

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 7th April 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, J Watson, District Councillor S Hubbard, P.C. Kevin Brookes (2nd item only) and the clerk.

**Apologies:**

J Jackson (away); accepted.

**To receive Police Report:**

PC Brookes introduced himself, advising that he returned to Thirsk in 2003 and has just been deputed to the new neighbourhood policing team. He advised that Inspector Richardson had been at a meeting that day about the neighbourhood policing team, sorting out new duties, hours of work and their remit for the job. At the request of Cllr Marshall, PC Brookes gave the names of the people who would be on the Thirsk team, viz. PCs Harman, Thackrah, Pears and Brookes with Sgt Ponte as the sergeant responsible. Cllr Marshall enquired whether the police are to put out publicity about this. PC Brookes to raise this matter although he thinks it may have been discussed at today's meeting. He advised there are to be dedicated e-mail addresses for the Thirsk neighbourhood policing team and possibly a dedicated telephone line. They are encouraging a number of new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. A new system using both telephone and e-mail has replaced the Ringmaster system. PC Brookes extended an offer for a Councillor to join them out on a shift and for Councillors to visit the new premises on the Industrial Estate.

**Minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 21st March 2005**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, subject to one minor amendment on Page P0140.

**Matters Arising:**

P0135 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; letter sent to Steve Pimperton.

P0136 Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch; discussed at a meeting with Mike Armstrong and a letter to be sent to Barretts as per his advice. Cllr Marshall to speak to Steve Quartermain and she asked that we do not send a letter until she has done this.

P0136 Church floodlighting; letter with supporting details sent to HDC requesting permission to install two more floodlights.

P0136 Kissing gates on Castlegarth; Keith Emerich away until 11th April – a chasing e-mail has been sent to await his return.

P0136 Additional street lights on Hambleton Place; instructions given to NYCC to proceed with this.

P0136 Damaged trees on The Holmes; a site meeting has been held to look at this. Cllr Marshall advised that additional work was identified at that meeting and it was agreed to do this with as little disturbance to the wildlife, particularly birds, as

possible. Chris Amy has now done this work.

P0137 Litter bin on Castlegarth; HDC have agreed that if the Town Council provide a bin they will empty it once a week. HDC will also pay 50% towards the cost of a bin; agreed we should go ahead with this.

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P0137 Light on Marage Road; reported again. Cllr Marshall advised that a new top for this is required and an order for it has been placed.

P0137 Condition of toilets; reply sent to Ms Miller. Letter sent to HDC and reply received giving details of the hours spent by the cleaner and also the cost of providing attendance at the Applegarth toilets in Northallerton. District Cllr Hubbard advised that he has spoken to Peter Simpson and should the Town Council wish to take over responsibility for the toilets HDC would be prepared to discuss this. Nothing can be done on this until the Town Council sets its budget for 2006/7. District Councillor Hubbard would like to be involved should we decide to take this further. Agreed that at this stage a meeting be held with David McGloin to look at the problem.

P0137 Vacancy for Town Councillor; Notice from HDC displayed also a separate one advertising the vacancy and giving some details has been put on both noticeboards.

P0137 Four trees at East Thirsk Play Area with bacterial canker; Chris Amy asked to proceed with this as per his quote.

P0138 Litter bins; telephone reply from HDC advising that they will be replacing the yellow bins with new bins early next week. The state of the bin outside 'Upstairs Downstairs' was mentioned and it was queried whether the other bins will be repainted. Cllr Marshall advised that Mike Kneebone has a rolling programme of bin repainting.

P0138 Alleyways Scheme; monies now received from Peter Penny. Two more contractors have been on site to look and queries from a third one received today.

P0138 Cinema Anniversary; Cllr Marshall advised that the Charity Gala Evening took place and donations were made to two cancer charities.

P0138 Wreathes; the clerk had obtained the picture used by Rowley's Florists. Cllr Adamson showed two designs to go on the wreaths and one of these was chosen.

P0139 Seat Maintenance; Chris Amy given the go ahead to deal with the seats.

#### **To receive Correspondence:**

E-mail from Dave Goodwin – advising that 5th May is not convenient. Agreed he be asked to come to the Town Council meeting on 2nd June.

#### **To consider and where applicable, decide upon, the items contained in the schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:**

Cllr Marshall asked that the site meeting to look at the seats near Cod Beck be arranged.

Loose cobbles – it was mentioned that there are a number of loose cobbles; to be reported to HDC.

#### **To receive Reports:**

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts mentioned that there is a lot of litter and broken glass around the skateboard area. Cllr Reynard said she would deal with this. The clerk had also reported it to Tony Jordan.

Central Areas - Need to meet to elect a new Chairman.

Christmas festivities - Committee needs to meet shortly.

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Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett advised that a Greens Committee meeting had been held, mainly to look at the White Mare Roundabout. Cllr Roberts has now joined the Greens Committee. Dean Landscapes have been asked to do the work and Cllr Mallett showed their design to the meeting. This is to have shrubs in the centre with turf round and four beds in the turfed area. These to be planted with bedding plants, which will be renewed seasonally. It will be possible to get on the roundabout from the beginning of May.

Yorkshire Water have quoted £6K to put water on the roundabout and Cllr Mallett has obtained prices for having a stand pipe which can be connected to the hydrants. Jill Miller and Bill Calvert have offered to sponsor the roundabout and it is hoped to enter into a four year contract with them. Cllr Mallett has spoken to Steve Pimperton about obtaining a license and he is dealing with this.

Cllr Marshall reported that we have the planters for Long Street. Quotes have been accepted from the companies doing the groundwork and planting the planters and flowerbeds. The question of watering them needs to be looked at and Cllr Marshall suggested we advertise for someone to do this. It was suggested there should be a joint advert for watering for the Town Council and Thirsk in Bloom, but Cllr Reynard would like to discuss this with Thirsk in Bloom first. Cllr Marshall proposed we advertise for someone to water the roundabout and Long Street, seconded Cllr Mallett. Cllr Reynard expressed the view that the roundabout should be sprayed. Cllr Marshall advised that at the moment it is not felt it needs to be sprayed, but it will be kept under review.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall referred to The Holmes saying we have a long standing management plan for the wild areas and The Whitelass and she gave details of this.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

#### **Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr Marshall reported that work on the entrances started on Monday.

Cllr Marshall advised that she and Cllr Morton had changed the time on the Town Clock when the clocks changed. She felt it is necessary to set up a system to deal with this when the clocks change. Cllr Watson agreed to do this.

Cllr Marshall reported that following on from the unveiling of the plaque to Thomas Lord by Roger Knight, Thirsk Cricket Club is playing West Meon at Lords in August. We have received a promise from the Chairman and Vice President of Yorkshire Cricket Club that they will unveil the plaque to George Gibson Macaulay. We have also received a promise from Professor Simon Owens, the Keeper of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew to unveil the plaque to John Gilbert Baker in Bakers Alley.

Cllr Marshall advised that we have three mock ups of the Interpretation Panels to go on Castlegarth. It is necessary to apply for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent and we have also asked John Bell for his consent. Other Interpretation Boards are with RANY.

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#### **To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:**

Cllr Pack advised that the unannounced judging will be starting on 18th April. She advised that work is taking place in the empty shops. A community clean up is to be held on 17th April. Cllr Pack has spoken to the racecourse and they are to let Britain in Bloom put a banner on the railings.

Cllr Watson asked about Mill Gardens. Cllr Reynard said a lot of shrubs were very old and it would not have been advisable to put new shrubs in next to them.

Everything on the left hand side has been removed and it is to be replanted. Prices are currently being obtained. Cllr Marshall asked whether it would be appropriate to have a liaison group between Thirsk in Bloom and the Town Council in order that things can be moved forward between meetings. Cllr Pack expressed her agreement with this. Cllr Adamson felt we should deal with this when the new Committees are drawn up. Anyone wishing to do this to give their names to the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 18th April 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), J Marshall, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J. Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Thirsk Weekly News'), 1 member of the public and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Jackson (away), K Reynard (another commitment); accepted.

**Minutes:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts, accepted.

**To receive the Police Report:**

No representative of the Police present and no matters raised which required to be brought to the attention of the police.

**Open forum:**

No items raised.

**Matters arising:**

P0141 Damaged tree near Millgate Bridge; the clerk had spoken to John Bell and the tree has since been dealt with.

P0141 Damaged trees on the far side of the beck and fire damaged tree on The Holmes; site meeting held and the work identified has been carried out.

P0141 White Mare roundabout; a site meeting to be held with Yorkshire Water tomorrow to look at the possibility of putting water on the roundabout. The quote from Dean Landscapes for landscaping works on the roundabout has been accepted.

P0141 Roadways on The Green; quote from Dean Landscapes for filling the holes and chipping accepted.

P0142 Flooding Plan; meeting held. A meeting to be arranged with the people who have volunteered to be wardens.

P0142 Local Plan meeting; meeting arranged for 14th April, but not quorate. Letter now received from HDC re a meeting to be held on 4th May. Cllr Roberts felt that Councillors who wished to do so should go to this meeting and then put any points forward.

P0142 Presentation by PCT; attempting to arrange this for the Town Council meeting to be held on 20th June.

P0142 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall; letter received from Eccles Heddon outlining one amendment to which the Charity Commissioners will not agree.

P0142 Dave Goodwin; invited to attend Town Council meeting on 2nd June – reply awaited.

P0143 Thirsk Festival; donation of £1,000 sent.

P0143 Trees on the Carrs Field side of Cod Beck; reply sent to Tony Jordan. Chris

Amy advises that the tree guards should be left on to protect them from damage by rabbits etc.

P0144 Burial Board Report; quote from British Gas to put gas into Cemetery Lodge accepted. Two quotes now received for the running of gas through Cemetery Lodge, provision of new boiler etc.

P0144 Flooding Plan; meeting held.

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P0144 Two further floodlights for St Mary's Church; request sent to HDC. It is hoped these can be dealt with as an amendment to the existing planning consent.

P0145 Roundabout at Town End; the County Council have been asked to repaint this.

P0145 Street washing machine; now been used in Thirsk Market Place.

P0145 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; letter of apology received from the County Council together with an assurance that the matter will be rectified.

### **To receive Reports:**

District Council

Cllr Marshall advised that HDC has now received official notification that it is to be capped unless it can give good reason as to why it should not be. Cllr Marshall had attended a presentation by the Health and Safety Executive who are working with the District Council. She had also attended a Standards Committee meeting. A meeting re the Local Development Framework is to be held in Thirsk on 4th May.

County Council

Regarding Blakey Lane, Cllr Marshall advised that RCS are still being pursued for a date when the work will be done.

Referring to the cycleway on Topcliffe Road, Cllr Marshall has asked the County Council to let Sowerby Parish Council know the results of the survey and they are to do this. There will therefore be no immediate decision on whether to retain the cycleway.

Entrances to Thirsk; Cllr Marshall expressed her annoyance at the fact that the work was due to start a week ago, but this has not yet begun. Cllr Marshall has asked Ian Beighton to investigate the possibility of going ahead with the signs, which are to be fixed to existing stonework. Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council are putting new streetlights in at East Thirsk to replace the concrete columns. She said the new lights are not acceptable as they do not shed enough light and 'black holes' have been created. A site visit has been carried out by officers of the County Council. Cllr Marshall advised that it is possible to increase the wattage from 50 to 70 and to change the angle of the bulbs to light further. Cllr Marshall has asked Paul Gilmore and David Bone to take this issue up.

The Hambleton Area Committee Meeting was held on 11th April. Cllr Marshall advised that one of the topics discussed was the Local Transport Plan and the Town Council has been consulted on this.

The proposed 20mph speed limit on Hambleton Drive is out to consultation. A discussion had been held re the proposal to have 20mph speed limits outside schools. It had been felt that this would only be needed during term time and therefore other ways of dealing with this rather than introducing this speed limit restriction are being looked at. Cllr Adamson felt the speed limit is necessary all the time because of children playing.

**Finance:**

To approve accounts for payment:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Mazars - Audit Fee 2003/04 £775.50

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Fox's Copy Centre – photocopying etc £55.01  
Thirsk Museum – research, advice etc re Blue Plaques £257.50  
Rural Arts – Artists' fees re Interpretation Boards £1,600.00  
Power Point – Hire of shredder by Thirsk in Bloom £88.13  
M.L. Burnett – Repairs to seats in Mill Gardens £115.50  
HDC – Rates of Town Council Office, May 2005 £63.30  
Allianz Cornhill – Insurance Premium 2005/06 £2,564.61  
YLCA – Membership Fee 2005/06 £512.00  
YLCA – Association of Burial Authorities Membership £50.00  
Thirsk Hall Farms – Annual Agreement Fee re Castlegarth £120.00  
Julie Harron – Salary, April 2005 £287.18  
Elaine Coulson – Salary, March 2005 £1,016.37  
Streetmaster Products – plank for picnic bench in picnic area £61.10  
D E Adamson – Web Site hosting service £38.16  
C A Amy – weekly inspections £182.80  
Litter picking £200.00  
Tree work on The Holmes £350.00  
Aon Ltd – Insurance premium for Millennium Green £444.97  
Cllr F Roberts – travelling expenses to conference £41.40

Paid since last meeting

British Gas – running gas to Cemetery Lodge £507.61  
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, March 2005 £571.30  
Petty Cash £49.74  
Thirsk Festival – donation £1,000.00

Income received

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12  
Grave Purchase £220.00  
Interments £110.00  
Inscriptions £22.00  
TRI Grant re Long Street Enhancement £10,000.00  
TRI Grant re Interpretation Boards £500.00  
Bank Interest £1,061.79

b) To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for March 2005

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson; agreed

c) To receive and approve the balance sheet for the year ended 31st March 2005:  
Cllr Marshall queried Account No. 00669695 which has a balance of £207.87.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall that these monies be moved to the Cemetery Extension account; agreed. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that the balance sheet be approved; agreed.

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d) To receive the report from the External Auditors for 2003/4:

The clerk advised that the External Auditors have signed off the accounts – they had no items of concern.

e) To nominate a new cheque signatory:

Cllr Roberts proposed that Cllr Morton should be the new cheque signatory, seconded Cllr Watson; agreed.

### **To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

Grave No F3 8 Mr John Hodgson

Application for headstone and vase received from RGR Memorials Ltd. It was not clear what is actually required and further details are to be requested.

### **To receive Correspondence:**

NYCC – Proposed Introduction of Waiting Restrictions in Nursery Gardens, Thirsk; no problems with the proposal.

Royal British Legion – thanks for donation

YRCC – Questionnaire re Local Connection Criteria. This had been circulated to Councillors and the questionnaire was completed.

HDC – Property name change from 'Applegarth', York Road, Thirsk to 'Brynklehowe', York Road, Thirsk.

Thirsk Hall Farms - Annual Herbage Agreement re Castlegarth; agreed that this be signed.

NYCC re Winter Service 2005/06; it was felt that the winter service in Thirsk was very good. Cllr Marshall advised that she has asked the County Council to include Hambleton Drive, Dowber Way and St Mary's in future years' gritting programme. Mr. T. Bond of Nottingham re church floodlighting which he felt was very good. Mr E A Jones of Malton expressing his congratulations on the flower tubs in the Market Place.

### **To receive Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson advised that two quotes have been received for the new boiler etc at Cemetery Lodge and the Burial Board has accepted the lower of the two. The contractor will be asked to go ahead once the gas to the property has been put in. Cllr Morton asked about the rubbish at the top part of the Cemetery where a donated seat is to be placed. Cllr Watson is dealing with this. She will obtain a quote for removing the rubble and a separate quote for removing the soil heap near the wall.

### **To receive Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Roberts gave details of the North Yorkshire Market Towns website. We are invited to participate by supplying copy about the town – no cost involved. Cllr Mallett proposed we do this. Cllr Roberts and the clerk to deal with it.

Cllr Pack reported that she had attended a meeting of Thirsk Clock Café. Things are

going very well there. The CCTV cameras have been installed and are working. Cllr Mallett reported on a Community Education meeting. He advised that the County Council wish to abolish Area Committees. The headmaster feels there should be some

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local input and he is sending a letter about this – he will let the Town Council have a copy and he hopes he will have our support. Cllr Morton expressed the view that it would be a great pity if this area is not represented. The school had received an excellent Ofsted Report and Cllr Morton asked that a letter be sent congratulating them on this.

Cllr Roberts advised that the application to construct a dwelling in Nicks Gate Alley has been granted on Appeal.

Cllr Adamson advised that the East Thirsk Community Association is going well. Reporting on the Thirsk Community Primary School, Cllr Adamson said that his term of office as School Governor comes to an end very shortly. Parish Councils no longer have the right to be represented on the governing body but they can be co-opted onto it.

### **Members**

Cllr Watson referred to the flooding in the railway station car park and asked that a letter be sent.

Cllr Watson pointed out that the new bus shelters do not have sides; to be queried with the County Council. She also requested they be asked when they are going to put the timetables in.

Cllr Pack advised that she has been speaking to Lionel Twiss and they have three seats to be put on Millgate. Cllr Marshall advised that these are to be put on the areas going from Millgate Car Park to the river and she asked that the site meeting to look at this be organised.

Cllr Marshall had attended a meeting held at the St John's Ambulance office. This had been organised by HDC with the intention of setting up an industrial forum on the Industrial Estate. Another meeting is to be arranged.

Cllr Marshall reported on the blue plaques saying that most of them have now been received. Listed Building Consent is being sought where appropriate and we are approaching the owners of the buildings where the others are to be placed to ascertain where they would like the plaques to be sited and also whether they would like to have an unveiling ceremony.

We have received an offer from the Vice President and Chairman of Yorkshire Cricket Club to unveil the plaque for George Gibson Macaulay and Dr Simon Owens, the Keeper of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, has agreed to unveil the plaque to John Gilbert Baker in Baker's Alley.

She advised that Thirsk Cricket Club are to play West Meon at Lords and the fact that we had Roger Knight, the Secretary and Chief Executive of the MCC, to unveil Thomas Lord's plaque helped with this. Interpretation Boards; Copy mock-ups of the three boards to go on Castlegarth are now in the office

. The landowner has given his consent for these to go on Castlegarth and we now have to apply for Scheduled Monuments Consent. The other interpretation boards are being worked on by Rural Arts.

Cllr Adamson advised that Thirsk Rotary, in conjunction with the Red Cross, are

attempting to provide wheelchairs for people needing them, the responsibility for the maintenance of the wheelchairs being the Red Cross. A suggestion had been made that one be kept in the Tourist Information Centre or the Town Council Office – the latter was not thought to be feasible. Cllr Watson to contact Lionel Twiss re this.

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Cllr Pack announced that from today Thirsk in Bloom is having its unannounced judging.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item:

The relationship between the Town Council and Thirsk in Bloom was discussed and it was agreed that a Liaison Committee comprising Cllrs Marshall and Watson from the Town Council and some members (to be agreed) of Thirsk in Bloom be set up. Cllr Pack to request that everything goes through the Liaison Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 5th May 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs D E Adamson (Chairman), R Mallett, F Roberts, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Jackson (away), J Marshall (involved with election), A Morton (another engagement), C Pack (involved with election), J Watson (involved with election)

At 7.40 pm the Chairman declared the meeting abandoned due to it not being quorate..

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting  
held on Monday 16th May 2005 at 7:00pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annexe**

**Present:**

Cllrs D Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr S Hubbard, PC Duncan Pears (North Yorkshire Police), Ian Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Morton (away); accepted

**Election of Chairman:**

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Adamson that Cllr Marshall be elected Chairman; agreed. Cllr Marshall accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Book.

**Election of Vice Chairman:**

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Marshall that Cllr Watson be elected Vice Chairman. Cllr Watson accepted the position.

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council meeting:

Proposed accepted Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Adamson; agreed.

**Reports from Representatives:**

The reports from representatives had been copied to Councillors and one additional report was brought to the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack that the reports be accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

The Committee Reports had been copied to Councillors and one additional report was brought to the meeting Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack that the reports be accepted. Cllr Marshall asked that the Committees meet more frequently in future.

**Election of Council Representatives:**

Cllr Robinson proposed that some places on the Committees be left until the new Councillors have been co-opted.

Cllr Robinson asked that he be replaced as the representative on the Flatts Trust. Cllr Jackson expressed his willingness to do this.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Adamson, the outgoing Chairman, for all his hard work as Chairman and for his diligence in chairing meetings.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 16th May 2005  
following the Annual Parish Council Meeting  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr S Hubbard, PC Pears (North Yorkshire Police), Ian Noble (&#145;Darlington and Stockton Times&#146;) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Morton (away); accepted

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2005 were agreed. The page noting the meeting on 5th May, which was abandoned, was also agreed and signed.

**Police Report:**

PC Pears introduced himself as the newly appointed neighbourhood police officer. He gave details of the area he covers together with other officers in the team. He explained that they are now bound by ward boundaries. Cllr Robinson welcomed the initiative. PC Pears advised that he has quite a lot to do with Thirsk Clock Café and is also going out to the schools and youth organisations. Cllr Marshall referred to an emergency meeting re events in Sowerby and PC Pears advised that PC Brookes is aware of the issues and these have been tackled. Cllr Robinson referred to the boarded up door on the old Police Station, saying it did not look good at the entrance to the town. PC Pears advised that this was following an attempted break in. Cllr Watson had an enquiry about CCTV in Millgate and was advised that this is the responsibility of HDC.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Dadd referred to the road works to take place in the town. He had consulted on this and felt the best time for the work to be done would be in early September. Cllr Marshall advised that this has already been agreed. Cllr Dadd advised that a site visit by the County Council engineers is to be carried out at night and following that he will arrange a site meeting with them. Referring to School Governors, Cllr Dadd said that all County Councillors have been asked to make recommendations and he will support people who have experience as governors.

Cllr Mallett referred to Community Education saying the County Council are trying to abandon the present system of local representation, but the headmaster is keen to keep this. Cllr Dadd to speak to the headmaster.

Referring to Cherry Garth, Cllr Jackson mentioned the possible changes there and the proposal for temporary accommodation for the residents. Cllr Dadd to look into this and report back.

#### District Council

Cllr Hubbard referred to the Emergency Flood Plan saying a meeting had been arranged for the previous week with the proposed wardens, but only two had attended. Cllr Hubbard suggested the Town Council sets up a contingency plan with the Office as headquarters in an emergency. Cllr Mallett felt the Town Council should be on the

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call up system. Agreed that the names of the Town Councillors be sent to the Environment Agency and that the Councillors should be used as a resource and the office as a flood centre. Agreed that a letter be sent to the wardens. Cllr Hubbard reported on the alleyways scheme and circulated details of one of the tenders received. A further tender is awaited and it was agreed that we wait for this and that this then be an agenda item at the meeting on 2nd June.

Cllr Robinson advised that the District Council now has a new Chairman, Peter Brown, with Susan Latter as deputy. Cllr Robinson is on the Financial and Licensing Committees and on the Best Value for Services Panel.

Cllr Marshall is continuing on the same committees as before. She advised that a surgery re the Local Development Framework was held during the afternoon of 4th May followed by a meeting in the evening. The meeting was not very well attended.

#### **Open Forum:**

No members of the public present and therefore no items raised.

#### **Matters arising:**

P0150 White Mare Roundabout; Yorkshire Water have now put a water hydrant on the roundabout free of charge. A letter of thanks to be sent to them. Dean Landscapes are to start the landscaping work on the roundabout around the May Bank Holiday weekend.

P0150 Roadways on The Green; the work is to be carried out starting on 25th May.

P0150 Flooding Plan; meeting arranged but abandoned as only two members of the public attended.

P0150 Presentation by PCT; the clerk is attempting to arrange

this.

P0150 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall; reply received from Eccles Heddon advising that when this is completed a copy will be supplied to the Town Council and the originals will be placed with the title deeds.

P0150 Dave Goodwin; reply still awaited.

P0151 Two further floodlights for St Mary's Church; HDC have requested some further information. John Howse is to supply this.

P0151 Cycleway on Topcliffe Road; letter received from the County Council advising that a survey of local residents has recently been completed which showed 50% in favour of retaining the current scheme, 36% in favour of returning the section to footway only and 14% had no opinion. Cllr Robinson felt the road markings were not clear and were confusing. Cllr Roberts felt it should be retained and Cllr Pack agreed with this. It was agreed to recommend that the status quo be retained but with a request for improved signing.

P0151 Entrances to Thirsk; the work on these has now been completed. Cllr Marshall advised that it is hoped to do the finger posts next.

P0151 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; Cllr Adamson advised that this has not yet been cleared away &#150; a chasing letter to be sent. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the land at the side of the Tranmire Beck was churned up when work to the bus stop was being carried out.

P0151 Blakey Lane; Cllr Marshall pointed out that the work on this is currently taking place.

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P0151 Streetlights; Cllr Marshall advised that the Officers are to carry out a site visit when the scheme is finished. Cllr Marshall also referred to the extra streetlight in Hambleton Place, saying we must ensure this is not a down lighter.

P0153 Application by RGR Memorials; clarification received.

P0153 Herbage Agreement re Castlegarth; this was formerly an annual grazing agreement but has now been changed to a six month herbage agreement. The clerk has spoken to John Bell who has agreed that the term can be amended to one year.

P0153 North Yorkshire Market Towns website; details have been supplied to them.

P0154 Thirsk School Ofsted Report; letter of congratulation to be sent.

P0154 Flooding in the railway station car park; letter sent.

P0154 Seats near river; the clerk has now got some dates for a site meeting from Clive Thornton and will contact Lionel Twiss.

P0154 Blue Plaques; several more plaques have been put up,

including Thirsk Hall and The Golden Fleece where Listed Building Consent was obtained and some where it was not required.

Cllr Marshall advised that Professor Simon Owens, the Keeper of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, is coming on 25th May to unveil the plaque to John Gilbert Baker and she extended an invitation to any members of the Town Council who wish to attend. There are to be some further unveiling ceremonies &#150; to be arranged.

P0155 Town Council/Thirsk in Bloom Liaison Committee; Cllr Marshall advised that the first Liaison Committee Meeting had been held and this had gone well. The Committee comprises Cllrs Marshall and Watson, Frances Davies and Peter Pack.

**Finance:**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

C.E. and C.M. Walker &#150; grasscutting £2,379.38

Thirsk Hall Estate &#150; rent and wayleaves £5.00

Staples &#150; Printer and stationery £169.40

Carrs Field &#150; Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust Insurance premium £650.54

K. Dickinson &#150; cleaning office windows £6.00

HDC &#150; Rates, June 2004 £64.00

C.A. Amy &#150; Tree work: The Holmes £350.00

St. James Green £90.00

Cemetery £160.00

Favenfield £200.00

Weekly inspections £228.50

Litter picking £220.00

Strimming on The Holmes £30.00

Julie Harron &#150; Salary, May 2005 £287.18

Elaine Coulson &#150; Salary, April 2005 £1,016.37

Inland Revenue &#150; Tax/NI, April 2005 £576.62

Amberol Limited &#150; Planter £217.38

Paid since last meeting

BT &#150; internet line £119.49

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Npower &#150; office electricity £228.41

Income received:

Precept (1st half) £35,000.00

NYCC &#150; Contribution to alleyways scheme £10,000.00

Refund of VAT (1.1.05.-31.3.05.) £2,953.17

Burial Board: Rent £397.12

Interment £55.00

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for April 2005  
Proposed approved Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Mallett; accepted.

### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following applications be approved:

Grave No. F3 8 John Hodgson

Grave No. C1 27 Reg Sheldrake

Grave No. GG 1 Dorothy Irish

Applications for Additional Inscriptions:

Grave No. M 48 Muriel Sarah Walker

Grave No. F1 5 John Watson

Grave No. CC 22 Eddie Bassham

### **Correspondence**

Mrs. K. Reynard; letter of resignation from the Town Council.  
HDC advised.

North Bank Forum-Patient and public involvement forum for Tees, East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service; request that any concerns re the ambulance service be made to them. Also seeking additional members of the Forum.

NYCC re election of Parish Council representatives to the County Committee for Hambleton. Cllr Adamson indicated his willingness to stand for this. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that Cllr Adamson should do this.

HDC re closure of gents&#146; toilets in Millgate on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; Cllr Marshall pointed out that this was not discussed with the Town Council and it was not acceptable to close the toilets in this way. Cllr Roberts suggested we contact the local police and ask them to look into this. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC and to the police.

Tadcaster Pub Company &#150; application for transfer of the Justices Licence of The Lord Nelson St. James Green from Michael and Angela Henley to Jamie Pearson and Katy Pearson; agreed that this be approved with the usual condition re training. HDC re Application for Public Entertainments Licence at &#147;The Lord Nelson&#148; together with a copy of a letter from a neighbour objecting to this. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council holds the Green on a long leasehold basis. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that a letter be sent to HDC requesting that this application be looked at very carefully and conditions imposed to ensure it does not cause a nuisance to nearby residents. Also that the Green should not be used for parking; agreed. (Cllr Robinson did not take part in this discussion)

Hambleton Community Safety Partnership re Community Safety Strategy Launch Event on 24th May; Cllr Mallett to attend.  
Thirsk Cricket Club request re sponsoring a cricket ball;(Cllr Marshall declared an interest) Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Town Council sponsor a ball at a cost of £25 and also an additional ball to be used at the match to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Lord at an further cost of £25; agreed.

Donna Fountain requesting financial support for her work in Sri Lanka during her Gap Year. Agreed that her letter be passed to Rotary for the Festival Committee to consider.

Victim Support North Yorkshire requesting financial assistance; agreed that they be asked to come and speak to us and then their request can be considered.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Adamson asked that a quote be obtained from Independent Memorial Inspections.

#### **Burial Board Report:**

Nothing to report.

#### **HDC Local Development Framework**

Cllr Marshall stressed the importance of responding to this. She referred to the meeting held on 4th May, which had included discussion on the allocation of land for housing, industrial etc. Cllr Watson felt there should be more control over the quality of signage, particularly in the Conservation Area. Cllr Watson also made the point that if there is to be additional housing then the necessary infrastructure must be in place to cater for this. It was also felt that there should be good rail links from Thirsk Station and that employment within the town should be encouraged. Cllr Robinson suggested that there are many small pockets of land where smaller workshops etc could be constructed.

#### **To appoint Town Council Committee Members:**

Members had been issued with a blank form showing the committees and they indicated which Committees they would like to serve on. The results will be collated and circulated at the next meeting.

#### **Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the St George's Day Church Service for the cubs/scouts etc and had also attended the march past.

Cllr Adamson had attended the Blue Lights Exhibition in St Marys Church.

Cllr Watson reported on a Chamber of Trade meeting she had attended. It is hoped to get more support for this.

## Members

Cllr Watson advised that a very productive meeting had been held with Angie Hall at Rural Arts regarding the interpretation boards. Angie has been involved with the Clock Café and the schools and she is going to do some workshops at the Herriot Centre. Scheduled Monuments Consent has been applied for in respect of the boards to go on Castlegarth.

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Cllr Jackson referred to the disposal of large items of rubbish and how this is dealt with in Spain.

Cllr Robinson referred to new arrangements at the amenity tip where larger skips with ladders are to be used. Cllr Robinson requested that there be an agenda item at the next Town Council meeting to discuss the junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street; agreed.

Cllr Pack referred to the Roadshow in town today regarding recycling.

Cllr Mallett referred to wheeliebins left outside properties and also side rubbish left behind. Cllr Robinson pointed out that it is the responsibility of the collectors to identify whose bin it is. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC encouraging kerb side recycling.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that there are Town Council Committees to cover Central Areas, Play Areas etc, but there is no Committee to cover the estates etc. She wondered whether we could look at the possibility of splitting the town into areas in order to identify problems. Cllr Marshall and the clerk to look at this.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 2nd June 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr S Hubbard, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News) and Mr D Goodwin (HDC) first item only.

**Apologies:**

Cllrs A Morton (family illness), J Watson (late arrival); accepted.

**Proposed recreational land at East Thirsk:**

Dave Goodwin introduced himself, saying he is Head of Leisure and Tourism at HDC. The above land, which comprises 3.67 acres has been purchased by HDC. They are currently securing the land with fences and gates. There will be a pedestrian gate and a field gate and these will be locked for the time being. They are looking at having this as informal recreational land with tree planting and paths created by grass cutting rather than made up pathways. HDC would like an organisation to take on the management of the land and, bearing in mind the Town Council's good record of this, it is being offered to the Town Council. However, there are other options such as the Woodland Trust, The Millennium Green Trust etc. Cllr Marshall suggested that HDC contact Insite who are contractors for National Grid and who have a scheme for trees. Cllr Roberts pointed out that for years people have walked in the field and she felt it was not a good idea to lock it; Mr Goodwin to consider this. Cllr Mallett expressed the view that the Woodlands Trust would be an appropriate body to take this on. Cllr Robinson expressed the view that it should be more of a recreational area rather than just being planted with trees, but it was felt that a wooded area would be the best use of the land. Cllr Adamson pointed out that trees would be of great benefit because of their absorption qualities for fumes.

Cllr Watson joined the meeting.

It was felt that a Working Party comprising Thirsk Woodlands Group, Millennium Green and representatives of the Town Council should be set up to talk through their views with the District Council. Cllr Mallett and Roberts offered to represent the Town Council on this. This was proposed by Cllr

Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack, all in favour.

Ms C Thorpe joined the meeting.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

**Open Forum:**

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

Cllr Dadd queried whether he should attend these meetings and Cllr Marshall explained that these deal with matters of an amenity nature and therefore it is not

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necessary for him to attend. It was agreed that Cllr Dadd could speak about Cherry Garth. Cllr Dadd advised that he has received assurances from the Officer concerned that he will keep everyone informed when they start the consultation on Cherry Garth. The needs of residents will be of paramount importance over everything else. Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr Dadd for this.

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

**Matters Arising:**

P0146 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; awaiting go ahead from Cllr Marshall before letter is sent.

P0146 Kissing gates on Castlegarth; reply received from Keith Emerick advising that he is awaiting a response on the requirements for the archaeological watching brief. A further reminder has been sent to Keith Emerick but he is away from the office until 6th June.

P0146 Damaged trees on The Holmes; the work on this has now been completed.

P0147 Condition of toilets; a meeting is currently being arranged with Steve Prentice and Cllr Marshall.

P0147 Vacancy for a Town Councillor; notification received from HDC that we can now co-opt someone to fill Steve Hubbard's place. The resignation of Cllr Reynard is currently being advertised on the notice board.

P0147 Four trees at East Thirsk Play Area with bacterial canker; work now done.

P0147 Alleyways scheme; two further quotes received. Included as an agenda item at this meeting.

P0147 Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items; seats near Cod Beck; some possible dates for a site meeting have been obtained from Clive Thornton and the clerk is contacting Derek Gardiner.

P0147 Seat maintenance was mentioned and it was pointed out that Chris Amy was awarded the contract some time ago; he will be reminded.

P0147 Light on Marage Road; this now has a top on it.

P0147 Skateboard area; the clerk has reported complaints of litter and broken glass on more than one occasion.

P0148 White Mare Roundabout; Yorkshire Water have now put water on the roundabout free of charge. A standpipe, standpipe key and standpipe licence have been obtained. Dean Landscapes have sprayed the roundabout and are starting the landscaping work on 8th June. Paul Gilmore is looking at the work required to the electrical pole on the roundabout.

P0148 Long Street Enhancement; work on the beds and planters currently taking place.

Cllr Dadd left the meeting.

P0148 Entrances; the work on these has now been completed.

P0148 Unveiling of the plaque to John Gilbert Baker; this was unveiled on 25th May by Simon Owens, the Keeper of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

P0148 Interpretation panels to go on Castlegarth; consent received from John Bell. Scheduled Monuments Consent has been applied for.

P0149 Town Council/Thirsk in Bloom Liaison Group; now established and two meetings held.

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**Correspondence:**

HDC; Request for temporary footpath closure from 0600 hours on 8th July to 2400 hours on 10th July for the Thirsk Gala; agreed.

Mrs Diane Miller; further letter received expressing appreciation for the fact that there has been a great improvement re litter in the town, but the Market Place toilets are still in an unsatisfactory state. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that on the previous Monday the Market Place was in a very untidy state as there did not appear to have been a litter pick following the Bank Holiday Monday market. She has written to HDC about this. Cllr Robinson pointed out that the market traders are responsible for taking their own rubbish away.

Copy letter from Joplings to HDC regarding the number of information vans which are sited outside their premises on market days. Cllr Watson also expressed the view that there are an extremely large number of such information vans which

park outside Joplings. A letter to be sent to HDC.  
All Kitchens Great and Small; expressing interest in sponsoring the White Mare Roundabout or any other high profile/high visibility location. Cllr Marshall has approached the County Council to ascertain whether it would be possible to sponsor a plinth and she is awaiting their reply. Cllr Adamson pointed out that there is the York Road roundabout, which could be sponsored if we had enough interest, although this is not in our parish. Agreed that a letter be sent to Bagby Parish Council advising that we have interest in sponsoring the roundabout and enquiring if they would have any objections to our pursuing this. Yorkshire Water; giving details of the reasons for the water supply interruption on 10th March.

HDC re Public Entertainments Licence at &#145;The Lord Nelson&#146; advising that there is to be a hearing before the Licensing and Environmental Protection Committee on 17th June. No member of the Town Council available to attend, but a letter to be sent reiterating our comments, also pointing out that it is within the Conservation Area and next to the Methodist Church.

BTCV work - Autumn/Winter 2005-6; Cllr Roberts pointed out that the footpaths in the Whiteless are very overgrown. Agreed that we advise BTCV that we have some footpath work if they would like to come and talk to us.

Millennium Green; quote received for clearance of sludge from the beck and cutting back of overhanging vegetation in the amount of £750 plus VAT. Also for resurfacing the loose stone footpath at a cost of £410 plus VAT. (Cllrs Adamson and Marshall declared an interest). Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that these quotes be accepted; agreed. Cllr Marshall asked to be able to speak to Steve Quartermain before this goes ahead. It was noted that regard must be given to the nesting season.

Carrs Field; additional insurance premium of £157.50 for this year following undercharge. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that this be paid.

HDC re Thirsk Finger Post Project; HDC have sent suggested wording for each of the fingers and this was circulated. They have received a quote of £740, but further quotes are being sought.

To receive and decide upon quotations received for works to the Alleyways:

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be suspended to allow District Cllr Hubbard to speak.

District Cllr Hubbard advised that money could be available to

do two of the alleyways, i.e. the TIC Yard and Batemans Yard. Three quotes have been obtained and the amounts were put to the meeting. Cllr Robinson was not happy about York Stone being used and Cllr Roberts felt we should see the materials in advance. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the contractors who provided the lowest of the three quotes be contacted and asked for a firmed up price for doing the two alleyways. Also that we approach HDC to attempt to obtain a CAPE grant and also obtain the £5K from the County Council. Proposed Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Watson that we proceed with the attempt to obtain the funding and obtain the firmed up price from the contractor; agreed.  
Proposed Cllr Robinson Seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

**Finger Posts:**

Members had now had an opportunity to look at the proposal. It was agreed there should be a sign to the children's play area. Agreed that the post which is currently green be painted black.

To consider, and where applicable decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:  
Additional street light in Hambleton Drive; Cllr Marshall advised that the post is now in place.  
Work to roadways on St James; Green; work finished today.

Ms C Thorpe left the meeting.

Grass verge outside Foxwynd; Steve Pimperton to be reminded.  
Floodlighting of St Mary's Church; Cllr Adamson suggested that there be an official 'switch on' later in the year when the evenings are darker. The Rector to be asked whether there is anyone he would like to invite to do the switching on.  
Dog bins; a reminder to be sent to HDC re the condition of the dog bins.  
Loose cobbles on the Market Place; a chasing letter to be sent to HDC. Additional street light in Todds Court; a chasing letter to be sent to Broadacres.  
It was mentioned that the fencing near the recycling bins in the car park is broken down; HDC to be advised of this.

**To appoint Town Council Committee members:**

The schedule of Committee Members had been circulated to Councillors and this was amended and accepted. Cllr Marshall advised that Committee meetings must be held shortly.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.  
Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing

Orders be suspended to allow District Cllr Hubbard to speak. District Cllr Hubbard asked that he be replaced as the representative on Carrs Field. Agreed that a new representative be appointed when the two new Councillors have been elected. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

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Central Areas - Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Mallett advised that the potholes have been filled and the chippings have been put down. He suggested that a letter be sent to the residents of St James's Green saying we have had this work done and requesting that people weed outside their own properties to assist with our entry to Britain in Bloom.

Also pointing out that parking spaces cannot be reserved with cones. Cllr Mallett advised that the work is starting on the roundabout on Wednesday, but the lamp post on the roundabout requires dealing with; Paul Gilmore to be reminded. A water hydrant has been put on the roundabout and we now have a standpipe and the appropriate licence. Cllr Pack referred to the watering equipment which was purchased by the Town Council some time ago and which could be used. She will find out its location.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Nothing further to report. Cllr Marshall advised that the Committee needs to meet and have a walk round.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing further to report.

**Other Items of Interest and Information:**

Cllr Roberts referred to the landlords' sign board at the entrance to the Industrial Estate, saying it is out of date and covered by a tree. Cllr Marshall to take this up with the Industrial Forum.

Cllr Roberts referred to the mini roundabout at Town End which is in need of repainting. Cllr Marshall and the clerk have both asked County to do this. Cllr Roberts requested that when it is painted they fence round it to protect the paint whilst it is wet.

Cllr Adamson advised that, despite assurances from the County Council that they would remove the soil from the Tranmire Beck, this has not been done and further soil has now been deposited on top of it.

Cllr Adamson advised the meeting that he has been appointed a Member of the County Council's Area Committee for Hambleton.

Cllr Watson advised that there had been a fire at Town End the previous weekend.

Cllr Mallett advised that the sign for St James's Green to Waterside has now gone; HDC to be advised.

Cllr Jackson raised the question of street names when the new housing estate off Station Road is built, pointing out that the site has a history. A letter to be sent to HDC requesting that they bear the history of the site in mind when deciding on street names.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the judging is to take place during the afternoon of 8th August. HDC to be reminded of this in order that they can ensure that the town is cleaned up.

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Thirsk in Bloom have engaged someone on a three month trial to water the hanging baskets. A donation of £650 has been received. Cllr Watson reported on two very good Liaison Committee meetings which have been held. At one of the meetings Cllr Watson had expressed concern regarding the two further beds, which have been dug out in the picnic area and Thirsk in Bloom are looking into this. Mill Gardens has been replanted. At the Liaison Committee Meeting the judges's proposed route was outlined and it was pointed out that they may come into the railway station.

Cllr Pack advised that Rotary have got their banners up and negotiations are taking place with Rotary for the Thirsk in Bloom banners to go up when the Festival banners come down.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 20th June 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, J Jackson, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, District Cllr S Hubbard, Ian Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times) 1 member of the public and the clerk.

**Apologies:**

Cllr R Mallett (away), County Cllr G Dadd (another engagement); agreed.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

Cllr Marshall proposed that the Item 5 be dealt with next followed by an extra item on flooding; agreed.

**Open forum:**

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be suspended; agreed.

Mrs Van Paris advised the meeting that she lives next to the grassed area in Herriot Way and is experiencing problems with youths playing football and causing damage to her property and to the fence. Cllr Marshall suggested that the appropriate sub committee carry out a site visit and report back to the next meeting with their proposals. Cllr Hubbard suggested that, as a temporary measure, a wire fence be erected and it was also felt that some planting would help.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that Standing Orders be reinstated. Mrs Van Paris left the meeting.

**Flooding:**

Cllr Marshall referred to the severe weather the previous day which had caused flooding in some parts of the town. She thanked Cllr Roberts and the Clerk for helping Mrs Konieczny whose house was flooded, as were other properties in Finkle Street, Riverside Mews, Nursery Gardens etc. Cllr Marshall has spoken to County and District Council Officers. She paid tribute to the excellent work of the fire brigade. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that there was no 'official' person in the Market Place the previous evening. She was informed that the Hambleton Flood Room was not activated because they did not receive sufficient calls and the emergency was under police control. Cllr Adamson expressed concern that HDC are

considering putting a wall along the Cod Beck.  
Cllr Marshall advised that she has asked for a briefing on the flooding report and it is due to go to the Flood Forum in July. The Environment Agency are wanting to hold a Flood Surgery next week on Wednesday and the Town Hall was suggested. Cllr Jackson felt that any future plans which involved drainage into the Cod Beck should be refused. Cllr Marshall advised that she had been asked about setting up a disaster fund. Because of complications doing this, it was agreed that this should not be done, but if such a fund is set up by another organisation then the Town Council would support it.

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**Police Report:**

No member of the Police present.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Dadd had supplied a written report. Further clarification of the item referred to as 'Legible Town Project' to be requested.

District Council

Nothing to report.

**Matters Arising:**

P0156 Community Education; reply received from NYCC advising that they are considering the recommendations to make to members about the way forward.

P0156 Street lighting at Hambleton; Cllr Marshall reported that the site visit by the lighting engineers has taken place.

They are proposing to install two extra lights.

P0157 White Mare Roundabout; landscaping work now completed.

P0157 Roadways on The Green; work now done.

P0157 Presentation by PCT; they have been invited to attend the Town Council meeting on 20th July.

P0157 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall; Scheme received from the Charity Commissioners; the clerk to check this against the agreed draft.

P0157 Two further floodlights for St Mary's Church; John Howse has been reminded about the information HDC require.

P0157 Cycleway on Topcliffe Road; reply sent to NYCC .

P0157 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; a further letter sent to NYCC.

P0157 Blakey Lane; work now completed.

P0158 Herbage Agreement on Castlegarth; amended, signed and returned to Thirsk Hall Estates.

P0158 Seats near the river; site meeting held and seats to be put in place shortly.

P0158 Blue Plaque; the blue plaque commemorating John Gilbert Baker in Bakers Alley was unveiled by Professor Simon Owens, the Keeper of the Herbarium at Kew Gardens, on 25th May.

P0159 Closure of the gents&#146; toilet in Millgate; letters sent to HDC and the police.

P0159 Application for a Public Entertainments License at The Lord Nelson approved with several conditions (official notification of this not yet received).

P0160 Hambleton Community Safety Partnership re Community Safety Launch event on 24th May; this was cancelled and a new date has now been arranged; Cllr Mallett to attend.

P0160 Independent Memorial Inspections; quote obtained and passed to Cllr Adamson.

P0160 HDC Local Development Framework; comments submitted.

P0160 Appointment of Town Council Committee Members; done at the meeting on 2nd June.

P0160 Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth; acknowledgement received to application for Scheduled Monuments Consent.

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**Finance:**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

M I'Anson skip hire for Millennium Green clean up £146.88

CE & CM Walker grasscutting for May £1,586.25

Jackson Plant Hire removing fallen tree from The Holmes £94.00

Chris Dunning clearing tree roots on The Holmes and Clearing up trees from Carrs Fields £155.10

Allianz Cornhill Insurance premium for floodlights £98.89

Michael Holliday cleaning bus shelter and notice boards £44.00

Staples stationery £119.83

HDC ; Rent of Town Council Office, qtr comm. 1.6.05. £660.94

HDC Rates of Town Council Office, July 2005 £64.00

Kirkgate House Hotel tea following unveiling of plaque £55.00

Graffiti Removal (Yorkshire) Ltd removal of graffiti from clock £117.50

M.L. Burnett £150; Refixing seat on Castlegarth, putting up plaques £198.75

C.A. Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Elaine Coulson £150; reimbursement for items purchased at Farmway for Long Street Enhancement Project £53.87

S. Hubbard reimbursement of additional premium for Carrs Field £157.50

Julie Harron Salary, June 2005 £287.18  
Elaine Coulson Salary, May 2005 £1,016.37  
Inland Revenue Tax/NI, May 2005 £576.62  
Anderton Overton Designs artwork for Interpretation Boards  
£1210.25  
Carrs Field fixing bins, putting up basketball net £452.27  
Dean Landscapes Landscaping White Mare Roundabout £2199.61  
Surfacing works on St James Green £4230.00  
Paid Since last meeting  
BT office telephone £140.37  
Petty Cash £40.03

Income received  
Burial Board: Rent £397.12  
Interments £220.00  
Grave Purchase £220.00  
Memorials £98.00  
Bank Interest £32.73

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget  
for May 2005 (copies already circulated to Councillors):  
Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that these be  
approved.

To receive update and decide upon quotation received for work  
to Alleyways:  
A firm quotation has been received from Leehill Construction.  
A sample of the paving slabs had been provided and concern was  
expressed that this is riven stone. Cllr

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Adamson felt that safety was of paramount importance. Cllr  
Robinson expressed the view that we should investigate what  
other materials could be used. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded  
Cllr Watson that other materials be investigated; agreed. The  
Town Council thanked Cllr Hubbard for all his hard work.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials  
Plot F3 13 June Ford  
Plot C1 13 Sarah Jane Calvert  
Plot FF 7 Margaret Rose Cameron  
Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Adamson that these be  
approved, but with a condition that in view of the fact that  
June Ford is a recent interment, six months be allowed to  
elapse before the memorial is put in place.

Correspondence

John Gaunt & Partners Notice advising that Neil Carter is continuing as Licensee of The Black Bull but Andrea Carter is no longer to be joint Licensee  
Autolink Concessionaires (A19) Ltd - Notice re maintenance of carriageway of the A168 Southbound carriageway between B1448 Thirsk and A167 Topcliffe from 18th to 27th June.  
D.E. Adamson Letter of congratulations to Derek Gardiner on his being awarded the MBE. Agreed that a letter be sent from the Town Council.  
Hambleton Community Safety Partnership re Launch Event; agreed that Cllr Mallett should attend this.  
HDC offering Planning Training; it was agreed that on site training would be useful and it was suggested that Sowerby and Carlton Miniott Parish Councils should be invited to attend.  
HDC re Appointment of Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee; Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Robinson that Cllr Adamson should stand for nomination - Cllr Adamson agreed to do this.  
HDC re Quality Parish Status and Training for Clerks; meeting about this at HDC on 12th July.  
HDC re Local Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation; notice re surgeries and meetings to be held. The one in Thirsk is on 24th August at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson reported that a lot of spoil has been removed from the Cemetery and some tree stumps have also been removed. Cllr Adamson to read the report and estimate from Independent Memorials Inspection and he will then call a Burial Board meeting. Cllr Morton has asked Edward Jackson to provide a quote for running water to the top of the Cemetery.

To discuss the junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street: Cllr Robinson referred to the large number of vehicles, which exit from Chapel Street and to the bottlenecks which occur there. He suggested that a mini roundabout be installed near the top of Chapel Street, which he felt would be of great benefit and aid the free flow of traffic. Cllr Watson was concerned there was not enough space for a roundabout, but Cllr Robinson felt this would be adequate and would slow the traffic down on Westgate and Castlegate. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that a letter be sent to Eddie Hayward requesting a site meeting.

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To receive applications for co-option to the Town Council to fill two vacant seats and to decide upon these:  
Applications had been received from Mrs Cynthia Hesmondhalgh

and Tarek Ghouri. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that both applicants be co-opted onto the Town Council; agreed.

**Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that all is going well at East Thirsk. A school governors meeting is to be held this week.

Reporting on the Clock Café, Cllr Pack said they had received a letter from Charles Clark saying he was very impressed with the project. The Café is now back in order following the flood, but new premises are still being sought. A film to promote the work of the Clock Café is being produced and this will be sent to potential funders. Cllr Pack reported that a lot of day to day work takes place at The Clock and she stressed the importance of the Thirsk Clock to the community. Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust. They have a problem because of the poor condition of the changing rooms. Cllr Jackson recommended that they be invited to come to a Town Council meeting, together with Sowerby Parish Council in order that they can put their case and we can look at our commitment; agreed. A joint meeting to be arranged.

Members

Cllr Watson had been to a health meeting concerning the Friarage Hospital. Concern had been expressed at that meeting re the deficit. The budget is to be discussed at a meeting next week. At the meeting Cllr Watson had raised the question of the kitchens having been condemned. Cllr Watson requested that any presentation by the PCT should be open to the public.

**Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item.**

Agreed that the Barker Partnership be appointed to carry out the internal audit again this year.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 7th July 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Thirsk Regeneration Initiative Office**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, T Ghouri, J Jackson, C Pack, R Mallet, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News), 1 member of the public and the clerk.

**Apologies:**

Cllrs C Hesmondhalgh (attending Festival event), A Morton (working at Festival event) and S Hubbard.

Cllr Marshall proposed that a two minute silence be held to remember those who had been killed or injured in the bombings which had occurred in London that day. She also proposed to send a letter of condolence to the Mayor of London and at a later date a letter congratulating them on winning the 2012 Olympics; agreed. Cllr Jackson requested that the letters should also be sent to the Lord Mayor.

Cllr Marshall welcomed Cllr Ghouri to his first meeting and explained that the other new Councillor, Cllr Hesmondhalgh, was not able to attend owing to a prior booking at a Festival event.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts subject to an amendment on P168 and two on P172 which were added for clarification purposes.

**Open forum:**

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

Responding to the item raised by Mrs Van Paris at the previous meeting, Cllr Marshall apologised to Mrs Van Paris for the fact that the sub-committee had not held a site meeting re the recreational land in Herriot Way. However, Cllr Marshall advised that she knows the site well and she felt it would be a good idea to plant some prickly plants to form a hedge there and possibly put up a fence. However, Cllr Marshall explained that it is not a good time to plant a hedge and Mrs Van Paris said she would be happy if something is done when the time is right. It was felt the hedging plants would need to be a good size. Agreed that we should speak to Chris Amy.

Mrs Van Paris left the meeting.  
Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

**Matters Arising from the meeting held on 2nd June 2005:**

P0163 Vacancy for Town Councillors; both vacancies have now been filled by co-option.

P0163 Seats near Cod Beck; seats now in place.

P0163 Seat Maintenance; Chris Amy has been reminded and has been asked to do the benches and tables in the Picnic Area within the next two weeks. Malcolm Burnett has been asked to repair the seat in the Market Place.

P0163 White Mare Roundabout; the landscaping work has now been completed. The electrical pole is still in place.

P0163 Long Street Enhancement; work now completed.

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P0163 Alleyways; Cllr Marshall advised that District Cllr Hubbard is talking to the contractor re prices for alternative materials. It is not intended to proceed with this until all the funding is in place.

P0164 Sponsorship; letter of thanks sent to All Kitchens Great and Small;. Letter sent to Bagby Parish Council.

P0164 Public Entertainments Licence at The Lord Nelson;. Approved with various conditions regarding the number of events, the timing, attendance and sound proofing.

P0164 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall to speak to Steve Quartermain.

P0165 Items contained in Schedule of Amenity Items; letters sent re the grass verge outside Foxwynd, the dog bins, the loose cobbles in the Market Place, the additional streetlight at Todds Court and the fence near the recycling bins.

P0166 Greens and Ingramgate; the clerk advised that the watering equipment had been located but the pump has been removed. Hosepipes have now been purchased.

P0166 Missing sign on Waterside; HDC advised.

P0166 Street naming on new development on Station Road; letter sent to HDC.

P0166 Signboard on the Industrial Estate; Cllr Marshall advised that the Industrial Forum has now disbanded because of lack of interest. A letter to be sent to HDC re the signboard.

P0166 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; Cllr Adamson advised that this has not been removed.

**Correspondence**

HDC re CCTV Expansion Scheme. They are proposing to install an additional camera on Millgate (plan enclosed with their letter) It was queried whether this will focus on the toilets.

Agreed that there should be an extra camera, but query whether it could be fixed to a building if there is a suitable one rather than being freestanding.

Mike I&#146;Anson - advising that the Thirsk Community Woodland Group hope to undertake some street tree surveys this summer on St James&#146; Green, the Little Green and Ingramgate and will then send a report on each street to the Town Council. Agreed that the Woodlands Group should do this and that they should also be asked to do Stockton Road.

NYCC re new Travel Awareness Project in Thirsk. Sowerby Parish Council has invited a representative to speak at its next meeting on 14th July and have invited the Town Council to this. Agreed that Members of the Town Council will attend Sowerby meetings rather than invite someone to speak at the Town Council meeting. Cllr Watson expressed the hope that such encouragement to walk would not adversely affect the bus services, but Cllr Marshall said that, judging from the Focus Group she had attended, this would not be the case.

HDC Notice re Temporary Footpath Closure on The Flatts from 8th to 10th July for the purpose of the Thirsk Gala.

HDC Local Development Framework, Flood Risk Assessments Stage 1 (copies already circulated to Councillors) Cllr Marshall expressed her disappointment at the fact that this makes no reference to the report which HDC commissioned and which should have been finalised some time ago. Cllr Pack referred to the sandbags which have been left after the flooding. The clerk to ascertain whose duty it is to remove the sandbags. The Flood Risk Assessment document was scrutinised page by page and comments made.

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During this Ms C Thorpe left the meeting. Cllr Mallett joined the meeting.

Mrs Jill Miller re proposed public footpath along Cod Beck; Cllr Marshall advised that she has explained to Mrs Miller that the footpath in question is in the District Wide Local Plan, i.e. before Nursery Garden was built. Agreed that Mrs Miller&#146;s letter be passed to HDC.

Mrs Kilvington re trees on The Ings; Chris Amy has looked at this and says the trees do not appear to be unduly overhanging Mrs Kilvington's property and the roots should not affect either her property or the water table. Agreed that a reply be sent to her advising that we have investigated her claim and taken professional advice and find no basis for it.

Referring to an article in the Thirsk Weekly News; Cllr Roberts expressed her surprise that County Cllr Dadd is apparently still looking at the 20mph proposal for St James Green as it was decided at the County Council Area Committee

for Hambleton Meeting some months ago that this would be implemented. Cllr Marshall explained that the County Council will carry out a formal consultation on the plans. Cllr Adamson to raise this at the County Area Committee meeting on 11th July.

To consider and, where applicable decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity items: Additional street light in Hambleton Place; Cllr Marshall reported that this now has a top on it.

Tarmac patching on Kirkgate cobbles; the clerk had received a complaint regarding the yellow lining on the cobbles which is very uneven; to be reported to the County Council.

Cllr Watson queried whether they are to do the cobbles on the other side of the road; the clerk will enquire.

Broken fencing near the recycling bins; Cllr Adamson asked whether when the fence is repainted it could be painted green.

To receive Reports from the Committees:

Cllr Marshall advised that she will be arranging meetings of the committees.

Carrs Field - Nothing to report. Central Areas - Chris Amy has been asked to repair and paint the tables and benches in the Picnic Area within the next two weeks.

Malcolm Burnett has been asked to take the damaged seat from the Market Place away and repair it.

Cllr Mallett reported that there is a large loose cobble on the north side of the Market Place. A reminder about checking the cobbles on the Market Place has already been sent to HDC.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson requested that; Wired be asked whether they can do the Christmas lights again.

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Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett reported that the Frankland Arms have re-tarmaced at the front of the property. It was felt that we need to sort out who is responsible for the land along Ingramgate. Millennium Green - Nothing to report. Open Areas - Nothing to report. Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Mallett pointed out that the Public Footpath sign is still not up at the Chapel Street end of the Golden Fleece car park.

Concern was expressed at the amount of rubbish on the footpath from the A61 to Castlegarth and the amount of rubbish on Castlegarth.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had received a telephone call from Yorkshire Water concerning the telemetry equipment to go on the Cod Beck.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that a meeting had been held last week at which the route for the judging had been discussed. The route has now been decided and given to the judges. The banners are to go up when the Festival banners come down. A very successful event with Radio York had been held the previous evening. Cllr Pack felt there was a problem with weeds around the town. Thirsk in Bloom are to have a stand at the Festival and the buggy will be going around with the parade.

Cllr Watson reported on the liaison meeting which had been held, during which they had gone round the route the judges will take. During this a list of items which need attention had been drawn up.

Cllr Adamson is to paint the White Bridge and Cllr Marshall will obtain the paint from the County Council.

Cllr Watson reported that Thirsk Station are to put some flower tubs there. She has mentioned the state of the grass banking and the flooding in the car park.

Cllr Pack had received a letter from Gary Brown promising to paint the litter bins and the dog bins.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that graffiti is re-appearing in the alleyway near the Clock Café.

It was pointed out that there are no bus timetables in the timetable cases.

Cllr Marshall expressed concern at a report in the Thirsk Weekly News, which mentioned the level of support given by the Town Council to Thirsk in Bloom and which was inaccurate.

A copy of an e-mail from Tony Jordan to the Thirsk Weekly News had been received in which he pointed out that he had been wrongly quoted. Cllr Mallett felt we should write to the Thirsk Weekly News.

Cllr Pack stressed the need for positive reporting.

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Cllr Roberts felt the Town Council should have information on how much money Thirsk in Bloom has, as the only information we have is how much support they receive from the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 18th July 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, T Ghouri, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News), 3 members of the public and the clerk.

**Apologies:**

District Councillor S Hubbard.

Cllr Marshall welcomed the two new members, Cllrs Ghouri and Hesmondhalgh to the Town Council.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th July 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett; accepted.

**Police Report:**

No representative of the Police present.

Cllr Watson queried whether there had been any incidents during the Festival.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Marshall felt it was necessary for us to inform the County Council that the Town Council had supported the 20mph scheme on St James' Green. Cllr Dadd advised that he had been asked to approve the scheme which the County Council have produced in order that it can go out to consultation. Cllr Dadd has consulted with local residents from whom there was a mixed reaction. Cllr Dadd has asked the County Council to produce an alternative low cost experimental scheme. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council asked the County Council to produce the scheme but the Town Council has not been consulted and it will not be until Cllr Dadd has approved the scheme for consultation - he confirmed he has now done this. Cllr Roberts pointed out that the 20mph scheme was for the Market Place and the only thing the Town Council asked for was that the sign denoting the extent of the 20mph zone be moved to the end of Stammergate, with no alterations to the road.

Cllr Dadd advised that the Community Education Committee Report will be going out in September and there will be full consultation on it.

Strong representations have been made to Government for

financial help with flooding.

Cllr Pack pointed out that the 40mph signs on Station Road and the signs on Stammergeate are very dirty.

District Council

Cllr Marshall advised that HDC had its District Council Meeting last week. HDC have been capped by government. Two extra meetings to re-set the budget are to be held. Cllr Pack asked what services will be cut and Cllr Marshall said this will not be known until August. Reporting on flooding, Cllr Marshall said the Leader had praised the Council Officers for the work they had done during the flooding, particularly in the villages. HDC is to

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spend £100K on flooding, £25K/£26K on the immediate clear up and the rest on further work. Cllr Marshall wishes to know how much of this is to tackle the issues in Thirsk. Cllr Marshall had referred to the Thirsk Flood Alleviation Report and the Leader said this has been agreed. However, Cllr Marshall pointed out that it has been out to consultation but not agreed. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Steve Quartermain about getting jobs done by the District Council for Thirsk in Bloom and some work has already been done.

**Open Forum:**

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

Mrs Dodds advised that she had requested that some work be done to the path between Marage Road and the Waterfall. Cllr Marshall explained there are problems with other paths in the town and we will look at it, but cannot guarantee anything at this stage.

Mrs Dodds congratulated everyone involved in the Long Street Enhancement Scheme. Mrs Reynard said that residents using mobility scooters have difficulty getting from Norby as there are no dropped kerbs. This will be taken up with the County Council's Norby Depot. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be reinstated.

**Matters Arising from meeting held on 20th June 2005:**

P0168 Grassed Area in Herriot Way; dealt with at last meeting.

P0168 Flood Surgery; letter received from the Environment Agency - to be dealt with under correspondence.

P0169 Presentation by the PCT; not able to attend because of a public meeting in Masham. A representative of the PCT will come to the meeting on 15th August.

P0169 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Scheme; letter received from Eccles Heddon enclosing draft scheme. Notices have to be

posted for 21 days inviting members of the public to look at the scheme. The clerk to deal with this and to consult with Sowerby Parish Council and the Town Hall Management Committee.

P0169 Seats near the river; seats now in place. HDC have agreed to provide a litter bin.

P0169 Closure of Gents' toilets in Millgate; reply received from Inspector Richardson advising that the Police did not recommend the full closure of Millgate toilets. They had suggested that the men's cubicles only be closed during the winter months.

P0169 Application for a Public Entertainments Licence; now received and reported to last meeting.

P0171 Planning training; members of Carlton Miniott Parish Council would like to attend if an 'on site' session can be arranged for the Town Council. An invitation to be sent to Sowerby Parish Council.

P0171 HDC re Quality Parish Status and Training for Clerks; follow up letter in tabled correspondence.

P0171 Burial Board Report; quote received for running water pipe to the top of the Cemetery. Obtaining quotes from Swifts for connecting up.

P0171 Junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street; letter sent to Eddie Hayward requesting a site meeting - awaiting reply.

P0172 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; joint meeting arranged.

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P0172 Internal audit; the Town Council books are now with the Barker Partnership, who are carrying out the internal audit.

**Finance:**

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

CE & CM Walker, Grasscutting for June £1,586.25

Mick Hancock - Watering for Thirsk in Bloom £48.00

General Banner Co Ltd - Banners for Thirsk in Bloom £549.90

Sakata Ornamental UK Ltd - Plants for Thirsk in Bloom £892.77

M.L. Burnett - Staining 3 seats and fixing near Picnic Area £255.95

Bespoke Wood Products - Planter for Long Street £458.99

Fox's Copy Centre - Photocopying £57.03

K. Dickinson - cleaning office windows £6.00

Jackson Plant Hire - clearing soil from Cemetery £646.25

Nationwide Visa Services - reimbursement to G Dennison for purchase of hosepipes £134.94

Julie Harron - Salary, July 2005 £287.18  
Elaine Coulson - Salary, June 2005 £1,016.37  
Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, June 2005 £576.62  
C A Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80  
Litter Pick £200.00  
Pollarding on The Holmes £200.00  
Poplar Trees at East Thirsk £375.00  
Removal of storm damaged Sycamore at East Thirsk £20.00  
Hedge cutting in play areas £80.00  
Weeding Little Green shrubbery £50.00  
Tree and hedge work on The Ings £35.00  
NYCC - surface colouring etc on Long Street £10,000.00  
WGC Landscapes Ltd - payment on account re groundwork on Long Street £5,875.00  
Lewis Tree Surgery - landscaping works on Long Street £6,875.21

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for June 2005:  
Proposed accepted Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson.  
Annual Return for 2004/05:  
Statement of Accounts proposed approved Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Adamson.  
Statement of Assurance  
This was completed; proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett.  
Cllr Adamson queried whether money should be put aside to cover the cost of putting a piece in the newspapers saying the books are on display. Agreed that this be looked at later in the year.

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### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

Grave No. F3 7 Lynda Jayne Hudson 'Loo'  
Grave No. F3 14 Reg Skelton  
Grave No. FF 8 Edward (Ted) Beasley  
Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that these be approved, but with a condition that, in view of the fact that Reg Skelton is a recent interment, six months be allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place.

### **Correspondence**

NYCC - Notice re Proposed Prohibition of Waiting in Nursery Gardens  
Defra - Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005  
HDC - Appointment of Second Parish Council Representative to the Standards Committee  
NYCC re Works in Thirsk Market Place; timetable to be

circulated to Councillors. Letter to be sent requesting that these be completed in as short a time as possible and that disruption be kept to a minimum.

**Burial Board Report:**

A Burial Board meeting was arranged for 30th July at 10.30am. Cllr Adamson reported that the spoil heap has now been removed and the seat which was donated has been put in place. Nothing further heard re the gas supply to Cemetery Lodge - the clerk to chase. Nothing further heard re the possibility of obtaining further land - the clerk to chase.

Referring to the possibility of getting a worker for the cemetery. Cllr Adamson requested that the Personnel Committee take this forward. Cllr Marshall had received an E-mail from Neil Collinson concerning various matters in the cemetery. She asked the Burial Board to look into these. It was pointed out that Collinson's have an advertising sign on the fence at the corner of Wetlands Lane and it was queried whether consent for this is required.

**Reports:**

**Representatives**

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended his last meeting as a School Governor and was re-elected as a Community Representative. He had also attended his first meeting of the North Yorkshire County Council Area Committee for Hambleton - at this meeting the Black Swan crossing was given the go-ahead. Referring to the School Governors, Cllr Roberts said that Cllr Adamson has represented this Council for a long time and asked that he still report to us.

Cllr Roberts reported that last week the Civic Society had been on a walk around old industrial Thirsk which was very interesting. A CAG meeting had been held last week.

Cllr Pack reported that Thirsk Clock meets in two weeks. Cllr Watson pointed out that more graffiti has appeared in the alleyway - Cllr Pack to look at this.

Cllr Watson reported that the Town Hall Management Committee had held their AGM and she had been elected Chairman, with Mark Robson as Vice-Chair. A meeting had been held with the cleaner regarding the state of cleanliness of the Town Hall.

Quotes are being obtained for the external redecoration works.

The Town Hall Management Committee are now only meeting every other month.

Cllr Watson expressed her concern at the timescale for the works in the town centre and felt the shuttle buses should be well publicised. Cllr Marshall pointed out that it is the responsibility of the County Council to publicise them.

Cllr Mallett reported on Community Education saying the school is trying very hard to keep the Community this in Thirsk.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had attended a CAG walkabout looking at planning applications which had been granted, to see if the work has taken place. There were concerns to be taken up with some of them and with neighbouring properties. Reporting on the Thirsk in Bloom Liaison Committee meeting, Cllr Marshall advised that they had gone round with the Mentor and had come up with a list of items requiring attention by the District and County Councils. These, together with a copy of the route, have been sent to Steve Quartermain and the Chief Executive of the County Council. Thirsk in Bloom have indicated that they would like to replace the old brackets on the Town Clock with new ones and put hanging baskets on it. Cllr Robinson pointed out that it is a Listed structure and planning permission would be required. It was felt that the floral displays around the town were extremely attractive and hanging baskets on the clock might detract from these. It was agreed that Malcolm Burnett be asked to take the old brackets down.

Cllr Ghouri referred to cars speeding on Stockton Road and not slowing down until they reach the mini roundabout at the junction of Long Street/Stammergate. The police to be asked to do a speed trap. Cllr Marshall advised that she is chasing the County Council re the 30mph limit on both Stockton Road and Sutton Road.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh pointed out that there is a dog bin in Woolmoor Close which would be better positioned on Dowber Lane; HDC to be asked to move this. Cllr Pack referred to the state of the ground in the bus shelter and the clock steps; HDC to be asked to clean these.

Cllr Watson asked whether Potts have been to service the clock as they cancelled their last visit; the clerk to chase. Cllr Mallett referred to the litter on Castlegarth and the path leading to it from the A61. Chris Amy has been asked to tidy up Castlegarth and the clerk has spoken to the Manager of Tesco and he has agreed to have the pathway cleared.

Cllr Mallett referred to the long grass on the corner part way down Picks Lane. Cllr Marshall advised that we are trying to establish who owns this piece of land.

Cllr Roberts mentioned the bottom of Blakey Lane where the grass is very long and expressed concern that this is a danger. Cllr Morton felt that it was very difficult to see the chicane which has been constructed under the bridge and asked that the kerbs be whitened to make them more visible. A letter to be sent to the County Council with a copy to Sowerby Parish Council.

Cllr Morton mentioned that during the Festival great difficulty was experienced getting the signals from the bands through and this was because of the hearing loop in the Town

Hall. He suggested a switch is put there. Cllr Marshall asked that Rotary speak to the Town Hall Management Committee. Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the Festival on the Sunday and had judged the floats, announced the winners and presented the prizes. She expressed her compliments to Rotary for another excellent Festival.

Cllr Marshall had attended the North Yorkshire Scouts AGM. She had also been to the County Council Chairmen/Mayor's Event at which she had spoken of the problems caused by flooding in Thirsk.

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Cllr Marshall had been invited to Mrs Sarah Turnbull's 100th birthday at Mitchell House. She was unable to attend and therefore Cllr Watson will attend in her place. Agreed that a floral arrangement in the amount of £20 be purchased and presented to Mrs Turnbull.

Cllr Marshall expressed the view that the Vice Chairman should have a badge or something similar to identify him/her as Vice-Chairman. Agreed to investigate what is available. Cllr Robinson felt that all Councillors should have name badges as a form of identification. Agreed that we should look at producing these for all Councillors.

Cllr Marshall referred to the amenity tip, which is now being administered by a different company and where problems are now being experienced; a letter to be sent to the County Council.

Cllr Jackson referred to the staff car parking area at Tesco which is not being used. Agreed that a letter be sent to Tesco.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 4th August 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, District Cllr S Hubbard, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr T Ghouri (working late), Inspector J Richardson (North Yorkshire Police); accepted.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to two amendments on page P0182.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 7th July 2005:**

P0173 Letters of condolence following London bombings; reply received from Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London.

P0173 Seat maintenance; seat painting being carried out at present. The benches in the Picnic Area have now been treated. Malcolm Burnett coming tomorrow to repair the seat in the Market Place.

P0174 Alleyways; quote now received from Leehill Construction for surfacing the TIC Yard and Batemans Yard with sawn stone flags at a price of £14,040.41 for the TIC Yard and £9,214.31 for Batemans Yard or £22,577.34 for the two. Samples of the stone to be provided. Cllr Marshall outlined the problems currently being experienced in trying to obtain a grant from HDC. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Jackson that, subject to being satisfied with the materials, we go ahead with both the TIC Yard and Batemans Yard at the quoted price of £22,577.34 for the two; agreed. Cllr Marshall pointed out that we will need to give notice to the properties fronting the alleyways.

P0174 Sponsorship; awaiting reply from Bagby Parish Council.

P0174 Items contained in the Schedule of Amenity Items; the fence near the recycling bins has now been repaired. HDC advise that they have an ongoing programme of cobble repairs.

P0174 Signboard on the Industrial Estate; reply received from HDC advising that updating this will be dealt with as part of a complete package of signboard improvements. In the meantime the tree will be trimmed back.

P0174 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; a further letter sent to the County Council.

P0174 Thirsk Community Woodland Group tree survey; reply received confirming that they will also do Stockton Road.  
P0174 Sandbags; HDC advise that it is the duty of residents to dispose of sandbags. However, these are normally kept for future use. Referring to flooding, Cllr Marshall advised that briefing on the Flooding Report is to go out on 15th August. Cllr Marshall also advised that HDC have been sending out a newsletter entitled 'Flash Flooding' and they are now up to version 5. These have been sent to the villages but not to Thirsk and Cllr Marshall has asked that they be sent to the Town Council. P174 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall had contacted Steve Quartermain and he is to get back to her on this.

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P0175 Public footpath along Cod Beck; letter sent to HDC enclosing the letter from Jill Miller.

P0175 Trees on The Ings; reply sent to Mrs Kilvington; further letter received from her which crossed in the post with the Town Council letter.

P0175 Tarmac patching on the cobbles; the uneven state of the yellow lining on the cobbles has been reported to Steve Barker. He is to see whether this can be improved. He does not think it was the intention to do the cobbles on the other side of Kirkgate, but will look into this. It was pointed out that the cobbles outside the Herriot Centre are the ones most in need of attention.

P0175 Tables and benches in the Picnic Area; Chris Amy has painted these.

P0175 Damaged seat in the Market Place; Malcolm Burnett will be doing this tomorrow.

P0175 St James' Green; Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has still not been consulted on this. A letter to be sent to County asking when they are going to consult us.

P0175 Christmas lights; the clerk is attempting to contact Wired.

P0175 Litter on Castlegarth; Chris has been asked to clear this. Tesco are to do the footpath from the A61 to Castlegarth. Letter received from Mrs G Hartley complaining about the litter on Castlegarth and on the paths from the A61 and the one from Castlegarth into Castlegate. Cllr Marshall has advised that a litter bin has been purchased and is awaiting being put in place on Castlegarth. Cllr Marshall asked that a letter be sent to the Senior School in anticipation of the new term regarding the dropping of litter. It was agreed that the next time a litter bin is purchased we get one with a receptacle for either chewing gum or cigarette waste.

P0176 Telemetry equipment to go on Cod Beck; telephone call

received from the Environment Agency advising that they are having some difficulty obtaining the consent of the landowner. Cllr Watson to liaise with the clerk re speaking to him.

P0176 Litter bins and dog bins; most of these have now been painted by HDC.

P0176 Report in 'Thirsk Weekly news'; letter sent.

P0176 White Bridge; Cllr Pack thanked Cllr Adamson for painting the White Bridge.

P0177 Thirsk in Bloom; Cllr Pack to supply the information requested re the accounts.

### **Correspondence**

Bow House re advertisement in Herriot Country Guide 2006. The question of whether or not to add information about disc parking was discussed, but it was proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded by Cllr Watson that the advert as existing should be placed.

It was felt that a better picture of the Town Clock surrounded by floral displays should be taken. Cllr Marshall felt it would be useful to know how many copies of this publication are sent out; agreed we should ask David Shields for information about this.

E-mail from Paul Greenaway of NYCC re the works to be carried out in the Market Place. These could be done during four weekdays or on two weekends. The suggestion was made that this should be carried out during two weekends at the end of September. The motion was put to the vote; 6 in favour, 2 against; carried.

### **Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:**

Streetlight in Hambleton Place; Cllr Marshall reported that this is now lit.

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Emergency Plan; letter sent to people who had volunteered to be wardens enquiring whether they are still interested.

Deadline given of 31st July and not all have responded.

Thirsk Station; Cllr Watson reported that she had spoken to Mr Monahan of Transpennine Express who has assured her that tidying up works will be carried out on Sunday. Clearing weeds and tidying up the car park is on their repairs and maintenance programme. Planters on the platforms are to be replenished with more colourful plants. 4 hanging baskets to be put in for a trial period of three months. Weeds will be removed from the platforms. They are unable to deal with the embankment as this is owned by Railtrack. Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Watson for her work with this.

**Committee Reports:**

An updated list of Committee Members and of representatives had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Mallett that the list of Representatives be accepted; agreed. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack that the list of Committee Members be accepted; agreed. Cllr Marshall pointed out that a Trustee for Carrs Field is still required.

Carrs Field - A basketball pole has been put up and two litter bins are now in place.

Central Areas - Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities - Currently trying to contact Wired re lights. The Christmas Fayre Committee are waiting to hear the outcome of their grant application.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett reported that the Personnel Committee had met the previous day and had appointed a man to water the White Mare Roundabout and Long Street. Cllr Mallett is to show him how to do the roundabout and Graham Denison will show him what is required on Long Street. Two telegraph poles have been erected on St James's Green; a letter to be sent to BT. A letter is being sent to all residents of the Green re weeding outside their own properties and not coning off parking spaces.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that we have had notification from Rospa advising that they will be coming in September. There is currently a problem with vandalism to the swings at East Thirsk Play Area. The Open Areas Committee is looking at putting signs on all the Town Council's various pieces of land denoting their ownership. A quote for doing the path across East Thirsk Play Area was accepted about two years ago but the work has still not been done. Dean Landscapes to be asked to quote.

**Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.**

**Other Items of Interest and Information:**

Cllr Marshall reported that she has been invited by Richmond Town Council to a Heritage Day on 16th September.

Cllr Adamson pointed out that the bins in the Picnic Area are not being emptied regularly. Cllr Marshall explained that there had been a problem because the

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temporary sweeper did not know the location of the Picnic Area. Cllr Marshall advised that we have asked HDC to provide a bin near the three new seats outside the Picnic Area.

Cllr Watson reported that she and the clerk had taken a floral arrangement to Mrs Sarah Turnbull at Mitchell House on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Cllr Watson suggested that the Town Council purchase a digital camera, however, Cllr Mallett offered to use his for any Town Council requirements.

Cllr Watson reported that there is an ongoing problem with a smell from the drains on Kirkgate; a letter to be sent to Highways.

Cllr Roberts expressed her concern that a member of Thirsk in Bloom had been weed spraying in Mill Gardens, i.e. on Town Council property, without a licence and asked that this be brought to the attention of Thirsk in Bloom. Cllr Pack asked that this be brought up at the Liaison meeting

Cllr Mallett referred to the parking outside Gillings Court, which is no longer marked. Cllr Marshall advised that this is a lay-by and therefore is not marked. Cllr Marshall expressed her concern at the fact that Gillings Court wish to remove some trees. Cllr Roberts advised that the Town Council's Planning Committee has requested that all three trees be replanted in the area. The Planning Committee is also writing to HDC asking that when they give permission for tree removal they impose a condition that they be replanted.

Cllr Mallett referred to the piece of grass opposite Gillings Court which is regularly being parked on. HDC to be asked who owns this land.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that at the end of Chapel Street there is a sign saying 'Private Parking' which deviates from the fact that there is a car park. Cllr Marshall advised that it is intended to put up a finger post.

Cllr Mallett advised that the combined waste/dog bin which was in the river has now gone. HDC to be asked for a replacement, if possible with a chewing gum receptacle.

Cllr Jackson referred to the surface water drains and Cllr Marshall requested that people keep an eye on the gullies and report any that are blocked. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Highways about the flooding problem outside the Old Sorting Office. Cllr Pack queried whether businesses in the town should clear their own drains as these can cause flooding.

Cllr Morton referred to work required to the organ in St Mary's Church and gave details of the sponsorship of organ pipe scheme.

Cllr Hubbard indicated a wish to speak and it was proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be suspended.

Cllr Hubbard referred to an article he had read in which Hastings Borough Council have taken measures against owners of derelict buildings to compel them to upgrade buildings.

Cllr Hubbard is to take this up with HDC and he asked if the Town Council would do the same. It was agreed that the Town Council would support this. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Marshall appealed to all Town Councillors to do their bit between now and the judging next Monday. She thanked the County and District Councils for all the work they have done and also the Town Council, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

Letters of thanks are to be sent to the County and District Councils. Cllr Marshall also expressed her appreciation to her neighbours who have donated and planted geraniums on the

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plinth on Sutton Road. Cllr Marshall thanked all the residents who are also participating and all the Thirsk in Bloom volunteers.

Cllr Pack also thanked the County and District Councils for their hard work and the Town Council for its support.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 15th August 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times), Simon Kirk (Chief Executive of the Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT), Inspector J Richardson (North Yorkshire Police) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs T Ghouri (away), R. Mallett (late arrival &#150; other commitment), A Morton (family commitment), C Pack (family commitment), F. Roberts (away), District Cllr S Hubbard (away)

**Presentation by Simon Kirk, Chief Executive of the Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT:**

Mr Kirk explained that the PCT was created in 2002 with the express intention of having a more local focus. The Community Care Services came out of the old Trust into the PCT. It is hoped that by the end of the year the maximum waiting times will not be more than 13 weeks for outpatients and six months for hospitalisation. Mr Kirk outlined the services financed by the PCT, i.e. GPs, hospitals, emergency ambulance cover, district nurses, occupational therapists and physiotherapists. The PCT is also responsible for mental health care, both in The Friarage and in the community. They were awarded three stars for mental health care this year. Mr Kirk advised that the Friarage Hospital has 250 beds, 1000 staff and the full range of specialists normally found in a General Hospital. There are proposals to reduce the PCTs in North Yorkshire from the current four. Mr Kirk advised that there has been a huge investment in the IT systems and said that ultimately it will be possible to book a hospital appointment from home. Cllr Jackson referred to the night time cover and Mr Kirk explained that night time cover was the GP&#146;s responsibility, but under the terms of the new contract the PCT is responsible for providing out of hours general medical cover. Cllr Marshall referred to a meeting she had attended some time ago re the possibility of setting up a health village. Mr Kirk said there was no short term answer to this because of the problems of finding sufficient land and also the financing to do it. However, he stressed that the Lambert Hospital is very safe. Cllr Robinson pointed out that more and more houses are being built, referring particularly to the development on Station Road, and the doctors are full to capacity. Mr Kirk advised

that it should be possible to see a health care professional within 24 hours and a GP within 48 hours. Cllr Robinson advised that there is only one dispensary in the town and people have to wait a long time for prescriptions to be made up. Mr Kirk replied that it is necessary to have specific information in order to be able to look into this. Cllr Marshall asked that if anyone has any details of waiting times for prescriptions they should give the details to the clerk and she would pass them on to Mr Kirk. Cllr Marshall thanked Mr Kirk for attending the meeting.

**Police Report:**

Inspector Richardson reported that seven extra probationers have joined the Police Force in North Yorkshire, a number of which have come into Thirsk. New PCSOs are

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coming into the district as a result of Government funding and Inspector Richardson felt it was looking promising for the next 2-3 years. The number of damage offences in Thirsk has dropped but there has been an increase in the number of late night assaults despite a lot of police presence in the Market Place. There has been a spate of shed burglaries and another incident with a BB gun. There has been a 90% detection rate on violent crime and the work on the neighbourhood policing team continues. There had been very few problems at the Thirsk Festival and no major incidents at the recent race meetings. With the start of the football season there may be numbers of football fans coming into the town, but there is additional staffing in place for this in both Thirsk and Northallerton. Cllr Marshall mentioned recent problems with damage to seats in Mill Gardens. Cllr Marshall referred to the garages at Hambleton Place;. Inspector Richardson asked the Town Council to take this up with Broadacres in the first instance and then the police will take it up if necessary. Cllr Marshall referred to caravans going up and down Sutton Bank and asked how this was affecting the police cover locally. Inspector Richardson replied that there had not been a particular spate this year. He confirmed that the police take action against drivers taking caravans up and down Sutton Bank.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4th August 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

**Reports:**

a) County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that the nominations for School Governors have been completed and replies are awaited. He advised that

there had been an issue with skips at Norby, but hopefully this is now resolved. Some skips have been removed and the rest will be very shortly. Referring to the road closures whilst the roadworks are taking place in the town centre, Cllr Dadd advised that the County Council has taken the advice of the Thirsk Business Association and the works will be carried out on Tuesday to Friday inclusive. Cllr Dadd referred to the proposed 30mph scheme on Station Road, saying he has approved this. Cllr Dadd reported on various matters from the latest County Council meeting. Cllr Dadd is consulting with Norby Depot and Norby residents re the request for dropped kerbs. Cllr Dadd has spent some time at Cherry Garth and he is to look at the Extra Care Scheme at Stokesley. Cllr Dadd stressed that the needs of residents of Cherry Garth will be paramount. Cllr Adamson referred to the soil, which has been dumped in the Tranmire Ditch and which, despite letters from the Town Council, has not been removed.

**b) District Council**

Cllr Marshall advised the HDC held a special Council meeting last week at which the Council Tax was re-set following the capping. A list of proposed works have been put on a deferred list whilst they look at the implications of capping for this year and next year.

Cllr Marshall had attended a meeting with Dave McGloin and Chris Vincent on the current status of the Flood Report for Thirsk. HDC are talking to Defra and the Environment Agency. The score by which they would get funding for Thirsk is marginal, but they are looking at improving this. They will come back to the Town

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Council in November. The report will be presented at the Flood Forum in September. Cllr Marshall had shown Chris Vincent and Dave McGloin the river bank at the side of Nursery Gardens and they are to look into this.

**Open Forum:**

No members of the public present.

**Matters Arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 18th July 2005:**

P0178 St James's Green; letter sent to the County Council asking when we are to be consulted on this.

P0178 Signs on Station Road and Stammergeate; cleaned before the Thirsk in Bloom judging.

P0179 List of works for Thirsk in Bloom; a lot of work had been done by the County and District Councils in readiness for the judging.

P0179 Dropped kerbs at Norby; letter sent to Norby Depot.  
P0179 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Scheme; notice posted, also sent to Sowerby Parish Council for them to display.  
P0179 Seats near the river; litter bin not yet in place.  
P0179 &#145;On site&#146; planning training; we have suggested the end of September.  
P0179 Junction of Westgate/Castlegarth/Chapel Street; no response from Eddie Hayward as yet.  
P0179 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; meeting being arranged.  
P0180 Internal audit; almost completed.  
P0181 Gas supply to Cemetery Lodge; reported at Burial Board meeting. Nothing from the Gas Board and therefore chased. They are to measure up and come back within four weeks.  
P0182 Thirsk in Bloom; large amount of work carried out by the County and District Councils in readiness for the judging. The brackets have been taken down off the clock and are currently being stored in the Cemetery shed.  
P0182 Speeding on Stockton Road; the police to be asked to do a speed trap.  
P0182 Dog bin; HDC have been asked to move the dog bin into Dowber Lane.  
P0182 Bus shelter in the Market Place; the ground in the bus shelter was cleaned by Cllr Roberts and the clerk prior to the Thirsk in Bloom judging.  
P0182 Litter in Castlegarth; Chris Amy has cleared this and the pathway from the A61 has also been tidied up.  
P0183 Mrs Sarah Turnbull; Cllr Watson and the clerk had taken a floral arrangement to Mrs Sarah Turnbull on her 100th birthday.  
P0183 Badges; the clerk is looking into this.  
P0183 Amenity tip; letter sent.  
P0183 Staff car parking at Tesco; letter sent.

**Finance:**

Accounts for Payment: Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

CE & CM Walker; grasscutting for July £1,586.25  
Staples; Stationery £37.56  
Evershed Products0; planks for seat in Mill Gardens £67.57

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Carrs Field & Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust &; reimbursement To resurfacing skateboard ramp and safety check £799.00  
F.D. Todd & Sons Ltd; emptying Cemetery skip £122.39  
Wybone Ltd; litter bin for Castlegarth £439.84  
Millgate Timber and Hardware; paint/brushes £28.15  
Clerks and Councils Direct0; subscription renewal £99.00

Mick Hancock; watering for Thirsk in Bloom £192.00  
Npower; office electricity £34.28  
Elaine Coulson; reimbursement for floral arrangement for Mrs Sarah Turnbull £20.00  
Julie Harron; Salary, August 2005 (including back pay following increase) £439.53  
Elaine Coulson; Salary, July 2005 (including back pay following Increase) £1,132.60  
Inland Revenue; Tax/NI, July 2005 £651.36  
Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - room hire £170.00  
Power Point; hire of digger £38.78

Paid Since last meeting  
BT; Internet line £93.62  
NYCC; balance of monies re Long Street Enhancement Works £500.00  
WGC Landscapes; balance re Long Street groundworks £427.79

Income received:  
Sponsorship of three quarters of White Mare Roundabout £750.00  
Burial Bd: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12  
Interment Fees £307.00  
Reservation of spaces in GOR £165.00

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for July 2005:  
Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that these be accepted; agreed. Cllr Watson requested that the Town Hall budget figure be included in the budget report.

**Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:**

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that the following applications be approved; agreed:  
Grave No. F3 4 Dorothy Atkinson  
Grave No. FF 10 Anthony Robert Christon  
Additional Inscription:  
Grave No. E3 5 Albert Hurn

**Correspondence**

Notice re Transfer of the Justices' Licence &#150; The Hambleton Divan Hotel, Sutton Road, Thirsk to Helene Elizabeth Green; no objections but would request that the applicant attend an appropriate training course.  
NYCC; re proposed extension of 30 mph speed limit on A61 Station Road

Thirsk School & Sixth Form College; invitation to the Specialist School Launch on 28th September. Cllr Hesmondhalgh

and Watson to attend. The clerk will ask Councillors absent from this meeting if they would also like to attend.

HDC re Quality Parish Council Meeting to be held on 5th October

NYCC; re Minerals and Waste Development Framework Issues and Options Paper and Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Cllr Mallett joined the meeting.

NYCC re Home to School Transport: Hambleton Area Review.

Advising that all home to school transport contracts are due to cease at the end of April 2006 and tenders to replace these services will be issued at the end of September 2005.

Thirsk Festival; letter of thanks for the Town Council's support also requesting the thoughts of the Council re their future strategy.

Cllr Marshall advised that there is to be an official re-opening of St James' Green Church on Saturday 3rd September to which all Town Councillors are invited.

#### **Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson reported that a Burial Board meeting was held recently and the main part of the meeting was dealing with the increase in the Burial Board fees. Awaiting a quote for connecting the water to the mains. Cllr Adamson advised that as part of the inspection of memorials the members of the Burial Board will have to count the number of headstones. He referred to an article in the Abainfo newsletter which says that the owners of the memorials have a duty of care.

#### **To receive and approve the increase in the Burial Board Fees:**

At the Burial Board meeting it had been agreed to increase the fees by 5% across the board. A copy of the proposed fees reflecting this increase had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that these be approved; agreed.

#### **Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Adamson had attended a meeting of the East Thirsk Community Association at which Cllr Marshall had been appointed Chair for a further twelve months.

Cllr Marshall had met the Britain in Bloom judges when they went to the exhibition at the racecourse on the day of the judging.

Members

Cllr Watson asked that a letter be sent to Transpennine thanking them for their work at the railway station prior to the judging. Cllr Watson referred to the trains from York to Thirsk, pointing out that on a Saturday night there are no

trains after 8.30pm. Cllr Adamson pointed out that in some cases short trains are being put on during peak times and school holidays. He also mentioned that the trains are often dirty; a letter to be sent.

Cllr Adamson referred to an outlet from Ingramgate and pointed out that we had correspondence with Yorkshire Water about this some time ago. However, it appears that foul water is still going from there into Cod Beck; a letter to be sent to Yorkshire Water.

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Cllr Mallett had received comments from two parishioners about the work the County, District and Town Councils and Thirsk in Bloom had done in preparation for the judging and they hoped this high standard would be maintained.

Cllr Marshal pointed out that on part of the Industrial Estate there is a storage pond which is now full of weeds. Cllr Marshall reported that a hole had appeared in the footpath on Phase 3 on the Industrial Estate outside Zyro; to be reported to HDC.

Cllr Marshall referred to the cycle track/pathway near the entrance to the Industrial Estate from Sutton Road; trees are growing over this cycle track/pathway. Also no footway or cycle track exists on the other side of the road.

Cllr Marshall reported that the drain outside ATS on Long Street is very smelly; to be reported.

Cllr Marshall referred to the gas works site on Long Street saying this used to be fenced round; a letter to be sent to Transco.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 1st September 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, T Ghouri, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News) and the clerk.

**Apologies:**

Cllr C Pack (family bereavement), District Cllr S Hubbard.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15th August 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to two amendments on Page P0189 and one on Page P0194.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 4th August 2005:**

P0184 Seat maintenance; the seat in the Market Place is still to be repaired.

P0184 Alleyways; a sample of the sawn stone flags was provided to the meeting and it was agreed that this is acceptable and that we should proceed with the two alleyways, as detailed in the previous minutes. It will be necessary to give notice to the occupiers of properties which open onto the alleyways in question. Peter Penny to be asked whether a temporary closure is needed. Cllr Marshall advised that the Town Council has been refused a CAPE grant by HDC. A letter of protest is to be sent to the Leader of the Council and to the Director of Finance. HDC have advised that they would provide streetlights in the alleyways if the Town Council take over the maintenance of them; this is to be pursued.

P0184 Sponsorship; a further letter has been sent to Bagby Parish Council.

P0184 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; reply received from NYCC advising that the amount of soil is minimal, but there is a lot of rubbish in the beck. They suggest that a site meeting be held; Cllr Marshall to attend together with Cllr Watson if available.

P0184 Flash Flooding; newsletter; not yet received.

P0184 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall is awaiting a response from Steve Quartermain.

P0185 St James Green; still not been consulted; a further e-mail has been sent to the County Council.

P0185 Christmas Lights; quote received from Wired and passed to the Christmas Festivities Committee.

P0185 Litter on Castlegarth; litter cleared. The new litter bin is now in place.

P0185 Telemetry equipment to go in Cod Beck; landowner not contacted as yet.

P0185; Herriot Country Guide 2006; Cllr Mallett had taken some photographs of the clock and one had been chosen and sent to Bow House.

P0185 Works in Thirsk Market Place; NYCC advise that these are to be carried out on a Tuesday to Friday inclusive.

P0185 Emergency Plan; letters had been sent to 16 people who had expressed interest in being flood wardens. Of these, 9 had replied and 5 are still interested in being wardens. A meeting to be arranged with these five. Cllr Marshall asked that we check with the Environment Agency that they have the Town Councillors listed on the call-up system as the names and telephone numbers had been supplied to them some time ago.

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P0186 Thirsk Station; the hanging baskets were put up before the Britain in Bloom judging took place.

P0186 Christmas Lights; quote received from Wired.

P0186 Greens and Ingramgate; Peter Dunn has been engaged to water the White Mare roundabout and the planters and beds on Long Street. A letter has been sent to BT objecting to the poles on St James; Green. A letter re weeding and not coning off parking spaces has been done and is to be delivered to all residents of St James; Green.

P0187 Kirkgate drains; smell reported to NYCC. Cllr Watson has also done this.

P0187 Grass opposite Gillings Court; e-mail sent to HDC.

P0187 Replacement bin for The Holmes; e-mail sent to HDC requesting replacement. We will possibly have to meet 50% of the cost of this as it is Town Council land.

P0187 Britain in Bloom judging; letters of thanks have been sent to the Chairman and Chief Executive of both NYCC and HDC.

### **Correspondence**

Thirsk Community Care Association enquiring whether the alleyway in which they are located is to be resurfaced. (Cllr Adamson declared an interest). Reply to be sent advising that there is now a scheme in operation, but their alleyway is not included in the first phase. It will be borne in mind, but, in view of the costs involved, this will be a long term project. Referring to ownership of the alleyways, Cllr Adamson pointed out that if no one owns them then there is a procedure by which the Town Council could take over ownership. However, Cllr Marshall pointed out that there would be a cost implication. Cllr Watson suggested we ask Peter Penny if he

knows who owns them and, if not, if he can do some investigative work. Agreed that the Town Centre Development Committee should deal with this.

NYCC; Plans for the Local Tip; questionnaire (copy already sent to Councillors). Cllr Marshall asked that all Councillors fill this in and pass it on the Clerk by 12th September in order that she can collate the answers and fill in the form. Cllr Roberts suggested that everyone goes to the tip and sees it for themselves. Jacksons Commercial and Private Law ; Notice of Application re the Transfer of the Restaurant and Residential Licence of the Hambleton Divan Hotel to Helene Elizabeth Green; agreed.

HDC re District Parish/Liaison Meeting to be held on 12th September Cllrs Roberts and Watson to attend.

HDC; Hambleton Local Development Framework: Statement of Community Involvement Submission and Core Strategy Preferred Option (already circulated to Councillors); Cllr Hesmondhalgh felt there was a need for a better balance of low cost housing and larger executive type houses. Concern was expressed at the impact on the services and infrastructure and it was felt that such services, e.g. schools etc, should be in place before developments are built. Cllr Adamson referred to the other half of the 7 Acres and suggested it should be used as part of the school

Ms C Thorpe left the meeting.

HDC; copy of letter to the owner of 74 Hambleton Avenue, confirming that the new property next door can be known as 75 Hambleton Avenue.

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NYCC; details and programme of road works to be carried out in the Market Place. E Barker; advising that he will grant access for the Centenary Field to be cut once per year.

Cllr Marshall circulated Walkwise leaflets and step counters to the Members.

**To consider and, where appropriate decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:**

No particular items raised. Ongoing matters to be followed up and chased where necessary.

**To discuss and decide upon the planning application for the construction of 6 apartments on the site of the Salem Chapel:**  
(Cllr Marshall declared an interest)

Cllr Roberts gave details of the application, saying they are proposing 6 apartments on the first and second floors with parking underneath. The design echoes that of the original

Salem Chapel. A letter from the developer points out that this will enable the public footpath to join up with the Nursery Gardens then with the one in the other proposed development and then with The Flatts. Cllr Roberts advised that the Planning Committee is concerned that developments are being done piecemeal and would like HDC to come up with a design brief for the whole of that area. Also concerned at the structure of the walls as the development is likely to be affected by the flooding. There was also a query regarding the responsibility for maintaining the footpath and the garden area. Cllr Adamson pointed out that should this go ahead then arrangements would have to be made for the buried remains to be removed and interred in the Cemetery. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that this be refused. The motion was carried with 8 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Planning application for 14 dwellings on the site of the Old Brewery:

Cllr Adamson pointed out that there is no mention of an archaeological survey being carried out. It was also mentioned that there should be a commuted sum in lieu of a play area. Proposed Cllr Roberts that this should be approved. The motion was carried with 6 in favour and 2 against.

**To hold the first meetings of Committees where these have not already taken place:**

The following Chairs of Committees were appointed:

Carrs Field; proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that Cllr Roberts be elected Chair.

Greens and Ingramgate; proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that Cllr Mallett be elected Chair.

Central Areas; proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that Cllr Watson be elected Chair.

Open Spaces; Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that Cllr Marshall be elected Chair.

Millennium Green; proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that Cllr Hesmondhalgh be elected Chair.

Christmas Festivities; proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Ghouri that Cllr Adamson be elected Chair.

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Town Development; proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Jackson that Cllr Ghouri be elected Chair.

Town Office; proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Cllr Adamson be elected Chair.

Finance; proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that Cllr Marshall be elected Chair.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Cllr Marshall advised that we have had a query that the grass has been cut around the edge of the lower field on the instructions of the Trustees. Cllr Roberts to have a word with the Trustees. Cllr Marshall pointed out that we need to appoint a Town Council Trustee for Carrs Field.

Central Areas - Cllr Marshall pointed out that a tree near Cod Beck has died; it has been reported to HDC. She advised that Rotary have a small amount of money left from the Picnic Area and would like to spend it on something suitable for the Picnic Area; Cllr Watson to look at this.

Christmas Festivities - A meeting to be held following this meeting to look at the quote from Wired.

Greens and Ingramgate - Nothing to report. A query had been received from Luke Miller re sponsorship signs on the White Mare Roundabout. Agreed that the sponsors are to provide their own signs.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Nothing to report. Cllr Marshall pointed out that they need to have a walk round.

Town Development - Nothing to report.

**Other items of Interest and Information:**

Cllr Mallett reported that there appear to be one or two caravans parking in Millgate car park overnight and also some lorries are parking overnight. The rules of the car park to be consulted and, if necessary, a letter to be sent to HDC.

Cllr Watson reported that she had received a letter from Gareth Dadd enclosing a letter from NYCC regarding the Friarage Hospital. They confirm that there are to be no changes to the services provided in the next 3-5 years. All the core services will be maintained and the Accident and Emergency Department will continue to operate on a 24 hour basis.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern that some people say they have been told that the land at East Thirsk is to be used as a football pitch. Cllr Roberts advised that she, together with Cllr Mallett and Mike I'Anson went to a meeting with Dave Goodwin. At that meeting it was agreed that negotiations with the Woodland Trust should be pursued. HDC will fence and gate it and eventually it will be planted up with trees. Dave Goodwin is to speak to the Woodland Trust and then come back to us. The Woodland Trust would look after it and we would not have any costs of future maintenance. The

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Thirsk Woodland Group are keen to work with the Woodland Trust and therefore there would be local input. It was suggested that we ask Easingwold Town Council for their views of the Woodland Trust as they have done a similar exercise in

Easingwold. Dave Goodwin is looking into whether the wooded area near Sutton Court could be incorporated into the scheme. Cllr Marshall advised that the Interpretation Panels for Castlegarth are now ready and we are waiting for Scheduled Monuments Consent. We have agreed to the conditions imposed by English Heritage.

The new metal fence around Gillings Court was mentioned; HDC to be consulted on this.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Marshall pointed out that there appeared to be a lack of watering of some of the containers; to be taken up with Thirsk in Bloom.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 19th September 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, T Ghouri, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times), G Gardner (NYCC 2nd item only) 1 member of the public and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr J Watson (late arrival), Cllr G Dadd (ill), Cllr S Hubbard (another commitment); agreed.

**Talk by Mr Geoff Gardner of NYCC re the Walkwise Project:**

Mr Gardner advised that he is the County Council's Travel Awareness Officer. He explained the various initiatives, such as the walk to school week, and said that it was necessary for any such initiatives to be achievable. Mr Gardner explained that the County Council had looked to do a pilot project and Thirsk was chosen for this. They are looking at how well this has gone in Thirsk and how it should be changed. Cllr Adamson asked whether they had considered pointing out how much could be saved by walking, but Mr Gardner said that cost does not seem to be a great consideration. One of the main factors has been the effect on health. Cllr Ghouri felt that the Walkwise signs could be put on St Marys Estate to encourage walking from there into town. Cllr Pack asked whether they are working with local schools on this and Mr Gardner confirmed that this is the case, although they are mainly targeting the parents as opposed to the children. Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the state of some of the pavements and said these should be more walkable. The Chairman thanked Mr Gardner for attending.

Cllr Watson joined the meeting.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1st September 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

**Police Report:**

Cllr Watson referred to the reports of cut-backs and amalgamation in the press. Inspector Richardson to be asked for an update.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Roberts expressed concern that we have still not been consulted regarding St James Green.

Cllr Marshall advised that Eddie Hayward is to be located at Norby from 1st October.

District Council

Cllr Marshall advised that she is chasing Steve Quartermain re the alleyways. She has also asked him to speak to Broadacres about the metal fencing which has been put up around Gillings Court as it is felt to be out of keeping with the Conservation Area.

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**Open Forum:**

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Konieczny asked whether there is anything further re the flooding defences. Cllr Marshall advised that the District Council had had a presentation by Dave McGloin and Chris Vincent on the Report and the implications of the Report. This is still not finalised but we have asked Dave McGloin to come and speak at our November meeting and by then it should be finished. Cllr Marshall said the upgrading of Cod Beck to a river may not now happen next year. Cllr Marshall said we have made representation to District and County Council Officers because it was felt that Thirsk was ignored on the night of the flooding and has been since.

**Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that Standing Orders be reinstated.**

**Matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 15th August 2005:**

P0189 Presentation by Simon Kirk; Cllr Jackson expressed concern at the difficulties now being experienced in getting an out of hours doctor as they sometimes have to come a long distance. Cllr Marshall suggested that in such urgent cases a 999 call should be made. Cllr Marshall referred to the possible amalgamation of all PCTs in North Yorkshire.

P0190 Soil in the Tranmire Ditch; dealt with at Amenities.

P0190 School Governors; Cllr Marshall advised that under the new regulations she is no longer a Governor of Thirsk Community Primary School. Cllr Roberts suggested we write to County, appealing to their better nature, and pointing out that the School is losing its Chair of Finance; a letter to be sent to the Leader.

P0190 Roadworks in the town; Cllr Robinson felt the road closure signs are very misleading; the matter to be taken up with Paul Greenaway. Cllr Marshall requested that the police be reminded about doing speed checks on Stockton Road/Long Street/Sutton Road.

P0191 St James Green; still nothing on this. A further

reminder has been sent to the County Council.

P0191 Dropped kerbs at Norby; reply received from County advising that a site meeting was held with County Councillor Dadd and a wheelchair user from Norby. Locations for dropped crossings were identified and an order will be prepared for their installation.

P0191 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Scheme; the clerk advised that the notices had been displayed on the notice boards in the town centre and in Sowerby and the members of the Town Hall Management Committee had been notified. At the end of the consultation period she had signed the declaration to the Charity Commissioners. An acknowledgement has been received from Eccles Heddon.

P0191 Seats near the river; litterbin still awaited from HDC.

P0191; planning training; arranged for Tuesday 18th October at 7.00pm in the TRI Office.

P0191 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; meeting still being arranged.

P0191 Junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street; still no response from Eddie Hayward; reminder sent.

P0191 Gas supply to Cemetery Lodge; reply received from British Gas. Original cost of installing gas was £507.61. A revised quote has now been received in the amount

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of £7,476.83. The clerk has contacted British Gas who are to get back to Transco as they feel a mistake has been made by them.

P0191 Litter on Castlegarth; litter bin now in place.

P0191 Badges; still looking into this.

P0193 Burial Board; Swifts have been asked to provide a quote for connecting the water to the mains.

P0193 Burial Board Fees; copies of the new fee scales have been sent to the undertakers in Thirsk and Northallerton and to Collinsons.

P0193 Trains to/from Thirsk; letter sent re lack of trains on Saturday nights the dirty condition of some trains and the fact that shorter trains are sometimes put on at peak times and in school holidays.

P0193 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; letter sent to Yorkshire Water and telephone reply received advising that the engineer will be coming out to look at this.

P0193 Specialist School Launch; now being rearranged for October.

P0194 Drain outside ATS; Cllr Marshall reported that the smell has been caused by a blockage and County have been taking it up.

**Finance:**

a) Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Fox's Copy Centre &#150; Photocopying £21.06

HDC; Rent of TC Office, quarter comm. 1.9.05 £660.94

M L Burnett; removing brackets from Clock, fitting New planks on Mill Gardens seats, Fixing litter bin in Castlegarth,

Repairing seat in Market Place £199.70

The Barker Partnership; Internal audit fee £293.75

BT- Office telephone £127.27

CE & CM Walker; grasscutting, 3rd and 17th August £1,586.25

Cod Beck IDB - Drainage Rates for The Holmes £27.50

Mick Hancock; Watering for Thirsk in Bloom £168.00

Chris Amy: Weekly inspections (2 months) £457.00

Litter Picking (2 months) £500.00

Tree work; The Holmes/Whiteless £195.00

Cutting of Centenary Field and Riverside area £180.00

Julie Harron; Salary, September 2005 £316.60

Elaine Coulson; Salary, August 2005 £1,046.64

Inland Revenue; Tax/NI, August 2005 £628.84

Petty cash £48.19

Paid Since last meeting

Arco Ltd: 6 high visibility waistcoats £77.48

P. Dunn; watering White Mare Roundabout and Long Street £26.68

Jan Marshall; reimbursement for plants for WM Roundabout £24.99

Yorkshire Water; renewal of standpipe licence (3 months) £118.30

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Income received

Sponsorship of White Mare Roundabout £1,000.00

Bank Interest £59.55

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £747.00

Grave Purchases £440.00

Memorials £49.00

b) To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for August 2005

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts that these be approved

. c) To receive report on the Internal Audit 2004/5:

The clerk advised that the Barker Partnership have carried out the internal audit. Their written report is awaited, but they had no queries and no items of concern on the accounts. They referred to the Financial Regulations, which do not appear to

cover how the Town Council deal with contracts between £1K and £10K. Cllr Adamson advised that these were amended some time ago to cover this.

d) To consider and decide upon future audit fees:

Letter received from The Barker Partnership regarding the level of their fee for carrying out future audits. They are proposing a maximum figure of £500 plus VAT. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that this be accepted.

e) To approve and sign the new bank mandate:

A new bank mandate adding Cllr Morton to the list of cheque signatories had been prepared. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be approved.

### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

No applications received.

#### Correspondence

HDC; Result of ballot for second Parish Council Representative on the Standards Committee. Cllr Adamson was elected with 17 votes.

NYCC; Letter and Notice re temporary Closure of Sutton Bank for five days from 19th September 2005 for essential maintenance works.

NYCC; Road works on the A61, Station Road/Carlton Miniott and over the railway bridge for up to two weeks from 12th September.

Copy of letter from Mr. S. Ballard to HDC objecting to the application for a late licence for; The Black Lion;. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council is not consulted on Licence applications and Cllr Robinson said this is not necessary. He said it is Government policy to try and relax licensing laws. Cllr Roberts felt the Town Council should ask HDC to inform them of any such licence applications. It was also agreed that we should ask HDC for a copy of the decision on the Black Lion;. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Ballard.

Copy of letter from HDC to Mr Lee Clayton of 10 Favenfield Road approving his application to add Spellbound to his address.

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Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; request for contribution to grasscutting; agreed; already budgeted.

Telephone request from David Brown for contribution to poppy wreaths for July parade. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that a donation of £50 be made.

NYCC: copy of press release re roadworks in the Market Place.

HDC; notice of Flood Forum to be held on 29th September.  
English Heritage re Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth. Cllr Marshall explained that to obtain £3K from English Heritage we have to sign a Management Agreement.  
Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we go ahead with this. Cllr Marshall advised that the panels are now ready to go in.

### **Burial Board Report:**

Nothing to report.

### **Reports:**

#### Representatives

Cllr Roberts advised that the Action for Market Towns gives awards every year in the different regions for projects which have been supported by the Local Market Towns.

Cllr Roberts reported that we have won the award for the Ritz Cinema refurbishment and she displayed the Award to the meeting. Cllr Marshall pointed out that it was the Town Council who saved the Cinema and she felt the Award was a credit to Thirsk, to the Cinema and to the TRI.

Cllr Marshall reported that, as Mayor, she, together with Cllr Watson, had attended a Battle of Britain cocktail party at RAF Leeming. Cllr Marshall and the clerk went to Northallerton as guests of Northallerton Town Council for the Parade of the Illuminated Address by RAF Leeming. Cllr Marshall and the clerk also went to Richmond to celebrate the 850th anniversary of the granting of their Royal Charter.

Cllr Marshall reported that the plaque to commemorate Joan Maynard was unveiled by Chris Mullen the previous Friday.

#### Members

Cllr Morton expressed concern that two or three of the trees in the planters on Long Street are shedding their leaves. Cllr Marshall said they are crab-apple trees and this is normal.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern at a prosecution that is taking place as a result of a planning breach. However, Cllr Marshall pointed out that it is not up to this Council to take issue on this.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that there are 12 or 13 new streetlights across The Flatts where the cycle track is. He felt this was light pollution and was also concerned that it is difficult get even one extra streetlight.

Cllr Marshall said she is looking to all Committees to meet. She pointed out that at a previous meeting she had suggested splitting up the town between Councillors. She has now done the provisional split and asked that if Councillors had an area they would particularly like to do they should let her know. Cllr Watson asked that this be circulated.

It was pointed out that at the McCarthy and Stone development site on Long Street a fence has been put up on the pavement; the County Council to be asked to look into this.

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Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the members of the public and the press be excluded for two items of correspondence.

A letter had been received from Thirsk Festival; agreed in principle.

Cemetery Deeds; Mike Armstrong to be consulted re the status of documents we hold.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 6th October 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, T Ghouri, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times), PC Duncan Pears, PCSO Chris Ross, 8 members of the public and the clerk.

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Robinson, District Councillor S Hubbard; accepted.

On behalf of Thirsk in Bloom, Cllr Pack presented the Silver Award which they had won in Britain in Bloom to the Mayor. Cllr Marshall congratulated all the members of Thirsk in Bloom on their sterling efforts which had resulted in this impressive award.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19th September 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

**Open Forum:**

PC Duncan Pears advised that the biggest concern at the moment is egg throwing; all the supermarkets have agreed not to sell eggs to the under 16s. An increased foot patrol has been put on to combat this and it will be treated as criminal damage.

Cllr Watson referred to large vehicles going through the Market Place and PC Pears said a traffic sergeant has been given the task of looking into this; it was noted that some damage has been done to the temporary railings by large vehicles coming through the town centre.

Cllr Watson referred to the damage to the picnic tables in the Picnic Area and PCSO Ross said he is dealing with this; he is also looking at the feasibility of putting a mobile camera in some of the public areas. Cllr Watson referred to the children playing with trolleys in Tesco car park and PCSO Ross said he is also dealing with this. Cllr Watson also referred to the Redwatch system around the shops.

Referring to Carrs Field, PC Pears said that earlier this year the Police produced a report on how it could be made more user friendly and how it could be policed, but very little has been done. Cllr Marshall asked that a copy of the report be sent to the Town Council. Cllr Marshall asked about an official opening of the Police Unit on the Industrial Estate, or an invitation to the Town Councillors to visit it; PC Pears to speak to Inspector Richardson. PC Pears also advised that Sgt

Ponte is currently on secondment and Ben Franks is standing in. He will ask Sgt Franks to come to the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Mallett advised that he had spoken to Inspector Richardson regarding the large vehicles coming through Thirsk and understood that the kerb edges are to be chamfered. PC Pears pointed out that some HGVs need to have access for deliveries to the shops etc in the town and the chamfering will prevent damage to the kerbing. Cllr Roberts paid tribute to the work done by PCSO Ross, saying it is good to see him about the town as often as we do.

Cllr Pack expressed concern at youngsters cycling without lights, particularly now the darker nights are approaching; PCSO Ross is dealing with this.

Cllr Ghouri referred to underage drinking near Millgate toilets; the police confirmed that they are dealing with this.

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Cllr Marshall referred to the late night licenses for pubs and PC Pears said the police have made objections and are opposing applications from takeaways to stay open until 2.00am.

Cllr Marshall referred to our request for speed checks on Stockton Road, Sutton Road and Long Street; PCSO Ross to see if he can use the matrix signs there.

**Matters arising from the Town Council meeting held on 1st September 2005:**

P0195 Seat maintenance; Malcolm Burnett has repaired the seat in the Market Place.

P0195 Alleyways; quote from Leehill Construction accepted. A letter has been delivered to residents and businesses in both alleyways notifying them of this. The County Council has also been advised re the street closure order. Peter Penny has another £5K available for the Alleyways project and a letter has been sent to him asking for this. Further financial information has been sent to Steve Quartermain re application for a CAPE grant. Following a request from the Town Council, HDCs Lighting Department are looking at the possibility of putting streetlights in the two alleyways.

P0195 Sponsorship; no reply from Bagby Parish Council; a further letter has been sent.

P0195 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; a site meeting to be arranged.

P0195; Flash Flooding newsletter; still not received.

P0195 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall is still awaiting a response from Steve Quartermain.

P0195 St James Green; the clerk has spoken to Gareth Dadd who advised that the scheme is not ready to be consulted on. Cllr Marshall advised that there are a number of ongoing schemes

and she suggested that she and the clerk should meet up with Eddy Haywood now he is based at Norby.

P0195 Christmas Lights; letter sent to Wired accepting their quote.

P0195 Telemetry equipment to go in Cod Beck; the clerk has spoken to Bill Calvert and he has agreed that the Environment Agency can proceed with this.

P0195 Works in Thirsk Market Place; works currently ongoing.

P0195 Emergency Plan; meeting to be arranged.

P0196 Greens and Ingramgate; the letter re weeding and not coning off parking spaces was delivered to all houses on St James Green. Spaces are still being coned off at one property; a letter to be sent to the occupiers of that property,

P0196 Grass opposite Gillings Court; reply awaited from HDC.

P0196 Replacement bin for The Holmes; HDC will pay 50% of the cost of this. Agreed to go ahead and purchase a suitable bin.

P0196 Alleyways; letter sent to Peter Penny re ownership of the alleyways: he has no information on this and no time to carry out any investigative work.

P0196 Plans for the Local Tip questionnaire; only two Councillors responded.

P0196 HDC Local Development Framework; letter sent to HDC outlining Councillors; comments.

P0197 Planning application for the Salem Chapel; comments sent to HDC.

P0197 Planning application for The Old Brewery; comments sent to HDC

P0198 Greens & Ingramgate; the clerk has spoken to Jill Miller and she will provide a sponsorship sign to go on the White Mare Roundabout.

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P0198 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate car park; letter sent to HDC and reply awaited. Letter also received from a resident of Barleys Yard - to be sent to HDC.

P0199 Interpretation Boards for Castlegarth; Scheduled Monuments Consent obtained. The Interpretation Boards are to be put on Castlegarth week commencing 31st October.

P0199 Metal fence around Gillings Court; letter sent to HDC.

**Correspondence:**

Broadacres Services Ltd; proposing street names of; The Barns and Malam Close for the houses on the two garage sites. It was felt that Hambleton should be incorporated into the street names and that the names proposed are not appropriate. Hambleton Court and Hambleton Road to be suggested.

HDC; Hambleton Local Development Framework: Allocations Development Plan Document. A meeting re this is to be held on Tuesday 20th October from 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

HDC ; Copy letter to North Yorkshire Police confirming the name of the property on Thirsk Industrial Estate as Vale House.

Sowerby Parish Council; request that consideration be given to creating a footpath from the corner of Newsham Road/A61 to the Athletics Club to be put on the list for the meeting with Eddy Hayward.

Letter from resident of St Marys Drive re the footpath and railings on the Millennium Green; to be sent to Peter Penny as he put the fencing up.

Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; letter requesting that the Town Council contribute 50% towards the cost of the annual insurance premium. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack that this be paid; agreed. The Flatts Trust to be asked to provide copies of their minutes and accounts regularly.

Thirsk School; Specialist School Status launch; the clerk enquired whether any Councillors were interested in attending this on 20th October as Cllrs Hesmondhalgh and Watson are now no longer able to attend. No other Councillors available other than Cllr Mallett who has already agreed to attend.

### **Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items**

The following were noted: Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; Cllr Marshall is meeting with Dave Goodwin on 7th October.

Kissing Gates on Castlegarth; these are to be installed week commencing 24th October.

Split of town (proposed split already circulated); Cllr Marshall had done a proposed split of the town. Councillors chose the areas they would like to cover and this was agreed. Appointment of Trustee for Carrs Field; Cllr Roberts advised that Chris Amy had expressed an interest in being a Trustee of Carrs Field and she proposed that he be appointed as the Town Council's representative. Cllr Pack expressed her opposition to this as he is a worker. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that Chris Amy be appointed as a Trustee of Carrs Field; 9 in favour, 1 against (Cllr Pack).

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### **Reports:**

Prior to Committees giving their reports, Cllr Marshall reminded them that each Committee needs to meet to set its budget for next year and to look at the remaining expenditure from this year.

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts proposed that Cllr Ghouri join the Carrs Field Committee and this was agreed. Cllr Roberts reported that there is a lot of rubbish on Carrs Field and graffiti on the ramp. She also pointed out that there is a

hole in the ramp. A letter about the hole to be sent to Steve Hubbard and Peter Bardon, as Trustees. Cllr Marshall asked that the Carrs Field Committee look at the report produced by the police and it can then be decided whether to have a joint meeting about it.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that a meeting is to be held on 15th October at 10.00am. Prior to the meeting she will speak to Lionel Twiss.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Watson advised that the tree is on order. The date for it to be put in place is to be decided. Cllr Watson to liaise with Jill Miller regarding the date the Thirsk Business Association is to have the lights around the town switched on. Chris Amy to be asked to put up the fence around the tree. Cllr Watson advised that there is to be no Christmas Fayre this year.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett advised that the seat on the corner of the Little Green has been pulled up and is broken. He also advised that Flutterbies' staff are parking their cars on the road rather than in their own spaces and this prevents residents of Pinfold Place and their visitors parking there. A letter to be sent to Flutterbies asking them to be more neighbourly.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh had visited the Millennium Green and made some notes which she circulated. The Committee are to meet with the Trustees. A clean up day has been arranged for next month.

Open Areas - Nothing to report.

Town Development Working Party - Not yet met. Cllr Ghouri circulated some suggestions. Cllr Jackson felt it was necessary for the Committee to respond to items that need dealing with.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Town Clock; Cllr Watson to liaise with Cllr Jackson re changing the clock when British Summer Time ends.

Cllr Ghouri referred to graffiti on the Old Sorting Office; Mr Calvert to be approached re this.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that there is no sign from Finkle Street into Nursery Gardens car park and suggested that a chevron be put on the road. To be added to the list for Highways.

Cllr Mallett suggested that coaches coming into the town should go down Kirkgate, rather than through the Market Place. Paul Greenaway to be consulted on this. Cllr Jackson said that the lamppost opposite the Thirsk Museum still has an i on it and is pointing away from the TIC. David Shields to be contacted re this.

Cllr Morton expressed concern that he had been told that the ditches in East Thirsk are filled in and felt it was important they are looked at. Cllr Marshall said we are enquiring of the Environment Agency as to where they got this information from regarding East Thirsk.

Cllr Marshall advised that we are in the process of obtaining £32K from HDC for the Picks Lane development. This is to be used for the play area at The Holmes, the footpath across The Holmes and also for work at the East Thirsk Play Area.

Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack thanked everyone for their support earlier this evening and said it was greatly appreciated by the volunteers. The judges' report is available. Thirsk in Bloom have met and decided that next year all the planting will be maintained, but they will not enter Yorkshire in Bloom. Cllr Adamson thanked Thirsk in Bloom for their coffee morning last Saturday.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 17th October 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, County Councillor G Dadd, I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times) Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr T Ghouri (away), C Hesmondhalgh (away), A Morton (late arrival), J Watson (another commitment), District Councillor S Hubbard; accepted

**Talk by Nick Firth of Victim Support North Yorkshire:**

Apologies had been received from Nick Firth who was unable to attend due to a family bereavement. Another date to be fixed later.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 6th October 2005**

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

**Police Report**

No representative of the Police present.

**Reports**

County Council

Cllr Dadd referred to a proposal by the Department of Health to look at TENYAS and the ambulance service. There is a proposal to amalgamate the ambulance trust to form one super trust. Cllr Dadd advised that he seconded a motion opposing this on the grounds that it will affect the local service and the urban areas will be looked at to achieve their targets. He also felt the working relationship between The Friarage and the James Cook Hospital will be put in jeopardy with the loss of the Teeside service. Referring to St James' Green, Cllr Dadd said it should be mid November when the Town Council is consulted about the 20mph limit. Cllr Dadd had questioned the back up of traffic that could be caused as a result of the speed limit and a study has been carried out. The Officers have been asked to look at the criteria for 20mph speed limits. The 30mph speed limit on Stockton Road should be implemented in 6 weeks time. Cllr Adamson referred to a previous request for a yellow box junction at the end of St Mary's and Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has not seen the scheme for Stockton Road.

District Council

Cllr Marshall reported that the District Council has met recently and there are no major items at present. She had spoken to Dave McGloin regarding the fact that someone who had been flooded had not been visited by representatives on HDC. No planning brief for the Nursery Gardens area yet received from HDC.

**Open Forum:**

No members of the public present.

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Matters Arising:

P0200 Fence at Gillings Court; reply received from HDC advising that the fence is below the height for which planning permission is required. A letter to be sent to Broadacres.

P0201 School Governors; letter sent to the Leader of the County Council.

P0201 Speed checks on Stockton Road/Long Street/ Sutton Road; reply received from Inspector Richardson advising that they no longer have the designated equipment to carry out traffic census information checks. He suggests that Highways be asked to do this; Eddie Hayward to be asked.

P0201 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Scheme; the Scheme sealed by the Charity Commissioners has now been received and there is now a further month's consultation on this. The notices detailing its availability have been put on the notice boards in Thirsk and Sowerby.

P0201 'On site' planning training; the clerk reminded Councillors that this is to be held on 18th October at 7.00pm in the TRI office.

P0201 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; letters sent to the Trust and to Sowerby Parish Council. We are now advised that money is to be spent on upgrading the changing rooms. However, it was agreed that a meeting is still required.

P0201 Gas supply to Cemetery Lodge; No response from British Gas. Chasing telephone call to them and they advise the quote is correct. Letter of complaint sent to the MD of British Gas - Swifts have been asked to provide a quote for solid fuel central heating as an alternative.

P0201 Junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street; reply received from the County Council advising that they do not consider a mini roundabout would be appropriate. Agreed to ask for a site meeting.

P0202 Badges; still looking into this.

P0202 Burial Board; Swifts have now provided a quote for connecting the water to the mains and this has been passed to the Burial Board.

P0202 Trains to/from Thirsk; reply awaited.  
P0202 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; further telephone call received from Yorkshire Water. They are still looking at this and will get back to us.  
P0202 Specialist School Launch; now re-arranged for 20th October - Cllr Mallett to attend.  
P0203 Report on Internal Audit 2004/05; amended regulations now received.  
P0203 The Barker Partnership; letter of acceptance re fee sent.  
P0203 Late Licence at 'The Black Bull'; letter sent to Mr Ballard and HDC.  
P0204 Castlegarth; Management Agreement signed and sent to English Heritage. Interpretation panels being put on Castlegarth week commencing 31st October. Cllr Marshall advised that a site meeting re the kissing gates is being held tomorrow at 8.00 a.m. Cllr Mallett to attend.  
P0204 Split of town; split now done and agreed at the last meeting.  
P0204 Fence on Long Street; Joe Gallagher has looked at this and passed it to Building Control.  
P0205 Thirsk Festival; a meeting is to be held on Monday 24th October.  
P0205 Cemetery deeds; not actioned as yet.

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### **Finance**

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

C.E. and C.M. Walker - Grasscutting, 1st and 20th September  
£1,586.25

Mick Hancock - Watering for Thirsk in Bloom £108.00

Thirsk Garden Centre - plants etc for Thirsk in Bloom £229.24

Hollin Barn Nurseries - plants for Thirsk in Bloom £431.48

CommuniCorp - Subscription to 'Local Councils Update' £60.00

Julie Harron - Salary, October 2005 £316.60

Elaine Coulson - Salary, September 2005 £1,046.64

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, September 2005 £600.97

BT - Internet line £114.55

Peter Dunn - watering Long Street/White Mare Roundabout £39.60

Income received:

HDC - Precept (2nd half) £35,000.00

HDC - 50% of cost of litter bin for Castlegarth £187.17

Bank Interest £1,025.44

B Bd: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £150.00

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for September 2005

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.  
Cllr Marshall asked the Committees to look at their budgets in preparation for the Finance meeting in November. She pointed out that Committees should also look at their expenditure for this year.

### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:**

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the following applications be approved:

Memorials:

Grave No. FF 6 Maurice Abbott

Grave No. H1 35 Theresa Mary Nolan

Grave No. F3 11 Doris and John Law

Grave No. F5 1 Thomas Mothersill

Additional Inscription:

Grave No. E1 13 Renee Allenby

Grave No. Q 54 Albert Powney

### **Correspondence**

Cllr Marshall referred to the timetable for the Remembrance Service on 13th November.

NYCC; Temporary Footpath Closure Order for the Public Footpath off Long Street from 1st November 2005 to 30th April 2006.

NYCC; Minerals and Waste Development Framework Draft Statement of Community Involvement - to be circulated

NYCC; re North Yorkshire Market Towns Website

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CE Electric; breakfast briefings re vegetation and tree clearance. The nearest is to be held at the 'Golden Fleece', Thirsk on 2nd November.

The Richmond and Hambleton Furniture Store; request for financial support - to be looked at during the budget setting process.

NYCC; Order re 20mph speed limit in the town centre.

NYCC; reply to the Thirsk and District Business Association regarding the roadworks in the Market Place

. Carole Pack; copy of letter to Linda Gibbon advising that she will not be standing for re-election as a Trustee of the Thirsk Clock Café. Cllr Pack advised that this is with immediate effect as the AGM will be held on 26th October. Cllr Adamson offered to take Carole Pack's place as Trustee. Proposed Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Mallet that he should do this.

From Tabled Correspondence:

Cllr Adamson requested that a copy of the Adverse Possession Guidance Note, as detailed in the White Rose Update, be requested.

A questionnaire regarding proposed amalgamations of police forces had been obtained by Cllr Watson and had been passed around the meeting. It was agreed that a letter be sent advising that we require a good local service on the ground and that the number of officers be kept the same or increased. We would also ask whether the Town Council is to be formally consulted on the matter. The questionnaire to be passed back to Cllr Watson in order that she can complete it should she wish to do so.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson advised that as soon as we have a quote for solid fuel heating then a Burial Board meeting will be held to look at this and at connecting up the water pipe. Cllr Robinson suggested that as an alternative the Town Council could consider providing some oil as a one off.

**Reports:**

**Representatives**

Cllr Adamson advised that the East Thirsk Christmas Party will be held on 10th December - offers of help would be welcome. Referring to the Thirsk Community Primary School, Cllr Adamson advised that a very good meeting was held the previous week. As opposed to an annual financial statement the school will now know for a three year period what its budget is to be. Three new governors have been appointed.

Cllr Pack advised that she had attended the last meeting of Thirsk Clock and had been shown a video which promoted the Clock and showed some of their achievements. This will also be shown at the AGM. The constitution was looked at and Thirsk Town Council may appoint one trustee. The new building is still being pursued. Cllr Pack said she had greatly enjoyed being part of the Clock and she wished Cllr Adamson all the best. Cllr Adamson expressed the thanks of the Town Council to Cllr Pack for the work she has done as a Trustee.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had been to see Angie Hall at RANY re the Interpretation Boards and this is progressing well. The Committee are looking at the blue plaques and it has been suggested that one be done for Bill Foggitt and an additional two be produced to bring it up to the original figure of 21 plaques. Cllr

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Watson had spoken to RANY about displaying the Thirsk Map and this may be possible. Cllr Mallett asked whether people will be advised that the Map is there so they can go and see it and RANY will be asked if this will be possible. Cllr Watson to provide further updates on this.

Cllr Morton joined the meeting.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Remembrance Parade will take place on 13th November.

#### Members

Cllr Adamson advised that from now on schools are not obliged to hold annual parents' evenings.

Cllr Roberts referred to the CCTV update and asked whether another visit from Town Councillors to the CCTV headquarters should be arranged. Cllrs Roberts and Mallett and possibly Cllrs Ghouri and Hesmondhalgh (should they wish to do this) to go to this.

Cllr Robinson expressed disappointment that the Christmas Fayre will not be taking place this year.

Cllr Mallett advised that Thirsk Bowls Club are improving their clubhouse and are applying for a grant to do this. They have asked if the Town Council will send a letter approving this grant application; agreed.

Cllr Watson has been trained to change the time on the clock.

#### **Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack that the public and press be excluded for two items of confidential nature.**

Letter received from HDC regarding the public toilets; response agreed.

Cllr Marshall updated Councillors regarding the Millennium Green Ditch and the Tranmire Ditch and the Town Council agreed a course of action.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 3rd November 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), R. Mallett, C. Pack, F. Roberts, J. Watson and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs D. Adamson (another meeting), T. Ghouri (working) C. Hesmondhalgh (away), J. Jackson (away), A. Morton (away); accepted.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2005**

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

**Open Forum**

No members of the public or police present.

**Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 6th October 2005**

P0205 Britain in Bloom Award; Cllr Park advised that the Silver Award will be put in the Tourist Information Centre. P0205 Police building on the Industrial Estate; Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the official opening of the police building on the Industrial Estate. Other Councillors can look round if they wish to do so. The possibility of going out with the police was also mentioned.

P0206 Alleyways; Work on the alleyways is proceeding at present. A well has been found in the TIC alleyway. In response to the Town Council's request for street lighting in the alleyways a reply has been received from HDC advising that it is possible they can provide the capital fund for lighting if the Town Council takes on the maintenance costs of the installation thereafter. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that we should pursue this. HDC to be asked if they can look at upgrading the light in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood. It was suggested that an approach be made to the Hambleton and Richmondshire Crime Safety Partnership to see if there are any funds available for streetlighting. The question of having street nameboards in the alleyways is also being looked at.

P0206 Sponsorship; Still no reply from Bagby Parish Council - a further letter has been sent.

P0206 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; a meeting to be arranged.

P0206 'Flash Flooding' newsletter; still not received.

P0206 Millennium Green; discussed at the last Town Council meeting.

P0206 St. James' Green; Cllr Marshall and the Clerk met with Eddy Hayward today regarding various matter, including this. The scheme should be out to consultation by mid November. P0206 Christmas Lights; Christmas tree to be delivered on 15th November. We are currently looking for someone to put it into place. Wired to do the lights on that day. Chris Amy to put the fence up.

P0206 Telemetry equipment to go in Cod Beck; the Clerk has spoken to the Environment Agency who confirm they now have the owner's consent and this will be done in due course.

P0206 Emergency Plan; Meeting to be arranged.

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P0206 Greens and Ingramgate; letter sent to the resident who is coning off a parking space.

P0206 Greens and Ingramgate; letter from Jill Miller expressing concern at the weeds and grass cuttings on the White Mare Roundabout. The Clerk has met with Peter Dunn on the roundabout and he is to weed it. Dean Landscaping to be chased re the winter bedding.

P0207 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate car park; no reply from HDC as yet.

P0207 Interpretation Boards for Castlegarth; Interpretation Boards put in place on 31st October. The kissing gates are also being done this week.

P0207 Metal fence around Gillings Court; reply received from HDC advising that this is below the height for which planning consent is required and they are therefore not able to take any action. Letter sent to Broadacres.

P0207 Broadacres - proposed street names; letter from Broadacres outlining their reasons for the proposed names. Agreed that the Town Council should stand by its original suggestion of Hambleton Court, with possibly Hambleton Row instead of Hambleton Road, as had been suggested previously.

P0207 Hambleton Local Development Framework: Allocations Development Plan Document; the Clerk advised that she had attended the Exhibition and she showed a questionnaire and plan which she had obtained there - replies to this need to be at HDC by 18th November. A copy to be supplied to all Councillors.

P0207 Request for a footpath from the corner of Newsham Road/A61 to the Athletics Club; this was put to Eddy Hayward at the meeting held earlier today.

P0207 Footpath and railings on the Millennium Green; letter sent to Peter Penny and he advises that he is looking into this.

P0207 Kissing Gates on Castlegarth; being done this week.

P0207 Appointment of Trustee for Carrs Field; letter sent to Chris Amy advising that he has been appointed a Trustee also letter sent to the Carrs Field Trust informing them of this

appointment.

P0207 Specialist School Launch; Cllr Mallett reported that he had attended this as the Town Council's representative and there had been a very impressive presentation by the school. The school thanked the Town Council for its sponsorship. Cllr Marshall advised that she had also attended the Launch which she felt was really good. She mentioned particularly the IT equipment which is extremely versatile.

P0208 Carrs Field; Letters have been sent to Steve Hubbard and Peter Bardon regarding the hole in the ramp. Netting was put around the ramp, but there did not appear to be any warning notices.

P0208 Christmas Festivities; the Christmas lights switch on is to take place on 20th November.

P0208 Seat on the Little Green; Malcolm Burnett has repaired it and re-fixed it in place. Letter sent to Butterflies Day Nursery re the parking.

P0208 Graffiti on the old Sorting Office; letter to be sent to Mr. Calvert.

P0208 Signage from Finkle Street into Nursery Gardens car park; this was put to Eddy Hayward at the meeting held earlier today. HDC to be approached re sign.

P0208 Town Clock; Cllrs Watson and Roberts changed the clock on the day that British Summertime ended.

P0208 Budgets; the Finance Meeting has been arranged for Monday 12th December at 7.00 p.m.

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P0209 Suggestion that coaches coming into town should go down Kirkgate rather than through the Market Place; 'E' mail sent to Paul Greenaway.

P0209 'I' on lamppost opposite the Thirsk Museum; 'E' mail sent to David Shields.

P0209 Commuted sum from Picks Lane development; £32,750 now received from HDC.

### **Correspondence**

Thirsk Internal Drainage Board - notice of de-silting, flail mowing and/or brashing works at Whitelass Beck. Noted - the IDB to be asked when they are to do this.

Copy of letter from HDC to Seeger Developments re the naming of the new development at 29 Kirkgate, Thirsk.

HDC - Pest Control Agreement for Mill Gardens, Thirsk.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that this be renewed from 19th November 2005 at a cost of £252.63 (including VAT).

Citizens Advice Bureau - Notice of AGM on 11th November 2005.

Thirsk Community Care Association - Notice of AGM on 17th November 2005. Copy of letter from HDC to a resident of Long Street in reply to her letter regarding a cherry tree on Long Street which has died. They advise that this is being passed to NYCC and the Town Council. Following this a telephone call had been received from the County Council's Engineer informing us that the dead tree together with another one which is dying will be removed. Should the Town Council wish to replace the trees then a Licence would be required. Agreed that Chris Amy be asked to look at it to see what we can do and then, if necessary, we can apply for a Licence. It was noted that there is no street name sign on Long Street - HDC to be asked about this. HDC putting forward various proposals for street naming of the new development on Station Road - agreed that we find out whether these names relate to the history of the site. Cllr Marshall suggested that we have some alternative names to put forward and this will be discussed at the next meeting. Yorkshire Water advising that they are to upgrade the existing sewer overflow in the car park off Nursery Gardens - it is envisaged the work will take 4 weeks from 31st October. Mrs M. Penson on behalf of the Thirsk in Bloom Committee advising that Steve Dalleywater, one of the committee members, has offered to care for Mill Gardens. Cllr Marshall pointed out that Chris Amy is the Town Council's contractor and he maintains these areas. Agreed that the letter be put before the Central Areas Committee at its meeting next week and following this someone from that Committee will contact Mr. Dalleywater. Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that the Planning Committee Report is no longer on the agenda. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Pack that a note be put on future agendas that if Members wish to raise anything with the Planning Committee then they should do so under 'Other items'. The Clerk felt that planning agendas should be displayed on the noticeboard - proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack that this be done in future.

### **Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items**

This had already been circulated and Councillors noted the progress of the various items.

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### **Reports**

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts advised that she had looked at Carrs Field yesterday and the hole in the ramp is now larger. Tony Jordan is to arrange a meeting with her on Carrs field. Cllr Marshall felt a meeting should be held with the Trustees regarding the Police Report. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that a letter be

sent to the Chairman of Carrs Field Trust advising that we are very concerned at the safety implications of the ramp and feel there should be a meeting re the Police Report. This Report suggested that the ramp be removed and in the circumstances the Town Council would urge this course of action.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that the Committee had met in October and had a walk round. Matters arising from this to be discussed in depth at a meeting to be held next week. Cllr Marshall said the footpath near Millgate will be monitored.

Eddy Hayward has advised that there is a scheme to clear the silt etc from the river. Cllr Watson has spoken to Lionel Twiss and he is happy for us to plant a tree in the Picnic Area and possibly screening to block out the recycling bins. It was suggested that Mike I'Anson be consulted re this.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing further to report.

Greens and Ingramgate - Still to meet.

Millennium Green - A clean-up day is to be held shortly.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that the Committee met last night and did its budget. A way forward for doing the path across The Holmes and widening it for wheelchairs was agreed. Looking at Wetspour for under the swings on The Holmes and for East Thirsk, depending on cost. There was not enough time to go through the RoSPA Report and a further meeting has been arranged for next week to do this. A quote has been received from BTCV for work on the pathway leading to the Centenary Field, for work in the Centenary Field and on the Ings in the amount of £220.00 plus VAT per day (they estimate this will take 5 days). Also a quote for painting the footbridge railings next year at £220.00. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that we go ahead with this; agreed.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

### **Other items of interest and information**

It was mentioned that there is graffiti in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood.

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended a breakfast meeting with CE Electric UK about clearing undergrowth and trees from under low voltage electric cables. They are now using tree specialists and we are being looked after by Fountains Arboriculturalists. They are very concerned that any trees which need to be cut back are done properly. They are also very concerned about public relations and are also anxious to do work with schools regarding electricity.

It was mentioned there is still a sign outside the Town Hall pointing to the Citizens Advice Bureau and this should now be removed.

Cllr Pack advised that a meeting had been held last week. Most of the winter planting has now been done. Their AGM is to be held in January. A coffee morning is to be held on 3rd December for all the helpers to get together. Cllr Watson referred to the Liaison Meetings and it was felt that such a meeting should be held. Peter Pack to be asked to speak to the members of the Liaison Committee re this.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 21st November 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr S Hubbard, D McGloin (Head of Technical Services, HDC), C Vincent (Engineering Manager HDC) (2nd item only), 1 Member of the Public and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr J Jackson (away), A Morton (another commitment), accepted.

**Talk by Dave McGloin and Chris Vincent of HDC re Flooding Report:**

Cllr Marshall explained that HDC commissioned a report on flooding in Thirsk and the Town Council asked Mr McGloin and Mr Vincent to come and tell us the findings of this Report, what the impact will be on Thirsk and what action is to be taken. Mr Vincent explained that a flood feasibility study was commissioned by HDC and based on a 1 in 50 year flood prediction this shows that 138 properties in Thirsk are considered to be at risk.

Works are recommended at Shire Park, along The Holmes and in the town. Such flood defences include the building of a wall alongside the river at Riverside Mews. More work is to be done on the detailed design before the precise height of the flood defences are decided, but Mr Vincent stressed that this would not be a large structure. The plans include floodgates in the wall, but Mr Vincent said the Environment Agency are questioning the need for these. It is hoped that 45% of the funding for the scheme is to come from Defra provided certain criteria are met (this is done on a 'score' basis), but Mr Vincent said HDC are optimistic that Defra will go with the scheme.

Mr Vincent also advised that the enmaining of the river will take place in April 2006 and the Environment Agency will then be directly responsible for the river rather than the Internal Drainage Board. The Environment Agency may use the IDB as contractors when work is required, although this has not yet been decided. Cllr Roberts expressed her concern about the water coming from the Whiteless and asked whether this could be held in The Ings rather than making a channel through the town. Mr McGloin said this has been taken into account apart from the Moor Lane Stell and this would have to be included in

the detailed scheme. Referring to the floodgates, Cllr Mallett said that on the video produced by the Environment Agency there were floodgates which residents could put in place themselves rather than them having to be done by Environment Agency personnel. Mr McGloin advised that HDC are waiting to hear from Defra regarding the 'score' against the criteria and it is hoped this will be within the next two weeks. HDC will have discussions with the Environment Agency to formalise them taking the scheme on.

Agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the member of the public to speak.

Mrs Penson expressed concern at the proposed wall along Riverside Mews. She explained that because of the slope of the land, the wall will be higher at the far end of the Mews and that whilst the flooding was only occasional the wall will be there all

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the time. Mr McGloin advised that the height of the wall is yet to be determined, but it is likely to be the same height as the one at Todds Court. He advised that without the wall the scheme will not work and the flood risk will reduce to 1 in 15 years. Cllr Adamson pointed out that the river is no longer dredged - the Environment Agency to look at this. Cllr Dadd asked who is to fund the remaining 55% of the scheme; Mr Vincent advised that the Environment Agency have some monies available. Cllr Marshall thanked Mr McGloin and Mr Vincent for attending the meeting and giving their presentation.

The member of the public left the meeting.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3rd November 2005:**  
Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

**Police Report:**

No representatives of the police present.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that he has just received notification that the Community Education Service is going out for Phase 2 consultation. Week commencing 28th November the head teachers and managers of the service will be offered the opportunity to meet and the following week the governors and members of the County Council will have an opportunity to meet. The Health Scrutiny Committee will be holding its meeting on 7th December and Cllr Dadd advised that they are very pleased with the

support received for The Friarage, including support from Teesside. At the last County Council meeting Cllr Dadd had seconded a proposal condemning the Tenyas proposal to create large Ambulance Trusts. Also at the last County Council meeting Cllr Dadd had spoken about the disruption to businesses in Thirsk as a result of the roadworks and he is to attend the next Thirsk Business Association meeting. The next Area Committee for Hambleton Meeting is to be held in Thirsk on Monday 28th November.

#### District Council

Cllr Hubbard referred to an article he had mentioned previously regarding Section 215 Untidy Site notices. He has spoken to the Planning Department and understands they are preparing the appropriate notice for the site in question.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that we have been putting pressure on HDC about this for some considerable time. Cllr Marshall reported that the Thirsk Local Plan Committee had looked through the Allocations Development Plan for the Thirsk Area. She mentioned that there is a late application to come in for industrial land to the east of the A19 and south of the Scarborough Road. There is a proposal to build a road from the Scarborough Road to the A19.

Cllr Dadd left the meeting.

#### **Open Forum**

No members of the public present.

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#### **Matters arising from the meeting held on 17th October 2005:**

P0211 Fence at Gillings Court; letter sent to Broadacres.

P0211 Speed checks on Stockton Road/Long Street/Sutton Road; the speed matrix has been used on Stockton Road.

P0211 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Scheme; the months consultation has now just expired - letter to be sent to Eccles Heddon.

P0211 'On site planning training' Cllr Roberts attended this. She said it was useful although only two other Councillors attended, one from Sowerby and one from Carlton Miniott.

P0221 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; meeting to be arranged.

P0211 Gas supply to Cemetery Lodge; a letter of complaint had been sent to the Managing Director of British Gas. Following this the matter was re-investigated but they confirm that the quote for installing gas in the amount of £7,476.93 is correct. A quote has been obtained from Swifts for installing solid fuel and this has been passed to the Burial Board.

P0211 Junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street; a site

meeting is to be arranged.  
P0211 Badges; still looking into this.  
P0211 Trains to/from Thirsk; reply still awaited.  
P0211 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; awaiting further response from Yorkshire Water.  
P0211 Specialist School Launch; Cllrs Mallett and Marshall attended this.  
P0211 Castlegarth; Interpretation Panels and Kissing Gates now on Castlegarth.  
P0211 Cemetery Deeds; not actioned yet.  
P0213 CE Electric breakfast briefing; Cllr Roberts attended this.  
P0213 Thirsk Clock Café; letter sent to Linda Gibbon advising that Cllr Adamson has been appointed by the Town Council to take Cllr Pack's place as a Trustee.  
P0213 Adverse Possession Guidance Note; obtained and included in Tabled correspondence.  
P0213 Proposed amalgamation of police forces; letter sent.  
P0213 Burial Board; quote for solid fuel heating now received and passed to the Burial Board.  
P0214 Thirsk Bowls Club; letter of support sent.  
P0214 Town Clock; Cllrs Roberts and Watson changed the clock at the end of British Summer Time.  
P0214 Confidential item - public toilets; response sent to HDC.  
P0214 Confidential item - Millennium Green Ditch and Tranmire Ditch; response sent to HDC.  
P0214 Thirsk Map; Cllr Watson advised that because of its size, RANY are not happy about having the map on display in the Old Courthouse. The church has been identified as a possibility but they have not yet been approached.

Cllr Hubbard left the meeting.

Cllr Marshall advised that she, together with Steve Prentice of HDC, looked at all the toilets, including the disabled one. HDC intend to do a deep clean to get the toilets up to standard and they will then be monitored very closely. Cllr Marshall advised that she, together with the Clerk, went to see Eddie Hayward to welcome him to Thirsk and also left a list of items requiring attention with him. The

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clerk has since spoken to him and he has passed the list to the Engineer to deal with any maintenance issues and it will then be passed back to him to deal with the remainder. Agreed that a letter be sent to Mike Moore regarding the need for a roundabout near the new Auction Mart at Sowerby. Agreed that a further letter be sent to County regarding consultation on St James' Green.

Cllr Watson referred to the new paving slabs in the TIC Yard

where a corner of one has broken off; Leehill to be asked about this.

**Finance:**

Accounts for payment

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

CE & CM Walker - grasscutting, £793.12

Allianz Cornhill - Addition of Interpretation Boards to insurance schedule £45.00

Hollin Barn Nurseries - Plants for Thirsk in Bloom £69.20

M.L. Burnett - fixing blue plaque to commemorate Joan Maynard, and repairing seat on the Little Green £37.00

Rural Arts - work re Interpretation Boards £4,250.00

Data Protection Act - Renewal £35.00

Michael Holliday - cleaning bus shelter and notice boards £60.50

RoSPA - Inspection Report £554.60

Chris Amy - Weekly inspections (5th Sept- 2nd Oct 05) £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Seat maintenance £1,150.00

Julie Harron - Salary, November 2005 £316.60

Elaine Coulson - Salary, October 2005 £1,046.64

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, October 2005 £600.97

F. D Todd & sons - Skip for Millennium Green and emptying Cemetery skip £279.85

Leehill Construction Ltd - paving works in TIC Yard & Batemans Yard £26,528.37

Chris Amy - Weekly inspections (3rd-30th Oct 2005) £182.80

Litter picking £215.00

Plants and planting in Herriot Way £126.00

Weeding and planting in Little Green £67.24

Petty cash £48.17

Paid since last meeting:

Npower - office electricity £62.87

Income received

HDC - commuted sum re Picks Lane development £32,750.00

HDC - reimbursement re Long Street Enhancement £5,839.41

NYCC - contribution to Alleyways Scheme £5,000.00

B. Bd: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £174.00

Grave Purchases £348.00

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Monthly balance sheet and budget report for October 2005

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

### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following applications be approved

Memorials

Grave No. FF12 Dennis Peter Stockdale

Additional Inscription

Grave No. B1 6 Walter Lorraine Haw

Grave No. A5 3 Albert Burton

### **Correspondence**

NYCC re Cycleway/Footway on Topcliffe Road; they advise that a survey has been carried out and as a result of this it has been decided that the integrated cycleway/footway be returned to footway status only. They are therefore now consulting on this. A reply to be sent asking whether they have any plans for cyclists.

NYCC enclosing a copy of the Order in respect of the Prohibition of Waiting in Nursery Gardens.

HDC; notice of next District /Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on Monday 13th March 2006 at 7.00pm.

NYCC re Swale and Ure Washlands - Minerals Site Afteruse Strategy - Consultation Document (on CD Rom).

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, letter to the Mayor thanking her for her letter congratulating him on the fact that London has been selected as a venue for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Michael Holliday Window Cleaning Services; advising that because of the state of the bus shelter it is taking about 50% longer to clean and he is therefore increasing the price to £8 per week; agreed.

North Yorkshire Police Authority; E mail advising that they have been asked by the Home Secretary to draw up two restructuring options of which North Yorkshire would be a part. The options being looked at are (1) the amalgamation of North, West and South Yorkshire and Humberside; or (2) North and West Yorkshire. Agreed that we reiterate our previous comments that we are anxious that there should be a strong police force on the ground and the same number, if not more, police officers.

HDC re street naming and numbering on Station Road; it is now understood that the names put forward are all Derby winners.

Agreed that a reply be sent saying we are not happy as we feel they should be named after the horses that have either run or been trained at Thirsk and/or Thirsk trainers.

### **To receive Report from the Planning Committee upon the Hambleton Local Development Framework:**

Allocations Development Plan Document and to comment upon this document:

(A copy of the plan and questionnaire had already been circulated to Councillors) Cllr Roberts advised that the

Planning Committee had considered this Report and made recommendations in respect of each site put forward. She put these to the meeting and a response to each proposed site was agreed. A letter to be sent to HDC.

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Cllr Watson left the meeting.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson reported that the new worker for the Cemetery started last week. Cllr Adamson is to call a Burial Board Meeting to discuss the quotes for the water pipe and for changing the central heating at Cemetery Lodge.

**Reports:**

**Representatives**

Cllr Adamson advised that the pensioners' Christmas party is to be held on 10th December and helpers would be welcome. Cllr Adamson had attended the AGM of Thirsk Clock, which was very well attended, followed by a Committee Meeting. The rejection of their planning application was discussed in great detail. A public meeting is to be held in Thirsk School. The Trustees have asked Sowerby Parish Council if they can attend one of their meetings. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that a letter be sent to HDC supporting Thirsk Clock's planning application.

Cllr Roberts reported that she had chaired the CAB's AGM. Funding is getting more difficult and the legislation is more complicated. They are working with other CABs in the County to try and get more funding. Anne McIntosh had given a talk about her life as an MP. Cllr Roberts advised that the CAB want more people to be individual members with less representation from Councils and other organisations.

Cllr Mallett reported that he is going to a meeting about Education.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the opening of the new Police Headquarters. As Mayor, she had also gone to an event at the Museum - they have been awarded a grant by the Co-Op for work to the kitchen. Cllr Marshall had also attended the Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church, taken the salute in the Market Place and laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Sowerby. She thanked the Members of the Council who had supported her by also attending. She had also attended the switching on of the Christmas lights and following this she had switched on the floodlights at St Mary's Church after they had been dedicated by the Rector. The Town Council had been thanked by the church for the floodlighting project.

**Members**

Cllr Adamson advised that he is not happy with the highway

scheme in the Market Place, pointing out some parts are now very difficult for vehicles, mentioning particularly the Finkle Street junction. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this is a very good scheme for pedestrians and has slowed the traffic down.

Cllr Mallett advised that, following the Town Council's letter to Butterflies Nursery, the parking in Pinfold Place is very much improved. A letter to be sent thanking them for their cooperation.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 1st December 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, A Morton, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), M Robson, (Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust), 2 members of the public and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Jackson (away), C Pack (ill), F Roberts (away), District Councillor & S Hubbard (another commitment); accepted.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 21st November 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

**Open Forum:**

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

Mr Kevin Linklater introduced himself saying that he and his wife live in Nursery Gardens and were there in the 2000 flood and therefore saw how Nursery Gardens was affected. He expressed concern at the planning application to build 12 properties alongside Cod Beck as he felt these will cause restrictions to the water getting to the beck. He pointed out that the bank side has eroded and felt it needs clearing. Mr Linklater was concerned about the car parking for the 12 properties as he felt the number of spaces shown on the planning application would not be enough. He pointed out that the residents of Nursery Gardens pay to maintain the garden areas in Nursery Gardens and the occupiers of these extra properties will also be using the road through. He was also of the view that the entrance/exit to/from the Nursery Gardens car park is not wide enough. Referring to the flooding, Mr Linklater was concerned at the health risks as he pointed out that no samples of the flood water appear to have been taken. Cllr Marshall replied that the Town Council is a consultee on the planning application, the land itself being in Sowerby. She also advised that at the last Town Council meeting there was a presentation by two Officers of HDC regarding the proposed Flood Scheme for Thirsk. Mr Linklater's comments will be passed on to these Officers. Copies of the drawings of the Scheme will be obtained from HDC and passed to Mr Linklater.

Mr Mark Robson advised that he wished to speak on behalf of the Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust as concerns had been expressed by the Town Council at the condition of the changing rooms. Mr Robson explained that since the changing rooms were built in 1977 the number of people using them has increased significantly and they are used both at the weekends and during the week. Work is required to the windows, showers, toilets etc and the Trust is looking at trying to obtain grant aid. Sowerby Parish Council has £230K Section 106 monies and of this, £200K is to be spent on improvements to the swimming baths and £30K on the changing rooms. There is a request from the Flatts Trust that Sowerby Parish Council and Thirsk Town Council put a fund in place, each making a one-off payment, although Mr Robson said it is difficult to put a figure on what is required. Plans are being drawn up and it is hoped that the work will be done in the closed season.

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Mr Robson left the meeting.

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

**Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2005:**

P0215 Alleyways; the resurfacing of the TIC Yard and Batemans Yard has now been completed. One or two slabs have cracked. Leehill have been notified of this and the foreman has been out and inspected. The cracked ones will be replaced. A meeting was held with Ian Dawson of HDC re lighting. The two lights in Batemans Yard are to be replaced with two new brackets and lanterns. A light is to be put on the side of the TIC building to enhance the light in the TIC Yard. Another light is also to be put in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood. Regarding street names, the clerk has consulted Cooper Harding re the original name of the TIC Yard. He thinks this was the Red Bear Yard, but he will find out.

P0215 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; meeting still being arranged.

P0215 'Flash flooding' newsletter; still not received.

P0215 St James' Green; letter from NYCC included in 'Correspondence'.

P0215 Christmas Lights; the Christmas tree is now in place and the lights are on.

P0215 Emergency Plan; meeting held to which all Wardens were invited. Only two attended, together with two Councillors and the clerk. Proposed Cllrs Marshall, seconded Cllr Mallett that we do not proceed with the Warden Scheme, but that Councillors are registered with the Environment Agency and the Town

Council Office is used as a centre in an emergency if required; agreed.

P0215 Thircon Roundabout; no response from Bagby Parish Council. Agreed that a letter be sent to Eddie Hayward at Norby advising that we are trying to contact Bagby Parish Council to promote a scheme for improving the roundabout.

P0216 Greens and Ingramgate; reply received from the resident who is coning off the parking space. The Greens and Ingramgate Committee has asked that a reply be sent to him saying the cones must be removed.

P0216 Greens and Ingramgate; Dean Landscapes have now done the winter bedding on the roundabout.

P0216 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate car park; reply from HDC awaited.

P0216 Castlegarth; kissing gates now in place.

P0216 Metal fence around Gillings Court; reply from Broadacres awaited.

P0216 Broadacres - proposed street names; reply sent to Broadacres- nothing further heard as yet.

P0216 Hambleton Development Framework; dealt with at the Town Council meeting on 21st November.

P0216 Request for a footpath from corner of Newsham Road/A61 to the Athletics Club; copy of letter from the Thirsk Athletics Club to Eddie Hayward requesting that a footpath and/or street lighting be installed. Cllr Watson suggested the Athletics Club be asked whether they would be prepared to give up some land for this. Highways to be asked for the up to date usage of Newsham Road. Cllr Mallett drew the attention of the meeting to the amount of rubbish along Newsham Road; HDC to be asked to clean it up.

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P0216 Footpath and railings into the Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall advised that the railings appear to have been repaired. Trees have been left in the beck; Cllr Marshall has spoken to Dave Goodwin and he is looking into this.

P0216 Carrs Field; letter sent to Tony Jordan. Wood has now been put on the ramp to prevent people using it.

P0216 Christmas Festivities; Lights switched on on the 20th November.

P0216 Butterflies Day Nursery; reply received and passed to Greens Committee. A letter has been sent to Butterflies thanking them for their co-operation.

P0217 'I' on the lamppost opposite Thirsk Museum; David Shields has replied advising that this is to be dealt with as part of the finger posts project.

P0217 Thirsk Internal Drainage Board; letter sent.

P0217 Pest Control agreement for Mill Gardens; renewed.

P0217 Trees on Stockton Road; Chris Amy has been asked to have a look at this and advise. His initial comment is that we

should not replace with cherry trees, but perhaps with something like rowans.

P0217 Street naming of new development on Station Road; the names put forward have been queried with HDC who advise that they are all Derby winners. Reply sent to HDC saying we would like them to be named after horses that have run at Thirsk and/or Thirsk trainers. HDC have asked for suggestions; the racecourse to be contacted for ideas.

P0217 Mill Gardens; Cllr Watson advised that she had spoken to Steve Dallywater advising him that Chris Amy deals with Mill Gardens. She has suggested to Mr Dallywater that he might like to be responsible for planting and maintaining the beds at the plinths and he is to look at these and come back to her.

P0217 Carrs Field; letter sent to Tony Jordan. It is understood that he is to arrange a meeting with Cllr Roberts.

P0218 Open Areas; Meeting held to go through the Rospa report. Following this instructions have been given to Chris Amy, the play equipment suppliers etc to carry out any necessary works.

P0218 Graffiti in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood; Nothing further on this. It was mentioned that there is also graffiti in the alleyway alongside the Clock Café.

#### **Correspondence:**

HDC re street naming and numbering of properties at 100 Long Street; the developer is proposing that this development be called Treschegate Court. Agreed that Tresche Court would be more appropriate.

NYCC re proposed 20 mph limit on St. James' Green, Stammergate and Piper Lane; the Town Council is not happy with the scheme.

Cllr Adamson suggested that rather than carrying out this scheme a camera which records the speed and number plate of the vehicle should be installed.

Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society requesting that the Town Council take over the responsibility for the maintenance of the bench which commemorates the late John Gormley. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that we agree to this.

Smiths of Derby advising that they have serviced the clock and there is nothing to report.

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St Mary's Church, Thirsk; letter of thanks to the Town Council for providing the floodlighting.

RAF Linton news release; details of night flying.

David Brown; request for donation towards Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day. Proposed £100 Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson; agreed.

#### **Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:**

This had been circulated to Councillors and was self

explanatory. A letter to be sent to the Chief Executive at Broadacres regarding the Town Council's request for an additional streetlight at Todds Court.

Rubbish in the Tramire Beck; to be reported to HDC.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson reported that a meeting was held and the budget was agreed. Rotary has given us some money and this may be used for planting to screen the recycling bins.

The seat on the corner of Marage Road has been vandalised.

Cllr Watson advised that a list has been drawn up of the cracked paving slabs in the Market Place.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that the Christmas tree is now up and lit.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett advised that the occupiers of 89 The Green are leaving their wheeliebin out all the time - reported to HDC.

A light in Waterside is still out - to be reported again.

The Greens and Ingramgate Committee has met and set its budget.

The Long Street Enhancement Committee are to continue to upkeep and maintain Long Street.

Millennium Green - A clean up has taken place.

Open Areas - The Open Areas Committee has met and set its budget. The Committee also went through the Rospa report.

Town Development Working Party - Not met.

**Other Items of interest and information:**

Cllr Adamson advised that there is a dog bin in the river near Finkle Street bridge. The silt under the bridge needs clearing; a letter to be sent to NYCC asking to clear under both bridges.

Cllr Mallett advised that he had attended the County Education meeting. The number of district managers is to be reduced from 17 to 4 and local ownership and accountability will go. The headteacher is to keep Cllr Mallett informed of the impact of this on Thirsk. Cllr Mallett pointed out that there was supposed to have been local input, but this has not in fact been the case. He felt the implications of this are very unsatisfactory as it had been hoped that opportunities for young people would be expanded. Agreed that a letter be sent to the County Council expressing our grave

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concern. Cllr Mallett advised that the headteacher is to do a letter which he will e-mail to us to use as a basis for our letter.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that the new houses on Barbeck are

putting black sacks of refuse outside and she queried whether they have been provided with wheeliebins; a note to be sent to Jenny Lowes.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 19th December 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, District Cllr S Hubbard, Ms C Thorpe ('Thirsk Weekly News'), I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times) Inspector J Richardson (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Robinson (ill), County Councillor G Dadd (another meeting); accepted.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1st December 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Morton, subject to one minor amendment on page P0229.

**Police Report:**

Inspector Richardson reported that in the last 12 week period the number of crimes has dropped - there has been a 44% detection rate for general crimes, with a detection rate of 87% for violent crimes. Inspector Richardson said these are very encouraging figures, particularly for the time of year. Inspector Richardson referred to the licensing of public houses and fast food outlets. This does not appear to be causing a particular problem for the police, but concerted efforts are being made by the police regarding this, particularly in the town centre, and all establishments are being visited to ensure they are abiding by their licences. Thirsk Pubwatch is up and running very effectively. Inspector Richardson referred to the road improvements in the Market Place, saying he was concerned about the safety aspects of the paved strips across the road, particularly at the end of Finkle Street where some pedestrians are stepping out in front of traffic. Cllr Roberts expressed her concern at traffic delays because of vehicles entering Millgate from Finkle Street. Inspector Richardson informed the meeting that PCSO Chris Ross is now a full police officer, but his PCSO post will be retained. Inspector Richardson is now the Neighbourhood Police Inspector covering the whole of Hambleton, although he is based in Thirsk. Referring to the PPO Scheme, Inspector Richardson said that the work done in Thirsk has been adopted as Best Practice. Cllr Marshall asked Inspector Richardson to pass on the congratulations of the Town Council to Chris Ross. Cllr Marshall referred to the Apex scheme and said the Town Council has put a sum in the budget

for this; Inspector Richardson hopes this will be resolved with our help. Cllr Watson asked that PC Frances Hannon call a meeting with everyone involved in Radio Watch.

Inspector Richardson left the meeting.

**Reports:**

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall pointed out that a written report had been received from Cllr Dadd (included in Tabled Correspondence)

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b) District Council

Cllr Jackson brought to the attention of the District Councillors his concern that it is proposed to name the streets of the new development on Station Road after racehorses as he felt that local people should be commemorated. Cllr Hubbard suggested that Cllr Jackson submit some proposed names to him. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the development is actually in Sowerby. Cllr Watson stated that the Town Council had already made its decision at an earlier meeting.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the HDC meeting last week at which there was a debate as to whether the canteen should be kept open. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Chris Vincent regarding flooding. The current position is that Defra have not issued any priority scores this year because current schemes are going over budget. Chris Vincent is sure that the Environment Agency will take up the scheme once the river is enmained. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Watson that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency expressing our concern at the lack of action concerning the 2000 floods (not their responsibility), encouraging the enmaining of Cod Beck and saying we are looking forward to working with them as soon as possible.

Cllr Marshall had attended a joint meeting of the County Council's Economic Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Young People's Scrutiny Committee regarding Community Education. She had made representations on behalf of the Council and had spoken against the proposals on Community Education. An amended scheme with more district managers has now been put forward. Cllr Adamson referred to mileage allowances for District Councillors and asked why the rules allow certain people to claim more than the recommended Inland Revenue rates. Cllr Marshall said that if higher claims per mile are made because of the fuel consumption of the vehicle then they are taxed on it.

Cllr Hubbard left the meeting.

**Open forum:**

No members of the public present.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 21st November 2005:  
P0222 Fence at Gillings Court; reply received from Broadacres suggesting they paint the metal fencing black; agreed. A letter to be sent to Broadacres advising them that we wish to be helpful and asking them to let us know of any other such work in the future.

P0222 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Scheme; Declaration signed and returned to Eccles Heddon. Reply received advising that this concludes the matter and giving details of their proposed fee, to be split between Thirsk Town Council and Sowerby Parish Council; agreed. A letter to be sent to Eccles Heddon thanking them for all their work.

P0222 Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust; Mark Robson had attended the last Town Council meeting and spoken about this.

P0222 Gas supply to Cemetery Lodge; the oil boiler has now been serviced and repaired and appears to be running more economically now.

P0222 Junction of Westgate/Castlegate/ChapelStreet; site meeting to be arranged. P0222 Badges; Cllr Mallett is obtaining a sample.

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P0222 Trains to/from Thirsk; reply awaited.

P0222 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; further letter received from Yorkshire Water advising that there is a watercourse at this site that outflows into Cod Beck, but this should contain no foul water. It was mentioned that washing machine water is being discharged; agreed to ask for a site meeting as we believe there is no watercourse there.

P0222 Cemetery Deeds; letter to go to Eccles Heddon.

P0222 Thirsk Map; Cllr Watson has spoken to Margaret Hunton re the possibility of displaying the map in St Mary's Church and a letter is to be sent to her.

P0222 Highway matters; Cllr Marshall had spoken to one of the Officers at the County Council regarding the request for a roundabout at the Auction Mart. It is likely that this will be too expensive because of the amount of underground cables.

P0223 Paving slabs in the TIC Yard and Batemans Yard; Leehill have now replaced the broken and cracked slabs and have refilled some of the joints with sand.

P0224 Cycleway/Footway on Topcliffe Road; reply sent.

P0224 Police restructuring options; E-mail sent

P0224 Street naming on Station Road; attempting to contact the racecourse re names. Cllr Marshall suggested we speak to

Cooper Harding.

P0224 Hambleton Local Development Framework: Allocations Development Plan Document; letter sent to HDC commenting on each of the proposed sites.

P0225 Planning application by Thirsk Clock Café; letter of support sent to HDC.

P0225 Parking outside Butterflies Day Nursery; letter sent to Butterflies thanking them for their co-operation.

**Finance:**

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following accounts be approved for payment:

John Howse - two additional floodlights for St. Mary's Church  
£639.20

Thirsk Museum - research re Interpretation Panels and Plaques  
£155.00

BT office phone £125.29

SLCC - Membership renewal 2006 £118.00

A Swift & Son - repairing leaking radiator at Cemetery Lodge  
£47.00

KRM Plumbing & Heating - servicing/repairing boiler at Cemetery Lodge £175.78

Wired - installing Christmas Lights £1,180.87

Sam Turner & Sons Ltd - gloves/rake for Millennium Green £43.58

HDC - Office rent, quarter commencing 1.12.05. £660.94

Evershed Products - planks for seats in Mill Gardens £108.52

Mayor's Allowance (half year) £250.00

Jeremy Cave - Salary for weeks comm. 28.11.05. and 5.12.05.  
£126.77

Julie Harron - Salary, December 2005 £316.60

Elaine Coulson - Salary, November and December 2005 £2,093.28

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, November 2005 £1,168.34

C.A. Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Fence for Christmas tree £180.00

Hedging - Herriot Way and South Dowber Lane £750.00

Strimmer guards for Stockton Road £40.00

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Petty Cash £44.62

Record Playground Equipment - parts for swings at East Thirsk  
£178.83

Sakata Ornamentals Ltd- plants for Thirsk in Bloom £1,252.13

Paid Since last meeting

Jeremy Cave - Salary, week comm. 14.11.05. £50.50

Yorkshire Water - water rates of Cemetery Lodge (2nd half)  
£168.05

Jeremy Cave - Salary, week comm. 21.11.05. £78.28

Edward Pryor and Sons Ltd - Interpretation Boards on  
Castlegarth £4,829.43

Income received:

Refund of VAT (1.7.05.-30.9.05) £5,361.83  
Rotary - Contribution to Picnic Area £120.00  
NYCC - Contribution to Alleyways £5,000.00  
Bank Interest £744.16  
Burial Bd: Rent £397.12  
Interment £116.00  
Memorials £53.00

### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that the following application for a memorial be approved.

Grave No. F3 18 Kenneth Brown Interred 12.9.05.

It was noted that this is a recent interment and six months must be allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place. Cllr Marshall advised that Mrs Craig, the widow of ex Councillor Bert Craig, has died; agreed that a sympathy card be sent from the Town Council.

### **Correspondence**

Highways Agency ; further carriageway reconstruction works including low noise surfacing to be carried out to the remaining 3.7km section of the A19 Thirsk Bypass. Works to commence on 16th January 2006 with completion anticipated before the late May Bank Holiday. A letter of thanks to be sent to the Highways Agency.

Copy letter from NYCC to Sowerby Parish Council replying to its comments on the highway works in Thirsk Market Place Sowerby Parish Council; comments on the highway works in Thirsk Market Place HDC; street naming and numbering of the two developments off Hambleton Place to be known as Hambleton Row and Hambleton Court. This is in accordance with the Town Council's wishes, therefore approved.

Citizens Advice Bureau; request for donation. Already included in budget.

HDC re development at 100 Long Street. The developer is proposing naming the properties Treschegate Court. Reply sent advising that the Town Council wishes this to be Tresche Court. HDC now advise that the developer is insisting on Treschegate Court. Agreed that this is historically incorrect and that we should stand by our request for it to be Tresche Court.

YRCC; advising that, owing to changes in staffing and working arrangements, the Annual Parish Government Conference will not be held in 2006.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson reported that he is pleased the oil boiler is now working better and hopefully we will not need an alternative boiler. This has therefore been taken out of the budget.

**Resignation of Councillor Tarek Ghouri:**

Letter received from Cllr Ghouri tending his resignation from the Town Council; this was received with regret.

**Precept 2006/7:**

Report from the Finance Committee

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson that this be accepted; agreed.

Budgets for 2006/7:

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Jackson that these be accepted; agreed.

Precept for 2006/7

Cllr Marshall explained that the proposal is for £77K which allows for surfacing another alleyway and for the police apex system.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that a precept of £77K be applied;

agreed. Cllr Watson thanked Cllr Marshall and the clerk for their work on this.

**Reports:**

Representatives Cllr Adamson reported that the East Thirsk Christmas Party has been a great success and he expressed thanks to all who had helped.

Cllr Roberts had attended a TRI meeting, the main topic of which had been the Local Development Framework Allocations proposals. The TRI Committee agreed with the comments made by the Town Council.

Cllr Morton reported that he had gone to the Swimming Pool Trustee Meeting, but it had been abandoned. It had then been held earlier today when Cllr Morton was not available to attend, although Cllr Marshall had attended the meeting. They are dealing with the new pricing structure as it is necessary to increase the prices because of the rise in energy costs.

Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Roberts and the Clerk for doing a Christmas Tree on behalf of the Town Council for the Christmas Tree Exhibition held in St Mary's Church.

**Members**

Cllr Adamson referred to a Consultation concerning Central Government's Register of Electors.

Cllr Pack pointed out that it is very dark where the post boxes are outside the old sorting office. County to be asked if they can install a streetlight there.

Cllr Mallett referred to the plans for the proposed 20mph limit on St James Green saying they are showing the road up to the edge of the Pinfold Place houses in front of Butterflies Day Nursery. There is a large hole in the road outside Butterflies. If it is a public road it should be repaired; letter to be sent to the County Council. The occupiers of 89 and 90 The Green are still leaving their wheeliebins out at the front permanently.

The copy of the letter from NYCC to Sowerby Parish Council had been circulated. Cllr Adamson expressed the view that because of the lack of room it is very difficult

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when cars are coming out of Finkle Street and this causes traffic hold-ups. Cllr Marshall suggested we ask Paul Greenaway to come to a site meeting in the new year.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 5th January 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), PC Duncan Pears, PCSO C Ross (North Yorkshire Police) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr R Mallett (ill); accepted.

Agreed that Open Forum be moved to the second item on the agenda at this and future meetings.

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

**Open Forum:**

PC Pears said they would like to respond to various matters raised at a previous meeting. Regarding speeding, PCSO Ross said he has used the speed matrix on Norby Road, Stockton Road and Sutton Road and he passed on an analysis of the figures obtained from this to the Town Council. He was particularly concerned at speeding on Norby Front Street bearing in mind the proximity of the road to the childrens' play area on The Holmes. PCSO Ross said that the results of the speed matrix have been passed to the Traffic Section.

PC Pears advised that the police have carried out checks on Station Road of HGVs over 7.5 tonne; this did not appear to be a big problem. Referring to cycling without lights, PC Pears has spoken to children and their parents about this.

PC Pears said that since the introduction of the new licensing hours there had been 16 calls, but of these only 6 related to complaints outside the old licensing hours. PC Pears said that under the new legislation the police have more powers to enforce the closing times. The police are working with the licensees to get the Pubwatch scheme up and running.

There have been 8 instances of damage within the town recently and two instances of graffiti. Comments had been made about the use of the bus shelter by young people. Cllr Marshall referred to the Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth, one of which has recently been vandalised.

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

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19th December 2005:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts subject to several amendments; agreed.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December 2005:**

P0227 Alleyways; the three broken slabs in the TIC Yard and the one in Batemans Yard have now been replaced. Cooper Harding has confirmed that the correct name of the TIC Yard is Red Bear Yard; agreed.

P0227 - Soil in the Tramire Beck; attempting to arrange a meeting. An E-mail has been sent to the County Council requesting some dates.

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P0227 Christmas Lights; Chris Amy is to take down the fence and remove the Christmas tree once the lights have been taken off.

P0227 Thircon Roundabout; still no response from Bagby Parish Council. A letter has now been sent to Eddie Hayward; acknowledgement received. Cllr Dadd has also spoken to Caroline Patmore about this.

P0227 Greens and Ingramgate; letter sent to the occupier who is reserving a space with cones, telling him that these must be removed.

P0227 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate Car Park; reply still awaited from HDC.

P0227 Metal fence around Gillings Court; dealt with at the last meeting - Broadacres are to paint the fence black.

P0227 Proposed street names; dealt with at the last meeting - Broadacres have agreed to Hambleton Row and Hambleton Court.

P0227 Request for a footpath from the corner of Newsham Road/A61 to the Athletics Club, letter to be sent to the Athletics Club. Letter sent to HDC re rubbish along Newsham Road.

P0228 Thirsk Internal Drainage Board; work in hand at present.

P0228 Street naming of the new development on Station Road; the racecourse are compiling a list of names.

P0228 100 Long Street; reply sent to HDC advising that we wish to stand by our suggestion of Tresche Court.

P0228 Proposed 20mph speed limit on St James' Green, Stammergate and Piper Lane; letter sent to the County Council.

P0228 Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society; reply sent to the Civic Society agreeing to take over the maintenance of the seat which commemorates John Gormley.

P0229 Donation towards Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day; cheque given to David Brown.

P0229 Request for additional streetlights at Todds Court;

letter sent to the Chief Executive of Broadacres.

P0229 Rubbish in the Tranmire Beck; Cllr Marshall reported that this has now been cleared.

P0229 Dog bin in river near Finkle Street Bridge; this was mentioned to Chris Amy. The clerk has looked since and the bin is no longer in the river.

P0229 Community Education; reply received containing observations on the Town Council's comments. The points made by the Town Council will be placed before the Members of the Executive before they make their final decision on 7th February 2006. Agreed that a copy of the letter be given to Councillors Mallett and Marshall for their comments and we will then send these in.

P0230 Refuse outside new houses on Barbeck; E-mail sent to HDC. Cllr Marshall advised that the houses in question have wheeliebins.

**Correspondence:**

HDC re closed churchyard at St. Mary's Church; confirming that with effect from 2nd March 2006 the maintenance responsibilities for the closed churchyard will pass to HDC - a letter to be sent to the Thirsk Team Ministry informing them of this.

HDC re Vale Garage, Long Street; copy letter from the Enforcement Officer to Mr J Swales detailing various works which require to be carried out. Mrs Dodson advises that failure to do these could result in the service of a Section 215 Notice.

**Page P0239**

BTCV; letter advising that they have programmed in the work for 27th June to 4th July. They require to know whether they are to order materials, for which a 20% handling charge will be made. Agreed that we will order the materials - a letter to be sent to BTCV asking what is required.

HDC; advising that there is to be a Christmas Tree recycling point in the corner of Millgate Coach Park until 16th January. NYCC enclosing the proposals for a new footway and traffic calming on Norby Front Street. It was felt that these proposals will not reduce traffic speed. Agreed that the information provided by the police following the use of the speed matrix on Norby Front Street be sent to the County Council. It is very necessary for there to be effective speed control bearing in mind the proximity of the childrens' play area on The Holmes.

**Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Matters:**

A copy of this had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Watson queried whether there had been any progress with the

Castlegate drain; to be chased up.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson reported that there are one or two broken paving slabs in the Market Place and County are working on these. Cllr Watson pointed out that two large panes of glass in the bus shelter have been broken recently. She felt that if we have proof then we should prosecute offenders; agreed. Cllr Marshall felt we should start looking at the possibility of surfacing one of the alleyways and, in view of Cllr Ghouri's resignation from the Town Council and therefore from the post of Chairman of the Town Development Working Party, asked whether responsibility for this should pass to Central Areas or stay with the Town Development Working Party. It was agreed that this should stay with the Town Development Working Party. Cllr Adamson indicated his willingness to be Chairman of this. Agreed that quotes be obtained for surfacing Roses Yard and the CCA Yard.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson reported that Chris Amy is to remove the Christmas tree when all the lights have been taken off. Awaiting a quote from Wired for some new lights.

Greens and Ingramgate - Nothing to report.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she has had a look round. The fence has been fixed and the rubbish has been cleared. She pointed out that there are branches and trees in the stream. Cllr Marshall advised that this is not within the Millennium Green and she has asked HDC to write to the people responsible for this. Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that we are proceeding with the items highlighted in the RoSPA report.

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Town Development Working Party - Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Cllr Adamson be appointed Chairman; agreed.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr Adamson advised that the Millennium Green AGM is to be held on 11th January 2006

Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to some inaccuracies in the report of the Town Council Meeting in the 'Thirsk Weekly News'; a letter to be sent.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Interpretation Boards saying that these incorporate the logos of the various bodies involved. She asked whether the Town Council should have a logo which could be used for this. Agreed that we should have a logo made up of a picture of the Town Clock with the words 'Thirsk Town Council'. Agreed that Cllr Marshall should ask RANY to do this; Cllr Adamson said this could also be used on

notepaper etc.

Cllr Marshall advised that she understands from one of the Managers of the Coop that the Coop is to be closed for refurbishment for two weeks in March and this will include the Post Office. Agreed that a letter be sent to the Post Office asking what will happen during this period.

The clerk pointed out that the third Monday in April is Easter Monday. She has spoken to the Chairman of Carlton Miniott Parish Council who has agreed that its meeting can be moved from Monday 24th April to Tuesday 25th April. Agreed that the Town Council meeting will be held on the fourth Monday, i.e. 24th April.

Cllr Marshall reported that the District Council's Scrutiny Committee is looking at the effectiveness of the CCTV operation. Local members have been asked for their views, particularly those in places where CCTV has been installed. Cllr Roberts felt that judging by the police reports this is very effective and Cllr Morton agreed that having cameras is a deterrent.

Cllr Marshall advised that Julie Harron is taking up the position of Secretary of the Town Hall Management Committee. Cllr Watson explained that the same telephone number will be kept and there will be an answer machine, which will be checked regularly. All correspondence will be sent to the Town Hall.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the AGM is to be held on 25th January to which everyone is welcome.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 16th January 2006 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C. Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Inspector J Richardson (NY Police), I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

County Cllr G Dadd (holiday), District Cllr S Hubbard (another commitment); accepted.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5th January 2006:**

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson that these be approved, subject to three minor amendments on page P0238.

**Police Report:**

Inspector Richardson gave details about the forthcoming 'Operation Enable' explaining that this is to deal with the link between the environment and crime. There is to be a meeting about this on 2nd February and Operation Enable is to take place in East Thirsk on 15th/16th/17th February, with an event at the school on Thursday 16th February from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Inspector Richardson explained that a similar operation had been held in Northallerton involving the County, District and Town Councils and other organisations and this had gone very well. In addition to tackling environmental issues such as litter, graffiti, vandalism and possibly some removal of larger items of rubbish, some matters of road safety will be dealt with and the police are looking at using the speed matrix. Inspector Richardson pointed out that a lot of signs need re-fixing or replacing and some streetlights are broken or not connected and it is hoped to also address these issues. The HDC Streetscene Manager who will be involved in this is John Proud and other organisations such as the Fire Service, Clock Café etc will take part. Inspector Richardson felt that quite a lot could be done within a very short space of time. Inspector Richardson advised that a meeting had been held last week to look at some of the issues at East Thirsk. An item of concern was bags of rubbish left on the stairs in blocks of flats and Broadacres, together with the Fire Service, are to deal with this. Broadacres will also deal with any of the snickets which are in their ownership. The Clock Café have offered to help with the removal of graffiti, painting etc.

Referring to some of the issues at East Thirsk, Cllr Marshall

pointed out that there is a plan to put a 20mph speed limit on some of the roads, a plan of action has been drawn up re the ditches and this is with HDC at the moment. The vandalised telephone box was reported to BT some time ago. Cllr Watson enquired whether inconsiderate parking will be monitored as part of the operation. Inspector Richardson advised that as part of the three-day event they will consulting the community to see what other issues there are. However, he will take the parking problem back now. Cllr Mallett referred to the amount of litter at weekends from the town to Piper Lane and Inspector Richardson said that if they see someone dropping litter they tell them about it. Asked by Inspector Richardson whether there was anything the Town Council could do, Cllr Marshall said the Town Council fully support the initiative and has a lot of

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knowledge and information, but no staff it can offer. Cllr Pack felt we could ensure that our play areas are in good order. Agreed that Chris Amy be asked to coordinate this within the three days of the Operation. A Community Safety Roadshow is to be held and the Town Council could be represented on this.

Inspector Richardson left the meeting.

### **Reports:**

#### County Council

No County Councillor present. Cllr Marshall referred to the new streetlights in East Thirsk and at Norby and said these are to be assessed. She pointed out that there is a base but no light outside 16 Woolmoor Close. Cllr Roberts referred to the streetlight in the Market Place which was partially removed some time ago. Cllr Marshall had also complained again about the roundabout at Town End which has still not been painted and which is now hardly visible. Cllr Robinson expressed concern that when roadworks etc are being carried out and warning signs are put up these are often left on the pavement and impede the passage of pedestrians.

#### District Council

Cllr Marshall reported that she will be attending the Standards Committee Meeting this week. She also attended the Chief Executive's Appraisal Meeting last week. Speaking on flooding, Cllr Marshall advised that a report is going to Cabinet tomorrow and the part relating to Thirsk is dealing with the enmaining of the Cod Beck which HDC are not opposing. Cllr Marshall advised that the BNP have been in the Market

Place near the Town Clock several times over recent months; a letter to be sent to HDC requesting clarification as it is their land.

**Open forum:**

No members of the public present.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 19th December 2005:**

P0232 Street names for the new development on Station Road; various names of horses had been obtained from the racecourse. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that these be sent to HDC, pointing out that the development is not in our parish, and also to Sowerby Parish Council. The clerk reported that Cllr Hubbard has spoken to the appropriate officer regarding Cllr Jackson's concerns about the names. Cllr Robinson expressed concern that under the new system planning applications no longer show the parish number. Cllr Roberts advised that we have taken this up with Steve Quartermain.

P0232 Gas supply to Cemetery lodge; refund of £507.61 being the amount paid for this has now been received back from Centrica.

P0232 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; letter sent to Yorkshire Water requesting a site meeting.

P0233 Thirsk Map; letter to be sent to Margaret Hunton.

P0234 Condolence card sent to Beryl Craig following the death of her mother.

P0234 Development at 100 Long Street; letter from HDC advising that the developers are proposing one of the names of Cherry Tree Court, Rowan Court or Birch Court.

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The developers have said that whichever name is chosen they will plant trees accordingly. Agreed that this should be Rowan Court.

P0235 Resignation of Cllr Tarek Ghouri; HDC have been advised and the notices have been put up. We have until 24th January and can then co-opt.

P0235 Precept 2006/7; precept request of £77,000 submitted to HDC.

P0235 Old Sorting Office; County to be asked if they will install a streetlight outside the old sorting office.

P0235 Market Place works; site meeting to be arranged.

**Finance:**

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed.

Mazars - External Audit Fee 2004/05 £775.50

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - Room Hire £330.00

T. Imeson - Christmas Tree £120.00

M Burnett - Work at East Thirsk Play Area, Mill Gardens, Seat repair, fixing plaques £386.63  
Bow House Limited - Herriot Country Guide £699.13  
Eccles Heddon - legal fees for dealing with Town Hall matters £837.19  
Hollin Barn Nurseries - plants for planters/beds in Long Street £544.75  
Julie Harron - Salary, January 2006 £316.60  
Elaine Coulson - Salary, January 2006 £1,046.64  
Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, December 2005 £33.60  
C A Amy - weekly inspections £228.50  
Litter picking £250.00  
Holmes management plan £415.00  
Dean Landscapes - planting White Mare roundabout £264.38  
Staples - stationery £38.58  
M Burnett - repairing Cemetery seat £94.30  
Sowerby Parish Council - contribution to grasscutting on The Flatts £518.00  
Thirsk & District Business Association - contribution to Christmas lights £500.00

**Paid Since last meeting**

Jeremy Cave - Salary, weeks comm. 12th/19th/26th Dec & 2nd Jan (34.25 hours) £172.96

**Income received**

NYCC - Contribution to grasscutting £2,576.40  
Thirsk in Bloom - payment of part of Sakata invoice £636.50  
Bank Interest £262.56  
Burial Board: Grave Purchase and Memorial £145.00

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for December 2005  
Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

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Report from the External Auditors for 2004/5:  
Signed audit certificate received from Mazars. They recommend that the Council should formally approve the Risk Assessment on an annual basis and review the Standing Orders/Financial Regulations to ensure these are still appropriate. Cllr Marshall suggested that this be timetabled for a particular meeting in order that it is done annually. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be done at the Town Council meeting in July each year; agreed. The auditors also recommend that the level of fidelity guarantee insurance be reviewed; the clerk will look at this. Cllr Marshall thanked the clerk for her work with the audit.

### **Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:**

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that the following applications be approved, in the case of James Harold Dowson subject to the usual requirement that six months be allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place.

Grave No. D4 4 Henry Abbott

Grave No. F3 17 James Harold Dowson

### **Correspondence**

NYCC - Review of contracted bus services. An enquiry had also been made to the Town Council Office regarding the Arriva buses which it is rumoured are to cease running in March. The County Council's Passenger Transport Department to be contacted re this.

Hambleton and Richmondshire NHS PCT re the proposed reconfiguration of the four PCTs in North Yorkshire into one organisation, the 'North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust'. A meeting to be held on 8th February at The Friarage Hospital; Cllr Watson to attend.

Hambleton Strategic Partnership re Review of the Community Plan for Hambleton; noted.

Thirsk Hall Farms - Annual Herbage Agreement re Castlegarth; Proposed Cllr Watson seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be signed and the Annual Licence fee of £120 paid; agreed.

Cllr Marshall referred to the letter sent by the Town Council to Chris McGee of NYCC regarding Community Education, to which a reply has now been received. Mr McGee advises that this is to be put before the Executive on the 7th February, but Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Scrutiny Committee were expecting to receive it before it went to the Executive. Cllr Mallett has spoken to Tom Wharton and he would like us to write saying we regret the lack of local input as far as the local committee and local management are concerned.

HDC Local Development Framework - Development Policies Development Plan; Cllr Marshall advised that there is a large document in the office. She asked that Councillors call in and look at it.

Thirsk Clock; notice advising that they intend to move to Fourways Guest House. A public meeting is to be held on 21st January.

From Tabled Correspondence Cllr Adamson referred to the article in the Thirsk and District Business Association Newsletter regarding the proposed 20mph around St James Green Scheme. In this the Association suggest that a temporary trial using cones should take place but Cllr Adamson did not think this was practical. Cllr

Roberts asked that people should write to the County Council about this scheme. Cllr Marshall asked that we ascertain whether this is going to the Area Committee for Hambleton. Cllr Mallet advised that all the residents on St James Green and the Little Green received a letter and reply slip regarding this.

Cllr Adamson referred to the 'Standard of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future' published and circulated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and he commented on this saying he felt it was a great step forward.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson will be arranging a Burial Board meeting for early February.

**Reports:**

**Representatives**

Cllr Robinson had attended the opening of the new palliative care unit at the Lambert Hospital.

Cllr Adamson reported that a NYCC Area Committee for Hambleton meeting is to be held on 23rd January. Cllr Marshall asked that he make the point about the apparent lack of action by the Highways Department on various matters, such as the speed limit on Stockton Road, traffic calming near the school, the re-painting of the roundabout at town end etc.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had been to the District Council for training for the Standards Board.

**Members:**

Following on from Inspector Richardson's talk, Cllr Jackson expressed surprise at the fact that there is a problem disposing of larger items of rubbish. It was pointed out that a charge is made for collecting and disposing of larger items - Cllr Marshall advised that this is on HDC's website.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that a sign on Marage Road has been turned round.

Cllr Robinson referred to the fact that young people congregate in the bus shelter and said this had happened since the seats were put in.

Cllr Adamson said he understands that a local resident is urging people to object to the planning application submitted by the Clock Café.

Cllr Marshall reported that a plaques meeting is to be held later this week and she will give an update after that.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Thursday 2nd February 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble, (Darlington and Stockton Times) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Robinson (work commitments), Inspector J Richardson; accepted.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, subject to two amendments on Page P0242 and one on Page P0245.

**Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th January 2006:**

P0237 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; reply received from the County Council advising that the soil has been removed and they do not feel it necessary to have a site meeting. Agreed not to pursue this.

P0238 Christmas Lights; Christmas tree, fence and poles have been taken down; the poles and lights have been taken to John Potter's.

P0238 Thircon roundabout; letter sent to the Chairman of Bagby Parish Council. Telephone call received from her advising that their clerk has responded confirming that Bagby Parish Council has no objections to our proposal. They are to send a copy.

P0238 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate car park; chasing 'E' mail sent to HDC.

P0238 Metal fence around Gillings Court; letter sent to Broadacres agreeing with their suggestion that they will paint the fence black. Also asking them to let us know in advance of any works they are considering doing in the future.

P0238 Request for a footpath from the corner of Newsham Road/A61 to the Athletics Club; letter sent to NYCC requesting current usage of Newsham Road. Cllr Adamson advised that this is now on the County Council's list of proposals to be investigated.

P0238 Street naming of the new development on Station Road; list of horse names supplied by Thirsk Racecourse had been given at the last Town Council meeting. Also sent to Sowerby Parish Council and to HDC, but pointing out that this is not in Thirsk Parish.

P0238 100 Long Street; this has now been superseded by a

letter put to the Town Council at its last meeting. The Town Council chose 'Rowan Court'.

P0238 St James' Green; Cllr Adamson advised that the County Council is looking at the responses and it is likely that it will go to the Area Committee some time in the near future. The Thirsk Business Association's suggestion re temporary coning off was not accepted.

P0238 Request for additional streetlights at Todds Court; reply received asking where the dark areas are. Reply sent advising that these are at both entrances to the building.

P0238 Community Education; further letter sent following the last Town Council meeting.

P0238 Closed churchyard at St Mary's Church; letter sent to the Rector advising him that HDC will take over responsibility for the closed churchyard with effect from 2nd March 2006.

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P0238 Vale Garage; Cllr Marshall advised that a Section 215 Notice is to be served by HDC.

P0239 BTCV; letter sent advising them that we will order the materials and asking them to let us know what is required.

P0239 New footway and traffic calming on Norby Front Street; letter sent to NYCC and reply received advising that the proposed footway construction will commence in February.

E-mail sent to Norby advising that as part of the flood alleviation works HDC are proposing to construct bunds near the road. We suggest that NYCC contact HDC regarding this and also contact the landowner. E-mail sent to County Cllr Dadd expressing the Town Council's concern that its comments do not appear to have been taken into account.

P0239 Christmas Festivities; Wired have been asked to quote for new lights.

P0240 Report in 'Thirsk Weekly News'; letter sent pointing out two inaccuracies in their report.

P0240 Logos; drawings received from Rany and circulated at the meeting.

P0240 Post Office; letter sent asking what is to happen whilst the Coop is closed for refurbishment for two weeks in March.

P0240 April Town Council Meeting; the clerk confirmed that Carlton Miniott Parish Council has confirmed that it will move its meeting to the fourth Tuesday of the month and the Town Council meeting will therefore be held on Monday 24th April.

P0240 Thirsk in Bloom; AGM minutes in Tabled Correspondence.

### **Correspondence**

Copy letter from HDC to Mr Orr re property name change from 'The Bungalow', Stockton Road to 'Oldfields', Stockton Road

Copy letter from HDC to Broadacres re numbering of sites at Hambleton Row and Hambleton Court, to be known as Nos 1 and 2

Hambleton Row and 1 and 2 Hambleton Court. Edward Barker re work carried out by the Cod Beck IDB to the Whitelass Beck. Cllr Marshall expressed concern at the devastation caused to this area by the works. She said some small trees planted by Chris Amy have been destroyed and some established willows have been cut down to get the digger through. Cllr Roberts queried whether the IDB had an environmental risk assessment and she also suggested that the Environment Agency be asked to look at the work carried out. It was also felt that we should ask for financial recompense because we shall have to plant more willows and may need more hardcore on the path. It was pointed out that some of the fencing has also been removed. Letters to be sent to the IDB and also to the Chairman of the IDB, the Environment Agency and HDC. Also to Edward Barker advising him that we agree with his comments. John Bell to also be contacted, as the landowner. Blue Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party - request for consent to install Interpretation Boards at the Sluicgate, on The Holmes, in Mill Gardens, on St. James' Green and the Little Green; Cllr Marshall advised that the number of boards on The Holmes has been reduced from two to one (now only the one on the south side) Cllr Mallett felt that the position proposed on the Little Green is not a good idea because of the risk of vandalism. Subject to the above comments, it was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Town Council give its consent to the siting of the interpretation boards in these areas. A letter to be sent to John Bell as the

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landowner. Cllr Pack asked that a letter be sent to the Blue Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party thanking them for all their hard work. She also suggested that there should be a planned walk to take in the plaques and interpretation boards- Cllr Marshall advised that a leaflet is being designed for this.

HDC - Hambleton Local Development Framework - Development Policies Development Plan Document; Cllr Roberts advised that she had suggested to the Planning Committee that Councillors should look at it and that a special meeting be held within the next two weeks to discuss it and compile responses. A meeting is to be held at HDC on 13th February - Cllr Roberts to attend - and she suggested that the meeting be held as soon as possible thereafter. This was arranged for Thursday 16th February at 7.30 pm in the Town Council Office.

Cllr Marshall advised that a letter had been received from the Millennium Green Committee thanking the Town Council for all it has done. To be tabled at the next meeting.

Logo; Cllr Marshall had circulated the various designs done by Rany of a logo for the Town Council. She explained that this is needed to go on the Interpretation Boards, but we would also like one as our permanent logo. Members were not happy with any of the designs. Cllr Adamson has a drawing and will bring it to the next meeting. Cllr Watson suggested the Town Council look at Cllr Adamson's drawing and if this is not considered suitable then we go back and ask Rany to do another design.

Bus services; letter from NYCC and schedule had been circulated at the meeting. Cllr Jackson expressed concern that this appears to involve all the bus services in Thirsk. Cllr Morton suggested a reply be sent advising that the Town Council is not happy at any reduction in the service and requesting they look more favourably at this. It was felt that people, particularly the elderly and disabled, will be disadvantaged and a reduction in the bus services will cause more car usage and thus impact upon the environment.

**Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Matters:**

The clerk referred to two items:

Drain on Castlegate - she has examined this and it does not seem to be a problem. Condition of toilets - there had been a problem earlier that day regarding cleanliness of the Millgate toilets which she had examined and reported to Steve Prentice. She had also asked him for an update on the proposed deep cleaning of the Market Place toilets - he advised that they are currently awaiting quotes for the repainting of the interior of the Market Place toilets. It was mentioned that the lights appear to be on all night in the toilets - to be queried.

The following items on the Schedule were raised:

The proposed benches in Millgate car park were mentioned and Cllr Marshall advised that HDC are to remove some of the grassed areas and extend the car park.

Regarding the Millennium Green Ditch, Cllr Marshall advised that HDC are to have a meeting next week.

Trees along the side of the White Bridge; to be chased up.

Dog bins; to be chased up.

Replacement bin for The Holmes; to be ordered.

Alleyways; The 'Darrowby Arms' to be asked about putting the lights on along the side of the building.

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Thirsk Station; Cllr Adamson advised that Transpennine have promised to spend a lot of money on upgrading the station. A member of Sowerby Parish Council is working with the MP in trying to get better access for the elderly and disabled at the station. Cllr Roberts advised that a recent TRI meeting

had been attended by a person from Network Rail and another rail body. They were told about the problems with car parking, non-manning of the station etc. and they promised that improvements would be made.

**Reports:**

Carrs field - Nothing to report. Cllr Roberts advised that another letter had been sent to the Carrs Field Trust requesting they do as the police have asked.

Central Areas - Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities - Awaiting quote from Wired for new lights.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett advised that the Greens Committee need to look at the Byelaw for St James Green. They will also be looking at Long Street.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that this is generally in good condition. There is a rope between the trees, which appears to have been put there by children. The fencing near the beck is broken. Cllr Hesmondhalgh felt that some of the shrubs were in need of cutting back, but Cllr Marshall pointed out that this is a wildlife area.

Town Development Working Party - HDC being asked to do plans for the re-surfacing of Porters Vaults and Roses Yard.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr Adamson advised that Network Rail's planning department have been alerted to the planning application for Power Point.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that HDC were to look at car parking charges in 2011/12, but may now have to look at this earlier. She referred to a copy of a letter from HDC to the Thirsk Business Association. Cllr Roberts had been assured by Mick Jewitt that we will be consulted and given information at the earliest opportunity. She felt it was necessary to give thought to this in order that when we are consulted we can put forward sensible suggestions. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that a letter be sent to HDC asking that they consult us at the earliest possible time. Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

Cllr Watson reported that she had gone to the Open Meeting at Thirsk Clock. She said it was very well attended by members of The Clock and their committee. There was concern from some residents about the proposed move to 'Fourways'. There is to be a site meeting on Monday and the application goes to Committee next Thursday. Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended the meeting regarding Operation Enable earlier in the day. At that meeting the various authorities had explained what they will be doing. The speed matrix will be used and there will be speed checks in East Thirsk on the days of Operation Enable. The primary school are very keen on taking

part and the police and fire brigade are to do an assembly. A roadshow is to be held on 16th February and they will be grateful if the Town Council can join them for

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this. The clean up will start early morning each day. Peter Penny to be involved in sorting out footpaths and particularly overhanging hedges. New signs will be put up where necessary and any potholes, defective street lights, etc to be repaired.

Questionnaires are to be delivered to houses in East Thirsk and volunteers are being sought to do this and also to help with the roadshow. Cllr Marshall asked any Councillors who are available on the three days if they could help with the roadshow. Chris Amy is on holiday during the three days of Operation Enable, but he has been asked to ensure the play areas are up to scratch before then.

Cllr Mallett advised that two pieces of grass on Bridge Street have been killed by salt from the gritting wagons. There is also a lot of salt on the pavement there; to be reported to the County Council.

Cllr Mallett reported that one of the bollards in Piper Lane is broken and leaning. Cllr Mallett reported that there is a lot of rubbish in the field next to the picnic area; a letter to be sent to Mr Calvert.

Cllr Mallett referred to damage to St James Green and the pathway as a result of works carried out at the pumping station by Yorkshire Water; already reported and photographs sent to Yorkshire Water.

Cllr Mallett felt it would be a good idea to have a second litter bin next to the other seat in Castlegarth. It was felt there could already be one near the Picks Lane entrance; Cllrs Marshall to have a look at this.

Cllr Morton reported that one of the slats on the seat in the middle of Castlegarth has been broken.

Cllr Morton referred to the 20mph speed limit saying this appeared to be working well in the Market Place, but then traffic speeds up and goes very fast around St James' Green.

The police and Highways to be asked to do speed checks on St James Green and Cllr Watson requested that such speed checks also be done on Kirkgate. Cllr Marshall referred to the proposals for the reorganisation of Community Education, saying this is going to the Scrutiny Committee on 3rd February and to the Executive on 7th February. There were a lot of responses from some places, but Thirsk was the only parish in North Yorkshire to respond. Cllr Watson asked that Cllrs Marshall and Mallett formulate a response and send this to the Executive.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack pointed out that the minutes of Thirsk in Bloom's AGM are included in Tabled Correspondence. Cllr Pack has been replaced by Mrs Kath Reynard as Chairman of Thirsk in Bloom. Their next meeting is to be held on 15th February. Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Pack for all her hard work as Chairman of Thirsk in Bloom.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a commercial nature.

During the closed session the tenders for grasscutting for the 2006 season were opened. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that Tender 1 be accepted; agreed. The clerk revealed that this was submitted by C E and C M Walker.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 20th February 2006 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, I Noble (Darlington & Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News), P C Kevin Brookes (North Yorkshire Police) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Morton (away), District Cllr S Hubbard; accepted.

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack subject to an addition on page P0247 and a minor amendment on Page P0249

**Police report:**

P C Kevin Brookes referred to Operation Enable saying this had been very well received, the feedback from the public was that they were very happy with it and Broadacres were particularly pleased at the outcome. Cllr Marshall said that Inspector Richardson is to give the Town Council a de-brief in due course. He is aware of the graffiti issue in the town. Cllr Watson pointed out that a house on Picks Lane now has graffiti on it. Cllr Watson expressed concern at the length of time someone had waited for the non-emergency police telephone to be answered. PC Brookes suggested that the person in question write to the Control Room Inspector at Newby Wiske. Cllr Marshall advised that Chris Ross has now been moved to Scarborough and expressed the regret of the Town Council at this. It was agreed that we should send him a thank you card. Cllr Watson referred to the vandalism in the bus shelter where a pane of glass has been broken. P C Brookes explained the changes which have been made to the neighbourhood policing, i.e. that all police officers will now be neighbourhood police, and also the shifts have changed.

**Reports:**

County Councillors

St James Green - Cllr Dadd reported that this is going before the Area Committee on 24th April and he encouraged the Town Council to come along and give an oral statement. Council tax budget has been set at an increase of 4.9%. There is to be a £200K cut in the rural transport budget. Cllr Dadd said he has been assured that if cuts adversely affect people to a great

extent then other arrangements will be put in place.

Arriva buses - Cllr Dadd advised that tenders are now being obtained from other bus companies and it is hoped that someone will take over the service.

Cllr Dadd advised that the Health Scrutiny Committee are looking at Upper G.I . specialist services at James Cook Hospital and it is hoped that these will be retained there rather than moving them to North Tees Hospital.

Newsham Road: the proposed pedestrian footpath has been put on County's list for assessment and costing.

Cllr Dadd advised that the National Cycle Route - Route 2 will be going out for consultation. He has asked for full details and costings.

Referring to the Extra Care Development at Stokesley, Cllr Dadd said he went to this with a resident and he was very impressed with what is being achieved and thinks it would be a great asset to the town if we could get it in Thirsk.

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Cllr Jackson referred to the brown sign at the Thirsk turn off on the A1 saying this says 'Lightwater Valley', but there is no mention of the Herriot Centre; Cllr Dadd to look into it.

Cllr Marshall referred to the street lighting at East Thirsk pointing out that Cllr Dadd had been going to see what the new lighting scheme is like. Officers had assessed the scheme and had identified two black spots, one in Woolmoor Close and one on the Hambleton Estate. In Woolmoor Close the base was installed in October 2005, but no further work was done until a week ago and there is still no top on it. A hole has been dug around the lamppost, which could be a danger. Cllr Dadd agreed to chase this up.

Cllr Marshall referred to the proposed £200K cut in the rural transport budget saying she understood there was an amendment withdrawing this proposal. She asked Cllr Dadd how he had voted on this and he said he had voted against the amendment as he did not think that a £200K cut would be difficult to find from rural transport.

Cllr Marshall asked if there was an update on the traffic proposal at Norby and Cllr Dadd said he has written about this. He has been assured by Eddie Hayward that further traffic calming will be looked at in a few month's time. Cllr Watson referred to the £200K in rural transport and pointed out that there has recently been an increase in County Councillors' allowances; Cllr Dadd advised that he did not support the increase in allowances.

Cllr Watson referred to the work recently carried out in the Market Place and said we would like to have a site meeting. Cllr Dadd said he has asked a resident to come along to this. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has already

asked Paul Greenaway from the County Council to come to a site meeting and he has agreed to this.

Cllr Roberts referred to the re-painting of the roundabout at Town End. Cllr Marshall said the reason given by County for not re-painting it now is that the road is too salty.

Cllr Jackson also mentioned that the white line down Station Road has now almost gone.

District Councillors

Cllr Robinson reported that HDC are proposing a 3% rise in Council Tax.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Cultural and Social Committee meets tomorrow. At the last meeting the Committee rejected a proposal from Cabinet that the green box recycling scheme in East Thirsk be stopped. They have agreed to defer this proposal and to look for savings elsewhere.

**Open forum:**

No members of the public present.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 16th January 2006:**

P0242 Operation Enable; the clerk reported that Chris Amy was away for the three days of this, but he did work on the play areas before he left.

P0242 Streetlight in the Market Place; reminder sent to Paul Gilmore that this light was removed some time ago and needs replacing.

P0242 BNP in the Market Place; E-mail sent to Clive Thornton.

P0242 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; some dates have now been obtained from Rex Procter of Yorkshire Water - a site meeting is to be arranged.

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P0242 Thirsk Map; letter sent to Margaret Hunton. She will put our request to the PCC at its meeting on 7th March, but she does not foresee any problem with this.

P0242 Development at 100 Long Street; copy of letter to McCarthy & Stone received advising that this is to be known as 1-63 (excluding 13), Rowan Court, Long Street.

P0243 Request for street lighting outside the Old Sorting Office; 'E' mail sent to Paul Gilmore.

P0243 Market Place works; reply received from Paul Greenaway - meeting to be arranged. Cllrs Hesmondhalgh, Marshall, Morton, Pack, Roberts and Watson to attend.

P0244 Review of Contracted Bus Services; acknowledgement received from the County Council.

P0244 Annual Herbage Agreement for Castlegarth; agreement signed and returned to Thirsk Hall Estates.

P0244 Community Education; further letter sent then additional

letter containing Cllr Marshall's comments was sent. An 'E' mail was received from County advising that this was not discussed by the Executive at its meeting on 7th February. Reply sent requesting that our comments be put forward when it goes to the meeting.

P0244 HDC Local Development Framework - Development Policies Development Plan; meeting held last week and questionnaire completed

P0245 Burial Board; meeting held on 4th February.

P0245 Sign on Marage Road; Cllr Mallett advised that this had been turned round again.

P0245 Planning application for Clock Café; Cllr Marshall reported that the planning application for change of use at 'Fourways' for the Clock Café has been passed.

New Auction Mart Site; following a meeting some time ago a letter had been sent to Mike Moore expressing the Town Council's concern at the fact that it is not planned to construct a roundabout as it is of the opinion that, for safety reasons, a roundabout is vital. Reply received advising that the developer has not provided one as part of the application, but is proposing various works to accommodate Mart traffic. Cllr Robinson expressed the fear that accidents will occur at this junction. Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting had been held at which County had said they would try and identify some monies for this. There are BT wires underneath the junction which will make the provision of a roundabout more expensive. Cllr Roberts suggested that a count of vehicles be done and it was agreed that County be asked to do this; the letter to be copied to the Chief Executive and to Sowerby Parish Council. Cllr Robinson pointed out that this is the main road to the A168 to the A1.

**Finance:**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following accounts be approved for payment.

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall - insurance premium £931.70

Thirsk & Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust - insurance premium £332.80

Safety Glass - replacement of two panes of glass in bus shelter £202.72

Jeremy Cave - 8.5 hours w/c 23.1.06. £42.93

Chris Amy:

Weekly inspections/litter picking £392.80

Holmes management plan £1073.00

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Christmas tree erection/removal £150.00

Play areas - replacement of swings £70.00

Chris Dunning - Digger Hire £169.79  
Fox's Copy Centre - photocopying £50.88  
Julie Harron - Salary, February 2006 £316.60  
Elaine Coulson - Salary, February 2006 £1,046.64  
Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, January 2006 £600.97  
Rural Arts - work on Interpretation Boards £2000.00  
Petty cash £44.24

**Paid Since last meeting**

Thirsk Hall Farms - Annual Licence Fee re Castlegarth £120.00  
BT - Internet line £130.90  
St. Mary's Church - Purchase of organ pipe (reimbursed by sale of maps) £15.00  
T. Imeson - Christmas tree (original cheque lost by T. Imeson) £120.00  
J. Cave - Salary, weeks commencing 9.1.06. and 16.1.06. £104.79  
Staples - stationery £31.17  
Npower - office electricity £261.71

**Income received**

Refund of VAT (1.10.05.-31.12.05.) £5,841.17  
Sowerby Parish Council - contribution to Interpretation Boards £1,000.00  
B Bd: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12  
Interments £440.00  
Grave Purchase £116.00  
Memorials £41.00  
Reimbursement of cost of gas installation £507.61  
Bank Interest £50.98

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for January 2006:  
Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett;  
accepted.

Ms C Thorpe left the meeting.

**Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:**

No applications received.

**Correspondence**

Copy letter from HDC to Mr J. Swales re empty property at 91 Long Street, Thirsk; noted.  
HDC re District/Parish Liaison Meeting - Monday 13th March at 7.00 p.m.  
NYCC - Order re 30 mph restriction on Long Street/Stockton Road which took effect from 30th January 2006.  
Thirsk Cricket Club request for cricket ball sponsorship.  
Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a ball be sponsored at a cost of £25.

Royal British Legion - request for financial contribution towards Remembrance Sunday 2005 refreshments. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a donation of 50% of the cost i.e. £75 be made.

Copy letter from HDC to Mr C Hinton confirming that the property to the rear of 64/64A Market Place be named 4 Nicksgate, Finkle Street.

From Tabled Correspondence:

Cllr Adamson referred to an article in the White Rose Update, February 2006 relating to Parish Councils' Gratuity Schemes and the proposal to deduct tax at 40% from such lump sums. The YLCA are protesting about this.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson advised that a Burial Board meeting was held on 4th February. At the last meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the water pipe extension subject to there being no more than a 10% uplift on the original quote from Edward Jackson, plus it was agreed to have an additional tap near the new Garden of Rest.

Risk Assessment: Cllr Adamson had handed each Member a plan with a section marked on in order that they could count the number of memorials. When these are received back we can find out how much it will cost to have a survey done. At the meeting Cllr Adamson had outlined where he thinks the next Garden of Rest should be. It is intended to put a beech hedge in well in advance of the area being used in order that it has time to become established and grow. No more received from the landowner's agents regarding the land we have enquired about for the Cemetery extension. A revaluation of Cemetery Lodge has not yet been done as the person who was dealing with this property at Joplings has now left, but the agents will be asked to revalue it.

Co-option of Town Councillor to fill a vacant seat:

Interest had been expressed by Jonathan Roberts. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that he be coopted; carried unanimously.

**Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Adamson had attended the East Thirsk meeting.

Cllr Watson advised that the small board room in the Town Hall is to be redecorated.

Cllr Marshall reported that there had recently been a tidying up day on the Millennium Green, sorting out trees, clearing paths etc.

Members:

Cllr Mallett advised that he had been to the Millennium Green earlier in the day and three swings on East Thirsk Play Area are wrapped over the top bar. Going from East Thirsk Play Area into the Millennium Green Cllr Mallett pointed out that the fence alongside the beck on the Millennium Green side of the bridge has been pulled out and is now in the beck. Estimates to be obtained for replacing this fencing and also for some additional fencing on the Millennium Green.

Cllr Watson advised that she had attended a meeting at the Friarage Hospital regarding the proposed changes to the ambulance trusts - she said it looks as though this will go ahead.

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A proposed logo which had been received from Rany was circulated. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be accepted; agreed.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to name badges for Councillors; to be discussed at the Thursday Town Council meeting.

Cllr Marshall advised that the plaque commemorating G G Macaulay at Town End is to be unveiled on 8th March at 11.30 a.m. Invitees are to be asked to assemble at 11.00 a.m.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 2nd March 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, J Roberts, F Roberts, J Watson, 1 member of the public and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Robinson, Cllrs J Watson (late arrival owing to another meeting)

Cllr Marshall welcomed Cllr Jonathan Roberts to his first meeting.

**Open forum:**

Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr T Jordan addressed the meeting regarding Carrs Field. He advised that in the light of the recent police report which had expressed concern at the amount of broken glass on the ramp and the area around it and other activities there the Trustees have decided to remove the ramp. It was first offered to various schools and then Mr Jordan heard that Masham Town Council is looking for a ramp and he approached them. They have agreed to take it away and re-install it in Masham. There is to be no payment for this, but no cost to the Carrs Field Trust either. Mr Jordan said it will be necessary to prepare a press statement explaining why it has been removed and what is to happen to the area thereafter. Carrs Field is to be used for the young people of Thirsk in line with Miss Johnson's will and it is hoped to use the hard standing for other sports pursuits. They are to encourage the use of the football pitch by schools and clubs. It is hoped to develop a wild flower area in the field to promote environmental and ecological projects using youth groups. Mr Jordan pointed out that the only income Carrs Field has is that which is given by the Town Council. Mr Jordan expressed the wish to come back to the Town Council meeting from time to time to explain what is happening. Cllr Mallett said the school is trying to get a mobile skate ramp.

Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Standing Orders be reinstated.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2006:**

Proposed Cllr Morton seconded Cllr F Roberts that these be approved, subject to an amendment on Page 0253 and an addition to Page 0255.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 2nd February 2006:**

P0246 Thircon Roundabout; reply received from Bagby Parish Council advising that they have no objection to the roundabout being landscaped. Cllr Pack advised that Lionel Twiss is interested in this and she understands that monies are being put aside by the Rotary Club. They are also looking at South Kilvington and the Busby Stoop roundabouts. Cllr Adamson said that sponsorship had been suggested. Cllr Adamson also said the Town Council is the only body to whom the County will grant a license for planting and he suggested we ask County who is responsible for the Thircon roundabout. Cllr Pack agreed to take this forward and to liaise with Lionel Twiss.

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P0246 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate car park; John Proud is now looking into this.

P0246 Metal fence around Gillings Court; this has now been painted black. Cllr Mallett said they have since changed the bolts and in doing so some of the paint has been burnt off. Also a tree has been planted next to a streetlight. A letter to be sent to Broadacres thanking them for painting the fencing but pointing out the fact that some of the paint has been damaged and asking if the tree can be moved to a better position.

P0246 Request for a footpath from the corner of Newsham Road/A61 to the Athletics Club; reply received from Eddy Hayward advising that he has submitted details of a scheme to County Hall and has asked them to carry out an assessment for inclusion in the Minor Works Programme. In the meantime he will arrange for a traffic survey to be carried out and will forward the results to the Town Council. Cllr Marshall said that County have now set up a new system of prioritising work and it may be useful to have them speak to us at some time in the future.

P0246 100 Long Street; confirmation received from HDC that this is to be 1-63 (excluding 13), Rowan Court.

P0246 Request for additional streetlight at Todds Court; reply from Broadacres awaited.

P0246 Closed churchyard at St Mary's Church; letter sent to HDC asking whether they will do the grasscutting or whether they would prefer to reimburse the Town Council for doing so. Have said we want it cutting at least fourteen times in the year.

P0247 BTCV; waiting to hear from them regarding the materials.

They were intending to paint the bridge this week, but have postponed it because of the weather.

P0247 Christmas Festivities; awaiting quote from Wired for the new lights.

P0247 Post Office; reply received advising that the planned refurbishment of the Co-op will have no impact on Post Office services and the branch will remain open for business.

P0247 Work carried out by the Cod Beck IDB to the Whiteless Beck; letters sent to the IDB, the Chairman of the IDB, the Environment Agency, HDC and Edward Barker; upon receipt of the letter Tony Hardwick of the IDB had a meeting with the clerk and he confirmed this conversation by letter. He advises that there is a 9 metre bylaw strip to provide for machine access to the watercourse and maintenance of the channel. This gives the IDB the right to remove any planting along this strip if necessary. Agreed that should any work require to be done in future the IDB will contact the Town Council and arrange to meet a representative from there together with Chris Amy to look at what needs to be done. The IDB also offered to contribute using their contractors should the Town Council have any environmental improvements they wish to make near the IDB adopted watercourses. Robin Bosomworth, the Chairman of the IDB, also called at the Town Council Office and spoke to Cllr Marshall along the same lines.

P0247 Blue Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party; reply sent advising that the Town Council agrees with the installation of the Interpretation Boards at the Sluiceway, on The Holmes, in Mill Gardens, on St James' Green and the Little Green, subject to the comments made by Cllr Mallett regarding the proposed position on the Little Green. The thanks of the Town Council for all the work done by the Working Party was also included in the letter.

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P0248 Hambleton Local Development Framework - Development Policies

Development Plan Document; meeting held. Questionnaire completed and returned to HDC.

P0248 Letter from Millennium Green Committee; this had been included in the tabled correspondence at the last meeting.

P0248 Logo; design agreed at last meeting. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the colour had not been decided upon. Agreed this should be black on white.

P0248 Bus services; letter sent and acknowledgement received. Cllr Marshall advised that the Thirsk buses have not been cut.

P0248 Market Place toilets; HDC advise that the lights should not be on all night - they are to investigate.

P0248 Replacement bin for The Holmes; E-mail sent to Gary Brown.

P0249 Millennium Green; quote received from Malcolm Burnett for the fencing.

P0249 Car parking charges; letter sent to HDC requesting they consult us at the earliest possible time.

P0249 Clock Café's proposed move to 'Fourways'; planning application approved.

P0250 Grass on Bridge Street and salt on pavements; reported to County.

P0250 Bollard on Piper Lane; Joe Gallagher has looked at this and says it is not dangerous.

P0250 Rubbish in the fields next to the Picnic Area; letter to be sent to Mr Calvert.

P0250 Damage to St James Green and pathway; site meeting held with Rex Proctor, Yorkshire Water's engineer. They have agreed to reinstate. Cllr Marshall advised that the grasscrete was taken up by the Gas Board when they were doing some work and it has not been put back correctly. HDC have been notified and Chris Vincent is looking into this.

P0250 Speed checks on St James Green and Kirkgate; the Police and Highways have been asked to do this.

P0250 Community Education; letter sent, but, as reported at the last Town Council meeting, this was not discussed by the Executive on 7th February. Have asked that our comments will go forward to the meeting when it is discussed.

P0249 Operation Enable; it was felt that all the agencies worked well together. Cllr Pack expressed concern about what did not happen regarding pot holes, defective streetlights etc. Cllr Marshall explained that we have not as yet had feedback from Inspector Richardson when doubtless such matters will be covered. Train times etc; following a previous meeting a letter had been sent to Transpennine Express. Reply received advising that their schedules are designed to meet the needs of as many people as possible. Their trains are completely cleaned at the depots after a days service and to prevent overcrowding they are trying to ensure that all trains have at least three carriages.

**Correspondence:**

Cllr Marshall advised that we have received the HDC Local Development Framework Submission Core Strategy Development Plan Document. This is in the Town Council Office and she asked members to call in for it.

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Town Council Name Badges:

Cllr Mallett advised that the badges he thinks are suitable are available at a cost of £4.50 each. It was agreed that Cllr Mallett should obtain one for the Members to look at.

**Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:**

This had been circulated showing progress with ongoing matters.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - In the absence of the Chairman of this Committee there was nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that we are awaiting a quote from Wired for some new lights.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett advised that the Committee has not met recently. Cllr Marshall said that some of the bricks from the little rockery on Ingramgate are falling into the road; Cllr Mallett to look at this. Cllr Marshall also said that a large hole has appeared on the other side of the road on Ingramgate; Cllr Mallett to inspect.

Millennium Green - A quote has now been received from Malcolm Burnett for the fencing required and this has been agreed.

Cllr Marshall said the branches are still in the stream.

Malcolm Burnett has moved the goal post.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that the Committee has not yet met. She referred to the tree stumps on The Holmes, saying the options are to get someone to sculpt them, to take them out or to cut them down to ground level. It was agreed to leave the decision to the Open Areas Committee.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Adamson said we are awaiting plans for the alleyways. Cllr Marshall advised that HDC have sent us a grant application form.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr F. Roberts advised that Eddy Hayward has said he will get the mini roundabout at Town End painted as soon as possible. She has asked him to do it on a regular basis this spring and in spring each year.

Cllr Watson joined the meeting.

Cllr Watson had been to a meeting regarding the Christmas Fair which is to be held on Sunday 26th November on the Market Place. She asked if the Christmas tree could be lit on that day. Cllr Watson mentioned the amount of salt which has collected on the pavement.

Cllr Mallett mentioned that there is a lot more broken glass around since Chris Ross left. It was agreed to ask Inspector Richardson if he can come to the next meeting.

Cllr Watson mentioned that there is a piece of concrete which is cracked on the ground between the Town Hall and PowerPoint.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that now the post on the lane going up to Castlegarth has been moved, the van which used to park there is now parking on the footpath; the police to be notified.

Cllr Jackson said that the sign at the Newsham Road end of Picks Lane is in pieces. County to be asked if it can be replaced with one with just Picks Lane (i.e. not Masonic Lane) on it.

Cllr Morton pointed out that the metal gate around the gas station on Long Street is being left open and it swings across the footpath. A letter had been sent about this gate being left open so time ago - to be chased up.

Cllr Marshall advised that the plaque commemorating G.G. Macaulay is to be unveiled on 8th March, to which all Town Councillors are invited. Listed Building Consent for the plaque on 'Foxwynd' has now been received and consent for the plaque on the Workhouse is awaited. Boots have been asked for permission to put up a plaque commemorating Bill Foggitt. In respect of the blue plaque on the Old Courthouse, CAG do not approve of the proposed position to the right hand side of the door of the Courthouse and Tim Wood of HDCs planning department has suggested it be positioned to the left of the door. Rany have agreed to it going there. Cooper Harding is writing the text for a blue plaques leaflet for which the Working Party is trying to obtain funding. Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting is to be held on Monday to look at the text and illustrations for the interpretation boards. She has been in contact with Pryor Signs regarding problems with the boards on Castlegarth. Cllr Marshall reported that two of the Trustees of the Millennium Green have met with Dave Goodwin, Denise Pearce and Chris Vincent and have had a look at the ditches. Officers are going back to assess and will come back with some options on how to progress with this.

Cllr Marshall referred to the new development on Barbeck saying that on the left hand side there was a tree and a hedge which forms the boundary between the development and the old Quaker burial ground. The tree is now down. Cllr Marshall asked that members watch this and any other developments.

Cllr F Roberts reported that there is a lot of rubbish in Nicks Alley - to be reported to Environmental Health.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack reported that a meeting of Thirsk in Bloom had been held on 15th February, and projects for 2006 had been looked at. This is mainly bulb planting and looking at areas which could be beautified. They have also made plans for the hanging baskets to come down in May and planting will start on 5th June. Cllr F Roberts asked whether it would be possible to have the plants in until after the May Bank Holiday as there will be visitors to the town. Cllr Pack to take this to the

Committee. Cllr Marshall enquired which areas they had identified as ones which could be beautified and Cllr Pack said Cemetery Lane alongside Bell's wall, the waterfall and the other side of the river on The Holmes. Cllr Marshall objected to the work on Town Council land, pointing out that this is a wild area rather than a planted area. Cllr Pack said they are also looking at filling in parts of Ingramgate where there are no bulbs. There has recently been a problem with plants being taken from the Market Place containers, but Cllr Pack said this is not vandalism by the children or young people. They are thinking of getting tee shirts or badges to identify the volunteers.

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The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 20th March 2006 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Page P0263

**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, C Pack, J Roberts, F Roberts, County Councillor G Dadd, Mr I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), one member of the public and the assistant clerk.

**Apologies:**

Cllr J Jackson (away); Cllr J Watson (away), Cllr A Morton (family illness) and the Clerk (away); accepted.

**Police Report:**

No members of the police were present.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to Operation Enable, saying there were still things to complete and that there had been no debriefing following its completion. Cllr Marshall responded that the Town Council have requested feedback.

**County Councillor's Report:**

Cllr Dadd suggested agenda items 5 and 6 be reversed in order to allow Mr Ogilvy to speak; agreed.

**Open forum:**

Proposed by Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Ogilvy expressed concern that the 20mph speed limit has not been extended from the Market Place into St James Green and that the traffic calming scheme would not be implemented. He was disappointed that the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade did not support the scheme and felt that the residents' views were not being taken into consideration. He was concerned at the danger to pedestrians crossing Stammergate and Bridge Street. Cllr Marshall said the NYCC Hambleton Area Committee had approved the traffic calming scheme in principle but that the consultation on the detail had still to be reported to them and hence for them to make a decision on the traffic calming scheme. Cllr Adamson questioned whether it would have any effect on excessive speeding. Cllr Marshall said that the Town Council's comments would go back to the Area Committee as part of the consultation to be considered on 24th April. Cllr Dadd said that £100,000 had been quoted to him by Officers as the cost of the scheme but it has since been reported that the revised cost is £26,000 - £30,000 and he apologised if people had been misled by County Officers.

Since the last report central government has withdrawn some funding for smaller schemes and that NYCC has had to prioritise the schemes. The St James Green scheme does not meet the new NYCC priorities for funding, and is now on the reserve list. Cllr Dadd assured the meeting that he will try to settle the matter at the Area Committee meeting on 24th April.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded by Cllr Mallet that Standing Orders be reinstated.

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### **Reports:**

County Council

Community Education goes to the Executive for a decision on 28th March. This was based on a model as requested by some head teachers.

Bus services - Cllr Dadd said Thirsk would be unaffected by the changes. Proctors planned to take over the Arriva bus services.

Cllr Robinson questioned what was happening at Station Bridge, Carlton Miniott. Cllr Dadd said Railtrack are carrying out work on the bridge and in the interest of pedestrian safety the traffic lights are meant to be manually operated during peak hours. It was hoped that work would be completed in April.

Cllr Marshall asked if there was a date for the repainting of the Town End roundabout. Cllr Roberts suggested that using white bricks on the roundabout would negate the need for repainting each year.

Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the amount of standing water on the town roads after rain and suggested there must be something wrong with the drainage system, particularly on Westgate, Newsham Road and Stockton Road. It was suggested that Councillors check where there is a problem and Cllr Dadd agreed to pass this on. Cllr Marshall said that nothing had been received by the Town Council following the meeting with Highways. It was suggested that the Town Council write to Cllr Dadd regarding items not completed for Operation Enable in order that they can be followed up.

Cllr Marshall thanked Cllr Dadd for his report.

Cllr Dadd left the meeting.

District Councillors

Cllr Robinson reported that the 3% increase in Council Tax had been passed. Cllr Marshall advised that she had abstained on this vote, and has not supported the District Council's financial strategy for ten years as she considers it wrong. It was reported that Cllr Hubbard has resigned as a District

Councillor and therefore a vacancy for District Councillor now exists.

Referring to half price bus passes, Cllr Mallett expressed disappointment that the scheme is not extended county wide, and use of the passes is limited to travel within Hambleton District. Cllr Marshall replied that her understanding is that it will be County wide but that it appears there has been no publicity. She said she would investigate.

Cllr Adamson informed the meeting that travel allowances for all District Councillors is to be restricted to 40 pence per mile.

**Matters Arising from the meeting held on 20th February 2006:**

P0251 CSO Chris Ross - a thank you card has been written to Chris Ross, awaiting an address from Inspector Richardson prior to posting.

P0252 Work in Market Place; a site meeting had been held on 14th March attended by Cllrs Marshall, Hesmondhalgh, Watson, Pack and Dadd. Cllr Marshall reported that it had been a good meeting and had raised the issues of uncertainty at crossing points between drivers and pedestrians, particularly at the Bakers Alley junction and also that some drivers had difficulty in seeing when manoeuvring. It was suggested that Cllr Adamson look into the distance allowed between pedestrian crossings. Cllr Pack

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suggested we pursue the option of a 'puffin' crossing. A response from Paul Gilmore following the site meeting is awaited.

P0252 Streetlight in Woolmoor Close; now working and black spot eliminated. Hole still needs refilling.

P0252 Street light in Market Place; further reminder sent to Paul Gilmore.

P0252 BNP in Market Place; no reply from Clive Thornton, reminder sent.

P0252 Drain outlet from Ingramgate; site meeting held, attended by Cllrs Marshall and Roberts and the clerk.

P0252 Operation Enable; Cllr Adamson was disappointed at the reporting of Operation Enable. Referring to a report that 30 tons of rubbish had been cleared from East Thirsk he wished to point out that this was household items put out to be removed by HDC. Cllr Marshall stated that she had very specifically asked for press releases to be written correctly and not to give the impression that East Thirsk was full of rubbish. To be discussed at the de-brief.

P0253 Thirsk Map; Letter received from Margaret Hunton. PCC have no objection to displaying Thirsk Map in St Mary's Church. Cllr Pack to check insurance.

P0253 HDC Local Development Framework - Development Policies Development Plan; acknowledgement received for completed questionnaire.

P0253 Sign on Marage Road; reported to Joe Gallagher at NYCC.

P0253 New Auction Mart site; letter sent to County requesting count of vehicles using the junction, copies sent to the Chief Executive of the County Council and Sowerby Parish Council.

P0254 Thirsk Cricket Club request for sponsorship; cheque for £25 sent.

P0255 Royal British Legion request for financial contribution; cheque for £75 sent and letter of thanks received.

P0255 Parish Council's Gratuity schemes; letter from YLCA included in correspondence.

P0255 Water pipe extension in Cemetery ; Edward Jackson reminded by telephone.

P0255 Revaluation of Cemetery Lodge; The present tenants have given notice. Joplings are marketing Cemetery Lodge and have been asked to review the rent. Joplings have carried out an inspection. A letter has been received for the attention of the Burial Board.

P0255 Fencing alongside Millennium Green Ditch; this has now been replaced.

P0256 Badges; Cllr Mallett has not yet managed to obtain a sample badge.

P0256 G G Macaulay plaque; the unveiling on 8th March had been very successful, although very wet.

### **Finance:**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following accounts be approved for payment.

HDC - Rent of Town Council Office, quarter comm. 1.3.06.  
£660.94

Smiths of Derby - Servicing Town Clock £158.63

Power Point - Hire of Shredder for Millennium Green £64.62

M.L. Burnett - Moving goalpost on Millennium Green £135.32

Staples - Stationery (£29.98 to be reimbursed by Town Hall)  
£45.79

Yorkshire Water - Water rates for Cemetery Lodge (1st half  
06/07) £180.21

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Julie Harron - Salary, March 2006 £357.85

Elaine Coulson - Salary, March 2006 £1,046.64

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, February 2006 £559.72

C. Amy - Weekly inspections/litter pick £382.80

Holmes Management Plan £1,030.00

East Thirsk Play Area - remove tree and replace £26.00

M.L. Burnett - Fencing on Millennium Green £115.00  
Erection of plaque for G.G. Macaulay £14.00  
Jeremy Cave - w/c 13.2.06., 10 hrs @ £5.05 per hr £50.50  
W/c 20.2.06. 8 hrs @ £5.05 per hr £40.40  
W/c 27.2.06. 7 hrs @ £5.05 per hr £35.35  
W/c 6.3.06. 10.5 hrs @ £5.05 per hr £53.02  
Safety Glass - Replacing pane of glass in bus shelter £77.74  
Paid Since last meeting:  
D.E. Adamson - anti virus for Office computer £49.99  
BT - Office telephone £101.32  
Income received:  
English Heritage - grant towards Interpretation Boards  
£3,000.00  
Burial Bd: Interment £116.00  
Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for February 2006:  
Proposed approved Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson;  
accepted.

Cllr Marshall reminded Councillors of the need to check their  
budgets as we are nearing the end of the financial year.

Cllr Adamson expressed the view that it was not necessary to  
show staff salaries on the account sheet as these had been  
agreed previously. To seek advice from YLCA.

Cllr Marshall queried whether the amounts of £500 each to CAB  
and CCA had been paid as the budget report did not indicate  
that they had. To be checked.

**Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:**

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the  
following applications be approved, in the case of Ruby Hurn  
subject to the usual requirement that six months be allowed to  
elapse before the memorial is put in place.

Grave No. H1 33 John C. Marr

Grave No. F3 21 Ruby Hurn

Applications for Additional Inscriptions:

Grave No. DD 2 Ron Stockdale

Grave No. H1 43 Murray Ellis

Grave No. A5 5 Joan Knight

Grave No. AA 17 Mary Bronwin Jackson

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**Correspondence**

Mouchel Parkman re works at Norby Front Street also 'E' mail  
from Jayne Charlton of NYCC - noted

HDC - Hambleton Local Development Framework: Submission Core  
Strategy Development Plan Document. This is available in the  
Town Council Office for Councillors to borrow. Councillors

were reminded that the final date for any response is 31st March 2006

NYCC - North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Supplementary Waste Issues Paper- comments due in by 31st March 2006.

HDC re extended opening hours - poster displayed on Town Council notice board. Councillors urged to promote the use of 0845 1211 555 number.

YLCA re Gratuities and the New Taxation Regime for Pension Schemes after 6th April 2006 - Cllr Adamson studied this document and suggested we followed option (i) of the letter - to exercise the Town Council's discretion to pay a lump sum gratuity on the future retirement of the clerk. He will contact Mr T Young at H M Revenue and Customs at Nottingham for an opinion on how this impacts on our gratuity scheme and ask for a copy of the Town Council's original gratuity scheme.

Copy letter from Councillor Stephen Hubbard to Cllr P Brown, Chair of HDC tendering his resignation - Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr F Roberts that we send a letter of thanks to Stephen Hubbard for his services to the town; all in favour.

1st Thirsk Scout Group - request for financial assistance towards repairs to the Scout Hall - Cllr Hesmondhalgh declared an interest. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr F Roberts that we make a donation of £500 to the Scout Group; all in favour.

Quote from Record Play Equipment for remedial work to East Thirsk Play Area (included at this meeting due to timescale). Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we accept the quote of £450 for remedial work and the removal and disposal of the roundabout at the East Thirsk Play Area. This amount includes a discount of £50. 7 in favour, 1 abstention. Hambleton Community Safety Partnership - cancellation of meeting on 24th March - noted.

Environment Agency - Flood Warning; Cllrs Adamson, Hesmondhalgh, Marshall and Mallett took forms to complete and return to the Environment Agency to register to receive flood warnings.

### **Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson informed the meeting that the tenants of Cemetery Lodge have given notice. Joplings have been asked to review the rent. We are awaiting a revised quote from Edward Jackson for the water pipe extension in the Cemetery.

Cllr Adamson reported that a vehicle is driving across the grass from the Newsham Road entrance, it is planned to secure the gate and restrict access to the funeral directors and grave diggers only.

## **Reports:**

### Representatives

Cllr F Roberts advised that at the Conservation Area Group meeting held the previous week Tony Robinson had announced that he is leaving HDC. He has been with CAG for 15 years and it was proposed that the Town Council write to him thanking him for his help and advice over the years. Also to write to Steve Quartermain expressing the

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wish that CAG will continue. Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett; all in favour.

Cllr Adamson enquired whether the Thirsk Regeneration representative would provide more information on the proposal for a town centre manager. Cllr F Roberts said that she was not aware of the plan. Cllr Marshall said Hambleton are putting forward a scheme to Yorkshire Forward for shared town centre managers but Thirsk Regeneration had not specifically discussed this.

Cllr Mallett advised that we have lost the control that we had over Community Education. Cllr Marshall suggested we contact NYCC to ensure that the letter we sent to the County Council is put before the Executive.

### Members

Cllr F Roberts reported that three representatives from George Wimpey had attended this evening's planning committee meeting and that it had been useful.

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk in Bloom would like to include some reference to their entry in Britain in Bloom at the entrances to Thirsk. Details to be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr Mallett reported confusion regarding the blue bag paper collection scheme. Due to a vehicle breaking down, the schedule of collections had been disrupted and residents no longer know when collection is due. A new schedule of collection dates to be requested.

Cllr Mallett had visited the Amenity refuse tip and was impressed by the helpful, friendly staff. Letter of appreciation to be sent to County Council.

Cllr Marshall had attended the official opening of RANY premises at the Courthouse. She had attended the Rotary 71st Charter dinner.

Cllr Marshall had attended a second meeting at East Thirsk to set up a Sure Start Children's Centre. This may use the existing facilities, making special provision for under fives.

Cllr Adamson enquired whether it would be a good opportunity to replace the older temporary classroom on the school site and replace it with a permanent building to accommodate the Sure Start Children's Centre. Cllr F Roberts referred to the half 7 acres and suggested we push HDC to use it for

playgrounds etc. Cllr Marshall replied that if there was to be building it would be at Thirsk Community Primary School but that such detail had not been discussed yet. The meeting she had attended had been fact finding. Cllr Marshall will attend the first Sure Start steering committee meeting on Thursday 23rd March and will report back to the Council.

Cllr Marshall advised that the unveiling of the blue plaque to commemorate G G Macaulay had taken place, followed by lunch at the Cricket Club. There was a possibility that there will be something at Headingley in honour of Macaulay following the unveiling and Cllr Marshall felt the publicity would benefit the town.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.