

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 6th April 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall, C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, J Roberts, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), PC Duncan Pears, PCSO Ian McPherson (North Yorkshire Police) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs D Adamson (another meeting), J Jackson (away), A Morton (family illness), C Pack (ill), F Roberts (family illness)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2006:**

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr J Roberts that these be approved, subject to one amendment on each of pages P0264 and P0266.

**Open forum:**

PC Pears introduced PCSO Ian McPherson, who is Chris Ross' replacement. He explained that PCSO McPherson has worked in the Control Room and also on the crime desk. PC Pears said

that as of 3rd April the new Ward based neighbourhood policing team started. In the Thirsk area the number of PCs will increase from five to ten with Sgt Ben Franks in charge. Cllr Marshall said this is a very welcome initiative. PC Pears reported that the speed checks have been carried out around St James' Green and Kirkgate and there was no evidence of traffic moving at significantly more than the speed limits. He reported that following Operation Enable the data is being compiled but there has not been a de-brief as yet - Cllr Marshall advised that she has been given the date of 12th April for this. PC Pears said there are problems with damage and graffiti in the town and youths congregating in Picks Lane and on Castlegarth. He referred to the fact that there is very little lighting on Castlegarth and asked whether any funds are available for additional lighting. Cllr Marshall explained that the Town Council has a grazing license only for Castlegarth. She said we are currently trying to find out details of some lottery funds for play areas and don't know whether this could be applied. In any event the landowner would have to agree to it being lit and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent would need to be obtained. PC Pears reported that two people have been arrested for graffiti in the town. Cllr Mallett mentioned that now the post in the alleyway next to Lees Butchers has been moved, a van is being parked on the pavement. PC Pears said this is only allowed for unloading purposes and he will look into it.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 2nd March 2006:**

P0257 Thircon Roundabout; nothing further on this as yet. The clerk had received a telephone call from someone wishing to sponsor the Busby Stoop roundabout. Cllr Watson suggested that Cllr Pack be asked whether she wishes to deal with this or whether it should be passed to Thirsk in Bloom.

P0257 Carrs Field; Cllr Marshall advised that the ramp has now gone from Carrs Field and the area has been cleaned up.

P0258 Caravans/lorries parking overnight in Millgate car park; Clive Thornton advises that there is no restriction on the length of time vehicles can park, although sleeping overnight is not permitted and neither are caravans. He also points out that,

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because of the weight restrictions, only lorries delivering to Thirsk should be in the town. HDC are looking at new signage and at backing this up with periodic enforcements. Regarding the piece of grass opposite Gillings Court that is being used for parking, Clive Thornton has ordered some bollards to be placed there to prevent this.

P0258 Metal fence around Gillings Court; reply received from Broadacres advising that the damaged paintwork is to be attended to. They will visit the site to look at the position of the tree and will advise further.

P0258 Request for additional streetlights at Todds Court;

reminder sent.

P0258 Closed churchyard at St Mary's; reply received from HDC advising that they will cut the grass 16 times per year (maximum).

P0258 BTCV; the Black Bridge is now painted. The clerk is speaking to them regarding the materials for the future works as they charge for giving details of what is required.

P0258 Christmas Lights; reminder message left for Wired re quote for new lights.

P0259 Hambleton Local Development Framework - Development Policies Development Plan Document; acknowledgement of completed questionnaire received.

P0259 Bus services; further letter received from the County Council and circulated at the meeting. It was noted that there was nothing affecting Thirsk in this.

P0259 Market Place toilets; the lights in the Market Place toilets are no longer on all night. However, it was mentioned that the lights in Millgate toilets are now on during the night; to be reported to HDC.

P0259 Replacement bin for The Holmes; this has now been spotted in the river. Chris Amy will attempt to retrieve it when the water level drops.

P0259 Speed checks on St James' Green and Kirkgate; report received from the police advising that they have carried out surveys of both areas. During these surveys no vehicles driving at excess speeds or without due care and attention were identified and it is their opinion that these localities

do not have a specific problem with vehicles travelling too fast.

P0259 Community Education; checked and it has been confirmed that our letter was to be put before the Executive at its meeting on 28th March.

P0259 Operation Enable; reply from NYCC included in correspondence.

P0259 HDC Local Development Framework Submission Core Strategy Development Plan Local Document; reply sent.

P0260 Christmas Festivities; Wired reminded about this.

P0260 Millennium Green; Malcolm Burnett has done the fencing.

P0260 Salt on pavements; reported to NYCC.

P0260 Police; an e-mail had been sent to Inspector Richardson to ask if he was able to come to the Town Council meeting on 20th March.

P0260 Town Council Name Badges; Cllr Mallett showed a sample of the badges which are available at a cost of £4.50 each.

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson that we go ahead with these.

P0260 Ingramgate; Cllr Mallett has looked at the rockery and it has been repainted. He will inspect the hole on the other side of Ingramgate.

P0260 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall reported that the branches are still in the stream, but she is negotiating with John Proud to get this dealt with.

P0261 Picks Lane sign; request for new sign saying 'Picks Lane' only sent to Clive Thornton, together with a brief history of the site showing that it was Picks Lane before the Masonic Hall was built.

P0261 Gas station on Long Street; letter sent regarding gate.

P0261 Blue plaques; consent for the blue plaque on the Workhouse has now been obtained. The plaque has now been put in place together with the one on Foxwynd. Pryor Signs have removed the Interpretation Boards from Castlegarth. They are to treat the oak surrounds and repair the board which has been cut.

**Correspondence :**

HDC re Flood Alleviation Scheme advising the Cod Beck will be enmained on 1st April and the Environment Agency will be responsible for it thereafter. Agreed that the name of a contact at the Environment Agency be obtained.

NYCC re Household Waste Recycling Centre Policies; circulated to the meeting and noted.

NYCC detailing a list of highway faults which were identified during Operation Enable. They confirm that they will be repaired in the next few weeks. The footways have all been cleaned and lighting faults have been reported.

RAF Linton on Ouse; notice advising of night flying on 3rd to 7th April 2006

Hambleton Community Safety Partnership enclosing a leaflet on dangerous driving

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative; invitation to AGM on 19th April.

Cllr Marshall referred to the works which are currently taking place on the roadway at Norby. She advised that they are removing kerbs and these are the top of the mill race and are the Town Council's property. They had consulted with the County Archaeologist who did not think there was a problem. They have promised to reinstate with appropriate materials. A hole has been dug and they are to reinstate it and grass it.

### **Reports:**

#### Carrs Field

Cllr Marshall advised that she had received a call from Nick Bull who was concerned that the field had been flooded and there were ponies in it. Cllr Mallett mentioned that the electricity contractors are working there and they had moved the dog bin which was next to the pathway going down to the White Bridge and they have dug a trench there. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council's permission should have been obtained; contact NEDL - need them to reinstate. Cllr J Roberts mentioned that the field is very bumpy and not suitable for playing football on.

#### **Central Areas**

Cllr Mallett reported that a section of the fencing around the Picnic Area has been removed. Cllr Marshall thanked Cllrs

Roberts and Watson and the Clerk for changing the Town Clock to British summer Time.

Christmas Festivities

The Committee has not met.

Greens and Ingramgate

The Committee has not met.

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Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh said she is to arrange a meeting. Cllr

Marshall said that a clean up is to take place on the

Millennium Green on Saturday morning.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall said it is necessary to have a walk round. She

mentioned that the Town Council is now on the ODPM's Cleaner

Greener Safer Communities mailing list.

**Other items of Interest and Information:**

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the installation of the streetlight in Woolmoor Close has now been completed and the hole has been filled in.

Cllr Watson referred to Thirsk Station saying that part of the fencing is broken and the grass is a mess; a letter to be sent to Network Rail (contact details to be obtained from Mark Hayes).

Cllr Marshall referred to a Hambleton waste bin which has been

moved next to the Regent and is not being used as a waste bin; to be taken up with HDC.

Cllr Marshall advised that we have a contact number in the office to use should any dead birds be found. She asked people to keep an eye on the ducks.

Cllr Adamson joined the meeting

Cllr J Roberts asked whether we do press releases for the Town Council and he offered to take this on. It was agreed that he should do this, such press releases to be sent via the Town Clerk.

Cllr Marshall reported that the graveyard of the Salem Chapel is to be a public open space and HDC would like to know whether in principle the Town Council would be prepared to take over responsibility for this. Cllr Adamson felt we should agree to this in principle. Cllr Marshall asked Members to look at this before the next meeting. Cllr Marshall advised that all members are invited to the unveiling ceremony of the Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth. This is to take place on Tuesday 18th April at 2.00pm, and they are to be unveiled by Maddy Jago, the Regional Director of English Heritage.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended a site meeting in the Market Place with County Cllr Dadd and two disabled members of the public to look at the traffic calming works that have been carried out. This had highlighted areas of difficulty.

Thirsk in Bloom:

No-one present to give a report.

**Planning Applications:**

Owing to the planning meeting not being quorate, the planning applications were brought to this meeting to be dealt with.

The minutes of this are attached in the minute book.

Cllr Marshall showed some photographs taken at the Waterfall Bridge. Next to the sluice gate a tree is growing in the brickwork and the roots are forcing the bricks

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apart. There are also some on the other side of the river. The Members of the Open Areas Committee will look at this when they have their walk round.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 24th April 2006 at 7:15pm**  
**in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), C Hesmondhalgh, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), 1 member of the public and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs D Adamson, (another meeting), J Jackson (away), R Mallett (another commitment), J Roberts (away); accepted.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th April 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllrs Hesmondhalgh, subject to the addition of Cllr Adamson in the list of attendees; agreed.

**Police Report:**

No representatives of the police present. Cllr Watson reported that recently there had been groups of youths using bad language outside the Coop and she felt that people could have found it quite intimidating. In addition some young people had been walking down the middle of the road. Cllr Watson

commented that on the previous Sunday afternoon she had followed a large vehicle in excess of 7.5 tonnes around St James' Green. She had noted that a police car was parked on St James' Green at the time and wondered whether this exceeding of the weight limit had been followed up by the police. Cllr Roberts said that since the skateboard ramp was removed young people are congregating in the Picnic Area and in Mill Gardens and she wondered whether it would be possible for us to again apply for a ban on drinking outside; the police to be asked to consider this. Cllr Marshall reported that there has once again been graffiti on the Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth and this has been reported to the police. Cllr Marshall felt it might be a good idea to speak to the school and Cllr Hesmondhalgh suggested that the police go into the schools.

### **Reports:**

#### County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Dadd reported that at the County Council Area Committee for Hambleton meeting held earlier in the day, the Integrated Capital Transport Programme had been discussed. There are budgetary pressures as the budget has been reduced by Government and therefore Officers are having to prioritise schemes. The traffic calming around St James' Green has been placed on the reserve list and Cllr Dadd will be discussing with the local residents about other ideas which might help them. The 20mph scheme outside the school is a priority and

has therefore been transferred to another budget. Some schemes, such as the proposed cycleways, have been lost and phases 2 and 3 of the East Thirsk traffic calming scheme have gone to a reserve list. Cllr Dadd has been in discussion with the Highways Agency regarding the brown signposting on the A1. They do not think there is a problem, but they have agreed to do a full review when the A1 is upgraded. Cllr Dadd reported that plastic recycling facilities have been put at the Sowerby Amenity Tip on a trial basis, but it is expected that this will become a permanent arrangement. Actions arising from the list of works supplied to Eddy Hayward some time ago have been shown on the list and Cllr Dadd asked that we e-mail him with any matters still needing attention and keep this rolling

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on. Cllr Dadd reported that he has been asked by Sowerby Parish Council to get involved with the problems at Blakey Bridge and has asked whether the Town Council would pass him any comments they have. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has raised points with the County Council in the past regarding Blakey Bridge as the town is affected by the extra traffic when the bridge is closed. Cllr F Roberts felt that part of the problem of heavy vehicles using Blakey Bridge is due to satellite navigation systems and she felt it is vital that the manufacturers of these systems should look at the roads before they use them as part of the routes. Cllr

Pack enquired about the progress re repairing potholes and Cllr Marshall advised that we had received a letter from Eddy Hayward about this which had been brought to the last Town Council meeting. Cllr F Roberts expressed concern at the potholes on the road leading to the County Council's Amenity tip and Cllr Marshall explained that this road is not in the ownership of the County Council, although they do repair potholes etc. Cllr Dadd will ask them to fill the potholes. Cllr Watson referred to the fact that roadworks are being carried out at Norby and asked whether, whilst the contractors are there, they could tarmac the road at the entrance to The Marage which is in poor repair; Cllr Dadd to ask about this.

**District Councillor's Report:**

Cllr Robinson advised that Thirsk has been awarded £5K for taking part in the Market Towns Renaissance Project. This is to be used for a DVD, promotional leaflets and a website for the town.

Cllr Marshall advised that an election to fill the District Council seat is to be held on 18th May. Three candidates are standing - Conservative, Labour and Independent. She reported that the Cultural and Social Committee are looking at Agenda 21, particularly wind farms and the other sustainable energy.

Cllr Marshall advised that Tony Robinson has left HDC and HDC will not be supporting CAG at the moment whilst they carry out their LDF work. Cllr Marshall had spoken to Cllr Mark Robson and she suggested that for the moment this group could meet

and consider planning applications without Officer support using the facilities of Thirsk Town Council and Sowerby Parish Council. They would still be consulted by HDC and be an independent body. Cllr Roberts felt it important that the members of CAG continue to meet and Cllr Watson agreed with this. Reporting on the Thirsk and Sowerby Swimming Baths Trust, Cllr Marshall said that money is going to be spent on the extension to the swimming pool which will provide separate showers and an all purpose amenity area.

**Open Forum:**

Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Ogilvy expressed his concern at the vandalism in the town which he felt was increasing rapidly. This included dog bins being pushed over, graffiti and litter. He was concerned at groups of young people congregating in the picnic area, and drinking, smashing bottles and leaving litter. There was also graffiti in Picks Lane and some of the fencing on Castlegarth and alongside the pathway to Tesco has been broken. He enquired about dispersal orders and laws to prevent drinking alcohol outside. Mr Ogilvy said the residents of St James' Green are annoyed that a 20mph scheme is not to be implemented there and said this was opposed by the Town Council. Cllr Marshall explained that the Town Council promoted the 20mph scheme,

but opposed the actual scheme put forward by the County Council. Referring to the police report at the last Town Council meeting which said there did not appear to be a problem with speeding on St James Green, Mr Ogilvy said that motorists reduced their speeds when they saw a police vehicle there.

Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

**Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 20th March 2006:**

P0264 Work on the railway bridge; now completed.

P0264 Town End roundabout; this has now been painted, as has the roundabout outside Tesco.

P0264 Matters arising from Operation Enable; letter received from Eddy Hayward and reported on at the last Town Council meeting.

P0264 Half price bus passes; Cllr Marshall advised that these are County wide.

P0264 Works in the Market Place; response from Paul Gilmore not yet received.

P0265 Streetlight in Woolmoor Close; work now completed.

P0265 Streetlight in the Market Place; further reminder sent to Paul Gilmore.

P0265 BNP in the Market Place; further reminder sent to Clive

Thornton.

P0265 Thirsk Map; this is now on the wall in St Mary's Church.

It is understood that whilst it is there it is covered by the Church's insurance.

P0265 Sign on Marage Road; now rectified.

P0265 New Auction Mart site; reply received from the County Council agreeing to the traffic counts being carried out.

These need to be done whilst the road is open to free flowing traffic which, because of the ongoing roadworks, is currently not the case. However, they will arrange for the counts to be done when conditions permit and will supply the Town Council with a copy of the results.

P0265 Cemetery Lodge; now let at an increased rent, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references. Some fairly minor works to be done before the new tenants move in and an electricity test is to be carried out - there may be some works arising from this.

P0265 Badges; members were asked to let the Clerk have details of what they would like to appear on their badges.

P0266 Staff salaries on the list of accounts and correspondence; advice to be sought from the YLCA.

P0266 Donations to CAB and CCA; donations of £500 have been sent to the CAB and the CCA and letters of thanks received.

P0267 Resignation of Stephen Hubbard from HDC; letter of thanks sent.

P0267 1st Thirsk Scout Group; donation of £500 sent and letter of thanks received.

P0267 Quote from Record Play Equipment for remedial work and the removal and disposal of the roundabout at East Thirsk Play Area; go ahead given to Record by Cllr Marshall.

P0267 Burial Board Report; as reported previously, the clerk advised that new tenants have been secured for Cemetery Lodge, subject to satisfactory references. Some works to be carried out before they move in.

P0267 Gate into the Cemetery from Wetlands Lane; work to this not yet put in hand.

P0267 Conservation Area Group; letter sent to Tony Robinson thanking him for all his help with CAG. Letter sent to Steve Quartermain requesting his assurance that CAG will continue.

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P0268 Community Education; the clerk had contacted the County Council and had faxed them a further copy of the Town Council's letter. She was assured by them that this would be put before the Executive at their meeting.

P0268 Blue bag collection scheme; schedule of collection dates requested.

P0268 Amenity tip; letter of appreciation sent.

P0268 Town Centre Manager; Cllr Marshall referred to the proposal for a Town Centre Manager, saying this was not the TRI, but something with which the HDC Area Local Strategic Partnership had been involved. She said it had been decided that all the tasks normally carried out by a Town Centre

Manager are already being done by other parties in Thirsk and they will therefore not be progressing with the suggestion of a Town Centre Manager.

**Finance:**

Accounts for payment

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

YLCA Membership 2006/07 £559.00

YRCC Membership 2006/07 £25.00

YLCA Membership of Burial Authorities 2006/07 £59.00

Action for Market Towns Membership 2006/07 £117.50

Allianz Cornhill - Insurance Premium 2006/07 £2,918.73

M H Cleaning services - cleaning windows of bus shelter/notice board, 14.11.05-13.3.06. £144.00

Thirsk Cricket Club - lunch following unveiling of Macaulay plaque £100.00

J. Marshall - reimbursement for refreshments following

Unveiling of Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth £27.70

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - Room Hire Jan-Mar 2006 £140.00

D.E. Adamson - web hosting service £49.78

BT - internet line to closing date £79.26

Playdale - remedial work to play equipment £376.75

KRM Plumbing - work to boiler at Cemetery Lodge £110.00

BTCV - painting of black bridge and railings £258.50

HDC - Office rates - May 2006 £55.00

Julie Harron - Salary, April 2006 £303.68

Elaine Coulson - Salary, April 2006 £1,046.64  
Jeremy Cave - 17.5 hours @ £5.05 per hour £88.38  
AON - Millennium Green insurance £467.23  
C A Amy Litter picking/fencing repairs £613.50  
Craigs Way- cutting back shrubs £55.00  
St James' Green- fencing repairs £40.00  
McCleans- removal of old play equipment bases, supplying and  
spreading wood chippings £1,160.00  
Holmes Tree management Plan £1,240.00  
Centenary field - crown lifting £ 30.00

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The clerk advised that the cheque for £27.70 for Cllr Marshall is a part payment for various items including the refreshments following the unveiling at Castlegarth and plants for the plinths. Cllr Marshall advised that there are invoices outstanding from Millgate Hardware for the paint for the Black Bridge and it was agreed that these be paid - to be reclaimed from the County Council.

Paid Since last meeting:

M.L. Burnett - Balance outstanding (previous cheque incorrect)

£6.32

1st Thirsk Scout Group - donation (as agreed at meeting)

£500.00

Hambleton CAB - donation (as agreed at meeting) £500.00

Thirsk CCA - donation (as agreed at meeting) £500.00

HDC - rates, April 2006 £56.71

BT - broadband charges £54.82

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, March 2006 £1,200.17

Income received:

B. Bd: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £590.00

Grave Purchases £174.00

Memorials £106.00

Bank Interest £963.30

Money collected from sale of maps (paid to Organ Fund) £15.00

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for March 2006:

Agreed that Account No 00669695 be closed and that the balance of £2.28 be transferred to the Cemetery Extension Account.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack that the accounts and budget report be adopted.

Balance sheet for the year ended 31st March 2006:

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be adopted.

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

No applications received.

## **Correspondence**

NYCC - Temporary closure of Topcliffe Road from 23rd- 27th April 2006 due to the laying of mains voltage supply.

Defra re Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. A guide has been published which is available free of charge to Parish Councils on request; agreed that a copy be obtained. A working party consisting of Cllrs Marshall, Hesmondhalgh, Pack and Watson was formed which will look at this and put a proposal to the Council.

Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT re public meeting of the Patient and Public Involvement Forum on Monday 22nd May from 6.30-8.30 p.m. at Middleham Key Centre, Middleham.

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HDC re Communications between HDC and the Parishes- the questionnaire was completed, subject to a request for further clarification on one suggestion.

Thirsk Christmas Fayre - request for donation. Reply to be sent saying the Town Council wish to support them, but need to check what is included in the budget. This will be brought to the next meeting.

Post Office re temporary closure of Post Office at Sutton under Whitestonecliffe

From Tabled correspondence it was pointed out that there is an e-mail regarding the Market Town Awards 2006.

Cllr Marshall advised that we have joined the Cleaner Safer

Greener Initiative and three publications have been received which are in the office - to be brought to the next meeting.

**Burial Board Report:**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Burial Board there was nothing further to report.

To discuss the possibility of Thirsk becoming a Fair Trade Town:

Cllr J Roberts had asked that this item be put on the agenda.

In his absence it was agreed that it be deferred until the next meeting.

**Reports:**

**Representatives**

Cllr Morton reported on behalf of the Thirsk Swimming Baths Trust saying that the new method of payment for the services has proved very successful.

Cllr F Roberts had attended the Executive Committee of NALC and she advised that we should by now have a password for the NALC website. She advised that the Hambleton Branch of the YLCA has put forward a motion for the AGM. This concerns writing to the ODPM requesting that all planning matters be given sufficient time for discussion and consultation to take place. The AGM is to be held on 21st July.

Cllr Marshall advised that a Millennium Green clean -up had taken place and this had gone very well.

She also mentioned that the Trustees of Thirsk Infants School Charity have a meeting this week.

#### Members

Cllr Robinson reported that parking fines in the town are to be increased to £45.

Cllr Robinson reported that caravans are parking in the field next to the authorised gypsy site and the numbers are increasing rapidly. Agreed that this be brought to the attention of Sowerby Parish Council.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the St George's Day ceremony on the previous day and it went very well. She had also been to Breckenborough's 54th Federation of Camping Clubs Rally at which there were contingents from many countries.

Cllr Marshall advised that the unveiling of the Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth had gone very well. They were unveiled by Maddy Jago, the Regional Director of English Heritage, and she was very impressed with what we are doing. Cllr Marshall reported that the Interpretation Boards scheme is going on well. The Working Party are also working on a leaflet for the Blue Plaques trail and the Civic Society has

donated £100 to this. 14 of the 19 plaques are already in place and it is hoped to have all of them up by the end of June.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had attended the AGM of the TRI last week and had given a short presentation on the Plaques and Interpretation Boards.

Cllr Marshall expressed concern that NEDL have been working on St James' Green without obtaining the Town Council's consent. This has been taken up with them and they were very apologetic and had agreed to reinstate the land. She felt we should ask for compensation.

Cllr Morton requested that the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Committee be asked to have the folding screen repaired as it is very difficult to hear with the noise from the adjoining room.

Cllr Robinson referred to a leaflet from the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership and Cllr Marshall suggested we raise relevant issues which have been discussed at tonight's meeting with them. She also suggested we write to someone from the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership and ask them to come and tell us what they do.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 4th May 2006 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, C Pack, F Roberts, J Roberts, J Watson, Ms Hannah Chapman (Darlington and Stockton Times), Ms C Thorpe (Thirsk Weekly News) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Jackson (away), A Morton (ill); accepted.

**Open forum:**

No members of the public or police present.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr J Watson, subject to a minor amendment on each of pages P006, P007, P008 and P011; agreed.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 6th April 2006:**

P001 Van parked outside Lees Butchers; this had not been parked on the pavement for a time, but is now being parked there again.

P001 Police matters; Cllr Marshall advised that she has been trying to contact Inspector Richardson. PC Pears has been in to the Town Council Office and Cllr Marshall has also contacted Chris Field of the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership. She has spoken at length with Tim Wood of HDC's Community Safety Department regarding various incidents that are happening. Cllr Marshall advised that the police are having a walk round the town and from this a plan will be drawn up and there will then be a meeting. The local policing team met earlier today. Cllr Watson suggested that the Town Council arrange a meeting with the police and the Community Safety Partnership.

Operation Enable; an e-mail has been received from HDC regarding a debriefing meeting to be held on Monday 15th May from 11.00am-12.00 noon. Cllr Marshall felt that this was not a good time and not enough notice was given. A reply to be sent saying we are not happy at this. Cllr Marshall said we should have a de-brief on Operation Enable when we have the meeting with the police. Cllr Marshall advised that she has remonstrated with the Chief Executive of HDC following a report that they have removed large amounts of rubbish that would have otherwise been fly tipped. Cllr Marshall said this is not correct and gives a bad impression of the town.

P001 Roundabouts; details of person wishing to sponsor the Busby Stoop roundabout has been passed to Cllr Pack. Cllr Marshall advised that she has spoken to Lionel Twiss and he was concerned that there had been no action. However, Cllr

Pack advised that she has since been in communication with Mr Twiss.

P002 Piece of grass opposite Gillings Court; the bollards to prevent people parking on this area are awaited.

P002 Metal fence around Gillings Court; the damaged paintwork has been re-done. The tree has not been moved, although Broadacres' contractors have been carrying out some tree pruning works at Gillings Court recently.

P002 Request for additional streetlights at Todds Court; further reminder sent.

P002 BTCV; the clerk is attempting to contact them re the materials required.

P002 Christmas Lights; still waiting to hear from Wired.

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P002 Lights in Millgate toilets on during the night; reported to HDC.

P002 Bin from The Holmes; the river is still too deep to retrieve the bin.

P002 Operation Enable; as reported earlier, details of a de-briefing meeting have been received.

P002 Town Council name badges; details of what each Councillor would like on his/her badge are being collected.

P002 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall advised that she has left a message for John Proud about the branches in the ditch.

P003 Picks Lane sign; Clive Thornton advises that there are

properties with Masonic Lane in the address and therefore this needs to be included on the sign. The clerk had suggested 'Picks Lane, also known as Masonic Lane', subject to the Town Council's approval and Clive Thornton was happy with this; agreed that we go ahead with this. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Post Office regarding the fact that they issue postcodes to the properties and show Masonic Lane as part of their address.

Cllr Adamson joined the meeting

P003 Interpretation Boards; the wooden surrounds of the Interpretation Boards have been treated and the damaged panel replaced. They are now back in position on Castlegarth.

P003 Environment Agency; name of contact obtained. Cllr Marshall advised that she has contacted the Environment Agency about having an engineer to talk to us on site about the trees growing in the brickwork of the weir and also the fact that some of the nearby river bank is collapsing where the footpath has eroded.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

P003 Works on St James' Green; letter sent to NEDL.

P003 Central Areas; the damaged fencing at the White Bridge end of the picnic area has now been replaced, but both it and the gate have since been vandalised again. Malcolm Burnett has

re-hung the gate and Chris Amy was getting the posts out of the river this afternoon.

P004 Thirsk Station; letter sent to Network Rail re the broken fence and long grass.

P004 Interpretation Boards on Castlegarth; these were unveiled on 18th April by Maddy Jago, the Regional Director of English Heritage.

P004 Market Place works; reply received from Paul Greenaway advising that some of the problems cannot be solved because of cost constraints. On some others he is waiting to hear back from his line manager and the Area Manager in Thirsk.

P003 Central Areas; the damaged fencing at the White Bridge end of the picnic area has now been replaced, but both it and the gate have since been vandalised again. Malcolm Burnett has re-hung the gate and Chris Amy was getting the posts out of the river this afternoon.

P004 ODPM's Cleaner Greener Safer Communities; Cllr Marshall advised that these documents have been received and two have been brought to this meeting.

### **Correspondence**

HDC re changes to Dog Warden Service. This is now the responsibility of John Proud.

**Page P015**

HDC re Tendered Local Bus Services; Councillors to consider this as it is a lengthy document.

. Information on Big Lottery Fund for Children's Play

Initiative; Cllr Marshall advised that she and Cllr F Roberts had attended a seminar run by SMP Playgrounds. At that seminar they told us that the Big Lottery Fund has set aside a large amount of money for childrens' play.

Cllr Marshall has researched this on the internet and £155m has been made available for childrens' play nationwide.

Hambleton and Richmondshire have engaged a consultant to write a play strategy and will then be approaching us for schemes to meet that strategy. Cllr Marshall asked that we look at this for Open Spaces.

Proposed Public Open Space at Salem Chapel site; Cllr Marshall had asked Councillors to look at this as there is a possibility we will be offered the area where the graves are as a Public Open Space. HDC have not as yet sent us the plan. It was agreed to wait for a copy of the plan. Cllr Adamson pointed out that, as it is an old burial ground, there are various rules and regulations which must be followed.

Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group; letter received expressing concern at the appearance of Mill Gardens. Cllr Watson has asked Chris Amy to put forward a plan for Mill Gardens with details of what he would like to do there. She felt that the plants put in last year by Thirsk in Bloom will take some time to become established. Environment Agency confirming that with effect from 1st April 2006 operational powers for the Cod Beck were transferred to them. They enclosed a booklet entitled 'Living on the Edge' which Cllr

Marshall urged Councillors to read and she pointed out that there is a section in it on Mills and Weirs.

Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau; letter received advising that they are applying for lottery funding to re-open local offices, including the one in Thirsk. They ask whether the Town Council would send a letter advising that this is a valuable service which is used by local people. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack that such a letter be sent, Cllr F Roberts to be consulted on the content of the letter.

**Schedule of outstanding Amenity Items:**

The following points were made:

St James' Green to Waterside - sign still missing.

Lighting in the Alleyways - Cllr Marshall rang Dave McGloin about this and is awaiting his response.

Overnight parking in Millgate Car Park - reported that two caravanettes were parked in Millgate Car Park over Easter weekend; to be reported to HDC.

Salt on Bridge Street - dealt with. However, as a result of the salt the grass had died. Agreed that we write to Broadacres asking whether the grass can be replaced with concrete.

Cllr Marshall suggested that Committees might like to look at doing a similar type of schedule to this for their committee matters.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - The clerk advised that Mr Walker has been asked only to cut the middle of Carrs Field and to cut a couple of pathways in the top field where people walk.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson to arrange a meeting. She mentioned the round beds in the Picnic Area which are just soil with no planting. Cllr Pack to ask about this at the next Thirsk in Bloom meeting. Cllr Watson advised that the vandalism will be brought to the attention of the police.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson said we are still waiting for a quote from Wired for the new lights. Cllr Watson said there is a good website for Christmas Lights and she offered to look on it.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett advised that he is trying to arrange a meeting. He had walked round his area and was pleasantly surprised. All the trees in the planters on Long Street have survived and are growing. He felt there was a need to have more flowering plants in the planters and on the White Mare roundabout. Cllr Mallett advised that someone was working in the rockery on Ingramgate earlier today and the person in question has cemented all the stones in on the edge of the road. The hole on the other side of the road has been filled in. Cllr Mallett reported that a bollard near the White Mare roundabout has been broken off; to be reported to County. He also mentioned that the stones from the roads around the Green, particularly in front of the 'Lord Nelson', are being scattered into the road. Cllr Mallett confirmed that NEDL have

reinstated the roadway on the Green. He will check whether Yorkshire Water have done the reinstatement works near the pumping station.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh had carried out an inspection and she reported that it is in good order. The only problem is the logs and branches in the ditch. Cllr Mallett said we are waiting on John Proud.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Adamson said we are still awaiting plans of the CCA Alleyway from Chris Vincent; a reminder to be sent.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that she, together with Cllrs Pack and J Roberts had a walk round the previous Saturday and visited everywhere. They looked at the work the County Council are doing at Norby - they have put concrete on top of the Mill Race wall as support for the pin kerb (part of the footpath). Cllr Marshall was extremely concerned at this and pointed out that they do not have the Town Council's permission to do anything with the Mill Race wall. She has spoken to the County Council expressing her grave concern and it appears that they intend to grass over it. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the archaeological history of the Mill Race is highlighted on the Interpretation Boards. She has spoken to Councillor Dadd who is to take this up with the County Council and to Mr Campling who is the head of Archaeological Department at County Hall. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Marshall that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of the County Council with a copy to Councillor Dadd expressing

our objections at what had occurred and requiring reinstatement of the Mill Race wall . Cllr Marshall said it was necessary to have a strategy for the Centenary Field. She

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advised that during the walk round it was noted that where the IDB have cut down a tree the branches have been put in the Whiteless to form a dam - Cllr J Roberts has pulled them out. Cllr Marshall agreed to type up her list from the walk round and circulate it.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Referring to the letter from the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group, Cllr Watson said it is necessary to find out how often HDC go to Mill Gardens to pick up litter. A letter to be sent expressing our thanks to the resident(s) of Mill Gardens who pick up litter there.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh said that neither she nor Cllr F Roberts were able to attend the Action for Market Towns Conference. She wondered whether the Blue Plaques project would be a suitable candidate for an award.

Cllr Pack referred to a previous request for a site meeting at the top of Chapel Street and she wondered if there could be a crossing on Westgate. The request for a site meeting to be chased via Cllr Dadd.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that the Swales Garage site has been

tidied up considerably. Cllr Mallett referred to problems with wheeliebins, in particular with people leaving side rubbish, which is then not collected. He wondered whether HDC could send out a leaflet telling residents what can and cannot be put in the wheeliebins etc; a letter to be sent to HDC

Cllr Marshall referred to the planning application to carry out tree works and fell one tree, which is the subject of a TPO, at the Old Rectory site. Cllr Watson explained that this was to create an entrance and was a safety issue. Therefore the Planning Committee had no objections to the application.

### **Thirsk in Bloom**

Cllr Pack advised that two weeks ago she had had a meeting with Lionel Twiss to discuss the proposals for the roundabouts at York Road, South Kilvington and the Busby Stoop. Cllr Pack is to be the Town Council's representative on this and Kath Reynard is to represent Thirsk in Bloom. There had been discussion about the types of planting. Thirsk in Bloom are having some social events and are hoping to get more people involved. They are looking at ordering sweatshirts to be worn by volunteers and are also looking at having badges. Cllr Pack said that everything is going well and there have been no instances of vandalism with the planters etc. recently.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting  
of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday  
15th May 2006 at 7.00 p.m.  
in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe**

**Present:**

Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Morton, A. Robinson, J. Watson, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”, PC D. Pears, PC S. Finlay, PC S. Jobe (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J. Jackson (away), R. Mallett (hospital appointment) C. Pack (working), J. Roberts (working) F. Roberts (ill), County Cllr G. Dadd (another meeting); accepted

**Election of Chairman:**

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

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting, held on  
16th May 2005:

Proposed accepted Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Adamson;  
agreed.

### **Matters Arising from the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting**

There were no matters arising

### **Reports from Representatives:**

The reports from representatives had been copied to  
Councillors.

Cllr Robinson advised that the Hambleton Sports Council has  
not met.

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report regarding the Lambert  
Memorial Hospital League of Friends.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Committee Reports had been copied to Councillors.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that both the  
Committee and Representatives' Reports be accepted.

Cllr Marshall thanked the Planning Committee for all their  
hard work. She asked that all the Committees meet more  
frequently in future.

**Election of Council Representatives:**

Cllr Adamson suggested that, as we are no longer able to appoint school governors, All Saints RC School and Thirsk Community Primary School be removed from the list.

Thirsk Map: Agreed that a letter be sent to Sowerby, Carlton Miniott and South Kilvington Parish Councils advising that the Map is now in St. Mary's Church and the Committee can therefore be wound up. The overall responsibility for this to be part of Central Areas.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr Marshall thanked all the Councillors for their hard work during the year and wished them all the best for the coming year.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 15th May 2006**  
**following the Annual Parish Council Meeting**  
**in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, A Morton,  
A Robinson, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times),  
PC D Pears, PC S Finlay, PC S Jobe (North Yorkshire Police)  
and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Jackson (away), R Mallett (hospital appointment), C  
Pack (working), J Roberts (working), F Roberts (ill), County  
Cllr G Dadd (another meeting); accepted

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4th May 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh;  
agreed.

**Police Report:**

PC Pears introduced PCs Sharon Finlay and Sarah Jobe, and gave  
details of the police personnel who will be covering various  
areas. PC Pears expressed his concern at the article which had  
appeared in the 'Darlington and Stockton Times' recently  
saying that he felt this paints a very bad picture of Thirsk.

He said there are a small minority of youths within the town who cause problems, but this also happens in other market towns in North Yorkshire. There are still problems with graffiti. PC Pears advised that a representative from the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership had gone out with the police. In response to the Town Council's enquiry about a ban on drinking outside, a reply from Inspector Richardson was read to the meeting. He advises that such an option needs to be carefully applied and it is essential that the problem is examined thoroughly. He will ask Sgt Frank to convene a local problem solving group at which the Town Council, Sowerby Parish Council and others will be represented. Cllr Morton asked what criteria marks a petty crime from a normal crime as he understood from a police official that the recent break-in and damage to the church and floodlights was classed as petty crime. However, PC Pears said that all crimes are recorded. PC Pears referred to the shopwatch system in the town, saying that 100-150 letters had been delivered to businesses asking if they would like to support it, but only ten replies have been received. PCSO Ian McPherson is chasing this up. Cllr Watson said she understood a meeting was called at short notice and she suggested that another meeting be arranged with longer notice given. Cllr Marshall said we would like direct feedback on Operation Enable.

### **Reports:**

District Council

Cllr Robinson reported that Hambleton had held its annual meeting and Sue Latter is now Chairman with Margaret Skillbeck as Vice Chair. Most Councillors are on the same committees as before.

Cllr Adamson advised that at next year's elections the count will be done the day after the election if the changes go through parliament. It is proposed that the bill for Parish Council by-elections will be recoverable over a four year period.

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**Open Forum:**

No members of the public present.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 24th April 2006:**

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P006 20mph scheme outside Thirsk Community Primary School; the County Council to be chased regarding consulting the Town Council about this.

P007 Tarmac repairs at the entrance to Marage Road; County have agreed to do this.

P007 Blakey Bridge; Cllr Marshall said there is a problem with the amount of traffic coming through the town as a result of Blakey Bridge being closed. A letter to be sent to Gordon

Gresty asking what they are going to do and when the bridge is to be re-opened as the Town Council has had no indication of any works or any intentions to re-open the bridge.

P008 Works in the Market Place; e-mail from Paul Greenaway received and reported to last meeting.

P008 Streetlight in the Market Place; nothing further on this.

P008 BNP in the Market Place; reply received from Clive Thornton advising that the BNP need to seek permission from HDC to campaign in the Market Place. This applies to all political parties and organisations. Such consent has not been sought.

P008 Cemetery Lodge; the new tenants moved in last Friday. Some works were required prior to their moving in and these have been done.

P008 Badges; the clerk has details from some Councillors of what they would like on their badges. The remainder to be asked to let us know by the end of this week.

P008 Gate from Wetlands Lane into the Cemetery; this will be put in hand.

P008 Conservation Area Group; CAG is continuing, but not supported by HDC. Cllr Marshall advised that they are meeting in either the Town Council office or Sowerby Parish Council office and are dealing with their own administration. They met last week in the Town Council office.

P009 Blue Bag collection scheme; schedule of collection dates received from HDC

P010 Paint for the Black Bridge; the invoices from Millgate

Timber and Hardware have been paid.

P010 Closure of Account No 00669695; this has not yet been done.

P010 Defra, Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005; guide re this requested.

P010 Cleaner Safer Greener Initiative publications; these are now back in the office if Councillors wish to borrow them.

P011 Caravans in field next to the authorised Gypsy site; letter sent to Sowerby Parish Council.

P012 NEDL work on St James' Green; letter sent.

P012 Hambleton Community Safety Partnership; letter to be sent asking for someone from their organisation to come to a meeting.

P012 Folding screen in the Town Hall; Cllr Watson advised that she has contacted the suppliers of the screen and they are to come and look at it.

**Finance:**

Accounts for Payment

It was queried whether now the Cod Beck has been enmained, we should be paying rates to the IDB - to be clarified. Subject to an answer on this, it was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following accounts be paid:

M L Burnett - Installation of Blue Plaques on Workhouse and Foxwynd £28.00

C.E. and C.M. Walker - grasscutting £1,233.75

Staples - stationery £139.17

Npower - office electricity £258.31

HDC - rates, 1st June 2006 £55.00

C.A. Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Cutting down and burning trees/ shrubs and cutting grass at rear of Cemetery Lodge £160.00

Chris Dunning - digger hire for Carrs Field £59.93

M.L. Burnett - repairs to Cemetery Lodge, fence at gates in the Picnic Area, post and rails at Craigs Way, seat in Mill Gardens £409.86

W. Gaunt Ltd - stone for Carrs Field £37.60

F.D. Todd & Sons Ltd - skip for Millennium Green £146.88

Amberol Ltd - window box liners £246.76

Julie Harron - Salary, May 2006 £301.07

Elaine Coulson - Salary, May 2006 £1,046.64

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, April 2006 £613.64

Elaine Coulson - reimbursement for electricity purchased for Cemetery Lodge £20.00

Fox's Copy Centre - photocopying etc £39.06

Cod Beck IDB drainage rates £27.50

Jeremy Cave - salary, w/c 1.05.06 and 8.05.06 £123.73

Paid Since last meeting

Millgate Timber - paint/brushes for Black Bridge (agreed at last meeting) £55.37

Petty Cash £47.94

J. Cave - 8.5 hrs week commencing 17.4.06. 8.5 hrs week commencing 24.4.06. £85.85

Income received

Precept 2006/07 (1st half) £38,500.00

VAT Refund (1.1.06.-31.3.06.) £711.63

Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society - cont. to Blue Plaques

Leaflet £100.00

HDC: Long Street Enhancement Scheme £715.84

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - reimbursement for First Aid Box £29.98

Cllr Marshall queried the date of receipt of the precept.

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for April 2006:

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that these be accepted.

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

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

Grave No. F3 19 Freda May Pennock

Grave No. C3 2 John Charles Young

Grave No. F3 9 Herbert William Sygrove

Application for an Additional Inscription

Grave No. E4 15 George Henry Banks

### **Correspondence**

Office of Deputy Prime Minister - Local Authority Byelaws in England: A Discussion Paper - noted.

NYCC - Notice of a proposal to make a Traffic Order prohibiting U-Turns on the A19 York Road at Sowerby; the Members were not happy with this and are firm in their view that there should be a roundabout.

Thirsk Christmas Fayre - request for donation (Cllr Watson declared an interest) Cllr Marshall pointed out that any such donation must come from the Christmas Festivities budget. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that in view of this the Christmas Festivities Committee should look at their budget and decide whether or not to give a donation and, if so, how much and come back to the next Town Council meeting.

Thirsk Cricket Club - request for sponsorship (Cllr Marshall declared an interest). It was pointed out that we have already sponsored a cricket ball and it was felt that this letter had been sent to us in error.

Email from NYCC re a one day conference entitled 'Reclaiming the Streets' to be held in Knaresborough on 19th May; noted.

HDC re Vale Garage; the Enforcement Officer advises that the

majority of the required works have now been carried out and it is therefore not intended to issue an Untidy Site Notice.

Cllr Marshall showed a plan produced by the County Council re Norby Front Street. She explained that in the course of doing the footpath work the County Council have covered the Mill Race top with concrete and then with soil. A site meeting had been held on Monday at which County Councillor Dadd, Officers of the County Council and herself were present. The County Council have agreed to remove the concrete and soil from the top of the Mill Race wall and are proposing to erect a birdmouth fence in either natural wood or painted white on the footpath side of the Mill Race to prevent their pin kerbs being a tripping hazard. The crossing points will have a gap in the fencing and a step down. The County Council advise that when the concrete is removed there should be sufficient cement to support the pin kerbs, but it will be monitored over the winter and, if necessary, small metal pins will be put in.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we agree to the fencing and that it be in natural wood; 5 in favour, 1 abstention. Cllr Marshall had already spoken to Mr. John Bell, landowner, who was in agreement with the installation of fencing and the remedial work.

Cllr Adamson reported that we now have a new tenant at Cemetery Lodge. Some works were required before they could move in and we have therefore spent monies on this. The Burial Board will be embarking upon a safety assessment of memorials. Cllr Marshall thanked the clerk for all the work she had done before the tenants moved in to Cemetery Lodge.

Appointment of Town Council Committee Members:

A form had been circulated to Councillors and those present indicated the Committees on which they would like to serve. The Councillors absent from the meeting to be asked to respond as quickly as possible.

**To discuss the possibility of Thirsk becoming a Fair Trade Town**

Cllr Marshall explained that Cllr J Roberts had asked for this to be included on the agenda. In view of the fact he was not present, it was agreed that it be deferred until the next meeting.

**Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Adamson advised that, following its Ofsted inspection, Thirsk Community Primary School had received a brilliant report. Cllr Marshall read out extracts from the report. The school was identified as good with outstanding features.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Marshall that a letter of congratulations be sent to the headmaster.

Members

Cllr Adamson referred to the amount of traffic which comes through the town and said it is very difficult for pedestrians to cross the roads at weekends in the summer season. He felt that County need to look at the signage to ensure that traffic is not coming through the town when it should be on the bypass.

Cllr Morton mentioned that there are some loose cobbles on the White Mare roundabout.

Cllr Marshall said this was included in the list given to Eddy Hayward.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 1st June 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

**Page P023**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

Cllr R Mallett (ill); accepted

**Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2006:**

Proposed accepted Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 4th May 2006:**

P013 Operation Enable; reply sent re de-briefing meeting.

P013 Piece of grass opposite Gillings Court; the installation of the bollards is still awaited.

P013 Tree outside Gillings Court; no action appears to have been taken on this. Cllr Marshall asked that this and any other outstanding matters with Broadacres be taken up with

their Chief Executive.

P013 BTCV work; BTCV advise that if we want them to supply us with a list of materials required they will charge us an additional 20% of the cost of the materials. Otherwise we would need to calculate the amount of materials and order them ourselves. This additional charge also applies if they order the materials. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that we have them supply the materials and pay the additional 20%; agreed. It was also agreed that once the work is completed a letter be sent to BTCV (National Office) expressing the opinion that, in view of the additional 20% we feel their quotes are rather misleading.

P013 Christmas Lights; Cllr Adamson had some brochures of Christmas Lights and said he would attempt to obtain prices. Wired to continue to be chased for their quote for new lights.

P014 Bin from The Holmes; this is still in the river.

P014 Town Council name badges; the list of names has now been compiled and the badges will be ordered.

P014 Picks Lane sign. Reply sent to Clive Thornton and he is arranging for a sign to be made saying 'Picks Lane also known as Masonic Lane'. Letter sent to the Post Office and an acknowledgement received.

P014 Environment Agency; Cllr Marshall is meeting the engineer tomorrow afternoon.

P014 Works on St James' Green; reply from NEDL awaited.

P014 Central Areas; the fence and gate at the White Bridge end of the Picnic Area have been repaired again.

P014 Thirsk Station; grass now being cut, but the fence is still broken.

P014 Market Place works; reply from Paul Greenaway still awaited.

P015 HDC re Tendered Local Bus Services; being circulated.

P015 Proposed Public Open Space at the Salem Chapel site; plan still awaited.

P015 Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group; reply sent and further letters received (included in 'Correspondence').

**Page P024**

P015 Hambleton CAB; letter sent supporting the CAB's application for Lottery funding.

P015 Schedule of Outstanding Amenity items:

St James Green to Waterside; missing sign reported again to HDC.

Overnight parking in Millgate Car Park; reported to HDC.

Grass on Bridge Street; letter sent to Broadacres.

Lighting in the alleyways; Cllr Marshall had spoken to Chris Vincent about this, but they are under too much pressure at the moment to put any time to it. P016 Reinstatement works near the Pumping Station; not yet done and a reminder letter sent.

P016 CCA Alleyway; Cllr Marshall had spoken to Chris Vincent about the plans for which we are waiting, but HDC have not had the time to do them as yet. He had referred to 'providing us

with a quote' for the work.

P016 Footpath at Norby; letter sent to the Chief Executive of the County Council and reply received from Gordon Gresty apologising for the concreting over the top of the Mill Race wall and giving details of how this will be rectified.

P017 Mill Gardens; the Town Council's thanks to the residents of Riverside Mews who pick up litter in Mill Gardens were included in the reply sent to the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group.

P017 Wheeliebins; E mail sent to Gary Brown.

**Correspondence :**

Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group; letter of thanks received in respect of the Town Council's reply. They advised that a copy of our letter will be passed to the Chairman of Thirsk in Bloom.

Thirsk in Bloom; advising that they have written to the press clarifying that Thirsk in Bloom are no longer responsible for Mill Gardens. They ask that some members of the Council meet with members of Thirsk in Bloom before any more planting is carried out there. Also a further letter following their receipt of the copy of the letter to the Riverside Residents and Owners Group thanking the Town Council for agreeing to meet with them and advising that the Thirsk in Bloom representatives on the Liaison Committee are Sue Dodds and Tony Jordan.

HDC; copy letter to Mrs Dunning of 96A Long Street, confirming

that her property can be called 'Maythorne', 96A Long Street,  
Thirsk

NYCC; advising that the contribution towards grasscutting for the 2006 season will be £2,847.60. The Clerk was of the opinion that the Town Council is being wrongly assessed and she felt that it should be due a higher contribution - she will check this out.

NYCC ; letter and questionnaire re the proposed crossing on Long Street (to be funded by the developer of the McCarthy and Stone complex). Agreed that the Town Council is not in agreement with the details of this. In particular the Members feel that the entrance to St Mary's Walk needs to be left uncluttered as it is a bad get out. The plan indicates that the entrance to St Mary's Walk is to be narrowed, that the footway on the corner of St Mary's Walk/Long Street is to be widened to create a combined footway/cycle path. This would prohibit two vehicles, one turning left and one right exiting from St Mary's Walk at the same time and would cause traffic build ups. In addition, the Town Council is not happy at a combined path for pedestrians and cyclists as it feels this is a danger. The Town Council would like the footpath outside

the McCarthy and Stone development to be reinstated. It would request that the layby be retained as it is well used by tourist buses for dropping off and picking up passengers. Cllr Marshall was of the view that a crossing on Long Street should have a traffic island in the centre of it. It would request that if there are to be any further plans relating to this crossing that they be sent to this Council.

Cllr Marshall advised that we have received a petition signed by six of the residents of St James' Green complaining that wheeliebins are being used to reserve car parking spaces and also untaxed cars are parked on the Green. Gary Brown at HDC has been notified about the wheeliebins and it was agreed to ask John Proud about the 'abandoned' cars and also to take this up with the police.

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

Councillors had been circulated with an updated Schedule and the various actions were noted. Cllr Roberts requested that HDC be asked to provide a small plastic bottle bin in Millgate car park to assist people who do not have cars and/or who shop in the town and therefore do not get to the recycling bins at Tesco.

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

All Councillors had indicated which Committees they would like to be on. Cllr Marshall gave details of the memberships of the various committees. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr

Hesmondhalgh that these be accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

Carrs Field - Cllr F Roberts reported that glass is still being found on the tarmac, but the police have indicated that there is not as much rubbish as previously.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that the Committee has met and has had a walk round. They have identified work that needs doing and particular 'hot spots'. The works identified in the Market Place and Mill Gardens include painting the bus shelter, defective lights etc. A list is to be circulated to the members of the committee and the clerk. Cllr Watson mentioned that there is a lot of graffiti in the passageway alongside Thirsk Clock and Cllr Adamson will mention this at the next meeting of Thirsk Clock.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that he has some brochures of Christmas lights and he will look on the website for prices.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Marshall advised that she has asked a local nursery to let us have a price for re-planting the roundabout with summer bedding. She has also asked someone to weed it but nothing has been done as yet and she will chase it up again.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that a walk round had taken place and a list is to be drawn up. Signs denoting the fact that these are Town Council property are to be obtained.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

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Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Hesmondhalgh said she had spoken to Richard Wild at Thirsk Community Primary School and their Ofsted Report should now have been sent to the press.

Cllr Marshall showed pictures of the Blue Plaques leaflet, although she said that the Working Party has not yet met to discuss this. She showed drawings of the Interpretation Boards and the leaflet about the Boards and said they have not as yet met with Rany to feed back on these.

Cllr Marshall mentioned that there is currently a skip on St James' Green and felt we should have a policy on how to deal with these. Agreed that letters be sent to any individuals who have a skip put on the Green pointing out that the Green is Town Council property and therefore our permission should have been sought. Also asking them how long the skip is to be there. The clerk to draft a suitable letter.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the next meeting is to be held on 17th June. The hanging baskets have been taken down. The plants were left in until after the Bank Holiday, as requested, and re-planting will take place within the next week or so.

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

Agreed that John Proud at HDC be consulted re the way in which the Poop Scoop byelaw is being operated and that a request be made for the Dog Warden to be supplied with a badge for identification purposes.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 19th June 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, F Roberts, J Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, County  
Cllr G Dadd, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times) and the  
clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs A Morton (no reason given) and C Pack (away); accepted.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr J Roberts;  
accepted.

**Police Report:**

No representatives of the police present. Cllr Marshall  
advised that some people had been letting off fire  
extinguishers in the East Thirsk Play Area about two weeks  
ago, but no one had informed us of this. The fire  
extinguishers were then deposited in the Millennium Green beck  
together with some building materials. In the early hours of  
last Saturday morning the gate between the East Thirsk Play

Area and the School was completely destroyed; this is to be taken up with the police. Cllr Marshall also reported that the 'Welcome to Thirsk' sign on York Road has been damaged and some of the stone has been broken. Cllr Watson reported that the gate at the Market Place end of Castlegarth has been broken again.

**Reports:**

County Council

Referring to the Auction Mart site, Cllr Dadd reported that the proposal to prohibit U turns was discussed at the County Area Committee for Hambleton today. Cllr Dadd advised that he fully supports the need for a roundabout. However, the motion at today's meeting was regarding the U turns. This option was recommended by a Safety Audit and should this not have been approved then there was a risk that the Auction Mart would not have opened on time, therefore Cllr Dadd reluctantly agreed with the proposal to prohibit U turns. He had made the point that local member involvement had been very poor. Cllr Marshall had attended the meeting and she said that everyone is in support of the roundabout but there are issues. Cllr Jackson expressed the view that the County Council has taken no notice of the views of the local people. Agreed that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive expressing our disquiet and pointing out that local people know more about this than do Officers. Cllr Dadd advised that he has arranged a site meeting for 5.00pm on 3rd July to look at the proposed

crossing near the McCarthy and Stone development. Cllr Dadd has also spoken to County regarding Blakey Bridge and has urged them to deal with this as quickly as possible; he feels the width restrictions need to be looked at. Cllr Dadd reported on the Health Scrutiny Committee saying they have formally referred the rearrangement of Teesside health services to the Secretary of State for determination. Cllr Dadd has asked Eddy Hayward to look at having a site meeting at the top of Chapel Street. Cllr Marshall mentioned the Hambleton Drive traffic calming and said we have not as yet seen this scheme. Cllr Dadd advised that he has also not seen it but will ask again. Cllr Robinson referred to the temporary traffic lights on Station Road, saying they were unable to cope with the amount of traffic on Sunday morning and

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this caused chaos. He questioned the need to leave them there on a busy weekend in June. Cllr Jackson felt that, to minimise inconvenience, the traffic lights should be switched off when the men are not working there. Cllr Robinson pointed out that the pavement on the Lambert Hospital side of Chapel Street is full of potholes; Cllr Dadd to pass this on.

District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that he has been appointed to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, the Licensing Committee, the 'Hambleton News' Working Party and the Resources Best Value

panel. He advised that the hostel on Westgate has now been passed to Endeavour Housing Association and the funding which was to go to Broadacres will now go to Endeavour. This is to be a young persons' housing project.

Parking restrictions are to be implemented on Coniston Way, Carlton Miniott and this will affect the railway station.

**Open Forum:**

No members of the public present.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 15th May 2006:

P019 20 mph scheme outside Thirsk Community Primary School; letter sent to County.

P019 Blakey Bridge; letter sent.

P019 Works in the Market Place; reminder sent to Paul Greenaway and reply received advising that he is chasing up Eddie Hayward and Barry Mason.

P019 Badges; on order.

P019 Gate from Wetlands Lane into the Cemetery; looking at this.

P019 Closure of Account No 00669695; to be done.

P019 Defra, Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005; this has now been received and is in the office.

P019 NEDL work on St James Green; letter sent and acknowledgement received. Compensation of £350 to be paid by NEDL to the Town Council.

P019 Hambleton Community Safety Partnership; letter sent.

P019 Folding screen in the Town Hall; Cllr Watson advised that a Town Hall meeting had been held and they are getting the company who installed the doors back to rectify the problem.

P019 Drainage rates; reply received advising that although the Cod Beck has been enmained, the drainage rates are still payable as the enmainment does not affect the boundary of the drainage district. The cheque has therefore been sent to them.

Cllr Adamson felt we should send a letter to our MP as this is double taxation. He queried why the IDB should pay an engineer when it now comes under the Environment Agency.

P019 BNP in the Market Place; Cllr J Roberts asked what action should be taken if they are in the Market Place again - Cllr Marshall said to report it to HDC.

P021 A19 York Road at Sowerby re proposed prohibition of U Turns; letter of objection sent and acknowledgement received, also copy of a letter from Sowerby Parish Council opposing the proposal.

P021 Norby Front Street; letter sent agreeing to the fencing, such fencing to be in natural wood.

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P022 Appointment of Town Council Committee Members, adopted at the last meeting.

P022 Thirsk Community Primary School Ofsted Report; letter of congratulations sent. Cllr Hesmondhalgh mentioned that, as far as she is aware, there was no mention of the School's Ofsted

Report in the 'Darlington and Stockton Times'.

P022 Loose cobbles on the White Mare Roundabout; on the list sent to Eddy Hayward, but still not done.

## **Finance**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr J Roberts that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed.

KRM Plumbing and Heating:

Repairing water leaks at Cemetery Lodge £45.00

Bleeding oil system at Cemetery Lodge £20.00

Record Playground Equipment - remedial work £528.75

F D Todd & Sons emptying skip in Cemetery £142.91

HDC - Office rent, qtr comm. 1.6.06. £680.94

CE & CM Walker - grasscutting for May 06 £1,850.63

Sam Turner & Sons Ltd - polybags, gloves for Millennium Green  
£31.15

Fox's Copy Centre - copying for Interpretation Boards £30.00

F. Roberts - 2 chairs for Town Council Office £70.50

BT - Office telephone £96.19

Thirsk Hall Estate - Rent and Wayleaves £5.00

HDC - Rates, July 2006 £55.00

Julie Harron - Salary, June 2006 £296.70

Elaine Coulson - Salary, June 2006 £1,047.96

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, May 2006 £617.11

C. Amy - Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Work on the Holmes, Whiteless and Little Green £75.00

Paid Since last meeting

Jeremy Cave - w/c 15.5.06. and 22.5.06. £159.00

Yorkshire Water - Application for Standpipe Licence £207.78

Calverts Carpets - lino for kitchen at Cemetery Lodge £60.00

Petty Cash £49.75

Income received

Interest on commuted sum recd re Picks Lane development £821.24

Bank Interest £752.55

Burial Board: Interments £1,450.00

Grave Purchases £696.00

Reservation of space in GOR £58.00

Memorials £82.00

Rent (less outgoings) £56.86

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Monthly balance sheet and budget report for May 2006

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that these be approved; agreed.

Cllr Marshall advised that she intends to call a Finance Meeting in August.

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

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the

following applications be approved; agreed.

Plot No. FF 14 Dorothy Forster

Plot No. GG 2 Walter Cliff

Plot No. GG 3 Jean Brown

### **Correspondence**

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative; invitation to a meeting with the Community Neighbourhood Policing Team on Wednesday 12th July 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in the TRI Office. Cllrs Adamson, Mallett and Watson to attend.

HDC advising that they are carrying out a review of the District Council's public toilets and that Thirsk has two sets of toilets whereas other market towns only have one. The Town Council's views are requested on the possibility of closing the Millgate toilets and retaining those in the Market Place. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a strong letter be sent to the District Council opposing this suggestion, pointing out that the fact Thirsk has two sets of toilets is historical, that Thirsk is a major tourist town and that the Millgate toilets are close to the coach and car parks.

HDC re request for a Temporary Footpath Closure at Sowerby Flatts from 9.00am on 30th June to 9.00pm on 2nd July for the Thirsk Festival; noted.

HDC - Appointment of Parish Council Representative to the HDC Standards Committee. Nominations are invited to fill one vacancy on this; no interest.

Thirsk Christmas Fair; a request for a donation towards this has been received. (Cllr Watson declared an interest).

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Robinson that a donation of £500 be made. An amended proposal was made by Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Mallett that a payment of £250 be made with a further £250 held in case of future developments with the Christmas Fair; A vote was taken on the amendment - 8 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

Charter 88 re Community Decline and Charter 88s Campaign for a Modern Democracy; to be circulated and dealt with at the Town Council meeting on 17th July.

NYCC; Notice of Adoption of the North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan

NYCC; Tendered Local Bus Services - Hambleton Area (already circulated to Councillors). It was agreed there should be no cut-back in services. Cllr Watson felt it would be advantageous if there could be a bus to coincide with hospital visiting times. There should also be facilities for the disabled. Agreed to add these comments.

**Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson advised that there is a small leak in the oil tank at Cemetery Lodge and he has told the clerk to go ahead with replacing it. She advised that she has asked KMP for a quote. Cllr Marshall advised that she has cleaned out the shed on the Little Green and therefore the seats which are currently being stored in the Cemetery shed can be moved into

the shed on the Little Green.

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To look at the possibility of Thirsk becoming a Fair Trade Town:

Cllr J Roberts presented this saying that by becoming a Fair Trade Town Thirsk would get accreditation for something it already does. He explained that in the Third World countries people who are now farming are earning very little and Fair Trade ensures that the producers will get a fair price for what they are manufacturing. To do this the town has to have three or four outlets which sell a choice of fair trade goods and Thirsk already has this. It would be necessary to set up a steering group which would meet a couple of times a year and would monitor the situation. Cllr Marshall said that St Mary's Church supports Fair Trade and the County Council are very keen to promote it. Cllr J Roberts pointed out that no town can become a Fair Trade Town without the approval of its Town Council. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr J Roberts that we support the proposal that Thirsk starts becoming a Fair Trade town; 8 in favour, 1 abstention. Cllr J Roberts will move this forward and will report back to the Town Council meeting on 17th July.

**Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Robinson reported that the Lambert Hospital League of Friends had an Open Day which raised over £600.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that his role on Community Education has been disbanded. It was felt a letter should be sent to the Thirsk group thanking them for what they have done in the past.

Cllr Adamson reported that the East Thirsk Community Association has held its AGM. He is still Vice Chairman

Cllr Adamson referred to the graffiti in the alleyway next to the Thirsk Clock Café and said some of the members of the Clock Café have offered to paint over it.

Referring to the CCA Cllrs Adamson said that the car scheme is to come to an end. Most of the journeys were hospital visits.

He said that Harrogate is taking over the volunteer drivers and it is hoped the service will continue without any disruption.

Cllr Marshall advised that, at the invitation of the Mayor of Tadcaster, she had attended a promenade concert to celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday. She had also attended the North Yorkshire Urban International Conference at which there were delegates from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Sweden and Norway as well as North Yorkshire. Cllr Marshall felt it was a very good conference. This was followed in the evening by a Conference dinner.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had met the Engineer from the Environment Agency. They have agreed to remove the debris from under Finkle Street Bridge, but are deferring this until they

know more about the implications of the fish disease which has been discovered in a North Yorkshire river. In respect of the work required at the Weir, they have sent a form which has to be completed to do the work.

Members:

Cllr Jackson pointed out that some of the streetlights around the Market Place are in need of attention.

Cllr Adamson said that in a lot of cases where the lamp posts in East Thirsk have been replaced they now do not have dog fouling signs. Cllr Mallett advised that he has some dog fouling signs and he will deal with this.

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Cllr Mallett referred to the manhole cover in the pavement on Pinfold Place, saying that it is very thin and he felt it could be dangerous. The County Council have advised that this is not their responsibility. Cllr Mallett said such responsibility is not in the residents' deeds. Agreed that HDC be asked whether it is theirs.

Cllr Robinson enquired about the piece of land at East Thirsk which HDC were purchasing. He said the land in question is very overgrown and full of rubbish. To be taken up with HDC.

Cllr J Roberts expressed the view that the relationship between the police, landlords and members of the community is now better than ever.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that, following Operation Enable, the patching has been done in St Mary's Walk and Hambleton Drive and it is worse than ever.

Cllr Watson referred to the Post Office saying she felt that Thirsk should have a Post Office in its own building. She said that recently the Post Office was closed from 1.00pm to 2.00pm because of staff shortages. A letter to be sent to the Post Office expressing our disquiet with the staff situation and enquiring whether there is a problem.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 6th July 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, R. Mallett, C. Pack, F. Roberts, J. Watson, Mark Foster (Darlington and Stockton Times), PC Sarah Beacham, PC Sarah Jobe, PCSO Ian McNeil (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr D. Adamson (school governor training); accepted

**Open Forum**

PC Sarah Jobe reported that a meeting had been held earlier in the week with the residents of Picks Lane, scout leader, cadets leader, a representative from Graphic Arts, County Cllr Dadd and District Cllr Adamson to look at the problems of vandalism, graffiti etc which are being experienced in that part of the town. The Freemasons had been invited, but were unable to attend this second meeting (had attended the first). Tesco's manager had been invited, but sent his apologies. Cllr Marshall advised that this was the second meeting which had been held with the residents of Picks Lane. She had attended

the meeting (uninvited) and she was not happy that the Town Council which has a major stake in that area was not invited, particularly as we had already been in discussion with the Police and Community Safety Partnership regarding the whole area. A further meeting is to be held on 1st August to which John Bell is to be invited.

From the representations made by the Town Council the police were trying to install a CCTV camera but had been unable to identify a power source. A power source was offered at the meeting which can run a CCTV camera to monitor Castlegarth - the police agreed to follow this up. A site meeting has been arranged with Tesco for 11th July to look at their fencing and the potential for underage drinking - Cllr Marshall is unable to attend this, but Cllr Watson agreed to go. The police have encouraged residents to record and report instances of vandalism etc. as they occur. Concern had been expressed at the length of time it takes to get through on the 0845 60 60 24 7 number - agreed that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable about this. Cllr Marshall referred to the piece of land next to the cream painted wall and said the scouts are looking at what can be done to prevent people getting over this to put graffiti on the wall and a fence on top of the wall has been suggested. However, she will try to obtain advice from the Police Architectural Liaison Officer.

Cllr Marshall referred to recent instances of damage in other parts of the town, in particular the plinth on York Road where one of the stones was removed and the gate between the East

Thirsk Play Area and the Thirsk Community Primary School which was almost completely destroyed. There are also problems with materials being taken from the nearby building site and being strewn about the East Thirsk Play Area and fire extinguishers being set off. PCSO McNeil said he has spoken to a group of youths about this and will be speaking to others. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that the Town Council was not aware this was happening and it is on its land and hoped that we might be informed in future. A letter to be sent to Moodys saying that we are concerned about the building materials being taken from their building site on Stockton Road, in particular fire extinguishers.

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Cllr Mallett said that there is no-one for the young people of Thirsk to talk to if they do not attend the Clock Café and he pointed out that there was nothing in this year's Festival programme designed for young people. Cllr Roberts suggested that a letter be sent to the Festival organisers asking them to consider this for next year and also asking them to consider inviting people from the Clock Café to the meetings they have to plan the Festival. PCSO McNeil said he is looking at setting up a fishing league and PC Jobe said the Clock Café are organising a lot of activities over the summer. Cllr Marshall suggested that the relationship with youth be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Cllr Watson mentioned the young drivers with noisy cars and inconsiderate driving - the police to watch this.

Cllr Marshall advised that the gate from Picks Lane onto Castlegarth has been vandalised and two litter bins have been thrown into the river.

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th June 2006**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

### **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1st June 2006**

P023 Piece of grass opposite Gillings Court; bollards now in place, but at the weekend a vehicle had pulled onto the grass between the bollards. To be reported to HDC.

P023 Tree outside Gillings Court; letter sent to the Chief Executive of Broadacres.

P023 BTCV work; this was carried out between 27th June and 4th July. To be checked.

P023 Christmas Lights; the Clerk had reminded Wired that we are waiting for a quote.

P023 Bin from The Holmes; Chris Amy is making arrangements for this to be removed from the river.

P023 Town Council name badges; now received and some given out.

P023 Picks Lane; reply received from the Post Office, but it did not address the issue raised therefore further letter sent.

P023 Work on St. James' Green; cheque for £350 now received.

P023 Market Place Works; reported at last meeting.

P023 Proposed Public Open Space at the Salem Chapel site;  
nothing further received from HDC

. P023 Environment Agency; Cllr Marshall reported that she had gone round with the Engineer from the Environment Agency. He had advised that any works within 8 metres of the Cod Beck require the Environment Agency's approval. They have supplied us with a form to apply for permission to remove the trees which are in the stonework of the weir. He suggested that dated digital photographs be taken of the river bank, weir etc in order that we have a photographic record - Cllr Mallett agreed to do this. Cllr Marshall had also pointed out where the path is going into the river and the engineer had agreed that we should move the path back. Cllr Marshall had also spoken to John Smith, Head of Bridges Section at the County Council re Millgate Bridge and they will look at pointing it up. The Black Bridge is not on County's list of bridges on public footpaths and hence not thought to be in their ownership and it was thought it should be; John Bell to be approached re this. It had pointed out that under regulations any trees cut down by the IDB should be taken away by the IDB.

P024 Hambleton CAB; reply received thanking the Town Council for supporting their application for Big Lottery Funding. They advise that they have been successful with their first stage application and are now moving onto the second stage.

P024 Grass on Bridge Street; reply received from Broadacres advising that they will pave the area in question

. P024 Footpath at Norby; fence now up. Cllr Marshall advised that she has walked alongside it and she is not happy. The County Council had said that there should be adequate concrete there to hold the pin kerbs, but they would monitor it over the winter and, if it became necessary, would put some metal pins in. However, they have not done this, but have put metal pins in all the way along. Some are sticking out and, as well as being unsightly, could be dangerous. Near the Sluice Gate where they have removed one of the kerb stones we asked them on site what they were going to replace it with. No response has been received and Cllr Marshall has taken it up with them again as currently it is still rubble. There is a drop from the footpath onto the grass which makes it impossible for wheelchair users to access The Holmes. At the earlier site meeting it had been agreed that a low step or ramp will be installed. Agreed that a strong letter be sent to the Chief Executive of the County Council with a copy to Gordon Gresty who now heads the Highways Department.

P024 Wheeliebins; reply received from Gary Brown advising that

a leaflet is being produced and he will let us have a copy of this when it is finished.

P024 Mill Gardens; site meeting held. Cllr Watson reported that she had met with Tony Jordan and Kath Reynard and had asked them to produce a plan showing the planting that Thirsk in Bloom had done. This has now been received and a copy has been given to Chris Amy - he is to cut back some overgrown shrubs, organise the weed spraying etc. Cllr Watson stressed that the responsibility for Mill Gardens remains with Chris Amy. She thanked the members of Thirsk in Bloom who had tidied up Mill Gardens. A further meeting of the Thirsk in Bloom Liaison Committee is to be held in 6-7 weeks

. P024 Contribution towards grasscutting; letter sent to NYCC.

P024 Proposed crossing on Long Street; reply sent with these comments. A site meeting was held earlier this week attended by Cllr Dadd. The Clerk had supplied Cllr Dadd with a copy of the Town Councils comments.

P024 Reinstatement works near the Pumping Station; Cllr Mallett reported that the grass has now been re-seeded.

P025 Car Parking Spaces and Wheeliebins on the Green; 'E' mail sent to John Proud and he has contacted the police. Letter and photograph of the wheeliebins sent to Gary Brown.

P025 Request for plastic bottle bank in Millgate car park; 'E' mail sent to HDC.

P025 Graffiti in the passageway alongside the Clock Café; this has been painted over by the Clock Café.

P025 White Mare Roundabout; now planted with summer bedding.

P025 Signs denoting land owned by the Town Council; prices for these are being obtained.

P026 Dog Warden; the Clerk has not yet had an opportunity to speak to John Proud but will do so.

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### **Correspondence**

HDC - Replacement bins outside the White Horse Café; 'E' mail received from John Proud with a photograph of the proposed new bin which is a bin container holding a 240 litre wheeliebin.

Clarification required as to how often it will be emptied as the present bins are emptied by the street cleaner rather than by the refuse collectors. Also the exact location of the bin.

Agreed that John Proud be asked to come to a meeting and talk to the Town Council.

HDC - Street naming and numbering of property to the rear of 27 Ingramgate to be known as 'Stable Cottage', 27B Ingramgate; noted.

HDC - Order re Temporary Road Closure on 2nd July for the Thirsk Festival; noted

NYCC re resurfacing on the A168 Southbound dual carriageway which will be carried out week commencing 9th July 2006; noted.

Mr and Mrs A. Lightfoot of Seven Seas Fisheries; copy of letter to HDC expressing concern that the finger posts

pointing people to the Racecourse via Castlegarth and Town Centre from the Racecourse are having an adverse effect on their business. Cllr Marshall advised that it is proposed to install two new fingers saying 'Alternative route to the Racecourse' and 'Alternative route to the Town Centre'. Mrs V Blood expressing concern at the condition of Mill Gardens. A reply to be sent advising that the cobbles will be reinstated and that a meeting has been held and works are to be undertaken.

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

This had been circulated to Councillors and the current position of the various matters was noted. It was pointed out that several outstanding items were on the list given to Eddy Hayward some time ago; the list to be taken to the next meeting.

Regarding the Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch, Cllr Marshall advised that she had had a conversation with Dave Goodwin, Head of Tourism and Leisure at HDC. He had advised that HDC's Engineers and Legal Departments have no spare capacity at the moment and therefore cannot put any time into this. Cabinet have allocated £20K to sort this out and they are prepared to let the Town Council access this money.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that we go with this. Dave Goodwin to be contacted as to how we undertake this.

Benches in Millgate car park; a reminder to be sent to Clive

Thornton.

Parking outside the Texaco Garage; this will be affected by the proposed crossing.

Sponsorship of roundabouts; Cllr Pack advised that she is waiting for Lionel Twiss to call a meeting regarding this.

Alleyways; Cllr Marshall advised that as we have drawings and costings for Roses Yard Mark Haynes of the TRI is putting in bids for doing this alleyway.

Silt under bridges; on list given to Eddy Hayward.

Gate at the gas station; still being left open. To be reported again

#### Committee Reports

Carrs Field - Cllr Marshall advised that a basketball match is to be held on Carrs Field.

Central Areas - Nothing further to report. Steve Hubbard to be asked if there is a plan for when the original planting in Mill Gardens was carried out.

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Christmas Festivities - Not yet met.

Greens and Ingramgate - Not yet met. It is necessary to look at purchasing a seat with the money from NEDL and to decide where to site it.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that there is still wood in the ditch. Cllr Marshall advised that HDC have

the ability to take powers to clean areas but have not done so, (it needs a Cabinet resolution). A letter to be sent to HDC urging them to take this up as soon as possible. The goalpost needs painting; Malcolm Burnett to be asked to do this.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that she is to arrange a joint meeting of Open Areas and Greens and Ingramgate. A date to be arranged after this meeting.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

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

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she has contacted the CCA and they have four meetings a year - she will attend the next one.

Cllr Watson advised that two manholes on Millgate are full; County to be asked to clear these.

Cllr Watson referred to the fair which had been in the Market Place last weekend, expressing concern that this had taken up parking spaces and had put some people off coming into the town. She felt that the rides were too big for the Market Place. They were also selling food which detracts from the cafes in the Market Place. Cllr Marshall wondered whether it had had an adverse effect on Thirsk Festival. It was pointed out that the Town Council was not consulted on the fair and a letter is to be sent to HDC pointing out about the loss of parking and asking what was the point of having the fair.

Cllr Watson enquired whether it would be possible to have some

people who are doing Community Service to do some cleaning up in Thirsk.

Cllr Marshall extended an invitation to Members of the Town Council to the unveiling of the blue plaque on the Old Courthouse. This is to take place on Tuesday 11th July at 1.00 p.m. by Mrs Isobel Arnold, a Trustee of RANY, and will be followed by refreshments in the Old Courthouse.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Blue Plaques walk, at which the leaflet will be launched, is to take place on Wednesday 12th July. She showed the Town Council a copy of the leaflet which has now gone to print.

Cllr Roberts asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Clock Café for painting the alleyway leading into Steads Yard.

Cllr Marshall queried whether when the sponsorship of the White Mare Roundabout was agreed was it for three years and

Cllr Mallett confirmed this. Agreed that we write to the sponsors and ask for the second year' payment.

Cllr Mallett advised that he had received a letter from the Headteacher thanking him for his work with Community Education.

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Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack advised that a meeting had been held on 14th June.

One of the topics discussed was holding a garden competition,

but it has been decided to hold this over until next year.

Planting in the town has been done and the hanging baskets are up. Thirsk in Bloom are now starting to plan for next year.

Cllr Pack expressed concern about the weeds in the town; John Proud to be asked if they can be sprayed. The planters have had to be removed from the lampposts as there was concern that the watering could cause the lampposts to rust. Cllr Marshall asked when Thirsk in Bloom were going to decide about whether to go into competition next year. Cllr Pack replied that she would raise this point at the next meeting. The next meeting is to be held on 2nd August.

The meeting closed at 9.12 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 17th July 2006 at 7:15pm**  
**in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Watson (in the Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, G Dadd and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr J Marshall (away); accepted

**Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

**Police report:**

No representative of the Police present.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Dadd referred to the Special Educational Needs Review, which is out for consultation. This will involve moving children from some specialist schools into mainstream schools. He explained that £53m is being injected into schools over the

next 10-15 years. At East Thirsk Community Primary School it is proposed that a primary support unit be set up for children with learning difficulties and behavioural problems. Some issues have been raised by parents and Cllr Dadd is taking these up with County. He has also met with the Headteacher and will take his views forward. Cllr Morton pointed out that the Ofsted Report for East Thirsk Community Primary School had rated their way of dealing with children with problems as outstanding and asked whether this had been taken into account. He felt it was vital that the good work at the school should not be jeopardised. Cllr Dadd said the learning support unit will be completely self contained and will not be staffed by the staff at East Thirsk CP school. Cllr Watson asked whether the Town Council will be consulted, but Cllr Dadd said not as it is not a statutory consultee.

Cllr Dadd reported that he has been in touch with Norby Depot regarding the hedges on York Road near the Thircon roundabout and this will be chased up. Referring to the proposed crossing near the Macarthy and Stone development, Cllr Dadd expressed disappointment that no one from the Town Council was present at the site meeting on Long Street, although it was pointed out that the Town Council had already sent in its views. Cllr Morton asked if the lay-by would be retained, but Cllr Dadd said not. Cllr Dadd had opposed the proposed cycle lane. Cllr Dadd advised that he is arranging a site meeting at the top of Chapel Street.

## District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that Broadacres' auditors had suggested they reduce the size of their Board and they proposed reducing the District Council representation from three to two, but this was turned down by the District Council. Another form of Area Committee was proposed, but it was decided that this should be discussed more fully later.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern at the traffic build ups coming into the town, saying they were worse now than before and he felt the County Council should come and look at it. Cllr Dadd said there is a full County Council meeting this week and he will

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ask the Officers to re-visit the scheme, bearing in mind the amount of traffic in and out of Thirsk.

### **Open Forum:**

No members of the public present.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 19th July 2006:

P027 Gate between East Thirsk Play Area and East Thirsk County Primary School; the broken wooden gate has been replaced with a metal gate.

P027 'Welcome to Thirsk' sign on York Road; now repaired

. P027 Gate at the Market Place end of Castlegarth; still

broken. Cllr Adamson advised that he has met with the person who lives in the house next to it and he has asked whether the gate could be left off as it is a nuisance.

P027 Auction Mart site; letter sent to the Chief Executive

P027 Hambleton Drive traffic calming; letter sent to County pointing out that we have not yet seen the scheme

P028 Parking restrictions on Coniston Way, Carlton Miniott; this is now being advertised.

P028 Works in Market Place; further reminder sent.

P028 Badges; now obtained and given to Councillors.

P028 NEDL work on St James Green; cheque for £350 now received.

P028 Drainage rates; letter sent.

P029 Accounts for payment; Cllr Adamson reminded the clerk that she was to seek advice as to whether staff salaries need to be shown on the payments lists.

P030 Meeting held with the Community Neighbourhood Policing Team; minutes of this included in Tabled Correspondence.

P030 Possibility of closing Millgate toilets; strong letter sent. Cllr Adamson advised that he will raise the issue of the toilets and also the recent fair on the Market Place at the next District Council meeting.

P030 Appointment of Parish Council Representative to the HDC Standards Committee; letter on this included in Correspondence.

P030 Donation to Christmas Fayre; cheque for this included in cheques to be signed.

P030 Charter 88 re Community Decline and Charter 88s Campaign for a Modern Democracy; circulated to Councillors.

P030 Tendered Local Bus Services - Hambleton Area; comments sent in.

P031 Community Education; letter sent.

P031 Graffiti in the alleyway next to the Clock Café; members of the Clock Café have painted over this and a letter of thanks has been sent to Abigail.

P031 Streetlights around the Market Place; further e-mail sent to Paul Gilmore about the metal pole with the missing top.

P032 Pavement on Pinfold Place; HDC advise that this is not in their ownership. Broadacres advise that the responsibility for this was passed to the residents. Cllr Marshall is looking into this further.

P032 Piece of land at East Thirsk; E-mail sent to HDC.

P032 Post Office; letter sent and acknowledgement received.

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## **Finance**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr F. Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following accounts be approved for payment:

YLCA - Playing Fields Association subscription 2006/7 £35.00

Staples office stationery £53.67

CE & CM Walker grasscutting - 13th and 27th June £1,233.75

Sakata Ornamentals Limited - plants for Thirsk in Bloom

£1,279.24

M.L. Burnett - Repairs to plinth, plastic front on office  
noticeboard, repairs to stone planter, erection of 5 plaques

£149.50

Fox's Trophies and Engraving - Councillors' badges £68.74

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - Room Hire, 6.4.06-19.6.06.

£147.00

Sam Turner & Sons Ltd - Gate etc for East Thirsk Play Area

£73.39

Hambleton District Council - Rates, August 2006 £55.00

Julie Harron - Salary, July 2006 £304.96

Elaine Coulson - Salary, July 2006 £1,047.96

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, June 2006 £612.61

C Amy Play Area inspections £228.50

Litter picking £290.00

Hedge cutting/weeding £140.00

Cutting back hedge in Cemetery £100.00

Installing gate at East Thirsk £85.00

Tree pruning £50.00

K Reynard - watering for Thirsk in Bloom £56.00

M Dodds - watering for Thirsk in Bloom £192.00

Paid Since last meeting

Jeremy Cave - w/c 5.6.06, 12.6.06, 19.6.06. £232.50

Jeremy Cave - w/c 26.6.06, 3.7.06. £138.18

BT - Broadband line £70.46

Income received

Burial Board: Interment £34.00

Grave Purchase £232.00

Memorials £48.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge £485.37

Bank Interest £199.24

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for June 2006:

(already circulated to Councillors).

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts that these be accepted; agreed.

Town Council's Standing Orders (copies already circulated to Councillors); Cllr Adamson advised that there has been a more recent amendment to these. Agreed that this be carried forward to the August meeting.

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Town Council's Financial Standing Orders (copies already circulated to Councillors).

Proposed Cllr Morton seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that these be approved.

Risk Assessment Document (copies already circulated to Councillors). Cllr Adamson pointed out two items which require amending. Subject to these, it was proposed by Cllr Adamson,

seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this document be accepted.

Fidelity Insurance Cover:

Advice had been obtained from the YLCA as to the amount of cover required. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that a quote be obtained for cover of £100K. To be brought to the August Town Council meeting.

**Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:**

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr F Roberts that the following applications for Memorials and Additional Inscriptions be approved.

Grave space F3 12 Archie McLaughlin

Applications for Additional Inscriptions

Margaret Pullen

Arthur W. Thackray and Kathleen M. Thackray

Karl Netherland

Ida Margaret Amos

**Correspondence**

HDC re 'Breathing Places' Lottery grants programme; noted.

HDC re appointment of Parish Council representative to the Standards Committee Two nominations have been received -

Edward Dennison of Thornton le Beans and Crosby with Cotcliffe

Parish Council and Councillor R Pocklington of Bedale Town

Council. Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh

that we vote in favour of Edward Dennison; agreed.

Charter 88 - Community Decline and Charter 88s Campaign for a  
Modern Democracy - Empowering Citizens and Local Councils.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack that the Town  
Council shows its support in the ways indicated in the letter;  
agreed.

M Carbutt note of thanks for cutting the Beech hedge around  
the Garden of Rest in Thirsk Cemetery.

HDC re Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy -  
this is available in Thirsk Library and on the Hambleton  
website and comments are required by 22nd September 2006.

**Burial Board Report:**

Nothing to report.

**'No Cold Calling' Zones:**

Cllr Hesmondhalgh had requested that this be put on the  
agenda. She had contacted the Trading Standards and she  
circulated leaflets on this. She advised that these are

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done in separate areas/streets and she would like to volunteer  
Woolmoor Close as a 'no cold calling' zone. She advised that  
Trading Standards would make appointments to see all the  
householders and explain the system to them and tell them who  
to contact if they have a problem. A notice would be put up at

the entrance to the cul de sac saying this is a 'no cold calling' zone. They would like a donation towards the cost of the leaflets etc in the region of £100 or whatever we would like to offer. Cllr Robinson queried whether the Town Council should be promoting it as he felt it would be better promoted by the Hambleton Crime and Safety Partnership. It was agreed that the Town Council should not get involved in this because of the legislation, the cost and the bad feeling which could be caused. Cllr Hesmondhalgh to pass it to the Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Adamson suggested it be taken to the next Community Policing Meeting organised by the TRI.

### **Reports:**

#### Representatives

Cllr F Roberts mentioned the sliding doors in the Town Hall annexe and said a quote has been obtained for putting them right. They can also inspect the doors annually for a charge of £350 per annum.

#### Members

Cllr Adamson gave notice to amend Standing Order 10(f) as the Town Council no longer has a right to appoint someone to be a school governor.

Cllr Watson advised that HDC had three photocopiers, which they were prepared to give to a registered charity. Cllr Watson had applied for one on behalf of Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Management Committee and she had been successful.

She asked whether it could be housed in the Town Council Office. Cllr Jackson pointed out that it should be insured in case it caused damage to the office; Allianz Cornhill to be approached regarding this. Agreed it can be housed in the Town Council Office and can also be used by the Town Council.

Cllr Watson pointed out that the Busby Stoop roundabout has been planted up by local people.

Cllr Watson reported on the Community Policing meeting, saying it was a very good meeting. There was concern that there were no representatives from Thirsk School there. There was a large representation from the Clock Café. Cllr Watson had heard that HDC now have a graffiti busting machine.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 3rd August 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, C Pack, I Noble ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), J Proud, (HDC's Street Scene Manager), 1 member of the public and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs A Morton (another commitment), J Roberts (parliamentary business), F Roberts (ill), A Robinson (working); accepted

Talk by John Proud, HDC's Street Scene Manager:

Cllr Marshall welcomed John Proud to the meeting. Mr Proud said that he is trying to get round as many parishes as possible and he explained his role as HDC's Street Scene Manager which has come about as part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. His responsibilities include street cleanliness, litter (including fly tipping), off street parking, the dog warden service, abandoned and nuisance vehicles and the markets at Northallerton and Thirsk.

Expanding, Mr Proud explained that he is responsible for the purchase, placement and emptying of litter and dog bins and the removal of fly tipping on public land. He pointed out that restrictions have been placed on the removal of tyres. His job includes the removal of fly posting and also graffiti removal on public areas. He advised that the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership has bought a graffiti removal machine, together with a trailer to put it on and are sponsoring a van to move it around in. Gum removal from footpaths also falls within his remit. Referring to Operation Enable in Thirsk, Mr Proud said he felt there was an excellent result from this.

He advised that it is necessary to look at the whole picture of environmental issues and said that new powers exist to deal with such things as gating alleyways off where there is a serious problem.

Mr Proud said that there is 100 tonnes of fly tipping in the district - there is the opportunity to issue fixed penalties as an alternative to prosecution and the Act also gives Parish and Town Councils the opportunity to enforce their own powers re litter and dog fouling. Mr Proud stressed that the term litter applies to all forms of litter and even to that on private land.

The Dog Control Order restricts the number of dogs which can be walked by any one person at a time and also the lead length.

Referring to the problem of shopping trolleys in the town, Mr Proud mentioned Trolley Rescue and said that under the new Act

the Council can charge the supermarket for collecting them.

Cllr Watson referred to the proposed replacement of the litter bin in the Market Place upon which the Town Council had been consulted. Mr Proud said that it may now be possible to replace the insides of the bin rather than replacing the bin itself. Cllr Mallett reported that sometimes the litter bins are used for dog waste. Mr Proud felt this was not a great problem - he stressed the need for the green wheeliebins to be used correctly otherwise a whole load can be contaminated.

Cllr Pack referred to the weeds in the town, also sandbags which have been left over from road works or floods. Mr Proud advised that the weeds were cleared yesterday and the sandbags will be removed tomorrow.

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Mr Proud advised that all the town centres are monitored and said he is keen to promote community litter picks.

Cllr Jackson asked about the markets and Mr Proud said the current rules relating to the markets are being appraised. HDC are anxious to retain markets in market towns. Referring to Operation Enable, Cllr Hesmondhalgh pointed out that the branches are still in the ditch. (off St Mary's Walk leading to the Millennium Green). Cllr Mallett referred to the garden in Waterside which is full of rubbish; Mr Proud said he will deal with this.

Cllr Adamson enquired whether there is any crossover with the

housing associations and Mr Proud said that he liaises with Broadacres regarding abandoned vehicles. He also has a good working relationship with the Highways Agency. Cllr Marshall mentioned the fact that some market stalls encroach onto the pavement. She also queried whether the street sweepers could clear litter out of the beds on Long Street; Mr Proud to look at both of these issues.

Cllr Marshall also mentioned that fact that materials are being removed from the housing development next to the East Thirsk Play Area and are being strewn about the play area. A letter had been sent to Moody Bros and a reply received; to be copied to Mr Proud.

Cllr Marshall referred to the letter signed by a number of residents of St. James' Green regarding the wheeliebins which are used to reserve parking spaces and also the 'abandoned' car. Mr Proud advised that the police have visited the owner - the car is not abandoned although it is not being used. They have offered to remove it without charge, but this offer has been declined.

Referring to dog control orders, Mr Proud pointed out that the Town Council play areas are poop scoop areas rather than 'No dogs' areas.

Cllr Marshall thanked Mr Proud for attending the meeting.

### **Open Forum:**

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

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th July 2006:  
Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack, subject to  
a minor amendment on P040.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 6th July 2006:**

P033 Meeting re Picks Lane area; Cllr Watson advised that she had attended the meeting on 1st August. John Turnbull, the Police Architectural Liaison Officer, had been in attendance, but no other members of the police. A Working Committee, comprising not more than ten members has been formed. Cllr Watson has agreed to be on this on condition that it is a Working Committee. A further meeting is to be arranged by County Councillor Dadd in two weeks and then a further meeting later to see how it is going forward. It was asked that Thirsk police be involved in it. It was felt that a lot of the problems are caused by under-age drinking. Cllr Watson had also attended the site meeting to look at Tesco's fencing. Tesco are looking at putting up some open type fencing. The Manager advised that checks are carried out to ensure that under age children are not able to buy alcohol from Tesco.

P033 Building materials on East Thirsk Play Area; letter sent to Moody Bros and reply received advising that they are not working on the McCarthy and Stone

development, but they are experiencing problems of vandalism on their site in the Hambleton Estate; correspondence to be passed to John Proud.

P034 Programme for Thirsk Festival; letter to be sent re involving youth.

P034 Piece of grass opposite Gillings Court; Email sent to Clive Thornton and reply received advising that plans are being prepared for alterations to Millgate car park and a revised parking order to permit ticketing in the new areas of the car parks will be required. If it is possible the piece of land in question will be included in that order.

P034 Tree outside Gillings Court; reply received advising that the tree next to the street lighting column is to be trimmed and, if possible, the smaller tree will be relocated. They also advise that they are to install a light at high level above both entrances to Todds Court.

P034 BTCV work; completed.

P034 Picks Lane; reply from the Post Office awaited.

P034 Christmas lights; still awaiting a quote from Wired

P034 Proposed Public Open Space at the Salem Chapel site; nothing further received from HDC.

P034 Cod Beck/Black Bridge etc; letter re the Black Bridge to be sent to John Bell. Regarding the trees in the stonework of the weir, Cllr Marshall has checked with Tim Woods of HDC s Planning Department and Conservation Area Consent to remove

the trees will be required.

P035 Footpath at Norby; acknowledgment received from the Chief Executive's Office.

P035 Mill Gardens; Chris Amy has been reminded about this.

P035 Contribution to grasscutting; reply received from the County Council explaining the formula upon which the contribution to grasscutting is calculated and confirming that the amount the Town Council receives is correct.

P035 Request for plastic bottle bank in Millgate Car Park; reply from HDC awaited.

P035 Sign denoting land owned by the Town Council; two prices obtained and discussed at the last Open Areas meeting. Alpha signs to be asked to provide a revised quote.

P035 Mill Gardens; Cllr Pack queried when Mill Gardens will be done. Cllr Watson explained that Chris Amy has been asked to do it.

P035 Dog Warden; the clerk has spoken to John Proud and this has been dealt with.

P036 Letter from Mrs Blood re Mill Gardens; reply sent.

P036 List given to Eddy Hayward (NYCC) some months ago; a copy of the list was given to Councillors prior to the start of the meeting.

P036 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; letter sent to Dave Goodwin (HDC).

P036 Benches in Millgate car park; reminder sent and reply received advising that plans are currently being prepared for improvements/alterations to Millgate car park and coach area

and the installation of the two benches will be looked at as part of this.

P036 Gate at the gas station; further letter sent and telephone reply received advising that the gas authorities are not leaving it open. They are checking with their legal department as to who else has a right of access across the land in question.

P036 Central Areas; Steve Hubbard does not have a plan of the original planting in Mill Gardens.

P036 Fingerposts; Cllr Marshall reported that David Shields had written to the Seven Seas Fisheries regarding the sign from the town centre to the racecourse, saying

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another finger is to be put up saying 'alternative route'.

However, they would like this to say 'main route' and he is therefore trying to come up with some other wording.

P036 Alleyways; Cllr Marshall advised that Mark Haynes (HDC Delivery Officer ) is, alongside other grant applications, applying for a grant of £10K from Awards for All towards the cost of doing Roses Yard as we already have a drawing and specification for this alley. She asked whether the Town Centre Management Committee were happy for him to do this on our behalf and it was agreed that he should go ahead with this.

P036 Sponsorship of roundabouts; Cllr Pack advised that Lionel

Twiss is still trying to arrange a meeting, but is having difficulty getting hold of everyone.

P036 Ditch leading to the Millennium Green; letter sent to HDC urging them to take powers to clean areas on the Millennium Green itself. The goalpost has now been painted.

P037 Open Areas; meetings of the Open Areas and Greens Committee have been held and the minutes were given to Councillors at the start of this meeting.

P037 Manholes on Millgate; reported to the County Council.

P037 Fair in Market Place; letter sent to Steve Quartermain.

P037 Blue Plaque on the Old Courthouse; the blue plaque unveiling took place on 11th July.

P037 Removal of graffiti from the alleyway into Steads Yard; letter of thanks sent to the Clock Café.

P037 Sponsorship of the White Mare Roundabout; letters sent.

P037 Christmas Lights; Cllr Adamson advised that another brochure and price list of Christmas Lights has now been received. Wired to be chased again.

P037 Blue Plaques; Cllr Pack thanked Cllrs Marshall and Watson for all their work with the blue plaques and also for the walk round. She also thanked them for their work to date with the Interpretation Boards. Cllr Hesmondhalgh seconded this and Cllr Adamson also thanked Cllr Jackson for coming up with the idea in the first place.

### **Correspondence**

Yorkshire Water investigations into sewer flooding affecting

some properties in the Market Place and, it may be necessary to install a large diameter storage sewer between the affected properties and the sewer overflow in Finkle Street. They ask for dates of any forthcoming events between November 2006 and March 2007. Agreed to advise them of the Christmas Fayre on 26th November and the market days. It was queried whether HDC are aware of this.

ING Direct re 'Sanctuary Award Scheme' which is a grant scheme for beautifying areas. Agreed to apply for this for the work to the walls, pointing and cobbles in Mill Gardens.

Tony Jordan re fair on the Market Place; Cllr Marshall had received an email from Tony Jordan dated 28th July advising of his letter to the Darlington and Stockton Times which was published in the 28th July edition. In this he expressed the annoyance of Rotarians at the alleged criticism of the fair on the Market Place. It was pointed out that the Town Council was not aware that the fair was part of the Festival and it did in fact think it was in competition with the Gala. Cllr Watson said she stood by her original comments regarding the loss of parking and the size of the rides. Referring to the reference to herself in Mr Jordan's letter, Cllr Marshall pointed out that local members are not consulted by HDC on anything in the local community

other than the Local Plan. It was felt it would have been better to write direct to the Town Council rather than to the press. Cllr Jackson said that this year the responsibility for the Festival has been dispersed and there is no longer one single person responsible. It was pointed out that the Town Council supports the Festival. Cllr Mallet said his criticism was meant to be constructive and he felt that the age range 14 - 18 years was not catered for.

Mr & Mrs Burrell re wheelie bins/scrap cars on St James Green; dealt with in John Proud's talk. To reply to her with update.

Diane Miller; offer to help re tidying and planting a small number of native plants in the Picnic Area. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Mrs Dodds to speak on this.

Mrs Dodds said the types of plants they have in mind are butterfly bushes, ferns ramblers etc, mostly on the fence going down to the beck together with the maintenance of these. Some funding may be required for this. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we accept this offer.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing orders be reinstated.

NYCC ; Notice of and Order of a Temporary 30mph speed restriction on part of the A19 and part of Blakey Lane.

NYCC ; reply to a previous letter advising that works on Blakey Bridge are programmed to commence at the beginning of

August and will take approximately four weeks to complete.

Cllr Marshall advised that HDC Delivery Officers have been asked to submit a proposal to Yorkshire Forward for a feasibility study for a Centre of Rural Enterprise.

They have asked for our support and this has been sent to them.

RoSPA; advising that the inspection of the play areas will be carried out during September.

In view of the time, Cllr Watson suggested that some items be carried forward to the next meeting; Agreed.

List of works supplied to North Yorkshire County Council

A list of the works with comments from the County Council on their position plus additional comments from Cllr Marshall as to accuracy etc of the County Council comments had been given to Councillors at the start of the meeting. Cllr Adamson advised that the yellow box at the end of St Mary's is now under consideration and will be looked at the same time as the crossing outside the McCarthy and Stone development.

Repairs to cobbles in Kirkgate; NYCC advise that this is now a major scheme and it was queried why this is the case.

Agreed that all outstanding items be chased up.

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

This had been circulated and was self explanatory. No queries were raised.

Relationship with Youth:

Deferred to next meeting.

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**Reports:**

There were no pressing matters and it was agreed that this be carried over to the next meeting.

**Other items of interest and information:**

Cllr Marshall asked that a letter be sent to Thirsk School congratulating the under 13s cricket team who won the Yorkshire Post Under 13 Cricket title.

Cllr Jackson outlined his recent experience at the Amenity tip, saying he feels it is dangerous. An email to be sent to Cllr Dadd.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Deferred to next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 21st August 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 (late arrival), F. Roberts, J. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson, County Cllr G Dadd (late arrival), Ms C Thorpe ('Thirsk Weekly News') and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr Pack and County Cllr Dadd (late arrival - attending another meeting), together with County Cllr C. Patmore.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd August 2006**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson; agreed.

**Police Report**

No representative of the Police present. Cllr F. Roberts asked that the traffic cones in the alleyway near the TIC Office be brought to the attention of the police.

**Reports**

District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that a short Council meeting was to be held at HDC to approve various amendments to the Local Development Framework before it is sent off for official inspection. He reported that he had attended his first meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Cllr Robinson referred to the Local Development Framework and advised that he had pointed out to Steve Quartermain that in Northallerton non retail commercial premises in secondary shopping areas are to be restricted to not more than two consecutive properties, but in similar areas in Thirsk this is to be not more than three. It was felt that as a tourist town it was vital that Thirsk has more retail outlets and it was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr F. Roberts that a strong letter be sent to HDC about this. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there has not been a Thirsk Local Plan Committee meeting.

Cllr Marshall reported that she is having correspondence with the Chief Executive of HDC about consulting local members on local issues. He has brought it to the attention of the senior management team.

### **Open Forum**

No members of the public present.

### **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 17th July 2006**

P040 Hambleton Drive traffic calming; details now received and included in 'Correspondence'

P040 Staff salaries; advice received from the YLCA saying that, as the staff salaries have already been agreed, there is no need to include them on the accounts for payment list. In order to achieve best practice, however, they advise that it would be useful to add to the payments list that the salaries of the clerk and assistant clerk will be paid in accordance with the Council's current policy. This is now being done.

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P040 Streetlights around the Market Place; a further 'E' mail has been sent to Paul Gilmore.

P040 Post Office; reply received apologising for the fact that on one occasion the Post Office in Thirsk was closed between 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. This was due to unforeseen problems with staffing levels on that day.

P041 Town Council's Standing Orders; included as an agenda item for this meeting.

P042 Fidelity Insurance Cover; included as an agenda item for this meeting. P042 Parish Council Representation on HDC's Standards Committee; vote in favour of Edward Dennison sent in.

P042 Charter 88 - Community Decline and Charter 88s Campaign for a Modern Democracy - Empowering Citizens and Local Councils - done.

P042 HDC re Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Policy. This has been downloaded from the HDC website and is currently being circulated to Councillors.

P042 'No cold calling' zones; Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she has passed this on to Neighbourhood Watch. She had spoken to Clare Taylor at Trading Standards and she advised that there will be no charge to residents and if one person from a zone is not in agreement then it will not go ahead.

P043 Amendment to Standing Order 10(f); to be dealt with later in the meeting.

P043 Photocopier; Allianz Cornhill Insurance advise that this should be noted on the Town Council's insurance police as goods held in trust - done.

## **Finance**

### Accounts for Payment

Cllr Adamson proposed that the £500 set aside in the budget for 'Youth Work' be paid to the Thirsk Clock Café; agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting. With that amendment, it was proposed by Cllr Morton, seconded by Cllr Mallett that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Thornton's Printers - Burial Board receipt books £43.12

F D Todd & Sons Ltd - Emptying skip in Cemetery £83.13

Calverts Carpets - floor covering at Cemetery Lodge £231.48

CE & CM Walker - grasscutting, 17th July, 3rd August £1,233.75

Hollin Barn Nurseries - Planting on Long St/Roundabout £300.00

Hollin Barn Nurseries - Plants for Thirsk in Bloom £386.20

Mick Hancock - Watering for Thirsk in Bloom £152.00

Michael Holliday (A1 Cleaning Services) - cleaning bus shelter  
£112.00

M.L. Burnett - Painting Millennium Green goalpost, fitting padlock to Cemetery gate, fitting signs on 2 play areas, removing stone from public footpath, fitting baton for plaque unveiling at the Court House £102.00

M.L. Burnett - Painting goalpost at Shire Park, repairing 2 seats on The Holmes, dealing with section near wall at Mill Gdns, repainting door of Town Clock and replacing ply in window area with clear plastic sheet £178.45

Communicorp - subscription to 'Clerks and Councils Direct' £99.00

Hambleton Sports Council - Affiliation fee 2006/07 £3.00

Community Care Association - donation (as budget) £500.00

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Elaine Coulson: reimbursement of Farmway invoice in respect of tools etc needed for putting trees in Long Street planters £53.87

Reimbursement of Tesco invoice for printer/scanner for Town Council Office £39.97

Inland Revenue - Tax/Ni, July 2006 £608.80

C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections £182.80

Litter Picking £200.00

Fitting new bolt on Centenary Field gate £10.00

Safety Glass - replacing pane of glass in bus shelter £134.39

Communicorp - subscription to 'Local Council Review' £60.00

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk

will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's current policy

Paid since last meeting

Jeremy Cave - weeks commencing 10.7.06. and 17.7.06. £159.13

Npower - electricity for Town Council Office £33.11

Income received

Refund of VAT (1.4.06.-30.6.06.) £ 973.35

Compensation from NEDL £350.00

Burial Bd: Interments £358.00

Memorials £53.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge £485.37

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for July 2006

Copies had already been circulated to Councillors. Cllr

Marshall requested that the appropriate proportion of the

insurance premium for the burial board be transferred from the

main budget to the burial board so making both budgets

correct. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that

the balance sheet and budget reports be approved.

### **Town Council's Standing Orders**

Copies had already been circulated to Councillors. Cllr

Adamson proposed that Standing Order 10 (f) be deleted as it

is no longer possible for Parish Councils to nominate school

governors; agreed. Cllr Marshall referred to Standing Order 13

saying that the Town Council does not conduct its business in the order shown. She suggested that the words, 'unless determined otherwise by the Council for ease of business' or similar be added to the Standing Order. To be considered by Cllr Adamson and referred back to the next meeting. The Standing Orders were accepted subject to clarification of Standing Order 13.

#### Increased Fidelity Cover

A quote in the amount of £273.00 for £100K of Fidelity Cover had been received from the Allianz Cornhill. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be accepted; 9 in favour, one against.

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#### Statement of Accounts 2005/06

A copy of this had already been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be approved; all in favour.

#### Statement of Assurance 2005/06

A copy of this had already been circulated to Councillors and each question was completed at the meeting. Proposed Cllr F. Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Statement of Assurance be approved; all in favour.

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

No applications received.

## **Correspondence**

HDC advising that with effect from the 2007 election Parish Councils are to bear the costs of their own elections rather than these being met by the District Council. HDC advise that they anticipate the cost of Parish Council elections being between £1K and £4K and advise that the cost of the 2007 election need not be paid until the following year. They also offer the opportunity to pay in four instalments in April 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Cllr Adamson proposed that at the Finance Meeting we increase the sum precepted in order that we can pay the election costs in one lump sum. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr F. Roberts that an amount be included in next year 's budget and then a further amount in the following year's budget to cover the cost of the 2007 election.

NYCC re Prohibition of U turns on A19 York Road; noted

Cllr Pack and County Cllr Dadd with County Councillor Patmore joined the meeting.

NYCC re proposed 20 mph zone in Hambleton Drive/Hambleton Place, Thirsk. It was queried whether they are to raise the accesses in part of Hambleton Drive to meet the raised speed table and also whether it is necessary to have the buff

colouring in Tranmire Close as it is a cul de sac. The works are expected to be carried out during the school half term holiday in October. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr F. Roberts that the scheme be accepted as it stands; all in favour.

HDC - District/Parish Liaison Meeting - Monday 18th September 2006; noted.

YRCC - Notice of AGM on 9th October 2006 and request for nomination of Trustees; noted.

HDC - copy of letter to Mr. Tim Sturdy of S2 Construction confirming that the two new properties on the former Pinetiques site at Front Street, Norby be called 'Vallihi', Front Street and 'Belfry View', Front Street; noted.

NYCC enclosing a copy of the Adoption Statement/Press Notice re the North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The document is available on the County Council's website; noted.

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Dadd referred to the Thirsk Furniture Trail saying that the signage for this scheme has been accepted by the County Council.

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Cllr Dadd referred to the traffic lights outside the new

development on Station Road advising that the County Council have written to Persimmon Houses as they were working on the highway without having signed a S268 Agreement. The County Council installed the traffic lights as they were concerned about the safety issue of this work on the highway. It is hoped the lights will be removed soon and a mini roundabout is to be put in. Cllr Watson expressed her concern at the safety for traffic where this work is taking place.

Cllr Dadd had received a response to Cllr Jackson's concerns regarding the Sowerby Amenity tip and this was passed to Cllr Jackson and circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr Dadd advised that he had written to Sowerby Parish Council re suggestions made by one of their Members to permanently close Blakey Lane. Cllr Dadd has objected to this and is still working with Sowerby Parish Council to get it re-opened as soon as it is safe to do so. It is anticipated that it will be re-opened when the Auction Mart site opens for business.

Cllr Marshall referred to the recently installed traffic cones marking out the new road layout on the A19. She advised that on Sunday she had witnessed a 'near miss' with a car obviously confused as to which was the main road (A19) which the crossing over point to access the A168 and the garden centre. It was suggested there should be a 'Stop' sign to clarify where the lane ends before the junction with the A19. Cllr Dadd agreed to take this up with Highways.

Cllr Jackson referred to the Sowerby Amenity Tip saying he

felt that safety levels have dropped since it has been taken over by the new contractors. When he was there vehicles were moving on the site unsupervised and the heights to the skips have increased which makes it very difficult for some people to put things in them. Cllr Dadd advised that he will take this up, but he pointed out that the tip site staff are instructed to assist members of the public. However, Cllr Jackson felt there are not enough staff there to do this. Cllr Mallett made the point that he has always found the staff at the tip to be very helpful.

County Cllr Patmore had also joined the meeting and the Chair asked whether she would like to speak. Cllr Patmore mentioned that there had been an accident the previous Thursday near the junction of the A19 referred to previously. Cllr Robinson stressed that action to make this safer must be taken as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Marshall referred to the meeting which had been held at Norby Depot with Eddy Hayward, the Area Highways Manager, in November 2005. We have received some details of work which they say has been carried out, but we do not agree with all of these and we have identified outstanding works which we will be taking up with them. Cllr Dadd asked for a copy of the list.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Town Council is in dispute with the County Council about the Norby footpath which has recently been put in as we are not happy with it. A reply has been received which will go to the next Town Council meeting.

However, Cllr Marshall mentioned that our concerns include the fact that there is a lack of a proper entrance onto The Holmes where there is a gap in the fence. Cllr Pack felt that the metal pins which have been put in alongside the pin kerbs could be dangerous. Cllr Dadd noted out concerns, but said that the County Council had already spent a considerable amount on this scheme.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that it takes longer for him to drive into town because of the new traffic scheme in the Market Place. There is also increased traffic from Blakey

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Lane and Cllr Marshall felt that once Blakey Lane is re-opened we can properly review the traffic situation in the town.

### **Burial Board Report**

Cllr Adamson gave notice of a Burial Board meeting to be held on Saturday 2nd September. This is to discuss a new oil tank for Cemetery Lodge and the fact that one of the gates from Wetlands Lane into the Cemetery has fallen off. Cllr Marshall asked that the Burial Board look at the number of burials that take place at weekends.

### **Reports**

Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported on a meeting of the CCA saying that the mini bus scheme is now being run through Harrogate

Community Transport. The lady who worked in Thirsk doing this has had her hours cut quite drastically, but things continue normally for the bus users. Hambleton's CCA Areas' modernisation final business plan is nearing completion. Referring to the future of volunteer bureaux, Cllr Adamson said that each of the five market towns will retain its own volunteer bureau as it is now.

Cllr J. Roberts reported very slow progress with Fair Trade due to his work with other commitments. A working group is to be set up very shortly.

Cllr Marshall reported that she and Cooper Harding on behalf of the Civic Society led a blue plaque trail walk on 12th July at which the leaflet was launched. BBC's Look North team filmed Cooper doing the blue plaque trail on 16th August and this was to be shown on Wednesday 23rd August between 6.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Cllr Marshall advised that the unveiling of the last blue plaque which is on Thirsk Library will be unveiled on 4th September; Dr Brenda Thiede has been asked to do this.

#### Members

Cllr Watson advised that we have had a request from the Homes and Gardens Exhibition to see if they can put a banner advertising this on the bus shelter; agreed.

Cllr Adamson said that on the bus stop in Hambleton Drive there is still a notice up from last year about Finkle Street being closed. Cllr Watson advised that she had spoken to the

County Council as there is still one in the Market Place and was told that this is the responsibility of the bus company.

She has therefore contacted John Smiths about this.

Cllr Watson said that the road sign on Westgate is overgrown by a tree.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to the passageway between Dowber Way and Tranmire saying the bushes need cutting back; to be reported to the County Council.

Cllr Morton queried whether it had been established how much damage had been done to the White Mare Roundabout by the car which went onto it; it was agreed there had been very little damage to the plants.

Cllr Marshall reported that, as Mayor, she had attended the following: A North Yorkshire Mayors' function at County Hall, accompanied by Cllr Watson; a basketball competition for junior schools where she had awarded the prizes; a visit to the Friarage Hospital where she had looked at the new parts of the hospital; a day at the Thirsk Gala where she had judged the floats and a garden party in aid of the British Legion Band.

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The meeting closed at 9.17 p.m.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 7th September 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, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs R Mallett (holiday), A Morton, (another commitment);  
accepted

**Open forum:**

No members of the public or police present.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st August 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh;  
agreed.

**Matters arising from the meeting held on 3rd August 2006:**

P040 Housing development in Hambleton Place; copies of the correspondence with Moody Bros regarding materials being taken from the site sent to John Proud at HDC.

P040 Wheeliebins on St James Green being used to reserve parking spaces; a chasing E mail sent to Gary Brown at HDC.

P040 Markets; Cllr Jackson expressed concern at some of the rules relating to the markets. It was noted that John Proud of HDC had said that these rules are to be appraised. An E mail to be sent to him requesting that the Town Council be consulted when such an appraisal takes place.

P041 Post Office re Picks Lane; further letter sent.

P041 Christmas lights; Wired have been reminded again. Cllrs Watson and/or the clerk to speak to them again.

P041 Cod Beck/Black Bridge; letter sent to John Bell regarding the fact that this is not on the County Council's list of bridges

P041 Trees in the stonework of The Weir; planning application to cut down the two trees submitted to HDC and acknowledgement received. An application to the Environment Agency has also been made.

P041 Footpath at Norby; reply received from John Marsden explaining the reasons for the actions taken and saying that, in order to address the concerns of the Town Council, additional works at extra cost have been carried out. Mr Marsden expressed the view that there should be effective communications between the Town Council and the County Council Area Team. The County Council will look at whether any further works need to be done to the metal rods, but advise that these are not a danger to the public. Cllr Pack pointed out that there are no signs indicating which are the disabled accesses

onto The Holmes and she felt that all the accesses should be capable of use by everyone. Although Mr Marsden's letter says to the contrary, Cllr Marshall said that at the site meeting she attended she had said there should be a useable step down onto The Holmes. A letter to be sent to the County Council saying that the metal rods are not felt to be safe and they must accept liability for these. Cllr Marshall pointed out that a stone which was formerly part of the Mill Race is now in the river and if it can be retrieved it can possibly be used to fill in the gap near the Sluice Gate where one of the kerb stones was removed by the contractors. We will also look at the drop from the footpath onto the grass to see what we can do in the

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way of access. The point to be made that we do not feel the Area Highways Team are communicating adequately with the Town Council.

P041 Mill Gardens; Chris Amy has done some work.

P041 Request for plastic bottle bank in Millgate car park; reply received from HDC advising that they are not able to provide this as they are currently looking at ways to offer a kerbside collection for recycling throughout the district.

P041 Signs denoting land owned by the Town Council; two quotes received for A5 size signs; agree to go ahead with the aluminium signs at a cost of approximately £15 each.

P041 List of works required to be carried out by the County Council; reminder sent to Eddie Hayward.

P041 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; Cllr Marshall advised that she had spoken to Dave Goodwin at HDC. He advises that they are treating the £20K as a grant to us. He advises that, because it is capital monies, he requires an asset to tie up to the capital. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that a letter of comfort be sent to HDC guaranteeing that we will use the £20K to conclude the matters in respect of Barretts ditch and to utilise that as an asset for the Millennium Green.

P041 Gate at the gas station; nothing further received on this as yet.

P042 Alleyways; an update report prepared by Cllr Marshall had been circulated to Councillors at the start of the meeting. To be discussed later in the meeting.

P042 Yorkshire Water investigations; reply sent advising them of the date of the Christmas Fayre and also the market days. Also information sent to Clive Thornton at HDC. He was not aware of the proposed works and will contact Yorkshire Water direct.

P042 ING Direct re 'Sanctuary Award Scheme'; application for grant sent in.

P042 Fair on the Market Place; following the letter from Mr Jordan in the 'Darlington and Stockton Times' a letter has been sent to Mr Leyland, Secretary of Thirsk Rotary Club.

P043 Mr & Mrs Burrell re wheeliebins/unused car on St James'

Green; letter sent updating them on this.

P043 List of works supplied to the County Council; chasing letter sent. Cllr Adamson advised that the proposals for the crossing outside the McCarthy and Stone development are now to go the NYCC Area Committee.

P044 Thirsk School - Yorkshire Post Under 13 Cricket Title; letter of congratulation sent.

P044 Amenity tip; site meeting arranged for Monday 11th September at 5.15 pm.

**Correspondence:**

Environment Agency re Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme; they advise that they will be undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment along Cod Beck in September 2006. No objections to this; Cllr Marshall expressed interest in meeting them whilst they are doing this.

Letters from Mrs Kilvington re trees near her boundary at 22 Whitelass Close; Chris Amy to be asked to look at these and advise. Letter to be sent to Mrs Kilvington telling her of this.

Ms Christina Penfold - letter of congratulations and thanks re the flower boxes, beds and gardens. To be passed to Thirsk in Bloom.

Mrs Sue Dodds re cutting two pieces of grass on Picks Lane. She advises that she has spoken to Mark Dunning at NYCC and he is to contact us. He has not done so as yet, but it was agreed that that the pieces of grass in question be added to the Town Council's grasscutting schedule and we then sort out the appropriate payment from the County Council.

Thirsk Market Place; E mail from Gareth Dadd advising that, following on from a previous site meeting to look at the highway works carried out in Thirsk Market Place, a further site meeting is to be arranged and various dates were supplied. Agreed that of these Monday 16th October at 4.00pm would be most convenient.

Bow House re the 'Herriot Country 2007 - Short Breaks and Visitors Guide'. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a half page be taken again this year at a cost of £610.00 plus VAT. The wording to be amended slightly (Cllr Watson to deal with this) and a new photograph of the clock to be put in.

Proposed French Market in Thirsk; E mail received from Alan Maudsley at HDC together with copies of E mails with the Ladies Chamber of Trade. John Proud had advised the clerk that HDC is not in favour of such a market as they feel it could be regarded as a rival market. Agreed that in principle the Town Council would not discourage such a market, but feel that in this case there has been insufficient notice and the details

have not been properly sorted out. It was felt that in future any such market should be held on market day rather than on an alternative day. The Town Council is totally opposed to any suggestion that the car park be closed off.

**Relationship with Youth:**

Cllr Mallett had requested that this be included in the agenda. Agreed that in his absence this be deferred until the next meeting.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts had nothing to report. She is to contact Chris Amy to ascertain who are the Trustees of Carrs Field.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that the door of the Town Clock has been painted. The boarding in the 'windows' of the Clock has been replaced with Perspex. We are attempting to obtain a quote for painting the bus shelter. The drain next to the bus shelter needs to be cleared out; Cllr Marshall has spoken to Clive Thornton at HDC about this. To be queried whether a grille can be put across to stop bottles and other debris going down.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had chased Clive Thornton regarding the three dead trees near the car park; HDC have changed their contractor and have informed the new contractor of this work. Cllr Marshall has told them that, because of the proximity of the trees to the Beck, they will need consent

from the Environment Agency as well as planning permission.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that he had looked through a new catalogue of Christmas lights. Cllr Watson and/or the Clerk to contact Wired within the week to find out what length, wattage etc we require and we will order them. Cllr Watson advised that there is a meeting re the Christmas Fayre a week on Wednesday.

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Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Pack advised that she has asked Hollin Barn to put a design together for the centre of the White Mare Roundabout. Jeremy Cave had started weeding the roundabout, but had found it very difficult to get the weeds out of the cobbles - to be asked to cut them off. A report had been produced following the walk round and Cllr Pack is to arrange a meeting to decide on the issues raised on the walk round. The part of Ingramgate between the pathway and the road was mentioned and it was suggested that the Town Council take over the responsibility for this. Should it be decided to do this then it would be necessary to budget for it.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had not had an opportunity to look round the Millennium Green this week. Cllr Marshall reported that criminal damage had occurred to the bridge between the Millennium Green and the East Thirsk Play Area; this has now been repaired. There is wood in the ditch, a lot of which has come from the building site in

Hambleton Place. Cllr Marshall had spoken to the site supervisor pointing out that the grasscutters have not been able to get onto the East Thirsk Play Area because a trench has been dug in front of the entrance from Hambleton Place. Concern was expressed at the amount of damage being caused to the Play Area. A letter to be sent to the Chief Executive at Broadacres complaining that vandals are removing items left on the building site with which to cause damage to the East Thirsk Play Area.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that a meeting had been held on 25th July followed by a walk round on 19th August. The Committee is not happy with BTCV and do not feel they have completed the work they were supposed to do; a letter to be sent to them. At the walk round on 19th August the Committee visited The Holmes, the Centenary Field and Castlegarth and identified items which need attention. A quote has been received from Malcolm Burnett for re-siting the footpath which is coming away and this needs to be considered. A piece of fence in the corner of the Centenary Field has been removed and horses have been getting in - this is to be replaced as quickly as possible. An extra bin has been purchased for Castlegarth and this is being delivered tomorrow. Cllr Watson referred to the amount of work that is required to be done expressing concern that the people doing it may well be overloaded.

Town Development Working Party - Notes giving an update on the Alleyways had been given to Councillors at the start of the

meeting and Cllr Marshall explained that it is hoped to be able to resurface Roses Yard providing sufficient funding can be obtained. A revised quote has been obtained from Leehill Construction and Mark Haynes has applied for funding from the Rural Target Fund. The County Council are also being approached with a request for funding for this. Cllr Marshall had attended a site meeting with Andrew Wells of HDC regarding lighting in the alleyways and he is looking at what can be done with any finances which are available. Cllr Jackson pointed out that some of the slabs in the TIC Yard are breaking up. Cllr Marshall said that drains from some of the properties are overflowing into the alleyways and barrels appear to be being rolled across Batemans Yard causing damage. The Town Development Working Party to look into this.

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Other items of Interest and Information:

Entrances/roundabouts; Cllr Pack advised that a meeting had been held to decide which entrance to look at first and the meeting had agreed to concentrate on York Road. It was agreed that any money received from Rotary would be used to enhance the scheme. Looking at sponsorship for the York Road roundabout, also tying this in with tidying up the area - fencing, hedges etc. and the plan is going forward to the Area Committee. At the next meeting a plan re York Road is to be decided upon. Cllr Marshall said it would be good if the grass

in front of the plinth on York Road could be cut.

Cllr Marshall referred to the amount of graffiti in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood; John Proud to be asked to clean it off.

Cllr Pack reported that shrubs are growing through one of the seats near the White Mare Roundabout; already on seat schedule to be dealt with.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern that near the new development on Station Road there are now no traffic lights and just a few bollards and he felt this was dangerous. Cllr Adamson pointed out that there are priority signs.

Cllr Marshall advised that HDC's lighting engineer has looked at Castlegarth and he is happy to change the lighting to higher rate white bulbs to give a better light. The position of the public footpath sign prevents the lights being lowered down to change the bulbs and he has asked Peter Penny at NYCC to move this sign.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is now a skip on Stockton Road. Cllr Roberts requested that we ask the County Council to point out that there is strictly no parking on the grass or footpath on Stockton Road; Steve Pimperton at Norby to be approached re this.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the Committee have decided not to go in for Yorkshire in Bloom next year. They are currently looking at autumn planting in the town centre and looking at calendar

dates for planting. Cllr Roberts said that at the last NALC meeting it was mentioned that the training of judges for Yorkshire in Bloom is becoming very difficult and there is concern they will not be able to get judges. Cllr Pack agreed that the criteria is getting very difficult.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 18th September 2006 at 7:15pm**  
**in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Watson (in the Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, County Cllr G Dadd and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs J Marshall (away), Cllr F Roberts (away); accepted

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Jackson subject to an amendment on P052 and one on P056; agreed.

**Police Report:**

No representative of the Police present.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that he has spoken to the County Council's Highways Department re the current state of Station Road where the new development is taking place. Highways are insisting the mini roundabout be completed by the contractors either

this week or next. He reported that the list of outstanding items sent to the County Council is being dealt with; it is being passed on to various people within the department to look at the appropriate items. Cllr Dadd reported that there is a proposal for better joint working with the District Council and he has sent a strong message of support for this. He advised that at the last County Area Committee Meeting there was a report by Community Education and Youth Services and Cllr Dadd asked that this be done on a regular basis. A presentation on the 'Entrances to Thirsk Group' is being given to next week's Area Committee Meeting by Lionel Twiss. Regarding the Long Street crossing, Cllr Dadd said he is not prepared to support this unless a 'Keep Clear' sign is put up outside Bradbury Close, off Long Street. The County Council need to apply to the Department of Transport or take it to the next Area Committee Meeting; he will keep the Town Council informed. Cllr Watson asked whether it is still intended to put a cycle path in and Cllr Dadd advised that this is not to be put in on the McCarthy and Stone side of the road, but it is hoped to extend the cycle path on the other side of the road.

Referring to Cllr Dadd's comments regarding Station Road, Cllr Watson pointed out that Wimpey have also now started work on the road. Cllr Watson asked whether the recent fatal accident on the A168 had anything to do with the road layout near the Auction Mart, but Cllr Dadd said not. Cllr Dadd reported that the site meeting at the Amenity Refuse Tip had been held and

had been found to be very useful.

District Council

Cllr Adamson referred to the proposed closer working of the County and District Councils. He said there is a crossover with HDC's computer system which answers questions from either authority and this is the first step towards closer relations between the two authorities. The fact that HDC are now to charge Parish Councils for elections was referred to. Cllr Morton asked whether there were any plans to introduce parking fees in Thirsk and Cllr Adamson said he has been assured this will

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not happen mid term and it is not likely to happen at the next election. Cllr Jackson suggested a charge be made for the discs, but Cllr Adamson felt that the accounting required for this would be very difficult. He advised that there is a meeting at HDC to look at the idea of Area Committees.

Cllr Dadd left the meeting.

### **Open Forum**

No members of the public present.

### **Matters Arising from the meeting held on 21st August 2006:**

P045 HDC LDF; Letter sent to HDC objecting to the proposal

that the potential for the number of non-retail premises in the secondary shop frontage be increased from two to three; reply received from Mr. Jewitt advising that HDC will not change the LDF document at this stage. However, prior to the public examination there is a six week period during which representations about the 'soundness' of the plan can be made. Mr Jewitt advises that he would be happy to come to a Town Council meeting to explain the policy. Cllr Adamson confirmed we can still object; there are a number of tests for 'soundness', but not being able to meet these tests does not preclude people from objecting. An objection to be made on the form provided. A letter to be sent to Mr Jewitt thanking him for his offer to come to a meeting, but this is not felt to be necessary at the moment.

P045 Cllr Adamson advised he has been assured by the Deputy Leader of HDC that local members will be consulted on local matters.

P046 Streetlight in the Market Place; Cllr Watson advised that at the meeting of the problem solving group re Picks Lane Cllr Dadd had offered to chase this up.

P046 Fidelity Insurance Cover; forms completed.

P046 Parish Council Representation on HDC's Standards Committee; reply received advising that Edward Dennison had been appointed (28 votes as opposed to 14 for Cllr R Pocklington).

P046 'Youth Work' budget; this is an agenda item

P047 Proportion of insurance premium payable by Burial Board;

transfers done.

P047 Standing Orders; this is an agenda item.

P048 Proposed 20 mph zone in Hambleton Drive/Hambleton Place;  
letter sent agreeing to this and also querying the two points  
raised.

P049 Amenity Tip; site meeting held.

P049 Junction of the A19/A168; 'Stop' sign now in place.

P049 Norby Footpath; dealt with at the last meeting and a  
letter sent to the County Council following that meeting.

P050 Burial Board; meeting held.

P050 Blue Plaque on Thirsk Library; unveiling took place on  
4th September. It was well attended and very enjoyable.

P050 Overgrown bushes between Dowber Way and Tranmire;  
reported to the County Council.

### **Youth Activities Budget:**

Cllr Adamson said that when the sum of £500 for Youth Work was  
put in the budget he had assumed it was to go the Clock Café.

He explained that most of the Clock

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Café's funding is for specific headings and they do not have  
much unrestricted funding for coffee, days out etc. Cllr  
Watson referred to a fishing trip, which had recently been  
held for members of the Clock Café, saying she understood this  
was very successful. She said that, should Cllr Adamson's

suggestion go ahead, she would like the £500 to be used for activities and not to be used to part finance the move of the Clock Café. Cllr Adamson confirmed that it would not be used towards the move. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the £500 budgeted for 'Youth Work' be paid to the Clock Café; agreed unanimously.

**Finance:**

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed.

C.E. and C.M. Walker - grasscutting 16.8.06. & 30.8.06.

£1,233.75

BT - office telephone £99.12

HDC - Office rent, quarter comm. 1.9.06. £660.94

D. Connelly - cleaning office windows £6.50

Fox's Copy Centre - photocopying etc £40.80

K.R. Plumbing and Heating - repairing leak at Cemetery Lodge

£32.00

Yorkshire Water - 2nd half of water rates for Cemetery Lodge

£180.21

Elaine Coulson - reimbursement for new lock/keys for Cemetery

Lodge £ 33.33

Power Point Ltd - hire of equipment for work on Carrs Field

£70.21

Gilbeys Plants - plants for Thirsk in Bloom £24.00

Hollin Barn Nurseries - bulbs for Thirsk in Bloom £325.00

Hollin Barn Nurseries - plants for White Mare Roundabout

£105.75

Inland Revenue Tax/NI, August 2006 £609.26

Thirsk Museum - text for Blue Plaques leaflet £267.50

Jeremy Cave w/c 4.9.06 & 11.9.06 £171.00

C Amy: Play areas inspection £228.50

Litter picking £270.00

Fence in Centenary Field £200.00

Strimming on The Ings £25.00

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's current policy

Paid since last meeting:

Jeremy Cave - w/c 31.7.06. and 7.8.06. £121.58

Petty Cash £44.84

Cllr Adamson felt that Jeremy Cave's salary should be treated in the same way as the Clerk and Assistant Clerk and not be included in the accounts for payment list; agreed.

Income received:

Contribution to Blue Plaque leaflet £100.00

Burial Board: Rent £485.37

Grave purchase £116.00

Interments £418.00

Bank interest £155.96

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for August 2006

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Jackson that these be approved; agreed.

**Revised wording for Standing Order 13:**

A copy of the proposed revised wording had been given to Councillors at the start of the meeting. Cllr Adamson explained that this is following a query raised by Cllr Marshall and the revised wording allows us to alter the order of the agenda, although, he pointed out, we already have the right to do so. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Adamson that we go ahead with this. Cllr Adamson said this now needs to go to the next meeting without any further discussion until then.

**Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials**

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Jackson that the following applications be approved, subject to the normal proviso that a period of six months from the date of interment be allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place.

Grave No. B5 26 Peter E. Lawrence

Grave No. GG 5 Martin Darrington Coates

Grave No. GG 6 Leslie Chapman

Application for Additional Inscription

Grave No. B5 14 Lena Huntley

### **Correspondence**

NYCC; Temporary closure of Sutton Bank for maintenance works for up to five days from 18th September; noted.

HDC; Market Towns Grants Scheme. Agreed that a letter be sent advising that we wish to apply for such a grant under the Environmental Enhancement category for paving in Roses Yard, Thirsk Museum and Mill Gardens.

1st Thirsk Scout Group; letter advising that the Town Council's donation was used towards the cost of replacing the windows and front door of the Scout Hall.

NY Fire and Rescue Service re the new Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order which comes into effect on 1st October 2006. The Fire and Rescue Service to be contacted to ascertain whether any action is required. Also to check whether the TIC has a Fire Certificate which covers the whole building.

### **Burial Board Report:**

Cllr Adamson reported that a Burial Board meeting had been held. At the meeting it had been decided to go ahead with the purchase and installation of a new oil tank for Cemetery Lodge and also with the installation of a water pipe in the Cemetery - work on the installation of the water pipe started today.

Cllr Adamson advised that, because of the unplanned expenditure on maintenance of Cemetery Lodge, it had been agreed to move some money into the maintenance budget from the

Extension Fund and the Extension Fund will be reimbursed later. Regarding burials at weekends, a policy was drawn up that, in line with the sympathetic approach of the Burial Board, whilst it does not actively encourage weekend interments, it is left to the discretion of the Clerk to the Burial Board; agreed.

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**Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Jackson had attended a site meeting at the Amenity Tip. This had been arranged by County Cllr Dadd who was in attendance together with Cllrs Alan Morton, Mark Robson, County Cllrs Dadd and Barton, the Tip Supervisor, the County Council representative responsible for the site and the owners of the skips. The County Council advised that this had been one of the best run tips in the past with 50% recycling, but under the new system they have now achieved 60% recycling. Concern was expressed about safety, particularly the height of the skips above the platform at the top of the steps and vehicles moving on site. It was agreed that they would stop using the very high skips which are designed for two level sites. The forklift trucks will no longer be used whilst the public are on the site and every effort will be made to manage the traffic situation. There are supposed to be two members of staff on duty at all times and they will ensure this is the

case. Cllr Barton is to go back to the County Council to ensure that all the other tips are dealt with in this way.

Cllr Adamson advised that he will be attending the County Council Area Committee meeting next Monday. There is nothing on the agenda that is very controversial for Thirsk. Two sites are being looked at for recycling and these are Dalton Airfield and Sandhutton Airfield.

Members

Cllr Adamson reported that there has been no progress with the Christmas lights as yet. He is to E mail LITE regarding the lights in the brochure to ask them to keep them for us. The lights will be stored in the Cemetery shed after Christmas.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that when the new art materials shop opened in Millgate a nearby charity shop had a window display of new art materials and he was concerned that this was competition for the new shop.

**Agreed that the public, press and the clerk be excluded for a confidential personnel matter.**

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that, with effect from 1st April 2006, the salaries of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk be increased in line with the NALC scales; agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 5th October 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

**Page P062**

**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), C Hesmondhalgh, A Morton, A Robinson, J Watson, Miss Hannah Chapman ('Darlington & Stockton Times') and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs D Adamson (another meeting), J Jackson (away), C Pack (away), F Roberts (away); accepted.

**Open forum:**

No members of the public or police present. Cllr Watson advised that on Saturday evening three youths were laid in the road in the Market Place thus stopping traffic. She rang the 0845 6060247 police number, but there was no reply. She therefore used the telephone outside the police office and was told that it had already been reported, although whilst she was there no police came to the scene. Cllr Watson expressed concern at the fact that the Thirsk Police are seconded to other places as she felt it is vital that there is a police

presence in the Market Place. Cllr Marshall had attended the Community Policing Meeting and expressed her disappointment at how it went. It had been suggested that the Town Council ask for a meeting with the police. A letter to be sent to the Chief Constable saying we would like a senior police officer to attend a special meeting of the Town Council and the police.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th September 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Morton, subject to an addition on page P061

**Matters Arising from the meeting held on 7th September 2006:**

P052 Wheeliebins on St James Green; nothing further from Gary Brown. Letter to be sent to the resident asking him not to use these for reserving parking spaces on the Green.

P052 Markets; reply received from John Proud confirming that the Town Council will be consulted when an appraisal takes place.

P052 Christmas Lights; new lights were ordered and these have now been received. A quote has been received from Wired in the amount of £1,030 plus VAT for erecting and removing the lights; accepted.

P052 Black Bridge; the Clerk will speak to John Bell again about this.

P052 Trees in the stonework of the Weir; HDC require

confirmation from the Environment Agency that the trees should be cut down. Letter received from the Environment Agency, but they are to amend this slightly.

P052 Footpath at Norby; acknowledgement of Town Council's letter received.

P053 Signs denoting Town Council's land; to be ordered.

P053 List of works required to be carried out by the County Council; Cllr Dadd has advised that the items are to be attended to. They have been allocated to various people within the County Council.

P053 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; letter of comfort sent to HDC.

P053 ING Direct re Sanctuary Award Scheme; acknowledgement received and we will be advised whether or not we have been successful by 9th October.

P053 Amenity tip; site meeting held.

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P053 Environment Agency re Flood Alleviation Scheme; advised that the Environmental Impact Assessment along Cod Beck has now been carried out.

P053 Trees near the boundary of 22 Whitelass Close; Chris Amy has looked at these and given his report. Agreed that his comments be sent to Mrs Kilvington.

P053 Letter from Mrs Christine Penfold; sent to Kath Reynard and a letter of thanks sent to Mrs Penfold.

P054 Cutting of two pieces of grass on Picks Lane; Mr Walker has cut one, but can't find the other. Cllr Marshall advised that it is the piece on Newsham Road that has not been cut; Mr Walker to be advised.

P054 Site meeting in Thirsk Market Place; the clerk to check with Cllr Dadd as to where the meeting place is to be.

P054 'Herriot Country 2007 - Short Breaks and Visitors Guide'; copy with slightly amended text sent to Bow House together with a different photograph of the Town Clock.

P054 Proposed French Market in Thirsk; the Town Council's comments have been sent to John Proud at HDC.

P054 Drain next to the bus shelter; Email sent to Clive Thornton at HDC requesting that the drain be cleaned out and that a grille be put across to stop debris going down. No action has been taken on this; to be chased up.

P054 Dead trees near Millgate car park; a further email sent to Clive Thornton at HDC. Reply received advising that he is obtaining planning permission from HDC and consent from the Environment Agency.

P054 Christmas Lights; new lights now received.

P055 East Thirsk Play Area/adjoining building site; reply received from Joanna Chambers, the Project Manager at Broadacres, advising that the site is secured and locked every night by their contractors. She has asked them to ensure that the entrance to the Play Area is not blocked. Handover of the properties is due to take place mid October.

P055 BTCV work; reply received from BTCV apologising and

advising that they will be making right all the issues raised.

P055 Extra bin for Castlegarth; bin now in place.

P056 Graffiti in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood; reply received from John Proud at HDC advising that he will look at this.

P056 Shrub growing through a seat near the White Mare roundabout; Chris Amy has been asked to deal with this.

P056 Development on Station Road, mini roundabout now in place.

**Correspondence:**

Luke Miller re sponsorship of White Mare Roundabout; to be passed to Cllr Pack as Chairman of Greens and Ingramgate Committee

Thirsk in Bloom re autumn bulb planting; requesting permission to plant snowdrops, crocus and tête-à-tête narcissus on Castlegarth under each of the Interpretation Boards and on the slope behind the stone that marks the site of Thirsk Castle; no objection to this. John Bell and English Heritage to be consulted.

HDC; Renewal of Pest Control Agreement for Mill Gardens. This expires on 19th November 2006 and it was agreed that it be renewed at a cost of £225.00 plus VAT.

NYCC; Notice of their intention to make an Order implementing a 20mph limit on certain roads on the Hambleton Estate.

Mrs A Cawood of Whitelass Close regarding large trees on Stockton Road which make her property dark and also an oak tree in a field; Chris Amy to be asked to look at this and to speak to Mrs Cawood.

Thirsk Christmas Fayre; letter of thanks for donation.

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

This had been circulated to Councillors. From it the following points were made. Suggestion by Rospa that the play area on The Holmes be fenced;

email received from Stan Roocroft advising that he has taken over as Development Officer of the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association. He will look at The Holmes play area as soon as possible. Cllr Marshall advised that she would be happy to meet him there.

Benches in Millgate Car Park; Cllr Watson expressed concern at the time this is taking. Cllr Marshall suggested a letter be sent to Steve Quartermain advising that this has been ongoing for some considerable time and we wish to proceed with the installation of the seats.

#### **Relationship with Youth:**

Cllr Mallett had asked that this be put on the agenda. In his

absence it was agreed that it be deferred until the next meeting.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - In Cllr F Roberts' absence there was nothing to report.

Central Areas - No meeting held as yet.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Watson reported that the new lights have arrived. A Christmas Fayre meeting had been held the previous evening. Bookings have been taken for around ten craft stalls and these are to be housed in the 'Golden Fleece' and the 'Three Tuns Hotel'. A press release is going out. Jill Miller is coordinating the switch on of the Christmas lights and the best dressed shop window competition.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Marshall advised that the Greens and Ingramgate Committee has not met since the last Town Council meeting. There is the possibility of getting someone to water Long Street and the White Mare Roundabout. Cllr Pack is talking to Hollin Barn Nurseries re replanting the roundabout, beds on Long Street etc. Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she has looked round and it is quite tidy. There is a lot of rubbish from the building site in the ditch, but the Committee do not want to clear this until the houses are finished. Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to the logs in the stream near St. Marys and said she understood that John Proud of HDC was waiting for powers to enable him to clear these; a letter to be sent to him.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that she and Cllr Hesmondhalgh had had a walk round the play areas and had looked at the remarks made in the newly arrived Rospa report. She

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advised that part of the platform on the multiplay at the McCleans Play Area was missing. Cllr Marshall advised that PC Kevin Brookes is looking at setting up a problem solving group for East Thirsk and is doing some preliminary work prior to doing this. She felt the Town Council would wish to fully participate in this. Referring to Castlegarth, Cllr Marshall advised that Peter Penny of NYCC has agreed that the two kissing gates and fences near Tesco and Harry Lees can be taken down.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Morton referred to the alleyway outside the Town Council Office, saying that some of the slabs have broken or cracked. It was pointed out that a lot of algae has collected on the slabs; a price to be obtained for pressure washing it. Cllr Marshall had received a complaint that when Batemans Yard was paved a pin kerb and a drain were removed. She asked that the Town Development Working Party should consult with Malcolm Parker who had made the complaint.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had met with Andrew Wells, the Lighting Engineer at HDC. He has now drawn up a scheme for

improving the lighting in the alleyways and he is going ahead with this. He is talking to the owners of Cobblestones. Roses Yard; Email received from Mark Haynes advising that the application for funding from the NYCC Hambleton Area Committee was unsuccessful. The potential monies available from Yorkshire Forward RMT RTF must be spent this financial year and these, together with the amount budgeted by the Town Council, leave a shortfall of approximately £22k. Mark Haynes has supplied details of three other contractors and it was agreed that they be approached for a quote for Roses Yard as per the specifications supplied by HDC and also that they be asked to quote for carrying out the work in any other suitable materials. Cllr Adamson, as Chairman of Town Development Working Party, to be asked to call a meeting to look at this. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson that we proceed along these lines.

**Other items of Interest and Information:**

Cllr Robinson referred to the floodlighting at St Mary's Church saying grass is growing inside the cages; Cllr Morton to look at this. Cllr Marshall pointed out that HDC are now responsible for the grasscutting in the churchyard.

Thirsk in Bloom:

In Cllr Pack's absence there was no report.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 16th October 2006 at 7:15pm**  
**in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, P Richardson (NYCC), P Farrimond (North Yorkshire Primary Care Trust) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs D Adamson (ill), J Jackson (away), J Roberts (family illness) and A Robinson (work commitments); accepted.

**Talk by Mr Phil Richardson of NYCC re Extra Care Housing in**

**Thirsk:**

Cllr Marshall introduced Mr Paul Farrimond of the PCT and Mr Phil Richardson who is the Manager responsible for the assessment of people in need (Community Care). Mr Richardson and Mr Farrimond explained that they are looking at the possibility of Extra Care Housing in Thirsk. There is one such Extra Care Housing facility in Brompton, Stokesley and another in Bainbridge under development and a new build at Easingwold is starting. He explained that Extra Care Housing is designed to be flexible and to meet the needs of people as they grow

older or more disabled. Such housing is not based on age, but on the level of the need. Having visited the Extra Care Housing in Stokesley, Cllr Dadd said his view about it is very positive and he will support it. However, he felt it was necessary to take time and get it right. Thirsk is also being looked at, but Mr Richardson explained that owing to financial constraints etc it would be some years before Extra Care Housing was likely to take place here.

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5th October 2006:**

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to the addition of Cllr Mallett to the list of apologies.

**Police Report:**

No representative of the police present.

**Reports:**

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that he had agreed the Long Street crossing with various amendments. Referring to the mini roundabout on Station Road, Cllr Dadd said issues are being taken up with the developers regarding the lighting, signage and position of the mini roundabout. Cllr Dadd has had a meeting with Graham Hind, NYCC, regarding the proposed yellow lines outside the Masonic Hall and he has agreed to pursue it and also to replace the 'No Cycling' sign near the Picks Lane entrance to

Castlegarth. Cllr Watson advised that on Sunday there were major traffic hold ups as a result of the car boot sale at the new Auction Mart; Cllr Dadd agreed to look into this. The plans to be checked to ascertain whether this is covered by the Auction Mart's planning consent. Cllr Dadd reported that a site meeting had been held that afternoon which was attended by himself, Cllrs Marshall, Hesmondhalgh and Mallett and Jayne Charlton of the County Council. Jayne Charlton has agreed to put a white line at the top of Bakers Alley, an arrow near the Black Bull pointing motorists the right way and to look at taking a small portion off the island at the top of Finkle

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Street. They had also looked at the top of Chapel Street where the Town Council has asked for a mini roundabout to be put in and Ms Charlton has agreed to do an assessment of it. Cllr Marshall referred to the list of items given to Eddie Hayward nearly a year ago. Cllr Dadd had advised that these have all been allocated to different people at the County Council. Cllr Dadd reported that Lionel Twiss gave a splendid presentation to the Hambleton Area Committee re the entrances/signage recently.

District Council

Cllr Marshall advised that she had attended the District Council meeting last week, but had very little to report.

There had been a presentation about the computerised travel claims. Cllr Marshall had asked about fuel poverty in Thirsk, but nothing has been done on this.

**Open forum:**

No members of the public present.

**Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18th September 2006:**

P058 HDC LDF; Objection re the proposal to increase the potential for non retail premises in the secondary shopping frontage made on the form provided and submitted before the deadline.

P058 Proposed 20mph zone in Hambleton Drive/Hambleton Place; a reply is awaited in respect of the two points raised.

P058 Norby footpath; reply received from John Marsden, Chief Executive, NYCC, advising that the County Council is responsible for the metal rods alongside the pin kerbs and they will handle any third party claim relating to them.

P059 Donation to the Thirsk Clock Café; cheque to be signed at this meeting.

P059 Accounts for Payment; Cllr Marshall expressed concern that the Rospa Report had identified a large hole in the platform of the play equipment on the McCleans play area, but no report had been received from Chris Amy. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Chris Amy about this and he assures her that there will be an improvement in the future.

P060 Revised wording for Standing Order 13; agenda item for

this meeting.

P060 Market Town Grants Scheme; letter sent advising that we wish to apply for a grant under the Environmental Enhancement Category for paving in Roses Yard, Mill Gardens and Thirsk Museum.

P060 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order; the TIC advise that HDC handle this for the whole building. A copy of the Fire Certificate to be requested.

P060 Burial Board Report; the new pipeline has now been installed in the Cemetery and is awaiting connection to the water supply by Swifts.

P061 Christmas Lights; new lights ordered from LITE and these have now been received and checked by Wired.

## **Finance**

Accounts for payment

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Morton that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed.

Lite Ltd - Christmas lights £901.23

BT - Internet Services £82.21

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CE & CM Walker - grasscutting, 14th and 28th September  
£1,233.75

Jackson Plant Hire - installation of water pipe in Cemetery

£2,232.50

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - Room Hire, July/Aug/Sept 2006

£131.25

Andrew Swiers - grasscutting in Carrs Field £90.00

Playsafety Limited - RoSPA Report £564.00

Record Playground Equipment - swing parts for East Thirsk Play  
Area £208.91

Millgate Timber and Hardware - wood for McCleans play  
equipment £6.66

BTCV - work carried out to footpaths on The Ings £1,684.41

C.A. Amy: Trimming trees on Millennium Green £175.00

C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections £182.80

Litter Picking £210.00

Shire Park - hedge cutting £30.00

East Thirsk - removal of swings £30.00

Thirsk Festival - donation £1,000.00

Thirsk Clock Café - donation (as agreed at last meeting)  
£500.00

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, September 2006 £874.30

Quality Garden Care - pressure washing TIC Yard £85.00

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk  
and the Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with  
the Town Council's current policy

Paid since last meeting

M. Hancock - watering for Thirsk in Bloom £328.00

Petty Cash £48.80

Income received

HDC - Contribution to Plaques Leaflet £523.00

Bank Interest £1,000.17

Burial Bd: Interments £68.00

Memorials £94.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge £485.37

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for September 2006

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that these be approved; agreed.

Report from the Internal Auditor:

The clerk reported that the Barker Partnership have completed the Internal Audit for 2005/6. All queries have been resolved and they had no issues with the accounts. However, when completing the Statement of Accounts as part of the Annual Return the Clerk had inadvertently included the amount of £1,022 in Staff Costs instead of in Other Payments. She had therefore amended the form to show a reduction of £1,022 in Staff Costs and an increase of the same amount in Other Payments. Proposed Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be accepted; agreed and agreed that the Chair sign the amendment.

To adopt revised wording for Standing Order 13:

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr F Roberts that the wording

of Standing Order 13, circulated to Councillors at the meeting held on 18th September 2006, be adopted.

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

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that the following applications be approved, subject to the proviso that a period of six months be allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place.

Grave Space E4 1 Ronald Backhouse

### **Correspondence**

NYCC re Employment Training Services expressing interest in tendering for any jobs during November, December and January; noted.

HDC - Review of Polling Stations questionnaire; Cllr Marshall said she has some concerns about the Friends Meeting House being a suitable polling station because of restricted access for the disabled. The Clerk to complete the questionnaire in respect of the Friends Meeting House and to suggest that in addition they look at the Community Centre at Norby.

Hambleton and Richmond Learning Disability Partnership Board re an Anti-Bullying event on Monday 20th November at the Methodist Church Hall, Northallerton; noted.

Defra - re Addendum to the Guidance on the Clean

Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, giving details of the

website where this can be viewed; noted.

NYCC re North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Strategic Spatial Options and Site Allocation Policies Document Public Consultation Exercise giving details of where the documents can be viewed. Comments on these are required by 10th November 2006; noted.

Thirsk Clock Café advising that Futurebuilders have withdrawn their funding and Thirsk Clock have therefore been obliged to withdraw their offer for Fourways Guest House. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the subject of the relationship with youth had been deferred until the Town Council meeting on 2nd November and this will be discussed as part of that item.

The Thirsk CCA wished to bring to the attention of Councillors their Halloween Ball to be held on 28th October.

### **Burial Board Report:**

In Cllr Adamson's absence there was no report. Cllr Morton advised he understands that in some parts of the country cheap granite headstones in unusual shapes are being imported from abroad. He felt we should have a policy on these in case we get an application for such a headstone. Agreed that this should go to the next Burial Board meeting.

### **Reports:**

Representatives

Cllr Morton reported that he had attended a meeting of the Swimming Baths Trust. There has been a 5%-6% increase in the

fees and the card system is going very well. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Trustees has not seen the plans for the extension to the swimming pool.

#### Members

Cllr F Roberts referred to the lights in Millgate car park, some of which have been out for some time. An email was sent to HDC pointing out that this is a secure car park

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and not less than 95% of the lights should always be working. They have been today and have dealt with them.

Cllr Watson reported on the problem solving group for Castlegarth/Picks Lane area, saying she felt it has achieved a lot. New fencing has now been put up by Tesco. The group is looking at the possibility of putting some additional lights on the buildings surrounding Castlegarth. Cllr Watson said there is to be some media coverage once everything has been completed. Cllr Mallett suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Tesco re their new fence. Cllr Marshall said the group is trying to get some more lighting down the rest of Picks Lane.

Cllr Pack referred to some bricks etc, which are on the base of a lamp standard in the Market Place and enquired whether anyone knew why they were there. No one was aware of this and Cllr Pack will look into it.

Cllr Mallett advised that there are now three piles of soil on the grass verge on Stockton Road outside the house where building work is taking place; to be reported to NYCC .

Cllr Morton expressed concern that he had seen cyclists going the wrong way over Millgate Bridge.

Cllr Morton said that three lorries are parking at the end of Alexander Close and he is concerned that this could be a danger because of the effect on visibility for vehicles pulling out of Alexander Close; to be reported to the police.

Cllr Morton advised that it is difficult for people, particularly those with prams, to get access past the McCarthy and Stone development because of parked vehicles. A request to be made that the white line be replaced.

Cllr Watson pointed out that long stay parking is taking place on Picks Lane where it is supposed to be restricted to ten minutes only; to be taken up with the police.

Cllr Watson advised that as a result of building work being carried out five parking spaces are being taken up behind the 'Cross Keys'; HDC to be asked whether they have given permission for this.

Cllr Marshall advised that, to enable the Ritz Cinema to access grants, it has become a limited company, but this makes no difference to how it operates. The cinema has won a regional award from Nationwide and it entered into the national competition, but did not win it. The national award consisted of £500, vouchers and a glass trophy. The cinema had been put forward for this by a member of the public.

Cllr Marshall circulated a copy of the third draft of the Interpretation Boards, which has been agreed by the Committee. Members were pleased with the content.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Blue Plaque Trail when it was featured on television and said we now have it on DVD and video.

Cllr Marshall advised that, as Mayor, she had attended the following:

- \* The welcoming to Thirsk of the new Methodist Minister.
- \* The committee meeting about the Remembrance Day Service. She advised that this year the service is to be held on 12th November at St Oswald's, Sowerby. The salute is to take place in the Market Place followed by a short service in St Mary's church. On Saturday 11th November there will be the 11.00 am service in the Market Place.
- \* The RAF Linton Battle of Britain cocktail party.
- \* The opening of the new Auction Mart on 5th October. Cllr Marshall urged people to go there and support it

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- \* The cutting of the ribbon to open the sale of charity Christmas cards at the Tourist Information Centre.

It was resolved that the public, press and the Clerk be excluded for a confidential item.

Cllr Marshall asked the Committee Chairs and Members to ensure they have their budget proposals finalised before the November Finance Committee Meeting. She also requested they estimate how much of this current year's budget will be spent before the year end. She pointed out that Members will already have the information of spend to date.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 at 7.30 pm in  
the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, C Pack, F Roberts,

J Roberts, J Watson, I Noble, ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), Sgt Ben Frank (North Yorkshire Police) -1<sup>st</sup> item only and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J Jackson (away), A Morton (away); accepted.

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

Open Forum:

Sgt Frank reported that he had attended a meeting with his superiors to discuss details of crime and, in particular, burglary figures. There have been 21 burglaries from dwellings. Sgt Frank felt the problems in Thirsk were mainly with nuisance youths and anti social behaviour. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has written to the Chief Constable asking for a meeting with a senior officer to discuss these items of concern and Sgt Frank said the letter has been passed to him and he would be happy to attend an informal meeting. It was requested that a senior officer should also attend and Sgt Frank said he will take this up with the people who organise the resources. Sgt Frank said that now the CCTV is no longer under police control but is based at HDC, it is more difficult to make an arrest from the CCTV. Cllr Marshall pointed out that if there is anything going on the CCTV should be picking it up and alerting the police and she said it is up to us to take this up with HDC. Sgt Frank advised that a new PCSO is starting in addition to the existing PCSO and this will therefore extend the hours covered. Sgt Frank explained about the system regarding ASBOs and Cllr J Roberts asked about the effectiveness of these Orders.

Cllr Watson expressed concern at the difficulties experienced getting through to the police on the 0845 6060247 number. Cllr Marshall reported that on 18<sup>th</sup> October wet toilet paper was being thrown at people in the Market Place. She reported this to the police and said it took 11 minutes to get through to the Control Room. Lloyds Bank car park is currently a target for vandalism and the window of the Town Council Office was broken over the weekend. Sgt Frank said he was aware of young people congregating in Lloyds Bank car park and regular checks are being carried out. He said it may be necessary to look at extra lighting if damage is being caused. Cllr Marshall advised that PC

Kevin Brookes is setting up a problem solving group in East Thirsk and she is anxious a meeting should be held soon to get it started.

Cllr Pack said that most of the problems are alcohol related and this is a national situation. Cllr Watson said she has been round all the off licences and Glen Jackson, the Landlord of the "Darrowby Arms" and "The Royal" is Chair of Pubwatch and has been to all the pubs requesting that they do not supply drink to underage people.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is an agenda item, 'to discuss the relationship with youth' later in the meeting and she asked Sgt Frank if there is anything we can do. Sgt Frank said he will give it some thought. Cllr Mallett said he felt that some of the youth in the town feel they do not have a voice and have no one to go to.

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

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Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006:

P026 Meeting with police; request sent to the Chief Constable for a senior officer to attend a meeting with the Town Council and reply awaited.

P062 Wheeliebins on St James Green; letter to be sent to the owner of the property in question.

P062 Christmas lights; Christmas tree to be put in place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November and the lights will be put on shortly thereafter.

P062 Trees in the stonework of the Weir; planning consent for these to be cut down now received. Chris Amy has given a price of £250 for doing this work. Proposed accepted Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Marshall; agreed.

P062 Footpath at Norby; reply received from John Marsden, Chief Executive of NYCC, confirming that the County Council is responsible for the metal rods and will handle any third party claim relating to them.

P062 Signs denoting Town Council's land; ordered.

P062 ING Direct re Sanctuary Award Scheme response received advising that the Town Council was not successful in its application for funding.

P062 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; Cllr Marshall advised that she has spoken to Dave Goodwin at HDC and the £20K is on its way to us. It will be necessary to carry out some investigation into what to do. Cllr Marshall felt that a working party should be set up to deal with this and Cllrs Hesmondhalgh and Watson, together with Cllr Marshall, agreed to form the Working Party.

P063 Trees near the boundary of 22 Whiteless Close; Reply received from Mrs Kilvington saying this does not answer her question. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr F Roberts that this be passed to Eccles Heddon.

P063 Cutting of two pieces of grass on Picks Lane; the piece of grass on Newsham Road appears to have been cut although it is not very short. Letter sent to Mr Walker.

P063 Site meeting in the Market Place; site meeting held.

P063 Proposed French Market in Thirsk; Email received from Don Moore of Thirsk Business Association advising that a request has been made for this type of market to be held in Thirsk at the end of March 2007. Agreed that a reply be sent saying that in principle the Town Council supports this but needs more detail.

P063 Drain next to the bus shelter; a further email sent to Clive Thornton and Cllr Marshall has also spoken to him about this. He is looking at putting a grille over this.

P063 Dead trees near Millgate Car Park; reply received from Clive Thornton advising that he is arranging for the trees to be removed in the next week or so.

P063 BTCV work; all completed satisfactorily.

P063 Graffiti in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood; in John Proud's absence a chasing email has been sent to Alan Scargill at HDC.

P063 Sponsorship of the White Mare Roundabout; discussed by the Greens Committee and agreed to give the sponsors a year free.

P063 Thirsk in Bloom re autumn bulb planting; consulted John Bell and English Heritage and neither had any objections. Thirsk in Bloom advised.

P063 HDC Renewal of Pest Control Agreement for Mill Gardens; renewed.

P063 Flood Alleviation Scheme; Cllr Marshall asked that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency requesting a copy of the Assessment or a report and an update

P074

of where they are with Flood Alleviation. Agreed to ask them to come and speak to the Town Council meeting.

P064 Mrs A Cawood of Whitelass Close re large trees on Stockton Road; the clerk had telephoned Mrs Cawood and established that these trees are County Council trees; reported to them. The oak tree in a field to which Mrs Cawood refers is in South Kilvington.

P064 The Holmes Play Area; Email sent to Stan Roocroft of the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association saying that Cllr Marshall would like to meet him when he comes to look at the Play Area on The Holmes.

P064 Benches in Millgate Car Park; letter sent to Steve Quartermain.

P064 Long Street/White Mare Roundabout; replanting taking place.

P064 Logs in the stream near St Marys; letter sent to John Proud.

P065 Multiplay on the McCleans Play Area; Chris Amy has repaired this.

P065 Fencing and gates on Castlegarth; the fencing and gates at Harry Lee's and Tesco's end of Castlegarth have now been removed.

P065 Alleyway outside the Town Council Office; pressure washing carried out to the paving and Peter Penny of NYCC is to reimburse the Town Council for the cost of this.

P065 Alleyways; further quotes for Roses Yard obtained – to be discussed as a confidential item at the end of the meeting.

P065 Floodlighting at St Mary's Church; the grass is still inside the cages; the clerk will speak to the PCC.

## Correspondence

HDC; letter advising that the lease of the Town Council Office expires on 30 May 2007 and asking whether the Town Council would like to take a further tenancy. A reply has been sent saying we would like to take a new lease subject to the rent being agreed. HDC are asking their surveyor to have a look round the property.

HDC; copy of letter to the Friends Meeting House, confirming that the property formed by the split is to be known as 'Quaker Cottage', 24A Kirkgate, Thirsk.

HDC; request for temporary road closures on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday; no comments on this.

Mouchel Parkman; advice that highway works regarding the 20 mph limit at Hambleton Place are to start on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2006 and the work will last two weeks.

Hambleton CAB; invitation to the AGM on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Cllr F Roberts to attend.

Mr and Mrs Alan Delamore re vandalism at Castlegate Mews. Their comments to be passed to the police. Reply to be sent advising them that there is a problem solving group working in that area.

Countryside Alliance; request that we write to Jim Fitzpatrick expressing concern at the possible loss of some rural post offices. Agreed that such a letter be sent.

#### Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

This had already been circulated to Councillors; there were no queries on it.

#### Relationship with Youth:

Cllr Marshall advised that a letter had been received from Thirsk Clock advising that they have not been successful in getting funding for their move and they will therefore

P075

be staying in their existing accommodation. They are now talking about changing their current accommodation round. Cllr Mallett expressed the view that there is very little for mid to late teenagers to do in Thirsk and he felt it was necessary to talk to them and establish some form of liaison with them. Cllr Pack felt that most of the young people are good and we should look at the ones that have nowhere to go. Cllr J Roberts referred to Youth Councils and said he felt the most successful are those where the Town Council or a similar body got the tasks in place and then handed it over to the young people. He would recommend Youth Councils as long as they are done in an appropriate and responsible way. Cllr F Roberts suggested that Cllr J Roberts should come up with suggestions as to how we could move this forward and Cllr J Roberts agreed to do this. Cllr Marshall said the Town Council could identify some budget for them year on year, subject to a decision on this by the Town Council. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there are a number of organisations that help young people in the town. Cllr Mallett pointed out that the type of young people he was referring to when he requested this be an agenda item are those who do not belong to other organisations as he felt their views should be heard. Cllr Marshall pointed out that Ian McNeil, the CSPO, is talking to them and taking them fishing etc. Cllr Mallett felt that a lot of the young people would be interested if, for instance, there were somewhere they could tinker with cars, motorbikes etc.

#### Appointment of a Representative for the East Thirsk Community Association:

Cllr Marshall advised that the East Thirsk Community Association had received a communication from Cllr Adamson saying he wishes to stand down as the Town Council's Representative. Cllr J Roberts proposed that Cllr Mallett be appointed, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh. Cllr Mallett expressed his willingness to do this.

#### Reports:

### Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts advised that the Carrs Field Committee has not spent a great deal this year. She has spoken to their Treasurer and Chairman and they are to meet soon to discuss what they still want to do this year and how much they need for next year. She reported that the basketball hoop is being used.

### Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that we are having the bus shelter painted. The graffiti is to be cleaned off the Town Clock and Cllr Watson thanked Cllr F Roberts for cleaning the graffiti off the Perspex in the Clock. Mill Gardens has still not been sprayed with weed killer.

### Christmas Festivities

Referring to the Christmas Fayre, Cllr Watson advised that there is to be a best dressed shop window competition, to be judged week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> November. On 26<sup>th</sup> November there are to be various activities and Cllr Watson reported a very good response to the Craft Fayre – the stalls are to be in the Golden Fleece and the Three Tuns hotel. The British Legion Band is to play and there is to be a choir. The scouts are fund raising by doing a refreshments stall.

### Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that the Greens and Ingramgate Committee has met. It was agreed that they will order a trailer load of stone to fill in any holes and the stones from in front of the Lord Nelson which have gone into the road will be pushed back. It was

P076

agreed to try and ascertain the ownership of part of the paths on Ingramgate. The White Mare Roundabout has been planted with winter bedding. A quote is being obtained for the planters on Long Street, for reinstating the cobbles on the roundabout and for spraying with weed killer. Hollin Barn to do the planting and a sign to be put on the roundabout saying this. Cllr Pack has spoken to Thirsk in Bloom and they have agreed in principle to allow their buggy to be used to water Long Street; she is still working on this.

### Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the Millennium Green is in good condition, but the branches have still not been removed from the stream near the entrance to St Mary's. The chains on the assault course have not yet been tightened.

### Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that her Committee had met and had gone through the Rospa Report and has agreed to ask various people to do the work. The committee has agreed to accept a quote from Record for putting Wetpour under the swings on The Holmes, using some of the money from the Picks Lane development for this. Cllr F Roberts queried whether this will be affected by flooding, and Cllr Marshall advised we are assured by Record that this will not be the case.

### Town Development Working Party

Not met. Cllr Marshall said that Cllr Adamson does not want to lead on the alleyways project and asked if anyone would like to do this. Cllr Hesmondhalgh offered to do so and this was agreed.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr F Roberts advised that at a YLCA meeting she had attended recently it had been mentioned to her that Yorkshire in Bloom is having great difficulties this year with the judging. It is now much more detailed and competitors are being judged not only on the work they do, but on conditions over which they have no control. Cllr F Roberts felt that Yorkshire in Bloom need support so they can go to the RHS and say it is not working. Agreed that a letter be sent to Yorkshire in Bloom expressing the Town Council's concern with the difficulties being experienced by them.

Cllr Watson referred to recent articles in the press concerning the fact that the Chief Constable has spent in the region of £28,500 on a shower for her office. Agreed that a letter be sent to the police authorities asking for an explanation.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the CCA's AGM is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am.

Cllr Mallett reported that there are a large number of bald patches on the grass on the Greens and Castle Garth. He wonders whether this could have happened as a result of the grass being left on when it has been cut. The Greens Committee to have a look at it.

Cllr Marshall advised that the East Thirsk Christmas Party is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Marshall thanked Cllrs F Roberts and Cllr Watson for changing the clock at the end of British Summer Time.

### **Thirsk in Bloom**

Cllr Pack said she had not been to a meeting. Planting is currently taking place in the town.

P077

Agreed that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a commercial nature.

Cllr Marshall advised that some more invitations to tender for Roses Yard were sent out and we now have three quotes. Proposed Cllr F Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that we accept Tender B in the amount of £22,611.43 plus VAT, subject to obtaining confirmation from Bedale that they did a good job there and, if not, then we accept Tender C in the amount of £28,442.92 plus VAT; agreed. The Clerk advised that Tender B was provided by Biker Contracts of Leyburn.

The meeting closed at 9.53 pm.

## Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 at 7.15pm in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, C Pack, F Roberts,

A Robinson, J Watson, County Cllr G Dadd, I Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), Sgt B Frank (North Yorkshire Police), 6 members of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J Jackson (away), R Mallett (away), A Morton (ill); accepted

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson; agreed

Agreed that Item 5 (Open Forum) be dealt with before Item 4 (Reports) and that the Police Report be taken when the Police representative arrives.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Standing Orders be suspended, agreed.

Open Forum:

Mr Elwell of Waterside expressed his concern at the speed of traffic on Millgate Bridge and said the speed limit is not being enforced. Mrs Penson supported this and said that speeding also takes place on Kirkgate. She felt the 20mph signs are not large enough. Mr Ogleby was very concerned at the speed of traffic around St James' Green and on Stammergate and expressed his annoyance that the proposed scheme for traffic calming measures there did not go ahead. Cllr Dadd explained that when the St James' Green scheme was first brought up the County Council did not have the current priority system, although the scheme was on the former list. However for financial reasons they have now been obliged to draw up such a priority listing and this "scores" each scheme. According to this, St James' Green is not a priority. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council is simply a consultee in the same way that the residents of St James' Green are consultees. Cllr Dadd felt it was necessary to look forward and to look at having speed matrix signs. Agreed that the Town Council

should ask for this and Cllr Dadd will support the request. Mr Ogleby felt there should be a crossing across Millgate.

Mrs Penson commended the police for their work on the previous Saturday when there were a number of football coaches in the town.

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

Reports:

#### County Council

Cllr Dadd referred to the 20mph scheme in Hambleton Place. There has been a delay with this, but it is scheduled for completion in this financial year, most probably in January 2007. He is awaiting a decision on the Picks Lane lighting and should be hearing about this later this week. The yellow lines along Picks Lane have been agreed in principle and will be going out to consultation as soon as possible. Referring

P079

to the roundabout on Station Road, Cllr Dadd advised that he is doing all he can with this and he circulated an email from Graham Hermon at the County Council advising that free standing lighting is to be put on site to illuminate the junction and a safety audit is to be carried out. Cllr Dadd advised that for safety reasons the cones are being retained outside the new Auction Mart until the existing white lines have been removed. Referring to Special Educational Needs, Cllr Dadd said that the proposals are out to consultation. A lot of views have been expressed and there is to be an increase of ten places in each of the SEN schools. Cllr Dadd is assured that parents wishing to take their children from a mainstream school to a special school will have the option to do so. He pointed out that falling rolls need to be taken into account. Cllr Dadd advised that Lionel Twiss is to hold a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December at the County Council's Norby Depot to move forward on the landscaping of the Thircon roundabout. Invitations are to be sent out and the meeting is open to any interested parties. Cllr Dadd expressed his pleasure at the fact that Anne McIntosh has been selected for the new Thirsk and Malton parliamentary constituency. Cllr Marshall referred to the site meeting that had taken place in the Market Place, saying no feedback on this has been received as yet. Cllr Dadd expressed his regret at the length of time it was taking to deal with the list of items requiring attention that was sent to the County Council. Cllr Marshall pointed out that we are in the wet season and there is sand under the bridges. Cllr Dadd advised that approval is being sought to do this, but pointed out that it was done as a concession in the past and it is not the responsibility of the County Council. However, Cllr Marshall advised that they had agreed to do it annually. She also pointed out that the Town Council is obtaining quotes for repairs required to the cobbles on the White Mare roundabout and this is not the Town Council's responsibility.

### District Council

Cllr Adamson said that most of his time is taken up with dealing with concerned residents on various issues.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the Cultural and Social Committee meeting last week at which Tourist Information Points were discussed. At that meeting some objections had been made about the amounts of money given to Thirsk for tourism.

#### Police Report:

Sgt Franks displayed a map, which showed the "hot spots" in the town. No new damage has been reported at Castle Garth and this improvement can be attributed to the Working Party and the new fence put up by Tesco. Sgt Frank advised that he has got two very good new police officers. Kerry Watson has also joined as the new PCSO. From the map, Sgt Frank said it can be seen where the crimes are taking place and the Police will endeavour to be there. Cllr Pack said from this it appears that most of the antisocial behaviour is taking place in the Market Place. Cllr Watson asked about the mobile CCTV and Sgt Frank agreed to look at having this. Sgt Frank said there has been a lot of damage and antisocial behaviour at St Mary's Walk etc. Cllr Marshall was pleased there was a large police presence in the town the previous Saturday night.

P080

Cllr Marshall reported that the town clock was vandalised on Friday/Saturday. Cllr Marshall expressed the view that, bearing in mind the clock's prominent position, she would have hoped that the CCTV would have alerted the police at the time.

Cllr Watson said the Town Council is spending quite a lot having the clock cleaned of graffiti and asked that it be monitored for a period of time.

Cllr Marshall reported that the residents of St James Green had raised the subject of speeding traffic on St James' Green and Millgate Bridge and traffic coming over the bridge too fast. We are to ask for the speed matrix to be installed. The other issue raised was the enforcement of speed limits on St James' Green and in the Market Place. Sgt Franks agreed to speak to Sgt Hunter, the Traffic Management Officer, to ask if he can look at speed strips. If these show that vehicles are doing in excess of 40mph then they might come to the conclusion that some more permanent works need to be done. Cllr Marshall asked for the support of the police in our request for a speed matrix and Sgt Frank agreed.

Matters arising from the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006:

P066 Extra Care Housing; Cllr Adamson advised that according to a document he had read, there will be very few residential homes left by 2020. Cllr Marshall reminded Councillors that they are invited to visit the Extra Care Housing at Stokesley.

P067 Donation to the Thirsk Clock Café; cheque sent.

P067 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order; copy of Fire Certificate awaited.

P067 Burial Board report; Swifts have been reminded about connecting up the water supply in the Cemetery.

P067 Christmas lights; now in place.

P067 Audit; the completed form has now been sent to Mazars, the external auditors.

P069 Questionnaire re Polling Stations; completed.

P070 New fence on Castle Garth; letter of thanks sent to Tesco. Cllr Robinson felt the fence is too high and not suitable next to an Ancient Monument. He asked whether consultation about this fence had taken place.

P070 Bricks on the base of a lamp standard in the Market Place; now removed.

P070 Grass verge on Stockton Road; reported to the County Council. Joe Gallagher, the County Council's Engineer, went to see the people in question.

P070 Lorries parking at the end of Alexander Close; reported to the police.

P070 Pavement outside the McCarthy and Stone Development; letter sent.

P070 Parking on Picks Lane; reported to the police.

P070 Parking spaces behind the Cross Keys; the building works which were taking up spaces in the car park behind the Cross Keys has now finished.

## Finance:

### Accounts for payment

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

Lite Limited – bulbs for Christmas lights	£ 75.20
K.R. Plumbing and Heating – replacing valve in boiler at Cemetery Lodge	£135.00
C.E. and C.M. Walker – grasscutting	£675.63
Nigel Burn – garden maintenance of Long Street/WM Roundabout	£240.00

M.L. Burnett – fitting chain at Picks Lane entrance to Castle Garth		£ 67.26
HDC – Litter bin for The Holmes		£221.22
		P081
The Barker Partnership – Internal Audit Fee		£587.50
Sakata Ornamentals UK Ltd – Plants for Thirsk in Bloom		£271.43
Hollin Barn Nurseries – plants etc for Thirsk in Bloom	£1,279.00	
- plants for Picnic Area	£ 77.99	
- plants for Long Street/Roundabout	<u>£ 480.98</u>	£1,837.97
Michael Holliday – cleaning bus shelter and noticeboard		£112.00
Data Protection Renewal		£ 35.00
Mayor’s Allowance (half year)		£250.00
National Savings – Clerk’s Gratuity for 2005/06 and 2006/07		£1,856.00
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI – October 2006		£660.26
Wired – installing Christmas Lights		£1,210.25
D Connelly – cleaning office windows (3 months)		£ 19.50
C Amy – Play Area Inspections	228.50	
Litter Picking	250.00	
Tree work at Whitelass Ings	30.00	
Weeding White Mare Roundabout	60.00	
Weeding Little Green shrubbery	25.00	
Clearing burnt tree on The Holmes	<u>100.00</u>	£693.50

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with the Town Council’s usual policy

Paid since last meeting

Npower – office electricity	£ 70.04
Sound of Design – Interpretation Boards Website	£600.00
Allianz Cornhill – Premium for increased Fidelity Cover	£164.54
Action for Market Towns – Seminar Fee	£ 10.00

Income received

HDC - Contribution for Barratts Ditch project	£20,000.00
HDC – Precept (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)	£38,500.00
Refund of VAT (1.7.06.-30.9.06)	£ 1,280.93
Burial Board: Rent	£485.37
Memorials	<u>£ 29.00</u>
	£ 514.37

Balance sheet and Budget Report, October 2006 (already circulated to Councillors)

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Grave C4 11 – George Henry and Mabel Windross – application by H.A. Green to clean existing Memorial and make the inscription legible; agreed.

Correspondence

HDC – Copy letter to John Bell re change of name of new properties at 29 Kirkgate, to be known as Faulkenbridge House, 29, 29A and 29B Kirkgate; noted.

HDC – Copy letter to Mr A. Abbott re naming of new properties on Barbeck, to be known as 2A, 2B, 2C Barbeck; noted

P082

HDC – Update re recharging Parish Councils for election costs; noted.

NYCC – notice of a meeting re NYCC’s Budget Consultation to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December in Thirsk Rural Business Centre.

Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society; request to use the coat of arms on the Mayor's chain on their programme and letterheads; Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

#### Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that he will be calling a meeting early in the new year. He will be looking at grasscutting and the wording of the tender in order if possible to have it done to a higher standard.

## Reports

### Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the Citizens Advice Bureau's AGM; they are now working in partnership with other CABs in the district. Funding is still a problem.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh had attended meetings of the CCA on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November. She reported that the car scheme is now run from Harrogate by Lucy Beadle and is working well. Heather Baker, the volunteer who cooks the lunch at Norby Community Centre intends to retire soon. A new chef has been found and he is the ex chef at 'The Gables'. Thirsk International Group are helping Eastern Europeans with their language, local customs etc. Funding has been found for this project. The CCA intend running a training course for trustees in the near future and Cllr Hesmondhalgh pointed out that this might be of interest to Town Council members who are trustees of various organisations. Sue Graham, the current manager, is to leave on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The current Easingwold Manager, Robert Webb, is to do 15 hours per week running the Thirsk centre. He has been employed to do this on a six month contract and the position will be reviewed after four months. The AGM was held earlier today.

### Members

Cllr Watson reported that the Christmas Fayre is to be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Because of the large demand for stalls, the Craft Fayre is now being held in the Town Hall. Admission will be free.

Cllr Watson advised that the Castle Garth Working Party met last week and another meeting is to be held in December. It is hoped to get some lighting on the Cadets' hut and on another building. Cllr Watson felt a lot has been achieved on Castle Garth. Meetings will be held every four months or so to maintain the standard.

Cllr Watson had received a comment that there are no dog waste bins in the Market Place. Cllr Marshall said that John Proud had indicated that dog waste can be put in the ordinary litter bin.

Cllr Watson referred to the alleyway between the White Horse Café and Help the Aged, saying there is a blocked down pipe and drain; the Clerk has spoken to Environmental Health about this.

Cllr Pack mentioned that there are weeds growing under the flower boxes near the library entrance; to be reported to John Proud.

Cllr Adamson asked that Highways look at the bollards in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing on Long Street. Cllr Marshall pointed out that they are on the list sent to Eddy Hayward.

Cllr Marshall reported that, as Mayor, she had attended the Remembrance Sunday commemorations and she thanked all the Councillors who also attended. A letter to be sent to Colin Northridge of the British Legion thanking him for organising everything so well.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the focus group with the police on the neighbourhood policing scheme. She took the opportunity to get an offer for the Assistant Chief Constable to come and have a meeting with the Town Council. A date for this is to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 7.30pm in  
the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, C Pack,  
J Roberts, J Watson and the clerk

Apologies: Cllrs A Morton (ill), F Roberts (away), A Robinson (work commitments); accepted

Open forum:

No members of the public or police present.

Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed

Matters arising from the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006:

P072 East Thirsk Problem Solving Group; Cllr Marshall pointed out that this has not been set up as yet.

P072 Meeting with police; some dates had been obtained for when Assistant Chief Constable Collins could come and speak to the Town Council. Agreed that 8<sup>th</sup> January be selected, with the 9<sup>th</sup> January as the second choice.

P073 Wheeliebins on St James' Green; letter to be sent.

P073 Christmas lights; the Christmas tree is now up and the lights are on.

P073 Signs denoting Town Council land; now received.

P073 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; £20K now received from HDC. Cllr Marshall advised that she proposes to call a meeting of the Working Party soon.

P073 Trees near the boundary of 22 Whitelass Close; copies of all the relevant correspondence sent to Eccles Heddon and a letter sent to Mrs Kilvington; reply received advising that she does not wish to pursue this. Chris Amy to be reminded about cutting the trees back from her border.

P073 Proposed French Market in Thirsk; reply sent to Thirsk Business Association.

P073 Drain next to the bus shelter; nothing further on this as yet.

P073 Dead trees near Millgate Car Park; HDC have now removed these.

P073 Graffiti in the alleyway alongside Woollens and Harwood; Alan Scargill at HDC feels it would be better to paint over the graffiti rather than trying to remove it. Cllrs Marshall and Watson reported that this had been done.

P073 Sponsorship of the White Mare roundabout; letters sent to the sponsors.

P073 Thirsk in Bloom re autumn bulb planting; planting now carried out by Thirsk in Bloom.

P073 Flood Alleviation Scheme; letter sent to the Environment Agency.

P074 Benches in Millgate car park; reply received from Clive Thornton at HDC advising that it is proposed to extend Millgate car park in February/March 2007. The planning application for this is currently being finalised and once this has been done the appropriate locations for two benches will be identified. The benches can be installed during or shortly after the car park works.

P074 Alleyway outside the Town Council office; reimbursement for the pressure washing has now been received from the County Council.

P074 Roses Yard; work started on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

P085

P074 Floodlighting at St Mary's Church; John Howse has removed the grass from inside the cages and has also repaired one damaged light.

P074 Lease of Town Council Office; nothing further heard from HDC as yet.

P074 Vandalism at Castlegate Mews; passed to the police and reply sent to Mr and Mrs Delamore.

P074 Relationship with Youth; Cllr J Roberts circulated Councillors with a copy of a research document he had drawn up on youth involvement within the community. Following research he had carried out Cllr Roberts advocated the creation of a Thirsk Youth Council. He felt the first step would be to organise a meeting between the school, the Town Council, the Clock Cafe and a small number of young people. To succeed the young people would need the Town Council's support, training, status and funding. Cllr Roberts felt that external partnerships with local businesses, e.g. a local garage giving a demonstration of mechanical skills, a local construction firm demonstrating engineering and youth leaders teaching abseiling etc. could be set up. However, all this would depend on what comes from the meeting. Cllr Mallett advised that he had spoken to PCSO Ian McNeil and he is very interested in being involved. Cllr Roberts felt that the motivated young people would bring the unmotivated ones in. Cllr Marshall expressed the view that if it is decided to move forward on this then the school should be approached first and Cllr Roberts is to see Chris Lewis at Thirsk School. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we proceed on the basis

outlined in Cllr Roberts' report. Agreed that funding would be available from the 'Youth Activities' budget. Cllr Mallett volunteered his help. Cllr Watson thanked Cllr Roberts for all the work he has done on this.

Cllr J Roberts left the meeting.

P075 Central Areas; painting of the bus shelter has started and it is hoped this will be finished on Sunday. The graffiti has been cleaned off the Town Clock.

P075 Greens and Ingramgate; the stone to fill in holes is to be ordered.

P076 Open Areas; weather permitting, the installation of the Wetpour on The Holmes Play Area is starting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

P076 Yorkshire in Bloom Judging; letter to be sent.

P076 St James' Green; Cllr Mallett referred to the bald patches which have appeared on St James' Green, saying these are quite large. Cllr Pack wondered whether it would be possible to put some grass seed down.

P076 Shower in the Chief Constable's office; reply received advising that a thorough review of the matter is taking place at present and the findings of this will be widely publicised.

#### Correspondence

HDC; Copy of letter confirming that the name of one of the new properties on Front Street, Norby is to be changed from 'Vallini' to Tremar'.

NYCC; Copy of letter to Mrs Early of Long Street regarding the cherry tree, which was removed some time ago. NYCC are not able to plant a replacement tree, but suggest the Town Council could apply for a licence to do so. Agreed that such a licence be applied for.

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative; Notice of a Community Safety meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December at Topcliffe Village Hall.

P086

Sowerby Parish Council; suggestion that the small piece of land at the western approach to Thirsk Station be designated as part taxi rank and part pick up parking. Agreed the Town Council support this suggestion. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this has been discussed by the TRI at its meeting.

North Yorkshire Police regarding recent vandalism to the Town Clock; advising that the clock is not covered by CCTV, all lines of enquiry have been exhausted and the investigation has been closed. Cllr

Marshall suggested a letter be sent to Peter Simpson at HDC saying the clock is in the centre of the Market Place and yet is not covered by HDC's CCTV; agreed.

Nicola Wells re bus stops on Stockton Road; she has been advised by Sarah Hutchinson of NYCC that the Town Council agreed that bus stop markings on Stockton Road would be dangerous. Cllr Marshall explained the NYCC wrote to us and proposed putting in a bus stop consisting of a raised area etc. on the then new cycle path and the Town Council felt this was not appropriate. The Town Council had supported the bus stop being Hail and Ride. Agreed that a letter be sent to Sarah Hutchinson with a copy to Nicola Wells pointing out that the Town Council did not oppose the bus stop.

Thirsk Clock; invitation to coffee and mince pies on 15<sup>th</sup> December; Cllrs Mallet and Pack to attend.

Cllr Marshall read the various emails she had received from Mr Bill Hays of Uruguay concerning Hannah Packer who was a native of Thirsk but who moved to Uruguay and is held in high regard in Minas de Corrales, Uruguay, together with her replies. Mr Hays' daughter, Mrs Catherine Howson, lives in Bradford and is going over to Uruguay and will present an overview of Thirsk to the local Town Council. He advises that on her return she could do a similar presentation to Thirsk Town Council. A copy of one of Cooper Harding's books on Thirsk, together with some leaflets etc. were sent to Mrs Howson to take out to Uruguay. Agreed to explore setting up links with Minas de Corrales. Cooper to be invited to come to the Town Council meeting on 4th January to give a presentation on Hannah Packer.

Remembrance Day; agreed that a donation of £100 for poppy wreaths be made to the British Legion.

NYCC ; proposed Extension of Waiting Restrictions on Picks Lane; Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

#### Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

An updated Schedule had been circulated to Councillors. Some items had been dealt with since the Schedule was issued and it was agreed that some others be chased up.

#### Reports:

##### Carrs Field

In Cllr F Robert' absence the clerk referred to a report Cllr F Roberts had done. In this she advised that Carrs Field is in fairly good condition although there is still some litter and the litter bin needs anchoring down. In her report Cllr F Roberts expressed her concern that Carrs Field has no insurance. However, the Clerk confirmed that the Treasurer of the Carrs Field Trust has now renewed this.

##### Central Areas

Cllr Watson referred to the recent vandalism to the Town Clock when the Perspex was broken; strengthened glass is now to be fitted. Cllr Mallett mentioned that another

tree near the river is dead in the middle and HDC contractors are to inform Clive Thornton. A letter to be sent to Clive Thornton.

#### Christmas Festivities:

Cllr Watson reported that the switch on of the Christmas lights went well. The Christmas Craft Fayre was very successful and because of the number of stalls it was moved to the Town Hall. Santa was very popular. Cllr Marshall thanked the Christmas Fayre Committee for all their hard work. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a letter of thanks be sent to Sue Dalton; agreed.

#### Greens and Ingramgate:

Cllr Pack advised that she is to call a meeting after Christmas to look at the byelaws. The cobbles on the White Mare Roundabout have been weeded and cleaned up. Quotes are still awaited for Long Street. Cllr Pack advised that money has been put in the budget to look at the ownership of the land on Ingramgate.

#### Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that there had recently been a clean up on the Millennium Green and it is looking very good. There are still branches in the stream near St Mary's Walk.

#### Open Areas

Not met. Cllr Marshall advised that a letter has been received from Broadacres offering to build a fence at East Thirsk Play Area. She is holding fire on this until we have the problem solving group.

#### Town Development Working Party

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she has spoken to Malcolm Parker re Batemans Yard. He was concerned that the original pathway had a pin kerb in the middle and that is no longer there and he was also concerned about drainage. She reported that the original drawing by Chris Vincent of HDC had been checked and a quote is being obtained for pressure washing the yard.

Regarding Roses Yard, Cllr Marshall reported that the contractors started on 27<sup>th</sup> November and a site meeting attended by Peter Fishburn of Biker Contractors, Clive Thornton of HDC, Cllr Marshall and the clerk was held, together with the residents of Saddlers Cottage. Modifications to the footpath near Saddlers Cottage were agreed on site, but these will not affect the cost. Mark Haynes is trying to get some Conservation Area money towards the cost of Roses Yard, but they require us to use a different type of mortar. At the site meeting Clive Thornton agreed with the contractors' suggestion of a 300mm level. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that a week and a half later we received an email from Chris Vincent at HDC enclosing a specification for cobbles on the Market Place suggesting this be used for Roses Yard and this has been sent to the contractor. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that it is not felt to be necessary for Roses Yard to be done to the Market Place specification and that the contractors should carry on as previously; agreed. It was further agreed to forego the Conservation Area grant if to do the work they require would be too expensive.

Other items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Pack reported that she had met with Cllr Marshall, Lionel Twiss, Eddy Hayward and Gareth Dadd to talk about the entrances and it was agreed to concentrate on York Road. Cllr Marshall advised that she has asked John Proud to get HDC to do a litter pick. Rotary have got £2K to spend on 'extras' such as plants, bulbs etc. Eddy Hayward is to find out the cost of putting chippings around the roundabout.

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Cllr Pack referred to potholes in St Mary's saying these are now worse. A letter to be sent to Highways.

Cllr Mallett reported that there are three drains on the footpath on Millgate which are full; to be reported to Highways.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Interpretation Boards which are now almost at the final draft stage. We have been in contact with the manufacturers to let them know we are ready to go. Cllr Marshall advised that Scheduled Monument Consent is not required for the Interpretation Board on Pudding Pie Hill.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had been to a meeting this morning. Thirsk is to be used as a pilot for two weeks in May for activities for older people. Local organisations are being asked if they want to do something during that fortnight. A consultation meeting will be held in February.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that she is waiting for the minutes of the last Thirsk in Bloom meeting and will report at the January meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm

## Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 7.15pm in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson,

A Morton, C Pack, A Robinson, J Watson, PCs Julie Kessell and Sarah Beacham (North Yorkshire Police), I Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 2 members of the public and the clerk

Apologies: Cllrs R Mallett (another commitment), F Roberts (ill); accepted

Following a suggestion from the Chair, it was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Item 5 (Open Forum) on the agenda be dealt with before Item 4 (County and District Council Reports); agreed

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Police Report:

PC Kessell advised that she and PC Beacham, as new members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, are standing in for Sgt Frank who is unable to attend. PC Kessell gave a report saying that in North Yorkshire as a whole there has been an increase in personnel with 1,636 Officers this year compared with 1,587 in November 2005. The latest Annual Report shows that the performance of North Yorkshire Police continues to improve. Out of 23 categories there were improvements in 17 and 6 stayed the same. There is an overall reduction of 8.4% in all crime. PC Kessell said the police are taking measures to keep criminals off the road and to deter irresponsible drivers from using the roads. Over last weekend they had had a purge on antisocial behaviour and had removed alcohol from underage drinkers. Cllr Watson queried whether it is necessary for vehicles to have lights in a 40mph zone; PC Kessell said this is not necessary providing the vehicle is facing the correct way. Cllr Watson also referred to lights on cycles and PC Kessell said it is necessary for cycles using the highway to have lights – this includes cycle paths on the road. Cllr Jackson referred to cars parking

on the cycle tracks and PC Kessell said this is illegal. Cllr Marshall mentioned that there had been two incidents at the East Thirsk Community Hall last week.

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

Mr Ellwood referred to a village near Durham where residents had used speed cameras themselves. PC Kessell pointed out that people have to be trained to use these otherwise there could be problems. Mr Ogleby referred to large exhausts on cars and PC Kessell said these are illegal. Mr Ogleby agreed to report the registration numbers of any vehicles seen with such exhausts. Cllr Marshall advised that we have a meeting lined up with Assistant Chief Constable Collins in January 2007 and we can speak to him about this. Mr Ogleby expressed concern at youths congregating in the alleyways off the Market Place and felt dispersal orders should be brought in. He also expressed concern at the length of time taken by the County Council to repair a defective streetlight on St. James' Green. Mr Ogleby referred to the Town Council precept, mentioning particularly the figure of £24K in the budget for the half seven

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acres. Cllr Marshall explained that this amount has been in the budget for a number of years as it is hoped this land will be transferred to the Town Council, however we have not precepted for it for many years. The land has been designated for leisure in the District Wide Local Plan for over 20 years. Cllr Marshall gave Mr Ogleby details of the amounts in the Town Council's accounts, but pointed out that a lot of this is committed to schemes.

Mr Ellwood referred to the silt under the bridge, enquiring whether this is a priority. Cllr Marshall said we are pressing the Environment Agency on this. She said the County Council's Highways Department had committed themselves to clearing this on an annual basis, but they have now declined to do it. A list of jobs requiring attention, of which this was one, was sent to the County Council over a year ago.

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

Reports:

### District Council Reports

Cllr Robinson advised that there is a Government White Paper on Local Government Reorganisation. Cllr Marshall explained that Local Authorities are being invited to make a decision on what they want to do and the County Council have decided to put in a bid for being unitary. Cllr Adamson said the County Council are looking at closer working with the District Council on waste management. Cllr Adamson reported that there was a District Council meeting last week and the extra CCTV camera requested for Thirsk will not be happening. Cllr Marshall advised that there is a planning application

in for an additional thirty spaces in Millgate car park. She said we now have an extra light in the TIC yard. Existing lighting in other alleyways will be improved and there is the possibility of an additional light in Roses Yard. Cllr Marshall reported that there appears to be a problem with the discharge of water from waste systems in some of the alleyways and this is running into the Market Place. She has reported it to Environmental Health.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006:

P078 Request for speed matrix signs; letter sent.

P078 Yellow lines along Picks Lane; Town Council consulted at last meeting

P080 Fire Certificate for Town Council Office; copy awaited.

P080 Burial Board Report; Swifts have been chased again about connecting up the water pipe in the cemetery.

P080 Audit; nothing further heard from Mazars as yet.

P080 Skip and building materials on grass verge on Stockton Road; County Council reminded again.

P080 Lorries parking at the end of Alexander Close; to be chased up.

P082 Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society; reply sent to the Civic Society agreeing they can use the coat of arms on the mayor's chain on their programme and stationery.

P082 Blocked downpipe on the alleyway between the White Horse Café and Help the Aged; now cleared, but the exterior of the downpipe has not been cleaned.

P082 Weeds under the flower boxes outside the library; some work done, but not finished; to be reported.

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P083 Remembrance Sunday Commemorations; letter sent to Colin Northridge of Thirsk Royal British Legion.

P083 Meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable; arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 7.00pm.

## Finance:

Accounts for payment

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

F.D. Todd & Sons Ltd – skip hire for Millennium Green and emptying of Cemetery skip		£288.80
BT – Office telephone		£ 99.18
HDC – Office rent, quarter commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> December		£660.94
Fox's Trophies and Engraving – ownership signs for Play Areas		£176.25
Society of Local Council Clerks – membership renewal		£135.00
C.A. Amy:		
Play area inspections	£182.80	
Litter picking	£160.00	
Litter picking and removing fence at Castle Garth	£100.00	
Little Green – pruning	£ 30.00	
Play areas – pruning	£ 45.00	
Removal of trees from weir	<u>£250.00</u>	£767.80
Inland Revenue – November 2006		£656.36
Bow House – advert in 'Herriot Country 2007'		£716.75
Mick Hanock – watering for Thirsk in Bloom		£ 80.00
Sowerby Parish Council – reimbursement for grasscutting on		
The Flatts		£624.00

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's usual policy

#### Income received

HDC – Payment re Barretts ditch		£20,000.00
NYCC – Repayment for pressure washing TIC Yard	£	85.00
Bank Interest	£	859.28
Burial Board:		
Rent	£485.37	
Interments	£498.00	
Bank Interest	<u>£ 91.47</u>	£ 1,074.84

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for November 2007 (already circulated to Councillors):

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Precept 2007/8

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 had been circulated to Councillors. The budgets, as agreed at the Finance Committee meeting, were circulated to Councillors at this meeting and Cllr Marshall explained these. She referred particularly to the £4K for the Apex system which had been included in the budgets for 2006/7 saying that at the Finance Committee meeting it had been agreed

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that if this is not spent in this financial year then it will not be rolled over into the next. The Precept calculation sheet was circulated to Councillors at this meeting and, based on the existing bank balances, the projected income and expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and the amounts in the budgets for 2007/08, this produced a figure of £98,739 for 2007/08. As this is a considerable increase on the 2006/07 precept Cllr Marshall recommended that the £24K included for the half seven acres be reduced to £12K. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Adamson that the whole of the £24K be removed. However, after some debate this motion was withdrawn. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Cllr Marshall's suggestion of removing £12K from the budget be adopted and that a precept of £86K be approved; agreed unanimously.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Watson that the following applications be approved, subject to the proviso that in the case of Kathleen Barber six months be allowed to elapse before the headstone is put in place.

Grave No. II 73 Kathleen Barber

Grave No. LL 34 Hilda Isobel Shields

Applications for Additional Inscriptions

Grave No. E6 9 Clifford Lynch

Grave No. D5 8 Valerie Kelsey

## Correspondence

HDC; notification of names of the new properties on the site of the Old Rectory, Cemetery Lane as follows: Plot 1 – Church Bank House; Plot 2 – Trinity House; Plot 3 – no name as yet. Agreed that in future such notifications will be included in Tabled Correspondence.

Hambleton CAB – request for financial support. It was queried how many people in Thirsk they assist and Cllr Jackson queried whether the Town Council would be acting responsibly in giving a donation as there is no CAB in Thirsk. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Robinson that a letter be sent asking them how many people in Thirsk they assist; agreed.

Royal British Legion; request for 50% of the cost of the refreshments for Remembrance Sunday, i.e. £80. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack that this be paid; agreed.

HDC; Local Development Framework: Submission Development Policies Plan Document, enclosing a list of representations received which have put forward alternative policy boundaries. Any comments on this are required by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Agreed that this be passed to the Planning Committee.

NYCC; North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options and Supplementary Sites Issues and Options enclosing a CD Rom containing various relevant documents. Any comments on this are required by 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report. He said a short meeting of the Burial Board is to be held at the end of this meeting.

Reports:

Representatives

Cllr Marshall reported that the East Thirsk Community Hall Christmas Party went very well and she thanked all who helped with this.

Members

Cllr Robinson referred to the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006, saying that an application for change of use from retail to office on Kirkgate was considered by the Planning Committee and was recommended for approval. He felt the Planning Committee should have recommended that this be refused as he pointed out that it is 3 non retail in a row; noted.

County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Dadd referred to the Government White Paper regarding Local Government Reorganisation which is now becoming a Bill. He expressed his reservations about this as he questions whether it would be of benefit to the town and only when he gets a satisfactory answer to this will it get his support. He is to have a meeting with the Chief Executive of the County Council and will put his points to him.

Cllr Dadd thanked the Town Council, particularly Cllrs Marshall and Watson, for their help and support with the problem solving group on Castle Garth which has proved to be of great benefit. Cllr Dadd advised that he has been approached by the Thirsk Business Association and others about the lack of a police presence in the town. He is hoping to meet with the Chief Constable early in the new year. He advised that he is going out with the police one evening.

Cllr Marshall referred to the crossing near the McCarthy and Stone development, asking where we are on this as we had a question about the marking out of the pavement which got reduced when the development happened. Cllr Dadd said the County Council's contractor will be producing a final works schedule. 'Keep Clear' signs will be put outside Bradbury Close.

Cllr Dadd confirmed that the traffic calming in Hambleton Place is to be done before the financial year end, possibly in February.

Cllr Marshall referred to the list of items sent to the County Council over a year ago. Cllr Dadd confirmed that he has spoken to Eddy Hayward about this.

Cllr Robinson referred to the County Council streetlights expressing concern at the fact that in some instances faults are not being dealt with quickly enough. Cllr Dadd asked that details of any such defective streetlights be e-mailed to him.

Cllr Pack referred to the speed matrix at Thormanby asking how effective it is. Cllr Dadd felt it works well in the correct location, i.e. on a main road.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Thursday 4th January 2007 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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**Present:**

Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton Times), J.C Harding (Secretary of the Thirsk and District Museum Society), Inspector Sarah Sanderson, PC Sarah Beacham (North Yorkshire Police) and the clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllrs D Adamson; accepted.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Mallett that Item 3 be dealt with before Item 2; agreed.

**Open Forum:**

Inspector Sanderson reported that she has been promoted and is now the Inspector for Thirsk, Easingwold, Bedale and Northallerton. She said there had been a number of minor burglaries in December and she urged everyone to keep their doors locked to thwart sneak thieves. She said a policy of

zero tolerance had been adopted before Christmas and this will continue, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights when offenders will be arrested. She is sending letters to parents whose children have offended for such things as underage drinking etc. Inspector Sanderson advised that PCs Kevin Brookes and Duncan Pears are the problem solvers for Thirsk. Cllr Marshall pointed out that we are still waiting for the problem solving group at East Thirsk to meet. We have some work on hold because of this and Broadacres have approached us about putting a replacement hedge or fence in alongside the East Thirsk Play Area; a decision on this is pending awaiting the implementation of the East Thirsk problem solving group. Referring to the speeding on St James Green and the Town Council's request to have the speed matrix there, Inspector Sanderson said this can only be used in the very short term, a medium term solution is giving tickets to offending motorists, but long term would be down to Highways. Cllr Mallett felt that congratulations are in order for the police officer who recently saved someone from the beck and Cllr Marshall asked that our congratulations be passed on to the officer concerned. Cllr Roberts asked whether it is planned to have the Police Office in the Market Place open longer hours, but Inspector Sanderson said that at the moment it is not possible to keep it open any longer than at present.

**Presentation by Mr Cooper Harding on Hannah Packer:**

Cllr Marshall welcomed Mr Harding to the meeting.

Mr Harding explained that he had first started researching the history of Hannah Packer in March 2001 following an email to the Museum. He gave the history of Hannah Packer saying she was born in Thirsk in 1841, one of the daughters of John Packer from Baldersby who was House Steward at Thirsk Hall. Following the death of John Bell he set up in business as a wine and spirits merchant. In 1860 Hannah Packer married Richard Carter, a bank clerk, and lived above the bank in Bank House, Market Place, Thirsk. Following Richard Carter's sudden death Hannah moved to Liverpool and became a nurse and in 1879 Matron. She then became Matron of York County Hospital. There she met Dr Davidson and they went to Minas de Corralas in Uruguay. This was at the time of the gold rush, but then this failed and the company

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went bankrupt. Hannah and Dr Davidson set up a miners' cooperative and produced enough gold to keep going. There was then a Civil War and Hannah and Dr Davidson set up an emergency hospital, which received a commendation from the International Red Cross. Hannah Packer brought professional nursing to Uruguay.

Cllr Marshall said we have sent greetings to Bill Hayes in Uruguay and have said we are happy to look at linking.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th December 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Morton subject to two minor amendments on page P089 and one on page P090; agreed.

**Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 7th December 2006:**

P084 Meeting with ACC Collins of North Yorkshire Police; arranged for Monday 8th January at 7.00pm in the TRI meeting room. ACC Collins would like details of what is required – agreed that it should be a question and answer session.

P084 Wheeliebins on St James Green; letter done and to be sent.

P084 Christmas Lights; the lights are to be switched off on the 6th and removed week commencing 15th January.

P084 Trees near the boundary of 22 Whiteless Close; Chris Amy reminded to cut these back from the boundary.

P084 Drain next to the bus shelter; nothing further on this as yet.

P084 Roses Yard; work still ongoing.

P085 Lease of Town Council Office; nothing further heard from HDC as yet.

P085 Central Areas; the painting of the bus shelter is just about finished.

P085 Greens and Ingramgate; the stone for this is to be ordered.

P085 Open Areas; the Wetpour has now been installed on The Holmes.

P085 Yorkshire in Bloom Judging; letter sent.

P085 Replacement tree on Long Street/Stockton Road;

application for Licence sent to NYCC and acknowledgement received.

P086 Piece of land at the western approach to the station; reply sent to Sowerby Parish Council agreeing with their suggestion that this be designated as part taxi rank and part pick up parking.

P086 Vandalism to the Town Clock; letter sent to Peter Simpson at HDC and reply received from Dave McGloin advising that the Town Clock is covered by CCTV and is proactively monitored. They requested a copy of the letter from the police, which states otherwise. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that a copy of the police letter be sent to Dave McGloin saying we are pleased the Town Clock is being regularly monitored and we hope the police will prosecute anyone causing damage to it.

P086 Bus stops on Stockton Road; letter sent to Sarah Hutchinson at NYCC together with a copy to Nicola Wells pointing out that the Town Council did not oppose the bus stop, but requested that it be left as a Hail and Ride.

P086 Remembrance Day; donation of £100 for poppy wreaths sent to the Royal British Legion.

P086 Proposed Extension of Waiting Restrictions on Picks Lane; reply sent to NYCC approving this.

P086 Thirsk Clock Café; Cllrs Pack and Mallett had taken up the Clock Café's invitation to join them for coffee and mince pies on 15th December. Cllr Pack said she was very optimistic about the Clock Café.

P087 Tree near the river; email sent to Clive Thornton at HDC.

P087 Christmas Fayre; letter of thanks sent to Sue Dalton.

P087 Roses Yard; Bikers advised that we wish them to continue with the laying of the cobbles as agreed and do not feel it is necessary for this to be done to the Market Place specification.

P088 Potholes in St Mary's; reported to NYCC.

P088 Drains on the footpath on Millgate; reported to NYCC.

**Correspondence:**

NYCC re Thirsk Rural Business Centre; Cllr Marshall explained that at the County Council's budget setting meeting the need for a roundabout at the Auction Mart was raised. John Marsden agreed to investigate this and Cllr Marshall asked for a copy of the reply. This has now been received and with it was enclosed a copy of the report of the County Committee for Hambleton Meeting dated 19th June in which it explained why a roundabout was not provided. Cllr Roberts felt we should ask the police to let us know whenever there is an accident there in order that we can build up a dossier; agreed.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

This had been updated and circulated to Councillors; no particular points raised.

**Reports:**

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts had nothing to report.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that Potts will be servicing the Town Clock next Wednesday.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Pack had nothing to report. She will be calling a meeting quite soon.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh had nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall had nothing to report.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Committee need to think about what to do next regarding drawings and tenders as an amount for alleyways has been included in the budget for 2007/8 and other monies will need to be obtained. Early action is therefore important.

Cllr Jackson pointed out that Town Council meetings now do not last as long and asked that the question of whether we need to have two meeting a month be considered. Agreed that this be an agenda item for the meeting on 15th January.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that when it rains large pools of water collect on Stockton Road near Alexander Close and on Long Street opposite the Stammergeat entrance; NYCC to be asked to deal with this.

Cllr Watson reported that the car park at the railway station has been resurfaced. She also mentioned the drain opposite Austin Reeds where large pools of water collect; this has been reported to NYCC in the past and will be mentioned to them again.

Cllr Marshall advised that she is to arrange a meeting re the Barretts ditch.

Cllr Marshall reported that the pointing on the exterior of the Town Council Office has now been done by HDC's contractors.

Cllr Pack had nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting**  
**held on Monday 15th January 2007 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 and Stockton Times”) and the Clerk

**Apologies:**

Cllr A Morton (ill); accepted.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4th January 2007:**

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

**Police Report:**

No members of the Police present. Email received from Sgt Frank advising that Inspector Sanderson had suggested the police attend one Thirsk Town Council meeting per month and neither he nor Inspector Sanderson are able to attend this meeting.

Cllr Marshall thanked the Councillors who had attended the meeting with ACC Collins; she felt this had been a very useful

meeting. Cllr Marshall advised that Inspector Sanderson had sent an email about setting up the problem solving group for Thirsk generally and she asked that any Councillors interested in being on this group to give their names to the Clerk.

Cllr Watson referred to the fact that on a previous Saturday Bakers Alley was taped off and she felt the police should let us know what occurred. An Email to be sent to Inspector Sanderson requesting that, if it is not confidential information, they let us know what happened.

### **Reports:**

District Council

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended a presentation by the District Council setting out the pros and cons of the effect should the County Council decide to put forward for a County Unitary Authority. Cllr Adamson felt that were this to go ahead we would not get as good a service as at present and it would not save money. A vote on putting in a bid for County Unitary Authority is to be taken at the County Council next week.

Cllr Marshall advised that she has been dealing with some issues where people's drains are overflowing and draining across the Market Place. Agreement has been obtained from owners/occupiers of all the relevant buildings to sort this out.

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report

**Open forum:**

No members of the public present.

**Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18th December 2006:**

P090 Speed matrix; nothing further on this, although Inspector Sanderson had referred to it at the last meeting saying it could only be used in the very short term. It was pointed out that at the meeting with ACC Collins he had said that it would be possible for us to have the speed matrix; agreed that we ask for it to be put on St James' Green.

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P090 Fire Certificate for the Town Council Office; a company commissioned by HDC had last week carried out a risk assessment of the Town Council Office, the TIC and the TRI premises. The clerk had queried the need for a Fire Certificate with them and they had advised that this is not needed.

P090 Audit; Mazars, the external auditors have signed off the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006. They had no queries or items of concern.

P090 Skip and building materials on Stockton Road; a representative of the County Council visited the house owner concerned who already held a licence to store the materials/skip there. Cllr Roberts spoke to the householder concerned and explained that we did not know of this. Concern

was expressed that the County Council had not advised us of this fact when the matter was raised with them.

P090 Lorries parking at the end of Alexander Close; reported again to the police. They asked whether we have registration numbers of the vehicles in question.

P090 Weeds under the flower boxes outside the library; these have been removed.

P091 Meeting with ACC Collins on 8th January; meeting held.

P092 Precept 2007/8; letter sent to HDC requesting a precept of £86K.

P092 Hambleton CAB; letter sent asking them how many people in Thirsk they assist and reply awaited.

P092 Refreshments for Remembrance Sunday; cheque for £80 sent to the Royal British Legion (Thirsk Branch).

#### County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Dadd advised that he is receiving complaints about the surface of the road in Chapel Street and the County Council's Norby Depot has put forward a bid for funding for resurfacing it. They are waiting to see what development takes place before a roundabout at the top of Chapel Street is considered.

Referring to the Local Government Reorganisation, Cllr Dadd advised that he has reservations about this as he does not think it is in the best interests of the town or the district and so far no major reason has been put forward to convince him otherwise. He said there has been no public consultation so far and he hopes that Government will consult. He will

forward details of any financial implications for the residents of Thirsk in due course. Cllr Dadd reported that he has requested repairs to a couple of streetlights and he asked that people contact him if they experience difficulties in getting lights repaired. Referring to the list of items given by the Town Council to Norby depot in October 2005, Cllr Dadd advised that the County Council's Area Manager returned to the office today and Cllr Dadd hopes to arrange a meeting with him during which he will go through the list again. Cllr Watson asked that the County Council look at the road surface at the back of the Coop near Gillings Court which is very bad. She also pointed out that a barrier on Westgate near the Town End roundabout is damaged and bent out of shape.

Cllr Pack asked if there was any news on the Market Place since the site meeting held with Town Councillors and Highways Officer, Jayne Charlton, on 16th October 2006. Cllr Marshall said that white lines have been painted near Bakers Alley. However, Cllr Pack referred to the access from the parking on the cobbles near Finkle Street where she felt it is very narrow and where some cars have hit the bollard. Cllr Dadd advised that he has been chasing this up since the site meeting was held. Cllr Marshall reported that the white lines outside the Auction Mart have been burned off today. Cllr Robinson stressed the need for the potholes in Chapel Street to be repaired and

also expressed concern at the holes in the tactile surfacing and footpaths around the town.

Cllr Dadd referred to Picks Lane, advising that it looks as though the yellow lines will be put in outside the Masonic Lodge. Cllr Robinson felt that cars will simply park further down beyond the yellow lines.

### **Finance**

Cllr Marshall thanked the Clerk for her work with the audit which had resulted in an unqualified approval by Mazars.

#### Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed.

Record Playground Equipment Ltd – Wet Pour on The Holmes

£11,750.00

R & E Waite – Painting bus shelter £230.00

R. Bennett – Cleaning bus shelter £72.00

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall: Room Hire, Oct-Dec 06 inclusive

£149.62

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Insurance £985.56 Thirsk and

Sowerby Town Hall Wired – Repairs to Christmas Lights £141.00

BT – Internet Services £77.51

Thirsk Business Association – Contribution to Christmas Lights

£500.00

Rural Arts – Interpretation Boards Website registration £20.00

Inland Revenue – Tax/Ni, December 2006 £656.68

Staples – office stationery £33.95

Sam Turner – chains and padlocks to secure seat in Market

Place £21.93

Mazars - external audit fee £646.25

C Amy – Play area inspections £182.80

Litter picking £210.00

Holmes – maintenance of young hedges (46 new plants) &

Planting 10 cricket bat willows £301.37

in addition, the salaries of the Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk  
and Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with the  
Town Council's usual policy

Paid since last meeting:

Zurich Insurance Company – insurance for Carrs Field £966.36

Dell Products – new computer £601.60

Thirsk Royal British Legion – donation to poppy wreaths and  
refreshments £180.00

Income Received

Burial Board: Rent £385.37

Interments £266.00

Grave Purchase £116.00

Memorials £72.00

Reimbursement from Thirsk in Bloom £1,216.13

Bank Interest £309.06

Monthly balance sheet and budget accounts for December 2006:

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh;  
agreed

### **Correspondence**

YRCC – Hambleton Rural Housing Enabler re Affordable Housing Programme; noted.

Hambleton Strategic Partnership re Thirsk Area EngAGE Project.

Cllr Marshall explained that the object of this is to promote activities for older people in the town. Cllr Watson felt that the only way the Town Council could assist with this would be by giving a donation. Agreed that this be an agenda item for the Town Council meeting on 19th February 2006.

M. Minter of Falcon Lodge of Freemasons; invitation to Members of the Town Council to attend a presentation meeting at the Masonic Hall on 20th January – Cllr Watson to attend.

Thirsk Cricket Club; request for sponsorship (Cllr Marshall declared an interest). Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Town Council sponsor a cricket ball at a cost of £25; agreed.

HDC inviting nominations for the Parish Council

Representatives' places on the Standards Committee with effect from May 2007. Cllr Watson felt it would be difficult to do

this in view of the elections in May; agreed that a letter to this effect be sent to HDC.

Action for Market Towns inviting renewal of the Town Council's membership at no increase on last year, i.e. £100 if renewed before 28th February 2007; agreed that this be renewed.

J Smith, CCTV; invitation to any Councillors to visit the CCTV Control Room. Five Members plus the Clerk expressed interest in attending.

From Tabled Correspondence:

TRI Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour figures; it was pointed out that there is no key to abbreviations; to be requested.

Copy letter from HDC re naming and numbering of new development to be known as 1 – 12 Nursery Mews. Cllr Roberts expressed the view that to have another 'Nursery' address would be confusing. A letter to be sent to HDC saying we are concerned about replication of names.

Cllr Watson referred to the email regarding the Police Budget. She expressed concern at this and proposed that a letter be sent. To be discussed later in the meeting.

Cllr Mallett asked to be added to the list for the TRI Policing meetings.

**Response by the Planning Committee to the Objections to the Alternative Policy Boundaries part of HDC Local Development Framework:**

Cllr Roberts gave details of the Town Council's proposed

response, which is that we object to this request and feel that these parcels of land should be retained as amenity/recreational areas. The objectors are also asking that Tesco be considered as being included in the primary retail area rather than the secondary. It was felt that this had merit. Cllr Roberts pointed out that some of the land in question is in Sowerby and Cllr Mallett felt this should be discussed with Sowerby Parish Council and if they are in agreement then we should also support their objection.

Proposed Cllr Roberts,

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seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the comments outlined by Cllr Roberts as the views of Thirsk Town Council be submitted to HDC; agreed.

To consider and decide upon whether two Town Council Meetings per month are required:

Cllr Jackson had asked that this be included in the agenda. He reminded Members that originally it had been decided to have two meetings per month because of the amount of business which needed to be got through. However, he felt that, in view of the fact we have well run committees and administration, the meetings are shorter and he felt the second one should only be scheduled if a meeting is required rather than having it every month. Cllr Roberts expressed concern at the reference in the

“Darlington and Stockton Times” to the efficiency of the staff, saying she would not like previous clerks to feel this was a slur on their efficiency. Cllr Roberts felt there is a necessity for two meetings per month. She proposed we have one full council meeting and an Amenity Committee which would comprise only some Councillors, i.e. the Chair, Deputy Chair and the Chairmen of the various committees; seconded Cllr Watson. Cllr Mallett felt that if this was the case the Councillors who were not Chairmen of Committees would not have any input. He felt we should maintain the status quo until after the election. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Adamson that there should only be one Town Council meeting per month; this was put to the vote and there were 2 in favour and 7 against; motion defeated.

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

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following applications be approved; agreed.

Grave F5 5 Pang Tai Cheng

Applications for Additional Inscriptions

Grave G4 34 Elizabeth Robinson

Grave A6 2 Ethel Murray

### **Burial Board Report**

Cllr Adamson advised that he had amended the grasscutting tender insofar as the Cemetery is concerned to give two options for contractors to quote, i.e. Option (a) as at

present and Option (b) to allow for cleaning grass off  
memorials.

**Reports:**

Representatives

Referring to the email about the Police Budget mentioned earlier, Cllr Watson proposed that a reply be sent saying we do not feel any increase should be in excess of 3.5%, that there should be greater accountability on how the budget is spent and also query how much is in reserves, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed unanimously. Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had received a letter from the CCA about a course for Trustees.

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Members

Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the fact that the Town Council's Planning Committee had no observations on an application for a UPVC window and door at a house on Westgate, pointing out that this is within the Article 4 Direction area.

Cllr Mallett advised that the Town Council had reported to the County Council that some drains on the footpath in Millgate were blocked. The County Council has now replaced the slabs around the drains but do not appear to have unblocked the drains; to be queried.

Cllr Mallett referred to vehicles parking between the bollards

on the grassed area at Millgate and churning up the grass.

Photographs of this to be sent to HDC. Cllr Jackson referred to Cllr Robinson's previous comments, saying there is nothing in the planning legislation which prevents having UPVC windows and doors in an Article 4 Direction area, it merely says that appropriate materials must be used.

Cllr Marshall reported that prior to Christmas, she and Cllr Watson had attended a drinks evening with the Group Captain of RAF Leeming

Cllr Marshall circulated drawings of the Interpretation Boards saying that the Committee met last week. Some slight alterations were made and they will be going to the manufacturers for production very soon.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a commercial nature.

Cllr Marshall referred to the arrangements for Thirsk Festival outlining the current position. Discussion took place on the various options.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007 at 7.30pm in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J Marshall (Chair), J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack,

F Roberts, J Watson, PC N Wilkinson, PC C Mace (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs C Hesmondhalgh (away); accepted.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended

Open Forum:

A report had been received from Inspector Sanderson giving statistical information for Thirsk and also the result of a 'Town Blitz' in January. PCs Wilkinson and Mace advised that they were involved in this and said that high visibility patrols will remain as part of the neighbourhood policing scheme. They said the PCSOs are also having a very good effect on the town; PCSO Ian McNeil has seized several lots of alcohol from under age drinkers. The adult in Inspector Sanderson's report who was fined for supplying alcohol to minors lives out of the area. Cllr Watson said she felt the names of people who have been fined should be publicised in the local press and PC Mace is to pass this message on to Inspector Sanderson. Cllr Marshall advised that the meeting for the new problem solving group at East Thirsk is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> February; Cllrs Marshall and Pack to attend. PC Pears has been appointed to deal with problem solving.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

Matters arising from the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007:

P094 Speed matrix; Email sent to ACC Collins requesting that the speed matrix be put on St James Green.

P095 Talk by Cooper Harding on Hannah Packer; letter of thanks sent to Cooper Harding.

P095 Meeting with ACC Collins of North Yorkshire Police; meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January and a letter of thanks sent to ACC Collins.

P095 Wheeliebins on St James Green; the owner of the property has said he will move the wheeliebins into his passageway once he has cleared it. Agreed that he be asked in the meantime to move them off The Green and put them in front of his garage doors.

P095 Christmas Lights; removed.

P095 Drain next to the bus shelter; nothing further as yet. Reminder sent to Clive Thornton at HDC.

P095 Roses Yard; work still ongoing. Bikers apologise for the extended time the work is taking – this has been due to the adverse weather conditions and interruptions by vehicles requiring access to various properties.

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P095 Lease of the Town Council Office; Mouchel Parkman have been and measured the office.

P095 Central Areas; the painting of the bus shelter is now finished.

P095 Vandalism to the Town Clock; letter sent to Dave McGloin at HDC enclosing a copy of the letter we received from the police regarding the CCTV.

P095 Bus stops on Stockton Road; no reply as yet – a chasing letter to be sent to Sarah Hutchinson at NYCC.

P096 Tree near the river; reply received from Clive Thornton at HDC advising that the tree in question may need some work but it is not dead. He is to arrange for all the trees in the Millgate area to be reassessed.

P096 Drains on the footpath on Millgate; the slabs have been re-laid around the drains and NYCC confirm the drains have been cleared. Cllr Mallett advised that the two drains outside the hairdressers are still full and are not draining away; to be reported.

P096 Thirsk Rural Business Centre; reply received from Inspector Sanderson advising that they will provide us with quarterly statistics if an accident has occurred near the Auction Mart.

P096 Central Areas; Potts have serviced the Town Clock.

P097 Water collecting on Stockton Road near Alexander Close, Long Street opposite the Stammergate entrance and Station Road opposite Austin Reeds; reported to NYCC. NYCC and John Proud at HDC to be asked about the arrangements for clearing the gullies on Station Road.

As a matter arising from a previous meeting, the clerk reported that John Howse has removed the grass from inside the floodlight cages outside St Mary's Church.

#### Correspondence

Environment Agency re Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme; reply received advising that they will be finalising the Ecological Survey Report in the next month and a copy will be sent to the Town Council. In response to our request for a representative of the Environment Agency to attend a Town Council meeting, they advise that they will be happy to do this. Cllr Watson felt this should be an open meeting.

Copy of letter from the Environment Agency to Anne McIntosh MP advising that the demand for flood risk management work is growing faster than the money available. Their funding for flood risk management work is given to them centrally and allocated across the country where the need is greatest. As a result of such financial constraints they have decided to stop work on the appraisal study of the Thirsk Scheme. It is now on hold for at least three years and will be reviewed in 2010. In the meantime, works are planned to improve the flood warning service in Thirsk this year which will increase the accuracy of the warnings available to residents in the areas at flood risk. Agreed that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency, with a copy to Anne McIntosh, expressing the Town Council's very grave concern at the fact that such work on the Thirsk Scheme appraisal study is to stop for at least three years.

Smiths of Derby; Town Clock serviced and everything in good working order.

BTCV; Telephone call asking whether there is any work we require doing this year; nothing for them to do.

PC K Brookes; Telephone call advising that the first meeting of the Joint Action Group re East Thirsk is to be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm at the Police Headquarters, Vale House.

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Yorkshire Water; Email advising that the scheme to reduce sewer flooding to properties in the Market Place is to start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February and will be completed by the end of April. Cllr Marshall advised that whilst this work is taking place the two telephone boxes will be out of operation. Some of the tubs and the three tier planter will need to be moved. An area of Nursery Gardens car park is to be used as a compound. Agreed that Yorkshire Water should take the Town Council's bench, which is next to the telephone boxes to HDC's depot on York Road for storage whilst the work is taking place.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

Benches in Millgate Car Park; Cllr Marshall advised that she had been on a site visit in Millgate Car Park with Clive Thornton of HDC regarding the car parking. HDC's planning application has been delayed because they have to do a flood assessment and the work to the car park is to start after Easter. This will create around 30 extra car parking spaces and all the disabled spaces are to be consolidated into one area. Some of the grass is to be removed, but it should still be possible to site the benches. Cllr Watson expressed concern that we have not been consulted on the scheme.

Suggestion by Rospa that the play area on The Holmes be fenced; a further email has been sent to Stan Rookcroft at the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association.

Alleyways; Cllr Marshall advised that the other lights in the alleyways should be installed in February.

Wheeliebins; reply received from Gary Brown at HDC advising that he will arrange for a copy of the information/notes to be sent to us. Regarding the kerbside recycling boxes currently being used in East Thirsk, it is hoped at some stage to expand this within the district, but there is no timescale for this at present.

Reports:

## Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts understands from Tony Jordan that his committee is looking at ways of improving Carrs Field and may be approaching the TRI for funding.

## Central Areas

Cllr Watson had nothing to report. Cllr Marshall had met with Clive Thornton of HDC and he is looking at putting a seat around the tree in the Market Place where there is currently a Town Council bench; this will solve the problem of the protruding roots. Clive to be asked to let us have the details of the proposed seat. HDC may also put a smaller seat around the other tree which has protruding roots.

Cllr Marshall advised that residents of Riverside Mews are concerned about the crack willows on the river bank; a letter to be sent to the Environment Agency querying who owns these trees. Cllr Watson had spoken to Chris Amy about Mill Gardens – the weeds have been sprayed. She has asked him for a plan and has stressed that the work must be done before the end of March.

## Christmas Festivities

Nothing to report.

## Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that some of the items from the last meeting have been dealt with. The clerk advised that the stone to fill in the holes on St James' Green has been

ordered from Dean Landscapes. Cllr Mallett to speak to Bob Smith re the patches in the grass on St James' Green and the Little Green.

## Millennium Green

In the absence of Cllr Hesmondhalgh, there was nothing to report.

## Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that a large hollow willow tree which was on The Holmes has been felled. We are currently attempting to ascertain who did this and various parties have been asked but without success.

Cllr Marshall advised that replacement swings are being put up at East Thirsk.

## Town Development Working Party

Cllr Marshall referred to the remaining alleyways, saying we have a drawing for Steads Yard. In order to be considered for a grant from NYCC it is necessary for the application to be made by the end of February. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the plans for Steads Yard be put out to tender and that the grant application be made; agreed unanimously.

## Town Office Committee

Cllr Morton reported that the parts of the office which required decorating have been done.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Watson reported that the Thirsk Business Association are looking to have a French market in the Market Place.

Cllr Watson referred to the buildings on the corner of the racecourse and Newsham Road which are in a poor state; a letter to be sent to John Bell. The building on Marage Road which has been quite badly damaged in the recent gales was also referred to; a letter to be sent to Mr Calvert asking if he has any plans to do anything with it.

Cllr Marshall reported that during her site visit with Clive Thornton of HDC it had been agreed that the Interpretation Boards on the Moated Site and the Market Place can be put in position as they will not be affected by the car park work nor by the work which is to be carried out in the Market Place by Yorkshire Water.

## Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack went to a meeting of Thirsk in Bloom last Wednesday. The AGM is to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> February at the Three Tuns Hotel. Cllr Pack had hoped it might be possible to ask Thirsk in Bloom if the buggy could be used for watering Long Street, but because of the condition of the buggy she is now looking at alternatives. The winter bedding plants are to be taken out before the May Bank Holiday. A social event had been held which was well attended by volunteers.

Cllr Marshall advised that during the site visit with Clive Thornton he had mentioned that one of the planted islands in Millgate car park is to be removed. Thirsk in Bloom are aware of this as Clive is in consultation with them about what they can do afterwards.

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

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Two tenders for grass cutting had been received. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Tender B be accepted; agreed. The clerk revealed that Tender B was submitted by CE and CM Walker.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 7.15pm in the  
Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J Marshall, D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, R Mallett,

C Pack, F Roberts, J Watson, County Councillor G Dadd, I Noble ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), PC  
Duncan Pears (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs A Morton (ill), A Robinson (away); accepted.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007:

Proposed approved Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Marshall; agreed.

Police Report:

PC Pears advised that he is one of the two Neighbourhood Policing Team problem solvers. He is working towards obtaining an on-street drinking ban for Thirsk. He pointed out that not all people drinking outside are under age and therefore having the on-street drinking ban would be a useful tool. If this is to progress PC Pears will need to consult with various bodies including the Town Council, the Thirsk Business Association and the Licensees. Cllr Watson mentioned that she was very impressed at the response she had received when she had called the police 0845 number earlier today. A letter had been received from a resident of Roses Yard expressing concern at vandalism and youths congregating in the Yard. PC Pears said he was aware of the problems which had been experienced there. He felt the only effective solution would be a gating order. However, this would be difficult as it is a public right of way.

Reports:

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that a meeting to discuss the list of items requiring attention, which the Town Council had given to Norby Depot, is to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> February at 4.30pm. He requested that Cllr Marshall and, if possible, one or two other Councillors should come along to this. Referring to the roundabout on Station Road, Cllr Dadd advised that the contractors and developers have requested permission to start work on the second roundabout. Cllr Dadd has opposed this until they have improved the existing roundabout and they have been told this. Cllr Dadd advised that Thirsk is one of only two places that has its LEA school governors places filled and he felt this was very good for

Thirsk. Cllr Dadd reported that he had attended a Scrutiny of Health meeting last week and the new York and North Yorkshire PCT are looking to save £10m this year. Hambleton and Richmondshire are suffering as well as other areas to save the money. A PCT board meeting is to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March re the Friarage Hospital – questions to be submitted. Cllr Marshall asked about the financial position of the Tees PCTs because of the Friarage Hospital being part of the South Tees Hospitals Trust and that any cutbacks imposed in South Tees might also have a detrimental effect on the Friarage, hence a double set of cuts.

Referring to the Local Government Review, Cllr Dadd said it looks as though the Government will decide that the County Council's bid is worth further consideration. This will be going out to consultation with stakeholder. Cllr Dadd advised that John Marsden of the County Council is willing to give presentations to groups of Town and Parish Councils and Cllr Dadd will be asking all Parish Councils within his division

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to come along to meet the Chief Executive and ask him any questions. Cllr Dadd felt there is a positive side to a Unitary County Authority and felt the parish councils' role would be enhanced should the reorganisation go ahead. Cllr Marshall said that in the County Council's application, of which there is a copy in Tabled Correspondence, for a unitary authority it does describe an enhanced role for parish councils.

Cllr Adamson pointed out that the Hambleton Drive/Hambleton Place traffic calming is about a week behind.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that a streetlight on Long Street near the junction with the White Mare Roundabout is out. Also outside the Texaco garage on Long Street a street light is on and off intermittently.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that a sign on The Marage pointing to the car park has been turned round; to be reported to HDC.

The new 'No Cycling' sign has now been put on Picks Lane near Castle Garth.

### District Council

Cllr Adamson reported that a Licensing Committee meeting was held recently and it had completely disagreed with Officers' recommendations regarding new requirements to be imposed on taxi drivers. However, eventually it was agreed that the new requirements only apply to new drivers and not existing ones. Referring to the problem solving group for East Thirsk, fencing would be a solution, i.e. to design a play area with fencing. One of the possible recommendations would be gating the Millennium Green, but there would be difficulties in opening and closing it.

Cllr Marshall had nothing to report for District Council as her next meeting is tomorrow. However, in respect of the East Thirsk problem solving meeting, this will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

Open forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 15th January 2007:

P098 Bakers Alley; reply received from Inspector Sanderson advising that it was a suspected assault/robbery that had occurred in the Kirkgate area and it was necessary to close off the area in order to preserve evidence.

P098 Speed Matrix; Email sent to ACC Collins asking for the speed matrix to be put on St James' Green.

P099 Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau; reply received advising that since April 2006 they have advised 124 clients, 13.5% of which came from the LA Ward of Thirsk. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a donation of £500 be made to the CAB, as budgeted for; agreed.

P099 List of items requiring attention by NYCC; meeting to discuss this arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> February.

P100 Contribution to Christmas Lights; reply received from the Thirsk Ladies Chamber of Trade thanking the Town Council for its donation of £500. They ask whether in future it would be possible to attach Christmas Lights to the toilet block in the Market Place. The Ladies Chamber of Trade to be asked for clarification of which part of the toilet block they refer to.

P101 Thirsk EngAGE Project; agenda item for this meeting.

P101 Thirsk Cricket Club; cheque for £25 sent re sponsorship of a cricket ball.

P111

P101 Nominations for Parish Council Representatives onto the HDC Standards Committee; reply received advising that, because of the time constraints, it is necessary for the process to take place now in order that appointments can be made immediately following the elections; noted.

P101 Renewal of Town Council's membership of the Action for Market Towns; cheque to be signed at tonight's meeting.

P101 TRI Crime and Antisocial Behaviour figures; reply received advising that the abbreviations will be supplied once they have been provided by the police.

P101 Naming of new development to be known as 1-12 Nursery Mews; reply received from HDC advising that consultation on this took place and there were no objections. Cllr Roberts pointed out that the Town Council had not been consulted as the development is not in Thirsk.

P101 Response to objections to the Alternative Policy boundaries part of HDC LDF; response sent.

P103 Parking between bollards on the grassed area at Millgate; photographs given to Clive Thornton of HDC.

Finance:

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

Fox's Copy centre – photocopying		£ 83.28
T Imeson- Christmas Tree		£ 125.00
D Connelly - cleaning office windows		£ 19.50
M L Burnett – work to footpaths	£566.84	
Fence to side of path	£156.16	
Repair to seat in Market Place	£139.90	
Install notices in play areas	£ 60.00	
Painting Town Office wall	£150.00	
Repairing steps near waterfall	<u>£ 49.38</u>	£1,122.28
Safety Glass – glass for window in Town Clock	£ 25.31	
Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust – insurance	£ 358.80	
Action for Market Towns – Membership Renewal	£ 117.50	
Inland Revenue – Tax/Ni, January 2007	£ 656.66	
C Amy – Play area inspections	£228.50	
Litter pick/weeding - Mill Gardens, Castlegarth, Picnic area and Little Green shrubbery	£275.00	
Re-hang swings at East Thirsk	£ 60.00	
Pruning and removal of cotoneaster at Allerdale Close	£ 75.00	
Fencing for Christmas Tree etc	£160.00	

White Mare shrubbery	£ 92.50	
Remove bin from Cod Beck	<u>£ 50.00</u>	£ 941.00
Biker Contractors – resurfacing of Roses Yard		£26,568.43

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's normal policy

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Paid since last meeting:

Thirsk Cricket Club – sponsorship of a match ball	£ 25.00
Npower – office electricity	£ 239.38
Record Play Equipment – bushes for swings at East Thirsk	£ 46.06
Askham Bryan College – course fee for Cllr Mallett	£ 15.00
Petty Cash	£ 49.44
J Cave – salary w/c 29.1.07 and 5.2.07	£ 93.00

## Income Received

Refund of VAT (1.10.06-31.12.06.)		£2,177.94
Burial Bd: Rent	£337.45	
Interments	£358.00	
Memorials	<u>£ 53.00</u>	£ 748.45

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for January 2007:

Copies already circulated to Councillors. Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

## Correspondence

NYCC – Notice of temporary closure of Finkle Street from 20<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007 for repairs to collapsed drain; noted.

NYCC – Notice of temporary closure for vehicles at Hambleton Avenue/Hambleton Place from 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February 2007 for construction of a road safety scheme; noted.

NYCC – Notice of the proposed extension of the 30 mph speed limit on Station Road, Newsham Road and Cemetery Road; noted.

HDC – Notice of District/Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 2007. any items for the agenda to be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> March; Cllr Roberts to attend.

Hambleton Strategic Partnership re Thirsk Area EngAGE – Open morning, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007; noted.

HDC – Personal and Prejudicial Interests at Parish Council meetings, advising that any consideration of matter at a Parish Council meeting, including hearing the views of the public, is covered by the Code of Conduct.

Hambleton LDF Development Policies Examination - notice of Pre-Examination meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March; Cllr Roberts to attend.

Audit Commission - advising that they are proposing to extend the appointment of Mazars as auditors to cover 2006/7; no objections to this.

Joplings - letter advising that their Lettings Manager, Rachel Webb, has died. A letter of sympathy to be sent.

Model Code of Conduct - this is currently being circulated. Following the Clerk's

e-mail they have agreed to extend the deadline for this to 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

HDC - Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places for Parliamentary Elections; noted.

From Tabled Correspondence: Cllr Jackson expressed surprise at the proposed naming of the former Regent Bingo Hall as 'The Blue Lounge'.

Thirsk Area EngAGE Project:

Cllr Watson felt the Town Council could not put forward any projects of its own, but could support any suggestions that came to us. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr

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Hesmondhalgh that a donation of £200 be made. Cllr Pack made a counter proposal that a donation of £100 be made. This was put to the vote and there were six votes in favour of the counter proposal; carried.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

No applications received.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson said we are still awaiting the connection of the water pipe at the Cemetery and the installation of the new oil storage tank at Cemetery Lodge; both being chased up.

Reports:

#### Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she is to attend a Community Care meeting.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had represented the Council at a meeting with residents affected by a planning application. He had also attended the Planning Committee meeting and spoke for the residents opposing the application for the development. However, the application has now been passed.

#### Members

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the passageway between Dowber Way and Tranmire Close is full of litter; to be reported to John Proud.

Cllr Pack advised that she is to attend the AGM of Thirsk in Bloom and she asked if she could extend the thanks of the Town Council to the volunteers; this was wholeheartedly agreed.

Cllr Mallett reported that the path towards Castlegarth is full of rubbish; to be reported to John Proud.

Cllr Mallett referred to the ongoing problem of the manhole cover in Pinfold Place; Cllr Marshall advised that she and Broadacres are dealing with this.

Cllr Mallett advised that the nursery has ceased operating from Pinfold Place due to structural problems with the building and has now closed, although the dance school is continuing.

Cllr Mallett expressed concern at the vehicles parking on the Grasscrete near Todds Cottages which seemed to be extending onto the grass and also vehicles driving upon the edge of the Green. Cllr Marshall asked the Greens Committee to look at it before the next meeting.

Cllr Mallett advised that he has booked to go on a seminar re turf management.

Cllr Roberts expressed concern at the fact that vehicles are parking on the grass verges on Stockton Road and churning up the grass; NYCC to be advised.

Cllr Marshall advised that, as Mayor, she had attended the Herriot Museum's 'Put that light out' air raid experience. She said this was well worth attending.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the public and press be excluded for two confidential items.

Three tenders had been obtained for resurfacing Steads Yard and these were as follows:

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Tender 1	£55,685.00
Tender 2	£31,250.00
Tender 3	£28,965.92

(All exclusive of VAT)

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Jackson that Tender 3 be accepted; agreed unanimously. The Clerk revealed that Tender 3 was submitted by Biker Contracts.

A financing package to cover the Town Council's proportion of the cost was decided upon. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the financing package, as outlined, be accepted.

The Clerk left the meeting for a confidential personnel item.

Proposed Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the Clerk be allowed to reduce her working week to four days, with Wednesdays off. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Cllr Pack should speak to the Assistant to the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

## Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007

at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, R. Mallett,

A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, J. Watson, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), Sgt Ben Frank (North Yorkshire Police), 2 Members of the Public and the Clerk

Apologies: No apologies received.

### Open Forum

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

Mrs Konieczny expressed concern that there had been intruders in the yard outside their property in the early hours of this morning. She had alerted Crime Stoppers. Mrs Konieczny also expressed her concern at the situation re flooding and Cllr Marshall explained that we have been pursuing the Environment Agency and HDC for some years. We have received a copy of a letter from the Environment Agency to Miss Anne McIntosh MP advising that they are deferring a review of the Thirsk Scheme until 2010. The Town Council does not think this is appropriate and has written to the Environment Agency objecting to this and also asking them to come and speak to us at a meeting – this has been arranged for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Marshall suggested that Mrs Konieczny might like to give a list of her items of concern to the Clerk in order that this can be referred to the Environment Agency. Cllr Marshall advised that the flood warning box on the river is being re-positioned and the system is supposed to be an improvement on what was there. It was queried whether the warning system to affected people is working – to be checked with the Environment Agency.

Mr. Ogleby referred to a streetlight outside Woollens and Harwood which is not working. He referred to the hard standing in Carrs Field and asked whether this is going to be taken away as he said youths are still congregating there. Cllr Marshall advised that we will consult the Carrs Field Trustees. Referring to flooding, Mr Ogleby pointed out that developments have taken place on the side of the river and he queried whether the flooding implications were taken into account when planning permission for such developments is granted. A letter to be sent to HDC asking what

consideration to flooding was given when such developments as Waterside, Todds Court and Nursery Gardens were granted planning permission.

Mr Ogleby queried how many people who have vehicles with oversized exhausts have been caught and prosecuted. He also queried the amount of police presence in the town and the resources available. Cllr Marshall suggested he write to Jane Kenyon regarding resources as these are matters for the Police Authority.

Sgt Frank advised that it is normal practice for police to be deployed to other areas if there is a need and in the past several have been sent from Thirsk to other places. We are now being recompensed for this and he advised that there are 13 officers in Thirsk tonight and tomorrow night, some of whom have been drafted in from other areas.

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Sgt Frank advised that there have been two instances of Acceptable Behavioural Contracts (ABCs) and there are two CRASBOs in the pipeline which are waiting to go to court. PC Pears is looking at an on street drinking ban and is distributing letters prior to consultation. At East Thirsk quite a lot is going on with the new problem solving group. There has been a little bit of damage on Castle Garth and the police have been asked to do a few maintenance patrols to ensure it does not start up again. Cllr Watson advised that she had heard of an incident on Castle Garth and there is also some broken glass there – she was pleased to hear the police are patrolling it.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007

P104 Wheeliebins on St. James' Green; letter sent.

P104 Drain next to the bus shelter; no action on this as yet and no response from Clive Thornton at HDC. Clive to be asked for a date when the necessary action is to be taken.

P104 Roses Yard; work now completed. Cllr Hesmondhalgh has produced a snagging list and this will be given to Bikers.

P105 Bus stops on Stockton Road; reply received from Sarah Hutchinson at NYCC advising that this stop has been put on the list for Miscellaneous Stops for the new financial year.

P105 Drains on the footpath on Millgate; reported to NYCC. These have not been cleared as yet and there is now quite a lot of rubbish which has collected. John Proud to be E mailed re this.

P105 Water collecting on Stockton Road near Alexander Close, Long Street opposite the Stammergeate entrance and Station Road. Cllr Marshall advised that the area on Long Street has been dealt with. John Proud at HDC advises that clearing the gullies on Station Road is the responsibility of NYCC and an E mail has been sent to NYCC.

P105 Environment Agency re Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme; reply received from Helen Tattersdale at the Environment Agency advising that they can attend the Town Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

P105 Environment Agency re Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme; letter sent to the Environment Agency with a copy to Miss Anne McIntosh MP. Press release sent to local newspapers. Reply received from Miss Anne McIntosh MP.

P106 Yorkshire Water work in the Market Place; work ongoing.

P106 Meeting with Stan Rookcroft of the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association; Cllr Marshall has now met with Mr Rookcroft on The Holmes and he feels the play area should not be fenced off from the river. He is to confirm this, with his reasons for this advice, by letter.

P106 Lighting of Alleyways; Cllr Marshall has spoken to HDC regarding this. They are waiting to hear back from the owner of one of the properties in one of the alleyways. However, the other lights will go ahead and will be done in April.

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P106 Crack Willows on the river bank opposite Riverside Mews; reply received from the Environment Agency advising that they do not own these and suggesting we consult the Land Registry to try and establish ownership; agreed that this be done.

P107 Tree on The Holmes; it has been ascertained that the Fire Brigade authorised that the tree be cut down.

P107 Replacement swings at East Thirsk; now up.

P107 Steads Yard; tenders received and contractors appointed. Work is starting on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The grant application has been submitted to NYCC.

P107 Buildings on the corner of the racecourse and Newsham Road and the building on Marage Road; letters sent to John Bell and Mr Calvert respectively.

P108 Grasscutting; appropriate letters sent to the tenderers and to the County Council.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting

Correspondence

HDC; letter advising that, with the exception of Northallerton which is staffed full time, all the public conveniences will operate a standard opening time of 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. A reply to be sent expressing our concern at this as Thirsk is a tourist town with a racecourse which has evening meetings and also that we have not been consulted.

HDC; advise received that our request to pollard eight trees in Mill Gardens has been approved. However, by separate letter the Planning Officer concerned advised that they are concerned about the management of these trees as they consider that repeated pollarding has resulted in them being unattractive.

HDC – Request for a Temporary Road Closure on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 from 2.30 – 4.30 p.m. for the Vale of Mowbray Scouts St. George's Day Parade; noted.

HDC re Enforcement on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; noted.

Copy letter from HDC to Aspect Building regarding the development of the Sensory Garden in the garden of the Salem Chapel. Cllr Marshall explained that we are looking at using the area where the graves are as raised beds and it is hoped to get them to work to what we want. Cllr Watson expressed concern that the Town Council's Planning Committee knew nothing of these letters, but Cllr Marshall explained that this has happened very quickly. She suggested the Town Council set up a group to deal with this – Cllrs Hesmondhalgh, Marshall and Pack to do this.

Hambleton Strategic Partnership re Thirsk Area EngAGE Open Morning to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Matters

Cllr Marshall advised that she had had a meeting with Nigel Smith of the County Council and Cllr Dadd re the list of outstanding items which was given to the County Council in October 2005. She reported on the outstanding items, as follows:

Cobbles on the White Mare Roundabout – the Inspector has looked at this and agrees the work needs to be done. This involves traffic management and the County Council will give us a date before the end of March. They are also looking into the redundant lamp base on the roundabout.

Bollards near the crossing on Long Street – some removed and some to be painted. The Inspector is to look at this and to speak to Mike Roberts.

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Yellow box at the end of St. Marys – this will be done when the crossing goes in outside the McCarthy and Stone development.

Cobbles on Kirkgate – the Inspector to look at these and comment.

Sand under Millgate Bridge – A separate letter had been sent from the Town Council about this and Cllr Marshall had also expressed her concern. The County Council say they did not agree to remove the silt every year. Nigel Smith has asked for the name of our contact at the Environment Agency.

Millgate Bridge – Cllr Marshall had spoken with John Smith of the County Council about the parapets of the bridge on several occasions. She was pleased to report that Nigel Smith stated that there is a proposal in to renew the parapets; it is awaiting approval.

Norby Front Street Traffic Calming – traffic calming is to be part of a housing scheme when the County Council leave the Norby depot.

Hambleton Drive traffic calming – work in progress.

Footpath from the corner of Newsham Road to the Athletics Club – on reserve list.

Junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street – they will look at this again following the developments on Chapel Street.

Ownership of land on Picks Lane – added to the Town Council's grasscutting schedule.

Cleaning out gutters on Finkle Street, Millgate and Ingramgate – these are supposed to be cleared twice a year. Cllr Marshall said there was particular concern about the grilles in the footpath on Millgate being blocked and the County Council is to check these.

Repaint "Keep Clear" on the road near Mallard Cottage, Riverside Mews – to check whether this has been done.

Sign from Finkle Street into Nursery Gardens car park - the County Council will look at this.

Cllr Marshall suggested that from the list we have we extract the items we are in agreement with and have a smaller list which can be followed up later; agreed.

## Reports

### Carrs Field

A report had been received from Tony Jordan and this was read to the meeting. He advises that litter removal and the cleaning of the hard standing is dealt with on a rota basis. However, the bins

are not being emptied – HDC to be asked to do this. Funding opportunities which could be utilised to optimise the use of the site are currently being looked at.

#### Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that she has spoken to Mike Dodds and it is hoped to fit the new glass in the Town Clock next week.

#### Christmas Festivities

Nothing to report

#### Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that a meeting of the Greens and Ingramgate Committee had been held earlier in the week. There is quite a list of items and a report is to be given to the Clerk. Cllr Pack has been speaking to someone regarding watering and maintenance of Long Street and the White Mare Roundabout. Cllr Mallett has asked Alpha Signs for a price for painting the mileposts and also the roundel on Castle Garth.

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#### Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmonhalgh advised that the Millennium Green is looking in good condition with no litter. However, there are still branches in the ditch; John Proud to be reminded about this. Some of the chains on the play equipment need tightening.

#### Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that the Open Areas Committee had held a very brief meeting earlier in the week to look at issues which are coming out of the problem solving group for East Thirsk. The Committee is to have a site visit to look specifically at the East Thirsk Play Area. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Mike l'Anson, as Chair of the Millennium Green, and will be making some suggestions at the problem solving meeting. She was not happy at how our policies were represented at the problem solving group.

#### Town Development Working Party

The re-surfacing of Roses Yard has now been completed and a snagging list has been done. Re-surfacing work on Steads Yard is starting next Monday and residents and businesses have been contacted and a site meeting held.

#### Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Jackson advised that the Planning Committee is concerned that no indication has been given regarding the development at Bridge Garage – the only planning application is for demolition. Tim

Wood at HDC has said he will let us have a planning brief. Cllr Marshall felt the Planning Committee should look at the site and put forward suggestions as to what type of development would be suitable in that location. Agreed that they would visit and come up with any suggestions.

Cllr Mallett referred to the bollards on Picks Lane saying that where one was removed a car from the adjacent property is now parking there. To be reported to Nigel Smith at the County Council and also the fact that a van is still being parked on the pavement outside Harry Lees. Cllr Mallett reported that the fencing alongside the public footpath near The Crescent is broken down. To be reported to Peter Penny at NYCC.

Cllr Pack advised that she had attended a meeting with Cllr Marshall, Nigel Smith of NYCC and others and Rotary have £2K to spend on planting at the entrances. It was felt that York Road was the appropriate entrance to do this. There has been no improvement on York Road regarding the litter clearance and damaged signage. Sowerby Parish Council has agreed to be responsible for the mowing from where our grasscutting finishes and theirs currently starts.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Interpretation Boards have to be finished by 31<sup>st</sup> March. The proof copies are now back from the manufacturers of the Boards. Designs have been chosen for the postcards. The website design is underway. The leaflet is with the printers.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had asked Cllr Roberts to report on the meeting held on the piece of land at South Dowber Lane. In view of Cllr Robert's absence from this meeting, she will report at the next one.

#### Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack advised that she had attended the AGM of Thirsk in Bloom; she had passed on the thanks of the Town Council and they were very pleased. Quite a few new people have joined Thirsk in Bloom and everything is going very well. Some of the

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wooden tubs are falling apart and there is some concern about the others. They are to be replaced with plastic which looks very much like wood.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the meeting be closed for a confidential commercial item.

#### Seat Tenders

Two tenders had been received and these were opened. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Tender A in the amount of £1,350 be accepted; agreed unanimously. It was revealed that this tender was supplied by Chris Amy.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.00 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J.E. Jackson, C.M. Pack, F.M. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson, County Cllr G. Dadd, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 1 member of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs R. Mallett (visitors), A. Morton (away); accepted

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

#### Matters Arising

Silt under Millgate Bridge: this is on the list of works to be done by the County Council.

Alcohol Free Zone: PC Pears is interested in introducing an alcohol free zone within the town. We await details of the proposals as to which areas this will cover.

#### Chair's Report

Cllr Marshall gave her report, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book. She reiterated her thanks to the Town Councillors, the Town Council Staff and the residents of Thirsk. She advised that the leaflets on the Interpretation Boards are now ready and the boards will be put in place next week.

#### Representations from Electors of the Parish

Mr Ogleby advised that Miss Anne McIntosh MP had brought up the problems in Thirsk re vandalism etc at the House of Commons. He expressed concern that the police are not seen walking round the town.

#### Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Jackson expressed his thanks to Cllr Dadd for his help during the year with the waste disposal tip; he said this has now improved.

Cllr Pack thanked Cllrs Marshall and Watson and everyone else involved with the work on the Blue Plaques and Interpretation Boards which she felt are a great asset to the town.

The meeting closed at 7.16 p.m.

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Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson, Cllr G. Dadd, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 1 member of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: R. Mallett (visitors), A. Morton (away); accepted.

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh, subject to an amendment on Page P119.

#### Police Report

No members of the police present and no report received.

#### Reports

##### County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that he had met informally with Inspector Sanderson and this was a very positive meeting. He is confident that she will achieve what we want. In Thirsk over the last weekend two people had been fined for causing damage, one had been arrested for fighting and an amount of alcohol had been seized from underage drinkers. Cllr Dadd had met informally with the PCT regarding their recovery plans and there are proposals which will go to their board on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Cllr Dadd is confident they will make savings without cutting clinical needs and they are aware of how important the Friarage Hospital is to us. Cllr Dadd advised that the County Council has set its budget which will be an increase of 4.9% in Council Tax. He has been in contact with the Environment Agency and he shares the Town Council's disappointment about the Thirsk Flooding Plan.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Hambleton Place/Drive traffic calming scheme and pointed out that the children's drawings are not on the signs; Cllr Dadd to look into this.

Cllr Marshall referred to the PCT's responsibility for the Lambert Hospital and Cllr Dadd said he had stressed the importance of the Lambert Hospital to Thirsk. Cllr Marshall referred to her query at the

previous meeting regarding the financial position of the Teesside PCTs. Cllr Dadd replied that he thought he had sent information to the Town Council Office but saying these appear to be stabilising.

#### District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that the main Council Meeting has been held and the Core Strategy of the LDF has been passed by Government. HDC has set its precept at an increase of just under 5%. Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended a meeting of the East Thirsk Joint Action Group; great progress has been made. He said that the primary aim of the Group is the safety of the residents. Broadacres are to provide metal fencing and this should be in place within ten weeks. A drawing has been provided by Record, but this is to be put on hold. Cllr Adamson advised that Broadacres have received complaints about the swings which are disturbing the

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residents and houses have been the targets of stone throwing. The next meeting of the problem solving group is to be held in one month's time. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this subject will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report.

Cllr Marshall advised that Hambleton has set its precept at an increase of 4.95%. She advised that the Cultural and Social Committee completed its report on the use of consultants which has been quite favourable in that they are not being excessively used. She asked if Cllr Robinson had been invited to the East Thirsk problem solving group. He replied that he had not.

#### Open Forum

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

#### Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007

P110 Car Park sign on The Marage; now turned to face the correct way.

P110 Speed Matrix; a reminder to be sent to ACC Collins. Cllr Marshall asked that this be copied to Inspector Sanderson.

P110 Donation to Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau; cheque to be signed tonight.

P110 List of items requiring attention by NYCC; Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting had been held with Nigel Smith of the County Council and this had been very positive. They had looked at all the items and a timetable for responses was to be drawn up, some to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

P110 Request by Ladies' Chamber of Trade to put Christmas lights on the toilet block in the Market Place; they are to be asked for clarification as to which part of the building they refer to.

P111 Nominations for Parish Council Representatives onto the HDC Standards Committee; to be dealt with in correspondence.

P111 TRI Crime and Antisocial Behaviour figures; the key to the abbreviations has been received.

P111 Parking between bollards on the grassed area at Millgate; Clive Thornton of HDC advises that birdmouth fencing is to be put up.

P112 Rachel Webb, Joplings; a letter of condolence has been sent from the Town Council.

P112 Model Code of Conduct; included in "Correspondence"

P112 Thirsk Area EngAGE Project; cheque for donation to be signed tonight. Cllr Marshall advised that she had attended a meeting today regarding this. A list of activities is being compiled for the fortnight 14<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Marshall asked that if we have any activities we let her know in order that they can be fed in. She said the consultation event had gone very well although not many postcards have been received back.

P113 Installation of water pipe at the Cemetery; another message has been left for Martin Swift.

P113 Litter in the passageway between Dowber Way and Tranmire Close; reported to John Proud and Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that this has now been cleared.

P113 Litter in the passageway from Castlegate to Castle Garth; reported to John Proud. He will look into it.

P123

P113 Seminar on Turf Management; Cllr Mallett had booked to go on this, but it has been cancelled because of lack of support.

P113 Resurfacing of Steads Yard; work ongoing at present.

P113 Community Care Meeting; Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she did not attend this because of the electricity power cut that night.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Cllr Pack queried the amount for litter picking included in C.A. Amy's invoice. He is to be asked to provide more detailed information in future. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

M L Burnett:

work to fence on Castle Garth	£195.71	
work to Johnson Close and Shire Park		
play areas	<u>£328.66</u>	£524.37
Yorkshire Water – 1 <sup>st</sup> half water rates for Cemetery Lodge		£193.60
R. Bennett - cleaning bus shelter windows (10 weeks)		£ 80.00
HDC – Office rates, April 2007		£ 50.03
HDC – Office rent, quarter commencing 1.3.07.		£660.94
F.D. Todd and Sons Ltd – emptying Cemetery Skip		£127.12
BT – Office telephone		£ 91.92
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, February 2007		£649.85
Nigel Burn – maintenance of White Mare Roundabout		£ 60.00
Smith of Derby – servicing Town Clock		£166.85
Biker Contracts – 50% of cost of resurfacing Steads Yard	£17,016.94	
C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (5.2.07.-4.3.07.)	£182.80	
Litter Picking (5.2.07.-4.3.07.)	£200.00	
Holmes/Whitless Ings planting	£330.54	
Planting/hedging etc	£370.76	
Mill Gardens – planting/pollarding	£940.00	
Repairs to gate/gatepost at Cemetery	<u>£300.00</u>	£2,324.10

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, the Assistant to the Clerk and the Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's usual policy

Paid since last meeting:

None

Income Received:

NYCC contribution to grasscutting		£2,847.60	
NYCC contribution to Roses Yard resurfacing		£2,000.00	
Sowerby Parish Council contribution to Interpretation Boards		£1,000.00	
Bank Interest		£1,062.91	
Burial Board:	Rent	£485.37	
	Interments	£358.00	
	Memorials	<u>£ 53.00</u>	£ 896.37

### Correspondence

Consumer Council for Water Yorkshire – Meeting at the Old Courthouse, Thirsk on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 a.m.; noted.

P124

HDC – Request for a temporary road closure on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April (Good Friday) from 9.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. for the Procession of Witness; noted.

HDC - Appointment of two representatives to the HDC Standards Committee. Four nominations had been put forward, ie Cllr S.A. Shepherd of Easingwold Town Council, Cllr J.A. Follett of Sandhutton Parish Council, Cllr D. Cartridge of Sowerby Parish Council and Cllr J. Imeson of Great Ayton Parish Council. Proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Adamson that Cllrs Shepherd and Imeson be appointed. Cllr Marshall put forwarded an amended proposal that Cllr Cartridge be appointed, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh. This was put to the vote and Cllrs Shepherd and Imeson received 5 votes each and Cllr Cartridge 4 votes.

TRI – Thirsk and Villages Conference to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> April at Thirsk Rural Business Centre from 7.00 pm.-9.00 pm; noted

The Richmond and Hambleton Furniture Store – request for financial support. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that we ask for a representative to come and speak to us and let us known what they do; 5 in favour, 2 against, therefore motion carried..

Communities and Local Government – Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members; it was felt that this was an improvement on the previous one. Cllr Marshall asked that if Councillors have any representations they wish to make on this they give them to the Clerk before the deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Cllr Marshall advised that a further 'E' mail had been received from Bill Hayes in Uruguay. Their local hospital is to be re-dedicated as the Hannah Packer Hospital and the Mayor of Thirsk is invited to attend this; it was felt it was an honour for a resident of Thirsk and also for the Mayor to be asked.

HDC – Notice of District/Parish Liaison Committee Meeting to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March; Cllrs Mallett and Roberts to attend.

NYCC – notice giving details of the new address of the Thirsk Highways Depot; noted.

NYCC – Notice of the Temporary Closure of the A19 at the Thircon Roundabout from 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March 2007 for essential maintenance works.

Request from the Thirsk Royal British Legion Band for financial support

Letter received from the Thirsk Royal British Legion Band advising that they are holding a workshop with a professional brass ensemble on 27<sup>th</sup> March at a cost of £250 plus £75 for the hire of the venue. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that a donation of £250 be made. Cllr Marshall made a counter proposal that we pay the whole cost of £325, seconded Cllr Adamson. Cllr Roberts withdrew her proposal in view of the amendment and the motion was carried unanimously.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that the following application be approved; agreed.

Grave Space: GG 8 Peter Raymond Barker Interred in GOR 16.12.06

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that the water pipe has still not been connected. Jeremy Cave is away ill at present and therefore Cllr Adamson is emptying the bins.

P125

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the YLCA Hambleton Branch Joint Executive at which there was a presentation about the proposed County Unitary Authority. According to this there will be nine areas instead of the seven current districts and each will have its own resources. They estimate this will save £14m year on year. There was then a presentation by Cllr Arthur Barker of the District Council. HDC do not want a Unitary Authority but would like to work closer with the County Council. Cllr Roberts felt it will be a problem as the local officers will disappear and those taking over will be from further away. Cllr Marshall reminded Members of the meeting with John Marsden on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended a preliminary meeting of the enquiry about the HDC LDF and she was most impressed. This is starting on 5<sup>th</sup> June for 4 weeks. She pointed out that any comments in writing will carry as much weight as if we were to go to speak. The whole Enquiry will be open to the press and public and the final report should be out by December.

Cllr Watson advised that she had given Chris Amy a brief about work to be carried out in Mill Gardens. She had to act quickly to get it done before the year-end.

Cllr Marshall advised that a former Councillor, Steve Clements, had died very suddenly; a card had been sent from the Town Council and Cllr Morton had attended the funeral as the Town Council's representative. Cllr Marshall commended his hard work when he was on the Town Council and his work in the area.

Cllr Watson referred to the problem solving group for Castle Garth and said they will be approaching the Town Council for financial support for some fencing to finish it off. Cllr Watson enquired about the Town Council/Thirsk in Bloom Liaison Group which was set up but has not met for some time. Cllr Pack will mention this to Thirsk in Bloom.

Cllr Jackson advised that he and other members of the Planning Committee had been to look at the Bridge Garage site and said he understands there are plans for a large number of apartments. Cllr Robinson advised that local residents have been issued with an architect's drawing of what is proposed.

### Members

Cllr Watson referred to the proposed extension to Millgate car park expressing concern that the work is likely to be done during the peak season; Clive Thornton to be asked for a date for this.

Cllr Marshall drew the attention of the Council to a dissertation done by the daughter of a friend of hers on Fair Trade Products in Thirsk saying she will submit this as part of the evidence for supporting Fair Trade Town status. She hopes that from May the new Town Council will take up the issues. Cllr J. Roberts has been asked to do a report on where he has got to with this.

Cllr Marshall advised that, as Mayor and with the consent of the Chairman of Carlton Miniott Parish Council, she had recently opened the new outside play area at Carlton Miniott Community Primary School.

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

Following on from the Council's decision to allow the Clerk to move to a four day week, advice had been sought from the YLCA who advised it is not necessary to issue her with a new contract. The division of work in the office was agreed.

An incident of anti-social behaviour in the town was reported.

The meeting closed at 9.07 p.m.

