennin, the Church Architects. Cllr Hubbard suggested putting stakes to show the position of the lights. Cllr Marshall to ask Hambleton if they have a plan of the church.

A99: Refurbishment of toilets, Market Place; completed.

A99: Hambleton paddlers; letter sent requesting further details.

A99: Mrs S Brown, 43 St Mary's Walk re trees near her home: Cllr Marshall said Peter Penny has looked at it and says the tree is sound.

A99: Open Areas, Thirsk Community Woodlands Group - Cllr Marshall gave the background to this and said the list was submitted to the Woodlands Group.

A99: Greens & Ingramgate - blocks/ bricks still being stored outside 39 St James' Green. It was pointed out that the occupiers had originally given a time when these would be gone. The clerk to check on this and a further letter to be sent.

A99: Work to be carried out to White Mare roundabout - concern was expressed at the congestion the previous Sunday. The clerk to ask that signs warning of severe congestion on Long Street and diversion signs be erected.

A99: Pilot project by NYCC linked to MTI re 'entrances' to Thirsk - no further action taken. Letter to be sent to Mike Moore enquiring about this.

A99: Wheelie bins - Cllr Robinson has passed this to the County Council and they

are to contact Hambleton.

A100: Plaques, Interpretation Boards - Letter from Cooper Harding consenting to the installation of a blue plaque at the Museum. LBC is to be sought. Cllr Marshall advised that Hambleton have £2K to spend on blue plaques for Thirsk. The list has been narrowed down from 60 to 20. There is concern that having too many could devalue the plaques and the list may therefore be further shortened. Cllr Marshall to provide a list of both the 60 plaques and the 20.

A100: Morgan Sports Car Club meeting on 5th October 2003 - letter sent.

A100: Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas - Safety survey requested from Chris Amy and DBD Contracting.

Hedge outside the perimeter fence of a house on South Dowber Way - Cllr Pack to look at this.

A101: Greens and Ingramgate - Chris Amy has been asked to remove the lower branches of the tree outside the 'Lord Nelson'.

A101: Tree on the Holmes and one near the waterfall - Cllr Robinson has spoken to Chris Amy who does not feel this needs doing. The willow tree needs attention. The Open Spaces Committee to look at this.

A102: Tourist Information Centre - letter sent to Hambleton requesting that the hours be extended to 10am to 6pm. Reply received advising that the Best Value Panel have recommended the hours be extended to 10am to 5pm from Easter until end of October and this will be discussed at the March Cabinet Meeting. David Shields offered to speak to the Town Council once the outcome of the Cabinet Meeting is known.

A102: Christmas Fair - the Clerk had received a form from Malcolm Watson re insurance cover which can be provided by the Action for Market Towns in the amount of £148.50. It was felt that the Town Council are not able to deal with

this as the project is not in their name. Cllr Hubbard to discuss with Malcolm Watson.

Page A0003

A102: Piece of ground off Craigs Way - letter had been sent to Hambleton - they advise contacting the developer, Persimmon Homes.

To receive correspondence:

Letters from HDC & NYCC identifying areas of pavement in the Market Place which require attention. They confirm these will be dealt with and also the remedial works required to the Town Council notice board in the Market Place will be carried out during April.

Copy letter from HDC to Mr Hartfield at Kirkgate Guest House confirming he can name the new development at the rear '1-3 Kirkgate Mews'.

Letter from Stephen Rowden applying for a job in horticulture.

Letter from HDC re proposed footway lighting at Thirsk Youth Club - this was dealt with some time ago.

To consider and decide upon the disposal of waste from Open Spaces and Play Areas:

Cllr Adamson said that Chris Amy is disposing of Town Council waste in the Cemetery skip and felt that as a contractor, he should dispose of his own waste.

Cllr Adamson said it is hoped to move towards wheelie bins in the future and to sell the skip. Cllr Marshall said that until then she had no objection to her Committee paying to empty the skip on alternate occasions. Proposed Cllr

Marshall, seconded Cllr Murkett.

To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field: Nothing to report.

Central Areas: It was noted that some of the cobbled areas on Kirkgate have been tarmaced - Cllr Marshall said this is temporary.

Christmas Lights: Nothing to report.

Greens & Ingramgate: The coping has been removed from a wall near Pinfold Place.

Millennium Green: Nothing to report.

Open Areas: The gap in Herriot Way has been broken through again; Chris Amy to be asked to look at it.

Thirsk in Bloom: Cllr Pack reported that the Committee had met recently. The judging is to take place on 16th April 2003.

Town Development Working Party: Nothing to report.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Hubbard reported that work is starting the following day on the base for the ramp at Carrs Field

Cllr Marshall moved that the public and press be excluded for 2 confidential items, Opening of seat maintenance tenders and Staff-in-Confidence

The meeting closed at 10:10pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 14th April 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page 0001

Present:

Cllrs A Robinson (in the chair), D Adamson, N Bull, S Hubbard, J Marshall, D Murkett, C Pack, K Reynard, J Salmon, 2 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs J. Jackson, F.Roberts and the press reporter.

Minutes:

Proposed Cllr Salmon, seconded Cllr Bull that these be approved, one amendment being noted to P1347

Police Report:

Insp Broadley reported that 33 Market Place is at the lease signing stage. Work will be starting soon after Easter and completion is likely to be around mid June. The counter staff will move to 33 Market Place, but the police will continue to occupy the existing building for the short term. Insp Bradley pointed out that the cells in the existing building are not adequate for detaining people and if they are to be held for longer than a few hours they are taken to Northallerton.

Insp Broadley advised that there were no reported instances from the previous week's race meeting.

Responding to a query from a member of the public and passed on by the clerk referring to the possibility of visiting the Control Room, Insp Broadley to look into this, but felt sure it would probably need to be an organised visit.

Cllr Marshall referred to skateboarding in Nursery Gardens - Insp Broadley said this had been reported as a problem, but evidence is required. Insp Broadley said that any future housing developments should be looked at to ensure they are designed in such a way that no such nuisance is caused to residents.

Cllrs Salmon and Murkett concerned at cyclists on the pavements with no lights and no bell. Insp Broadley to ask the police to keep an eye on this although she advised that it cannot be dealt with by way of a fixed penalty.

Open Forum:

Cllr Robinson asked if any members of the public wished to speak. This was confirmed and it was proposed by Cllr Marshall and seconded by Cllr Adamson that standing orders be suspended for this item.

Tony Jordan referred to the Little Green saying there are 4 or 5 trees which have been broken and the wire fencing pulled apart, which he felt could be a danger. The door of the litter bin is broken and the dog bin is at the far end of the Green and therefore of little use. Cllr Robinson replied that he had spoken to Chris Amy about the trees and Chris Amy was of the opinion that they might revive. Cllr Robinson agreed to take this up with his committee; he will also look at the litter bin and will ask Hambleton for an additional dog bin.

Cllr Murkett said that where there are tree stumps they should be dealt with as they could be a danger.

Mrs Sue Dodds said the litter bins outside the Co-op and the delicatessen regularly have the doors hanging off. Cllr Reynard referred to the yellow litter

bin on The Holmes/Marage which is an eyesore because of its colour. Cllr Marshall advised that all the litter bins were yellow originally but have been painted green.

Page 0002

Matters Arising:

P1347 Market Place toilets: complaints have been received that they are not flushing. Cllr Reynard said they have not been properly cleaned since the work was done. Cllrs Robinson and Reynard to inspect the toilets and do a list of items requiring attention.

P1347 Mr Garbutt: Cllr Adamson advised that he has provided Mr Garbutt with a copy of the budgets, but he has now asked for a copy of the accounts. Cllr Adamson to provide him with an Income & Expenditure account.

P1347 Office signboards: Cllr Robinson had moved the exterior light and secured the signboards in place.

P1347 Cemetery Lane: Hambleton have responded advising that this is now being swept.

P1348 Alleviation of flooding feasibility study: letters have been sent to Harvey Dowdy and Hambleton.

P1348 Local Plan update: this is being circulated to Councillors and comments are required by 30th April 2003. The clerk to ask for a one month extension to this date. Cllr Marshall proposed that a special meeting to look at this to be set up. Cllr Marshall would like to see a slip road onto the Scarborough Road. It was felt that the Thirsk Industrial site should be in Thirsk parish and not Bagby.

P1349 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Cllr Marshall has asked Tony Robinson for a plan.

P1350: The Clerk advised that she had applied for a TPO on the remaining tree on the new Farmway site and this has been granted.

P1350 Cemetery wall: this has now been repaired.

P1351 Wheeliebins in the Market Square: reply from Steve Quartermaine advising that the White Horse Cafe is the only building with a wheeliebin in the Market Square. They have a duty of care to ensure their rubbish is stored in such a way as not to cause a nuisance. There is no planning policy re bins in conservation areas as they are removable. Permanent bin stores would require planning consent. Letter to be sent to Steve Quartermaine pointing out that the Town Council are trying to improve the town, but there was no consultation regarding the siting of the wheeliebin. The bin in question restricts the width of the thoroughfare. Also to refer to the one outside the Mind shop, which is chained to a wastepaper bin, making the wastepaper bin unusable.

P1351 Rubbish on Hambleton Estate: In response to the Town Council's letter, Gary Brown of Hambleton advised that time has been spent on this. The County Council have removed bulky items from South Dowber Lane and the clearing up is ongoing. An offender is to do such clearing up for two hours per week for 3 months. Hambleton point out that the Tranmire Ditch is not in their ownership, but Cllr Marshall said they have cleared it in the past. The clerk to take this up with them. Cllr Robinson expressed the view that we should be using the services of offenders more.

County Council Report:

Cllr Marshall advised that there is a scheme to replace the New Bridge at

Sowerby and as a result of this to close the road for three months. This will cause problems for people wishing to access the amenity tip and there was concern that it could lead to an increase in fly tipping. It will also create more pressure on Blakey Lane and the town centre. Letter objecting to this scheme to be sent to the County Council and to Mouchel.

Page 0003

District Council Report:

Cllr Robinson - nothing to report.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Thirsk Skatepark saying that Hambleton have £20K allocated for this project - this will be transferred once the scheme is implemented and must be spent by 2005

Flooding - Cllr Marshall had received a reply from David McGloin explaining the background to the withdrawal of the £25K. Cllr Salmon felt we had made our point on this.

Community Safety Partnership - Cllr Marshall said that Chris Fields had advised that the skateboarding in Nursery Gardens had not been discussed at the problem solving meeting.

Cllr Hubbard joined the meeting.

To approve accounts for payment:

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

YLCA Annual Subscription 2003/04 £474.00

Staples £147.87

R S Hall Engineering - Glass for Cemetary Notice board £89.12

K.C. Pickles - Repairs to Cemetery wall £550.00

Todd Waste Management, cemetery skip £108.52

Action for Market Towns, membership £57.08

Power Point Ltd, chainsaw hire £15.90

Power Point Ltd, padlock & chain, East Thirsk play area £ 13.87

C Amy: Weekly inspections £365.60

Litter picking: Mill Gardens £240.00

Picnic Area £80.00

Castle Garth £80.00

Surfacing, St James Green £285.15

Repairs to swings, East Thirsk £27.00

Trees, Stockton Road £51.75

The Holmes £431.16

HDC-Feasibility Study of Long Street £5875.00

Bow House – advert £666.23

Elaine Coulson - Salary (March 2003) £999.64

Inland Revenue - tax and NI (March 2003) £740.65

Paid since last meeting:

J Harron, salary, March £238.33

HDC, Rates, Town Office £265.86

To consider/resolve the following financial matters:

a)signatories on bank mandate:

The clerk explained that, upon attempting to add her name to the bank mandate she was advised by Barclays that no more than three names are allowed on a mandate.

Page 0004

She was asked to research the views of other banks on this and then go back to Barclays advising that we are considering changing banks because of it. Cllr Marshall pointed out that we would also need to look at the interest and storage provision of any prospective bank.

b) progress re appointment of internal auditor - to be dealt with as a confidential item.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following applications were approved, proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Salmon, agreed.

New Memorials:

Brian David Day

Hannah Louise Musgrove and Jack William Musgrove

Elsie Natrass

Reg Codling and Mary Elizabeth Codling

Additional Inscriptions:

Margaret Tullett

Ron Halcro

To receive correspondence:

Letter from Action for Market Towns re new Membership scheme

Letter from Countryside Agency, Rights of Way Act 2000. Comments required by 13th June - the clerk will circulate this to councillors.

Letter from Defra re Quality Town and Parish Council Initiative. Cllr Murkett expressed the hope that the Council will go ahead with this and also that if there are any expenses incurred in order for the clerk to become a 'quality' clerk then the council will meet the cost of these.

Letter from NYCC re expenditure on local bus services. The County Council advise that the 147 service from Thirsk to Ripon via Sinderby, Pickhill and Melmerby is proving uneconomic and it is proposed to withdraw it on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Comments are required by 2nd May 2003. The clerk to contact the other parishes affected by this to ascertain whether they are objecting to it and if this is the case then the Town Council will also object.

Letter from Hambleton Paddlers giving an outline of their organisation and the costs involved. Proposed Cllr Salmon, seconded Cllr Bull, that a donation of £100 be sent, carried.

Three Tuns Yard - Cllr Marshall explained that Keith Watkins of the County Council had written advising of their decision and we have 28 days in which to appeal. The letter had been sent to 15A Castlegate and following Cllr Marshall's complaint, Keith Watkins sent a further letter dated 10th April 2003 giving us 28 days from then. A form to lodge an Appeal has been obtained from the Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber. A joint meeting with Sowerby Parish Council to be set up to complete the form - 24th April suggested. Cllr Robinson stressed that should it become necessary to incur any costs then a further meeting to discuss whether to proceed with this must be held.

YLCA Membership of the Association of Burial Authorities 2003/4 - to be included in the payments for next month's meeting.

Proposed Floodlighting, St Mary's Church - letter from Mike Wilkinson enclosing a copy of the Faculty. He requires to know when a contractor has been appointed and

Page 0005

suggests a site meeting with the contractor, the Town Council sub committee, and representatives of the church.

Letter from HDC enclosing Notices of Uncontested Election. It is necessary to co-opt to fill two seats before 26th June. A piece to be put in the 'News from Towns and Villages' section of the 'Darlington & Stockton Times' and notices to be put on the boards. Applications to be sent to the Town Council Office one week before the next meeting.

Letter from HDC re street naming and numbering in Masonic Lane. A reply to be sent advising that the correct name is Picks Lane. No objections to 'Picks Court', but would suggest that the proposed 'Croft View' should be 'Masonic View' and proposed 'Castle Stable Yard' should be 'Castle Mews'

Cllr Marshall proposed a suspension of Standing Orders, agreed.

Letter from BTCV re winter work 2003/4. Cllr Bull suggested clearing the skateboard park. BTCV to contact Bill Charlton at Thirsk School.

E mail from Bishop Auckland Town Centre Manager re parking fees - response to be sent advising it is free parking in Thirsk

To receive Planning Committee Report:

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April were approved.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Nothing to report other than the fact that the Cemetery Wall has been repaired.

To receive reports from representatives:

East Thirsk

Cllr Adamson reported that the proposed extension going ahead soon. Detached

Youth Worker Project

Cllr Bull said the Detached Youth Worker is getting very involved and progressing well. There is a good response from the children.

Thirsk Clock Cafe

Cllr Pack advised that the lease has been signed and we are waiting for the builders to start. The Cafe will be open 2 evenings per week initially.

Community Care Association

Cllr Salmon reported that Cllr Adamson has been elected Chairman .

Carrs Field

Cllr Hubbard reported that work on the base has started and the tarmacing is being done tomorrow. The order for the ramp is to be placed.

Thirsk Swimming Pool Charity

Cllr Murkett had attended the meeting, but had nothing particular to report.

Millennium Green

Cllr Marshall reported that a work day is to be held.

School Governors

Cllr Marshall reported that at the School Governors meeting it was pointed out that the remaining part of the 7 acres is very derelict and the headmaster suggested it should be built on. He also suggested fencing the school off from it with 6ft high metal fencing. He was concerned about the ditch between the Millennium Green and

Page 0006

the school as it is stagnant. HDC are currently looking at the ownership of the ditch - a chasing letter to be sent.

District Council Parish Liaison meeting

Cllr Robinson said this was fairly well attended. Nothing particular to report.

Thirsk Clock Cafe

Cllr Pack asked that funds be put in to this and it was pointed out that £500 had been allocated to youth activities - this could possibly be used. Cllr Marshall advised Cllr Pack to write to the Town Council and request payment of this.

Town Hall Committee

Cllr Pack advised that money is still being held back on this until works are finally completed.

Members:

Cllr Bull referred to the tubs on the corner of St James Green, saying the larger one is closest to the kerb. He queried whether it would be better to have the smaller one closest to the kerb. Thirsk in Bloom to look at this. Referring to lamp stands, Cllr Pack asked whether they are to be painted. Cllr Hubbard

reported that Mr Prendergast is considering a mural on the Bingo Hall. Cllr Hubbard has offered to help with this. Cllr Murkett pointed out that it would need planning consent.

The public and the press were excluded for two confidential items.

The meeting closed at 10:40pm

No Amenities Committee meeting
held in May 2003 due to Town Council
and Hambleton District Council Elections

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting
held on Monday 12th May 2003 at 7:00pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson,
J Watson, the press reporter, 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Marshall, accepted.

Cllr Robinson thanked the Members for their support during his time as Chairman.

Election of Chairman for 2003/4:

Cllr Hubbard proposed that Cllr Adamson be elected Chairman, seconded by Cllr Pack, unanimously agreed. Cllr Adamson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book.

Election of Vice Chairman:

Cllr Adamson proposed Cllr Pack, not seconded. Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Robinson - carried.

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting, held on 20th May 2002:

It was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Roberts that these be approved, agreed.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Representatives' Reports:

Written reports received by the Clerk had been copied and circulated to Councillors with the agenda for the meeting. Further reports had been received since and they were handed out at the start of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Adamson that they be accepted.

Committee Reports:

Written reports received had been copied and circulated to all Councillors with the agenda for this meeting. Some further reports received since were handed out at the start of the meeting.

To elect Council Representatives for the coming year:

Cllr Adamson proposed that the Police Liaison meeting be struck from the list - agreed. Cllr Robinson proposed that Cllr Watson be appointed to the Town Hall Management Committee in his place - agreed. Cllr Robinson expressed interest in being the representative on the Lambert Memorial Hospital League of Friends - agreed.

The Committee list for 2003/4 had been circulated to Councillors in order that they could indicate the committees they wished to serve on. It was agreed that this be finalised when the Council has co-opted people to fill the two empty seats.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

None.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 12th May 2003
following the Annual Parish Council Meeting
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0007

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson,
J Watson, 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr J Marshall, accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack that these be approved.

Police Report:

No police representative present.

Councillors raised items to be brought to the attention of the police as follows: Cllr Watson referred to a report in the 'Darlington and Stockton Times' concerning the disturbances following the recent race meeting. Cllr Hubbard asked whether the people causing the problem were from Thirsk or from outside the area and whether the incident was captured on the CCTV.

Other incidents were mentioned, i.e. a handbag snatch in Steads Yard - no one apprehended for this and there was a rumour of some disturbance at the Hambleton

Rooms on the racecourse.

Cllr Robinson reported that often on Sundays late night/early morning there is fighting in the Market Place near the pizza restaurant. It was queried what time the pizza restaurant closes and also whether these incidents are caught on the CCTV .

Open Forum:

The member of the public present had no items to raise.

Matters Arising:

P0001 Referring to the broken trees and fencing on the Little Green, Cllr Robinson has now removed these and has repaired the litter bin. He has also reported the litter bins outside the Coop and the delicatessen to Hambleton.

P0002 Cllr Robinson reported that he and Cllr Reynard had inspected the toilets. They are not being cleaned properly and some cosmetic work is still required.

Cllr Robinson has reported this to David McGloin at Hambleton and he is to contact the cleaner. A letter to be sent to Mr McGloin. P0002 Local Plan Update: A meeting to discuss this has been arranged for Wednesday 14th May in the Town Council Office at 7.30pm. Cllr Roberts, Robinson, Reynard and Pack gave their apologies for this.

P0002 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: A plan has now been obtained.

P0002 Wheeliebins in the Market Square: Letters have been sent to Eric Kendall and Steve Quartermaine.

P0002 New Bridge at Sowerby: Letters sent to Mouchel and the County Council.

Reply received from the County Council expressing general agreement with issues raised by the Town Council. No reply from Mouchel as yet.

P0003 Bank mandate: The clerk advised that she had consulted the other major banks in Thirsk and they do not have a restriction on the number of signatures on a mandate. She had then written to Barclays reiterating that we cannot operate with less than four signatures and they have now agreed to allow four people on the mandate. Cllr Adamson said he was still not happy with Barclays as he feels that such a restriction on the number of councillors on the mandate is not in accordance with our standing

Page P0008

orders. A letter to be sent to Barclays Head Office saying this. It was agreed that the new mandate be signed.

P0004 Letter from Countryside Agency, Rights of Way Act 2000: This is currently being circulated.

P0004 Proposed withdrawal of 147 bus service: the clerk had checked with Ripon Town Council and other villages along the route. No objections were being made and therefore none were sent in by the Town Council.

Letter from Hambleton Paddlers: Donation of £100 was sent to them following the last meeting.

Three Tuns Yard: The clerk advised that a joint meeting of Thirsk Town Council and Sowerby Parish Council was held on 24th April. The form was completed and submitted well within the 28 day deadline.

P0005 Notices re uncontested election: The clerk advised that a notice re the 2 vacant places was put in the 'News from Towns and Villages' section of the 'Darlington and Stockton Times' and notices were put on the boards. Three applications received and these will be dealt with as an agenda item later in

this meeting.

Street naming and numbering in Masonic Lane: a letter had been sent putting forward the Town Council's recommendations. A reply received from Hambleton advised that the names were chosen by John Bell based on historical links/names for the area. Cllr Roberts proposed that we abide by John Bell's suggestion, agreed.

To receive reports from:

(b) District Council

Cllr Robinson - nothing to report.

Cllr Hubbard - not attended a meeting as yet.

To approve accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack, all in favour.

Steve Dawson - Hedge planting around new Garden of Rest area £170.00

York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields subscription 2003/04 £30.00

Thirskweb.com - hosting service £38.16

K. Dickinson - cleaning office windows - April 2003 £8.00

A. Robinson - reimbursement for office furniture

(12 chairs/filing cabinet/swivel chair) £27.00

YLCA - Membership of Association of Burial Authorities Subscription 2003/04

£40.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary April 2003 £999.64

Inland Revenue - Tax and NI April 2003 £535.40

C E & C M Walker - Grasscutting £2238.00

Thirsk Hall Estate - Rent/wayleaves £5.00

BT Internet line £123.02

Paid since last meeting:

Petty Cash £50.00

Davies' 'Law of Burial, Cremation and Exhumation' £39.95

K. Gittens - Trees for Millennium Green £25.00

Aon Limited - Insurance of Millennium Green £334.16

Page P0009

BTCV Membership - Millennium Green Trust £25.00

Record Playground Equipment Ltd - play equipment for Workhouse £10163.74

Hambleton Paddlers - donation (authorised at April meeting) £100.00

HDC - Rates for Council Office - April 2003 £55.83

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI balance for year ended 31.3.03 £297.51

Julie Harron - Salary April 2003 £238.33

HDC - Rates for Council Office - May 2003 £52.00

Record Playground Equipment Ltd - play equipment for Craigs Way £16967.00

HDC - Rent for quarter commencing Dec 2002 (replacement cheque as original lost)

£660.94

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following application was approved, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr

Roberts, agreed.

John Lionel Amos.

To receive Correspondence:

Notice from Bond Pearce re the continuing License, Tesco Store.

NYCC, letter acknowledging the Clerk's letter reporting various highway repairs required in Millers Road Hambleton Drive and Gillings Court.

Notice re meeting of the NYCC County Committee for Hambleton meeting, 12th May

YRCC letter thanking the Town Council for their continued support.

NYCC letter re temporary closure of A170 Sutton Bank, from 19th May 2003 for the purpose of carrying out essential maintenance works.

NYCC, notice re temporary closure, when necessary, of the A170 from Gormire Farm to Sutton Bank from 12th May to 1st September 2003 inclusive.

Letter from Chairman of Governors of Thirsk School inviting Members to a meeting on 21st May to discuss Specialist School Status.

SMP Playgrounds, letter re a seminar at Peterlee on 14th May.

NYCC, letter inviting nominations to fill 5 Parish Council places on the County Area Committee for Hambleton - no interest.

North Yorkshire Police Authority, letter inviting nominations for the Police Officer of the Year 2003.

NYCC, letter re East Thirsk Learning Resource Centre advising that the inaugural meeting of the newly constituted steering group will be held on 15th May.

Nominations for this group are invited.

Thirsk Rotary Club, letter re a Bed Race on 13th July requesting consent for the beds to cross the cobbles in the Market Place and pass through the greens that lie in the Town Council's jurisdiction. Cllr Adamson declared an interest. It was proposed by Cllr Hubbard and seconded by Cllr Jackson that this be agreed and that the Rotary be advised to contact Hambleton for consent to cross the

cobbles.

NYCC letter giving details of resurfacing of carriageway works to be carried out in Long Street, Westgate and the A61 at Thirsk Railway Station. Cllr Robinson said there are other areas more in need of surfacing and Topcliffe Road was one such.

HDC, letter re a meeting of the Thirsk Conservation Area Advisory Group to be held on 13th May.

YLCA Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting - to be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Page P0010

Copy letter from Hambleton to Mr T J Taylor confirming his postal address as New Church Farm, Bagby - sent to the Town Council in error.

NYCC, Letter requesting that the Town Council add an additional area of 650m sq metres at Church View, Cemetery Lane to their grasscutting schedule. The annual payment for the County Council would be increased to cover this. Cllr Roberts proposed that this be agreed, seconded Cllr Robinson.

To receive applications for co-option onto Town Council:

Three applications had been received; Roger Mallett, Alan Morton and Harry Whitton and their applications were read to the meeting. A ballot was held and as a result of this Roger Mallett and Alan Morton were co-opted on to the Town Council.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

This had been circulated to Councillors, accepted.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the beech hedge around the new Garden of Rest area had not survived and had therefore been removed and a new beech hedge planted.

Cllr Adamson would like to dispose of the skip and replace it with wheeliebins.

To receive reports from:

a) Representatives

Cllr Roberts - nothing to report.

Cllr Hubbard - the ramp on Carrs Field is now in position and it is very popular. The Council congratulated Cllr Hubbard on his persistence in getting this done and Cllr Hubbard thanked the Trustees of the Field. He referred to the support he had received from various organisations, e.g. Rotary, Inner Wheel, Round Table and several small businesses. Tarmac (Northern) were also very much involved. It is hoped to erect a board showing the names of people involved in this.

Cllr Robinson advised that as the Chairman he had represented the Town Council at the St George's Day Scouts Parade at the church and had also represented the Town Council at the new opening of the Community Care Association.

Cllr Reynard advised that she had represented the Town Council at the Thirsk Clock Café meeting.

Cllr Pack reported that Thirsk in Bloom are awaiting the judges' decision and are making preparations for summer planting.

Cllr Adamson reported on new initiatives which are being introduced by the Education Minister and as a result of these changes to the constitution the

right of Parish Councils to appoint a representative onto a school governing body will cease - there has been no consultation regarding this. A letter protesting against this imposition to be sent to the Government Minister and our Member of Parliament. Cllr Roberts asked that a copy be sent to Ian Strong requesting that this be an agenda item at the next Hambleton Committee meeting.

Page P0011

b) Members

Cllr Hubbard referred to Hambleton View where the road surface is very poor. The Clerk has spoken to the County Council about this. However, Cllr Robinson advised that this is an unadopted road.

Cllr Robinson advised that the work being carried out on behalf of Yorkshire Water at the White Mare Roundabout has now finished.

The Clerk had spoken to Laings as Thirsk in Bloom wish the roundabout to be cleared in order that they can plant it up. The Clerk will chase this up.

Cllr Robinson referred to the sign on the A19 which had originally been provided by the Rotary Club, saying that following the completion of the works it has not been replaced. Cllr Jackson advised that Rotary had decided not to reinstate it as it had rotted. Cllr Jackson to bring this up at Rotary.

Cllr Robinson advised that some parish councils received compensation when the pylons were installed. Letter to be sent to Stuart Grant requesting recompense for the disruption as a result of the pylons.

Cllr Robinson advised that Cllr Adamson had not been voted on to the Standards Committee.

Cllr Pack referred to the Workhouse and suggested that some form of traffic

calming should be introduced at the approach to the play area - to be brought up at the Amenities Committee meeting. She also mentioned the bushes along Sutton Road which were mainly elders and said there had been some talk about replacing them. It was felt the residents of this area should be consulted - Cllr Pack to do this and to speak to Mike Roberts.

Cllr Jackson referred to the fact that the smell on Station Road is still persisting. A letter to be sent to Yorkshire Water regarding this.

Cllr Jackson referred to the fact that Tesco's staff are still not using the staff car park. It was decided not to pursue this.

Cllr Reynard queried about Tesco's responsibility to carry out works to Castlegarth. Cllr Adamson said these would normally have to be done within 5 years of planning consent being granted. The clerk will look at the conditions on the planning consent and Cllr Robinson will attempt to find out from the Planning Department.

Cllr Adamson referred to the parking on Station Road during the car boot sales. It is hoped to get the no parking stretch extended.

Cllr Robinson referred to the yellow box junction in the Market Place which is now very faded. The Clerk to ask Mike Roberts to repaint this. It was suggested that yellow boxes be installed near the disabled crossings - a letter to be sent to Highways.

It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Robinson that the public and press be excluded for Staff confidential items.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 5th June 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0004

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,
F Roberts, J Watson, the press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllr A Robinson (attending another meeting), Cllr K Reynard (away), accepted.

Cllr Adamson welcomed Roger Mallett as a new councillor and Alan Morton who had re-joined the Council at this year's election.

To appoint Chair of Amenity Committee 2003/4:

It was proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded by Cllr Roberts that Cllr Hubbard be appointed - all in favour.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2003:

Approved, proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack.

Matters Arising:

A0001 Three Tuns Yard Right of Way: Appeal form submitted to the Government Office. Acknowledgement received advising that all cases are dealt with on the

basis of an exchange of written representations, followed, if necessary, by a site inspection by an Officer of the Department.

A0002 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Plan received.

A0002 Refurbishment of toilets in the Market Place: Letter sent to David McGloin re the cleaning.

A0002 Hambleton Paddlers: Donation of £100 sent and letter of thanks received.

A0002 Mrs S Brown, 43 St Mary's Walk: This will be dealt with under Correspondence.

Greens & Ingramgate: Blocks still being stored outside 39 St James Green. Letter to be sent asking when the work will be finished.

A0002 Work to be carried out to the White Mare roundabout: The clerk had asked that diversion signs be put up, but had been advised that the works causing the road restriction have now been finished.

Cllr Marshall joined the meeting.

A0002 'Entrances' to Thirsk: A letter has been sent to Mike Moore.

A0002 Plaques, Interpretation Boards: Lists of the proposed sites for plaques had been sent to Councillors. The clerk has applied for Listed Building Consent for the plaque on Thirsk Museum.

A0002 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas: Chris Amy and DBD Contracting have been asked for a price. No response received and a chasing letter sent.

A0002 Hedge outside the perimeter fence of a house on South Dowber Way: Cllr Pack to look into this.

A0002 Green & Ingramgate: The lower branches of the tree outside the Lord Nelson have not yet been removed. The Clerk to remind Chris Amy.

A0002 Trees on the Holmes and near the Waterfall: Message received from Cllr Reynard that these need cutting back. The Clerk to speak to Chris Amy.

A0002 Christmas Fair: Cllr Hubbard advised that it is hoped to sort out the possibility of funding and will then know whether this is to proceed. It was agreed that this could not be run under the name of the Town Council because we cannot insure it.

A0003 Cobbled Areas on Kirkgate: Cllr Watson referred to the comment made by Cllr Marshall that the tarmacing was temporary, asking how long it is likely to remain. Cllr Marshall advised that this would be for approximately one year until Yorkshire Water have finished. However, reinstatement of the cobbles is promised.

A0003 Coping removed from wall near Pinfold Place. This was put back but not secured and has been removed again. Malcolm Burnett to be asked to cement it in place.

To receive Correspondence:

HDC - Proposed Footway Lighting - Castlegarth Footpath. Letter enclosing plan of proposed lights. It was pointed out that the lights, in their suggested positions, would be obscured by trees. It was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that we request they be positioned on the opposite side of the pathway on Castlegarth. It was mentioned that there may be some work carried out to the entrances onto Castlegarth, and the District Council to be asked to

bear this in mind.

The Clerk had been contacted by Peter Penny requesting some dates for holding a meeting with John Bell and Members of the Town Council to look at the best way of using £7,500 on Castlegarth. It was agreed to suggest either 1st, 2nd or 3rd July at 8.30am. Members were asked to give thought as to how they would like to spend the monies available.

The need for street lighting on Picks Lane was mentioned - letter to be sent to the County Council.

NYCC Street lighting refurbishment on Station Road and Topcliffe Road. The clerk to contact the County Council and ask for a picture of the proposed lights and any alternative design. Also to point out that lights 4,5,6 and 7 on Thirsk-Topcliffe Road Plan are within the Conservation Area and would need to be the same design as those in the Market Place. The County Council to be informed of the potential residential development on the Auction Mart site on Station Road.

NYCC - letter advising that their contribution to grasscutting this year will be £1,285.53.

Notes received from Don Moore re Yorkshire Water's proposed works - it is understood that these have now been deferred until September.

Cllr Marshall gave advance notice of the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit in the town centre. This has not yet gone out to consultation.

HDC - Hambleton Transport Strategy - this is currently being circulated amongst Councillors. Comments were invited by 6th June, but this has now been extended to the end of the month, to be discussed at Town Council meeting.

Cllr Roberts referred to the need for a link road between the A170 and the A19 and suggested we ask National Grid to do this. The clerk advised that she has

recently written to National Grid seeking compensation for the disruption caused by the pylons.

Page A0006

NYCC re South Kilvington to Thirsk Cycle Path. The Town Council had previously voted in favour of Option 1, i.e. a cycle track to be positioned between the line of trees on Stockton Road and the houses. Work on this has now started and a number of complaints have been received from residents. Any further observations from the Town Council are invited. It was proposed by Cllr Adamson and seconded by Cllr Roberts that the Town Council should abide by their original decision in favour of Option 1. This was put to the vote and the motion was carried with 6 in favour and 3 abstentions.

Complaints have been received re rats in Mill Gardens/Riverside Mews. The Pest Control Officer had put bait boxes down for a short time, but without success.

He suggested the Town Council should enter into an annual contract for 6 permanent bait boxes at a cost of £170 per annum. It was proposed by Cllr Hubbard that this be entered into, the cost to be taken from Mill Gardens' budget, seconded by Cllr Roberts. Cllr Jackson suggested that a letter be sent to Yorkshire Water requesting they check whether the grilles in the outlet pipes are still in place as, if not, the rats could be gaining entry through these.

Cllr Roberts suggested that stronger notices re feeding the ducks/pigeons be put up.

The clerk had been contacted by Mr S. Brown of 43 St Mary's Walk re a tree outside his boundary which is hanging over his garden. She was instructed to refer him to Peter Penny. It was suggested that Tim Wood at Hambleton be

contacted for advice re the possibility of having a TPO put on it.

The Clerk had been contacted by Mrs Kilvington of Whitelass Close concerning the trees outside her boundary enquiring how tall they are likely to grow. A letter to be sent to her advising that the matter will be reviewed and monitored.

The Clerk advised that during an inspection of the play areas carried out by Mrs Julie Harron it was noted that the children's bucket swings at East Thirsk Play Area have been badly vandalised. Chris Amy to be asked to remove them without delay. Cllr Watson queried whether Chris Amy was over committed.

To appoint Town Council Committee Members:

A copy of the form had been sent to Councillors and these had been completed.

To appoint Representatives to External Organisations:

A copy of the list had been sent to Councillors and the Representatives on External Organisations were agreed.

To discuss the list of sites for blue plaques:

A copy of the list of 60 proposed sites and the list of 21 proposed sites had been sent to Councillors. The Committee have reduced the list from 60 to 21.

Hambleton have allocated £2K to fund 20 plaques.

Cllr Marshall explained that Sowerby Parish Council also wish to be involved in the scheme. The list was therefore also sent to Sowerby Parish Council who made some minor amendments, i.e. removing both Churches from the list and adding Joan Maynard's house and the Mechanic's Institute (Ritz Cinema). Cooper Harding is to do the wording for the plaques. The 'Thirsk Town Council Jubilee 2000' is not to appear around the edge, but is to be replaced with a Yorkshire Rose at the top.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern that he had been supported by the Town Council to do a

Page A0007

particular scheme and this has now been altered without consulting him. He was not in favour of the plaques not bearing the name of the Town Council. Cllr Marshall advised that the Tourism Focus Group are looking at walks which will link up with the plaques and their leaflet will describe the plaques and who supplied them. Cllr Jackson left the meeting.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that she has reported at every stage on the plaques and interpretation boards. Cllr Adamson queried whether the owners of the properties have been approached and Cllr Marshall said this is the next stage. It was proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack that the list of 21 plaques be accepted - all in favour.

To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field:

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the opening of the ramp. Cllr Hubbard said it will be necessary to have some funding to provide litter bins.

Central Areas/Open Areas/Greens& Ingramgate:

Cllr Marshall suggested that a walk round takes place followed by a joint committee meeting. There is a need to discuss litter picking, maintenance of garden areas, maintenance of play equipment and putting this out to tender. She advised that Hambleton have found £7K+, possibly from the Long Street Play Area, and it is hoped to use this to provide safety surfacing under the swings on the

East Thirsk Play Area.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised there is to be a Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on 14th June with plants and a display. Thirsk in Bloom are preparing for summer planting.

The summer judging will take place on 15th July at 8.15am. Cllr Pack has been in discussion with Arriva about Thirsk Station and they are interested in doing something.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Watson asked whether it would be possible to have a photocopier in the Town Council Office. Cllr Adamson said this could be very difficult. The Town Office Working Party to look into it.

Cllr Mallett referred to cars parking on the dropped kerbs on the roadway between St James' Green and Little Green. A letter to be sent to the County Council. Cllr Hubbard to take up the problem of Wheeliebins on the Little Green with Hambleton's Environmental Committee.

The problem of dog fouling on St James' Green and the Little Green was mentioned. A letter to be sent to Hambleton requesting they review the signage about this.

Cllr Marshall moved that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item.

The meeting closed at 10:35pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 16th June 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0012

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,
K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, 7 members of the public, PC Chris Dundan and
the clerk.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr J Watson (illness), D & S reporter (away). Accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Hubbard that these be approved.

Police Report:

Referring to the matters raised by Councillors at the previous meeting, PC
Dundan said that following the incident at the race meeting an arrest had been
made. On the same day there had been some trouble in the Black Bull, but this
had been dealt with.

Following the handbag snatch in Steads Yard, there had been a further one
yesterday on Carrs Field and someone had been arrested.

Referring to the pizza shops, PC Dundan said they are licensed to stay open
until midnight - any breaches of this would be a matter for the Planning

Enforcement Officer..

Following a query raised re door to door salesmen in the Hambleton and Sowerby areas, they had been checked out and were found to be legitimate - there was no link with recent burglaries in those areas.

The Police are paying a lot of attention to the Skateboard Park.

Cllr Robinson referred to an incident with an air rifle on The Holmes - no one apprehended for this.

Cllr Reynard referred to the parking which takes place on the grass at Norby - the police have no jurisdiction if it is not part of the highway. It was agreed to check whether this is common land.

PC Dundan advised that there was no CCTV in Hambleton last New Year's Eve and he requested the Town Council to make representations about this for this year.

Cllr Marshall asked that the police patrol the East Thirsk Play Area, which is the subject of a considerable amount of vandalism.

Open Forum:

Members of the public wished to speak and it was proposed by Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallet that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Ray Barker spoke on behalf of some of the residents of Stockton Road re the positioning of the cycle path. The residents were not happy with the proposed option that the cycle path be in the position of the current footpath, but would prefer it to be near the road. They expressed concern about the safety aspect and possible damage to the trees. They were also concerned that they were only notified 3 days before the work was due to start, and they had sent a petition to Mike Moore. It was explained that the Town Council were merely consultees and had decided in favour of Option 1, i.e. the cycle track nearer to the houses. Mr

Barker urged the Town Council to look at this again.

It was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

P0007 Toilets in the Market Place - a letter has been sent to David McGloin.

Page P0013

P0007 Local Plan Update - meeting held and form completed and delivered to Hambleton.

P0007 Wheeliebins in the Market Square - reply received and reported to Amenities Committee.

P0007 New Bridge at Sowerby - nothing further received. Cllr Marshall explained the background to this. It is hoped to have a site meeting with Highways, Mouchel, The Environment Agency and other interested parties. The work is proposed to take place in October and the expected duration is now to be 3 weeks rather than the 3 months originally intended.

P0008 Letter from Countryside Agency, Rights of Way Act 2000 - this had been circulated to Councillors, but had only just been received back. The deadline was 13th June and the clerk's request for an extension was refused.

P0008 Proposed withdrawal of 147 bus service. Notification received from the County Council advising that this service is now to be retained on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays rather than just Mondays and Wednesdays.

P0008 Letter from Hambleton Paddlers - donation of £100 sent and letter of thanks reported at Amenity Committee meeting.

P0008 Three Tuns Yard - Letter of acknowledgement received from Government Office and reported at Amenity Committee meeting.

P0008 Street naming and numbering in Masonic Lane (Cllr Marshall stressed this should be referred to as Picks Lane) . Hambleton advised that the Town Council abide by John Bell's suggested names.

P0009 Thirsk Rotary Club re a Bed Race in 13th July - Rotary advised that the Town Council have no objection to them passing over the green which are within the jurisdiction, but they will need to approach Hambleton for consent to cross the cobbles in the Market Place.

P0010 Parish Council representation on Governing Bodies; letter sent and acknowledgement received from Anne McIntosh MP. Letter also sent to Ian Strong requesting that this be an agenda item for the next Hambleton Committee meeting.

P0011 Road Surface - Hambleton View; a follow up letter has been sent to the County Council.

P0011 White Mare Roundabout; the clerk had spoken to Laings who had assured her that the roundabout would be cleared and new topsoil put in place in the very near future.

P0011 Request for compensation re pylons; a letter has been sent to Stuart Grant at National Grid requesting this.

P0011 Works to Castlegarth; meeting now being arranged to look at using the £7.5K.

P0011 Yellow box junction in the Market Place; a letter had been sent to Mike Roberts requesting that this be repainted. Reply received advising that no such work is to be carried out as Yorkshire Water are to be working in the Market Square. As this has now been deferred until September a further letter has been sent to Mike Roberts requesting he reconsider.

P0007 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church - Cllr Jackson queried what is happening to the plan which has been obtained and Cllr Hubbard explained. Cllr Jackson expressed his willingness to help with this.

P0009 East Thirsk Learning Resource Centre - Cllr Marshall advised that nominees are still required - Cllr Adamson to attend.

Page P0014

To receive reports from:

(a) County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council have approved a policy to review all outstanding rights of way disputes and have drawn up a plan to deal with these.

Referring to the Referendum in this region, Cllr Marshall said the County Council would support a County Council single unitary authority and would work with Town and Parish Councils.

The Boundary Committee, ignoring recommendations, have said that Thirsk and Carlton Miniott should be added to Knayton and other villages north of Thirsk, with Sowerby being added to the villages to the south of Thirsk.

(b) District Council

Cllr Hubbard advised that Environmental Services Best Value are looking at street cleaning, litter bins etc. Cllr Hubbard referred to problems with litter on race days and market days.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Leisure Best Value and said the cabinet have asked the Scrutiny Committee to look at the financial implications of this.

A parish review of flooding is to take place and Thirsk will be consulted.

Cllr Robinson advised that he is a member of the Best Value Access to Services, i.e. IT etc., also the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee. The work of the latter committee may increase when Hambleton takes over responsibility for issuing alcohol licences.

Cllr Robinson referred to changes in the legislation relating to swimming baths, saying that from 1st July 2003 children under 4 must be supervised on a one to one basis and for 4-7 year olds 1 adult can supervise two children.

Cllr Robinson outlined the new 'letter in a bottle scheme' which will be available to people living alone.

He advised that he is also a representative on the Wiske Drainage Board.

To approve accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Cllr Marshall requested that in future income received during the month should also be listed.

Accounts:

Yorkshire Explorer - consultancy fee £500.00

Fox's Copy Shop £58.35

C Amy - inspections, tree pruning, Holmes management plan £1381.30

Cllr Adamson - securing chain fitted to chain of office £40.00 C E & CM Walker - grasscutting £1492.25

BT - Office telephone £123.51

M L Burnett - repair to planter, seat near clock, repair and fit seat at

Castlegarth £114.00

D.J. Mann - cleaning windows in bus shelter October 2002-May 2003 inclusive

£153.00

Mrs. A.M. Wilkinson - refund of overpaid tax £352.48

Elaine Coulson - Salary May 2003 £999.64

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI May 2003 £535.40

Julie Harron - Salary July 2003 (payable 1.7.03) £238.33

Page P0015

HDC - Rates July 2003 £52.00

Paid since last meeting:

Allianz Cornhill Insurance £2,018.31

Petty Cash £50.00

Julie Harron - Salary June 2003 £238.33

HDC - Rates June 2003 £52.00

Carrs Field - Insurance 2003/04 £554.40

HDC - Rent quarter commencing 1st June 2003 £660.94

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following applications were approved, proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr

Roberts, agreed.

Richard Peter Hall

Gordon Richard Easby

Robert Arthur Tickle

Mary Ann Atkinson

Cllr Adamson pointed out that Robert Tickle's was a very recent internment and

therefore Collinsons should be asked to defer erecting the memorial for six months.

To receive correspondence:

Defra - Good Councillors Guide: a letter to be sent asking how the Guide can be obtained.

HDC; letter advising that Mrs Jennifer Clare of Easingwold was appointed to The Standards Committee as the Parish Council Representative, with 17 votes.

Darlington College of Technology; letter re securing work experience placements.

HDC - Letter re training for Parish Councils on Planning - 13th August

HDC - Letter re training for Parish Councillors on the Code of Conduct - 15th or 18th July. Cllr Morton to attend on 15th July and Cllr Mallett on 18th July.

NYCC - Letter and consultation paper re North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership Consultation - to be circulated to councillors.

NYCC - Letter and voting papers re the election of Parish Council

Representatives on the County Area Committee for Hambleton. It was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Jackson that we vote for Cllr D E Cartridge. It was further proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Jackson that Cllr Robinson be appointed to vote on the Town Council's behalf.

Michael Dresser - E-mail re properties for first time buyers in Thirsk - to be sent to Hambleton.

Eccles Heddon -Letter outlining their findings and advice re the Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch - to be copied and circulated to Councillors for discussion at the next Amenities meeting.

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative -Letter confirming that the £5,000 feasibility study for the Long Street Enhancement Project will be met by Hambleton.

HDC -Letter confirming that the monies for the Long Street Play Area (amounting to £7K+) can be used to provide safety surfacing at East Thirsk Play Area.

V HDC - Letter advising that the venue of the Hambleton Flood Forum to be held on 28th June had been changed to the Grand Committee Room, County Hall,. Cllr Roberts sent her apologies, Cllr Mallett to attend.

Page P0016

The Standards Board for England - Letter enclosing workbook and video.

NYCC - Reply to the town Council's response re replacement lighting on Station Road and Topcliffe Road. The County Council advise that the decorative Victorian lighting is considerably more expensive and they cannot justify the additional expense and of installing such lighting on Westgate/Castlegarth. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Mallett that a letter be sent to Hambleton asking whether there is money available from the Conservation Department's budget.

To Consider any interest by Councillors in attending the YLCA Annual Conference and AGM to be held on 20/21st September 2003.

Cllrs Adamson and Roberts to attend on the Saturday only

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts presented the Planning Committee Report, accepted.

Cllr Roberts brought the following application to the Council for consideration.

Application No. 2/03/152/0477F - Change of use of existing ground floor shop and first floor living accommodation to a ground floor hot food take-away shop with first floor living accommodation at 33-35 Ingramgate. It was agreed that the

Council should ratify the Planning Committee's decision to recommend that this be refused; proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack, all in favour.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the Burial Board have not met as yet. Two new wire bins have been purchased.

Cllr Marshall queried why someone was not employed to empty the bins and Cllr Adamson advised that this is for financial reasons.

The new beech hedge which has been planted around the new Garden of Rest area is growing well.

To reconsider decision passed by the Council re the South Kilvington to Thirsk Cycle Path on Stockton Road.

Cllr Marshall abstained and withdrew from discussion for this item.

A written proposal to opt for resolution to reconsider the decision passed by the Town Council on the Cycle Path along Stockton Road, signed by six members of the Town Council was received. Cllr Hubbard expressed the opinion that, in view of the level of concern demonstrated by members of the public during the Open Forum, the Town Council should review the situation. It was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack that the Town Council reconsider it's decision to the proposed Cycle Path along Stockton Road. The motion was put to the vote and was carried with 6 in favour, 3 against and Cllr Marshall's abstention. It was further proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded by Cllr Pack that a site meeting be held with representatives of the Town and County Councils and residents. This was put to the vote and carried with 6 in favour, 3 against and Cllr Marshall's abstention.

To receive reports from

a) Representatives

Town Hall Management Committee: Cllr Pack advised that a committee meeting has been held. A cleaner has been appointed.

Thirsk Clock: Cllr Pack advised that it is hoped this will open fairly soon.

Page P0017

It was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Hubbard that Standing Orders be suspended for ten minutes.

Carrs Field: Cllr Hubbard advised that there had been problems with the demolition of fencing and with vandalism. Cllr Hubbard would like to meet with the Carrs Field Committee to look at the provision of litter bins and keeping the overgrowth under control.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Hubbard reported that the Christmas Fayre has been deferred to 2004 because of problems in establishing who is to take responsibility. Bunting for the Thirsk Festival will be put up on 26th June.

East Thirsk Community Association: The extension is still on track. A new booking clerk is being sought.

Thirsk Community Play School: Cllr Adamson reported that a large proportion of the last meeting was devoted to the fact that there is now a new Deputy Head.

The issue of the fence is still ongoing. A letter has been sent to all parents and governors advising that cars are now banned from the school premises because of the danger to children.

b) Members

Cllr Hubbard advised that he had met the Missing Miles Challenge participants who were walking from Edinburgh to London to raise funds for the Missing Persons Helpline. He had presented each of them with a Certificate of Accomplishment. Cllr Robinson referred to the weeds in the lane outside the Town Council office.

Cllr Adamson advised that he has presented trophies for a five a side football match.

He had attended the official opening of the skateboard ramp at Carrs Field.

He also went to Richmond to celebrate the Richmond Heritage Day at the invitation of the Mayor of Richmond.

Cllr Jackson asked that a Christmas Lights Committee Meeting be held after the Amenities Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Marshall seconded by Cllr Pack that the public be excluded for two confidential correspondence items.

The meeting closed at 10:25pm

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 3rd July 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0008

Present:

Cllrs Adamson (in the Chair), R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, A Robinson, J Watson, 5 members of the public, the press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs S Hubbard, J Jackson, F Roberts, agreed.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A0004 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Plan passed to Cllr Hubbard.

A0004 Refurbishment of toilets in the Market Square: No response to letter from David McGloin. The clerk had inspected the toilets - they are cleaner, but some cosmetic work still required.

A0004 Greens & Ingramgate: Letter sent to the owners of 39 St James Green re the bricks and blocks being stored outside - no reply as yet.

A0004 'Entrances' to Thirsk: Reply from Mike Moore still awaited.

A0004 Application for Listed Building Consent for plaque on Thirsk Museum:

Further information has been requested and this will be supplied .

A0004 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas: No response as yet from Chris Amy or DBD Contracting.

A0005 Greens & Ingramgate: Reminder sent to Chris Amy re the removal of the lower branches of the tree outside the 'Lord Nelson'.

A0005 Trees on the Holmes and near the Waterfall: Chris Amy and Cllr Reynard have had a site meeting to agree action on this.

A0005 The coping on the wall at Pinfold Place has now been cemented back on.

A0005 Castlegarth: Meeting held this morning: Cllrs Robson, Mallett, Reynard, the clerk, together with John Bell, Peter Penny and a representative of HDC's lighting department in attendance. Peter Penny to look at: (1) Widening the footpath from the A61 to Castlegarth to include the grass verge and improving the surface of it to just short of the existing gate. (2) Installing a new kissing gate at that end, slightly forward of the existing gateway. (3)

Installing a new kissing gate at the Town Centre access to Castlegarth. The kissing gates to be suitable for use by prams, wheelchairs etc. Peter Penny to provide the Town Council with drawings of both wood and metal gates. Funding of £7,500 from Tesco to be used for this. Hambleton's lighting engineer to put the new light at the A61 end of the footpath at the opposite side of the footpath. Not possible to move the location of the light at the Town Centre end, but the tree will be cut back.

A0005 Street lighting on Picks Lane: Letter requesting street lighting had been sent to the County Council. Reply received advising that the developer is to provide street lighting on part of Picks Lane. The County Council has no funds available for additional street lighting.

A0005 Street lighting refurbishment on Station Road and Topcliffe Road.

Following discussion at the Town Council meeting a letter had been sent to Hambleton asking

Page A0009

whether any monies are available in the Conservation Department budget.

Hambleton were also asked to bring pressure to bear on the County Council for decorative lighting in the Conservation Area. A0006 Mill Gardens/ Riverside

Mews: Several sightings of rats in this area. The Town Council have entered into a Pest Control Agreement with Hambleton and the bait boxes are now in place.

Yorkshire Water is checking the outlet pipes. Mrs Penson has put up new notices about feeding the ducks/pigeons.

A0006 Tree outside 43 St Mary's Walk: As advised, the clerk had referred the occupiers to Peter Penny but he advised that it is not a County Council tree. A letter has been sent to Tim Wood at Hambleton requesting advice on putting a TPO on the tree in question.

A0006 Mrs Kilvington, Whitelass Close re tree outside her boundary: Letter sent advising that the matter will be reviewed and monitored.

A0006 East Thirsk Play Area: Chris Amy has removed the damaged swings as far as possible. He has been asked to deal with the path lining which has been pulled up.

A0007 Central Areas/Open Areas/Greens & Ingramgate: The walk is being arranged.

A0007 Car Parking: A letter has been sent to the County Council regarding car parking on the dropped kerbs on the roadway between St James' Green and Little Green - a reply is awaited.

A0007 Dog fouling on St James' Green and the Little Green: Letter sent to

Hambleton requesting they review the signage - no reply as yet.

The Chairman proposed that items 4 and 5 be dealt with in reverse order, agreed.

To consider and decide upon the preferred route for the South Kilvington to Thirsk Cycle Path along Stockton Road:

Further correspondence received from the County Council had been copied and circulated to Councillors at the start of the meeting.

Cllr Adamson said the plan previously supplied by the County Council was rather misleading as the proposed cycle path is much nearer to the houses than it appears on the plan.

Cllr Robinson proposed that Standing Orders be suspended for ten minutes to allow members of the public to speak, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Members of the public present expressed concern at the safety aspect of children walking on a combined footpath/cycle path and of cars reversing out of driveways across the cycle path. Concern was also expressed at the possibility of damage to the trees. The residents would therefore request that the cycle path be situated next to the road.

Cllr Morton proposed that Standing Orders be reinstated, seconded Cllr Mallett, agreed.

Cllr Morton proposed the Town Council recommend that Option 2, i.e. a 2.5m wide dedicated cycle track south of Shire Road positioned adjacent to the carriageway, be adopted, seconded Cllr Pack. This was put to the vote - In favour: Cllrs Adamson, Morton, Pack, Reynard and Watson. Against: Cllr Mallett. Abstaining: Cllrs Marshall and Robinson. The motion was therefore carried with 5 in favour. 1 against and 2 abstentions.

To receive Correspondence:

NYCC : Notice re Prohibition of Waiting Order re A170 Barbeck/St Giles Close.

Proposed by Cllr Robinson that this be accepted, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

HDC: Presentation on change to twin wheeled bin refuse collection system, 4th July at 7.00pm. The invitation was to the Clerk, but she was not able to attend.

HDC: Air quality review and assessment. Report produced in April 2003 - no current exceedences or any future predicted exceedences of any of the seven pollutants looked at and therefore not necessary to progress to a detailed review.

York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association: Notice of AGM on 22nd July.

To be passed to Cllr Roberts.

Eccles Heddon: advice re Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch (copy circulated to Councillors) Cllr Marshall advised that in the past Barretts have declined to speak to us and Hambleton are reluctant to take action on this. There had been a sewerage overflow into the ditch, which was a matter of concern as it is not a flowing stream. Eccles Heddon set out their suggested course of action in four stages. Cllr Morton proposed that we proceed along the lines they suggest, step by step, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

HDC : Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Policy Review on Waste Management Strategy - Cllr Adamson to attend.

NYCC: Removal of refuge island, York Road, Thirsk. Work already completed.

Thirsk in Bloom, Spring Judging results 2003: appreciation was expressed for the

work of Thirsk in Bloom.

Churchwardens and PCC of Thirsk Team Ministry; invitation to the induction of Revd Richard Rowling on 24th July.

NYCC; replies to various matters raised; in particular the Clerk had asked Mike Roberts, in view of the fact that Yorkshire Water have deferred starting their work until later in the year, to re-consider and repaint the yellow box junction for the summer. He advises that he is currently monitoring the situation - Cllr Marshall to chase this up.

To consider and respond to Hambleton District Council's Transport Strategy:

Cllr Watson made the following points: the bus service from Thirsk to Northallerton and back should be geared to fit in with the Friarage Hospital visiting times and the buses should stop nearer the hospital. (Cllr Marshall advised that it is the intention to have a separate access to and egress from the hospital and buses will pull into the site); the local buses should be better equipped to accommodate disabled passengers; sometimes on Northallerton market days there are not enough seats on the buses for people wishing to travel to Northallerton; there should be no reduction in the number of train services to and from Thirsk; some of the parking spaces in the Market Place are rather narrow for larger, e.g. four wheeled drive vehicles. She also queried whether the extension to 4 hours for coach parking in the car park still applies. Cllr Marshall would like to see an east/west link road on to the bypass to take the Ripon/Scarborough traffic out of the town centre and this would also reduce the amount of traffic passing along Long Street. She also pointed out that the Report contains no reference to pedestrian traffic. The footways should be maintained to a good standard as, in addition to pedestrians, they are also used

by a large number of

Page A0011

motorised vehicles for the elderly/disabled. Cllr Adamson made the point that there should be better signage to Thirsk, particularly from the northern approach .

To agree lists of members of Town Council Committees:

This had been circulated to Councillors. Various amendments were made - an amended list will be circulated to Councillors.

To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field

No meeting as yet. Cllr Marshall stressed the need to have a meeting.

Central Areas

Not met as yet.

Christmas Festivities

Nothing to report.

Greens & Ingramgate

Nothing to report.

Millennium Green

Nothing to report.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall suggested the need to have a walk round - currently being organised. There is a serious vandalism problem at East Thirsk Play Area - names

of suspects have been obtained. Problems with vandals pulling up the membrane under the gravelled footpath and Cllr Marshall asked the Council to consider tarmacing the footpath. The County Council to be asked to put in an extra lamp at the end of Hambleton Place near the fence around the East Thirsk Play area. £7K+ has been received from Hambleton and Cllr Marshall said it is proposed to use this to replace the tiles under the two sets of swings with Wetpour - this was agreed.

Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Reynard advised that a Coffee Morning had been held and this went well with just over £50 being raised. The working party had met and groups of people would be weeding etc in different areas in order to be ready for the judging on 10th July. Weeds, including ragwort, growing near the approach to the industrial estate - the clerk to speak to Hambleton.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Watson advised that 20 blue plaques have been agreed. The funding is in place, but Cooper Harding has still to do the wording. It is hoped the plaques will be in place in September/October. Maurice Cann had queried the size of the proposed plaques as he felt they were rather large. It is hoped to obtain the Interpretation Boards through Thirsk Regeneration Initiative funding. 3 are to go on Castlegarth and applications will be made to English Heritage and Harvey Dowdy for possible help with funding these. Also the Countryside Agency may provide some funding for these. Three quotes are required and David Shields will provide details for these. The form will be submitted to the Countryside Agency. The anticipated starting date for the interpretation boards is January/February 2004.

It was reported that the Hambleton's Tourism Department are looking at the signs into Thirsk. Cllr Marshall requested consent to have two sizes and for us to be flexible on

Page A0012

this, agreed. Cllr Pack asked that the signage in the town be looked at as some signs are pointing towards the wrong direction.

Cllr Reynard had received complaints about the hedge in Millgate car park. Cllr Robinson advised that he had spoken to and also written to David McGloin asking him to reduce the height of the hedge to 2' by 18' wide and David McGloin is to deal with this. Cllr Reynard was of the view that it should be removed and Cllr Marshall suggested asking Hambleton to remove it.

It was pointed out that the bus shelter in the Market Place needs painting. Cllr Robinson knows someone who may do it. Cllr Mallett referred to the car parking spaces near the library, which are for disabled drivers - he has noted cars without disabled stickers parking in these spaces on market days.

Cllr Mallett referred to the weeds on Cemetery Road and the overgrown hedge there, also the weeds on Newsham Road near the Athletics Club, where there is no footpath. He has spoken to Mike Roberts about this and asked that they be sprayed.

Cllr Adamson moved that the public and press be excluded for discussion of a confidential item of a financial nature.

Minutes of Thirsk Town Council meeting
held on Monday 21st July 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0018

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllr Morton (illness), Cllr Pack (illness) and the D&S reporter (away);
accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hubbard that these be approved, 4 amendments being noted.

To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the police:

No police present. Cllr Watson queried whether it is legal for people to ride motorised scooters on the main roads. Cllr Roberts understood that as they are self propelled vehicles they should be licensed. A further query was raised as to whether they should be insured.

Cllr Reynard referred to the parking, which takes place near the fish shop on Kirkgate and also on Picks Lane opposite the Masonic Lodge.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that when vehicles are exiting from the electrical shop on Picks Lane there is no sign warning that it is one-way. There is also no sign alerting motorists of the dead-end.

Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the number of recent burglaries around the town. The clerk to take these matters up with the police and, where appropriate, the County Council.

Open forum:

The member of the public present, Mrs Dodds, expressed her wish to speak and it was therefore proposed by Cllr Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Roberts that standing orders be suspended.

Mrs Dodds referred to the fact that although there is a sign on the Newsham Road end of Picks Lane advising that it is a dead end in 130 yards, this was not sufficiently clear for motorists who were still driving along Picks Lane and then having to turn round. She suggested that a sign saying 'No access to Kirkgate' be erected.

It was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that standing orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

P0012 Toilets in the Market Place: Progress on this had been reported to the Amenities Committee.

P0013 New Bridge at Sowerby: Cllr Marshall advised that at a meeting with Sowerby Parish Council the bridge contractors had advised that they can take the bridge down and put a temporary one up for a week. Sowerby Parish Council have agreed to this.

P0013 Parish Council representatives on Governing Bodies: Reply received from David Milliband, the Education Minister.

Page P0019

P0013 Road Surface - Hambleton View: Reply from County reported to the Amenities Committee.

P0013 White Mare Roundabout: Laings have now cleared this and put new topsoil in place. It was felt that this has improved the sightline and that any future planting on the roundabout should be kept low. Thirsk in Bloom will come back to the Town Council with their proposals for this. Cllr Roberts pointed out that all the shrubs etc which were there were put in by the Rotary Club and she asked that a letter be sent to them explaining what is happening.

A letter to be sent to the County Council asking them to consider removing the four sets of signs which are on the roundabout and consolidating them into one sign. Cllr Jackson felt there should be a traffic improvement near St Mary's Church. Cllr Marshall said this should be considered when the consultation re the proposed 20mph scheme starts.

P0013 Request for compensation re pylons: No reply from National Grid as yet.

P0013 Works to Castlegarth: The meeting on site had been held and reported to the Amenities Committee. A letter from Peter Penny had since been received. It was agreed that this be brought to the next Amenities Committee Meeting.

P0013 Yellow box junction in the Market Place: Cllr Marshall is still chasing this up.

P0013 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: A letter requesting the consent of the PCC to put stakes in the ground to mark the position of the proposed floodlights

for contractors wishing to tender has been sent to Mike Wilkinson.

P0014 Invoice for repairs to the seat at Castlegarth: Cllr Robinson advised that once again the seat has been pulled up and damaged. He asked the Open Areas Committee to give consideration to not putting it back there as it is the subject of persistent vandalism. The police to be contacted to ascertain whether the people doing it were captured on CCTV.

P0015 Eccles Heddon: Letter re the Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch: This was discussed at Amenities and a reply sent to Eccles Heddon.

P0015 Long Street Enhancement Project feasibility study: £5,000 reimbursement has now been received from Hambleton.

P0015 The monies for the Long Street Play Area to be used to provide safety surfacing at East Thirsk Play Area have now been received from Hambleton - totalling £7622.

P0016 Replacement lighting on Station Road and Topcliffe Road; letter sent to Hambleton - no reply as yet.

P0016 Cycle Path on Stockton Road: Site meeting held and following the Amenities Meeting a letter was sent advising that the Town Council would prefer Option 2, i.e. a 2.5m wide dedicated cycle track positioned adjacent to the carriageway. Acknowledgement received from the County Council - the matter is to be decided at the meeting of the County Committee for Hambleton to be held on 28th July. Cllr Marshall advised that the recommendation is for a route alongside the carriageway.

P0017 Weeds outside the Town Council Office: These had been removed by Cllr Mallett.

P0016 Referring to the replacement lighting on Topcliffe Road and Station Road, Cllr Jackson referred to the County Council's Best Value policy and asked

whether all parishes were to have the 'economy' lighting and not just Thirsk. Cllr Marshall said this should be County wide - they have a policy of replacing dangerous concrete lighting columns.

Page P0020

P0017 Following the subject of weeds outside the Town Council Offices, Cllr Robinson referred to the poor state of the surface of the passageway. He asked whether we could get a scheme together and apply for grant aid. Cllr Marshall said that there is a scheme as part of the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative. A letter to be sent to Tony Robinson regarding all the passageways in Thirsk which will require surfacing, particularly bearing in mind the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act which comes into force shortly. Cllr Hubbard enquired whether we are proposing to enquire into the ownership of such passageways and adopt any unclaimed ones, but Cllr Robinson felt that Thirsk Regeneration Initiative should pursue this. Cllr Marshall said we should pass it to Hambleton as the Town Council does not have the resources to deal with it itself.

Cllr Marshall advised that a new booking clerk for East Thirsk Community Hall has now been appointed.

To receive reports from:

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall referred to the County Council's Best Value Performance Plan. A meeting is to be held later this week to look at the financial position at the end of this financial year. Referendum - the County Council are in favour of a

unitary County authority. There is a proposal to have 9 Scrutiny Committees which will be thematically based, but it is not definite that this will be accepted. The Flood Forum meeting was held. There was a presentation from the Environment Agency. Cod Beck is to be designated a main river.

Hambleton have commissioned a feasibility study for Thirsk Flooding. Stage 1 took place from 16th June to 7th July and they will be considering the options prior to moving on to stage 2, which will last for 6 weeks ending on 16th September. Cllr Marshall had asked that Whitelass Beck be considered in the study.

Cllr Marshall advised that she has been talking to the County Council about traffic calming at Norby. She showed a plan of the County's ideas, but stressed that this is pre-consultation. Cllr Robinson said the Town Council should look at these proposals very carefully once it is out to consultation.

b) District Council

Cllr Robinson referred to a survey on fuel poverty being carried out throughout the County and explained this.

To approve accounts for payment:

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hubbard that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Wilgro Nurseries £744.74

Wybone - 2 wire baskets for Cemetery £148.58

CE & CM Walker - grasscutting June/July £1492.25

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall - Hire of Room Apr/May/June £130.00

F D Todd & Son - emptying Cemetery skip £123.38

C Amy - seat maintenance £900.00

Weekly inspections £162.80

Litter Pick £200.00

Malcolm Burnett:

- fix copings at Pinfold Place/plate at Millennium Green £63.00

- flags at Mill Gardens £18.50

HDC - Annual Contract re Pest Control at Riverside Mews/Mill Gardens £178.60

K. Dickinson - cleaning office windows £6.00

Public Works Loan Board - Final instalment of loan for Town Hall Annexe £8990.63

Elaine Coulson - Salary - June 2003 £999.64

Julie Harron - Salary - July 2003 £260.00

HDC - Rates - August 2003 £52.00

P Savickas - painting bus shelter £150.00

Cod Beck Drainage Board - drainage rates re The Holmes £22.00

YLCA - 2 places Saturday only, Annual Conference/AGM £89.30

Paid since last meeting:

Npower - electricity account £258.65

Thirsk Festival - contribution to printing £1000.00

Julie Harron - difference following salary increase £65.01

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI - June 2003 £535.40

Cllr Marshall pointed out that income received since the last Town Council meeting is also now included with the accounts for payment listing and this is as follows:

Payments received since the last Town Council Meeting:

HDC - reimbursement for Long Street Feasibility Study (nett of VAT) £5,000.00

HDC - contribution re Long Street Play Area (to be used At East Thirsk Play Area) £7,622.00

Burial receipts: Memorials £175.00

: Grave spaces/interments £345.00

: Rent of Cemetery Lodge - July £397.12

: Reimbursement for unbanked cheques £525.00

To approve applications to exclusive rights and memorials:

The following applications for memorials were approved, proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett:

Herbert Edward Wallace

Jean Dorothy Marheineke

Rachel Hill

Page P0022

Cllr Robinson pointed out that the Burial Board rules are to be displayed on the Cemetery Notice Board when this is in place.

To receive correspondence:

NYCC - Letter re Regional Government and Options for Local Government
Reorganisation in North Yorkshire

The Boundary Committee for England -Letter re Local Government Review of
Two-Tier areas in Yorkshire and the Humber. Representations on this required by
8th September - to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

HDC - Letter re Elected Regional Assemblies

HDC - The Quality Parish Council Scheme. It was pointed out that some time ago
it had been agreed that Town Council would like to go down the road to becoming
a Quality Council. It was agreed we would also be interested in working with
Hambleton on a Charter between the Council and the Parishes/Towns

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister -Letter re New Ethical Framework Regulations
Copy of letter from Mr Fisher of 60 Long Street to NYCC re lack of enforcement
of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction on Long Street.

NYCC - Notice re temporary closure of various footpaths and bridleways in North
Yorkshire.

NYCC -Notice re temporary closure of Picks Lane and Kirkgate

Standards Board for England -Letter enclosing booklets on registering and
declaring interests - booklets circulated to Councillors.

HDC -Letter re Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness re 16 St Mary's Walk.

Cllr Reynard declared an interest. It was agreed that the building to the
eastern side of the property has been used as a joinery workshop for at least 10
years.

Cllr Reynard left the meeting.

HDC - Letter re Best Value Performance Plan 2003/04 - this has been supplied on a disc; Councillors to borrow the disc if they wish.

Bow House - re 'Come and stay in Herriot Country 2004'. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hubbard that we insert a half page colour advertisement at a cost of £578.00 plus VAT. Cllr Marshall said thought should be given to preparing the text. David Shields to be asked to consider the information put in the guide.

Yell - reYellow Pages entry classification

NYCC -Letter re Consultation on Council Plan and Local Government Review enclosing copies of the new draft corporate plan. This will be circulated to Councillors - views on it are required by 31st August.

Yorkshire & Humber Assembly - Letter enclosing a copy of the Summary and Overview of the Key Changes to the Regional Planning Guidance for the Yorkshire & Humber Plan. This will be circulated to Councillors - responses required by 26th September.

HDC - Letter enclosing a copy of the Licensing Bill 2003, a copy of which had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Robinson explained that every public house wishing to open 24 hours has to apply for a Licence. If anyone objects to an application it has to go to the Licensing Committee.

Page P0023

Alison Pickup, 1st Thirsk Scout Pack Leader - letter requesting permission to use a design taken from the Mayor's chain of office for the 1st Thirsk Scout Group. There were no objections to this. Cllr Adamson has the artwork if Mrs Pickup requires it. NYCC - The Clerk had received a telephone call from Paul Greenaway re a safety scheme in Thirsk Market Place. Leaflets are to be sent to

the Town Council office for members of the public to collect.

To receive and approve the Annual Accounts:

The Balance Sheet and Receipts and Payments account for 2001/02 and 2002/03 had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that these be accepted - all in favour.

Annual Returns for 2001/02 and 2002/03:

The Statement of Accounts form for 2001/02 and 2002/03 had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Jackson, that these be accepted - all in favour.

The replies to the Statement of Assurance for 2001/02 had been agreed at a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 8th August 2002 and it was agreed that these be copied onto the form.

Replies to the Statement of Assurance for 2002/03 were compiled as follows:

Question 1 Yes

Question 2 No

Question 3 Yes

Question 4 Yes

Question 5 Yes

Question 6 Yes

Question 7 Yes

Question 8 Yes

The following notes to be sent to accompany the Statement of Assurance.

Question 2. The Town Council were not aware that VAT has not been reclaimed they have now instigated better controls.

Question 7. Following on from advice in a previous audit report, the Town Council will be looking at its insurance cover, particularly the fidelity guarantee cover.

Question 8. The ownership of the Town Hall is currently vested in Thirsk Town Council and Sowerby Parish Council.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that the Statement of Assurance be completed and accompanied by a letter incorporating the above comments.

Cllr Marshall and the Clerk were thanked for all their work on the accounts.

Cllr Adamson referred to the National Savings Account. It was agreed that a new National Savings Account be opened for the Clerk's gratuity fund and that an amount of 5% of the present Clerk's salary be paid into it. The balance of the existing National Savings account to be held in abeyance.

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Marshall that Standing Orders be suspended.

Cllr Marshall advised that, following the submission of the VAT claim, a VAT Inspector had raised several queries, most of which have now been resolved.

There is a further reply required on one point and this is being dealt with.

Page P0024

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts brought the following application to the full Council:

Planning Application Nos. 2/03/152/0087B and 0087C - Alterations and extensions to existing residential, commercial and youth centre buildings to incorporate 6 additional dwelling units at Castlegate Youth Centre. The Planning Committee had

recommended that this be approved and this decision was ratified. Cllr Roberts presented the Planning Committee Report, accepted.

To Receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report. Cllr Hubbard referred to brambles in the hedge next to the Cemetery wall - the Committee to look at this.

To receive reports from:

a) Representatives

Cllr Watson had attended the AGM of the Town Hall Management Committee and had been appointed Chair. The next meeting is scheduled for September. £4K is still being held which is payable to the contractors for the works on the snagging list. The Committee are looking at redecorating some of the rooms.

Cllr Adamson reported on a Wheeliebin meeting he had attended.

b) Members

Cllr Hubbard referred to £500, which is in the budget and earmarked for the Thirsk Clock Café. The Café would now like the monies - they were instructed to write and request them.

Cllr Adamson advised Members that Mrs Joyce Atkinson, the wife of Ian Atkinson, has died. A sympathy card will be sent from the Town Council.

Cllr Mallett referred to the tree outside the 'Lord Nelson'. The landlady had asked that the lower branches be removed. The Greens Committee will look at this.

Cllr Mallett referred to the public footpath through the 'Golden Fleece' yard, saying the signs are missing. The Clerk will contact Peter Penny.

Cllr Robinson asked for a report on the progress of the Thirsk Regeneration

Initiative. Cllr Roberts will ask for a copy of the minutes to be sent to the Council.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 7th August 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0013

Present:

Cllrs: S Hubbard, D E Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, K Reynard, F M Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, the press reporter, and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs J Marshall and C Pack, accepted.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett, two minor amendments being noted, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A0008 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church. A letter had been sent to Mike Wilkinson, the churchwarden, requesting permission to put stakes in the ground to mark the proposed positions of the lights. Reply received giving consent with the proviso that the stakes are clearly coloured and that they are only there for the minimum time possible. Mr Wilkinson reminded the Council that the positions of the lights must be in accordance with the Architect's report.

A0008 Toilets in the Market Place: Nothing further from David McGloin as yet.

A0008 Greens & Ingramgate: A further letter has been sent to Mr & Mrs

Delderfield re the bricks/blocks outside 39 St James' Green.

A0008 'Entrances' to Thirsk: A reminder letter has been sent to Mike Moore.

A0008 Application for Listed Building Consent for plaque on Thirsk Museum: The further information requested has now been sent to the Planning Department. A photograph of the plaque is now required and this will be supplied.

A0008 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas: No response from Chris Amy. DBD Contracting have asked for a plan showing the trees - they are to be asked to look around and establish the number and type and positions of trees themselves.

A0008 Castlegarth: To be dealt with under Correspondence.

A0008 Street lighting refurbishment on Station Road and Topcliffe Road: A further letter has been sent to Tony Robinson at Hambleton re this.

A0009 Mill Gardens/Riverside Mews: Reply received from Yorkshire Water advising that they have checked the outlet pipes and there are no grilles in them.

However, the pipes are not the property of Yorkshire Water. The Clerk has also contacted the Cod Beck Drainage Board, but the pipes are not in their ownership either. It is understood there have been no sightings of rats in this area recently.

A0009 Tree outside 43 St Mary's Walk: The County Council were not able to locate the tree in question.

A0009 Central Areas/Open Areas: The walk has now taken place.

A0009 Car parking on the dropped kerbs between St James' Green and Little Green:

The Clerk and Cllr Mallett had met on site with Jane Charlton of the County Council. She is to put an Order in place for an 'H' marking on the dropped kerb outside the house at the end of the green. She will look into the question of the cobbles on the opposite corner, which have sunk, as she is not certain of

their ownership.

A0009: Dog fouling on St James' Green and Little Green: a reply to the request for better signage had been received from Hambleton. They advise that the Dog Warden

Page A0014

has resigned and the signage will be dealt with when a new Dog Warden is appointed. Cllr Robinson to look into this.

A0009 Cycle Path on Stockton Road: Letter from County Council advising that they are to go for Option 2, i.e. a 2.5m wide dedicated cycle track south of Shire Road positioned adjacent to the carriageway.

A0010 Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch: Letter sent to Eccles Heddon as agreed.

A0011 Open Areas: Walk has now taken place. The County Council had been asked to install an additional street light at the end of Hambleton Place, but a reply has been received advising that there are no funds available for new lighting.

A0011 Weeds near the approach to the Industrial Estate: The Clerk had asked Hambleton to clear these.

A0012 Hedge in Millgate Car Park: This has now been cut.

A0012 Bus Shelter in the Market Place: This has now been painted.

To receive correspondence:

Castlegarth - Public Footpath Improvements: Following the site meeting a letter had been received from Peter Penny summing up the discussion and enclosing drawings of metal and wooden kissing gates. Funding of £7,500 from Tesco is

available and it was proposed to install new kissing gates, suitable for prams, pushchairs etc, at the A61 end and the Market Place end of Castlegarth. Cllr Robinson was firmly of the view that a similar kissing gate should be installed at the Picks Lane entrance to Castlegarth. It was agreed that the County Council be asked to draw up a scheme using the metal gates. It was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Morton that the County Council be informed there is a need for a similar kissing gate at the western side of Castlegarth. It was agreed that the County Council should use their own contractors.

Smith of Derby Ltd - letter confirming the Town Clock was serviced on 26th June - everything in working order.

HDC - order revoking Tree Preservation Order 2000 No. 4

Edward Barker - 'E' mail advising that he has received a number of complaints that he has not cut the grass in front of Rybeck Farm, but pointing out that this is the responsibility of the County Council. Also advising that he will not allow the Town Council to have a right of way through his 20 lands Field to the Centenary Field. Cllr Robinson said the verge is cut by the County Council, but they do not go right to the back and cut the nettles. He suggested we make the County Council aware of the problem and advise Edward Barker that we have done so.

Mrs. S. Welch - rat sightings at Riverside Mews. The Clerk mentioned that she understands that there has been no sightings of rats there for some weeks now.

Letter from Mrs Honor Topp re litter on Castle Garth. It was agreed that this be passed to Hambleton with a request that they empty the litter bins more frequently. Cllr Hubbard suggested we look at which areas are problematic and obtain tenders from companies which do litter clearing. Cllr Robinson asked how many hours Chris Amy spends litter picking. Agenda item for next meeting.

S R Ballard - request to drive tractor over Castlegarth in order to clear garden behind 4,6,8 Kirkgate - the work to last no more than half a day. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that this request be granted, but that we ascertain which day he would like to do it and inform John Bell.

Page A0015

Bow House re text for 'Come and Stay in Herriot Country'. Councillors were asked to pass their comments to Cllr Watson who will co-ordinate this.

HDC - copy of letter to Shirtcliffe and Co confirming the postal address of their new office as 1 Finkle Street, Thirsk.

HDC re proposed Thirsk Traditional Christmas Fayre - December 2004 (Cllr Watson declared an interest) Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Town Council support this in principle.

Mrs D Walters of Nottingham - letter advising that she visited Thirsk recently and wished to express her thanks for the helpful and courteous manner of the lady traffic warden. Copy to be sent to Mrs Penson and Hambleton.

Letter from Mrs Wendy Berry re the overgrown state of The Holmes alongside Cod Beck - to be passed to The Holmes Committee. Cllr Robinson suggested we ask the County Council for consent to include it in our grass cutting schedule for next year.

Letter from Miss H Jubb/Mr R Suchyj of Northwich - copy of a letter of complaint to Hambleton re a parking fine they received for not displaying a disc. They say there is not sufficient signing indicating that discs are required. It was felt the signage around the Market Place was quite adequate. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that no reply be sent. This was put to the vote and the

motion was defeated - 3 in favour, 6 against. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Watson that a letter simply acknowledging receipt be sent. The motion was carried with 6 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

Mr Frank Smith re the new cycle track for South Kilvington. There are already weeds growing through the tarmac. A copy of the letter to be sent to the County Council. HDC - copy of letter to Seeger Homes confirming the addresses for the new development on Picks Lane as 1-7 Picks Court, 1-10 Crofts View and 1-8 Castle Yard Stables.

The Clerk had received a number of complaints from residents of Barleys Yard re coaches parking on the coach park and on yellow lines and dropping off race goers. Also complaints of anti-social behaviour in the coach park. Cllr Reynard said there were also problems as a result of coaches parking at Norby. It was suggested that this be brought up with the police at the next meeting and also that we write to the Chief Constable. It was queried whether the events in the coach park had been picked up on the CCTV. It was also mentioned that someone was selling tips on the lane leading to Castlegarth. It was pointed out that the racecourse finance the provision of police on race days and it should be ascertained that these are in addition to the normal number of police on duty.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

To appoint representative to lead the Alleyway Renovation Project:

Cllr Hubbard referred to the poor condition of the surface of some of the passageways. There is funding available from Thirsk Regeneration Initiative and there is £2,500 in the Town Council's budget. There is a problem establishing ownership of some of the passageways and Cllr Hubbard suggested a letter be sent

to all the properties on the passageways asking if their deeds grant them ownership to all or any part and, if not, we will take it over. Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the implications for future maintenance. Cllr Watson asked whether initial costings are to

Page A0016

be obtained and Cllr Hubbard said this is the intention. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Watson that Cllr Hubbard be appointed the Town Council's representative.

To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field, Nothing to report.

Central Areas

Cllr Hubbard was aware of the rat problem in Mill Gardens and has spoken to Chris Amy about tidying up this area and doing more regular pruning. A larger litter bin has been obtained and this seems to be working well.

Christmas Festivities

Cllr Robinson advised that he is now Chairman of this Committee. The lights are due to be switched on 30th November.

Greens & Ingramgate

Cllr Robinson advised that the Committee had met this week and had a walk round. Cllr Mallett has been elected Chairman. The main area of concern are the roads

around the Green which are in a poor condition. Consideration is being given to resurfacing these in stages with tar and chippings. There is an abandoned car on the Green - the police are aware of it. Mike l'Anson is willing to plant some trees on the Green. Cllr Robinson referred to the footpath from the White Mare roundabout to the bridge which is in a poor condition - the County Council to be asked to deal with this. Cllr Reynard advised that she had met with Rural Arts to look at what could be done to the White Mare Roundabout. Cllr Jackson advised that the Rotary Club are not concerned at the fact that the shrubs etc, originally provided by them, have been removed.

Millennium Green, Nothing to report.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall (chair of Open Areas) was absent from the meeting.

Town Development Working Party, Nothing to report.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Mallett referred to the trees on the racecourse alongside the caravan park and said 41 of them have died. A letter to be sent to Thirsk Racecourse Company.

Cllr Mallett referred to the fence on the corner of the A61 and Newsham Road, saying it is propped up, but is coming on to the pavement. A letter to be sent to John Bell. Cllr Mallett referred to the nettles on the side of Newsham Road which were sprayed by the County Council, but have survived.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Cllr Mallett said the Landlord of 'The Nelson' would like to put a seat outside the front of his premises. Members did not feel this was a good idea, but said he should contact Highways.

Cllr Jackson referred to the document produced by the County Council re the A61 Finkle Street Market Place, Thirsk, saying it was a very good document. It is to be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

Page A0017

Cllr Reynard referred to a pothole in Bakers Alley - the Clerk had already reported this. She also referred to the vegetation which is allowed to grow along the side of Newsham Road to keep vehicles away from the wall. However, this considerably narrows the road and she suggested it be removed.

Cllr Robinson referred to 1 Westgate, saying they are storing Wheeliebins outside permanently and sometimes they are moved to the tactile crossing points. A letter to be sent to the County Council.

Cllr Watson said that one of the trees in Todds Court needs cutting back. She was advised to speak to Broadacres.

Cllr Watson referred to the cycle path on Stockton Road saying that vehicles are driving and parking on it. A letter to be sent to the police about the legality of this. Cllr Hubbard referred to the litter bin outside the co-op saying the

door is coming off. A letter to be sent to Hambleton.

Referring to Cemetery Lane, Cllr Robinson said many cars are driving too fast around the bend. A letter to be sent to the County Council re the possibility of some form of traffic calming in this area.

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Harvey Dowdy who had offered to come to a Town Council meeting to give an update on the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative followed by a question and answer session. It was agreed she be invited to address the September Town Council meeting, that it start at 7.00pm and that she be allocated 15 minutes to speak.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Reynard advised that bulb planting will take place on 20th/21st and 27th/28th September. She queried whether more bulbs should be planted on Castlegarth. Referring to grasscutting, it was felt that each committee should look at their specific areas before the grasscutting is put out to tender next year.

It was mentioned that branches cut from a tree had been left on the grass verge on The Marage. Cllr Robinson to look at this.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item regarding questions raised by an elector.

Minutes of Thirsk Town Council meeting
held on Monday 18th August 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0025

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R. Mallett, A Morton, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, 3 members of the public, PC Simon Hepburn of NY Police, the press reporter and the clerk.

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs J Marshall and C Pack, accepted.

Minutes:

Referring to P0022 - Licensing Bill 2003, Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that he had inadvertently given the wrong information and he now advised that, subject to the relevant conditions being met, it is not necessary for a public house wishing to open for 24 hours to apply for a different Licence.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the minutes be approved, subject to the above and to one amendment on page P0019.

To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the Police:

PC Hepburn introduced himself saying he mainly covered the Easingwold area.

Referring to the last letter from the Town Council, he said there have been

quite a spate of burglaries in the town centre and in houses on the eastern side of the town. Some progress has been made with the town centre ones and an arrest has been made. Various initiatives have been put in place towards tackling the burglaries on the eastern side, including the use of the Ringmaster system.

There have been instances of burglars breaking into houses to take car keys and then stealing the car.

Referring to the parking outside the fish shop on Kirkgate, PC Hepburn said the yellow lines are not very clear.

Motorised disabled carriages can travel on the road and are not required to have insurance.

Referring to the cycle lanes, PC Hepburn said there is no prohibition against parking on them if there are no yellow lines.

Cllr Watson asked whether there will be a higher police presence at race meetings, but PC Hepburn said there is not usually a lot of disorder and it is necessary to prioritise. However, it is usual for there to be extra officers on duty on race days and normally the town is well policed on these days.

PC Hepburn left the meeting.

Open Forum:

Members of the public present expressed a wish to speak and it was proposed by Cllr Morton seconded Cllr Reynard that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Russell Hinton referred to the NYCC A61 Finkle Street proposed Safety Scheme and made the following points:

a) all aspects of traffic/pedestrian safety in the town should be considered, not just the area covered by the proposed scheme; b) the yellow box junction

should be clearly marked; c) there should be a common treatment of all matters relating to road safety; and d) should this go ahead deliveries to premises on the south east corner of the Market Place will be difficult and dangerous.

Page P0026

Cllr Adamson thanked Mr Hinton for his comments and said they will be taken into account when the matter is discussed.

Mrs Penson had seen two men urinating in the car park and had photographed them and reported it to the police.

Mrs Dodds queried whether members of the public could also put matters to the police at future meetings. She also referred to the signs at the entrances to Thirsk and Cllr Watson advised that Hambleton are looking at these.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated.

To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 21st July 2003:

P0018 Motorised scooters/parking/burglaries - a letter had been sent to the police and these matters had been addressed by PC Hepburn.

P0018 Signage on Picks Lane - a letter has been sent to the County Council.

P0019 Road surface - Hambleton View - the clerk had been advised that this road is unadopted, but Hambleton say this is not the case. She will take it up with County.

P0019 Signs on White Mare Roundabout - a letter has been sent to County.

P0019 Request for compensation re pylons - second letter sent to National Grid

and following this a call had been received from Stuart Grant. He suggests the Town Council put two or three projects forward for consideration. He would not be happy with a skateboard park proposal. The average funding per parish is £5K. The clerk had been advised by Cllr Marshall that Stuart Grant and representatives of Insite (landscape architects) had given a presentation to Sowerby Parish Council on landscape planting to screen pylons and the replacement of trees and hedgerows in Sowerby. They would be available to speak to the Town Council. It was agreed that thought should be given to the various projects we could put forward and that we then go back and ask them to come and speak to us.

P0013 Works to Castlegarth - this had been dealt with at Amenities.

P0019 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church. The PCC have given consent to putting stakes in the ground.

P0019 Seat on Castlegarth - the clerk had spoken to the CCTV operators. They were to see if the people vandalising the seat had been captured on the CCTV, and if so, they will pass it to the police.

P0019 Replacement of lighting on Station Road and Topcliffe Road; reply received from Tony Robinson advising that there are no monies available in the Conservation Area Preservation and Enhancement budget. He will, however, contact the County Council and stress the need to preserve and enhance the Conservation Areas when designing street lighting schemes.

P0019 Cycle Path on Stockton Road - reported at Amenities.

P0020 Passageways - a letter has been sent to Tony Robinson.

P0022 Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness re 16 St Mary's Walk - letter sent to Hambleton and acknowledgement received.

P0022 Bow House 'Come and stay in Herriot Country 2004' - Cllr Watson is dealing

with this.

P0023 1st Thirsk Scout Group - now also incorporating the Town Clock into their badge. Alison Pickup is sending it to the Scout Commissioner for approval and she will then come back to the Town Council for final confirmation.

Page P0027

P0024 Outstanding monies re Town Hall Annexe building works - these have now had to be paid.

P0024 Mrs Joyce Atkinson, deceased; a sympathy card has been sent to Ian Atkinson from the Town Council.

P0024 Public Footpath through 'Golden Fleece' yard; letter sent to Peter Penny requesting that the missing Public Footpath signs be replaced.

P0024 Harvey Dowdy is to come to the September Town Council meeting (starting at 7.00pm) to bring Members up to date with the progress of Thirsk Regeneration Initiative.

P0019 White Mare Roundabout; Cllr Reynard advised that Thirsk in Bloom have met with Rural Arts and they are looking at the possibility of doing something in cobbles. They would like to involve the public in this.

P0024 Burial Board; Cllr Morton requested that a meeting be held. Cllr Adamson said this will be arranged shortly.

To receive reports from:

a) County Council:

The County Councillor was not present.

b) District Council

Nothing to report.

To approve accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts, all in favour:

K Dickinson - office window cleaning £6.00

CE & CM Walker - grasscutting 8th & 23rd July £1492.25

C.A. Amy: Weekly inspections £228.50

Mill Gardens - pruning £150.00

Picnic Area - litter pick £50.00

Castlegarth - litter pick £50.00

Little Green - pruning £15.00

Hedgecutting - East Thirsk £40.00

- Long Street £20.00

- Shire Park £15.00

Ron Cowells - Signs. Repainted finger post & milepost £190.00

Workcrafts - Work at Millennium Green £119.25

HDC - Rates September 2003 £52.00

D.E. Adamson - Mayor's Allowance - half year £250.00

Julie Harron - Salary August 2003 £260.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary July 2003 £958.00

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI July 2003 £618.76

Paid since last meeting:

Bluestone - final payment of contractors' fee for Town Hall Annexe £4211.88

Npower - Electricity for Town Council Office £40.37

Payments received since the last Town Council Meeting:

VAT Refund - 1.4.03.-30.6.03. £5,958.18

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Management Committee - Reimbursement for cheque issued by Town Council for final payment of contractor's fee for Annexe (nett of VAT) £3,584.58

Burial receipts: Grave spaces/interments £555.00

Memorials £65.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge July & Aug £794.24

Reimbursement for unbanked cheque £315.00

To receive correspondence:

Doncaster MBC re NACO Regional Meeting - 19th

September 2003. No one available to attend.

NYCC re Doorstep Crime Initiative; an early warning e-mail network is being set up. It was agreed that the Town Council take part in this.

Defra re Rural Services Standard 2003

Domain Registry of America advising that our domain name registration expires on 6th October. To be put on the agenda for the September Town Council meeting.

The Boundary Committee for England re Local Government Review of Two-Tier Areas in Yorkshire and the Humber. This had been circulated to Councillors. Any representations are required by 8th September.

NYCC - Consultation on Council Plan and Local Government Review. This had been circulated to Councillors. Any representations on this are required by 31st August.

Action for Market Towns notice re the Annual Convention to be held on 18th- 20th September 2003 in Caernarfon.

Action for Market Towns - notice re the AGM 19th September in Caernarfon.

Citizens Advice Bureau advising that they are able to retain the Outreach Worker in Thirsk but reduced to one worker working 20 hours per week. Also requesting financial help. (Cllr Roberts declared an interest). No donation to be made at this time.

Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society; letter re the subscription which is currently £2.10. The subscription fee for members has now been increased to £6.00 and it was agreed that the Town Council should increase their subscription to the Civic Society to £6.00 per annum.

HDC re Elected Regional Assemblies and Local Government Review.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following applications for memorials were approved, proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett:

Alice and John Haw

Edward Cross

John Davis Gray (additional inscription)

Page P0029

To receive and make representations on the A61 Finkle Street Local Safety Scheme:

Copies of this had been circulated to Councillors. The following comments were made:

Concern at the impact of this proposal on the south-east corner, i.e. the junction of Finkle Street and the Market Square in front of Knowles shop where a stone slabbed area and two disabled parking bays are proposed. This will cause difficulties for large vehicles delivering to the shops in that area.

Also in that area it is proposed to have a cobbled surface extending out into the road. Finkle Street is only just wide enough for a bus/coach and such vehicles will have to manoeuvre round these cobbles.

Next to the cobbles there are to be two rows of parking spaces and the cars nearest to the proposed cobbled area will have to reverse over it onto the road which would be a danger. This would also be the case with cars parked outside the Blacksmiths Arms in Millgate.

It will be difficult for vehicles coming from Finkle Street to turn right into Millgate. It was felt that the 20mph zone should be extended further out, particularly into Bridge Street, St James' Green and Kirkgate.

Concern was expressed that nothing was being done to alleviate problems at the junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street. It was also felt that the feasibility of putting a roundabout at the Bullring near the junction of the Market Place and Kirkgate should be looked at.

It was agreed that the County Council should be asked to draw up a new scheme which will cover the whole of Thirsk Town Centre.

To formulate a policy on Council documents to be released to members of the public:

Cllr Adamson had drawn up a policy on this which had been circulated to Councillors.

Preamble

The purpose of adopting this policy is to

a) preserve valuable officer time

b) discourage vexatious requests for documents

'Members of the public have access to council, committee and sub-committee meetings except for instances where an issue under discussion is considered prejudicial to the public interest. Additionally, electors have inspection rights in respect of the council, committee and sub-committee minutes under section 228 of the Local Government Act 1972 and have inspection rights in respect of the council's annual accounts. This council does not permit electors or members of the public to have copies of or to inspect any document not specified in the council's Publication Scheme or otherwise specifically provided for in legislation.'

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that it be adopted, agreed.

To receive and approve the monthly financial report, as follows:

Balance sheet for July 2003 (copy circulated to Councillors)

Budget report for July 2003 (copy circulated to Councillors)

Approved. Cllr Roberts congratulated the Clerk on preparing the monthly accounts.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Accepted. Cllr Roberts advised that further information has been received regarding the proposed redevelopment at Castlegate.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that the notice board will be in place shortly. He had

received comments from people that the grasscutting in the Cemetery is very neat.

To receive reports from:

a) Representatives

Town Hall: Cllr Watson advised that there was no meeting in August. The outstanding monies have now had to be paid to the contractors.

Page P0030

Carrs Field: Cllr Hubbard advised that he is looking at putting up a sign setting out the rules to be observed on the Field. He felt it was necessary to have a contact number in case of accident or damage and asked whether it would be possible to use the Town Council Office number. Cllr Robinson expressed concern about whether by doing this the Town Council could be accepting some sort of liability. Cllr Robinson suggested that any correspondence be addressed to The Trustees of Carrs Field, c/o 49A Market Place, Thirsk. Cllr Hubbard to look into this further.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr Robinson advised that the radio system used by retailers is up and running. Over 12 shops taking part at present.

East Thirsk Learning Resource Centre: Cllr Adamson advised that an entrance into the roof void has been made for storage purposes. There is a problem with the outlet to the drain in that the local residents were asked if they had any

objections to the outlet pipe being tapped on to theirs. No replies were received, but when the work started an objector came forward. As a result of this a pump will be required at an additional cost of £600.

Computer courses are being offered which it is hoped will be of interest to older people in Thirsk and one will be nominated as the champion.

b) Members

Cllr Watson referred to the advertisement to go in 'Come and stay in Herriot Country' - Cllr Adamson to look at this. Cllr Hubbard advised that some notices made by the inmates of Durham Prison have been put on Carrs Field. He reminded members of the Ideal Homes and Gardens Exhibition to be held on the Racecourse on the following weekend.

Referring to the passageways in Thirsk, Cllr Hubbard advised that he has taken legal advice from Martyn Richards and he circulated Councillors with a letter which he suggested be sent to the occupiers of properties in the passageways.

The Clerk had spoken to Cllr Marshall who said we should not go down this route at present - it is to be discussed at the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative meeting to be held the following evening. Cllr Hubbard said that, in order to get any funding from the TRI , it is necessary to ensure we can go ahead and put the project forward. Cllr Robinson proposed we go ahead with the alleyway outside the Town Council Office and then the TRI put a scheme together. It was agreed to wait and see the outcome of the TRI meeting the following evening.

Cllr Robinson enquired about the large box near the bus shelter - Cllr Reynard advised that it is a bin for the York Tearooms.

Cllr Robinson referred to a problem with dog fouling in St Giles Close and asked for consent to send a letter to all the householders asking them to exercise

care and not allow their dog to foul. Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Reynard that the letter be sent from the Town Council. This was put to the vote and was carried with 8 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Cllr Mallett referred to a similar problem with a dog fouling on the Little Green - he had been to see the owner who had apologised.

HDC Street cleaning questionnaire (Cllrs Hubbard and Reynard declared their interest as members of the Environmental Services Best Value Panel). The questionnaire was completed.

Page P0031

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hubbard that the public and press be excluded for discussion of four confidential items.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 4th September 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0018

Present:

Councillors D Adamson, J Jackson, J Marshall, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson,
J Watson, the press reporter and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs S Hubbard, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, agreed

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Jackson subject to one amendment on
Page A0017

Matters Arising:

A0013 Floodlighting, St Mary's Church: Invitations to tender have been sent out.

A0013 Toilets in the Market Place: Nothing further from David McGloin as yet.

A0013 Greens & Ingramgate: No reply as yet from Mr & Mrs Delderfield and
bricks/blocks are still outside 39 St James' Green. Cllr Marshall said part of
the roadway has been dug up. The clerk to mention this to Cllr Mallett

A0013 'Entrances to Thirsk': Two letters have been sent to Mike Moore and
following the last one the Clerk received a request from the County Council for

a further copy. One has been e-mailed to them. Cllr Marshall suggested the clerk contact Harvey Dowdy re this.

A0013 Application for Listed Building Consent for plaque on Thirsk Museum:
Letter received from Hambleton advising that the plaque is too large and should be reduced to 10', Cllr Jackson pointed out that the plaque is the English Heritage plaque size for small towns. It was thought that Hambleton are basing this on the photograph sent to them which only shows part of the Museum frontage. Cllr Adamson advised that he will take another photograph showing the complete frontage of the Museum. Cllr Robinson suggested the plaque be positioned centrally over the two doors and that the existing small plaque be moved lower down. Cllr Jackson to put this to the next Museum Committee meeting.

A0013 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas: The clerk has advised DBD Contracting that they must ascertain the number, position and types of trees. No response from Chris Amy.

A0013 Street lighting refurbishment on Station Road and Topcliffe Road: This had been reported to the Town Council meeting.

A0013 Mill Gardens/Riverside Mews: No further complaints about rats have been received.

A0013 Tree outside 42 St Mary's Walk: Nothing further on this as yet.

A0014 Castlegarth: Letter from County Council confirming the positioning of the two new lights on Castlegarth. They also enclose a photograph of the lighting column and Victorian style lantern they are proposing to put there. This was agreed.

A0014 Grass outside Rybeck Farm: Letter sent to County Council and acknowledgement received. E-mail sent to Edward Barker.

A0014 Litter on Castlegarth: Letter sent to Hambleton.

A0014 Request from Mr Ballard for consent to drive a tractor over Castlegarth to access gardens behind 4/6/8 Kirkgate: Reply sent to him and letter sent to John Bell.

Page A0019

A0015 'Come and Stay in Herriot Country': Letter sent to David Shields requesting that reference to Thirsk Railway Station be included in their write-up.

A0015 Letter from Mrs D Walters of Nottingham: Copies sent to Mrs Penson and Hambleton.

A0015 Letter from Miss H Jubb/ Mr R Suchji of Northwich complaining about parking fine: Acknowledgement sent.

A0015 Letter from Mr F Smith re new cycle track from South Kilvington: Sent to the County Council.

A0015 Policing on race days: Letter sent to Chief Constable Ms Della Cannings. Inspector Broadley rang - she confirmed that the police financed by the racecourse are in addition to the normal police presence in Thirsk. However, on the last race day the police who would have been in the town were called away to an incident outside Thirsk.

A0016 Abandoned car on St James' Green: 15 days notice put on it on 26th August.

A0016 Footpath from the White Mare Roundabout to the bridge: Letter sent to County Council re the poor condition of this.

A0016 Dead trees on racecourse: Letter sent to the Thirsk Racecourse Company. It was suggested that a letter be sent to John Bell.

A0017 - Wheeliebins on Westgate: Letter sent to the County Council.

A0017 Litter bin outside Coop; Gary Brown has removed the damaged bin. He is not proposing to replace it, but will monitor the situation. If a bin is found to be necessary he will put one nearer the wall.

A0017 Cemetery Lane: Letter sent to the County Council requesting they look at implementing some form of traffic calming.

A0017 Thirsk Regeneration Initiative: Confirmed that Harvey Dowdy will speak to the next Town Council meeting.

A0013 Dog Fouling: Cllr Robinson advised that a Dog Warden is now in place.

A0014 Request for additional street lighting at the end of Hambleton Place: Cllr Marshall asked whether the Town Council would be prepared to contribute towards an additional lighting column in Hambleton Place. She suggested the Town Council approach County to enquire whether they would install a light if the Town Council pays for it, agreed.

A0016 White Mare Roundabout: Cllr Reynard advised that she had met with Rural Arts re this. Cllr Robinson said he understood that Thirsk in Bloom were to plant the roundabout with low growing shrubs, but Cllr Reynard said this is difficult because of a perennial weed. It was felt that measures needed to be taken in the interim and Cllr Robinson suggested we ask Chris Amy to kill the weeds. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that Chris Amy be asked to spray the roundabout and then to plant it with winter pansies. This was put to the vote and was carried with 6 in favour, 1 abstention. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Watson that a budget of £50 be allocated for the plants.

To receive correspondence:

NYCC advising that they have a notice/welcome board for Thirsk. County to be asked to send the board to the Town Council.

Hambleton & Richmondshire Rural Transport Partnership; notice of the six monthly meeting to be held on Monday 15th September

Copy letter from Mr. J.R. Fisher to NYCC re Parking etc on Long Street.

Page A0020

Telephone call from Mrs Judy Barron asking whether any measures could be taken to prevent travellers camping on The Holmes in the future, and whether anything can be done to make people responsible for cleaning outside their premises. It was felt that places where people eat take away food were the most in need of cleaning - Hambleton to be asked to clean outside the pizza shop and outside any other establishment where appropriate.

Letter from Harry Whitton asking the Town Council to be associated with a project he is doing on the Community Media Association website where he would like the Town Council to register. He is developing a project to create a visual display of photographs and video tapes of almost four decades of community life in Thirsk. Cllr Marshall felt the Town Council should support this, but they would need to know what they have to supply in the way of information. Mr Whitton would also like to video a Town Council meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Adamson should speak to Mr Whitton and a decision be made at the next Town Council meeting.

NYCC - notice of temporary closure of C101 Plump Bank to Felixkirk Road 1st - 5th September 2003

NYCC - notice of temporary road closure of the A61 Millgate/Bridge Street from 9th to 13th September.

To look at the question of litter clearing and any action to be taken on this:

Cllr Marshall expressed the view that it was too early to discuss this as Open Areas and Central Areas discuss it when setting their budgets. She suggested the two committees should meet and discuss it prior to it being discussed by the Council. Cllr Robinson suggested it be deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr Marshall referred to the bin emptying over the recent Bank Holiday which was not satisfactory. She had spoken to Gary Brown, but no monies are available to finance any additional litter bin emptying. A letter to be sent to Peter Simpson, stressing that regular emptying of bins on Bank Holiday Mondays is a priority.

To receive reports from the following Committees:

Cllr Marshall pointed out that some committees have not met since the election. She referred to the budgets and said each committee should be taking steps to action them. Cllr Adamson asked members to arrange committee meetings within the next month or so.

Carrs Field: Cllr Hubbard was absent from the meeting.

Central Areas: Cllr Hubbard was absent from the meeting.

Christmas Festivities: Cllr Robinson advised that another meeting will be held shortly.

Greens & Ingramgate: Cllr Marshall said the milestone on Ingramgate has not been painted - Ron Cowells to be asked to do it. Cllr Marshall advised that there are three large dead trees on the Finkle Street side of the beck. A letter to be sent to John Bell.

Open Areas: Cllr Marshall advised that she, together with Cllr Mallett and the Clerk, had walked round all the Open Areas/Play Areas. She issued Councillors

with a report of this walk which identified items needing attention.

Page A0021

Referring back to the question of dealing with matters included in the Amenities' budget, it was suggested that any Committees which had not met should do so by the end of September. Cllr Roberts suggested that in future the chair of the various committees should be elected at the first meeting of these committees.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Marshall advised that the membrane under the path at East Thirsk Play Area has been pulled up. Quotes are being obtained for tarmac and paving slabs. The large metal gate has been taken.

It was mentioned that the White Bridge is in need of painting. Barclays Bank to be asked whether they are still doing such projects. Cllr Adamson advised that he has been asked by the CCA to do a day's community service and if Barclays no longer do it then Cllr Adamson might do it as his community project.

Cllr Roberts referred to the overgrown state of the path from the Waterfall. The Clerk had already reported this to Chris Amy.

Cllr Robinson suggested the Town Council should purchase a scythe, which he is prepared to use - it was agreed that this could be taken from the grasscutting budget.

Centenary Field: A letter to be sent to FWAG asking whether we can take part in the stewardship scheme. Also their advice to be sought on what to do on the Field.

Carrs Field: Cllr Reynard reported that the football nets are now up and the ramp has been repainted.

Cllr Robinson referred to problems of graffiti from a spray can. A letter to be sent to the police.

Cllr Watson reported on a meeting of the Town Hall Management Committee held the previous Monday.

Cllr Watson referred to the advert to be placed in 'Come and Stay in Herriot Country'. It was agreed that the Town Council's website should be included.

Cllr Roberts advised that she had received a call from someone with the prison service who is doing a City & Guilds Course in adult education. As part of this he has to show he has given approximately one hour long talks to adult groups.

Cllr Robinson felt we should support this, but limit the time to, say 30 minutes. It was felt we should also include Sowerby in this.

Cllr Marshall referred to National Grid saying they have a planting scheme for screening the pylons. They, together with their landscape architects, are prepared to give a presentation on this and it was felt we should have a presentation. It was agreed they be invited to the next Amenities meeting.

Cllr Roberts advised that she had been to a Scrutiny Committee meeting at Hambleton re flooding and she had outlined what happened in Thirsk when it was flooded in November 2000.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Reynard advised that over the year Thirsk came 4th with 137 marks out of a possible 200. Cllr Robinson congratulated Thirsk in Bloom on their displays on the bus shelter. Cllr Adamson passed the Town Council's best wishes to the members of Thirsk in Bloom Committee.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 15th September 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0032

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,
K Reynard, A Robinson, J Watson, Mrs Harvey Dowdy (first item), the press
reporter, 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr F Roberts, accepted.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Harvey Dowdy:

Mrs Dowdy advised that the TRI are almost half way through the MTI programme. Approximately £127K has been allocated which has been matched by £460K of public sector grant and £78 K private funding. In addition there are 'in kind' contributions of around £30K. All the monies for the remaining 18 months have been allocated. Mrs Dowdy said there is a need to look at getting reserve projects such as the alleyways proposal. It is necessary to transfer the money to a project by March 2005 (the work has to have already been completed). The Long Street Feasibility Study has been completed. Consultation to be started to look at signage, both signs in the town and on the roads leading in. The

Chairman thanked Mrs Dowdy for her report.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

It was agreed that Item 4 be dealt with before Item 3.

To receive Police Report and discuss any matters to be brought to the attention of the police:

Sgt Kevin Thornton advised that there has been a police operation in Thirsk and since an arrest was made the number of burglaries have reduced. There is still a problem with people going into houses to obtain car keys and stealing cars. He advised that a force wide operation is being run which is performance based.

Cllr Marshall referred to vandalism at East Thirsk, particularly in the Community Hall and in the Play Area where a large metal five bar gate has been stolen. Cllr Adamson referred to a car being driven down St Mary's at approximately 70mph and this was reported. Sgt Thornton referred to a new Act relating to motoring which has been introduced - this allows the police to issue a warning and if it is repeated then the police can confiscate the car and charge for its release. Cllr Watson asked about the Police Office in the Market Place. Sgt Watson said this will be manned by a police officer with support staff.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, two amendments being noted on Page P0030.

Open Forum:

The member of the public present did not wish to speak.

Page P0033

To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 18th August 2003:

P0026 Signage on Picks Lane - reply received from County Council agreeing to the Town Council's request for additional signage on Picks Lane and Newsham Road.

P0026 Road surface - Hambleton View. Nothing further on this as yet.

P0026 Signs on White Mare Roundabout - reply from the County Council advising that there is no money available to rationalise the signage on the roundabout at present. They suggest it may be possible to deal with this as part of the Long Street project.

P0026 Request for compensation re pylons - Stewart Grant from National Grid to be asked to attend the October Amenities Meeting. Cllr Marshall advised that they have a planting scheme to soften the effects of the pylons. The compensation is a separate issue to be put on the agenda for the November Amenities meeting.

P0026 Floodlighting at St Mary's Church - reported at Amenities.

P0026 Seat on Castlegarth - nothing further on this

P0026 Passageways - reply from Tony Robinson advising that there is scope under HERS to do this, but the consent of the adjacent property owners is required. He suggests the passageway behind 49 Market Place be re-laid as an exemplar scheme.

Cllr Hubbard sent out letters and the responses received so far have been favourable.

P0026 Bow House - 'Come and Stay in Herriot Country' - a letter has been sent to

Hambleton and a reply received confirming they will amend their insertion to include reference to Thirsk Station.

P0027 Public Footpath across 'Golden Fleece Yard'. Peter Penny is currently awaiting more signs.

P0029 A61 Finkle Street Local Safety Scheme - letter sent to County Council outlining the Town Council's views.

P0029 Noticeboard in the Cemetery - the clerk has spoken to Malcolm Blackburn and he is to put up the new noticeboard in the place specified by Roger Hall.

P0030 Dog fouling in St Giles' Close - letter delivered to all residents of St Giles' Close.

P0027 White Mare Roundabout - Cllr Reynard has met with Rural Arts again to look at this.

The press reporter left the meeting.

To receive reports from:

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that the County Council are pressing for a Unitary County Council. Hambleton have put in for a Hambleton/Richmondshire joint authority. Referring to the public access strategy, Cllr Marshall said the County Council are sorting this out and there are to be standardised laptops.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Trading Standards doorstep crime initiative.

Cllr Jackson referred to the sign from the A1 to Thirsk, which gives direction to Lightwater Valley. Cllr Marshall said this should be covered by the TRI signs project. Cllr Jackson referred to libraries and Cllr Marshall said that

Northallerton Library has just had large funding.

b) District Council

Cllr Robinson advised that it appears the charge for pest control for rats/mice is to be abolished.

Cllr Hubbard advised that the planning application for a take-away in the premises formerly occupied by Action Data on the corner of Ingramgate has been refused.

Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that over the last Bank Holiday the bins in the town were not emptied.

Cllr Pack was concerned at the amount of weeds around Thirsk.

To approve accounts for payment:

Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Robinson that the following accounts be approved for payment, agreed.

K Dickinson window cleaning £6.00

Rent - Town Council Office £660.94

BT - Office telephone £125.70

The Barker Partnership - Internal Audit £470.00

CE & CM Walker - Grass cutting, August 2003 £1492.25

Fox's Copy Shop - photocopying etc. £112.01

Rates - Town Council Office - October 2003 £52.00

Yorkshire Water - Water Rates for Cemetery Lodge (2nd half 2003/04) £144.20

Julie Harron - Salary - September 2003 £260.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary - August 2003 £989.23

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI - August 2003 £556.24

C A Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80

Mill Gardens pruning £120.00

Litter picking £80.00

Referring to the account from Fox's, Cllr Watson queried whether it would be possible to have a photocopier in the office.

It was also mentioned that there was a need to check that works had been done before payments to contractors etc are made.

Paid since last meeting:

Petty Cash £48.38

Income received since the last Town Council Meeting

Thirsk Festival 2002 - Reimbursement for unbanked cheque £11.50

Burial Board: Memorials £45.00

Joplings: Cemetery Lodge rent £397.12

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following application was approved; proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Wilfred Bell (additional inscription)

Page P0035

To receive correspondence:

The Local Channel - Network Community Website; no interest.

Thirsk Community Care Association - request for funds. Cllr Adamson declared an interest. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hubbard that a donation of £50 be made. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is a figure of £500 for the CCA in the budget. Cllr Watson then made a further proposal that £500 be donated with the stipulation that it be used to help the CCA overall and not just the Volunteer Bureau, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Defra re Rural Services Standard 2003.

The Boundary Committee for England - Local Government Review of two-tier area in Yorkshire and the Humber

Yorkshire & Humber Assembly re Consultation on Developing a Regional Special Strategy.

YLCA re Proposed National System of Domain Names for Parish and Town Councils.

Cllr Adamson said this is a good idea in some respects as it creates some sort of order for Parish /Town Councils. However, it was felt we would not wish to have to tie in with County and District Councils and parishes should not be compelled to go through a particular web provider.

HDC re Parish Council Training held on 13th and 20th August. It was felt that such training on planning was very useful.

NYCC re proposed temporary closure of A170 Sutton Bank for one week from 22nd September.

Environment Agency re a proposed flood warning system - This involves the installation of a river level gauge, the proposed location being on the footbridge over Cod Beck adjacent to the public car park, Bridge Street. It was felt that this should be screened and it should not be put in the picnic area, but preferably on the other side of Cod Beck. It was agreed that we should ask to meet with one of their technical staff on site to see what is involved and to

look at it in more detail.

Cllr Adamson referred to the letter from Harry Whitton which had been put to the Amenity Meeting. He advised that if Mr Whitton registers with Community Media Association as an individual this will cost £5. Mr Whitton to be asked to come back to the Town Council with his findings. It was agreed that Standing Orders can be suspended if he wishes to video a future Town Council meeting.

To approve renewal of Domain Name:

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the domain name of thirsk.org be renewed for 5 years at a cost of £60, agreed.

To receive and approve the monthly financial reports:

The balance sheet and budget report for August 2003 had been circulated.

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts that these be approved, agreed.

Cllr Marshall referred to the amount of £500 in the budget allocated to the Citizens Advice Bureau and suggested this be sent to them to assist in keeping the CAB in Thirsk open, agreed.

Cllr Marshall read a letter from The Barker Partnership, our Internal Auditors, and our own response to Mazars, the Council's external auditors.

Page P0036

Cllr Marshall expressed the view that we need to look at the roles of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk. Cllr Adamson suggested that a Personnel Meeting be held with the Clerk present to draw up the various responsibilities.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be suspended for ten minutes, agreed.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting of the Burial Board Committee will be held on Saturday 27th September at 10.30am in the Cemetery Office. Cllr Marshall requested that the fee scales be looked at.

To receive reports from:

a) Representatives

Chamber of Trade; Cllr Hubbard advised that the Chamber of Trade in conjunction with Thirsk Regeneration Initiative are holding an open meeting re the proposed Christmas Festivities in 2004.

Town Hall; Cllr Watson advised that the Management Committee have passed a resolution to go along with the Charity Scheme.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had represented the Town Council at the Battle of Britain service at Linton on Ouse.

Cllr Adamson advised that the East Thirsk Resources Learning Centre has now opened.

b)Members:

Cllr Marshall advised that Yorkshire Water have taken up some ground at St James' Green. A letter to be sent advising that we wish this to be reinstated.

Cllr Hubbard referred to the disruption in the town centre as a result of the recent roadworks.

Cllr Hubbard pointed out that some of the signs leading into the town need

cleaning and some are very faded.

Cllr Mallett referred to the Town Council noticeboard where the perspex has been removed. The clerk advised that the perspex had been broken and Cllr Robinson had removed it for safety reasons. Hambleton are to replace the noticeboard door.

Cllr Mallett referred to the graffiti next to Woollens & Harwood.

Cllr Morton referred to two wheeliebins which are on the pavement on Westgate - a letter has been sent to Highways Department. Cllr Robinson said Hambleton are also aware of this.

Cllr Morton referred to the office opening times. The Clerk to put a notice on the board outside the office specifying the office opening times.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 2nd October 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0022

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, K. Reynard, F Roberts, A. Robinson, J Watson, Sgt B Franks of North Yorkshire Police, the press reporter, 2 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr C Pack, agreed.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Cllr Roberts proposed that as Sgt Franks was present he should be asked to speak, agreed.

Sgt Franks advised that Inspector Broadley had asked him to attend to address any issues raised by the Town Council.

Cllr Hubbard referred to the extra charge on the rates to cover the police budget and Sgt Franks said that the numbers of police officers, force wide, is higher although there are not more officers in Thirsk. Three Community Support Officers have been appointed for the Hambleton District.

Sgt Franks assured the meeting that the police officers in Thirsk are out and

about and are working very hard.

Cllr Roberts referred to the move to 33 Market Place and Sgt Franks said there would be the same numbers of officers as at present and the same level of access to the police.

Cllr Robinson expressed the view that he would have hoped for a better service when the police move into the town.

Cllr Marshall joined the meeting.

Cllr Watson asked whether they have a link to the CCTV and Sgt Franks said not.

Cllr Robinson expressed his concern and Cllr Marshall said this was a matter which should be taken up with Hambleton.

Cllr Robinson proposed that a representative of the Public Protection Department at Hambleton be invited to come to a Town Council meeting to let us know how the system is working, agreed.

Cllr Roberts referred to children playing out on or near roads at dusk and the danger in that they cannot be seen by motorists and asked whether the police would speak to the children about this.

Sgt Franks agreed, but said it could not be a priority. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Headteacher of Thirsk Community Primary School bringing this concern to his attention.

On a similar subject, Cllr Mallett referred to young people delivering papers on dark mornings.

In view of the fact that members of the public were present, it was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended to give

them an opportunity to speak, agreed.

Mrs Koniensky referred to the amount of litter/take away food in the town and to the presence of rats on and near her property. It was pointed out that the Best Value Review Committee are looking at street cleaning and Cllr Hubbard advised that the Town Council are frequently in communication with Hambleton re street cleaning.

Page A0023

Mrs Penson advised that she has spoken to the Pest Control Officer who has advised that no bait has been taken from the rat boxes in Mill Gardens recently. It was agreed that a letter from Mrs Penson on behalf of the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group, proposed to be dealt with under correspondence, be read to the meeting at this stage. The letter expressed residents' concern regarding trees near their properties, in particular two large crack willows, growing along the section of the bank of Cod Beck which is not the responsibility of the Town Council. Cllr Marshall advised that some time ago we had researched the ownership of the land in question and it is not registered. It is assumed it may belong to Thirsk Estates as manorial waste. Cllr Robinson felt we needed to have a policy on this, pointing out that it is not the Town Council's duty to do work on trees that are not on its land. Cllr Marshall said the Town Council does not have the power to do this work itself and should we do so we could be taking on liability for the trees. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that a letter be sent to John Bell and to Hambleton as the trees are in a Conservation Area.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Reynard that there should be a slot on the Amenity Meetings' agendas for the public and police to speak if they wish to do so, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A0018 Floodlighting. St Mary's Church - 3 tenders received.

A0018 Toilets in the Market Place; nothing further from David McGloin, but the clerk has checked the ladies' toilets and they appear to be satisfactory.

A0018 Greens and Ingramgate; Cllr Mallett is watching this.

Cllr Marshall felt we should have been served with a notice by Yorkshire Water before they began digging on the Green - the clerk to chase this up.

A0018 Entrances to Thirsk; Harvey Dowdy advises that this is being dealt with as part of the overall review of signage in Thirsk. She and David Shields are preparing a brief to be sent out to consultants.

A0018 Application for Listed Building Consent for plaque on Thirsk Museum; Cllr Adamson advised that he had taken a photograph of the full frontage of the Museum. The application had gone to the Conservation Area Advisory Group who had recommended acceptance. Cllr Jackson advised that he has spoken to the Museum Committee re this. Cllr Marshall advised that the plaques meeting had been held earlier in the week. A letter is to be drafted from the Town Council to the Planning Officer.

A0018 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas - reminders to be sent to Chris Amy and DBD Contracting.

A0018 Grass outside Rybeck Farm; reply received from County. However, they appear to be referring to the opposite side of the road and the Clerk will take this up with them.

A0019 'Come and Stay in Herriot Country' - David Shields has now incorporated reference to Thirsk Railway Station in Hambleton's entry. The advert from the Town Council has been sent in.

Page A0024

A0019 Letter from Mr F Smith re the new cycle track from South Kilvington. Copy of the reply from County to Mr Smith received.

A0019 Abandoned car on St James' Green; this has now been removed.

A0019 Footpath from White Mare Roundabout along Ingramgate; reply received from County advising that this is routinely inspected and repaired. No monies available to resurface. Cllr Marshall requested that the Greens Committee look at it again.

A0019 Dead trees on racecourse; letter sent to John Bell, reply awaited.

A0019 Wheeliebins on Westgate; County to write to the occupants concerned and to Hambleton.

A0019 Cemetery Lane; reply from County advising that a further traffic survey will be carried out to ascertain what effect the making of Picks Lane into a one-way street has had on Cemetery Lane.

A0019 Request for additional street lighting at the end of Hambleton Place.

Reply from County advising that the cost of a standard 5m lighting column with 35w sodium lantern is £675, assuming an electrical supply is available. The cost to be confirmed when they receive the underground mains record from Northern

Electric. Cllr Marshall advised that this would provide light for people using the path up to the school and to the play area and she proposed that it be accepted, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

A0019 White Mare Roundabout; Chris Amy has arranged for it to be sprayed and he will then plant it with winter pansies. Cllr Reynard expressed the view that it would be a mistake to put pansies there because of the need for weeding and watering. Cllr Hubbard asked the Greens Committee to look at the question of weeding.

A0019 Notice/welcome board; County had been asked to send this to us. Telephone call received advising that it is a large board. It is currently being stored at the Norby Depot - the clerk will go there and have a look at it.

A0019 Copy of letter from Mr Fisher to NYCC re parking on Long Street; copy of County's reply to Mr Fisher received.

A0020 Cleaning outside shops; letter to be sent to Hambleton re this asking them to clean outside the pizza shop and any other establishments where appropriate.

A0020 Bin emptying at Bank Holidays; letter sent to Peter Simpson, no reply as yet.

A0020 Dead trees on side of Cod Beck; letter sent to John Bell.

A0021 Path at East Thirsk Play Area; four companies have been asked to quote for tarmac and paving slabs and also to suggest any other form of suitable surfacing - no response so far. Malcolm Burnett is to remove the metal gate from the ditch and reinstate.

A0021 Repainting of White Bridge; the clerk had checked with Barclays and they are no longer undertaking such projects. Cllr Adamson is still willing to do it.

Cllr Marshall suggested Mike Roberts would probably provide the paint. Centenary Field; reply from FWAG advising that a new application pack will be available

during October. The clerk has asked them to send one.

A0021 Graffiti; letter sent to the police.

A0021 Pylons; arrangements have been made for Stewart Grant of National Grid to attend the Amenities Meeting in November together with his landscaping architects. The clerk also advised that she had arranged for Mr Seeger to attend the October Town Council meeting re the proposed development at Castlegate.

Page A0025

To receive Correspondence:

HDC - Best Value Review of Street Cleansing Challenge Event, Weds 8th October

Letter from Stephen Dalleywater supporting Cllr Pack's comments on behalf of

Thirsk in Bloom re the need for weeding and maintenance of highway edges and

footpaths by HDC. The letter to be sent to Hambleton advising them we agree with his concerns.

Letter from Yorkshire Water advising that they will be carrying out work to the

sewerage system opposite 68 Market Place, starting on 6th October for

approximately 8 weeks. Cllr Watson referred to the persistent sewerage smells in

Kirkgate. Cllr Marshall advised that this has been taken up with Yorkshire

Water, but there may be some old drains that are dry.

NYCC re notice of road closure - C168 Sowerby Road from 4th-19th October. Mike

Roberts to be asked for a timetable of the roadworks in Thirsk. Cllr Robinson

advised that gas works are to be carried out on Westgate commencing mid October.

FWAG re membership renewal advising that the annual subscription has been

increased from £25 to £30 plus VAT. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson

that this be paid, agreed.

To receive reports from the following committees:

Carrs Field:

Cllr Marshall reminded this Committee of the need to meet.

Central Areas: Cllr Hubbard to call a meeting

Christmas Festivities: Cllr Robinson advised that they will be meeting again shortly.

Greens and Ingramgate: Cllr Mallett advised that Thirsk in Bloom have planted bulbs. Some of the fencing around the Green has been broken by a lorry - suggested it is repaired once the roadworks have been completed. Cllr Robinson referred to a call from County to the clerk referring to the need to clear the stones etc away from the holes in the kerbs. It was reported that Barry Ogilvey has spoken to the contractors doing the roadworks and they are going to clear this out.

Millennium Green: A meeting is required.

Open Areas: Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting is to be arranged. She and the clerk had met Andy Brookes from Record to look at the East Thirsk Play Area, in particular replacing the tiles under the swings with Wetpour. Mr Brookes felt the tiles were in good order and just needed relaying and fixing down. Also looked at replacement swings. Record agreed to quote for Wetpour and paving slabs between the two sections of Wetpour on Craigs Way. Cllr Marshall also referred to the black bridge which needs painting and the seat on Castlegarth which needs attention.

Town Development Working Party: Cllr Jackson advised that his committee needs to meet. Harvey Dowdy has asked that we submit our 20 point plan to the TRI. Cllr Roberts agreed to be the Town Council's representative on this.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Page A0026

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Robinson referred to the area of land in front of Kingdom Hall, Stockton Road, saying that there are five untaxed cars parked on it. It was felt this land could be owned by the County Council; letter to be sent asking for the cars to be removed.

Cllr Reynard referred to a dead tree on Stockton Road where the cherry trees are; letter to be sent to Mike Roberts.

Cllr Robinson referred to the signage re the roadworks. The clerk had asked for the signs at the South Kilvington roundabout to be moved further back.

Cllr Marshall advised that there is to be a Plaques and Interpretation Boards meeting this week. Application forms for grant aid to be completed within the next few days.

Cllr Watson referred to Todds Court saying there is very little street lighting there. A letter to be sent to Broadacres.

Cllr Watson referred to the Johnson Close Play Area saying there is a lot of litter there.

Cllr Jackson referred to the resurfacing of the roads following works. Cllr Marshall advised that they are under an obligation to reinstate; a letter to be sent.

Cllr Hubbard advised that he had attended a Flood Scrutiny Committee Meeting at which there were representatives of Yorkshire Water, Northumbrian Water, The Internal Drainage Board and Highways.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Reynard advised that the bulb planting is still taking place. Four members of TIB had been invited to the Rotary Dinner and Sue and Mike and had received an award for their work for the community.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that the public and press be excluded for a confidential commercial item.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 20th October 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0037

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,
F Roberts, J Watson, the press reporter, Mr J Seeger (first item only) and the
Clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs K Reynard, A Robinson, Mrs Carolyn Thorpe (press reporter), accepted.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Mr J Seeger re planning application for the development of Castlegate
Youth Centre:

Mr Seeger advised that the block containing the Castlegate Youth Centre is to be
developed into 13 residential units and 3 shops, although he stressed that the
plans are fairly flexible at this stage.

Cllr Marshall joined the meeting.

There will be one parking space per unit. It is planned to start work next year
and it is anticipated it will take approximately 18 months. Referring to the

access, Mr Seeger advised that this will be dealt with in accordance with the County Council's requirements, possibly incorporating yellow lines and signage. The present wooden lean-to building is to be converted into a wheeliebin storage area. Cllr Adamson asked whether it would be possible to have a look round once they have cleared the buildings and Mr Seeger agreed to this. Responding to a query re the tenure of the properties, Mr Seeger advised that the residential units will hopefully be sold, although on a long leasehold basis, whilst the shops will probably be let. The Chairman thanked Mr Seeger for attending the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Minutes:

Proposed approved by Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, one minor amendment being noted on page P0032.

Police:

Inspector Val Broadley had sent her apologies. The clerk had mentioned to her about the vandalism at East Thirsk Play Area and Castlegarth. Cllr Mallett advised that he had attended a meeting of the Detached Youth Worker and concern was expressed that young children are being driven away from the Play Areas by older youths. Cllr Watson mentioned parking without lights and also parking on pavements when people have places they could park. Cllr Marshall had taken up the question of the radio link and the one financed by the Town Council has been defunct for some eighteen months.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Marshall that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Lionel Twiss expressed his concern at difficulties for disabled people getting around the Market Place. He was of the view that very little has been done although he was assured two years ago that work was imminent and he requested that the Town Council bring pressure to bear on the County and District Councils. Cllr Marshall pointed out that ten dropped kerbs have been put in around the town and the one at Finkle Street is part of the consultation being carried out at present. It is hoped to carry out work on the passageways and the kissing gates on to Castlegarth are to be replaced by wheelchair friendly ones. Mr Twiss said some of the surfacing in the Market Place is very difficult for the disabled and there is no provision for cars being able to park parallel to the pavements to enable disabled people not to have to get out onto the cobbles.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Matters Arising:

P0033 Signage on Picks Lane and Newsham Road; this is now in place.

P0033 Road surface; Hambleton View; nothing further on this as yet.

P0033 Request for compensation re pylons; Stuart Grant and his landscaping architects will be coming to the November Amenities Meeting.

P0033 Passageways; reply from the County Council advising that they do not own any of the passageways.

P0033 Dog fouling in St Giles' Close; telephone call from a resident advising that there are now no problems with dog fouling in St Giles' Close.

P0033 White Mare Roundabout; this has now been sprayed. Chris Amy will be planting it with winter pansies shortly.

P0034 Bin emptying in the town; a letter had been sent to Peter Simpson.

Following this, Gary Brown telephoned to say there had been some confusion over the number of hours allocated for this at Bank Holidays, but these are now to be increased.

P0035 Environment Agency re flood warning system; letter sent asking to meet with one of their engineers on site; no reply as yet.

P0036 Personnel Committee; a meeting is being arranged.

P0036 Office opening times; a notice has been put up outside the office showing the opening times as 9am - 12 noon and 2 - 5 pm

P0033 Signs on White Mare roundabout; Cllr Jackson felt the County Council should offer to pay for the signs. Cllr Marshall said there is a post, which is serving no purpose, and she has therefore asked that it be removed.

Cllr Hubbard joined the meeting

P0036 Cllr Marshall informed the meeting that we are required to have an Intermediate Audit for 2001/02. She stressed the need to look at the responsibilities of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk.

To receive reports:

County Council:

Cllr Marshall advised that she has details of some works to be carried out in the town, but no definite dates as yet. Blakey Lane is to be closed for sewerage works. Cllr Marshall referred to policing problems in Thirsk when Sutton Bank is closed. Meeting with the Police, Freight Transport Association and Road Hauliers Association to compile information on the type of vehicles using the Bank. Trials on the Bank will be held. There were 169 incidents in 6 months on the Bank, of which 50 were vehicles breaking down.

District Council:

Cllr Hubbard referred to the Environmental Services Best Value Challenge Event held recently. They are looking at funding, resources etc and will then be having a further meeting to put forward proposals which will go to the Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet. It is hoped to put the onus onto shopkeepers to clean up outside their own premises and provide bins, particularly at take-aways. There is a need to educate people at an early stage not to drop litter etc. Cllr Roberts advised that she has spoken to Cllr Fawcett saying that Thirsk in Bloom were being judged on matters, which are Hambleton's responsibility, and she said a letter should be sent to the judges. Hambleton are still going through the policy review on flooding and the committee is going to visit the Environment Agency.

Cllr Marshall advised that the planning application by Done Bros is recommended for refusal. Cllr Watson referred to the need for Cod Beck to be dredged, but

Cllr Marshall said this is not Hambleton's responsibility.

Finance

To approve accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett, agreed.

Power Point - hire of grasscutter for Millennium Green £23.50

CE & CM Walker £1,492.25

Sam Turner & Sons Ltd; purchase of scythe £73.03

HDC; Affiliation fee for Hambleton Sports Council- 2 years at £3 per year £6.00

Adam Jackson; plants £278.00

K. Dickinson; cleaning office windows £4.00

Amberol Ltd; hanging baskets £1,086.30

Chris Amy: Weekly inspections £228.50

Litter picking (Mill Gardens Picnic Area, Castlegarth) £250.00

Emergency tree work in Riverside Mews £95.00

HDC; Rates for office – Nov 2003 £52.00

Julie Harron; Salary; October 2003 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary; September 2003 £989.23

Paid since last meeting:

Inland Revenue; Tax/NI; September 2003 £556.24

Page P0040

Income received since the last Town Council Meeting

HDC; Rating Precept 2003/04 (2nd half) £47,500.00

HM Customs & Excise; VAT Refund; 1.5.2000 - 31.3.2003 £37,686.10

Joplings; Cemetery Lodge rent £397.12

C. Dale, D.G. Collinson & Son; Memorial £10.00

Bank Interest £123.74

The balance sheet and budget report for September 2003 were received and approved.

To receive and decide upon requests from the Royal British Legion for a donation for the poppy wreathes:

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that a donation of £100 be made, agreed.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts brought the plans for the new Auction Mart to the Town Council.

Cllrs Hubbard, Marshall, and Roberts declared an interest. It was agreed that these be circulated to Councillors and that it be discussed at the November Amenities Committee meeting.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that he had called a meeting but this could not proceed, as it was not quorate. The notice board will be in place shortly.

To receive correspondence:

NYCC Notice re closure of Kirkgate, 25th October – 16th November

Hambleton and Richmondshire Nightstop requesting assistance.

Yorkshire and Humberside Crimestoppers requesting financial assistance.

Thirsk Community Care Association re AGM on 6th November. Cllr Hubbard as the representative on the Executive Committee is to attend.

HDC; Local Government Review; meeting to be held on 11th November.

Thirsk Clock; request for funding. Cllr Pack declared an interest. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that the sum of £500 allocated to youth activities be sent to them.

Clerks and Councils Direct; Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that the subscription for 12 copies at a cost of £82.50 be renewed, agreed.

HDC re Farmers Market; letter from Mr Quartermain seeking the Town Council's views. He is to review this and go back to the Chamber of Trade in 6 months time. The Chamber of Trade would like to see it alongside the normal market because of the lack of parking. It was agreed that the Town Council would prefer to see the Farmers Market joined up with the normal Monday market, in consultation with the market traders. Also query whether the charges in Thirsk are competitive with other markets in Yorkshire.

Audrey Powell of Thirsk and District Churches Together re the Carol Service on 22nd December in St Mary's Church. She asks that a member of the Town Council read a lesson. Cllr Morton proposed that Cllr Marshall should do this and this was agreed.

Page P0041

Quality Parish Council; the clerk advised that she is to attend a meeting on 25th November at Hambleton re the Quality Parish Council scheme.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following application was approved; proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

William Denson Bateman and Marjorie Bateman.

To receive reports from:

a) Representatives

Cllr Mallett reported that he had attended a meeting of the Thirsk Detached Youth Worker. However the role of the Detached Youth Worker has been superseded by various other organisations and Cllr Mallett has been invited to go on to the Community Education Committee, either as an individual or as a representative of the Town Council. It was agreed he should represent the Town Council on this.

Cllr Hubbard has attended a meeting of the Chamber of Trade where concern had been expressed by a number of businesses at the loss of trade as a result of roadworks. Christmas event 2004; Cllr Hubbard had attended a meeting to form a committee to move the project forward. He had also attended a meeting of the Skateboard Park Committee whose AGM is to be held in November. A landscaping scheme is proposed for Carrs Field. The Thirsk Woodlands Group to be involved with planting and part funding of trees.

Long Street; Cllr Marshall advised that Harvey Dowdy has asked Mr Quartermain to organise a meeting with Highways, Yorkshire Forward etc and this is due to be held in November. The aim is to find out whether there is any possibility of getting any funding for the scheme.

Cllr Marshall reported on a meeting of the Thirsk Infants School Charity advising that they have now secured a realistic lease payment from the Library.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Millennium Green mosaic was damaged in May and

RANY do not appear to have taken any action as yet and therefore a letter has been sent. A Working Day is to be held on the Millennium Green during November. Cllr Roberts advised that the AGM of the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative is to be held later this week, to include talks by various people on what they have achieved.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be suspended.

Cllr Watson reported on behalf of the Town Hall Management Committee advising that some decorating is to be carried out at the Town Hall.

Cllr Adamson had attended a meeting at the British Legion re Remembrance Day. He had attended the YLCA AGM at Filey. He had also attended the School Governors Meeting in September and a Civic Service and Lunch at the invitation of the Chairman of Hambleton. Cllr Adamson had also attended the official opening of East Thirsk Learning Resource Centre and, reporting on the East Thirsk Community Association, he advised that plans for the pensioners' Christmas Party are well in hand.

Page P0042

b) Members

Cllr Hubbard

Cllr Hubbard had received a complaint about the fact that an offence had been seen to be committed and no action had been taken because of a lack of car registration number. Cllr Marshall said the person concerned should speak to Inspector Broadley and a letter will also be sent to her.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Quality Council status and said it is hoped to do

an Annual Report; the clerk to do a mock up of this.

Cllr Marshall advised that there will be a Finance Meeting in December to set the precept for 2004/5. She requires detailed reports from the sub-committees by next month. There is also a need to have a risk assessment document; the YLCC to be approached about this.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall that the public and press be excluded for a matter of a confidential nature.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 6th November 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0027

Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, A Robinson, J. Watson,
the press reporter, 1 member of the public, Stewart Grant and Stephen
Knight-Gregson of National Grid, Susan Firth of Insite, landscape architects
(first item only) and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllr Adamson (attending Mayoral function) Cllr Jackson (on holiday), Cllr
Mallett (ill), Cllr Roberts (on holiday)

Talk by Stuart Grant of National Grid re planting scheme to reduce the visual
impact of the pylons. Cllr Hubbard introduced Mr Grant, Mr Knight-Gregson and Ms
Firth. Mr Grant gave an introduction from National Grid and then handed over to
Mr Knight-Gregson. He advised that their theory is that it is not possible to
hide the overhead line, but by planting they can take out the significant views
of towers from key viewpoints. The tree replacement scheme provides for 4 trees
to be planted for every one felled and 2 for every tree lopped. There is also an
off site planting scheme which is a voluntary commitment by National Grid. He
advised that Insite help with the design of planting proposals and survey work.
The planting works will be implemented in this planting season and the trees

will be monitored for 5 years. Ms Firth explained the basis of how they decide where to plant and advised that in Thirsk 4 trees were felled for the construction of the line. These will be replaced by 17 trees under the scheme plus another 129 trees under the off site planting scheme.

Cllr Marshall referred to the impact of the pylons on the landscape at East Thirsk and said she would like to see some tree planting along the side of the A19. Mr Knight-Gregson advised that the landowners had suggested these be planted on the Highway verge and National Grid are currently in discussion with the Highways Agency on this. It was agreed that a representative of National Grid would meet with Cllr Marshall at East Thirsk. Concluding their talk, National Grid advised that planting to the value of £1.2m is being carried out throughout the Vale of York and South Cleveland.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson, approved.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Reynard that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Konieczny pointed out that it is the 3rd anniversary of the floods of 2000.

She advised that a hydrologist, employed by Hambleton, is looking into how often floods have occurred over the last century and is monitoring the risk. Cllr

Marshall referred to a Flood Forum to be held in November. Mrs Konieczny also referred to the amount of take-away food etc on the streets and the need for more thorough street cleaning.

Mrs Konieczny thanked Thirsk in Bloom for all their work.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Page A0028

Matters Arising:

A0022 CCTV; following a letter to the Public Protection Department, the clerk had received a telephone call advising that a representative would be willing to come to a Council meeting, or that Councillors could visit the CCTV to see it in action. It was agreed to do this and the clerk will arrange an evening to suit.

A0022 Children playing on or near roads at dusk; letter sent to the Headteacher of Thirsk Community Primary School.

A0023 Trees in Riverside Mews; letters sent to John Bell and Hambleton.

A0023 Works on the Green; in response to the clerk's letter to Yorkshire Water pointing out that the Town Council should have been given notice of this, a letter of apology had been received from Yorkshire Water.

A0023 Application for Listed Building Consent for plaque on Thirsk Museum; consent has now been granted. Malcolm Burnett has been asked to put the plaque up, in consultation with Cooper Harding. Cllr Marshall advised there is to be an official unveiling.

A0023 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas; DBD Contracting and Chris Amy had been asked to respond by 1st October. No response from DBD. Chris Amy provided a quote; to be dealt with as a confidential item.

A0023 Grass outside Rybeck Farm; reply from County Council advising that this has been cut in accordance with the County Council's standards. Copy to be sent to Edward Barker.

A0024 Dead trees on racecourse; no response from either the racecourse or John

Bell as yet.

A0024 request for additional streetlight on Hambleton Place; confirmation of cost still awaited.

A0024 White Mare Roundabout; sprayed and prepared. Chris Amy will be planting pansies tomorrow.

A0024 Notice/Welcome board; the clerk has looked at this and it is very large. It has now gone back to Northallerton to be stored. Richard Owens at County to be consulted as to who ordered it and who is to bear the installation cost. The clerk has now received the Thirsk nameplate which the Town Council had ordered.

A0024 Litter bin emptying at Bank Holidays; Gary Brown had advised that more hours are to be given to this.

A0024 Path at East Thirsk Play Area; only one quote received so far. A reminder has been sent to the other companies who were invited to tender.

A0024 FWAG - nothing further as yet.

A0025 Weeding and maintenance of highway edges and footpaths. Letter sent to Hambleton and telephone call received from Mike Kneebone.

A0025 Timetable of roadworks; details now received from Mike Roberts. Further details re the ongoing plans for the work to be requested.

A0025 Broken fencing on The Green; Cllr Mallett has spoken to Chris Amy about this.

A0026 Untaxed cars on land in front of Kingdom Hall, Stockton Road; letter sent to County, but Eddie Hayward says to contact the police.

A0026 Request for extra street lighting at Todds Court; letter sent to Broadacres.

A0025 Sewerage smells in Kirkgate; Cllr Watson said a camera is to be put down the drains in Kirkgate. Cllr Reynard referred to sewerage smells at Norby. Cllr

Hubbard is to contact Brian Smith of Yorkshire Water to ascertain whether anything has been sorted out.

Page A0029

A0025 Stones in holes in kerbs on St James' Green; Cllr Robinson suggested that Cllr Mallett look into this and report to the Greens Committee

Cllr Marshall referred to a site meeting held on the White Bridge, which was attended by representatives of the Environment Agency and several Councillors.

The Environment Agency are planning to install a flood warning device in the Cod Beck which will alert them when the river level rises. It will also have a manual gauge. It was agreed that this be installed in the position suggested and that both the post and the box be painted green.

To receive Correspondence:

BTCV re Work in the Spring and Summer 2004; Cllr Marshall said it is up to the various Committees. Should they be interested they should contact the clerk.

Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau; notice of AGM to be held on 12th November

Robert W. Smith; letter re parking on the footpath on Picks Lane. A copy to be sent to Mr Hayward and to the police.

Complaint from Howard Newcombe re vehicles failing to give way when pulling out of Tesco's filling station. It was reported that Sowerby Parish Council are dealing with this. Sowerby to be asked what, if any, action they have taken on it.

Letter from a parishioner regarding the ivy growing over the Cemetery wall;

Chris Amy to be asked to remove it.

To consider and decide upon the Planning Application re the construction of an Auction Mart with associated facilities on land at York Road/Blakey Lane, Sowerby: (Cllr Marshall declared an interest)

Cllr Watson felt that provision should be made for traffic control. It was felt that the Auction Mart should make it clear to users of the Mart that it is not to be accessed via Blakey Lane and Blakey Bridge and that they should be encouraged to use the bypass rather than increasing the number of vehicles going through the town centre. It was queried whether the proposed new access opposite the Garden Centre is the best place. It was felt that to assist in traffic control/safety, the triangular piece of land near the proposed entrance should be made into a large circular shape. Concern was expressed about large slow moving vehicles crossing the A19 to access the Auction Mart and it was felt that traffic improvements should be undertaken (perhaps a roundabout) on the A19. It was noted that within the site the roads are described as concrete roads and it was felt that the part near Blakey Lane should be a softer surface to reduce traffic noise near properties. It was felt the building was rather plain - query whether a row of decorative bricks could be incorporated into the design. It was suggested that the foreman's house should have a porch or utility room for outer clothing, boots etc. It was mentioned that there is a lagoon under the pylons going over the site.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Cllr Watson suggested that we extend the meeting to 10.00pm and carry any unfinished business over.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Page A0030

It was agreed that the planning application be recommended for approval, subject to the above comments.

To receive reports from the following Committees:

Carrs Field: Nothing to report.

Central Areas: A meeting had been held and Cllr Hubbard was elected Chairman.

The budget has been set.

Christmas Festivities: Cllr Robinson advised that he has not been able to arrange another meeting as yet. The switch on of the lights will take place at 3.00pm on 30th November.

Greens and Ingramgate: Cllr Marshall advised that she and Cllr Mallett had a walk round and had a site meeting with Clive Thornton of Hambleton about the signage in Pinfold Place. They had looked at the Plascrete and Clive is looking at this and at the possibility of re-seeding it in sections.

Millennium Green: Not yet met.

Open Areas: Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting had been held following the walk about. The budget for 2004/5 for this committee has been set.

Town Development Working Party: Not yet met.

To receive other items of interest and information: Cllr Robinson reported that he understands the Long Street funding is included in the next Cabinet agenda. However, Cllr Marshall advised that she had met with Steve Quartermain and this

will not be going to Cabinet as the report has not yet been produced. Chris Vincent to look at the costings.

Cllr Watson reported on a Chamber of Trade meeting advising that Don Moore has been re-elected Chairman. Concern had been expressed about the road works in the Market Place.

Cllr Watson advised that she has sent off for details of a machine for cleaning pavements.

Cllr Marshall referred to Castlegarth saying the seat has been removed for repair and we are looking at providing two new seats made of recycled materials on Castlegarth.

Cllr Hubbard had met with the Committee of Christmas 2004. There is strong leadership from Sue Dalton and Malcolm Watson has been elected event coordinator.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack expressed her appreciation to the Town Council for their help with funding.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Robinson that the public and press be excluded for two confidential items of a commercial nature.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 17th November 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0043

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K. Reynard, F Roberts
and A Robinson, Francis Hannon of North Yorkshire Police, the Press Reporter and
the Clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs S Hubbard (ill), J Jackson (away), J Watson (ill)

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett, subject to two
amendments, agreed.

Police Report:

PC Hannon advised that Inspector Broadley had asked her to attend the meeting to
explain about her role as Community Officer. PC Hannon said that to date 17
shopkeepers in Thirsk have Apex radios which will go through to the CCTV. Anyone
caught shoplifting will be banned from shops displaying the Shopwatch sign for
a certain time, such as three months. The Ringaround system is being revamped.
Cllr Robinson asked about the Crime and Safety Partnership and was advised that
the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade is looking into this. To date six people

have been warned for driving offences.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising:

P0038 Signage on Picks Lane and Newsham Road; signage in place on Newsham Road, but not on Picks lane. A chasing letter to be sent.

P0038 White Mare Roundabout; now planted with pansies.

P0038 Environment Agency, flood warning system; letter sent agreeing with position of flood warning device, the box and post to both be painted green.

P0038 Personnel Committee; a meeting has now been held.

P0040 Planning Application for Auction Mart; discussed at Amenities.

P0040 Burial Board Meeting; this has now been held.

P0041 Meeting of Thirsk Detached Youth Worker; Cllr Mallett advised that there is £9K left and it is intended to transfer this to the Community Education budget, but for Detached Youth Workers only. They have asked Cllr Mallet to be their representative on Thirsk Clock as a Trustee.

P0041 Long Street; Cllr Marshall reported that the meeting had now been held.

Now trying to identify sources of funding.

P0041 Millennium Green; the Working Day is to be held on 22nd November 2003.

P0042 Risk assessment document; details have now been obtained from the YLCA.

P0037 Development of Castlegate; reference was made to the drain which runs alongside the path leading from the Market Square to Castlegarth. Letter to be sent to the District Council requesting that this be improved whilst the scheme is going along.

To receive reports from:

County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting of the County Council's Hambleton Area Committee will be held in the afternoon of 1st December.

Cllr Marshall had raised with Steve Masterman the question of whether the Disability Discrimination Act applied to the footpaths in Thirsk. His reply was that when R and R works are carried out the needs of disabled people are taken into account. A site meeting is to be held with Mike Roberts, Steve Quartermain, Mr Bell and Cllr Marshall to look at the crossing points and it is intended to also invite Lionel Twiss. Cllr Marshall referred to a letter from Eddie Hayward re traffic calming in East Thirsk, it may be necessary, for funding reasons, to do this in sections.

Cllr Marshall to attend the launch of the Action for Market Towns for Yorkshire and the Humber on 21st November.

Cllr Robinson enquired about the position of the Three Tuns footpath; nothing further on this, a chasing letter to be sent.

District Council

Cllr Robinson referred to a leaflet produced by Hambleton entitled Tourism News; David Shields to be asked for copies in the future.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Cultural and Social Committee had recently visited sites where flooding had occurred, including Thirsk. They had also visited the Environment Agency's control room at Clifton Moor. IDBs to be encouraged to improve their maintenance record.

Cllr Morton joined the meeting.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Flood Forum to be held on 26th November. She advised that HDC has decided to change its council meetings; the leader will make a statement and questions can be asked.

Cllr Robinson advised that Cabinet now have a champion for young people who is Cllr Bob Barker and a champion for older people , who is also Cllr Barker. A request to allow the public to speak at Cabinet meetings had been made, but this was not allowed.

Referring to government, it is intended to create one-stop shops in every market town.

Finance:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts.

K. Dickinson; cleaning office windows £4.00

Power Point; chains and padlocks for East Thirsk Play Area £37.20

M.L. Burnett; recovery of East Thirsk gate from Ditch and re-securing £50.00

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall; hire of room £150.00

Todd Waste Management; skip hire £104.95

C E & C M Walker grasscutting £746.13

ROSPA Inspection £415.95

P.J. Mann; Cleaning bus shelter windows June-Oct £99.00

C.A. Amy : Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter Picking £200.00

Planting White Mare roundbout £80.00

The Holmes; weeding hedge £70.00

Thirsk Chamber of Trade; donation to Christmas Lights £500.00

Julie Harron; Salary; November 2003 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary; October 2003 £989.23

Inland Revenue; Tax/NI; October 2003 £556.24

Multivision; purchase of new computer for office £608.66

Paid since last meeting:

British Telecom £111.94

HDC; rates for office following increase in RV £44.64

Income received since the last Town Council Meeting H.M. Customs & Excise; VAT

refund; 1.7.03.-30.9.03. £1,691.09

Joplings; Cemetery Lodge rent £397.12

Grave spaces/interments £895.00

Memorials £50.00

The monthly balance sheet and budget reports for October 2003 had been circulated and these were accepted.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

Cllr Adamson declared an interest

The following applications were approved, proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Mallett.

Ronald Louis Hall

Alfred Stephen Perry and Mary Perry

Raymond Fitch

Ivy Hill

Reginald Charles Matthews (additional inscription) Ivy Bendilow

To receive correspondence:

HDC re Community Safety Roadshows

Pell Frischmann Consultants re A168/A19 Dishforth to South Tyneside Route Management Strategy. This has now been finalised for publication and will shortly be on the Highways Agency website; a copy will be printed off when it is available.

North Yorkshire Police - letter from the Chief Constable re Operations Delivery and Ratcatcher

NYCC; Resurfacing works to the B1448 Topcliffe Road, Sowerby

JMP Consultants Ltd; seeking views on a study into the case for rail services to Ripon. It was felt they should proceed with the study.

Page P0046

RAF Civic Reception on 20th January 2004 at The Golden Lion, Northallerton.

Cllrs Adamson and Morton expressed interest in attending.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; Hambleton Community Safety Partnership
2003 Drink Drive Campaign. A display to be held in Thirsk Market Place on 6th
December.

North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plans (currently being circulated)

The County Council have agreed that any comments can be submitted after the
December Town Council meeting. HDC re Survey of Performance of Legal Services;
the service had not been used recently, therefore no comment.

NYCC; copy of reply letter to Mr Mellors re parking/traffic mounting pavement on
Castlegate in response to his concern about delivery vehicles mounting the
footpath in Castlegate.

Data Protection; Registration renewal notice; agreed that this be renewed at a
cost of £35.00

Carrs Field Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust requesting release of £404.00 from the
Town Council budget heading; Carrs Field Scheme; for landscaping and tree
planting, agreed.

NYCC re amendments to the Best Value Performance Plan The Audit Commission re a
comprehensive performance assessment of Hambleton District Council; to be
circulated.

One Stop Media Services inviting entries in the Moors and Coast 2004 and
Accommodation Guide; no interest. Henry Hyams Solicitors re Transfer of the
Bingo Club Licence at the Regent Bingo and Social Club from J A Prendergast to
Amerjit Singh Sandhu.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts advised that the Planning Meeting had not been held as it was not
quorate. All members of the Planning Committee had seen the planning

applications and had submitted their comments. It was agreed that the plans should be dealt with in accordance with those comments.

Cllr Robinson referred to the proposed amalgamation of A1 and A2 planning classes and the impact of this on the 3 in a row policy. Letter to be sent to Steve Quartermain asking whether this is to be a consultation exercise.

To receive Burial Board Report and to receive and approve increase in Burial Board fees:

Cllr Adamson advised that the Burial Board had met recently and had compiled a new scale of charges equating to approximately a 5% increase across the board; this was the first increase for two years.

The proposed fee scale had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr Pack that this be approved. The clerk pointed out that a fee is shown for the interment of babies although in practice no charge had been made. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that no charge be made for the interment of babies.

Cllr Adamson advised that he is awaiting an estimate for a water supply to the top of the Cemetery.

Cllr Morton mentioned the proposed extension to the cemetery and Cllr Adamson pointed out that a separate bank account has been set up for this.

It was agreed that the relevant landowner should be approached in the near future.

Cllr Robinson referred to safety in the Cemetery. Cllr Adamson advised that AIBA are entering into talks with Central Government and nothing further on this as yet. We are awaiting clarification of our legal responsibilities.

Cllr Robinson advised that he had recently sorted out a leak at Cemetery Lodge and the Chairman thanked him for dealing with this.

To consider the way forward re the floodlighting of St. Mary's Church project

Cllr Robinson proposed that we go back to the two contractors who had tendered for the full scheme and ask them to re-submit an amended estimate leaving the light off the tower. Cllr Morton pointed out that this would then require a new Faculty. Cllr Reynard suggested that members of the public might like to contribute to this, but Cllr Robinson felt it should be met from the precept.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that we proceed with the scheme as originally drawn up. This was carried with one abstention. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack that when we have the tender documents then this be dealt with in confidence, that we accept the lower of the tenders, that the cost be met from the precept and that we apply to extend the Faculty, agreed.

To receive Reports

Representatives

Thirsk in Bloom: Cllr Pack had attended a meeting of Thirsk in Bloom. Everything going well and planting will be taking place next Spring.

East Thirsk Learning Resources Centre: Cllr Marshall had attended a meeting the previous week. One of the items discussed was the Open Day which had been well attended. There was a good response re courses at the Centre.

Cllr Roberts reported that the Citizens Advice Bureau had held its AGM recently.

They have a lot of work and are very short of funding. Cllr Roberts had also attended a YLCA meeting where a lot of the discussion had been about wheeliebins, particularly in smaller, more remote villages. Cllr Roberts also reported that Thirsk Regeneration Initiative have held their AGM.

Members

Cllr Robinson reported that the Christmas Lights will be switched on at 3.00 p.m. on 30th November.

Cllr Mallett advised that a meeting of the Greens Committee is to be arranged. Chris Amy has trimmed the tree outside the Lord Nelson. Cllr Mallett referred to parking on the pavement on Picks Lane.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Finance Meeting to be held on Wednesday 3rd December.

Referring to the Blue Plaques and Interpretation Boards, Cllr Marshall advised that the plaque is to be installed on the Museum and there is to be an unveiling. Some wording for the other plaques has been obtained from Cooper Harding and letters are to be sent to the owners of the appropriate buildings. An application form to the Heritage Initiative has been completed in draft and Cllrs Marshall and Watson had met with one of their officers. An application is to be submitted and Cllr Marshall asked for a letter of support from the Town Council to go with the other letters of support received. Cllr Marshall said it is hoped to get community involvement in the project and she would like Cooper Harding to take a guided tour around the town. It is hoped to get some of the pupils at the school involved in doing

research and artwork for the Boards. It is hoped to have a Trail Leaflet and also a children's version of this.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Cllr Adamson had attended the AGM of the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative. He had attended a Reception at RAF Leeming. He had also attended the Remembrance Day service and had laid a wreath on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr Adamson informed the meeting about the notification from the Domain Name of America which now appeared to be a form of cold calling.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall that the public and press be excluded for an item of a confidential nature.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 4th December 2003 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0031

Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, A Robinson
and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs D Adamson, J Jackson, F Roberts, J Watson, accepted

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Pack, three amendments being noted

Open Forum:

No members of the public or police were present.

Matters Arising:

A0028 CCTV; the clerk will arrange a visit for the Councillors in the New Year.

A0028 Trees in Riverside Mews; no response from John Bell. Reply from Tony Robinson advising that any work to these trees will require an application for tree work within a conservation area.

A0028 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whitelass Beck areas; further contractors have been invited to submit quotes by the January Amenities meeting.

A0028 Grass outside Rybeck Farm; letter sent to Edward Barker giving details of the response from the County Council.

A0028 Dead trees on racecourse; no response as yet from either John Bell or the racecourse.

A0028 Request for additional streetlight on Hambleton Place; confirmation of cost still awaited; chasing letter sent.

A0028 Notice/Welcome Board; letter sent to Richard Owens and reply awaited.

A0028 Path at East Thirsk Play Area; reminders sent to other companies who were invited to tender, but no response as yet.

A0028 Untaxed cars on land in front of Kingdom Hall, Stockton Road; letter sent to the police; awaiting reply.

A0029 Flood warning device; letter sent to Environment Agency confirming agreement with this being installed in the position suggested, both box and post to be painted green.

A0029 Ivy on Cemetery wall; Chris Amy is in the process of removing this, together with a large ivy bush in the Cemetery.

A0030 Machine for cleaning pavements; details now received and included in Tabled Correspondence.

A0029 Parking on footpath on Picks Lane; Cllrs Marshall and Mallett had met with Eddie Hayward on site. The road is marked as a clearway, therefore no parking allowed. The dropped kerb is to prevent water running into the houses. Parking is taking place outside the Masonic Lodge; yellow lines to be put on the road.

Mr Hayward to organise the erection of signs on the road near the electrical shop warning that it is one way.

Referring to the minutes of the Town Council and Amenity Committee, Cllr Marshall felt these should not be circulated to anyone other than the Town Councillors until they have been approved. The clerk to check position with the YLCA.

To receive Correspondence:

Copy of mail from Judith and Jim Bush of Australia to the TIC saying that on a recent visit to Thirsk they appreciated the free parking, the fact there is a map on display in Millgate car park and that the car park has CCTV.

NYCC; Winter Service leaflet 2003/4 for information HDC re Tree work on The Holmes; response to our request to pollard some trees which are top heavy with ivy and rotten in some parts.

HDC re Christmas Tree recycling and revised wheelie bin collection days over the Christmas period.

Mr H Dawson of Barleys Yard re stable on land adjacent to Marage Road. Letter to be copied to Mr Calvert and acknowledgement sent to Mr Dawson.

To receive reports:

Carrs Field Cllr Hubbard advised that this Committee has not yet met.

Landscaping will be taking place this weekend and anyone wishing to join in with this will be welcome.

Central Areas Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities Cllr Robinson advised that the switching on of the Christmas lights had taken place the previous Sunday. This was very well

attended and the British Legion Band and two choirs had provided music. Cllr Robinson advised that the Chamber of Trade are hoping to improve the public announcement system.

Greens and Ingramgate Nothing to report. Fodens to be asked whether they are still interested in doing tar spraying on the tracks on the Green.

Millennium Green Cllr Robinson reported that a meeting had been held and he had been elected Chairman.

Cllr Marshall said the working day had been held and they had cleared out the ditch. The grille had been cleared, but Broadacres to be reminded that it is their responsibility to clear this, also that there are several bags of rubbish to be disposed of. The flap in the drain for the Rymers Mill site is still not secured. The clerk had written to Yorkshire Water about this some time ago and had received a response advising that it is not their responsibility. She had spoken to Clive Thornton who is looking into it.

Open Areas Cllr Marshall advised that no further meeting had been held, but one will be held shortly. The list of items drawn up is currently being actioned.

The Rospa report has now been received. It was noted that Johnson Close and the Workhouse Play Areas are not covered by the report; the clerk to advise Rospa of this. Cllr Marshall enquired whether the Town Council is still a member of the York and North Yorkshire Playing Field Association; the clerk to look into this.

Town Development Working Party Not yet met.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Marshall advised that she and Cllr Mallett, together with a local resident had met with Eddie Hayward to look at Cemetery Lane and Newsham Road. NYCC have

carried out a traffic survey and the number of vehicles using Cemetery Lane has almost doubled since Picks Lane became one way. The average speed of vehicles outside The Rectory is 24mph. Cllr Marshall advised that County are not looking at installing traffic bumps, but she explained their proposal for road markings and improved signage. This work could be done quickly and should make people aware of the problems. Cllr Marshall had also asked about the possibility of putting a footpath along the side of Newsham Road from the Athletics Club to the corner of the A61. She explained she felt this was necessary as there will be increased foot traffic once the skateboard park goes ahead. Cllr Mallett asked that we request a streetlight be installed on Picks Lane opposite the Masonic Lodge. The question of a footpath on Picks Lane was also raised.

Cllr Marshall advised that, following the presentation by National Grid, she had met with Susan Firth of Insite, their landscaping architects, to look at the impact of the pylons on East Thirsk. Miss Firth recognises there is a problem and is approaching the Highways Agency for permission to plant on their land. She is to come up with a scheme and will send us the plans. In addition to planting near the highway, they will be looking at planting some small trees on the verges going into Gormire Close.

It was pointed out that the dead cherry tree on Stockton Road has not yet been removed; a reminder to be sent to Joe Gallagher.

It was felt that the tree guards on the trees on Stockton Road can now be removed, but they would need to be replaced with strimmer guards; Chris Amy to be asked for a price for this.

Cllr Hubbard referred to the poor state of the road surfacing in Hambleton View; to be taken up with Broadacres.

Cllr Mallett reported that he had met with the Dog Warden and he has put up signs on St James' Green and the Little Green. The Dog Warden had said the signs had been removed when the lamp posts were painted. He is to send stickers to Cllr Mallett and he will put these on the Dog Bins where the signs have been removed.

Cllr Reynard pointed out that a streetlight in Gillings Court is out; to be reported.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Pack that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 15th December 2003 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0049

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Marshall, A Morton, F Roberts, A. Robinson, J
Watson, the press reporter and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs J Jackson (away), R Mallett (brothers operation), C Pack (working), K
Reynard (ill), accepted

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Police Report:

No members of the police were present. Cllr Marshall advised that she had been speaking to Inspector Broadley re the opening of 33 Market Place. She had also spoken to the Clerk to the Police Authority and had been assured it would be opened before Christmas. Letter to be sent to Jeremy Holderness, the Clerk to the Police Authority, expressing disappointment that it is not yet operational. Cllr Robinson referred to a public meeting held recently at which the police were looking at their budget and precept for 2004/5.

Open Forum:

No members of the public were present.

Matters Arising:

P0043 Signage on Picks Lane and Newsham Road; Cllrs Marshall and Mallett had held a site meeting with Eddie Hayward of the County Council.

P0048 White Mare Roundabout; Cllr Marshall pointed out that the post which was not carrying any sign has now been removed. Cllr Robinson referred to a second letter from Mr Jordan printed in the Darlington and Stockton Times and felt a letter stating the facts should be sent to Mr Jordan. It was felt the Town Council's letter in the Darlington and Stockton had covered this and this was therefore not agreed.

P0043 Long Street; Cllr Marshall advised that Tony Robinson had submitted a report to the Cabinet at HDC requesting they look at the funding for Long Street. The outcome of this is not known as yet. She advised that a meeting of the Long Street Working Party will be held in early January. The road is to be resurfaced in February. Cllr Marshall confirmed that once it is known what funding there is to be then it will go out to consultation.

P0043 Risk assessment document; Cllr Marshall felt it was necessary to progress this. The clerk to look at the documents we have received on it. Cllr Marshall suggested that a working group be formed to comprise Cllrs Adamson, Hubbard, Marshall and Watson; a meeting to be arranged in January.

P0043 Development of Castlegate; a letter had been sent to HDC re the drain, reply awaited.

P0044 Three Tuns Footpath; Appeal dismissed; reported at Amenities. Cllr Robinson felt a press release on this should be done.

P0046 Civic reception at the Golden Lion, Northallerton; reply sent advising that Cllrs Adamson and Morton will attend.

P0046 Data Protection Act; renewed.

Page P0050

P0046 Proposed amalgamation of Planning Uses A1 and A2; letter sent to Steve Quartermain and reply awaited.

Reports

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting is to be held later in the week, the main item for discussion will be the financial position of the County Council and then this will be going out to consultation. North Yorkshire have been awarded an increase of £3.392m from the government, equating to an average of 2% of the Council Tax. Social Services have gone from one star to two stars. There is a campaign to obtain more foster carers. Cllr Marshall referred to a policy known as Our Future Lives; which has been adopted by the County Council, which is to enable older people to stay in their own homes. There is to be a network of extra care schemes. Cllr Marshall explained the proposals regarding re-modelling of Cherry Garth, which is due to take place during 2007/8, although this date could change. She suggested the Town Council ask David Buckley from the County Council to come and speak at a meeting. Cllr Watson suggested this be an open meeting.

Cllr Adamson pointed out that the last meeting of the County Council for Hambleton was held in the afternoon rather than the evening and at County Hall

rather than in a parish setting. A letter of complaint to be sent.

b) District Council: Cllr Marshall reported that Hambleton had held its first new style Council meeting where the leader made a statement and then questions were asked. Cllr Marshall had met with Yorkshire Water and had questioned them about the hole in the Market Place; they advised that completion is scheduled for 19th December 2003. Cllr Marshall had spoken to Clive Thornton about the signs for St James Green, the Little Green and Piper Lane. He will write to the Town Council again about this, as they had previously not been in favour. Cllr Marshall reported on a Standards Meeting she had attended where she had raised points about the planning process. The planning application for the Auction Mart is to be determined on Thursday; it is recommended for approval.

Finance:

Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed:

K Dickinson; cleaning office windows £6.00

Staples; stationery £50.66

Kirkley; Removal of car from St. James Green £50.00

Sakata Ornamentals UK Ltd; pansies for White Mare Roundabout £60.18

HDC - office rent £660.94

Power Point; cable ties for Christmas lights £7.05

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall; Hire of room, October-December 2003 inclusive
£150.00

BT; office telephone £111.95

Zurich Municipal; CD-ROM; Local Council Health And Safety Risk Assessment
£111.63

Society of Local Council Clerks; Membership Renewal £97.00

Julie Harron; Salary; December 2003 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary; November 2003 £989.23

H.M. Inspector of Taxes; Tax/NI; November 2003 £556.24

Sowerby Parish Council; Contribution to grasscutting of Flatts £480.66

C Amy; Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter Pick: Mill Gdns £120.00

Picnic Area £40.00

Castlegarth £40.00

Petty cash for stamps £46.79

Paid since last meeting:

Npower; electricity for office £67.15

Income Received since last Town Council Meeting

NYCC; contribution to grasscutting £1285.53

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £794.24

Graves/interments £435.00

Memorials £80.00

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for November 2003: Received and

approved.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following applications were approved: proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Hilda May Mander

William Francis Cook (additional inscription)

Elsie May Sunley (additional inscription)

To receive Correspondence:

Close Thornton Solicitors re Transfer of Justices Licence of Kirkgate House Hotel, 35 Kirkgate, Thirsk to Katharine Daykin; noted.

Bond Pearce Solicitors; change of one of the Licensees at Tesco Stores Limited to Michael Jeffrey Derek Prescott.

HDC; Local Government Review; Boundary Committee Recommendations, notice of meeting on 28th January, 7.00 p.m., Civic Centre, Northallerton

YLCA re review of Market Towns Initiative work; to be circulated to Councillors

HDC re Quality Parish Council Scheme. They would like to know what increased roles the Town Council might undertake if Quality Parish Council status is obtained. Details to be circulated to Councillors for consideration at a future meeting.

NY Police Authority re 2004/05 police budget. Notice of public meetings was enclosed and this is displayed on the noticeboard.

NYCC; North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plans; first Review. This had been circulated to Councillors; no comments.

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; questionnaire; Cllr Marshall explained the background to this, saying they are looking at reducing the risk, particularly in isolated areas because of the time taken for a fire engine to get there. She suggested that a representative of the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service be invited to talk at a Town Council meeting and this was agreed.

The Countryside Agency enclosing a provisional map issue for North East England Cllr J. Marshall on behalf of the Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party requesting consent to erect a blue plaque on the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall (Cllrs Marshall, Roberts and Watson declared an interest) Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Adamson that consent be granted, agreed.

Jill Miller; letter of thanks for donation towards Christmas Lights

HDC; consultation re Regional Assemblies, Local Government Review

Defra re Equine issues.

NYCC re public consultation meetings re the County Council's budget for 2004/5.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

This had been circulated to Councillors and was agreed. The planning application for The Courthouse was mentioned; a copy of the plans to be requested from Hambleton.

Cllr Robinson queried the application submitted by Chris Amy for tree work on The Holmes; the Clerk explained that this was on behalf of the Town Council.

To Receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that we are still waiting for the notice board to be put in place. Estimates are awaited for the water pipe and for the kerb edging around the new Garden of Rest. The large ivy bush has now been removed exposing several graves. Malcolm Burnett has been instructed to put the lockable post in the road leading from the Garden of Rest to the newer part of the Cemetery.

To receive and approve minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2003 be approved, agreed.

To receive and approve budgets for 2004/05:

The budgets for 2004/05 had been circulated. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllrs Morton that these be approved, agreed.

To receive and approve precept for 2004/05:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that a precept of £88,000 be requested for 2004/05, agreed.

To receive reports:

Representatives

Cllr Hubbard reported that a landscaping scheme has been carried out on Carrs Field. Skatepark; this is still being pursued.

Reporting on the Citizens Advice Bureau, Cllr Roberts said that the extra funding from Hambleton has been refused. Cllr Roberts had attended a meeting of the Market Towns Initiative and they are looking at what we can do at the end of three years to keep money coming into Thirsk. The sub-committee is looking at how we go forward.

Cllr Robinson, as the representative of the Lambert Hospital League of Friends, reported that plans for the two-bedroom palliative care unit are underway. Some new beds and equipment to assist with bathing have been purchased.

Reporting on the Town Hall, Cllr Watson said that the upper room is now being decorated. A meeting to be held with someone who deals with hearing loops and it is hoped to get a contribution from the TRI. The Christmas tree has arrived and is to be put up. Cllr Adamson asked whether the windows are to be dealt with to ensure that they open.

Cllr Watson reported a disappointing turn out at the Chamber of Trade meetings. A meeting is to be held to discuss the switching on of the Christmas lights to coincide with the Christmas Fayre in 2004.

Reporting on the Swimming Pool, Cllr Morton said they are planning an extension to expand the changing facilities. This will slightly reduce the number of parking spaces.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had met with the Trustees of Carrs Field and the Woodlands Group when they were planting the trees.

Cllr Adamson thanked everyone who had attended the switching on of the Christmas lights and, in particular, Cllr Robinson for providing the microphone and amplifier.

Cllr Adamson referred to the Pensioners' Lunch in East Thirsk Hall, which had been provided by the East Thirsk Community Association; this was a very good event.

Cllr Roberts had attended the Flatts AGM . It had been queried who is the Town Council's representative and this was confirmed as Cllr Robinson.

Members:

Cllr Hubbard had been approached by a member of Rotary regarding the poor lighting in the alleyway at the entrance to Castlegarth. It was agreed to wait and see how the redevelopment works at Castlegate affect this.

Cllr Robinson pointed out that the fence alongside Tesco's boundary leading onto Castlegarth has been badly vandalised.

Cllr Watson reported that she and Cllr Mallett had completed an application for a grant from the Countryside Agency towards the cost of the Interpretation Boards. As part of this we can have three days help from Rural Arts. A meeting had been held with Margaret Murphy of Rural Arts and they are very supportive and willing to help us. A grant application form has been received from English Heritage. The letters to

Page P0054

the property owners requesting their consent to the erection of the blue plaques have now been sent out.

Cllr Roberts expressed her concern regarding the whereabouts of the Thirsk Map.

Cllr Marshall advised that it is currently upstairs at the library. It had been mentioned at Amenities and the Committee was asked to meet. It was agreed to

Speak to Cllr Pack about this.

Cllr Marshall referred to a fire on the Seeger development on Picks Lane earlier that day. Clive Thornton from Hambleton was in Thirsk at the time and he had contacted the Environmental Health Department.

Cllr Robinson pointed out that a new notice board has appeared on the outside wall of the toilets in the Market Place. He queried whether this is the property of the CCA.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 8th January 2004 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0034

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, C Pack, K Reynard,
A Robinson, J Watson and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs A Morton, F Roberts, Ms Carolyn Thorpe (“Darlington & Stockton Times”),
accepted.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Reynard, agreed.

Open forum:

No members of the public or police present.

Matters Arising:

A0031 CCTV; visit to be arranged.

A0031 Trees in Riverside Mews; no response from John Bell. Reminder to be sent.

A0031 Safety Survey of trees on The Holmes and Whiteless Beck areas; another
quote received; to be dealt with as a confidential item.

A0031 Grass outside Rybeck Farm; letter sent to Edward Barker and reply received

from him enclosing a copy of a letter he has now sent to the County Council.

A0031 Dead trees on the racecourse; no reply received from either the racecourse or John Bell. Cllr Mallett reported that some of the trees have been cut down.

A0031 Notice/Welcome Board; reply to letter to Richard Owens still awaited.

A0031 Path at East Thirsk Play Area; another letter sent inviting tenders but no further replies.

A00031 Untaxed cars on land in front of Kingdom Hall, Stockton Road; letter sent to the police who have checked and now say there are no such cars there.

A0031 Ivy on Cemetery wall; now removed, together with the large ivy bush in the Cemetery, and awaiting disposal. It was reported that there is still ivy growing over the wall, to be taken up with Chris Amy.

A0031 Parking on footpath on Picks Lane; copy of letter from Eddie Hayward to Mr R Smith in response to his complaint received. Mr Hayward advises that additional parking signs have been ordered; he will chase this up.

Cllr Marshall joined the meeting.

A0032 Circulation of Minutes; the clerk has spoken to Ian Strong at YLCA. He said there is no definitive answer, but he does not feel it is a problem to circulate minutes to people other than the Councillors before they have been approved. The minutes would normally only be amended for minor inaccuracies rather than major errors. Mr Strong said it is up to the Town Council to make a policy decision on this. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Mallett that, as previously, the minutes be circulated to persons other than Councillors prior to their approval.

A0032 Stable on land adjacent to Marage Road, letter copied to Mr Calvert and

acknowledgement sent to Mr Dawson.

Page A0035

A0032 Grille in Millennium Green; letter sent to Broadacres reminding them that this is their responsibility to clear, also that there are some bags of rubbish which need removing. Regarding the flap in the drain from Rymers Mill, a copy of a letter from Clive Thornton to Yorkshire Water had been received in which he points out that this is Yorkshire Water's responsibility.

A0032 Rospa Report; letter sent pointing out that they have omitted two play areas. Reply received advising that they were not aware of these and if we wish for them to be done there will be a charge of £190 plus £59 VAT if required before September or £59 plus VAT if requested in September 2004. The Clerk is speaking to Cllr Marshall about this.

A0033 Additional street light on Picks Lane; requested.

A0033 Tree guards on Stockton Road; Chris Amy has been asked for a price for this. However, he cannot understand why it is required. It was agreed to ask him to remove the guard from the large tree at Shire Park and also from the pine trees.

A0033 Road surface at Hambleton View; letter sent to Broadacres.

A0033 Streetlight in Gillings Court; reported. On the subject of streetlights, Cllrs Robinson suggested that a notice be put up encouraging people to report streetlights that are not working. It was pointed out that a large number of the lights in the town are County Council lights and they do not display the contact number and details as Hambleton's lamp standards do. Letter to be sent to County suggesting they implement a similar system to that of Hambleton. In the meantime

a notice to be put up asking people to report faulty streetlights to the Town Council Office. Also the press reporter to be asked to include this in the Darlington & Stockton Times.

Cllr Marshall referred to a site meeting she and Cllr Mallett had attended on The Green. Clive Thornton was to write to the Town Council with his proposals re signage. No letter as yet; the clerk to chase this up. Public footpath signage; letter received from Peter Penny confirming that the various public footpath signs which the Town Council requested will be in place shortly.

To receive Correspondence:

Yorkshire Water; works to commence on the water mains on Station Road on 5th January and will last for approximately two weeks. The work has not as yet started and the clerk had advised that the County Council are not happy with Yorkshire Waters highways scheme and have asked them to resubmit an amended scheme. HDC ; letter enclosing details of the Dog Warden service.

Cllr Robinson advised that there is a problem with dog fouling on The Holmes Play Area; a request to be made for notices to be put up. Cllr Mallett reported on two meetings he had had with the Dog Warden. HDC re siting of benches in Millgate car park, and suggesting a site visit. Cllr Marshall explained that it is our proposal to site two benches on the grassed area in front of Millgate car park. She also mentioned that Rotary have some seats they would like to put there and it would be a good idea to have a representative of Rotary there. Cllr Marshall advised that Clive Thornton would like to remove the bushes in Millgate car park and he will come up with a scheme. Also the Civic Society wish to site a bench in memory of John Gormley. A letter to be sent to Clive Thornton requesting details of the proposed landscaping scheme.

On the subject of seats, it was mentioned that there are no seats in the market side of the Market Place for people coming in from Tesco's/Sowerby side of town. There had originally been a seat outside Barclays Bank, which was removed some time ago. A letter to be sent to Hambleton requesting consent to site a seat. Cllr Robinson suggested a suitable site would be on the wide pavement outside Pattersons.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that in view of the number of amenity matters ongoing it had been suggested some time ago that these be recorded, possibly on a spreadsheet. The clerk to look at ways of doing this.

Grasscutting 2004:

It was agreed that requests for tenders be sent out, the tenders to be submitted in time for the February meeting of the Amenity Committee.

Reference was made to the footpath from the Cemetery near Collinson's house; Steve Pimperton to be asked to look at this. Peter Penny to be asked to clear the edges of the river between the sewerage works and Finkle Street bridge.

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Watson that the ownership of the grass between St James Green and The Holmes be looked into and that if it is the Town Council's responsibility then this be included in the grasscutting schedule.

To receive reports:

Carrs Field: Nothing to report.

Central Areas: Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities: Cllr Robinson advised that Thirsk people are very proud

of the superb display of Christmas lights. Letters of thanks to be sent to Mr Woodhead for providing the tree, Roger Hall for putting it up and removing it, Guy Johnson for doing the lights, the Chamber of Trade and Jill Miller of the Ladies Chamber.

Greens and Ingramgate: Cllr Mallett reported a broken rail on the fence near the river; to be reported to Highways. He also advised that the electricity board have left some barriers etc on the riverbank near the sewerage plant; they are to be asked to remove them. Cllr Marshall advised that a vehicle has driven over the White Mare Roundabout.

Millennium Green: Nothing to report.

Open Areas: Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting needs to be arranged to look at the Rospa Report and some estimates, which have been obtained. Hambleton to be reminded about the £5K due for the Picks Lane development. Referring to the proposed street light on Hambleton Place, reported under Matters Arising, Cllr Marshall said that Dave Goodwin has agreed we can use some of the £7K we obtained for the Workhouse site if we wish to do so.

Town Development Working Party: Cllr Watson felt that this committee could be taken off the agenda for the time being as they had no particular matters ongoing. However, Cllr Hubbard suggested it could deal with the alleyways scheme.

Page A0037

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Adamson advised that the website of thirsk.org is no longer ours. He proposed we should take up thirsk.gov.uk, at a cost of approximately £200, and

this was agreed.

Cllr Pack referred to the litter in the Market Place. Steve Quartermain to be asked whether there are any plans to clean chewing gum etc off the pavements.

Cllr Robinson referred to the footpaths at Hambleton Place where the hedges are overgrown. Cllr Marshall advised that the hedges at the junction of Gormire Close and Hambleton Avenue are the responsibility of the owners and tenants of the respective houses. Letter to be sent to the County Council and Broadacres.

Cllr Robinson advised that the clock on St Mary's Church no longer appears to be illuminated and he pointed out that the Town Council subscribe to its maintenance. The clerk will contact the Rector about this.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Police Station at 33 Market Place is due to open on 19th January with an official opening on 28th January. The opening hours will be 11.00am to 3.00 pm and 4.00pm to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is a need to white line the parking spaces on the cobbles where Yorkshire Water have been working.

Cllr Marshall referred to the blue plaques scheme saying letters have been sent to the owners/occupiers/representatives of all the sites where it is hoped to install blue plaques and so far all have been in favour.

Cllr Watson referred to the tarmac patching of the cobbles on Kirkgate, some of which has been there for some years. Letter to be sent to County asking them to reinstate.

Cllr Watson referred to the Persimmon development on Station Road, saying it had been reported in the press that there are now going to be 170 houses as opposed to the original proposal of 150. Cllr Watson expressed concern at the impact of this number of dwellings on the utilities etc. Letter to be sent to Hambleton asking to see the plans.

Cllr Marshall advised that the plans for the Auction Mart have been approved.

There are to be changes to the highway but not a roundabout. Cllr Marshall suggested that she approach Mike Moore re the County Council applying for a grant to install a roundabout, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

Cllr Jackson referred to the standard of street cleaning in the town, saying this was very poor. Cllr Robinson suggested a letter be sent to Hambleton pointing out that there is only one cleaner in Thirsk and Sowerby and asking for an improvement in this service.

Page A0038

Cllr Hubbard reported on the alleyways saying Chris Vincent has inspected some of them and he will prepare some details and prices. It is thought the cost of doing all the alleyways could be between £50K and £100K. Tony Robinson is also putting a scheme forward.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the application for this year is being dealt with. A meeting had been held earlier this week and the level of street cleaning and weeding had been brought up. Thirsk in Bloom are to send a letter to Mike Kneebone. Cllr Pack advised that they have found somewhere to house the buggy pro tem but still need to look for somewhere in the longer term. Cllr Marshall said she would like the Open Areas Committee to consider building a facility for storage near the Town Hall. Cllr Robinson advised that he is currently having to store the Christmas lights at home. Cllr Adamson said we are obtaining a key for the shed on the Green.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the public and press be excluded for two confidential items of a commercial nature.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 19th January 2004 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0055

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,
K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, and the clerk

Apologies:

Ms Carolyn Thorpe, Darlington & Stockton Times (holiday)

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Morton, two minor amendments being noted, agreed.

Police Report:

Agreed that this be deferred until later in the meeting

Open forum:

No members of the public were present.

Matters arising:

P0049 Opening of the Police Station at 33 Market Place; reply from Jeremy

Holderness advising that this will open on 19th January with an official opening

on 28th January 2004. It will be open from 11.00am - 3.00pm and 4.00pm - 7.00pm Monday to Saturday.

P0049 Risk assessment; a meeting to be arranged.

P0049 Development of Castlegate; reply received from HDC advising that they are taking up the matter of the drain with the developers agent.

P0050 Proposed amalgamation of Planning Uses Classes A1 and A2; reply received from Maurice Cann advising that this is a Government initiative and Hambleton are also concerned at the effects of this proposed amalgamation. Mr Cann cites the case of Martins Newsagents, which, should this amalgamation have taken place, Done Bros could have made into a bookmakers without the need for the planning consent for change of use. Following its refusal by Hambleton this is now going to appeal and Hambleton would welcome the support of the Town Council in defending it. It was agreed that a letter of support be sent.

P0050 NYCC Policy; Our Future Lives; letter sent to David Buckley requesting that he come and talk at the Town Council meeting. A telephone call had been received from his secretary suggesting the March meeting. It was agreed that this should be the first item on the agenda and that Sowerby and Carlton Miniott Parish Councils should also be invited.

P0052 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service questionnaire; letters sent requesting that a representative of the Fire Service address a Town Council meeting. Telephone call received advising that they do not have time to do this. Cllr Marshall to take this up with them.

P0052 Planning application for The Courthouse; plans requested.

P0052 Lockable post in the Cemetery; Malcolm Burnett is hoping to do this very soon.

P0052 Rating precept 2004/5; precept of £88,000 requested.

P0054 Thirsk Map; Cllr Marshall had spoken to Joe Salmon re the Thirsk Map and a meeting is to be held on 9th February. They would like to site the map in the Library if this is possible.

To receive reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall reported that County are consulting on a budget of 5.75%. A Hambleton area consultation was held last week; 14 members of the public attended. The Government have been contacting all local authorities who are precepting over 5% indicating they wish this to be lower. The Fire Authority is now precepting separately. Cllr Marshall advised that she had had an Ofsted inspection; they are looking at youth services.

Referring to the planning permission granted for the Auction Mart, Cllr Marshall said that County agree a roundabout would be a good idea and they are looking at the cost of this.

District Council

Cllr Hubbard referred to the Cultural and Social Overview Scrutiny Committee and said there are a number of recommendations to go to Cabinet this week. Referring to the draft final report on flooding, Cllr Hubbard said that one of the proposals is to appoint an in-house engineer specifically to deal with such matters as development on flood plains etc. They are also looking at requiring developers to provide a bond to be used for any future flooding rectification work. The storage, collection and delivery of sandbags are also being looked at. The District Council are looking at involving Parish Councils in various areas

of work.

Cllr Robinson reported on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Finance and Resources, who are looking at housing benefits. He advised that a Comprehensive Performance Assessment was carried out; Thirsk was used as a showcase. Since the introduction of wheeliebins there has been no reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill sites as people are taking their rubbish to the Amenity Tip.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Hambleton Forum. Budget figures have been set, but no figures as yet for Council Tax charges. Cllr Marshall had been with the CPA Inspectors when they had visited Thirsk. The Royal Shakespeare Company has offered to come to Hambleton again.

Police Report:

Inspector Broadley joined the meeting for this item.

Inspector Broadley reported that the new police station is now open – quite a lot of business at the door. She invited the Town Councillors to look round.

There is to be an official opening on 28th January and everyone is welcome to attend. She confirmed that the telephones outside both the new and old police stations are working. The hours are currently 11.00am to 3.00pm and 4.00pm to 7.00pm, but they are looking for a volunteer base to extend these hours. Cllr Watson referred to the number of vehicles in excess of the weight limit, which come through the town, and Inspector Broadley said that some tickets have been given out. It is hoped that when the Mart moves they will give out leaflets telling drivers which route to take. Two people have recently been arrested for burglaries in the town.

Accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Bow House Publishers; advert £679.15

Shaw & Sons Ltd - Index to Register of Burials £145.11

Barclays Bank - 2 seats for Castlegarth From Evershed Products £734.38

Thirsk Hall Farms; Grazing Licence for Castlegarth £120.00

Carrs Field Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust; signs £176.25

C.A. Amy:

Weekly inspections £228.50

Litter picking £280.00

Fencing around Christmas Tree £ 80.00

Removal of ivy in Cemetery £170.00

Weeding/pruning £ 55.00

Cllr A. Robinson; sweets for Christmas Lights switch on £29.21

Cllr D.E. Adamson; Mayor's Allowance; half-year £250.00

Julie Harron; Salary; January 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary; December 2003 £989.23

H.M. Inspector of Taxes; Tax/Ni; December 2003 £556.24

D E Adamson; domain name £141.00

Income Received since last Town Council Meeting:

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge; Dec 03 & Jan 04 £794.24

Interments £715.00

Memorials £150.00

Contribution to grasscutting £1285.53

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for December 2003:

Received and approved.

Cllr Marshall advised that the external auditors now require us to convert the accounts for 01/02 and 02/03 from Receipts and Payments to Income and Expenditure. Once this has been done new forms will have to be completed and signed by the Chairman and the Internal Auditor. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that these be signed without the need for them to be put before the Council.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

No applications received.

Correspondence:

Pubmaster Ltd; Application for transfer of the Justices' Licence of the Frankland Arms, Ingramgate to Brian Manson and Janice Manson

David Auld & Co; Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence of Quality Fare, 26 Market Place to Mandy Foster and Andrew Leathley

Page P0058

NYCC Re Local Government Review; Jeremy Walker or a senior Member or Officer of the County Council wish to hold discussions with individual Town Councils. It

was suggested that he be invited to either the February or April Town Council meeting. HDC re Quality Parish Council Scheme; advising that they are in discussion with the County Council re the possibility of a joint Charter. Further letter re roles the Town Council might consider taking on (details of possible delegation of functions already circulated). It was suggested that street cleaning, toilets, litter might be possibilities. The next meeting for clerks on this is to be held at HDC on 3rd February.

Edward Barker re Long Street enclosing a copy of his letter to Tony Robinson at HDC.

Thirsk Hall Farms; Renewal of Grazing Licence re Castlegarth; agreed that this be renewed for a further year.

Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy; details of North Yorkshire Community Transport Strategy Conference to be held on 9th February 2004

Bereavement Care re bereavement counselling.

Valuation Officer; the clerk advised that, following the notice of alteration which increased the rateable value, by £200, she had lodged an objection. Notice now received advising the rateable value has been reduced back to the original figure of £1,075.

NYCC; letter re the need for more foster carers.

YRCC letter of introduction from Fiona Coleman, Hambleton's Rural Housing Enabler

YLCA review of Market Towns Initiative work (details already circulated to Councillors). Comments are invited; any such comments to be given to the clerk.

CCTV; invitation to councillors to visit the CCTV control room in Northallerton.

A date for this to be arranged.

NYCC; copy of the Prohibition of Waiting A170, Barbeck/St Giles Close, Thirsk, Order 2004.

YRCC; Parish Government Conference, 5-7th March. Cllr Adamson to attend on the Saturday only.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Received and accepted. Cllr Robinson referred to the application for 5 Chapel Street for replacement windows in UPVC and made the point that the property comes within the Article 4 Directive, which requires replacement windows to be in traditional materials.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that we are waiting for some work to be carried out at the Cemetery and for estimates to be provided for other work.

Reports:

Representatives

Cllr Roberts referred to the fact that Thirsk has been nominated a Beacon Town.

It is considered to be the sort of town where things happen. New ventures will be tried in Beacon Towns.

Cllr Watson reported on the Town Hall, saying that the upstairs room has now been decorated. The blinds have been fitted and carpets will be laid later this week.

Decorating of the large room in the Annexe will be starting in the next few days. Costings for a hearing loop in the main part of the Town Hall are currently being looked at.

Cllr Marshall asked about the Millennium Green AGM and Cllr Adamson advised that 2 members of the public attended. The Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer were returned unopposed.

Cllr Mallett reported that a meeting of Community Education/Thirsk Clock will be held next week.

Members

Cllr Roberts referred to the need for white lining to be carried out on the Market Place cobbles where Yorkshire Water have been working; a letter has been sent.

Cllr Watson reported that the first of the blue plaques is now in place on the Thirsk Museum. Now progressing onto the next five plaque sites, i.e. The World of James Herriot, The Town Hall, The Golden Fleece, The Three Tuns and The Ritz Cinema. Cllrs Marshall and Watson to meet with Rural Arts re the interpretation boards. It is hoped to carry out the whole scheme over a 2-year period.

Cllr Robinson requested that Long Street be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Reynard referred to a number of streetlights in Norby which are out.

Details to be given to the clerk who will report them.

Cllr Marshall referred to improvements being carried out to the Ritz Cinema by volunteers, including the replacement of the upstairs seats

Cllr Marshall gave an update on Long Street saying that the Working Party has

met twice since Christmas. There had been no point meeting before as they were attempting to obtain funding. She explained that a two-day exhibition had been held in May 2002 in the East Thirsk Community Hall to which all residents and businesses on Long Street received an invitation. 134 people attended of which 90% of those who completed the questionnaire were in favour of Long Street being enhanced. Monies were granted to fund a feasibility study to research underground services etc and Chris Vincent presented the results to the Town Council. The feasibility study is also to be used to obtain funding. So far this stands at £30K and the Working Party are looking at what they can do with this, e.g. providing planters etc. Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council will be resurfacing Long Street shortly but this is not part of the scheme. There is a proposed planning application for the Volvo Garage to be developed as sheltered housing.

Cllr Mallett reported that one of the seats on the Little Green had become un-fixed, but Malcolm Burnett rectified it straightaway.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the opening of the relocated Sue Ryder shop in Millgate.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 5th February 2004 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0039

Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard, D Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, K Reynard, F
Roberts, J Watson, Carolyn Thorpe (Darlington & Stockton Times) and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs A Morton, C Pack, accepted.

Minutes:

Approval proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett, subject to one amendment.

Open forum:

No members of the public or police present.

Matters Arising:

A0034 CCTV; visit to be arranged, a Thursday was considered to be the best day
for Councillors.

A0034 Grass cutting outside Rybeck Farm; further letter from Edward Barker
enclosing a reply from the County Council in which they advise that they are
inspecting the area in question in order to determine whether it can be added to
the existing grasscutting. Agreed that we await their findings.

A0034 Notice/Welcome Board; no reply received from Richard Owens, but the board is now in place. The clerk is attempting to ascertain who has the key for it and what the board can be used for.

A0034 Ivy on Cemetery wall; Cllr Adamson to look at this again to decide whether it is necessary for it to be removed.

A0034 Stable on land adjacent to Marage Road; nothing further on this.

A0034 Untaxed cars on land in front of Kingdom Hall; Cllr Marshall advised that there is a red car there which looks as though it is abandoned.

A0035 Grille in Millennium Green; reply received from Broadacres advising that they do not think this area is their responsibility, but they are checking. In the meantime, they have dealt with it this time.

A0035 Loose Grille in Millennium Green Ditch; reply received from Yorkshire Water advising that arrangements have been made to make the grille secure.

A0035 ROSPA Report; Cllr Marshall advised that Rospa omitted one of the new Play Areas because they were not aware of it but they did another one of the new areas, but not an existing one. They are to be asked to do the two areas, but it is hoped to negotiate a price.

A0035 Additional streetlight on Picks Lane; nothing further on this.

A0035 Tree guards on Stockton Road; the clerk has spoken to Chris Amy about this.

A0035 Reporting defective streetlights; letter sent to the County Council. To be included in the report in the Darlington & Stockton Times.

A0035 Signage on The Greens; chasing letter sent to Clive Thornton. On the subject of the Greens a reply had been received from Foden Spence Construction Ltd advising they no longer do tar spraying. They suggest asking Raynesway Construction Ltd; agreed that they be approached for a price.

A0035 Public footpath signage; Chris Amy has now put up all the public footpath signs with the exception of the one through the Golden Fleece yard. He is speaking to the manager about the possibility of putting this on the wall.

A0035 Dog Fouling on The Holmes Play Area; the Dog Warden has put the notices up today.

A0035 Benches in Millgate Car Park/Landscaping; reply awaited from Clive Thornton re the proposed landscaping scheme. When this is received a site meeting will be arranged to look at this and at the positioning of the benches.

A0036 Seat in the Market Place; letter sent to Hambleton requesting consent to site a seat on the market side of the Market Place; reply awaited.

A0036 Spreadsheet of progress on Amenity matters; the clerk had provided Councillors with the first draft of this. They were in agreement with the format of it.

A0036 Christmas Decorations; letters of thanks sent to Mr Woodhead, Roger Hall, The Chamber of Trade and Jill Miller of the Ladies Chamber. Letter of thanks to be sent to Guy Johnston with the cheque.

A0036 Broken rail on the fence near the river; now repaired. The County Council have spoken to the Electricity Board requesting they remove the barriers etc from the river bank. These have not as yet been removed and the clerk has spoken to the County Council again.

A0036 Contribution from Picks Lane development; confirmation received from Hambleton that we can have this when we have identified what we wish to do with it.

A0037 Website; we now have the website of thirsk-tc.gov.uk.

A0037 Chewing gum on pavements in the Market Place; reply from Hambleton advising that the review group have recommended that the removal of chewing gum be part of a rolling programme in Market Towns; cost approximately £3K to do each town. This is now going to Cabinet who will make a decision on which parts of the programme should be implemented.

A0037 Overgrown hedges; Gormire Close/Hambleton Avenue; letters sent to County and Broadacres. Joe Gallagher has inspected.

A0037 Police Station at 33 Market Place; now open. Cllr Jackson suggested that we write to the Chief Constable and to Hambleton to ask whether, when the Police Station on Westgate is sold, the parking behind it could be acquired for the benefit of the town. It was pointed out that this is in Sowerby and therefore we should tell Sowerby Parish Council before we proceed with this, agreed.

A0037 White lining on cobbles where Yorkshire Water have been working; reply received advising that Hambleton will pursue this with Yorkshire Water.

A0037 Tarmac patching of cobbles on Kirkgate; reply from Mike Roberts advising that he is currently bidding for funding to carry out a full reinstatement of the cobbles, but at present there are no resources available to do this.

A0027 Persimmon Development on Station Road; plans requested.

A0037 Street cleaning; reply from HDC advising that they have now appointed a replacement cleaner and there are therefore now two cleaners for Thirsk and Sowerby.

A0037 Blue Plaques scheme; Cllr Marshall advised that she has been in touch with the MCC re unveiling the plaque on Thirsk Museum and Roger Knight, their Secretary/Chief Executive is to do this on either 3rd or 4th June. She has also told them that 2005 is the 250th anniversary of Thomas Lord and has asked them

if they can help the Museum. Their archivist has been in touch with Cooper Harding. Cllr Marshall

Page A0041

has also made contact with Yorkshire Cricket Club and has written to Thirsk Cricket Club.

A0037 Auction Mart; Cllr Marshall advised that she had written to Mike Moore about the need for a roundabout. She had received quite a positive reply saying he will investigate the possibility of installing a roundabout.

A0037 Website; Cllr Adamson proposed that we use some money from the publicity budget to advertise our new E-mail address and website in the Thirsk Advertiser; seconded Cllr Mallett, agreed.

A0038 Alleyways; Cllr Marshall advised that she had been taken to inspect the alleyway near Mister Minit. There is a well top with a piece of metal sticking out; Cllr Hubbard to look at this. Cllr Mallett had looked at the alleyway near Thirsk Clock where there is a lot of graffiti. Letter to be sent to Thirsk Clock saying the Town Council will provide the paint if their young people will paint over the graffiti as part of their community involvement.

A0038; Cllr Marshall referred to the item concerning building a facility for storage near the Town Hall saying she was actually referring to having something built for the Town Council as we would like a facility for storage. Cllr Mallett suggested the garage building on the Little Green, which has been empty for some time. However, it was felt this was too expensive and not worth pursuing.

To receive Correspondence

NYCC - Notice re closure of footpath No 150/3 between Market Place and Chapel Street from 19th January; 18th July 2004. works to be carried out between 19th January and 26th January laying a gas main.

NYCC - Carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out on the A61 Long Street, commencing during the week beginning 16th February and lasting for one week.

To consider and decide upon the Planning Application for the construction of 60 sheltered housing units for the elderly and associated works, including a house manager's unit, at 100 Long Street, Thirsk:

Cllr Roberts brought this application to the meeting. It was agreed that this was a welcome plan as there is a need for this type of accommodation in Thirsk and we are pleased with the landscaping. However, the following concerns were expressed.

*Not enough parking spaces, only 22 spaces to be provided for 60 units. Would suggest reducing the wings on either side to create more spaces.

*Security lighting should be provided where the public footpath runs alongside the site.

*The communal facilities and amenities are not adequate for the number of potential occupiers.

*The three storey part is too high.

*Not a lot of natural light in the corridors of the building.

*There must be a warden there in perpetuity.

To receive reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report

Central Areas

Cllr Hubbard reported that a meeting had been held this week. Referring to Mill Gardens, he advised that six trees have been cut and there are another six to be done. Chris Amy has given a price for doing half in this year's budget and half in next and also a price for doing them altogether. It is more economical to have them all done at once and this was agreed by the Committee. The Committee also agreed to the rearranging of one of the shrub beds in Mill Gardens and this is being looked at.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett had inspected the area. On the Greens there are patches left by the contractors. A letter to be sent to Yorkshire Water asking them to re-seed these. Cllr Mallett also referred to the grassed area near Waterside saying people are cutting across this and there is no grass left there; The Greens Committee to look at this.

Cllr Mallett reported that the drain at the top of the lane going down to the White Bridge is full; a letter to be sent to Hambleton. Cllr Mallett said that now Chris Amy has taken down part of the fence outside the sign shop some people are walking on the wrong side of the fence and he felt it should be put back.

Referring to Ingramgate, Cllr Mallett said that double parking is taking place outside Foxwynd and the grass verge is being worn away. It was suggested that a site meeting with Mike Roberts to be arranged to look at this.

The clerk advised that one of the tactile areas going down to Todds Court is breaking up; she has reported it to County.

Cllr Reynard advised that the Woodlands Group are to plant 3 trees on The Green

on Saturday morning.

Cllr Marshall referred to the litter bin on the Little Green where the door is permanently open. Cllr Mallett to look at this.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting is to be held on 18th February. There are quite a lot of things to look at, including the Rospa Report. Town Development Working Party

Cllr Hubbard reported that a meeting had been held and he had been elected Chairman. The main aim is the enhancement of the alleyways, particularly Steads Yard, Roses Yard, Batemans Yard and the alleyway between the TIC and the Darrowby Arms. We are utilising the engineer from Hambleton and a survey has been carried out showing the present condition and Cllr Hubbard has asked for a feasibility study; the cost of this will be £1,558. He has applied for funding from the Market Towns Regeneration Scheme and this is to be considered at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr Reynard, seconded Cllr Jackson that we proceed with this.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Marshall advised that she had met with a representative from Insite, National Grid's landscaping contractors. Insite have contacted Broadacres re planting some small trees in the verges at Gormire Close, but Broadacres will not agree. A letter to be sent to Broadacres. Insite are still pursuing the proposed hedging with the landowners.

Cllr Marshall referred to a piece of grass at the end of Tranmire Close where it abuts Dowber Way, saying that some vehicles are going across it and churning it up; a letter to be sent to the County Council. Also outside one of the houses on Stockton Road the grass is churned up; a letter to be sent to County. The seat on Hambleton Place is still damaged; a reminder to be sent to Broadacres. Cllr Marshall pointed out that outside the Texaco Garage on Long Street the vehicles are parking several abreast which limits the space for people using the crossing. A letter to be sent to the County Council querying whether it needs to be hatched.

Cllr Watson referred to the Parish Map, saying there is a meeting about this on 1st March. Referring to the blue plaques, Cllr Watson said there is a meeting with Margaret Murphy re the figures to go on the grant application.

Cllr Jackson queried the spelling of Marage in the previous minutes. This was spelled as per the road sign. Cllr Jackson referred to historic plans where it was spelled Marriage and asked that a letter be sent to the County Council querying how it should be spelled.

Cllr Hubbard advised that the planning application for the floodlighting has been submitted. The planners have requested some additional information and this is being dealt with.

Cllr Hubbard advised that the Chamber of Trade have been given notice by the County Council that they are to introduce an enforcement order on A boards

throughout the County. The Chamber is looking into how to deal with this.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Reynard advised that for the first time there are snowdrops and aconites in the grass verges on Ingramgate. Norby; is to be done in blue and white crocuses. Thirsk in Bloom are hoping to plant some more snowdrops over the next 3-4 weeks.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the public and press be excluded for two confidential commercial items.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 16th February 2004 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page P0060

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, C. Pack, K.
Reynard, F. Roberts, J Watson, Ms Carolyn Thorpe (Darlington & Stockton Times)
and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs A Morton (ill), A Robinson (family commitments), K Reynard (late arrival
due to attending a meeting)

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack, subject to one minor
amendment on Page P0056.

Police Report:

No members of the police present. The clerk had received a call from Inspector
Broadley who would like to set up a meeting with representatives of the police,
the Town Council, Pubwatch, Clive Thornton and possibly Chris Tetley, to look at
policing on racedays. Cllrs Watson and Mallett expressed interest in attending
this.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising:

P0055 Risk assessment; meeting arranged for 8th March. The clerk has drawn up the first draft of a risk assessment document and this has been circulated to the Members who expressed interest in being involved in this.

P0055 Development of Castlegate; nothing further received regarding the drain as yet.

P0055 Proposed amalgamation of Planning Use Classes A1 and A2; letter sent to HDC supporting their defence of the Appeal by Done Bros.

P0055 NYCC Policy; Our Future Lives; David Buckley of NYCC Social Services Directorate to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th March.

P0055 Lockable post in the Cemetery; this has still not been done; the clerk will remind Malcolm Burnett.

P0055 Cllr Marshall reported that the police station at 33 Market Place had opened successfully and has been busy.

P0055 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; Cllr Marshall advised that she had attempted to make contact with them but so far had been unsuccessful. She will continue to try.

P0056 Thirsk Map; e-mail received from Joe Salmon advising that a meeting is to be held on 5th March in the Library. If this overruns they would like to adjourn to the Town Council Office; agreed. Cllr Marshall said the Library are reluctant to put the Map back where it was because it makes the children's library rather dark. P0056 Cllr Hubbard advised that the Thirsk Flooding Alleviation feasibility study has been completed and the results will be

available to the public at the library from 23rd February to 4th March – it will be manned on 26th February from 1-5pm. Cllr Adamson queried whether members of the public will be made aware of this and Cllr Hubbard is to check. Cllr Marshall felt that the District Council will be putting publicity out about it.

Page P0061

P0057 Accounts; the clerk advised that these have now been converted from Receipts and Payments to Income and Expenditure. They have been signed by the Chairman and internal auditor and submitted to the external auditors.

P0057 NYCC re Local Government Review; it has been arranged that a Senior Officer of the County Council will attend the April Town Council meeting. Agreed that this should be the first item on the agenda.

P0058 HDC re Quality Parish Council Scheme; the clerk reported on a meeting she had attended on 3rd February at which four parishes were represented. Bryn Metcalf of the SLCC had spoken about the AQA qualification for Clerks and the clerk expressed her interest in doing this. The cost is £195 plus £45 for submitting the portfolio. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this is included in the Town Council's budget.

P0058 CCTV; visit to be arranged when Mr Smith returns tomorrow. P0058 YRCC Parish Government Conference; place booked for Cllr Adamson for Saturday 6th March.

Ms Carolyn Thorpe joined the meeting.

P0058 Planning; referring to the application for UPVC windows in Chapel Street,

Cllr Adamson pointed out that Hambleton have allowed one such application within an Article 4 Directive area, although this was not in Thirsk.

P0059 White lining on the Market Place; reported at Amenities. Cllr Jackson pointed out that part of the cycle path markings on Station Road were removed whilst Yorkshire Water were working there; to be reported to the County Council.

Reports:

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall reported that she has heard nothing further re the roundabout near the new Auction Mart as yet. She has raised the question of Sutton Bank at the County Council meeting, which was attended by the Chief Constable, saying that when it blocks it takes all the police out of Thirsk. She had been advised that they are going to improve the signage and work with the hauliers. The County Council and the Police are meeting on a regular basis and talking about Sutton Bank. Cllr Marshall also reported on the Economic and Regional Scrutiny Committee. Two working party groups have been formed to look at vocational education and the Sub Regional Investment Plan and how we can influence it.

Accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

K Dickinson; window cleaning £ 8.00

M L Burnett; Fixing 2 seats, Castlegarth, Fixing plaque on Museum, Refixing seat on Little Green, Taking damaged seat to Cemetery & Repairing seat from Castlegarth £161.00

Guy Johnston; installing Christmas Tree lights £378.93

Playdale Playgrounds Limited: Pole for The Holmes play equipment & Steel rope

for Millennium Green play equipment £143.17

C Amy; weekly inspections £182.80

Mill Gardens: pruning, litter pick £120.00

Picnic area: litter pick/sweep £40.00

Castlegarth: litter pick/sweep £40.00

Holmes: replacement of upright on trail equipment £ 90.00

Julie Harron; Salary February 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary January 2004 £989.23

Inland Revenue; Tax/NI January 2004 £556.24

National Savings; Gratuity Fund £848.15

Paid since last meeting:

Planning fee for church floodlighting £110.00

Petty Cash £45.96

BT; internet line £69.91

Npower; office electricity £171.83

Income received since last Town Council meeting:

HDC; Refund; reduction in rateable value £44.78

Refund of VAT (1.10.03.-31.12.03) £895.41

NYCC Hambleton Area; Contribution to Long Street Enhancement Scheme £5,000.00

Burial Board: interment £220.00

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for January 2004:

Received and approved.

To agree signatories for National Savings account for Gratuity Fund:

Agreed that these should be the same signatories as on the bank mandate, i.e.

Cllrs Hubbard, Roberts and Robinson with the clerk also signing.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

The following applications were approved, proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hubbard.

Betty Elizabeth Turner

Herbert Henry Sleights

Cllr Adamson pointed out that Mr Sleights was a fairly recent interment and it was agreed to stipulate that the headstone should not be put in place until 6 months from the date of interment.

Page P0063

To receive correspondence:

Thirsk Clock Café; letter of thanks for the donation. Mrs McGhie, the Project Manager, advises that she and a group of young people would be happy to give details of their work at a Town Council meeting. It was thought this could be arranged for later in the year. Cllr Pack suggested that Councillors should visit the Café and have a look.

NYCC; results of a traffic calming survey on the A170 York Road.

YLCA; letter and questionnaire re Quality Parish Council Status; the clerk

agreed to complete the questionnaire.

YRCC; form for membership renewal 2004/05. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that this be renewed.

The Mayor of Calderdale; notice of a meeting of the National Association of Civic Officers

Local Government Review: NYCC re a Unitary County (copies had been circulated to Councillors), HDC; Letter and questionnaire (copies had been circulated to Councillors) and the draft recommendation report from the Boundary Committee for England (circulated to Councillors). Cllr Roberts felt it would be difficult to get a consensus of opinion on this and it was agreed that Councillors wishing to do so should send their individual comments direct.

Notification re level of insurance premium for the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall 2004/05 & The Town Council's share of this amounts to £827.67. Copy letter from NYCC to the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade and reply, re illegal advertisements (A boards) on the highway. Cllr Roberts expressed concern that these comments had been submitted although a vote on this had not been taken at the Chamber of Trade meeting.

NYCC re changes to local bus services. Cllr Watson expressed concern that Service 151 from Ripon to Thirsk is now to turn round at Ripon Way/Cleveland Way, Carlton Miniott rather than the Busby Stoop as at present. Letter to be sent to the County Council. Cllr Watson was also concerned that it appears some of the buses do not issue tickets. She is to clarify legislation on this.

NYCC re proposed cycle route on Topcliffe Road. Letter received on 16th February and comments required by 20th February. No plan included and this will be requested, together with details of when they anticipate work will be commencing.

HDC re request by A S Crow and Sons to hold a fair on the Market Place from 5th to 13th April (i.e. over Easter). Letter to be sent opposing this on the grounds of noise, loss of parking spaces, interference with the Easter Monday market.

HDC; copy of a letter confirming the addresses of the properties in Porters Vaults as numbers 1,2, and 3 Porters Vaults, Chapel Street, Thirsk.

NYCC; Notice of temporary prohibition of traffic and introduction of one way traffic flow on the A61 Long Street.

To receive Planning Committee report:

Copies of the Planning Committee minutes of 19th January and 5th February had been circulated to Councillors and these were accepted. Awaiting a reply re our comments on the proposed McCarthy and Stone development on Long Street. Boots are proposing to change their fascia to white and comments have been made on this.

Page P0064

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that there is not a great deal to report. We are still waiting for the notice board and we are still trying to get a quote for the kerbing around the Garden of Rest. We have one more local tradesman to try and then we will look out of the town. Referring to the ivy growing over the Cemetery wall, Cllr Adamson confirmed that this is not obstructing the pavement.

To receive update on the proposed Long Street Enhancement Project:

Cllr Marshall pointed out that Cllr Robinson had asked for this to be included on the agenda. Another meeting of the Long Street Working Party to be held tomorrow night. To come up with some smaller schemes for impact areas. Once plans for this have been drawn up then public consultation will take place. Cllr Hubbard had received complaints from residents of Long Street about the vehicles parking outside the fish shop and preventing them accessing their properties. Originally there had been areas painted on the tarmac to prevent this, but these have now disappeared. A letter to be sent to County Council requesting they be reinstated.

To receive Reports:

Representatives

Thirsk Clock Cafe; Cllr Pack reported that a meeting had been held recently.

There is now a management group who deal with the day to day operation and report back to the directors. A lot of work is being done with young people.

More funding is still required.

Town Hall; Cllr Watson reported that the decorating has now been finished and quotes are being obtained to decorate the hall upstairs. More quotes received for the hearing loop; one to be fitted in the main hall plus a portable one; total cost around £1,000. New carpets have been fitted upstairs.

Market Towns Initiative - Cllr Roberts reported that this is now on the final strait. Harvey Dowdy is leaving on 21st February and Mark Haynes from Whitby Region is taking over.

Skatepark - Cllr Hubbard reported that, following the loss of land for the skatepark, the Committee are looking for another venue. Looking at the possibility of having mobile ramps which would be supervised.

A Christmas Fayre meeting is to be held on 24th February at 4.00pm.

Thirsk Resource Centre Steering Committee - Cllr Adamson reported that a meeting of this committee was held recently. Some new courses were proposed and initially it was planned to have two separate advertising campaigns. The response from the first set of advertising was so great that both lots of courses were held. Cllr Adamson also reported on the Thirsk Community Primary School saying that a meeting had been held recently. It is hoped to start replacing some of the equipment in the gym.

Members

Cllr Marshall advised that Thirsk School have put forward for specialist school status. They are £7K short of the necessary funds and Cllr Marshall asked whether the Town

Page P0065

Council would consider giving a donation to the Specialist School application; at this stage it is only necessary to send a promissory note. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Marshall that a donation of £500 be made, agreed.

Cllr Watson reported that she and Cllr Marshall had met with Margaret Murphy and filled in the application form. Form for grant aid from the Local Heritage Initiative being completed. An application is also being made to the TRI for funding and to English Heritage for the boards on Castlegarth.

Cllr Mallett reported that the security gates for Martins are now being left outside, leant against a lamp post during the day. The clerk to speak to Sue Dodson.

It was reported that the fence between Tesco filling station and the footpath to Castlegarth has been badly vandalised. A letter to be sent to Tesco suggesting they replace it with chain link fence. This would have the added advantage that the light would shine on it and onto the pathway.

Cllr Marshall reported that there is a lot of litter and broken glass on Castlegarth; Chris Amy to be advised.

Cllr Mallett referred to the dog bin on the land going from Ingramgate to the river, saying that someone is using it for large amounts of dog refuse, presumably from clearing their garden. As a result the bin is becoming full very quickly. It was agreed to request a larger bin or a second bin.

Cllr Mallett referred to the White Mare Roundabout, saying the Greens Committee will need to look at replanting it.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting
held on Thursday 4th March 2004 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0044

Present:

Cllr D Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Ms Carolyn Thorpe (Darlington & Stockton Times&) and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr S Hubbard (abroad), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett, subject to one minor amendment on Page A0043.

Open Forum:

No members of the public or police present.

Matters Arising:

A0039 CCTV; a visit had been arranged and some Councillors had attended. Cllr Jackson felt it had been worthwhile. Another visit can be arranged for Councillors who were unable to go on the previous one.

A0039 Grasscutting outside Rybeck Farm; nothing further from the County Council

as yet.

A0039 Notice/Welcome Board; NYCC are to put bus timetables in it.

A0039 Stable on land adjacent to Marage Road; nothing further on this.

A0039 Abandoned car outside Kingdom Hall. Cllr Marshall advised that this has now been removed.

A0039 Rospa Report; Rospa will not negotiate on the price of their call out fee for the two play areas which were omitted from their report.

A0039 Additional streetlight on Picks Lane; reply received from County; no finance available for street lighting columns.

A0039 Tree guards on Stockton Road; Chris Amy advises that the guards around the beech trees are strimmer guards and those around the pines are shrub guards. He does not feel there is any need to change these at the moment. Agreed that no action be taken at this time.

A0039 Reporting defective streetlights; reply from County advising that they have a postcard system for reporting defective streetlights or it can be done by e-mail. When they replace columns the replacement will have a label showing the column number and a telephone number to report faults. It will be some years before all columns have this.

A0039 Signage on The Green; reply received from Clive Thornton showing the new signage. Regarding the tar spraying on the tracks, a reply had been received from Raynesway saying that before this is done the potholes need to be made good. They suggest getting a local builder to do this. Cllr Mallett to investigate.

A0040 Benches in Millgate car park/landscaping; reply awaited from Clive Thornton.

A0040 Seat in Market Place; reply awaited from Hambleton.

A0040 Spreadsheet on Amenity matters; the clerk advised that this was included with the agenda. She will continue to circulate it with the agendas for Amenity meetings.

A0040 Christmas decorations; letter of thanks sent to Guy Johnston with the cheque.

Page A0045

A0040 Electricity Board barriers; these are still on the river bank. The clerk has spoken to the County Council again.

A0040 Overgrown hedges; Gormire Close/Hambleton Avenue; reply received from Broadacres advising that the properties in question are no longer in their ownership. To be taken up with the County Council as the hedges are encroaching onto the pavement.

A0040 Police Station on Westgate; letter sent to Sowerby Parish Council.

A0040 White lining on cobblestones; reply received advising that this will be done week commencing 8th March. County to be asked to repaint the yellow box junction in the Market Place now that Yorkshire Water have finished work. Also the roundabout at Town End which needs repainting.

A0040 Persimmon development on Station Road; plans received.

A0041 Website; advert placed in Thirsk Advertiser, March edition.

A0041 Graffiti in Alleyways; letter sent to Clock Café; no reply as yet.

A0042 Trees in Mill Gardens; reply received from Hambleton advising that they are not happy with the proposed pollarding. They require a more up to date report. Chris Amy has spoken to the tree specialist who says they have no legal grounds to treat this as a planning application. Agreed that a letter be sent to

Steve Quartermain advising that we intend to do this work on the advice of the tree specialist. Also to ask them whether they have amended their ruling on this as it was never necessary to apply for planning permission.

A0042 Patches on The Greens; letter sent to Yorkshire Water.

A0042 Drain near the White Bridge; letter sent to Mike Roberts, acknowledgement received.

A0042 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; letter sent to Mike Roberts, acknowledgement received.

A0042 Tactile area near Todd's Court; broken slabs replaced.

A0042 Litter bin on the Little Green; Cllr Mallett has looked at this. Malcolm Burnett to be asked to repair it.

A0042 Open Areas; meeting held.

A0042 Town Development Working Party; alleyways; Chris Vincent has been asked to carry out the feasibility study. The MTRS application was successful.

A0042 Insite's proposal to plant small trees in the verges at Gormire Close; letter sent to Broadacres expressing disappointment that they will not agree to this.

A0043 Grass at the end on Tranmire Close; letter sent to Mike Roberts; acknowledgement received.

A0043 Seat on Hambleton Place; reminder sent to Broadacres.

A0043 Parking outside Texaco Garage on Long Street; letter sent to Mike Roberts; acknowledgement received.

A0043 Spelling of Marage; letter sent to Hambleton; reply awaited.

A0043 Floodlighting of St Mary's Church; additional information requested by the planners has now been supplied. The faculty has been extended to 31st March 2005.

Correspondence:

Mr. M. Wilkinson, Churchwarden of St. Mary's Church re western boundary wall which, according to the church's architect's report dated 25th September 2000, will need attention within five years. Cllr Marshall advised that she has spoken to the

Page A0046

Rector and Mr Wilkinson. They are under the impression that it is a closed churchyard, but Cllr Marshall does not think this is the case and therefore the Town Council would have no liability for the wall. The church to look at their records and provide us with evidence.

NYCC re temporary closure of Picks Lane (22nd-26th February 2004) Copy of letter from Mr. I. Wright to NYCC re pedestrian safety for members leaving the Masonic Hall.

To consider and comment upon the proposed cycle route along Topcliffe Road:
A copy of the plan showing the proposed route had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Robinson was not happy with the dual use of a public footpath. Letter to be sent opposing the proposal as the footpath is not wide enough to be used by both pedestrians and cyclists and it was felt it would be dangerous for both. It was pointed out that a large volume of pedestrians use the footpath, particularly at school starting and finishing times.

To consider and decide upon the planning application for residential development

on Station Road:

Cllr Roberts declared an interest. Cllr Morton queried whether the schools and health service could cope with this large extra volume of houses and also whether the drainage system would be adequate. Cllr Watson referred to the amount of parking in the town and whether this would be sufficient if all the residents of this development come into Thirsk. Cllr Jackson pointed out that Todd's Yard has been subject to flooding. Referring to the Concept Plan B, Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is a road going across the central green and this would not be satisfactory if the green is to be used as a play/amenity area. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Jackson that the application be approved, but with the above comments noted.

To receive Reports from the following Committees:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate -

Cllr Mallett advised that there are two cars for sale on The Green. It was suggested that we approach the County Trading Standards to find out the regulations re selling cars, but Cllr Robinson felt we should leave this in abeyance and monitor the situation; Cllr Mallett agreed to do this. Cllr Mallett advised that the owner of the garage near the entrance to The Crescent has cut down some trees and shrubs around the garage and has left the area in very untidy. Cllr Roberts suggested we ask Chris Amy to have a look at it. Cllr Mallett to look into it.

Chris Amy to obtain another piece of fencing for outside the sign shop.

The press reporter left the meeting.

Page A0047

Open Areas:

Cllr Marshall reported on a meeting of the Open Areas Committee which had been held recently. At that meeting the committee had looked at the Rospa Report. Once again Rospa are recommending fencing The Holmes Play Area; the committee are seeking advice on this. Going ahead with the surfacing of the road through East Thirsk Play Area and the streetlight on Hambleton Place. There is a need to decide how we wish to spend the £32K from the Picks Lane development. Asking English Heritage and John Bell whether it would be possible to have a play area for small children near the edge of Castlegarth. May also do some more work at The Holmes.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Watson reported that the application for grant aid for the Interpretation Boards has been submitted to Local Heritage Initiative and an acknowledgement has been received. A copy has also been sent to Dawn Sheldon at The Countryside Agency.

Cllr Roberts reported that she is going to the Action for Market Towns Conference at Beverley on behalf of the TRI. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Jackson that the Town Council should be members of this.

Referring to the new Welcome to Thirsk board in the Market Place, Cllr Robinson said he felt this should have been double sided.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that the For Sale board outside Martin's newsagents is very dilapidated. Also that there is graffiti on the side of the clock. He also referred to the building materials, skip etc outside the house on The Green near the Lord Nelson. The Town Council have written to the owners of the property in question on several occasions and Cllr Marshall advised that she has also spoken to them. Agreed that another letter be sent pointing out that we have been sympathetic, but this has now been going on for a long time. Also that the consent of the Town Council should have been sought.

Cllr Mallett advised that he had been to the Flood Exhibition in the Library run by Hambleton and he said that most people seem to want something doing. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that the members of the Town Council had not been shown the plan before it was put to the public. She requested they come to a Town Council meeting and present the plans for consultation.

Cllr Jackson reported that he and Cllr Mallett had taken photographs of the Church as requested by HDC Planning Department as part of the planning application. These have been forwarded to the planners.

Cllr Robinson referred to the latest edition of Tourism News, which showed that Thirsk had 40,000 people going through the TIC, as opposed to 8,000 in Northallerton.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk in Bloom have entered the competition. John Bell has provided them with a lock up to house the buggy etc. An order for plants will be

placed with Wilgro very shortly. More volunteers are required. A letter was sent to Mike Kneebone about weeding in the town and he has said to write to the County Council.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

of Thirsk Town Council

held on Monday 15th March 2004 at 7.00 pm

in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Cllr D Murkett (Sowerby Parish Council) Cllr S Wilson (Sowerby Parish Council), Sgt J Jaks (NY Police), Ms Carolyn Thorpe (Darlington & Stockton Times) and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr C Pack - working, Cllr M Robson (Sowerby Parish Council); accepted.

Talk by Mr David Buckley, Area Group Manager for the North Yorkshire County Council's Social Services Directorate, on the Our Future Lives Policy.

Cllr Adamson proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to enable those from outside the Parish to speak if they wished to do so; agreed.

Mr Buckley circulated a copy of the press release on the Our Future Lives policy, which had been agreed in 1999. He advised that Extra Care Accommodation is now Government policy and North Yorkshire is one of the leading local authorities on this. He outlined the facilities which would be available, such as day care facilities, guest suites, internet access etc. The accommodation is available on different types of tenure. Mr Buckley confirmed that they will definitely be staying in Thirsk, but because of the difficulty in obtaining

suitable land, they will utilise the existing Cherry Garth site. The residents of Cherry Garth will be moved to Easingwold whilst the necessary work is carried out.

Cllr Adamson asked about the mentally confused elderly people and Mr Buckley said they do not currently provide for them. However, they are not ruling it out. Concern was expressed that relatives of people moved to Easingwold may not be able to visit them and it was suggested that the CCA be involved in organising transport. Mr Buckley said all relatives would be consulted to ensure they are able to visit.

Cllr Murkett was pleased to hear there are to be living rooms as well as bedrooms. He was concerned that it is not to happen for some time and there could be local government changes. Mr Buckley reiterated that it is Government policy and said that HDC is also involved.

Cllr Jackson enquired how long the residents of Cherry Garth would be at Easingwold. Mr Buckley said approximately one year, but they will be kept up to date on a regular basis.

Cllr Watson enquired whether it will be possible to accommodate the same number as are at Cherry Garth now and Mr Buckley said about the same; possibly two or three less.

Cllr Marshall enquired whether this would be affected by the McCarthy and Stone development on Long Street and Mr Buckley said not as the Cherry Garth accommodation will be for lease rather than purchase.

Cllr Mallett referred to the fact that people purchase Council properties and Mr Buckley said these would be owned by a Housing Association. Anyone purchasing one would be required to sell it back to the Housing Association.

Cllr Reynard enquired about the number of staff in the new accommodation and Mr

Buckley replied that at the start there would need to be an increased number of staff, but after some time it could reduce as the level of care fluctuates and people's needs differ. Cllr Reynard referred to the Day Service dementia people who meet at Cherry Garth and Mr Buckley said this would continue, but alternative premises would be found.

Cllr Watson enquired about the catering facilities. Mr Buckley said that these would be available 7 days a week. They will be provided by the owners and are normally handled on a franchise basis.

Cllr Marshall asked whether it would be possible to visit a similar scheme and Mr Buckley said there is one due to open soon in Knaresborough which we could visit. The Chairman thanked Mr Buckley for attending the meeting.

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:

Proposed approved Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Matters Arising:

It was noted that the police move to 33 Market Place had taken place during the year.

Chairman's Report:

Cllr Adamson gave his report, a copy of which is enclosed in the minute book.

To receive contributions from the electors of the Parish:

No electors were present.

Other items of interest and information:

No items were raised.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 15th March 2004
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall
following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Page P0066

Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, K
Reynard, F. Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Sgt R Jakis (North Yorkshire Police),
Ms Carolyn Thorpe (Darlington & Stockton Times) and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr C Pack (working), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, one minor amendment being noted.

Cllr Adamson proposed that Item 3 be dealt with before Item 2, agreed.

Police Report: Sgt Jakis reported that the move to the Industrial Estate should take place around June. Cllr Roberts referred to the number of windows in the town that had been broken. Cllr Mallett referred to a fracas in the Market Place the previous week; 5 police cars had attended. He asked whether the camera on Millgate Car Park could be moved to the bridge to look into Mill Gardens. Sgt Jakis to look into the cost implications of this. Cllr Reynard referred to the

damage, which had recently been caused in Mill Gardens; Sgt Jakis to look into whether anyone has been apprehended for this. Cllr Robinson said there had recently been a large number of children making a noise on The Flatts at around 11.30pm. Cllr Reynard referred to underage drinking and Sgt Jakis said the Police are taking this very seriously. Cllr Marshall enquired about the enforcement of a 20mph and 30mph speed limits, particularly on St Mary's and near Thirsk School. Cllr Mallett referred to remarks made by the Duke of York on his recent visit about the policeman's attire, which he felt were unfortunate.

Matters Arising:

P0060 Policing on race days; meeting was held. Cllrs Mallett and Watson represented the Town Council.

P0060 Risk Assessment; a meeting had been held at which the draft document prepared by the clerk had been considered and some amendments made.

P0060 Development of Castlegate; nothing further regarding the drain as yet.

P0060 Appeal by Done Bros; notification received from HDC advising that the Appeal is to be held on 15th September.

P0060 Lockable post in the Cemetery; position agreed with Malcolm Burnett. It is hoped this will be done soon.

P0060 Thirsk Flooding Alleviation feasibility study; Cllr Marshall advised that this had been displayed in the library and was discussed at Amenities.

P0061 CCTV visit; some councillors have now been on a visit to the CCTV. A further visit is to be arranged for those who were unable to go on the previous one.

P0061 Cycle path markings on Station Road; letter sent to the County Council and acknowledgement received.

P0061 Local Government Review; Cllr Mallett expressed concern that, although the documents were being circulated for some time, he did not receive them until the day

Page P0067

after comments were to be in. He asked that documents be circulated quicker in future.

P0063 YLCA letter and questionnaire re Quality Parish status; questionnaire completed and returned.

P0063 NYCC changes to local bus services; reply received advising that few passengers travel between the Dog and Gun and the Busby Stoop. Ripon Way to Busby Stoop is served hourly. Cllr Watson expressed her concern at this reduction on the bus service.

P0063 NYCC proposed cycle route on Topcliffe Road; discussed at Amenities and reply sent to NYCC. Since then a further plan had been received showing the proposed signage.

P0063 Proposed fair on the Market Place; letter of objection sent to HDC.

P0064 Cemetery Notice board/Kerbing around the Garden of Rest; still chasing this.

P0064 Long Street painted areas on tarmac; letter sent to the County Council asking for these to be reinstated. Acknowledgement received.

P0064 Thirsk School; Application for Specialist School Status; promisory note sent and letter of thanks received.

P0065 Gates leaned against the lamppost outside Martins; Mike Roberts is to deal with these.

P0065 Vandalised fence alongside Tesco's filling station; letter sent to Tesco suggesting this be replaced with chain link. Telephone call received from the Manager of Tesco advising that arrangements are in hand for the fence to be repaired. Cannot replace it with chain link at this stage as it would be too costly.

P0065 Broken glass and litter on Castlegarth; Chris Amy advised.

P0065 Dog bin near Ingramgate; larger bin or second bin requested.

Reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the County Council's Area Committee for Hambleton. The Highways Agency are wanting to close the central reservation on the A19 at the Black Swan junction. Hambleton Area Committee are not supporting this as they feel a bridge would be better than the closure. As a result of the school travel plan there is a speed limit and traffic calming measures in Hambleton Drive/Hambleton Place. The proposed Finkle Street/Market Place scheme is to go ahead with one amendment which is the crossing at Bakers Alley. It was agreed that the yellow box junction be re-painted. A decision on the Topcliffe Road cycle path had been deferred at Cllr Marshall's request. Cllr Marshall referred to details of the traffic calming schemes proposed in Hambleton for 2004 - 2006. Norby is down for 2005/06. St Mary's is listed but with no timescale. Nothing further to report re Sutton Bank as yet. Cllr Robinson expressed concern that the Finkle Street scheme is going ahead when there had been objections to it. Cllr Marshall said it is programmed for 2004/05. Cllr Reynard asked whether anything could be done about the parking at Norby and Cllr Marshall said this is part of the traffic calming scheme.

District Council Report

Cllr Robinson referred to a Crime and Safety Community Roadshow to be held in Thirsk on 30th March. A meeting is to be held this Thursday and one of the items is a request for funding for the Tranmire Ditch and Long Street. He said Thirsk has the highest community charge in Band D for Hambleton District, but Cllr Marshall pointed out that around 80% of properties in Thirsk are in Bands A, B and C.

Cllr Marshall had attended the Cultural and Social Overview Scrutiny Committee Meeting. The Royal Shakespeare Company are coming to Northallerton in September to do Julius Caesar. She advised that a report is going to Cabinet on Thursday regarding the open watercourses in East Thirsk and expressed concern that neither she, nor the Town Council, nor the Millennium Green Trust have been consulted. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has been making representations to the District Council for some time to find out the legal position of the Tranmire Ditch and there is nothing in the report referring to the level of work which has been done on this. Agreed that a letter be sent to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive expressing concern at this.

Finance:

To approve accounts for payment:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that the following be approved for payment.

HDC Office Rent; quarter commencing 1.3.04. £660.94

BT &; Office telephone £99.38

Staples; stationery £58.03

Fox's Copy Shop; photocopying etc. £63.36

Yorkshire Water; Cemetery Lodge £153.54

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall; Room Hire Jan-Mar 04 £150.00

M. I' Anson; reimbursement for shrubs for Thirsk in Bloom £113.68

Julie Harron; Salary March 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary February 2004 £989.23

Inland Revenue; Tax/NI February 2004 £556.24

HDC; Office Rates – April 2004 £57.50

A Swift & Son; repairs to heating at Cemetery Lodge £341.78

C Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Holmes/Whiteless tree Management Plan £400.00

Replacement trees (2) On Stockton Road £20.00

Smiths of Derby; Servicing clock £141.00

Record Playground Equipment – release of retention Monies re Craigs Way play equipment and surfacing £893.00

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall; Insurance Premium (50%) for 2004/05 £827.67

Thirsk Garden Centre; compost etc for Thirsk in Bloom £251.58

Page P0069

Income received since last meeting:

Burial Board: Interments £165.00

Memorials £169.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interest on Cemetery Extension Account £10.13

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet report for February 2004:

Received and approved.

To receive applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

No applications received.

To receive correspondence:

Copy of letter from HDC to Mr and Mrs N. Collinson confirming the postal address of their property as Dale House, Cemetery Road, Thirsk

Henry Hyams Solicitors; Notice that Jonathan Prendergast and Julie Ann Prendergast are applying to renew the Gaming License of The Regent Bingo Club; acknowledgement to be sent.

Shirtcliffe & Co Solicitors; Notice re Transfer of the Justices Licence of The Royal Hotel to Glen James Robert Jackson and Sharon Joyce Jackson; in view of the timescale, the clerk had already sent an acknowledgement.

HDC letter and questionnaire re Parish Database

HDC re On Site Electronic Newsletter; they wish to include the Town Council in their distribution list; agreed.

HDC advising that they are to defer their Annual Liaison Meeting until June.

National Missing Persons Helpline; letter thanking Thirsk Town Council for meeting the walkers last year and presenting them with certificates. They will be walking through Thirsk on 27th May; agreed that a representative from the Town Council will meet them.

Citizens Advice Bureau; request for financial assistance; noted.

HDC; confirmation that the requested rating precept of £88,000 for 2004/5 has been awarded.

HDC; letter and notice re the Community Safety Road show at The Golden Fleece on 30th March. Notice displayed on notice board.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts advised that further details about the Auction Mart have been received. A letter had been received from HDC dated 4th March inviting us to attend the Development Control Meeting at which a decision on the McCarthy and Stone development on Long Street was to be made. The letter was not received in the office until after the meeting had been held. A letter to be sent to HDC requesting they send out post in good time. Cllr Roberts had attended the site meeting re the McCarthy & Stone development the previous week and had pointed out that insufficient parking spaces have been included. Amended plans had been received showing they have lowered the frontage by taking the gables out. Cllr Roberts said there was a possibility of having a crossing and Cllr Marshall confirmed that a puffin crossing is to be installed.

Page P0070

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that there is not a great deal to report. We are still attempting to have the notice board erected and to obtain a price for kerbing around the new Garden of Rest. Still also trying to get a quote for running water to the top of the Cemetery.

To Receive Reports:

a) Representatives

Cllr Roberts advised that Harvey Dowdy has now left the Market Towns Initiative and has been replaced by Mark Haynes from Whitby. Most of the money has now been allocated.

Cllr Watson reported that there had been a Town Hall meeting on 1st March. Cllr Watson reported on a meeting she had attended re the Thirsk Map. Some work may need to be done to it and Rural Arts have put her in touch with someone who may be able to help. If the library are not able to display it then RANY may be able to do so.

Cllr Watson had also attended a meeting with the Police and other interested parties re policing on race days. It was felt there should be a designated stop for coaches coming into the Market Place.

Cllr Reynard reported on the Thirsk Clock Café, saying it is doing very well.

They would like to come to a Town Council meeting. It was agreed to write and suggest they come to the July meeting.

Cllr Hubbard said the CCA had met some weeks ago. As a result of the good work the association does for the community Anne Mackintosh had put them forward for the Queen's Jubilee Award. They were interviewed by Lord Jopling.

Cllr Robinson reported that Hambleton Sports Council had met last week and had had a presentation of grants from two representatives from Hambleton. They had advised that all sports organisations should register for VAT in order to be considered for the Sports Award. He said there is a lack of land for footballers around Thirsk and Sowerby.

Cllr Mallett reported on the meeting re Policing on Race days. Glen Jackson of

The Darrowby Arms and The Royal had said that drinking on pavements etc was not as bad as had previously been the case as most of the pubs now have beer gardens. In general the police felt that things were under control on race days, the Racecourse pay for two police officers and there are also normally two police in Thirsk on foot. In addition the eight strong task force could be available. It was suggested they have the Community Safety Officers out on racedays.

Cllr Marshall reported that the AGM of the Thirsk Infants School Charity had been held and the Officers have been reappointed; their Annual Report will be deposited in the Town Council Office. A meeting of the Long Street Enhancement Working Party had been held. Impact areas, where it is hoped to put wooden planters with trees etc in, have been identified and the details have been sent to Hambleton's Engineering Department for them to revise their plans.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the AGM of the East Thirsk Community Association; their Annual Report is in the Tabled Correspondence and the Officers

Page P0071

were re-elected. They are still looking for a new Secretary/Treasurer. Cllr Adamson had attended the YRCC conference in Scarborough. He had also been to Multidrive to meet the Duke of York. There had been a very interesting briefing on the history of the company and the projects they are involved with.

b) Members

Cllr Reynard referred to a branch which has come off one of the trees on The

Holmes and which requires attention. The Clerk to speak to Chris Amy.

Cllr Robinson referred to the Anti Social Behaviour Act re graffiti and fly posting. He advised that local authorities can serve a notice on the owner or occupier of any building where there is graffiti which is offensive. If no action is taken then the local authority can do the work and then charge. Cllr Robinson expressed his hope that the District Council would make use of these powers.

Cllr Mallett referred to the wooden fencing outside the Lord Nelson which has been broken by a vehicle. Chris Amy to be asked to deal with this.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that the lamp post on the White Mare roundabout has been removed. This was a feature of the roundabout. The County Council to be asked to reinstate it.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.