

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 5th April 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, R. Mallett, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”), PC Kevin Brookes (North Yorkshire Police), Ms Sue O’Neil, Ms Helen Tattersall and Ms Thomasin Turner (Environment Agency), 7 members of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr A. Morton (another commitment); accepted.

PC Brookes was only able to stay for a short time and it was therefore agreed that Item 3 be dealt with before Item 2.

Police Report

A letter had been received from the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group expressing concern at recent damage in Mill Gardens and youths congregating there. They ask that the Town Council support their application to HDC for a CCTV camera to be installed on the side wall of the shop on the corner of Millgate and Riverside Mews. They advised that the owner of the property is in agreement with it being sited there and The Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group would bear the running costs of such a camera. PC Brookes advised that he has spoken to Sgt Frank about this and the police are happy to support the request for an additional camera. He advised that having it positioned on a building is a cheaper option than having it mounted on a pole. PC Brookes advised that the silt under the bridge forms a shortcut for youths to get away. He said that police patrols will be stepped up in that area and asked that anyone who experiences problems gets in touch with the police.

Cllr Roberts asked whether all the existing CCTV cameras are in use or whether there would be one that could be better used in Mill Gardens and PC Brookes said he would need to consider this very carefully. Cllr Robinson pointed out that some time ago a review was done and it was intended to put a camera at the end of Millgate, but this was cancelled due to lack of resources. It was pointed out that the Residents require a new camera, but for it to be run in place of an existing camera if there is one which is not required.

Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Watson that the Town Council support the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group’s request for a CCTV camera, either an additional one or one moved from another site whichever was felt to be necessary; agreed.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be suspended for ten minutes to allow the members of the public to speak; agreed.

Open Forum

A member of the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group spoke, expanding on the letter and the request for a CCTV camera.

Another resident of Thirsk expressed the view that dispersal orders were required. This had been brought up with ACC Collins and Inspector Sanderson at the meeting

in January. Cllr Marshall said this would be chased up and Inspector Sanderson will be asked if we can have a public meeting.

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

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that we ask Inspector Sanderson if we can have a public meeting with her and, if necessary, ACC Collins; agreed. Cllr Marshall pointed out that we have taken up the question of the silt under Millgate Bridge with the County Council, both on grounds of flooding and also public order and environmental health grounds. The County Council are denying responsibility, but we are continuing to press. PC Brookes advised that PC Pears and Sgt France are looking at an on street drinking ban.

Talk/question and answer session with representatives of the Environment Agency

Cllr Marshall welcomed Ms Sue O'Neil, Ms Helen Tattersall and Ms Thomasin Turner from the Environment Agency to the meeting. Cllr Marshall said we are very disappointed to hear that the Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme is not to be considered until 2010. Ms O'Neil explained that the Environment Agency receives a national allocation of money from Defra and from this they fund all the flood alleviation schemes. The allocation for this year is £436m, of which £35m is allocated to the area which includes Thirsk. This is then divided between capital and revenue and there is £15m to spend on capital projects. Ms O'Neil said that two main reasons for more flood requirements are climate change and a greater understanding of flood risk. Flood alleviations schemes are based on a priority scoring system of Defra and Ms O'Neil gave details of this saying that Thirsk has a score of 21 and to get funding for a scheme in this financial year a score of at least 31 is required. She advised that £10K has been spent in Thirsk on improvements to the telemetry equipment which will improve the flood warning services to over 200 properties. She assured the meeting that a Flood Alleviation Scheme for Thirsk remains the long term plan. Cllr Robinson enquired whether there was any money available from other external sources, such as European funding, but Ms O'Neil said that, as a government department, they cannot apply for such funding as all their funding comes from Defra. Cllr Roberts referred to the silt under Millgate Bridge and Ms O'Neil said it is the responsibility of the County Council to clear this and the Environment Agency are talking to them. She said that removing the silt would allow more water to pass on. Cllr Jackson pointed out that flooding has been our priority for a long time. He pointed out that we have had several meetings with the Environment Agency etc, but nothing appears to have been done. Ms O'Neil said they will continue to press for the money to do it. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that they are not even going to review the scheme until 2010 and said that letters on this were sent to our MP but not to the Town Council. She felt the Environment Agency have let down the people of Thirsk. Ms O'Neil explained that the Environment Agency put in bids each year for all the places in Yorkshire which are at risk of flooding. They are going to try and review the economics of the scheme and see if it can be higher on the scoring system. Cllr Adamson said that years ago the river was dredged regularly. However, Ms O'Neil said she would not recommend this – the Environment Agency does not

dredge apart from in places where it is required to do so for navigation purposes. She said they have enforcement powers if someone has blocked the river, but only going back six years. She asked that anything of this nature be reported to the Environment Agency. Cllr Jackson referred to the storage of water out of the town and the acquisition of land for this. He asked if this came out of the same money. Ms O'Neil felt it may be possible to get some external funding towards this.

Cllr Robinson said that people in Thirsk, particularly those who are affected by flooding, want to see some interim work done on the river and he felt it should be dredged as this would make more room for the water. Ms O'Neil said that dredging only defers flooding for a very short time and within a further short time it would have re-formed itself. Cllr Roberts referred to Hambleton's plan for a flood storage area near to Thirsk pointing out that if this were to go ahead the appropriate landowners would need to be asked.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended for ten minutes to allow the members of the public to speak on the subject of the Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme; agreed.

Mrs Penson advised that she would not wish to see town centre defences eg walls etc. She pointed out that Thirsk has only flooded twice since 1931. She urged the Environment Agency to do everything possible to have the silt under Millgate Bridge removed as this encourages youths to congregate there. She felt that more trees were needed as natural ways to keep the silt back. Ms O'Neil advised that Defra are trialing a grant system to help people protect their properties from flooding and have put in a bid for money for this. Ms Turner advised that the Environment Agency's maintenance team will be clearing any trees, branches etc out of the river within the next two weeks.

Mr Ogleby expressed the view that properties should not be built alongside the river and Ms O'Neil said the Environment Agency would try and dissuade people from building there. She said they are consulted on such developments and they need to be convinced that building in a particular areas is not going to cause flooding problems for anyone else.

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

Cllr Marshall asked what we can do and Ms O'Neil assured her that the Environment Agency will continue to pursue the Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme. They will clear the trees, branches etc out of the river and will talk to external fund advisors to see if they can come up with any ideas. They can provide technical advice for people who want to look after their own properties. They recommend that people sign up to Flood Line.

Cllr Marshall thanked the representatives of the Environment Agency for attending the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th March 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1st March 2007

P115 Developments in flood risk areas; letter sent to HDC asking whether flooding implications were taken into account when planning permission for such developments was granted.

P116 Wheeliebins on St James' Green; they were moved off the Green, but are now back there. Cllr Marshall advised that she is taking up the matter with John Proud at HDC.

P116 Drain next to the bus shelter: reply received from Clive Thornton advising that the Yorkshire Water work in the Market Place has delayed this, but the gully should be fixed before Easter. It was noted that this has not been done and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Steve Quartermain with a copy to Dave McGloin at HDC.

P116 Roses Yard; the snagging list has been given to Bikers.

P116 Drains on the footpath on Millgate; Cllr Marshall advised that she had tried to contact Nigel Smith of NYCC about this.

P116 Yorkshire Water work in the Market Place; work still ongoing.

P116 Meeting with Stan Roorcroft of the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association; awaiting his letter confirming his recommendation that the Holmes play area should not be fenced off from the river.

P117 CrackWillows on the river bank opposite Riverside Mews; no success with establishing ownership via the Land Registry – will try again.

P117 Steads Yard; resurfacing works ongoing.

P117 Opening times of the public conveniences; letter of objection sent to HDC.

P117 Pollarding of eight trees in Mill Gardens; done.

P117 List of outstanding items given to the County Council; nothing further from Nigel Smith. Cllr Marshall had contacted him, but no reply, will try again.

P118 Yellow box at the end of St. Mary's; letter about the crossing included in correspondence.

P118 Sand under Millgate Bridge; copy letter from the Environment Agency to Eddy Hayward at the County Council received. This advises that the clearing of the silt is the responsibility of the County Council.

P118 Hambleton Drive traffic calming; completed.

P118 Repainting "Keep Clear" on the road near Mallard Cottage, Riverside Mews; done.

P118 Emptying bins on Carrs Field; reply received from John Proud of HDC advising that this will be done.

P118 Glass in the window of the Town Clock; now fitted.

P118 Painting mileposts and roundel on Castle Garth; one quote received. Further quote(s) to be obtained.

P119 Millennium Green; John Proud of HDC is to remove the branches from the ditch. Chris Amy has been asked to tighten up the chains on the play equipment.

P119 Steads Yard; resurfacing work in progress.

P119 Parking on pavements on Picks Lane and Castlegate; reply received from Nigel Smith of NYCC advising that he will investigate both of these.

P119 Fencing alongside the public footpath near The Crescent; this has now been repaired.

P119 Interpretation Boards; these are all now in place.

P120 Seat Tenders; letters sent.

From a previous meeting: Licence for Tree Planting on Long Street; reply now received from the County Council requiring details of the type of tree we wish to plant to replace the flowering cherry tree which died. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Robinson that a pink flowering hawthorn be planted; agreed.

Cllr Marshall advised that, because of time constraints caused by the Easter weekend, it will not be possible for the minutes and other paperwork to be sent out by the due date. Therefore the agenda for the next meeting will be sent out next week by the due date and the minutes and other paperwork will follow by the end of the week.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council meeting on 3rd May is on the same day as the District and Parish Council Elections and she asked whether Members felt the meeting should go ahead on this date. Cllr Roberts suggested it be deferred. Agreed that a decision on this be deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

Correspondence

HDC – Order re Temporary Road Closure on Good Friday (6th April 2007) from 9.30 – 11.45 a.m. for the Procession of Witness; noted.

HDC – Order re Temporary Road Closure on Saturday 22nd April from 2.30 – 4.30 p.m. for the Vale of Mowbray Scouts St. George's Day Parade; noted.

NYCC re Essential Maintenance Works on A19 at the Thircon roundabout to be carried out overnight on 29th/30th March; now done.

NYCC – details re proposed Puffin Crossing near the McCarthy and Stone development, Long Street, Thirsk; noted. It was mentioned that there is still advertising signage on the McCarthy and Stone development. It was felt this had only been approved for a restricted time; to be checked.

HDC – transfer of the land at the Salem Chapel to the Town Council. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the Town Council takes on the piece of land in question on the terms outlined in the E mail from Tim Wood at HDC; agreed.

HDC – development at The Old Brewery, 93 Long Street. Letter from HDC advising that in lieu of the provision of a public open space within this development, the applicant is prepared to transfer the piece of land next to the Picnic Area. A commuted sum (still to be calculated) will be provided by the applicant for maintenance of the land. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the Town Council accepts this piece of land on the proviso that it is handed over in a tidy condition and with adequate fencing between it and the moated site; agreed.

Thirsk Community Woodlands Group enclosing plans re proposed planting at South Dowber Lane. Agreed that the congratulations and thanks of the Town Council be passed to the Woodlands Group.

HDC re Children and Young People's Play Strategy; noted.

Smith of Derby re annual service agreement for Town Clock giving details of a discount which can be applied if we commit to a Service Agreement for a period of 3, 4 and 5 years; to be looked at further as the terms outlined in the letter are not clear.

Mrs D. Miller – report of vandalism in the Picnic Area; noted.

NYCC – advising that their contribution for the grasscutting in 2007 will be £3,052.34.

Mrs Ruth Judge of Scarborough – congratulating the volunteers on the excellent job with planting in the town; a copy to be passed to Thirsk in Bloom.

Press release from Mike I'Anson advising that there is to be a litter pick of the Millennium Green and Tranmire Ditch on 14th April. It was agreed that volunteers should not go into the ditch; M. I'Anson to be advised.

NYCC re Local Bus Contracts; noted. Cllr Watson hoped that there will be low floor easy access vehicles as they say.

HDC – Street naming and numbering advising that the developer of the land at the former Salem Chapel is proposing to name the properties “Chapel House, Nursery Gardens”. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall that this be named either “Salem Chapel House” or “Salem House”; agreed

In view of the time, it was agreed that Items 7 and 8 be deferred until the next Town Council meeting.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Planning Application for works to Millgate Car Parks. Cllr Roberts explained that this will create a further 27 spaces in the car park. Some spaces will become 3 hour parking and some will remain as all day parking. There will be some all day parking in Nursery Gardens car park. Cllr Roberts advised that the Planning Committee has recommended that this be approved. Cllr Watson was concerned about how many spaces in Millgate car park will be restricted to 3 hours.

Cllr Marshall advised that she has received a request from Revd Paul Rathbone to plant willow trees on The Holmes on behalf of Christian Aid; agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16th April 2007 at 7.15 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, R. Mallett, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, J. Watson, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (away), A. Robinson (work commitments), County Cllr Dadd; accepted

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th April 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Police Report

Apologies had been received from Inspector Sanderson who did not have an officer available to attend tonight's meeting.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the mini motorbikes are back on Dowber Lane and on the field. She has asked any residents who are disturbed by these to report it to the police. The Town Council will also report it.

Reports

County Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Dadd, Cllr Adamson reported that following on from the visit of representatives of the Environment Agency to the last Town Council meeting both the Environment Agency and the County Council are denying responsibility for the silt under the bridge and Cllr Dadd is chasing both organisations regarding this. Cllr Adamson said that Cllr Dadd has requested the Town Council give consideration to paying for the lighting to be put on Castle Garth. Cllr Watson stated that she was reporting on this later on the agenda. Cllr Watson pointed out that work has now started again on the mini roundabout on Station Road and she felt it is now worse than before; to be reported to the County Council. Cllr Adamson questioned the need for a roundabout at this location.

District Councillors

Cllr Marshall advised that she had spoken to Cllr Robinson and he had nothing to report.

Cllr Adamson reported that at the last Council meeting there had been a presentation by the Cabinet spokesperson on housing. Also at that meeting there was the presentation of the long service awards, one of which was presented to Cllr Marshall who had completed 16 years as a District Councillor. Cllr Adamson reported that out of 238 district councils the amount levied by HDC was the third lowest when excluding the parish precepts and the second lowest including the parish precepts. Cllr Marshall reported that she had attended the last Council meeting at which four long service awards had been made. She was extremely proud to have represented Thirsk for 16 years. She advised that, although she is not standing for the District Council this time, she intends to keep up with other things in the town. Cllr Watson expressed thanks to Cllr Marshall and the other Members of the District Council for all their hard work. Cllr Marshall said she felt it was a great shame about the number

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of uncontested District Council seats in this year's elections and Cllr Adamson pointed out that this also applies to parish council elections.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the meeting held on 19th March 2007

P121 Signs on Hambleton Place/Drive; following the installation of the traffic calming the children's drawings are now on the signs. Cllr Marshall said that there was usually a presentation to the young people who had completed the drawings. She was not aware if this was to occur.

P122 Speed Matrix on St. James' Green; reminder sent to ACC Collins, copied to Inspector Sanderson. It was pointed out that the Hambleton Safety Partnership also has speed matrix equipment.

P122 Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau; letter of thanks for donation received.

P122 List of items requiring attention by NYCC; draft letter received from Nigel Smith giving the up to date position. This is to be checked against the list to see if all outstanding items are included. Councillors were disappointed that no timescale for works has been given.

P122 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.

P122 Parking between bollards on the grassed area at Millgate; nothing further regarding the fencing as yet. One of the bollards appears to have been hit by a vehicle.

P122 Installation of water pipe at the Cemetery; another reminder given to Martin Swift.

P122 Thirsk EngAGE project; Cllr Marshall reported that a meeting had been held on 12th April to firm up the programme that is to be published. Details of extra small events (if any) can be put out on flyers. They thanked the Town Council for their donation, most of which is being spent on publicity.

P123 Resurfacing of Steads Yard; this is almost finished. The tarmac at the end leading to Chapel Street is to be carried out on Wednesday.

P124 Richmond and Hambleton Furniture Store; letter sent asking them to come and talk to us.

P124 Revised Model Code of Conduct; no representations were received from Councillors and therefore no comments were sent in. Cllr Adamson pointed out that the revised Code comes into effect on 3rd May 2007 and therefore the new council will be bound by it.

P124 Thirsk Royal British Legion Band; letter of thanks received for the Town Council's donation which covered the cost of the Majestic Brass workshop.

P124 Uruguay; Cllr Marshall advised that the invitation to Uruguay is now for October.

P124 TRI – Thirsk and Villages Conference; Cllr Marshall drew the attention of the Council to this event which is to be held on 18th April. Cllrs Marshall and Watson, representing the Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party, are doing a display.

P009

P125 Development of the Bridge Garage site; the planning application for this is now in the Town Council Office.

P125 Extension to Millgate car park; Clive Thornton of HDC advises that they will avoid the summer months when carrying out this work. It will either be completed before the start of the summer, or, more likely, will be left until September. Concern was expressed at the length of time this has taken and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Steve Quartermain pointing out that it has taken so long, that the extra spaces are very necessary, particularly in the summer months, and asking that it be done before the peak season, avoiding Bank Holidays.

P125 Problem solving group on Castle Garth; Cllr Watson advised that it is intended to have some security lighting on Castle Garth and agreement has been reached for it

to be attached to a building. A quote has been received for the light and the group is liaising with PC Brookes as to the best type of light to have. The installation cost has been donated. It is estimated that the running cost of such a light will be around £100 per annum and Cllr Watson said the group would like to know whether the Town Council would be prepared to meet this cost. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts that the Town Council would pay the running costs of this light; agreed.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Cllr Marshall pointed out that five of the invoices listed relate to the Interpretation Boards. The Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party has approved all the payments apart from the invoice from Rany which has only recently been received and which they will agree later. However, she asked that pending this the Council approve it for payment.

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

Hollin Barn Nurseries – planting White Mare roundabout	£302.00
Thirsk Museum- sending info to Uruguay re Hannah Packer	£ 4.99
YLCA membership	£575.00
YLCA – Membership of Association of Burial Authorities	£ 65.00
York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription 2007/08	£ 35.00
Allianz Cornhill – insurance premium	£3,316.30
Mick Hancock – watering for Thirsk in Bloom	£116.00
HDC – Rates of Town Council Office, May 2007	£ 53.00
Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Room Hire, Jan-Mar 2007	£147.00
D.E. Adamson – hosting service of Town Council website	£107.97
Quality Garden Care – work to White Mare Roundabout and planters on Long Street	£140.00
Staples – stationery	£133.29
M.L. Burnett – fence repairs between The Crescent and Ingramgate (to be recovered from P. Penny, NYCC)	£314.25
C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (5.3.07.-1.4.07)	£182.80
Litter Picking in Mill Gardens, Picnic Area and Castlegarth (5.3.07.-1.4.07)	£200.00
White Mare Shrubbery	£ 80.00
Cutting beech hedge in Cemetery	£ 96.00

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Removing ramp on McCleans play area	£ 45.00
Hedging work at Favenfield	£ 45.00
Planting on Long Street	<u>£ 78.91</u>
Allsigns – Interpretation Boards	£14,100.00
Rural Arts – design fees re Interpretation Boards	£3,870.00
Alan Pratt – Interpretation Boards website	£250.00
Thirsk Museum – Advice, proof reading etc re Interpretation Bds	£187.50
J. Marshall re host service for Interpretation Boards website	£ 32.87
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, March 2007	£673.03
Aon – Insurance premium for the Millennium Green	£495.26
Thirsk Hall Farms – Herbage Agreement for Castle Garth	£120.00

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's normal practice

Paid Since last meeting

Yorkshire Water – standpipe licence fee (30.4.07.-29.10.07)	£273.95
Petty Cash	£ 45.59
BT – Internet Services	£ 77.51

Income received

HDC – contribution to Roses Yard resurfacing	£10,000.00
HDC – plaques leaflet (sale of leaflets to TIC)	£ 280.50
Thirsk Museum – plaques leaflet (sale of leaflets to Museum)	£ 34.20
Bank Interest	£ 313.41
Interest on National Savings	£ 169.98
Burial Bd: Rent	£485.37
Interments	£348.00
Grave Purchases	£348.00
Memorial	<u>£ 12.00</u>
	£ 1,193.37

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for March 2007 and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2007 (already circulated to Councillors)

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

Correspondence

NYCC – A New Council for North Yorkshire regarding the County Council's bid to become a Unitary Authority; noted. Cllr Marshall thanked those Councillors who had attended the Meeting with John Marsden of NYCC. Agreed that the question of unitary authorities be an agenda item for the June Town Council meeting.

HDC – Personal and Prejudicial Interests at Parish Council Meetings; noted.

Audit Commission – confirmation that Mazars have been appointed as external auditors for the financial year 2006/07.

Telephone call from Alan Maudsley of HDC advising that they have been approached re having a French Market on 4th May on the centre car parking spaces in the Market Place near the toilet block. Agreed that a reply be sent saying the Town Council welcome this, but is concerned about the timescale bearing in mind that Yorkshire Water are still working in that area.

From Tabled Correspondence; Cllr Roberts pointed out that HDC are holding public meetings regarding the Local Government Review in Stokesley, Northallerton and

P011

Easingwold. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC pointing out that Thirsk is the second largest conurbation in the area and requesting that such a meeting be held here.

Applications for Memorials

Property Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following applications be approved; agreed:

Grave No. F3 23	Jillian Twinn	Interred 23.11.06.
Grave No. BB 12	Derick William Marriott	Ashes interred in GOR 2.3.07.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that the Cemetery Worker is still away ill. We are still waiting for the water to be connected up in the Cemetery. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there had been a burial on the Saturday of the Easter weekend and the Clerk had been in attendance for this. Cllr Adamson assured her that had the Clerk been unable to work on that day then alternative arrangements would have been made.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

This had been circulated to Councillors and was self-explanatory. The following points were made:

Signboard on the Industrial Estate: It was pointed out that there are several 'A' boards at one of the entrances to the Industrial Estate. It was felt this could indicate the need for a sign at that entrance. HDC to be informed.

Wheeliebins on St. James' Green; Cllr Marshall has spoken to John Proud at HDC and his Enforcement Officer will be speaking to the person concerned.

Ditch leading to Millennium Green from St Mary's; Cllr Marshall had reminded John Proud that the trees have not been removed. His Enforcement Officer has written to the householder concerned and will chase it up. A Ditches Sub-Committee has been set up made up of Cllrs Hesmondhalgh, Marshall and Watson and has met. The group is first undertaking a paper search finding out the history and position HDC had taken matters before handing to the Town Council. A site walk has also been held.

Reports

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts advised that she had walked round Carrs Field and it is in quite good order. There is some rubbish, but not as much as has been the case in the past. HDC have emptied the bins. Cllr Roberts advised that she was hoping to speak to Tony Jordan as she thinks they may be a Trustee short and that such a Trustee would be a co-opted member.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson reported that there is graffiti on the seats in the bus shelter. She has had a letter from Diane Miller giving details, with photographs, of the planting/weeding etc she has done in the Picnic Area. Cllr Watson has spoken to the other members of the Committee and a letter of thanks is to be sent to Mrs Miller. Cllr Mallett said there is a large amount of rubbish, some of which is in the river and Cllr Marshall referred to some on the bank in the Moated Site; to be reported to HDC.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that the planters on Long Street are to be painted next week. Watering is also to be done next week and Cllr Pack is to go to Hollin Barn to make arrangements for the re-planting of the White Mare roundabout. She was concerned about the condition of the strip of land along Ingramgate; a letter is to be sent to Mike Armstrong at Eccles Heddon to see if we can establish ownership. Cllr Mallett referred to parking on the Little Green. He had spoken to someone who parked there and he has agreed not to do this in future. Some damage has been caused to part of the grass as a result of building works at one of the houses and the person concerned is to re-seed this area. There is an abandoned car on the parking area and this has been reported to John Proud at HDC. Chris Vincent has been E mailed about the grasscrete and this will be chased up. Cllr Roberts referred to the "No Parking" sign on The Holmes near the waterfall which, because of the fencing along the edge of The Holmes, is now unnecessary and suggested it be moved to the Little Green. Cllr Mallett asked whether the tree in front of the "Lord Nelson" could be trimmed back as it hides the pub; Cllr Pack to have a look at it. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is now a skip on The Green; a note to be put through the property occupiers' door.

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that a cleaning day including litter picking took place on the Millennium Green last Saturday. There are still logs in the ditch from St Mary's. The chains on the play equipment need tightening; C.Amy to be reminded. Cllr Marshall mentioned that quite a number of young people came and helped with the litter pick and a lot of rubbish was collected. Cllr Adamson thanked Mrs Sue Dodds and Mrs Kath Reynard who cleared the East Thirsk Play Area.

Town Development Working Party

Nothing to report.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that there have been several meetings and several walk rounds. Items from the RoSPA Report have been attended to. The play equipment on the McCleans play area has been damaged and Playdale have been asked to attend to this; they will be chased up. Following the re-arrangement of work in the Town Council Office Julie Harron is now looking after Open Areas and Cllr Marshall and Julie Harron had had a walk round.

Cllr Marshall advised that there is a meeting of the East Thirsk Problem Solving Group tomorrow evening. Cllr Marshall, together with Cllr Mallett, had attended the first meeting and Cllr Marshall had been concerned at how the police had approached the meeting. She pointed out that it was the Town Council who had asked for the problem solving group to be set up and they were then castigated for having a run down play area. Cllr Marshall advised that we have a work programme for the play area, but this had been deferred awaiting the outcome of the problem solving group. There had been comments about the fact that there is a dog bin in the play area, but Cllr Marshall pointed out that this is a poop scoop area and therefore a dog bin is required. Cllr Marshall advised that Mike I'Anson was at the meeting as a representative of the Millennium Green and he has drawn up a strategy for dealing with young people and the problem of movement. It had been suggested that the bridge from the Millennium Green be closed, but Cllr Marshall pointed out that this is a safe passage to school for children and is also used by other people.

Cllrs Hesmondhalgh and Pack had attended the second meeting and Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that Broadacres have agreed to fence the side of the play area where the new houses are and it was queried whether the Town Council would fence alongside the ditch and the Millennium Green. The police have asked whether the swings could be removed as youths are congregating on them and throwing stones at houses. However, it was felt that to remove the swings would penalise young children. The police say funding is available for a new play area and a play equipment company has drawn up a plan – the cost of this being £100K. The police feel that three lights are required to light the play area; Cllr Hesmondhalgh has spoken to the HDC Planning Department and the Lighting Department and they suggest we ask whether Broadacres would supply a light. Cllr Roberts pointed out that when the play area was built we went to the school and asked the children what they would like and she felt that if the play area is to be changed then we should go back to the school again and ask the children. Cllr Adamson expressed the view that the neighbouring residents' lives are being adversely affected by the East Thirsk Play Area and said that Broadacres have an obligation to mitigate nuisance to their tenants. Cllr Marshall pointed out that when Broadacres submitted the planning application for the new houses next to the East Thirsk Play Area the Town Council commented that they would not wish to see complaints from residents of these new properties about the play area. Cllr Hesmondhalgh said the police are concerned that there are so many ways out of the play area for youths to get away from them. Cllr Marshall suggested we deal with fencing alongside the ditch and the Millennium Green. It is possible we could use the same contractor as Broadacres if we think they are suitable. The fencing to be financed from the Picks Lane development monies. The fencing would hopefully cure the “starburst” effect of youths escaping. Cllr Adamson said he was happy to go ahead with the fencing as a start. Cllr Marshall stated that £100K was more than the Town Council precept for the new financial year. Cllr Watson pointed out that from the Castle Garth Problem Solving Group a Neighbourhood Watch group was formed.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the County Area Committee for Hambleton meeting today. The possibility of a bridge at the “Black Swan” crossing on the A19 was discussed and this has gone out to consultation. It is hoped it will be in place in twelve months.

Cllr Morton advised that he had attended a meeting of the Swimming Pool Trustees. One or two items are to be taken up with the Flatts Trust.

Members

Cllr Roberts referred to the insurance schedule asking that we take out the additional cover to increase the age limit for Personal Injury cover. Cllr Marshall felt the insurance schedule should go to the Finance Committee.

Cllr Mallett advised that he passed through the town on Friday evening at 9.45 p.m. and there was no-one about.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that some time ago a Risk Assessment of the Town Council Office was carried out and the results of this were passed to the Chairman of the Town Office Committee; Cllr Morton to look at this. Cllr Marshall referred to the

Town Council's old computer which is no longer in use; Cllr Morton suggested that it be sent to Africa – details of how to do this are to be obtained.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Interpretation Boards are now in place, the leaflet has been done and the postcards have also been produced. The website is now up and running. An event is to be held and there will be a press release put out.

Referring to the Entrances, Cllr Marshall said that some litter clearing has been done by HDC on York Road and the County Council have come up with some ideas for doing work.

Cllr Marshall advised that since the Town Council agreed to take over the Sensory Garden at the Salem Chapel site the working party has now met. A garden design is to be drawn up and it is hoped to get people with a disability involved.

Referring to Thirsk Festival, Cllr Marshall said that Geraint Williams is drawing up a programme and he will come and talk to the Town Council if Members wish. Agreed we ask him to come to a Thursday Town Council meeting.

Cllr Marshall drew attention to the fact that the next Town Council meeting coincides with the District and Parish Council Elections. It was agreed that the meeting be changed to Tuesday 1st May.

Cllr Marshall referred to the finger posts and asked whether the Town Council would be prepared to take them over. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett that we should do so.

Cllr Adamson advised that at the Area Committee meeting held earlier today it had been mentioned that there is European funding available and this is being investigated to see if it can be used for flood alleviation.

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

Four tenders had been received for footpath works on The Holmes, East Thirsk Play Area and the Millennium Green. Each tenderer had itemised all the works separately. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that Tender 3 be accepted; agreed. It was revealed that Tender 3 was submitted by Biker Contracts. Decisions on which footpaths to do to be decided later.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

**Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Tuesday 1st May 2007
at 7.30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Thirsk Regeneration Initiative,
49B Market Place, Thirsk**

Present: Councillors J. Marshall (Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, J. Watson, Geraint Williams (Thirsk Regeneration Initiative), PC D. Pears (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (away), R. Mallett (another commitment); accepted

Talk by Geraint Williams re Thirsk Festival

Mr Williams outlined details of the 2007 Festival, plans for which are close to completion. The Gala Day which starts the Festival is to be held in the Market Place and the launch will be at 10.00 a.m. on 1st July. The programme is to be circulated during the first week of May, ten thousand of these will be distributed to homes and others will be available in different venues during the last week of May. Festival Day events will include a vintage vehicle rally, market stalls, a European market, charity stalls, bouncy castle. There will be entertainment on stage by local bands, choirs etc. and this will be sponsored by Northallerton FM radio station. There is also the possibility of a skateboard park on the area near Barclays Bank but this is dependent on space being available. The Festival coincides with the 85th anniversary of the British Legion and they will be having a parade through the town from 12.00 noon. The Festival will conclude with an evening picnic in the park in the grounds of Thirsk Hall on 14th July and there will then be an exhibition from 14th-29th July.

Mr Williams advised that a financial report has been drawn up. A new website has been set up, supported by Severfield Reeve and it is hoped that that will raise funds for future Festivals. Mr Williams pointed out that by having the Festival in the Market Place rather than on the Sowerby Flatts there is much more involvement with the business community in the town. He pointed out that the various events within the Festival could be split at a later date in order to have, for instance, a Music Festival, Art Festival, Beer Festival etc at different times during the year and thus Thirsk could become a "Festival Town".

Mr Williams advised that there is no money available for new banners for the lampposts and funding for this is being sought.

Mr Williams asked for the Town Council's view on having wrestling in the Town Hall as he had been approached by an organisation wanting to hold this on 7th July. PC Pears said the type of wrestling proposed is entertaining and appeals to young people. The Town Council had no objections to this, but it was felt that it should go to the Town Hall Committee

Cllr Adamson asked about road closures with particular reference to the number of vehicles which go through the town on a Sunday. Mr Williams confirmed that Millgate will not be closed.

Cllr Watson asked whether a Risk Assessment had been done and Mr Williams said this is being done at the moment. Each individual event will have to have its own insurance cover and the Thirsk Events Group also have some cover. Cllr Watson mentioned the taxi rank and Mr Williams said he is aware that the taxis and the Moorsbus have to be accommodated within the Market Place. There is to be no provision for extra car parking.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh felt that there is something for every age group in the programme. Cllr Robinson pointed out that there are pieces of land which are owned by the Town Council which could possibly be used by the Festival in future years.

Open Forum

PC Pears advised that, following the concerns raised about speeding on St. James' Green, the speed matrix has been used there and the results are awaited. He explained that this collects data which then establishes whether there is a problem with speeding vehicles. Once this information is available a decision on what action needs to be taken will be made. PC Pears pointed out that there are now police bicycles and some police are cycling around the town. PC Pears advised that over the next two months there is to be a campaign on Friday and Saturday evenings to deal with nuisance youths and antisocial behaviour. Thirsk Clock has appointed Becky Baxter who is a personal advisor dealing with alcohol abuse and PC Pears will be working with her. Cllr Morton suggested that speed checks be carried out at the Norby entrance to the town and Cllr Marshall suggested the Stockton Road/Long Street approach to Thirsk should also have speed checks carried out. PC Pears advised that they are still moving forward with an on street drinking ban. Cllr Robinson expressed his concern that when the ban on smoking in public places comes into effect this will encourage people to stand outside pubs drinking and smoking. PC Pears said this is one of the reasons for trying to bring in an on street drinking ban, although he pointed out that all the pubs in the Market Place have beer gardens.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 5th April 2007

P001 CCTV camera; Cllr Watson advised that she had spoken to Mrs Penson and had told her that she would be happy to help with a problem solving group for Mill Gardens if they would like one. Cllr Watson to speak to PC Kevin Brookes. Agreed that a letter supporting the request of the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group for a CCTV camera be sent to HDC.

P002 Request for a public meeting with the police; reply received from Inspector Sanderson advising that Sgt Frank is organising an Initial Problem Solving Group with Cllr Marshall and this group will extend to include all the relevant key individuals who play a part in making Thirsk a safer place. This Group should be in place within the next few weeks and Inspector Sanderson suggests that a public meeting be held after this Problem Solving Group has been formed. Cllr Marshall advised that she had met with Sgt Frank to look at who should be invited to the first of the public meetings.

P003 Branches in the river; these have now been cleared by the Environment Agency.

P004 Developments in flood risk areas; reply awaited from HDC.

P004 Wheeliebins on St. James Green; the wheeliebins are still there.

P004 Drain next to the bus shelter; letter sent to Steve Quartermain with a copy to Dave McGloin at HDC.

P004 Yorkshire Water work in the Market Place; this is almost finished – the caging is to be removed tomorrow and the Town Council's seat put back in place.

P004 Meeting with Stan Roocroft of York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association; still awaiting his letter confirming his recommendations that The Holmes play area should not be fenced off from the river; a reminder to be sent to him.

P004 Crack Willows on the river bank opposite Riverside Mews; still trying to establish ownership.

P004 Steads Yard; resurfacing work finished. There is a problem with ponding on the tarmac on the part leading up to Chapel Street. This has been reported to Bikers and they are to sort it out.

P004 Opening times of the public conveniences; reply received from Dave McGloin at HDC advising that the provision of toilets is not a statutory service and they consider that these are more important as part of the daytime economy than the evening economy when pubs and restaurants which have toilets are open. Mr McGloin does not feel it is appropriate to refer the issue back to Cabinet, but will copy the Town Council's letter to the Leader. Cllr Roberts felt the Town Council should look again at taking over responsibility for the toilets, but Cllr Robinson felt the maintenance costs of this would be prohibitive. The lack of cleanliness of the Market Place toilets was also an issue and it was agreed that copies of all the Town Council's letters concerning the state of the toilets be sent to Cllr Arthur Barker asking for his comments.

P004 List of outstanding items given to the County Council; this had been dealt with at the last meeting Cllr Marshall pointed out that in the letter received from Nigel Smith there had been no comments about the painting of the bollards on Long Street which were to have been painted by NYCC as part of the Long Street Enhancement Scheme.

P004 Painting mileposts and roundel on Castle Garth; quotes being obtained.

P004 Millennium Green; Cllr Marshall advised that John Proud had sent his Enforcement Officer to see the householder in question, but there is no proof of who was responsible for putting the branches in the ditch. The chains on the play equipment have not yet been tightened up; Chris Amy to be reminded of this.

P004 Fencing alongside the public footpath near The Crescent; reimbursement of the cost of the repairs has now been received from NYCC.

P004 Seat Tenders; dealt with at a previous meeting and C. Amy appointed.

P005 Licence for tree planting on Long Street; advised NYCC that we would like to plant a pink flowering hawthorn tree – acknowledgement received.

P005 Advertising signage on the McCarthy and Stone development; the signage was granted for one year from 6th July 2004 and was recommended for approval by the Town Council on condition that it was removed once the development was complete. An E mail has been sent to the Planning Enforcement Officer at HDC.

P005 Transfer of land at the Salem Chapel to the Town Council; E mail sent to HDC advising that the Town Council will take on the piece of land and acknowledgement received.

P005 Development at The Old Brewery, 93 Long Street; E mail sent to HDC advising that the Town Council will take on the piece of land between the Picnic Area and the Moated Site on condition that when it is handed over it is in a tidy condition with adequate fencing between it and the Moated Site – acknowledgement received.

P005 Planting at South Dowber Lane; thanks sent to the Thirsk Woodlands Group.

P005 Smith of Derby re annual service agreement for the Town Clock; their proposals to be looked at in greater detail.

P005 Letter from Mrs Ruth Judge of Scarborough re planting in the town; copy sent to Mrs Reynard for Thirsk in Bloom.

P006 Litter pick of the Millennium Green; Advised M. I'Anson that we would not wish volunteers to go in the ditch.

P006 Local Bus Contracts; comment sent in that it is hoped the vehicles will have low floor easy access.

P006 Naming of the development on land at the former Salem Chapel; reply received from HDC advising that this is to be named "1-6 Salem House, Nursery Gardens".

Correspondence

St. Mary's Church; letter of thanks for maintaining the churchyard in such a good state. Agreed that this be passed to HDC as they are responsible for this.

Thirsk Skaters Steering Group; asking if they can give a presentation to the Town Council putting forward their views for a new skatepark. Agreed that they be invited to a Thursday Town Council meeting.

Yorkshire Water; following their work in the Market Place they would like to give something and they suggest a bench or planters/hanging baskets. Agreed that this be an agenda item for the meeting on 7th June.

Thirsk Hall Estates; Annual Herbage Agreement for Castle Garth with effect from 1st January 2007. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Watson that this be signed; agreed.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Marshall referred to a survey which had been received from QA Consultants. She explained that Hambleton, along with Richmondshire and Selby have engaged a firm of consultants who have invited us to give our views of play provision across the district in order that a strategy can be drawn up. This will then enable the authorities to access Big Lottery monies. Agreed that this be referred to the Open Spaces Committee.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

This had been circulated to Councillors. No particular comments were made.

Reports

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts had nothing to report. She is following up various items with Tony Jordan.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that she had spoken to Mrs Diane Miller who is doing work in the Picnic Area. She had advised Mrs Miller that she is happy for her to buy any plants she needs for this and they can be charged to the Town Council.

Christmas Festivities

Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that she had looked at the Greens. On the Little Green near Todds Court no grass is growing through the Plascrete. She will monitor the parking there. The wheeliebins are still on the Green. The planters on Long Street should be painted this Saturday. Cllr Pack has been to Hollin Barn and the White Mare roundabout is to be tidied up and bedding plants will then be put in at the appropriate time. Referring to the Plascrete, Cllr Adamson suggested that pieces of turf be put in rather than grass

seed. Concern was expressed that we had contacted Chris Vincent some considerable time ago about this and had received no reply. Agreed that a letter be sent to Steve Quartermain.

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had walked round the Millennium Green and it is very clean. There are still branches in the ditch. The Millennium Green Trust has decided not to go ahead with the quotes received for resurfacing the paths as the cost is too high.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that it is necessary to have a meeting to look at the quotes for the paths at East Thirsk Play Area and on The Holmes. Another meeting of the East Thirsk Problem Solving Group has been held at which Broadacres have agreed that they will pay for the fencing next to the road and the Town Council will renew some of its fencing, possibly using the same contractors. A site meeting is to be held with the contractor next Tuesday and he will then come up with some suggestions. Cllr Hesmondhalgh felt some more bushes should be planted between the play area and the school. Cllr Marshall advised that we are writing to HDC requesting permission to divert some of the Section 106 Agreement monies for Picks Lane from surfacing at East Thirsk to fencing there. Cllr Pack asked about the play equipment at Allerdale Close and Cllr Marshall advised that an order has been placed for a new ramp and rope. Cllr Robinson asked about the tree which was cut down on The Holmes; agreed that the brash be cleared away and the tree secured in place for children to play in. Cllr Adamson reminded the Open Areas Committee that there are currently two seats in the Cemetery shed; Cllr Marshall to look at the condition of these.

Other Items of Interest and Information

It was mentioned that the drain on Kirkgate near Electroworld needs clearing out; to be reported.

Cllr Watson referred to the planters on top of the bus shelter where all the plants have died. The Clerk had spoken to Mrs Reynard about these and she has advised that they are to be taken down.

Cllr Robinson expressed concern that the French Market planned for 4th May in the Market Place has not been very well advertised.

Cllr Morton advised that he would not wish to see solar lights in the Cemetery. The Burial Board will look at this.

Cllr Marshall expressed concern at the rubbish etc on the Industrial Estate. Agreed that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive at HDC. It was mentioned that there is no planning consent for the waste transfer station there.

Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting had been held re the Sensory Garden at the Salem Chapel site and the working party is to visit Henshaws School for the Blind at Knaresborough.

Cllr Marshall advised that the Ditches Committee is getting a file together and will then meet. The grille is not on anyone's deeds.

Cllr Marshall advised that Thirsk EngAGE is progressing and leaflets about the events available are now out.

Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack advised that there had been a problem with watering. Mick Hancock has now finished and Sally Billany is taking it on. They are moving towards replanting for the summer.

The meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.

**Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting
of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday 21st May 2007 at 7.00 p.m.
in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe**

Present:

Cllrs J. Marshall (Chair), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, R. Mallett, B. Ogleby, C.M. Pack, F.M. Roberts, A. Robinson, J. Watson, PC Duncan Pears (North Yorkshire Police), I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”) and the Clerk

Apologies:

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

Cllr Marshall welcomed all Councillors to the meeting, in particular Cllr Ogleby to his first meeting.

Election of Chairman

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that Cllr Watson be elected Chairman; agreed. Cllr Watson accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book.

Cllr Marshall thanked all Councillors for their support during her term of Office. Cllr Mallett thanked Cllr Marshall for all her hard work.

Election of Vice Chairman

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that Cllr Adamson be elected Vice Chairman. Cllr Marshall made a counter proposal that Cllr Pack be elected Vice Chairman, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh and this was carried. Cllr Pack accepted the position.

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting, held on 15th May 2006

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall; 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 Marshall pointed out that the Thirsk Map Committee can be wound up.

Cllr Roberts enquired about the Thirsk Infants School Charitable Trust and asked whether this also covers Sowerby; Cllr Marshall confirmed this is the case.

Committee Reports

The Committee Reports had been copied to Councillors.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Marshall that both the Committee and the Representatives’ Reports be accepted.

Election of Committee Representatives

The Committee Representatives were duly appointed.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 21st May 2007 in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe following the Annual Town Council Meeting

Present: Cllrs J Watson (Chair), D. Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, R Mallett, J Marshall, B Ogleby, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, PC Duncan Pears (NY Police), I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”) and the Clerk

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

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that Item 3 be dealt with before Item 2; agreed.

Police Report

PC Pears advised that the current crime trend is purse snatching in the town, particularly on market days. It is thought this is being done by organised criminals travelling around the North East. Posters warning people of this have been put up in some of the shops to raise people’s awareness. PC Pears advised that the police are continuing with their blitzes in the town on Friday and Saturday nights. He said the last race day was very busy. Cllr Mallett pointed out that the race meetings are now only policed by the racecourse security people who do not monitor the drinking. Cllr Marshall advised that she has had a complaint about motor bikes on South Dowber Lane and the field. PC Pears advised that this can be controlled if they are on the bridle path, but not if they are in the field. However, the police are aware of the problem. Cllr Mallett said that motorists are going at high speeds down Cemetery Lane from Newsham Road. Cllr Ogleby pointed out that there had been a fracas last Monday near the Town Clock; PC Pears said the police had attended. Cllr Watson advised that people are riding electric buggies on the cycle path on Station Road, but going the wrong way; PC Pears felt the people concerned need to be warned.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st May 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

Reports

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that he had made representations to Cabinet re kerbside waste collections and recycling and 96% of households in Hambleton will be included in this by September with 100% of households within six months of that. There are currently traffic lights on Station Road and the roundabout is being moved. A site meeting consisting of representatives of the Town Council, Sowerby Parish Council and Carlton Miniott Parish Council will be held when this has been done. The signs for the Thirsk Furniture Trail will be in place by July. Cllr Dadd referred to the recent temporary closure of Finkle Street whilst works were carried out by utility companies. He said he gave support to the Officers’ decision to go ahead with this as it was necessary work even though Blakey Bridge was closed unexpectedly because of damage to the bridge. Cllr Mallett said that on some occasions roads have been kept closed after contractors have finished the job; he will let Cllr Dadd know of any such instances. Cllr Dadd felt it was necessary to find a sustainable solution to the problem

of Blakey Bridge being damaged by vehicles. It was mentioned that the yellow box junction at the end of St. Mary's was put in today. Referring to the move of the roundabout on Station Road, Cllr Robinson queried who is meeting the cost of this and Cllr Dadd advised that it is the responsibility of the developers. Cllr Marshall asked what is happening re Cherry Garth and Cllr Dadd said this is still in the course of negotiation with all the stakeholders. He stressed that Cherry Garth will not close until there is a new facility nearby. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this has now been going on for a very long time and asked that a decision be made as it is causing uncertainty.

District Council

Cllr Robinson advised that HDC had held its annual meeting and Cllr Margaret Skillbeck is the new Chairman with Cllr David Murkett as Vice Chairman. The names of some of the Scrutiny Committees have now changed and the Planning Committee has been reduced from 20 to 13. There are slight differences about how Section 106 monies can be used. Cllr Marshall asked for an assurance that Section 106 play money is safeguarded. Cllr Robinson advised that he had spoken to Steve Quartermain who had said such alterations would not make a great deal of difference. Cllr Adamson gave details of the Committees he now serves on; no meetings of these have been held as yet.

Cllr Dadd left the meeting

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 16th April 2007

P008 Speed Matrix on St. James' Green; the speed matrix has now been used on St. James' Green.

P008 Request by Ladies' Chamber of Trade to put Christmas lights on the toilet block in the Market Place; enquiries have been made and the Ladies' Chamber are suggesting putting a string of lights around the toilet block. HDC to be asked for consent.

P008 Parking between the bollards on the grassed area at Millgate; nothing further regarding the fencing as yet.

P008 Installation of water pipe at the Cemetery; another firm has now been asked to look at connecting up the water supply. They feel it would be better to connect it to the tap behind the gate and a price for digging a channel and running pipework to there is being obtained.

P008 Resurfacing of Steads Yard; now finished.

P008 Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store; a representative from there is to come to the Town Council Meeting on 16th July.

P008 Revised Model Code of Conduct; included in "Correspondence".

P008 List of items requiring attention by NYCC; Cllr Marshall pointed out that at the last Town Council meeting it had been mentioned that the work to the bollards had not been included in the reply received from Nigel Smith of NYCC. A letter to be sent to NYCC, with a copy to Cllr Dadd, requesting details of the timescale of the works.

P009 Extension to Millgate car park; letter sent to Steve Quartermain at HDC, but no reply as yet.

P010 French Market on 4th May; this had been held.

P010 Local Government Review; letter sent to Cllr Arthur Barker at HDC asking for a public meeting to be held in Thirsk, but no reply received.

P011 Signboard on the Industrial Estate; letter sent to HDC about the number of 'A' boards at one of the entrances to the Industrial Estate.

P011 Carrs Field; 'E' mail sent to Tony Jordan asking for details of the Trustees of Carrs Field; acknowledgement received.

P011 Central Areas; rubbish, some of which is in the river and some on the bank in the moated site, has been reported to HDC. A letter of thanks has been sent to Mrs Diane Miller for all her work in the Picnic Area.

P012 Greens and Ingramgate; letter to be sent to Mike Armstrong at Eccles Haddon to try and establish ownership of the strip of land along Ingramgate. A letter was sent to the house which has a skip on the Green and a telephone call has been received from the owners of the house apologising for this and saying the skip will be gone by the end of this week. Cllr Pack advised that the planters on Long Street have not been painted as yet.

P012 Millennium Green; Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that at a site meeting at the East Thirsk Play Area someone mentioned that they had seen someone putting logs in the ditch and they have been asked to contact John Proud.

P013 Personal Injury insurance cover; the Clerk has spoken to the insurers regarding additional cover for Councillors over the standard age limit. They require various details of the Councillor(s) concerned together with a letter from the doctor. Cllr Morton will deal with this on his return.

P013 Risk Assessment of the Town Council Office; the PAT testing is to be carried out on Friday 25th May 2007. Details of who to contact regarding sending the old computer to Africa are being obtained.

P014 Finger Posts; these have now been taken on by the Town Council and have been added to the insurance schedule.

P104 Footpath Works; appropriate letters sent to the various people who tendered. Cllr Marshall advised that at a recent meeting of the Open Areas Committee it had been agreed to go ahead with the footpath on The Holmes and East Thirsk.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Marshall that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

F D Todd & Sons Ltd – skip hire, Millennium Green and Cemetery	£266.03
Npower – Office electricity	£303.42
Fox's Copy Centre – photocopying etc	£ 64.18
C.E. and C.M. Walker – grasscutting, 3 rd and 18 th April 2007	£1,482.85
Cod Beck Internal Drainage Board – drainage rates	£ 27.50
D. Connelly – Office window cleaning (4 cleans)	£ 26.00
F. Roberts – reimbursement for purchase of letter weigh machine	£ 30.00
C.A. Amy: Play Areas inspection	£228.50
Litter picking	£250.00
Reducing cherry tree on St. James Green	£100.00

Holmes Tree Management	<u>£1,075.00</u>	£1,653.50
Hambleton District Council – Rates, June 2007		£ 53.00
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, April 2007		£510.68
R. Bennett – cleaning bus shelter		£ 80.00
Petty Cash		£ 42.10

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Council's normal practice

Income received

Precept		£43,000.00
VAT refund (1.1.07.-31.3.07.)		£ 8,586.43
NYCC – contribution to resurfacing of Steads Yard		£12,000.00
HDC – contribution to resurfacing of Steads Yard		£ 2,832.00
Burial Board:		
Rent	£485.37	
Interments	£406.00	
Memorials	£ 41.00	
War Graves	£ 10.58	
Bank Interest	<u>£102.53</u>	£1,045.48

Monthly balance sheet and budget report for April 2007

These had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that they be approved; agreed.

Renewal of the Lease of the Town Council Office

A letter had been received from HDC advising that, following the expiry of the current Lease on 31st May 2007, they are prepared to grant the Town Council a new five year Lease on the same terms as at present, but at an increased rent of £3,500 per annum. The current rent is £2,250 and the Clerk had contacted HDC suggesting that it be increased in two stages to £2,875 for the first year of the term and then to £3,500 for the following four years, thus achieving a saving of £625. HDC have indicated that they are prepared to accept this. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we proceed with a new Lease on these terms; agreed.

Correspondence

NYCC re temporary road closure on 1st July for the Thirsk Festival; noted Hambleton Over Fifties Forum re a Unitary Authority for North Yorkshire expressing the view that meetings regarding this should be arranged. Cllr Robinson felt this was the responsibility of HDC and NYCC rather than the Town Council. He pointed out that Government has not consulted the public on this and the Town Council are simply consultees. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC.

Communities and Local Government Department enclosing a copy of the Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct. Cllr Adamson pointed out that we have until 1st October to adopt this and we also need to pass a resolution to include paragraph 12(2) which deals with the effect of prejudicial interests on participation at meetings, as this is not mandatory for parish councils. Agreed that this be an agenda item at the meeting on 17th June.

The Standards Board for England re the new Code of Conduct; noted

HDC – Appointment of Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee, advising that Councillors June Imeson of Great Ayton Parish Council and John Alan Follett of Sandhutton Parish Council have been nominated onto the HDC Standards Committee.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Roberts referred to the leaflet from the YLCA on training courses for Councillors. Anyone wishing to attend was asked to let the Clerk know.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

No applications received.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended the Hambleton YLCA AGM last Wednesday. Cllr Blackwell is still Chairman and Councillor Starkey is Vice Chairman. Cllr Roberts is still the representative on the Joint Executive Board. Cllr Mallett reported that he had attended a meeting of the East Thirsk Community Association. They are talking about doing some work to the Hall and Cllr Mallett felt the Hall should be better publicised in order to get more lettings.

Members

Cllr Marshall advised that, as Mayor, she had attended a function at RAF Leeming last Thursday where there was a flypast.

Cllr Mallett referred to the problem with the toilets now closing early. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC asking them to keep the toilets open later on racedays.

Cllr Marshall advised that a concluding event to mark the implementation of the Interpretation Boards is to be held sometime in June, on a date to be arranged. The final part of the grant for the Boards has been received. A website has been set up and Cllr Marshall suggested that the Town Council website be linked to it; Cllr Adamson agreed to do this.

Cllr Robinson asked Cllr Adamson about the grant that Thirsk Clock Café has received from Children in Need. Cllr Adamson to find out details of what this is to be used for and to report back to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 7th June 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, R. Mallett, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (away), J. Marshall (away); accepted.

Open Forum

No members of the police or public present.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1st May 2007

P016 CCTV camera; letter sent to HDC and copied to the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group supporting the request of the Group for a CCTV camera on the corner of Millgate and Riverside Mews.

P016 Request for a public meeting with the police; nothing further on this. Cllr Watson advised that a problem solving meeting had been held; she had attended this together with Cllr Marshall. Sgts Ben Frank and Frances Hannon had been in attendance along with several members of the public. The meeting had drawn up a list of what are perceived to be the main problems and they will be going back to the next meeting (end June/early July) and will then decide whether the meeting should be widened to include other people. Cllr Adamson expressed his disappointment that the on street drinking ban has not been given a chance first and then see what problems remain and said he will support the request for such a ban at Cabinet.

P016 Developments in flood risk areas; reply received from Tim Wood at HDC advising that flooding issues are a high priority. Advice is taken from the Environment Agency when planning applications in high risk areas are submitted and developers are required to prepare a Flood Risk Assessment for schemes in such areas.

P016 Wheeliebins on St. James’ Green; these appear to be on the Green at some times and moved away at others.

P016 Drain next to the bus shelter; reply received from Clive Thornton at HDC advising that he has not be able to locate a grate which offers significantly better protection from rubbish and in the short term he is to install a mesh to prevent large debris entering the gully. It was noted that the mesh is now in place. Agreed that a letter be sent thanking him for installing the mesh and saying that we hope he will continue his search for something more suitable.

P016 Yorkshire Water work in the Market Place; this is now completed and the Town Council’s seat is back in place.

P017 Meeting with Stan Roocroft of York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association; ‘E’ mail now received confirming his view that fencing off the play area on The Holmes would have an adverse visual effect and the design of the site does not lend itself to an affordable fencing plan. Mr Roocroft also makes the point that because of the situation of the play area, ie across a main road, children have to be

accompanied and there is adequate nearby seating for parents to supervise their children. Should the Town Council's regular inspections identify any bank erosion then it may be necessary at some time in the future to move the parallel bars unit closer to the pathway.

P017 Crack Willows on the river bank opposite Riverside Mews; it has not been possible to identify the owner of these trees. The Clerk has spoken to a representative of the Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group and they are obtaining a quote for trimming the trees in question.

P017 Steads Yard; work to solve the problem of ponding near the Chapel Street entrance was being carried out today.

P017 Opening times of the public conveniences; letter sent to Cllr Arthur Barker regarding the lack of cleanliness of the Market Place toilets.

P017 Painting mileposts and roundel on Castle Garth; some quotes have been obtained and some further ones are awaited.

P017 Millennium Green; Chris Amy has been reminded about tightening up the chains on the play equipment. Some vandalism has occurred to the play equipment and Playdale are coming on 18th June to carry out repairs.

P017 Licence for tree planting on Long Street; consent to plant a pink flowering hawthorn has now been received from NYCC. They have sent an Agreement for the Chairman to sign.

P017 Advertising signage on the McCarthy and Stone development; 'E' mail sent to the Planning Enforcement Officer at HDC and reply awaited. Cllr Adamson pointed out that there is now some more signage advertising Phase 2 of the development.

P017 Smith of Derby re annual service agreement of the Town Clock; not yet considered.

P018 St. Mary's Church re grasscutting in the churchyard; letter passed to HDC and reply advising of this sent to the Secretary of the PCC.

P018 Thirsk Skaters Steering Group; reply received advising that they will come to the meeting on 5th July. They are preparing a short video and will bring this together with the necessary equipment.

P018 Yorkshire Water offer; agenda item for later in the meeting.

P018 Annual Herbage Agreement for Castle Garth; signed and returned to Thirsk Hall Estates.

P018 Greens and Ingramgate; letter not sent to Steve Quartermain at HDC advising that we have received no reply to our requests to Chris Vincent as this has been superseded by a site meeting.

P019 Open Areas; request sent to HDC asking for permission to divert some of the Section 106 Agreement monies for Picks Lane from surfacing to fencing at East Thirsk and consent for this received. Chris Amy has been asked to secure the cut down tree on The Holmes for children to play in and to remove the brush.

P019 Drain near Electroworld on Kirkgate; reported.

P019 Planters on top of the bus shelter; now replanted.

P019 Rubbish on the Industrial Estate; letter sent to Peter Simpson at HDC.

P020 Watering for Thirsk in Bloom; Sally Billany is now doing this.

Correspondence

NYCC Biodiversity Action Group; offering, with the assistance of the Thirsk Woodlands Group, to remove the Himalayan Balsam on The Holmes. A reply had

been sent agreeing to this. The Clerk had then received a telephone call from the Environment Agency saying they have been asked by NYCC to remove the Himalayan Balsam and are proposing to spray it. However, it is understood from Mike I'Anson that the Thirsk Woodlands Group are still prepared to remove it. Agreed we advise the Environment Agency that we do not wish it to be sprayed and that the Thirsk Woodlands Group should go ahead and remove it.

Sessay Parish Council – request for consent to hold a duck race in September 2007. No objections in principle, but Sessay Parish Council to be asked whether this is a fund raiser. John Bell's consent to be sought.

Mr A Delderfield; request to have a skip on St. James' Green from 11th to 15th June whilst remedial works are carried out to his property. Agreed that he be allowed to have the skip there for this period only.

NYCC referring to an enclosed letter concerning the grass verge at 1 Byland Avenue – however the letter was not enclosed. A copy has been requested and it was agreed that the appropriate action be taken when the letter arrives

George Wimpey re development scheme and drainage issues re the former NYCC Norby Depot enclosing a plan of the proposed drainage from the site of the former Norby Depot prior to housing development taking place on the site. The Clerk advised that she had met with the Drainage Engineer from Wimpey who had explained that they are proposing to install large drains with valves which will store the water on site and release it gradually. There should therefore be less run off from the site that there is at present. Cllr Roberts queried whether they had considered using soakaways. Cllr Morton felt it would be better to take the pipework straight across the road rather than running it along the road as this will cause traffic hold-ups whilst the work is taking place. Cllr Adamson pointed out the reason for doing it there is because upstream the water is slow flowing and not very deep whereas running it to where they suggest will allow the surface water to dissipate quicker. He also said that if the site is clay then soakaways will not work. Agreed that there was no objection in principle to the proposed drainage, but the comment to be made that we would like to see traffic disruption kept to a minimum and access to all properties retained whilst the work is taking place. The question of whether there is a quicker way of doing this, eg taking the pipework straight across the road, to be asked.

Offer from Yorkshire Water for an item(s) as a contribution following the work in the Market Place

Cllr Marshall had left a message suggesting an item for the Sensory Garden at the Salem Chapel site and Cllr Hesmondhalgh said such an item could be a statue, a water feature or lighting. Cllr Mallett suggested plaques in Braille in the Sensory Garden. Cllr Watson suggested nameplates for some or all of the alleyways. Agreed that these suggestions be put to Yorkshire Water, with the nameplates for the alleyways being our preferred option.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

This had been sent to Councillors and the various updates were noted. Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that there is barbed wire on the fence of a property alongside the Millennium Green footpath; Peter Penny to be contacted. The broken bollard on the corner of Pinfold Place was mentioned; agreed that Malcolm Burnett be asked to cut it off and take away.

Reports

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts had nothing to report.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson was disappointed that it had been necessary for her to cancel the meeting on 5th June because none of the Committee Members was available; she would be obliged if they could attend the meeting on 24th July. Cllr Watson had had a meeting with Chris Amy re Mill Gardens and has asked that he allocate a certain number of hours a week to working in Mill Gardens. He is going to trim some of the shrubs and the ivy.

Christmas Festivities

Cllr Adamson said that in the next month or so he will be ordering the lights to double the number of lights on the Christmas tree. Cllr Mallett advised that he had attended the Thirsk Business Association meeting and they were talking about Christmas. He had advised them that they will need to contact the Town Council about their intentions for the Christmas Fair.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that the beds on the White Mare Roundabout have been planted up today. The centre of it is still to be done and this will be cleared by Monday. The planters on Long Street should be painted next week. Cllr Adamson advised that the pebbles from The Green are still on the roadway. Another load of gravel to fill in holes on The Green was ordered some considerable time ago; to be chased up, but this will not solve the problem of the stones going onto the roadway. Cllr Mallett suggested we look at putting a “hump” at the edge of The Green to contain the pebbles; the Greens Committee to look at this. The tree outside the “Lord Nelson” is to be trimmed.

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that this is in a good state. The trees are still in the ditch.

Open Areas

In Cllr Marshall’s absence Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that a meeting has been held. There had been a lot of damage at the East Thirsk Play Area over the last Bank Holiday. It had been agreed to remove the seesaw and the springer and to put Wetpour under the swings and slide. Fencing is to be erected in the position the police require. Cllr Hesmondhalgh said they are going to get a consultant to plan out the play area properly and then it will be possible to apply for grants. Affording access to the new Children’s Centre at the school was discussed.

Cllr Mallett reported that he had been to a meeting re play strategy run by a company that has been asked by HDC to put a play strategy together. Further details are to be sent to us and they are happy to help us prepare plans; they said the more original the scheme the more possibility there is of grant aid. One of the speakers at the meeting had said she would not recommend Wetpour on play areas.

Town Development Working Party

The Clerk advised that, at her request, Bikers have drawn up a scheme for Porters Vaults and provided a quote. We are not able to proceed with this at present as we do not have sufficient funds. An application had been made to the HDC Community Grants Scheme and an offer of £5K towards the cost of resurfacing Porters Vaults had been received. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett that we accept

this offer. Cllr Adamson said it is a good time to apply to the NYCC Hambleton Area Committee for funding.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Mallett pointed out that in June edition of the County Council's publication, "North Yorkshire Times" they are advertising meetings in the Thirsk and Sowerby Village Hall. A letter to be sent to them asking them to ensure the information they publish is correct.

Cllr Mallett advised that a young man from Thirsk is serving with the army in Iraq for the second time; it was felt that this was very commendable. Cllr Morton mentioned that Upstairs Downstairs have been sending items out to the regiment there.

Cllr Morton advised that Portable Appliance Testing has been carried out on the electrical items in the Town Council Office and these were all found to be satisfactory.

Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk in Bloom are replanting the planters in the town.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 18th June 2007 at 7.15 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs C. Pack (in the Chair), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, R. Mallett, J. Marshall, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, County Cllr G. Dadd, PC Duncan Pears and the Clerk

Apologies: A. Morton (ill), B. Ogleby (another commitment), J. Watson (away); accepted

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

Police Report

PC Pears advised that the crime trend over the last three weeks is house burglaries, probably carried out by opportunists. He stressed that crime prevention, such as ensuring doors and windows are locked, taking valuables, keys etc upstairs at night, is vital. Cllr Hesmondhalgh asked whether the results of the speed matrix on St. James' Green are available and PC Pears said this is to be done again. Cllr Marshall reminded PC Pears that the Town Council had asked for speed checks to be carried out on Stockton Road, Long Street and Norby and PC Pears confirmed that he had asked for such checks – he will speak to the Traffic Sergeant. Referring to our request for a public meeting Cllr Marshall advised that when we had the meeting with ACC Collins she had asked for a town centre problem solving group to be set up. This has now been established and has held its first meeting. Inspector Sanderson had said that a public meeting would not be held until the town centre group had had the opportunity to try and tackle matters. Cllr Watson has set up a problem solving group for Mill Gardens. Cllr Marshall advised that following Sgt Franks transfer to the response team, Sgt Frances Hannon is to be responsible for the neighbourhood policing team. Referring to the application for an on street drinking ban, PC Pears advised that the papers have been submitted to HDC and a reply is awaited. A public meeting may be held after the problem solving group has had an opportunity to tackle any problems.

Reports

County and District Council

Cllr Dadd referred to the Market Place improvement works which were carried out and said it is proposed to widen the entrance to the Market Place car park near Finkle Street, however, this will lose two car parking spaces, and this will go out to consultation. He advised that the buses used on various routes have low level access and Thirsk is one of the first areas of the County to have this. Referring to Cherry Garth, Cllr Dadd stressed that it will not close until suitable nearby accommodation is available. Cllr Dadd had attended an informal meeting with the Area Highways Manager and representatives of Sowerby Parish Council re Blakey Bridge. Extra signage has been ordered and it is proposed to put bollards to narrow the entrance before vehicles reach the bridge. Blakey Bridge should be open again in late June/July. Cllr Dadd advised that the roundabout on Station Road has now been moved and this is a great improvement. The Safety Audit is awaited and when this

P032

has been received a decision on whether a site meeting is required in respect of the second roundabout (as specified in the planning application) will be made. Cllr Dadd said that a planning application for the development on the site of the Norby depot will be submitted very shortly – a pre-submission consultation exercise has been held. Cllr Dadd said he would like to liaise with the Town Council's Planning Committee on this. The County Council has set its budget at a 4.9% increase. Cllr Dadd advised that he is on the HDC Committee that is scrutinising Low Cost Housing. He informed the meeting that Eddy Hayward, the Area Highways Manager, is to retire shortly. Referring to the Local Government Review, Cllr Dadd said that the County Council depends a great deal on the goodwill of parish councils. Cllr Marshall referred to the Children's Centre at East Thirsk saying that at the last Primary School Governors' meeting it had been suggested that a road to the Children's Centre be put around the school during the building of the Centre. The Governors were very concerned about

the effect of such a road on pupils and have sent a message to the County Council saying they are not happy with this; alternatives are to be put forward.

District Council

Cllr Robinson referred to the fact that there is only one Parking Enforcement Officer in Thirsk. He has complained to HDC about this as he feels that there should be a Parking Enforcement Officer on at all times; he will follow it up. Cllr Jackson did not feel that parking on the Market Place was abused.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the first meeting of the Prosperity Committee. He said there had been a planning application with which the Town Council was not happy. The Crime Prevention Officer had submitted a report based on Secure by Design. The applicant has now made the necessary amendments to the plans and this is to be dealt with by delegated powers.

Cllr Marshall said that the pavements and parking areas in the Market Place are in a poor state with loose cobbles etc – County and District Councillors to take this up. Cllr Robinson advised that he has seen some works being carried out in the Market Place. He has been told that regular inspections of the Market Place are carried out and any repairs are done.

Cllr Marshall asked whether there is any further information regarding the car park extension; the District Councillors will take this up.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting on 21st May 2007

P021 Roundabout on Station Road; this has now been moved.

P022 Request by Ladies' Chamber of Trade to put Christmas Lights on the toilet block; reply received from HDC agreeing to this and giving details of information they require. This will be passed to the Ladies' Chamber of Trade.

P022 Parking between the bollards on the grassed area at Millgate; nothing further on this.

P033

P022 Installation of water pipe at the Cemetery; instructions have been given to the contractor to run the pipework to the tap behind the gate.

P022 List of items requiring attention by the County Council; E mail sent to the County Council and reply received advising as follows:

- 1) The repairs to the cobbles on the White Mare Roundabout will be carried out in the autumn; in the meantime it will be monitored and any loose cobbles collected.
- 2) The Road Lighting Unit has no funds available for a more "ornate" base on the White Mare Roundabout feeder pillar and if it wished to have this the Town Council would have to finance it. Agreed to ask for a drawing and estimate.
- 3) The junction of Westgate/Castlegate/Chapel Street will continue to be monitored and patched, but it is unlikely that funding will be available for

more extensive repairs. Cllr Adamson referred to the Small Works Group which has funding for projects – he will enquire about this.

- 4) The cobbles on Kirkgate will be repaired in the autumn.
- 5) Joe Gallagher would like to meet with a representative of the Town Council to look at which bollards need to be removed on Long Street and which painted. Any to be painted will be done in the summer; Cllr Marshall to meet with him.

P023 Extension to Millgate car park; no response from HDC as yet.

P023 Local Government Review; reply received from HDC's Press Officer advising that, due to time constraints, it was not possible to arrange meetings in all the market towns. Cllr Roberts advised that she had gone to the meeting in Stokesley which was very poorly attended. She had spoken to Cllr Arthur Barker and Peter Simpson at that meeting and had expressed the view that such a meeting should also have been held in Thirsk.

P023 Signboard on the Industrial Estate; reply received from HDC advising that they are looking at all industrial estate/business park signage and will be looking at Thirsk in the next couple of months. Cllr Roberts pointed out that the white lining on the Industrial Estate is very poor; HDC to be asked to deal with this.

P023 Carrs Field; nothing further received from Tony Jordan as yet.

P023 Greens and Ingramgate; letter to be sent to Mike Armstrong at Eccles Heddon to try and establish ownership of the strip on land along Ingramgate.

P023 Risk Assessment of the Town Council Office; PAT testing carried out and all in order. The old computer is awaiting being sent to Africa.

P023 Footpath Works; the go ahead to carry out the footpath works on The Holmes and at East Thirsk Play Area has been given to Bikers.

P024 Renewal of the Lease of the Town Council Office; reply received confirming that a new Lease at the agreed rent will be sent to us.

P024 Consultation on proposed Unitary Authorities; letter sent to Cllr Arthur Barker and reply received advising that the District Council is itself a consultee, but it has held events with various groups and has undertaken a MORI poll to gauge public opinion. Cllr Barker advises that if a meeting is organised he would be happy to attend and explain the position.

P024 Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct; this is an agenda item.

P025 YLCA Training Courses for Councillors; a place has been booked for Cllr Hesmondhalgh.

P034

P025 Public toilets; letter sent to HDC requesting that the toilets be kept open later in the evenings on racedays; reply awaited.

P025 Event to mark the implementation of the Interpretation Boards; letter included in Correspondence.

Finance

Accounts for Payment:

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

M.L. Burnett: Wall repair at the Whitelass	134.00	
Removal of springer and seesaw		
From East Thirsk Play Area	<u>151.90</u>	£285.90
HDC - Office rent, qtr comm. 1.6.07.(at existing rate)		£660.94

CE & CM Walker – grasscutting May 07	£2,224.28
BT - Office telephone	£103.24
Hawkesworth – portable appliance testing	£ 74.28
Sally Billany – watering for Thirsk in Bloom, April/May 2007	£122.00
Playdale – repairs to play equipment at McLeans Play Area	£761.17
Nigel Burn – weeding of White Mare Roundabout	£ 40.00
C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (7.5.07-3.6.07)	£182.80
Litter Picking (7.5.07.-3.6.07.)	£205.99
Cutting back vegetation on The Holmes	<u>£ 10.00</u>
HDC – Office rates, July 2007	£ 53.00
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, May 2007	£502.10
Record – chains for swings on the Holmes	£347.91

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, Assistant to the Clerk and the Cemetery Groundsman will be paid in accordance with the Council’s usual policy

Paid since last meeting

Allianz Cornhill – additional premium	£217.37
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Income received

Heritage Lottery Fund – final grant re Interpretation Boards	£12,500.00
NYCC – reimbursement for repairs to fencing	£ 314.25
Burial Bd: Rent	£485.37
Interments	£614.00
Grave Purchase	£232.00
Bank Interest	<u>£104.90</u>
	£ 1,436.27

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for May 2007 (already circulated to Councillors)

Cllr Marshall asked that the Burial Board budgeted income be shown on the Burial Board Budget Report. She also referred to two items of income on the Town Council Budget Report which should no longer be there. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report be approved, subject to the above; agreed.

P035

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 No. 1159 including Para 12(2)

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 No. 1159 including Para 12(2) be adopted; agreed unanimously. Cllr Adamson pointed out that it is necessary to place a piece in a local newspaper advising that we have adopted the Code; agreed that a small piece be put in one of the free papers.

Unitary Authorities

Cllr Roberts pointed out that individuals can write in about this. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that our original comments that we would prefer a District and County Council who would work closely together should still stand; motion carried with 5 in favour and 3 abstentions.

Correspondence

Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group with copy letter to HSBC Bank's Head Office regarding youths congregating in the garden at the rear of the HSBC Bank in Millgate. The Riverside Mews Residents and Owners Group ask that the Town Council also write to the HSBC about this. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts that a letter be sent to the Head Office of HSBC with a copy to the branch; agreed.

TRI giving notice of a Neighbourhood Police Team meeting to be held on 27th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Carlton Miniott Parish Rooms.

Invitation from the Signs, Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party to the formal concluding event to be held on Monday 25th June at 1.30 p.m. in the Old Courthouse.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Roberts referred to an article in the "Local Councils Update" regarding environmental offences and asked that a letter be sent to HDC asking what they are doing about this with specific reference to litter and to smoking litter in particular. Cllr Adamson advised that HDC have appointed a litter enforcement officer.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following applications be approved, with the proviso that in the case of Amos Joseph Price six months is allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place; agreed.

Grave No. F4 8	Amos Joseph Price	Interred 7.4.07.
Grave No. GG 7	Robert William Lumley	Ashes interred in GOR 27.1.07
Grave No. V 72	John Thomas Ward	Ashes interred in existing grave 16.12.06.

Application for an Additional Inscription

Grave No. G4 41	Mary Theresa Murphy	Interment in existing grave 12.4.06.
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Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that we are trying to get a different price for grasscutting in the Cemetery to include grass collection around the headstones. Once the water pipe is

P036

installed it is intended to purchase a hose-reel in order that the Cemetery Groundsman can wash grass off the headstones.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Marshall advised she had had a meeting of the Thirsk Infants Charity and they are inviting requests for money.

Members

Cllr Jackson gave details of bag dispensers for dog waste which he had seen abroad.

Cllr Mallett advised that they also have them in Tyneside.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had spoken to someone whose dog had fouled on South Dowber Way. HDC to be asked to put a notice near the dog bin.

Cllr Adamson advised that the money which Thirsk Clock Café received from Children in Need is to be used to fund a support worker. He said the Thirsk Clock Café is still well attended with 100 new people over the last twelve months. Cllr Roberts advised that the “Golden Fleece” has submitted a planning application for alterations which include a glazed atrium. The “Three Tuns” have also put in plans for alterations including twelve toilets on the ground floor.

The meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

P037

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 5th July 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, J. Jackson, R. Mallett, A. Morton, B. Ogleby, F. Roberts and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs C. Hesmondhalgh (another commitment), J. Marshall (another commitment), C. Pack (away), A. Robinson (work commitment); accepted

Open Forum

E mail received from Sgt Frank expressing regret that no members of the Police are available to attend the meeting. Sgt Frank advises that he has now left the Thirsk

team and his place has been taken by Sgt Frances Hannon. He thanked the Town Council for the help and understanding extended to him and said he will still be working locally and will retain his interest in Thirsk. Agreed that a letter be sent to Sgt Hannon congratulating her on becoming a Sgt and one to Sgt Frank thanking him for his work in Thirsk.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th June 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 7th June 2007

P026 Drain next to the bus shelter; letter sent to Clive Thornton at HDC thanking him for putting the mesh in place as a temporary measure and expressing the hope that he will continue to look for something more suitable in order to effect a permanent repair.

P027 Steads Yard; no complaints about flooding on the tarmac since Bikers carried out the repair work.

P027 Public conveniences; no reply as yet to the letter sent to Arthur Barker regarding the cleanliness of the toilets. HDC have agreed to keep the toilets open until 9.00 p.m. on racedays.

P027 Painting mileposts and roundel on Castle Garth; quotes still being obtained.

P027 Millennium Green; Playdale came to look at the play equipment which has been vandalised and advised that the repairs would be nearly as costly as a new piece of equipment. They have supplied a quote for a replacement and this has been passed to the Open Areas Committee.

P027 Licence for tree planting on Long Street; signed by the Chairman.

P027 Advertising signage on the McCarthy and Stone development; awaiting response from HDC's planning department.

P027 Smiths of Derby re annual service agreement; still to be considered.

P027 Thirsk Skaters Steering Group; now coming to the meeting on 2nd August.

P027 Rubbish on the Industrial Estate; letter sent to Peter Simpson at HDC and reply received from Mike Kneebone advising that he will look at the area in question and carry out any necessary rectification works. It was pointed out that some of the rubbish comes from Todds which appears to be being used as a waste transfer station; agreed that HDC be asked whether this is the case and, if so, whether change of use was granted and whether an environmental assessment was carried out.

P038

P027 Himalayan Balsam on The Holmes; this has now been removed by the Thirsk Woodlands Group. The Environment Agency rang to say they would like to spray the Japanese Knotweed near the river. Checked with Mike I'Anson who advised that it would be a good idea to do this therefore go-ahead given.

P028 Request by Sessay Parish Council to have a duck race in September 2007.

Checked with John Bell and he has no objections. The Clerk of Sessay Parish Council is finding out whether this is a fund raising event and will come back to us.

P028 Request to have a skip on St. James' Green from 11th to 15th June; letter sent agreeing to this.

P028 Grass verge at 1 Byland Avenue; the letter had been received and was from the resident who has always cut the grass on the corner of Byland Avenue. However, he is no longer able to do it. It is already on the Town Council's schedule and Mr

Walker has been asked to ensure that it is cut in future. The resident in question has been advised of this.

P028 Development scheme and drainage issues re the former NYCC Norby Depot; letter sent to George Wimpey putting forward the Town Council's views and reply received advising that there will be an element of disruption on the affected length of the Northallerton Road. However, the drainage route will be designed to be as far away from the main route of the carriageway as possible. A traffic management system will be put in place to maintain access to all properties. The reason for running the sewer along the highway rather than the grass verge is to avoid any damage to the tree opposite 154 Norby. However, they could move the sewer to there if preferred. It was agreed that we would prefer their suggested route along the highway. They have investigated the possibility of having soakaways, but because of the presence of clay this is not possible.

P028 Offer from Yorkshire Water for an item as a contribution following the work in the Market Place; E mail sent giving suggestions and reply received advising that they will let us have their views by tomorrow night.

P028 Barbed wire on fence of a property alongside the Millennium Green footpath; reported to Peter Penny at NYCC.

P028 Broken bollard on the corner of Pinfold Place; no action taken as Cllr Mallett had advised that this area is to be redeveloped. Agreed not to take any action at this stage.

P029 Christmas Lights; another set of lights has been ordered for the Christmas tree and Lite have agreed to give us the same discount as last year. They have come back to say that rather than a 600 pealight string which we ordered they now come in strings of 100 lights. The Clerk is checking with Wired; agreed that provided Wired are happy these will be satisfactory then we will go ahead and order them.

P029 Greens and Ingramgate; Dean Landscapes have been reminded about filling in the holes on the tracks around the Green with gravel.

P029 Resurfacing of Porters Vaults; HDC Community Grant Offer accepted.

P030 Advert in "North Yorkshire Times" re meetings in "Thirsk and Sowerby Village Hall"; letter sent asking them to ensure their facts are correct.

Correspondence

HDC giving details of a new Carbon Reduction Grant Scheme which has recently been launched and which will run to the end of March 2008. Agreed that this be copied to Mike I'Anson.

P039

NYCC; temporary closure of Finkle Street from 10th-12th July for work to the water services.

A telephone call had been received from the owners of 13 St. James' Green advising that they have a skip today, but this will be removed by tomorrow morning.

NYCC advising that included in their contribution to the Town Council for grasscutting is the area near the Industrial Estate. Agreed that we are not able to do this as it is out of the parish and suggest they contact Bagby Parish Council.

Enquiry from the "Darlington and Stockton Times" who are doing a feature on the anniversary of the Thirsk CCA. They wish to know whether the Town Council would like to put a notice in saying they support the Thirsk CCA; it is understood the cost of this would be £50. Agreed not to proceed with this.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

This had been updated and circulated to Councillors. The following items in particular were noted:

Silt under Millgate Bridge; E mail received from NYCC advising that there are repair works programmed for the bridge around September 2007 and as part of this work they will clear the silt. However, they make the point that although they are doing it on this occasion it should not set a precedent.

Extension to Millgate car park; Cllr Adamson advised that this is programmed for September/October this year.

Reports

Carrs Field

Nothing to report.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that it had been suggested that trees be planted along the river bank which would encourage the flow of the water and thus prevent it silting up and would also hold back the banking. She is to speak to Mike I'Anson to see if he has any suggestions. Agreed that a letter also be sent to HDC and to the Environment Agency asking if they have any ideas. Cllr Adamson suggested that whilst the County Council are carrying out works to the bridge they should wire mesh the banking. Agreed that a letter be sent to the County Council saying we understand some work is to be done to the bridge and asking for details and for the timescale for clearing the silt. Cllr Watson reminded the Central Areas Committee members that the next meeting is on 24th July.

Christmas Festivities

The new lights had been referred to earlier in the meeting. Cllr Watson agreed to order the Christmas tree.

Greens and Ingramgate

In Cllr Pack's absence Cllr Mallett reported that the planters on Long Street have been painted and the tree outside the "Lord Nelson" requires trimming. Cllr Ogleby pointed out that some tarmac has been put down at the entrance to St. James Green; Cllr Mallett to look at this. It was pointed out that there is considerable weed growth outside Swales Garage on Long Street; a letter to be sent to HDC.

Millennium Green

Nothing to report.

Open Areas

In Cllr Marshall's absence she had sent a report advising that a Children's Centre is being built near the nursery of Thirsk Community Primary School and in order to do this access is required. To go right round the school (as had been suggested) would be dangerous and it is therefore suggested that the contractors go through the licenced area of the East Thirsk Play Area, ie through the gate from Hambleton Place and then through the gate into the School grounds. Cllr Marshall advises that if the Town Council is in agreement with this suggestion then we would need to write to HDC and NYCC accordingly; that we would need to advise Broadacres only to install their new fencing up to the gap which would be used to access the play area during the construction works and that we ask Bikers to hold off doing the path across the play area until after the scheme is finished (March 2008). Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett that we agree to the suggestions put forward and that the letter to HDC includes a request for compensation; agreed.

Cllr Marshall had also supplied a report advising that the Open Areas Committee has met and has also had a walk round. Various items which require attention were identified and these are being dealt with. Cllr Marshall referred in particular to the Centenary Field which has a broken gate and there is a gap to the "horse field". Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that this rectification work be carried out. Cllr Marshall also referred to the fencing at Castle Garth where there is a gap in the fencing and the old fencing and posts need removing. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that this work be carried out.

Town Development Working Party

In Cllr Hesmondhalgh's absence there was no report.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Mallett referred to various shops in the town where the owners are parking on the pavement outside the shops. Agreed that a letter be sent to the police about this. Cllr Ogleby said that vehicles also park on the pavements in St. Mary's Walk and Cllr Morton said this happens on quite a few residential areas in the town; agreed that this also be reported to the police. Also agreed that a letter be sent to HDC pointing out that this is happening because there is not enough provision for parking on new developments.

Cllr Morton reported that some of the wooden fencing from the white bridge to The Marage is broken; Malcolm Burnett has been asked to repair this.

Cllr Adamson reported that some of the fencing on the Green near the "Lord Nelson" has been knocked down; Chris Amy to be asked to repair it.

Cllr Watson advised that she had attended her first official engagement as Mayor – this was the march past and the service for the Korean Veterans at St. Mary's Church followed by refreshments at the British Legion on 1st July.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16th July 2007 at 7.15 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, County and District Cllr G. Dadd, M. Brown (Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store), Sgt F. Hannon (North Yorkshire Police), I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”), 2 members of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs R. Mallett (ill), B. Ogleby (work commitments)

Mike Brown of the Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store

Mr Brown advised that the Furniture Store collects furniture from Hambleton and Richmondshire and re-uses it for people in need who require low cost furniture. The Furniture Store started 18 years ago and since 2005 it has been project funded by the Big Lottery. This has enabled them to expand and to have a unit at Northallerton, a van and three part-time staff. Approximately one-third of the Furniture Store’s income is derived from furniture sales. Mr Brown advised that, although they are based in Northallerton, they also get requests for furniture from people in the Thirsk area. Cllr Marshall enquired how they publicise the service and Mr Brown replied that a lot are referrals from housing associations and social services as well as word of mouth. They also put out some publicity. Cllr Morton asked whether they carry out repairs to furniture they take in and Mr Brown advised that they do some repairs but not a great deal. Mr Brown had circulated Councillors with the Furniture Store’s accounts; Cllr Jackson pointed out that costs exceed income and Mr Brown said he felt it probably takes five years to get to a level of being financially self supporting. The store is currently open 2 mornings per week, but they are looking for volunteers to man it at other times.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brown for attending the meeting and explaining about the Furniture Store.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton; agreed.

Police Report

Sgt Hannon referred to the problems regarding parking on pavements which were referred to in the minutes of the previous meeting and said she will ask the PCSOs to look out for this. Cllr Hesmondhalgh mentioned the speed matrix which was on St. James Green; Sgt Hannon to find out the results of this. Cllr Jackson referred to a suspect door to door salesman he had reported to the police the previous week and Sgt Hannon said this will be passed to Trading Standards. Cllr Marshall said that more graffiti/damage has occurred to the Interpretation Boards on Castle Garth and pointed out that at the problem solving group for that area it had been promised that extra patrols would be carried out; Sgt Hannon confirmed that this is the case. Cllr Morton advised that some lead piping was removed from St. Mary’s Church last week and some of the floodlights were damaged; Sgt Hannon said she will ask the PCSO to monitor this area.

Reports

County Council

Cllr Dadd referred to the planning application for the Three Tuns Hotel saying he had visited the nearby residents and has asked for a site meeting. He will be attending the Development Control meeting. He has also asked the police to do a safety report on it. Referring to the Local Development Framework Preferred Options, Cllr Dadd advised that these will be out for consultation in October. Cllr Dadd advised that the County Council meets on Wednesday and there is a motion being put forward asking for more funding from the Environment Agency and Defra for Ripon following the recent flooding. Cllr Dadd said he will be asking for an amendment for this to cover the whole of North Yorkshire and will mention in particular the flooding in Thirsk. Cllr Marshall referred to an article in the "York Evening Press" which said that Cllr Dadd had referred to problems with leaseholds of certain properties on Long Street and pointed out that the problem is with the ownership of certain properties not leaseholds. Cllr Dadd said he had not referred to leasehold properties. He wished it to be noted that he had not issued a press release, but he had been contacted by the press.

Cllr Adamson reported that the District Council had held its main meeting last week. Hambleton are to lead on a play strategy in order to access monies from the Big Lottery Fund. This is going to Cabinet tomorrow and Cllr Marshall has submitted an interest statement. Cllr Adamson pointed out that the dog waste bin at the bottom of Hambleton has been moved to the other side of the road away from the seat. Referring to the LDF, Cllr Adamson said that the bottom half of the 7 acres will remain as recreational land as will the part between South Dowber Lane and the bypass. The Rybeck site is designated for development and Cllr Adamson has asked that that Rybeck 1 be done first, then Stoneybrough Farm and then the top half of Rybeck. Cllr Watson asked whether the services will be taken into account when housing allocations are made and Cllr Marshall pointed out that HDC had asked for more houses than were required by via the Regional Strategy. The Core Strategy recommended that 51% of the district total be split between Thirsk and Northallerton, but because of the sites which have been identified these will equate to 56% of the district total. Cllr Robinson pointed out that this equates to 567 houses being built over 7 years and said there is a desperate shortage of rented accommodation. Cllr Jackson pointed out that some years ago we were at 100% capacity for sewerage. Cllr Marshall mentioned that some of the pavements in the Market Place are getting quite dangerous and asked whether there was an answer to her previous query re the cobbles; Cllr Adamson said he had looked into this and will forward Cllr Marshall a copy of an E mail he had sent to the Clerk.

Open Forum

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be suspended; agreed.

Mrs Amanda Pagrum advised that she lives at the rear of the Three Tuns Hotel and is extremely concerned at the planning application which has been submitted for alterations there. She is worried at the impact this will have on their small community and on the town as a whole. She pointed out that the existing cellar is to be moved to the stable block and she is concerned that there will be noise from this. She feels the

alterations are not sympathetic and that the new ownership will impact adversely on other public houses in the town. She mentioned particularly the courtyard at the rear which it is proposed to roof over with the air conditioning equipment above. Cllr Dadd asked that the Town Council's views on this planning application be sent to him. Cllr Roberts pointed out that the Planning Committee had made a decision on this application and that the Town Council's Planning Committee is fully autonomous with delegated powers.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18th June 2007

P031 Request for speed checks; Cllr Marshall advised that she had spoken to PC Pears about the speed checks we requested. He had advised that the traffic police can only carry out checks on vehicles exiting from Stockton Road. Agreed that we write again about this.

P032 Building of the Children's Centre; letters sent to HDC and NYCC giving consent to access the site via the East Thirsk Play Area; to be reported on at the Thursday Town Council meeting. Cllr Marshall advised that a revised plan for the Children's Centre is to be sent in by NYCC.

P032 Request to put Christmas lights on the toilet block; letter from HDC passed to the Ladies' Chamber of Trade.

P032 Parking between the bollards on the grassed area at Millgate; nothing further on this.

P033 Installation of water pipe at the Cemetery; now completed and connected up.

P033 Lighting unit on the White Mare Roundabout; estimate and drawing received; to be dealt with at the Thursday Town Council meeting.

P033 Bollards on Long Street; Cllr Marshall met with Joe Gallagher of NYCC on site and agreed the removal of some bollards and painting of others.

P033 Extension to Millgate car park; no reply from HDC as yet.

P033 White lining on the Industrial Estate; 'E' mail sent to HDC. On the subject of the Industrial Estate, Cllr Adamson said HDC do not want the boundary to extend beyond the bypass.

P033 Carrs Field; nothing further received from Tony Jordan as yet; reminder to be sent.

P033 Footpath Works; Bikers have been asked not to do the footpath at East Thirsk until the building of the Children's Centre at East Thirsk Primary School has been completed. They anticipate doing the work on The Holmes very soon.

P033 Renewal of the Lease of the Town Council Office; agenda item.

P034 Public toilets; in response to our request HDC have agreed to keep the toilets open until 9.00 p.m. on racedays.

P034 Budget Reports; amended as requested at the last meeting.

P035 Code of Conduct; we have advised the Standards Board that the Town Council has adopted the Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 No. 1159 including Para 12(2).

HDC are looking at putting a block advert in the press to cover all parishes and therefore no action on advertising it in the press has been taken as yet pending information from HDC.

P035 Youths congregating in the garden of the HSBC Bank in Millgate; letters sent to the HSBC Head Office and to the local branch. The local branch manager advises that a padlock has now been put on the gate which seems to have solved the problem. She is also speaking to their security manager to see if there are any other security measures they can take. Cllr Watson advised that she had spoken to PC Kevin Brookes and he has offered to do a security audit if there are any further problems.

P035 Environmental offences; letter sent to HDC and reply awaited.

P035 Request for quote for cutting and collecting grass around the headstones in the Cemetery; quote awaited from Mr Walker.

P036 Dog fouling on South Dowber Way; the Dog Warden has been asked if he can put a sign up there.

P036 Planning application for the Three Tuns Hotel; agenda item. A site meeting is to be held on Monday 23rd July at 9.30 a.m.

Finance

Accounts for payment

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

CE & CM Walker – grasscutting, 13.6.07. and 28.6.07.		£1,482.85
Staples – stationery		£ 39.82
Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – room hire April/May/June 07		£ 131.25
Thirsk Hall Estates – Rents and Wayleaves		£ 5.00
Rural Arts – hire of venue and refreshments for concluding event		
Of Interpretation Boards		£ 100.00
Hollin Barn Nurseries – planting White Mare Roundabout	£159.60	
planting for Thirsk in Bloom	<u>£1,866.86</u>	£2,026.46
C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspection (4.6.07.-1.7.07)	£222.80	
Litter Picking (4.6.07.-1.7.07)	£235.00	
Little Green – weeding shrubbery	£ 20.00	
Hedge trimming – Johnson Close	£ 35.00	
White Mare shrubbery – weeding/planting	£ 30.00	
Whitelass Ings – removing fallen tree	<u>£ 40.00</u>	£ 582.80
YRCC Subscription 2007/08		£ 35.00
HDC – Rates for Office		£ 53.00
J. Marshall – Mayor’s Allowance (2 nd half of 2006/07)		£ 250.00
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, June 2007		£ 502.17
E.B.B. Jackson – installing and connecting water pipe in the Cemetery		£ 763.75
Fox’s Trophies and Engraving – sign for Centenary Field		£ 21.15
Membership of the Milestone Society		£ 15.00

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 normal policy

Paid Since last meeting

Hull City Council – attendance at Yorkshire Day (Mayor and Clerk)	£ 35.00
BT Internet Services	£ 77.51

Income received

Bank Interest	£1,419.11
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Burial Board: Rent	£426.62	
Interments	£324.00	
Grave Purchase	£116.00	
Memorials	<u>£135.00</u>	£1,001.62

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for June 2007

Already circulated to Councillors. Cllr Marshall requested that the grasscutting payments be split between the Main Budget and the Burial Board Budget. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that the balance sheet and budget report be approved.

Town Council's Standing Orders

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that these be approved. It was noted that this included an amendment referring to the new Code of Conduct (a copy of which is attached to the Standing Orders).

Town Council's Risk Assessment

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Jackson that this be approved.

Annual Return 2006/07

Statement of Accounts: Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts that this be approved.

Annual Governance Statement: This was completed at the meeting; proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Adamson that it be approved.

Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit; this was completed at the meeting after Cllr Marshall had explained items to Councillors; proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Robinson that it be approved. The review form referred to an internal audit plan and it was agreed to ask the auditors for a copy of this plan for our audit. Agreed that a letter be sent to the external auditors expressing our concern at this form and pointing out that when the new Accounts and Audit Regulations came into force it was supposed to make the audit procedure simpler.

Planning Application for Alterations and Extensions to the Three Tuns Hotel

Cllr Roberts advised that an amendment had been considered at the Planning Meeting earlier this evening which was simply to remove the request to have live music. She said that Weatherspoons have submitted a design statement which recognises the need for alterations to be in keeping with Thirsk as a conservation town. Cllr Pack pointed out that there have been concerns from neighbouring residents and she felt the plans should have come to the Town Council. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Planning Committee has delegated authority to deal with all planning applications and only substantial ones should come to the Town Council; Cllr Roberts did not feel this was a substantial application. Cllr Adamson pointed out that Standing Orders do not allow a decision to be changed within 6 months unless 6 members request it in writing; this had not been done in this case.

Correspondence

North Yorkshire and York NHS re proposed changes to pharmacy opening arrangements in the Thirsk area. Cllr Marshall explained that this is a proposal that

has gone through very quickly and the Town Council was not consulted on it. The proposal is to cut late pharmacy services to 5.30pm-6.00pm and withdraw the Sunday and public holiday arrangements. Agreed that a letter be sent pointing out that as representatives of the community we should have been consulted on it; that the over Fifties Forum were not the appropriate people to contact as it is anticipated that the people who will be affected by the evening closure will be working people and saying we are totally opposed to any diminution in the service.

St. Mary's Church request for financial help with the servicing of the Church Clock; it was pointed out that the chimes are actually the war memorial. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that we pay for the normal maintenance of the Church Clock, but not any major repairs that may be required; agreed. The Church has paid for five years; maintenance in advance, but as this is not included in our budget it was agreed to pay them one-fifth of this amount annually.

Thirsk Community Woodlands Group – Invitation to Open Day at Pearsons Wood on Saturday 21st July, 1.00 p.m.- 4.00 p.m.

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative; notice of next Safe Meeting to be held on 26th September at Knayton Village Hall. A Steering Group meeting to be held on 17th October at Thirsk Town Hall and a representative is invited; Cllr Watson to attend.

Lease of the Town Council Office

A renewal lease had been received from HDC for a term of five years from 31st May 2007 at the rent as agreed; proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that the lease be signed; agreed.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

No applications received.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that a Burial Board meeting had been held recently. The water pressure to the new tap at the top of the Cemetery is very low. Cllr Marshall advised that she had looked at the seats in the Cemetery shed and Malcolm Burnett has been asked to remove the one that is in good condition and site it in a position which has been decided upon on The Holmes. The other seat which is in a poor condition can be disposed of.

Burial Board Fees

A copy of the proposed fees has been circulated to Councillors; these represent an increase of 5% across the board. Cllr Marshall asked whether comparable evidence had been obtained and Cllr Adamson said this had been done some years ago. Cllr Marshall said we should be aware that the council taxpayers have to contribute towards the cost of the upkeep of the Cemetery and that the Council should ensure this is reasonable. She felt therefore that it is necessary to compare our fees with those of other comparable authorities. Cllr Adamson said it is intended to increase the fees from 1st April in future. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that the proposed fees be approved; agreed.

Reports

Representatives

No reports received.

Members

Cllr Roberts advised that there are often several bikes laid on the pavement in front of the Thirsk Clock Café; Cllr Adamson to speak to them about this.

Cllr Roberts reported that there are loose cobbles on the lamp base near the bull ring in the Market Place..

Cllr Marshall reported that the TRI will be receiving a report on the Thirsk Festival. The Gala Day was postponed due to a severe weather warning and this is being re-programmed for August.

Cllr Marshall advised that the concluding meeting re the Thirsk EngAGE project had been held and a report will be issued. Not enough feedback has been received as yet – people who had attended events had enjoyed them although some people were precluded from going to some events as they were held during the day when they were working. The organisers thanked the Town Council for its contribution.

Cllr Marshall reported that the footpath from Gillings Court to Kirkgate is in a poor condition; to be reported to NYCC.

Cllr Robinson advised Cllr Pack (as the representative of Thirsk in Bloom) that he had received complaints about the plant outside the Mind Shop growing over the pavement; she will look into this.

Cllr Jackson pointed out that there is subsidence in the road on Station Road at the entrance to the new development; to be reported to NYCC.

Cllr Watson referred to the weeds in the cobbles in the Market Place; to be reported to HDC.

Cllr Watson advised that, as Mayor, she had presented the trophies at the swimming pool. South Kilvington School won the “little school” category and Sessay School the “big school”.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a commercial nature; agreed.

Proposed resurfacing of Porters Vaults

(Cllrs Adamson and Hesmondhalgh declared interests)

HDC had done the drawings of the schemes for the other alleyways, but not for Porters Vaults. Bikers were asked about this and they have provided a drawing and quote for resurfacing works to Porters Vaults. It was felt that this was an extension of the existing alleyways project and it was proposed by Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that the quote be accepted. This was put to the vote and the motion was carried with six in favour and one against.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

**Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 2nd August 2007
at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe**

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, F. Roberts, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”), Mr L. Monaghan, Matthew Edwards, Nathan Jones, Paul Reynard (Thirsk 8 Skaters Steering Group) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs R. Mallett (ill), B. Ogleby (business commitment); accepted

Presentation by Thirsk 8 (Thirsk Skaters Steering Group)

Mr Monaghan showed a DVD which had been produced by the Thirsk Skaters Steering Group. He also circulated a Proposal detailing three sites they would like to be considered for a skateboard park, together with costings. Reference had been made to the skate ramp which had been on Carrs Field and Cllr Roberts pointed out that this ramp had been put up by the Carrs Field Trust and not the Town Council. Cllr Roberts also said that the possibility of having mobile skateboarding equipment had been looked at with the possibility of using one of the garages at the school for storage of this equipment; it was felt the equipment could then be used by both that school and others in the area. However, this had not progressed further when the Outreach Worker’s post ceased to exist. Cllr Jackson congratulated the Skaters Steering Group on the video and the work they have done. Cllr Marshall advised that the Town Council has always supported the idea of a skate park and has in previous years put money in the budget towards this. The possibility of obtaining Section 106 monies from new developments was mentioned. Cllr Marshall referred to a meeting which is to be held in October when Officers of HDC will be talking about Section 106 monies and said it may be a good idea for someone from the Skaters Steering Group to go to that meeting. Cllr Watson thanked the Skaters Steering Group for coming to the meeting and giving their presentation.

Open Forum

No members of the public or police present. Report received from Sgt Frances Hannon giving her apologies and advising that she has provided Cllr Watson with some photographs of Castle Garth taken from the CCTV. She advises that there have been no recent problems with Castle Garth and youths have only been removed from there once in the last month. Sgt Hannon also gave the results of the speed matrix which was on Stammergeate in April; according to this there were no vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit. The matrix is to be sited around Thirsk for seven days during August. During the school holidays an operation has been set up in Thirsk and retailers will not be selling alcohol to anyone under 21. Tyne Tees news is coming to Thirsk to speak to the police and retailers to see how the scheme is working.

A report had also been received from Inspector Sanderson regarding the Market Place problem solving group which had been set up. Inspector Sanderson expressed her disappointment at the lack of support saying that at the second and third meetings the only attendees were the police, Cllr Watson and Abigail McGhee. Cllr Marshall pointed out that she had asked for the problem solving group to be set up following

the meeting with Assistant Chief Constable Collins. Cllr Watson advised that she had attended the meeting on Monday and only three people had attended although all the members of the problem solving group had been advised of it. At that meeting it had been decided to disband the Market Place problem solving group as there are other such groups in other parts of the town. Agreed that a reply be sent to Inspector Sanderson pointing out that there are other parties involved as well as the Town Council. Cllr Adamson suggested that the on street drinking ban be given 12 months to take effect and then see if there are still problems.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 5th July 2007

P037 Drain next to the bus shelter; letter sent to Clive Thornton at HDC thanking him for putting the mesh in place as a temporary measure and expressing the hope that he will continue to look for something more suitable.

P037 Public conveniences; no reply as yet from Arthur Barker at HDC; reminder to be sent.

P037 Painting mileposts and roundel on Castle Garth; Cllr Marshall advised that three quotes have been obtained and these are to be considered by the Open Areas Committee.

P037 Millennium Green; the quote for a replacement piece of play equipment has been passed to the Millennium Green Trustees.

P037 Licence for tree planting on Long Street; the Licence has now been finalised and Chris Amy has been asked to plant a pink flowering hawthorn tree.

P037 Advertising signage on the McCarthy and Stone development; no reply as yet from the Planning Department, but retrospective plans for this have now been submitted.

P037 Smiths of Derby re servicing of Town Clock; payment figures and savings for the various options have been obtained; Cllr Watson to look at this and discuss with the Central Areas Committee.

P037 Rubbish on the Industrial Estate; letter sent to Mike Kneebone at HDC enquiring as to whether Todds is being used as a waste transfer station and, if so, whether the necessary consents and environmental reports have been obtained.

P038 Request by Sessay Parish Council to have a duck race on Cod Beck in September 2007; letter sent confirming an earlier telephone conversation in which we advised that we had no objections to this and requesting details of whether it is a fund raiser.

P038 Development scheme and drainage issues re the former NYCC Norby Depot; letter sent to George Wimpey advising that we would prefer the drain follows their original suggested route. Cllr Marshall said that the comments submitted by the Town Council referred to the effect on the road/traffic and not the land and pointed out that the intended route of the drain goes over the Mill Race. This would need to be reinstated, as would the path near the sluice gate should this be disturbed. Also the picnic tables and play equipment will need to be reinstated if they are affected. Cllr Marshall said she would be willing to meet them on site and Cllr Watson felt an invitation to such a site meeting should also be extended to the members of the Town

Council's Planning Committee. Cllr Marshall said we would also like the Environment Agency's view on where the outfall is to be going into Cod Beck.

P038 Offer from Yorkshire Water for an item as a contribution following the work in the Market Place; £500 has now been received from Yorkshire Water. They would like to know in due course what it has been used for.

P038 Barbed wire on fence of a property alongside the Millennium Green footpath; now removed.

P038 Christmas Lights; Wired were happy with the proposed lights and these were therefore ordered and have now been received. Wired have been asked to check they are correct for our purpose.

P038 Advertisement in the "North Yorkshire Times" re meetings in "Thirsk and Sowerby Village Hall"; telephone call received apologising for this error.

P038 HDC's Carbon Reduction Grant Scheme; M. I'Anson already had such a letter.

P039 Grasscutting; E mail sent to NYCC advising that we are not able to cut the grass near the Industrial Estate as it is not in Thirsk Parish and suggesting they contact Bagby Parish Council.

P039 Anniversary of the Thirsk CCA; "Darlington and Stockton Times" advised that we do not wish to put a notice in the paper.

P039 Millgate Bridge; letters sent to HDC and to the Environment Agency asking if they have any suggestions re planting trees to encourage the flow of water and prevent the river silting up. E mail sent to the County Council asking for details of the work which it is proposed to carry out to the bridge and the timescale for removing the silt; reply received from Nigel Smith advising that his colleague will let us have details of the proposed work and saying that the silt will be removed whilst the work is taking place, ie September-December 2007.

P039 Christmas Festivities; Christmas tree on order – to be delivered on 16th November.

P039 Greens and Ingramgate; Chris Amy has been asked to prune the tree outside the "Lord Nelson". The weed growth outside Swales Garage has been reported to HDC and an acknowledgement has been received.

P040 Children's Centre; letter sent to HDC giving consent for the contractors constructing the Children's Centre to access the site via the East Thirsk Play Area, also including a request for compensation. Letter also sent to NYCC. Cllr Marshall has spoken to Broadacres regarding the fencing.

P040 Broken gate in the Centenary Field; Chris Amy has been asked to deal with this.

P040 Castle Garth; Brian Noble Fencing have been asked to remove the old fencing and posts near Tesco's filling station and to erect a new fence further back. Brian Noble's have a query concerning the position of this new fence and a site meeting to look at this is to be held tomorrow.

P040 Parking on pavements; E mail sent to the police regarding pavement parking in residential areas of the town. Reply received from Inspector Sanderson advising that Sgt Hannon and the PCSOs have been asked to pay attention to these areas. Letter also sent to HDC pointing out that this has arisen as a result of the lack of parking provision on new developments.

P040 Damaged fencing on St. James' Green; Chris Amy has been asked to deal with this.

Correspondence

NYCC; letter advising that a scheme of major works on Millgate Bridge is to be carried out in September-December 2007. They would like to know any relevant information about the bridge and whether there are any local events during this period. It is intended to keep the road open to traffic with a temporary footbridge for pedestrians. Cllr Marshall pointed out that Mill Gardens, which is owned by the Town Council, is on the site of a former mill. It was agreed to ask that someone from the County Council should meet with representatives of the Town Council on site before the work starts.

NYCC; a quote for a more ornate lighting pillar for the White Mare Roundabout had been obtained; this was passed to the Greens and Ingramgate Committee

BTCV; letter enquiring whether we have any works we would like doing during the winter of 2007/08; no interest at present.

Revd Paul Rathbone; invitation to a meeting with the marchers on the "Cut the Carbon" march to be held on 7th August at Sowerby Methodist Church.

HDC; E mail giving details of the proposed No-Alcohol signs and the positions of the signs in Thirsk and Sowerby. It was pointed out that three such signs are proposed for Castle Garth and it was proposed by Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that we point out to HDC that this is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and query whether these signs are to be affixed to existing structures. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we agree with the proposed signs, but with the query about Castle Garth.

Tranmire Ditch

Cllr Marshall advised that the Ditches Working Group which was set up has done some work and has obtained information from HDC which it has passed to Eccles Heddon. Cllr Marshall asked that the Town Council agree in principle to take over the land and attendant responsibilities; proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that we do this; agreed.

Outstanding Amenity Items

The updated Schedule had been circulated to Councillors and was self explanatory.

Reports

Carrs Field

Nothing to report.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that the Committee had walked round and a report had been done following this. It is intended to chase up where signage has been left up after businesses have vacated; a letter is to be sent to the County Council regarding the 'A' boards in the town. HDC are to be approached re drainage issues. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC to enquire whether there are any funds available for signage in the alleyways. Cllr Roberts felt that, as NYCC had contributed to the cost of work in the alleyways they should also be asked whether they have any funding for such signage. Cllr Roberts expressed concern at the number of shops which have goods on the pavements; these are being reported to the County Council.

Christmas Festivities

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report. Cllr Marshall advised that at the last TRI meeting the Ladies' Chamber of Trade had said they are having difficulties fund raising for the Christmas Lights and are looking for more people to contribute to this. It is possible they may approach us in future years, although it was pointed out that the Town Council already donates towards the cost of the lights.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that her Committee has not met. She reported that the White Mare Roundabout has been cut this week and will be tidied next week. She is concerned about the chippings in the road outside the "Lord Nelson".

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had walked round and it is looking good. The logs still require moving and she understands that John Proud at HDC still wants to try and do something about people dumping trees. There is another piece of fencing which has barbed wire on it; to be reported

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall reported that a meeting had been held on 14th May at which they had gone through the minutes covering the last two years and identified items which were still outstanding. A number of matters have been attended to and Cllr Marshall said it is necessary for them to have a further meeting to look at various issues. A walk round had been held on 23rd June. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that dumping is taking place on the Whitelass. She advised that Cllr Mallett had attended a meeting with the consultants who are writing the Play Strategy for HDC and from information received at that meeting we submitted an expression of interest form for East Thirsk Play Area.

Cllr Marshall showed Members the planning application for the Children's Centre at East Thirsk Primary School. The second plan still has no pedestrian access into the East Thirsk Play Area. Cllr Marshall advised that she is attending a site visit next Thursday to talk about the temporary and permanent access to the Play Area.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended the "Joining the Council" course run by the YLCA; she said it was an excellent course which she found very interesting.

Cllr Watson advised that a Ditches Meeting is to be held next week. We have written to the Environment Agency, both at Darlington and York, asking for their views regarding the ditches. She is to propose they have a meeting with the appropriate people at the Environment Agency.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had received a letter of support from the Thirsk CCA for the Sensory Garden. We have contacted the Environment Agency and will meet with them. A site meeting is to be held with the developer who is passing the land to us to see what he is to do. Mike I'Anson is drawing up a scheme for us and Mark Haynes is trying to obtain funding.

Cllr Marshall reported that representatives of Tadcaster Town Council came to visit us and to look around the Interpretation Boards. Cllr Marshall has had another 'E' mail from Bill Hays regarding Hannah Packer; it is intended to put a blue plaque up commemorating her.

Cllr Roberts expressed concern at the amount of cigarette ends in the Market Place. An 'E' mail has already been sent to John Proud at HDC regarding this and a reply has been received advising that they are about to launch an anti smoking litter campaign.

Cllr Roberts reported that the planning application for the alterations to "The Three Tuns" has been approved.

Cllr Watson advised that she had received a complaint about the state of the ladies' toilets in the Market Place; to be reported to HDC.

Cllr Watson advised that the Co-op which currently houses the Post Office is closing down and the Post Office is moving into the other Coop. She was very concerned that, particularly bearing in mind all the new developments around Thirsk, we do not have a stand alone post office. Cllr Marshall said she felt it was not appropriate to move the Post Office to the other side of the Market Place where it would be much further from Gillings Court and the bus stop. Agreed that a strong letter be sent to the Post Office.

Cllr Watson reported that she and the Clerk had attended Yorkshire Day in Hull the previous day; this had been very interesting and enjoyable.

Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack advised that a lot of social activities are taking place at the moment. The tubs in the town are looking very good.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that the public and press be excluded for a confidential matter; agreed.

Cllr Jackson clarified a matter relating to the Section 106 monies referred to earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 20th August 2007 at 7.15 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, I Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 1 member of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs C. Pack (ill), R. Mallett (ill), B. Ogleby (work commitments); accepted. Concern was expressed that, because of his other commitments, Cllr

Ogleby had found it necessary to miss several meetings; the Chairman to speak to him.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd August 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Marshall, subject to three amendments on Page P049, one on Page P050 and one on Page P052.

Police Report

No representatives of the police present. Agreed that we should reiterate our request for Castle Garth to be regularly monitored

Reports

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that the reason the County Council's bid to become a Unitary Authority had failed was on the grounds of localism. He reported that the County Council are looking into the possibility of leading on flood defences throughout the County. Cllr Dadd had received an approach from local residents re the condition of the land in front of the houses on Ingramgate; a site meeting is to be held and Cllr Dadd would appreciate a representative of the Town Council coming to this. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has for many years tried to sort this out and we have now instructed our solicitors to do searches on our behalf to try and establish ownership of the land in question. She explained that the footpath is the responsibility of the County Council, but the land between the footpath and the houses is not in the ownership of the Town Council; a member of the Greens Committee to attend the site meeting. Cllr Jackson said he would not like to think that because Thirsk did not flood when other parts of the country did our priority for flood defences may have decreased. Cllr Adamson pointed out that there is money available from Europe for flooding which the County Council can access. Cllr Marshall pointed out that as the drainage authority the District Council has powers to deal with drainage. She asked whether the County Council is doing anything about flood re-action and asked whether there is a Flood Plan; Cllr Dadd confirmed that such a Plan exists. He offered to ask that the Emergency Planning Unit come to a Town Council meeting to give a presentation. Cllr Marshall said some flooding comes from the drainage system and we are concerned that gullies are full of rubbish etc; she urged the County Council to clear these urgently. Cllr Watson mentioned particularly the drains in Finkle Street and Millgate which require clearing and asked Cllr Dadd to chase this up. Cllr Watson mentioned the traffic island on Station Road and said there is now what appears to be a dropped pavement and a slip road onto

P055

Station Road; Cllr Dadd to look into this. He advised that the safety audit is still awaited.

District Council

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had obtained details of the cost of the Unitary Authority proceedings and this amounts to £30K; however, this does not include the time spent by the Chief Executive and his assistant. Cllr Adamson advised that some

of Thirsk and Sowerby Councillors met with the Planning Officer because they are not happy with the proposal for industrial land on Station Road as they feel such an industrial allocation should be adjacent to the existing Industrial Estate. It is to go to Cabinet early next month and Cllr Adamson is to request that the industrial land allocation be put on the other side of the bypass from the Industrial Estate rather than on Station Road. Cllr Adamson reported that according to the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership crime on the Hambleton Estate to July 2007 dropped by 37.5%. It increased by 900% on the Industrial Estate (but with a very small number of crimes) and was down by 12.4% in other Thirsk areas. Cllr Marshall referred to a recent 'E' mail from Cllr Adamson regarding the repairs which are required to the cobbles on the Market Place and said she would like an update from HDC on this.

Cllr Dadd advised that he had also obtained figures for the cost of the Unitary proposal and it is estimated that in total the exercise cost £115K. Cllr Dadd advised that the planning application for the Three Tuns Hotel was granted and Weatherspoons are looking at addressing some of the concerns expressed by local residents.

Open Forum

Mrs Penson reiterated the Town Council's concerns regarding the need to clear drains and gullies. She advised that water is not going down the drain near Riverside Mews and this needs clearing out; to be reported.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 16th July 2007

P041 Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store; agenda item for later in the meeting.

P042 Play Strategy; Cllr Marshall advised that HDC has drawn up its play strategy and this is in draft. She advised that they refer to the national figures for deprivation and felt it is necessary to look at the North Yorkshire figures where Thirsk is in the top 30%. East Thirsk Play Area has been awarded £43K from the Big Lottery Fund.

P043 Request for speed checks; 'E' mail sent to Inspector Sanderson.

P043 Lighting unit on the White Mare Roundabout; estimate and drawing passed to Cllr Pack, the Chairman of the Greens and Ingramgate Committee.

P043 Extension to Millgate car park; no reply as yet, but Cllr Adamson had forwarded an 'E' mail he had received from Clive Thornton at HDC advising that it is proposed work will start in September 2007.

P043 White lining on the Industrial Estate; no reply from HDC as yet.

P043 Carrs Field; reminder sent to Tony Jordan and reply received advising that he has obtained some details and will be in touch.

P056

P043 Footpath works; Bikers intend to start work on The Holmes footpaths once the school summer holidays are over.

P043 Code of Conduct; letter received from HDC advising that they are to do a block advertisement to cover any Parish Councils who wish to be included. The Clerk had replied advising that we wish to be included in this.

P043 Children's Centre; Cllr Marshall advised that a site meeting is to be held tomorrow with the County Council planners about the fence and she will be attending this; Cllr Roberts agreed to also attend.

P044 Environmental Offences; reply received from Eric Kendall at HDC advising that HDC has adopted a tough stance in relation to Environmental Crime and has appointed an Enforcement Officer who can serve fixed penalty notices for a range of environmental crimes and prosecute fly-tippers; to date there have been three successful prosecutions. Regarding smoking litter, the Enforcement Officer is to target problem areas and will serve Fixed Penalty Notices where appropriate.

P044 Request for quote for cutting and collecting grass around the headstones in the Cemetery; quote still awaited from Mr Walker.

P045 Monthly Budget Report; the Clerk advised that the grasscutting charges are now divided proportionally between the Town Council Budget and that of the Burial Board.

P045 Form re the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit; letter not sent as yet as it is to be included with the forms when they are sent back to the External Auditors. However, Cllr Marshall pointed out that the letter should be sent to the Audit Commission rather than being sent to Mazars; the letter will therefore be sent to the Audit Commission,

P045 North Yorkshire and York NHS re proposed changes to pharmacy opening arrangements in the Thirsk area; letter sent and reply received apologising for omitting to consult the Town Council. They advise that Boots in Chapel Street will open for pharmacy services from 5.30 p.m.-6.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (they will continue to review the need for this service) and there will be no additional Sunday or Bank Holiday opening in Thirsk. The Market Place Boots will also open at other times for other trading purposes, eg Bank Holiday Mondays and Good Friday, and they will provide pharmacy services at such times. Cllr Marshall suggested that a reply be sent to the North Yorkshire and York NHS thanking them and asking that we be consulted in future; agreed.

P046 St. Mary's Church Clock; reply received from the PCC thanking the Town Council for its offer to pay for the normal maintenance of the Church Clock. The first instalment has now been sent to the PCC.

P046 Lease of the Town Council Office; this has been signed and returned to HDC and the final copy is awaited.

P046 Burial Board Fees; copies of the approved increased fees have been sent to the local undertakers, monumental masons etc.

P047 Loose cobbles; reported to HDC and reply received advising that an order has been placed for the loose cobbles in the Market Place to be reinstated and the loose cobbles on the lamp column surround were included in the order.

P047 Public footpath from Gillings Court to Kirkgate; the poor condition of this footpath was reported to NYCC's Footpaths Officer. Reply received advising that this will be added to the list of footpaths requiring attention.

P047 Subsidence in the road on Station Road; reported to the County Council and reply received advising that this will be investigated.

P057

P047 Weeds in the cobbles on the Market Place; reported to HDC and reply received advising that their landscape maintenance contractor will spray the weeds.

P047 Resurfacing of Porters Vaults; Bikers' quote has been accepted.

P047 Gala Day; Cllr Marshall advised that the TRI has determined not to run one this year.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

Brian Noble Fencing Contractors – safety surfacing at East Thirsk Play Area		£7,275.24
Lite – Christmas lights		£ 721.40
Local Councils Update - subscription renewal		£ 65.00
Communicorp – subscription to “Clerks and Councils Direct”		£ 104.50
Sam Turner Ltd – fencing, gate etc for Carrs field		£ 178.11
Mrs Sal Billany – watering for Thirsk in Bloom, June/July 07		£ 286.00
Clover Peat Products – compost for Thirsk in Bloom		£ 249.69
D. Connelly – cleaning Town Council Office windows		£ 26.00
F.D. Todd & Sons Ltd – emptying Cemetery skip		£ 133.25
C.E. and C.M. Walker – grasscutting		£1,482.85
R. Bennett – cleaning Bus Shelter, 21.5.07.-23.7.07.		£ 80.00
Fox’s Signs – sign for Cemetery		£ 17.63
C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (2.7.07.-5.8.07)	£228.50	
Litter Picking (2.7.07.-5.8.07)	£290.00	
Centenary Field Cutting	£180.00	
Planting Whitelass Shrubbery	£165.00	
Little Green weeding	£ 30.00	
Hedge cutting – Shire Park, McCleans, East Thirsk	£110.00	
Cutting beech hedge in Cemetery	<u>£ 50.00</u>	£1,053.50
Hambleton District Sports Council – affiliation fee		£ 3.00
HDC – Rates of Town Council Office		£ 53.00
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, July 2007		£ 455.70
Biker Contracts – Resurfacing of Steads Yard (balance)		£17,018.02

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk, the Assistant to the Clerk and the Cemetery Groundsman are paid in accordance with the Town Council’s normal practice

Cllr Roberts pointed out that compost has been purchased from Clover Peat Products; she trusted this was simply their trading name and did not imply that the compost contains peat.

Paid since last meeting

Hull City Council – Mayor and Clerk to Yorkshire Day (balance)	£ 15.00
Quality Garden Care work to planters on Long Street	£1,130.00
St. Mary’s PCC – maintenance of Church Clock (1 st year)	£ 209.85
Npower – electricity charges	£ 38.18

P058

Income received

HM Revenue & Customs - VAT refund (1.4.07.-30.6.07)	£3,132.29
Yorkshire Water – compensation following work in the Market Place	£ 500.00
TRI – contribution towards surfacing of Roses Yard	£1,000.00
Burial Bd: Rent	£485.37
Interment	<u>£232.00</u>

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for July 2007

Copies already circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson that these be approved; agreed.

Correspondence

NYCC – letter received advising that a resident of Norby Estate has asked that additional waiting restrictions be placed along Norby Front Street. Agreed that more details on this be requested. Cllr Marshall pointed out that when the Town Council had requested traffic calming on Norby Front Street it was advised that this request would be held in abeyance until the development of the County Council's former site at Norby has been completed.

Cllr G. Dadd re site meeting re road/pavement surface of Ingramgate; dealt with under County Councillor's report.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust; advising that they have been nominated to become a Foundation Trust and are currently in the process of carrying out a formal consultation, ending on 30th September 2007. They are also inviting applications to become members of the Foundation Trust and would be happy to send further information or talk to a meeting. Cllr Marshall enquired whether the Town Council could be a member of the Foundation Trust or whether it is limited to individuals; an enquiry regarding this to be sent.

NYCC – North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Sites Allocations Issues and Options; noted.

HDC; Notice that the next District/Parish Liaison Meeting is to be held on 24th September and any items for the agenda are required by 7th September; noted.

NYCC; letter asking that the Town Council consider the impact of possible Post Office closures. It is proposed that up to 2,500 of the 14,300 branches will close and the impact of this is likely to be greater in rural areas. An area plan is to be produced and there will be a six week public consultation period following the plan – in North Yorkshire this is to be in October 2007. Cllr Jackson pointed out that there was no reference in the letter to sub-postmasters/postmistresses. Agreed we should wait until the consultation paper comes out.

Amanda Madden of YRCC advising that she is attempting to arrange an Affordable Housing event for early Autumn and asking for comments. Agreed we should stress that affordable housing should be for local people. It may be possible for someone to attend depending upon where and when the event is held.

NYCC re works to Millgate Bridge; Phil Clark of Jacobs would be happy to meet with Members to explain about the intended works; Cllrs Watson and Marshall to meet with him.

Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store

Following the presentation at the last Town Council meeting, it was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that a donation of £100 be made to the Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store; agreed.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Marshall advised that the final report on the EngAGE project is available. She referred to the Action for Market Towns Report which has an article about car parking research which has been carried out in Bedale and asked that we obtain a copy and discuss it.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the CCA has a new manager and he is working very well.

Cllr Jackson advised that a meeting of the Flatts Trust had been held. The changing rooms are in a poor state and work is also required to accommodate female footballers. The planning application has been submitted and fund raising is now required. He requested that if we are asked to support this then we should do so.

Members

Cllr Roberts reported that the drains in Kirkgate, Millgate and Finkle Street are blocked and smell.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that East Thirsk has had recycling boxes for many years and some of these are now very worn; she queried whether when the scheme is extended to other areas the boxes in East Thirsk will be replaced. HDC to be asked when the scheme is to be extended to other areas and whether East Thirsk can have new boxes at that time. Cllr Marshall referred to a bank account containing £15.61 which is the residue of the Mayor's Charity Fund; Cllr Watson asked that this be held in abeyance for the time being. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that this be done and that a letter be sent to the bank advising that the account may be used in the future.

Cllr Adamson advised that where the traffic calming and dropped kerbs are in East Thirsk the drainage is very poor and ponding is taking place; agreed that a letter be sent to Highways Department.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a personnel nature; agreed.

Cllr Adamson asked that the Personnel Committee look at the role of the Cemetery Groundsman and it was agreed that they should do this.

The meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 6th September 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, A. Morton, B. Ogleby, F. Roberts, PC Duncan Pears (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs R. Mallett (ill), J. Marshall (family commitment), C. Pack (holiday); accepted.

Open Forum

PC Pears referred to the application for an On Street Drinking Ban and advised that he requires confirmation from the Town Council that it has no objection to such a ban being imposed on certain pieces of land which it owns, ie Mill Gardens and the Picnic Area. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that we are in favour of such a ban; agreed. The Chairman signed the necessary documents to this effect. Cllr Roberts expressed concern that Carrs Field was not included. Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to the ban on selling alcohol to under 21s and PC Pears advised that this year there has been a downturn on the number of alcohol related offences as compared to the same time last year. Cllr Roberts suggested we write to Tesco's Head Office asking why they would not join the ban on supplying alcohol to under 21s and this was agreed. PC Pears advised that John Trueman of North Yorkshire Police is making representations to Tesco. In reply to an enquiry, PC Pears advised that there had been a serious incident in East Thirsk within the last few days and this has been dealt with. Cllr Ogleby expressed concern at speeding around St. James' Green and also at vehicles with large exhausts and asked what has been done to tackle this. PC Pears advised that anyone who is seen driving in an inappropriate manner is stopped. He invited people to report any vehicles they see with large exhausts, although he stressed that some of these are permissible. He said the speed matrix has indicated that there is not a problem with vehicles speeding on St. James' Green. Cllr Morton advised that recently someone had tried to set fire to the noticeboard in the porch of St. Mary's Church and he asked that this area be monitored by the police. He also referred to recent instances of certain foods, ie mayonnaise, flour etc, being thrown at properties around St. Marys. PC Pears advised that the police are aware of these instances and have spoken to the people whose properties were affected.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th August 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 2nd August 2007

P049 Market Place Problem Solving Group; reply received from Inspector Sanderson advising that the reason she had written to the Town Council expressing her concern at the lack of support for this was because she felt it was the best place in which to make such representations. She stressed that her remarks were not directed at the Town Council.

P049 Public conveniences: reply received from Cllr Arthur Barker at HDC advising that he has asked Steve Prentice to let us have details of when the toilets are cleaned and how

that cleaning is monitored. Cllr Roberts pointed out that in a lot of public toilets a timetable is displayed showing when the toilets were last cleaned; agreed we should ask HDC whether this can be done here. Cllr Watson expressed concern that one morning recently the toilets had not been opened at 8.30. Cllr Adamson agreed to bring the problems with the toilets up at the main HDC meeting. It was felt we should repeat our request for properly supervised toilets.

P049 Painting mileposts and roundel of Castle Garth; this is being dealt with by the Open Areas Committee and an order for such painting has been placed.

P049 Millennium Green; an order has been placed for the damaged piece of equipment to be removed and a new one to be put in.

P049 Advertising signage on the McCarthy and Stone development; the planning application for this was withdrawn. Copy letter from the Enforcement Officer to McCarthy and Stone received advising that the signs and flagpoles are unauthorised and must be removed.

P049 Rubbish on the Industrial Estate; reply received from Mike Kneebone at HDC advising that the Todds site has always operated as a transfer station and it is only the type of waste that will have changed. He points out that clarification of this can be obtained from NYCC; a letter has been sent to them.

P049 Request by Sessay Parish Council to have a duck race on Cod Beck in September; still no reply received.

P049 Development scheme and drainage issues re the former NYCC Norby Depot; reply received from Taylor Wimpey confirming that they are aware of the historic nature of Thirsk. They advise that, as far as the Mill Race is concerned, should they encounter the structure then they will ensure that any damage is kept to a minimum and reinstated as necessary under the supervision of an appropriately qualified consultant. Also any disturbance to the footpath and play equipment/picnic benches etc will be fully reinstated. They agree that a site meeting will be useful and they will contact us regarding this nearer the time.

P049 Smiths of Derby re servicing of Town Clock; Cllr Watson advised that we have not budgeted in this year to pay for 5 years' servicing in advance. This will be included in next year's budget.

P050 Christmas Lights; Wired have looked at the new lights and have confirmed they are correct.

P050 Millgate Bridge; in reply to our enquiry about whether to plant trees in the river bank, the Environment Agency advise that this is not a good idea. The work to the bridge has now been re-scheduled for January 2008 and the County Council are to remove the silt at the same time as the work is being carried out.

P050 Castle Garth; Cllr Marshall met with Brian Noble Fencing on site to clarify the position of the new fence.

P050 Parking on pavements; acknowledgement received from HDC advising that they are currently investigating the position and will reply shortly.

P062

P051 Major works to Millgate Bridge; Cllr Watson reported that she and Cllr Marshall met with Phil Clark from Jacobs (acting for NYCC). The works to the

bridge are to start in January 2008 and will last 14 weeks. This will not involve a road closure, but there will be a suspended footpath on the Mill Gardens side. They will remove the silt and are to construct some brickwork to form a weir type structure to encourage water to flow through the right hand side arch of the bridge, making it less likely to silt up. The plans will be coming to the Town Council once they have been formalised.

P051 Proposed No-Alcohol signs; reply sent confirming our agreement with these, but pointing out that Castle Garth is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and querying whether the signs are to be affixed to existing structures.

P051 Central Areas; letters regarding redundant signage sent to Market Cross Jewellers and Hutchinson and Buchanan (re the former Mind Shop). NYCC have been contacted again regarding the number of shops displaying goods on the pavements.

P052 Millennium Green; Mike I'Anson of the Millennium Green Trust has looked at the barbed wire and has advised that this is on someone's garden fence and is not the responsibility of the Millennium Green.

P053 Ladies' toilets in the Market Place; the recent dirty condition of the toilets was reported to HDC and they are monitoring the cleaning.

P053 Move of the Post Office; letter expressing the Town Council's concerns sent to the Post Office Customer Service Centre in Barnsley and acknowledgement received. A letter has since been received from the Post Office in Watford advising that the current branch is to close at 17.30 on 27th September and the branch will open in the new premises at 26 Market Place on 29th September. A copy of our previous letter has now been sent to them. Cllr Jackson felt it was very important that the closed period whilst the Post Office is moved should not extend beyond the two days. Agreed that a further letter be sent saying this and also pointing out that the service is very poor, there are often long queues and we will expect a better service at the new Post Office. It was mentioned that the planning application refers to designated parking spaces outside the new Post Office and it will be pointed out that this is not in fact the case.

Correspondence

NYCC; giving details of the Thirsk Service Centre Transportation Strategy. A workshop is to be held on 18th September; Cllr Roberts to attend.

Rospa; advising that the inspection of play equipment will take place in September 2007.

NYCC re Thirsk Children's Centre and Extended Schools Steering Group; asking whether the Town Council would like to nominate a representative. Cllr Adamson felt that rather than having members of the Town Council etc on this steering committee, it should be comprised of representatives of the schools and other relevant professionals in that field who have more knowledge of this; proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that a reply to this effect be sent; agreed.

Annual Return 2006/07; the Clerk had received the books back from the Internal Auditors. The only point they make is that the gross rent of Cemetery Lodge should be

shown as a receipt and any deductions, eg the agents' commission, be shown as a payment rather than the net amount being shown as a receipt. She had therefore amended the "Total of other receipts" and "Total of other payments" figures accordingly. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Morton that these be accepted and the alterations initialled by the Chairman; agreed. Cllr Roberts congratulated the Clerk on her work for the audit.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

The updated Schedule had been circulated to Councillors and this was self explanatory. The following items were mentioned:

Landlords' signboard on the Industrial Estate – it was queried whether this has been updated; to be checked.

Land on Ingramgate; Cllr Adamson felt we should invite John Bell to a meeting regarding this and Cllr Roberts said he would like to be kept in touch.

Reports

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts advised that there has been no response as yet from the Chairman of the Carrs Field Trust and asked that a further letter be sent to him.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson reported that a meeting had been held earlier in the week and they had gone through the list of items from the previous meeting. She advised that recently someone had tripped on the cobbles. This was reported to HDC who came and re-set them, but they were still not good and she therefore reported it again and some further work was carried out. She advised there are problems with blocked gullies and she referred to the downpipe on the central block where pigeons are sitting and causing problems. She said that if the Environmental Health Department cleared it they could charge the owners who would then pass the cost onto the tenants of the building; agreed that a letter be sent expressing concern about the downpipe. The door of the Town Clock is to be rubbed down and waxed and the door hinges and the small bollards around the Clock are to be painted black. Cllr Watson said the pavement outside the underwear shop is in need of attention. Cllr Adamson advised that he is still waiting to hear from Clive Thornton at HDC as to when the work to the cobbles is to be carried out.

Christmas Festivities

Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate

A walk round had been held and a report from this had been drawn up. Cllr Hesmondhalgh gave the details of this to the meeting.

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh had looked round and said some litter picking is required. Some progress has been made regarding the person responsible for dumping the logs in the ditch and details have been passed to John Proud at HDC.

Open Areas

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the work to the East Thirsk Play Area will not be started until March 2008 because of the construction of the Children's Centre.

Town Development Working Party

Cllr Morton referred to the street nameplates required for the alleyways. Letters have been sent to HDC and NYCC to ascertain whether they have any monies available for this.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Ogleby pointed out that there is a considerable amount of litter collected outside the corner of the building near Millgate toilets; to be reported to HDC.

Cllr Watson advised that some work is to be done to the trees near Millgate Bridge when NYCC are doing the works to the bridge.

It was mentioned that the bushes around the car park on The Marage are restricting visibility; these have been reported to HDC.

Cllr Ogleby pointed out that some of the branches on willows near Whiteless Bridge are hanging very low down; it was pointed out that these are in South Kilvington.

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 17th September 2007 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, C. Pack, F. Roberts, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”), PC Pears (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs C. Hesmondhalgh (away), R. Mallett (ill), A. Morton (ill), A. Robinson (work commitments) and County and District Cllr G. Dadd (another commitment); accepted

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Jackson; agreed.

Police Report

PC Pears advised that the DPPO application for an on street drinking ban and supporting paperwork has been forwarded to HDC. He reported that there is a spate of theft of lead in the Hambleton area. Cllr Marshall enquired about the East Thirsk Problem Solving Group and PC Pears advised that PC Kevin Brookes is organising this. Cllr Watson advised that there is to be a Problem Solving Group meeting at Tescos on Wednesday. The lighting near the electricity sub station and Calvert’s building on Castle Garth is up and running. Cllr Marshall advised that plans to deal with the gap in the fencing are in hand.

Reports

Cllr Dadd has sent in a written report which advised as follows: He has arranged for a Senior Officer of the County Council’s Emergency Planning Department to give a presentation to the Town Council;

The second entrance to the new development on Station Road has been blocked up. He is awaiting confirmation from Officers about the intentions and a site meeting about the second proposed roundabout will be held;

The Planning Application for the Children’s Centre at East Thirsk Community Primary School has been approved. Cllr Dadd advises that he fully supported the proposed fence which was requested by the police. A further site meeting is to be held;

The Local Development Framework goes before Cabinet at HDC tomorrow and then to full Council before going to final public consultation.

A site meeting was held with a representative of the residents of The Crescent and Cllr Dadd thanked the members of the Town Council who attended. He has requested officially that the footpath is assessed for works to complete the full stretch;

At Cllr Dadd’s request HDC have written to the owner of Vale Garage regarding the need to tidy up the site.

Cllr Adamson advised that he has received a reply from Clive Thornton regarding the repairs to the cobbles in the Market Place. Because of the loss of car parking spaces, there will be no major works in the Market Place until the extension to Millgate car park has been completed. Works to the car park are to start in September 2007 and will last for 8-12 weeks and therefore works to the cobbles will not be done until after

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Christmas. Cllr Adamson advised that the Local Development Framework is to go to Cabinet tomorrow and he is to speak against the proposed allocation of industrial land on Station Road. He advised that HDC have discounted an extension of industrial land on the other side of the A19 from the current Industrial Estate. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that industrial development on Station Road would create more east/west traffic and this would exacerbate traffic congestion and cause bottlenecks in the town. Cllr Adamson advised that a public consultation and display is to be held in the Town Hall at the end of October. He understands this is to take place during the day and he has asked that it be extended into the evening. Agreed that an 'E' mail be sent to Peter Simpson at HDC before the meeting which is to be held at 2.00 p.m. tomorrow expressing the Town Council's objection to the proposed industrial allocation on Station Road and saying it is felt this should be on the other side of the A19 from the Industrial Estate, also requesting that the public consultation be extended into the evening. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the cobbles which were replaced on the Market Place near the exit from Finkle Street are sticking up and there are some broken slabs on the footpath, particularly near the Coop. Cllr Roberts advised that she and the Clerk had attended a site meeting with Clive Thornton earlier in the day and in the course of that had pointed out these two areas to him. Cllr Marshall referred to the recycling boxes scheme which has been in East Thirsk for some time and said they are to get new boxes. HDC are to extend the scheme to other areas and a leaflet has been sent out advising that only the new boxes and bags for paper can be used and any recyclables put out in other containers will not be taken. In view of this, Cllr Marshall questioned whether HDC are committed to recycling. Cllr Adamson expressed the view that now they are extending the recycling scheme, he would like them to extend the articles which can be recycled. A letter to be sent to HDC complaining that they are restricting the amounts and items that people can recycle.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising

P054 Blocked gullies; Cllr Marshall reported that no reply has been received from the County Council as yet.

P055 Blocked drain near Riverside Mews; reported.

P055 Request for Speed Checks; reply received from Inspector Sanderson. PC Pears had advised that speed checks have been carried out on Long Street and Stockton Road and it is felt there is not a problem with speeding on the roads in Thirsk.

P055 White lining on the Industrial Estate; no reply as yet.

P055 Carrs Field; further reminder sent to Tony Jordan.

P056 Footpath on The Holmes; this has been done. The Clerk had concerns about this and she and Cllr Roberts had attended a site meeting with Bikers earlier in the day. They are to come back and finish the works off.

P055 Request for quote for cutting and collecting grass around the headstones in the Cemetery; not received as yet.

P056 Form re the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit; reply received from the Audit Commission advising that there is no requirement on Parish and Town Councils to complete a form regarding the effectiveness of the internal audit. The form should

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have been sent for guidance only. Cllr Marshall expressed her concern, pointing out that the new Account and Audit Regulations which came into force some years ago should have reduced costs. Cllr Roberts advised that she had taken this up with NALC at a meeting; agreed to wait and see what response is received from them.

P056 North Yorkshire and York NHS re proposed changes to pharmacy opening arrangements in Thirsk; letter sent thanking them for their reply and asking that the Town Council be consulted on any such matters in the future.

P056 Lease of the Town Council Office; executed Lease received from HDC and the back rent following the review is included in the rental payment.

P056 Cobbles in the Market Place; the loose cobbles were reinstated but are sticking up; they were pointed out to Clive Thornton of HDC earlier today.

P056 Public footpath from Gillings Court to Kirkgate; nothing further.

P056 Subsidence in the road on Station Road; nothing further.

P057 Resurfacing of Porters Vaults; site meeting held today with Peter Fishburn of Bikers – they are hoping to start the work in a couple of weeks.

P058 Request by a resident for additional waiting restrictions on Norby Front Street; letter sent to NYCC pointing out that when the Town Council had asked for traffic calming it was advised that this request would be held in abeyance pending the development of the former County Council site at Norby.

P058 South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust Foundation Trust; reply received advising that membership is restricted to individuals. There is also to be a Council of Governors from various organisations and any member can put themselves forward as a Governor.

P058 Affordable Housing Event; reply received from Amanda Madden of YRCC agreeing with the Town Council's view that Affordable Housing should be for local people. A meeting is to be held on 25th November in the Town Hall from 5.00-8.00 p.m.

P058 Works to Millgate Bridge; Cllrs Watson and Marshall had met on site with Phil Clark of Jacobs and the outcome of this was reported at the meeting on 6th September. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the temporary footbridge will go on either side of Millgate Bridge depending upon which side they are working on. Cllr Watson said that Phil Clark has been in touch with Clive Thornton at HDC re trees etc. in that area.

P059 Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store; cheque for £100 sent.

P059 Action for Market Towns Report – article on car parking research; requested.

P059 Drains in Kirkgate, Millgate and Finkle Street; reported.

P059 Recycling boxes in East Thirsk; letter sent to HDC asking when the scheme is to

be extended to other areas and asking whether new boxes will be supplied to East Thirsk.

P059 Ponding in East Thirsk; reported to Highways.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Jackson that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

Record Playground Equipment – swings for East Thirsk Play Area £500.55

Graffiti Removal (Yorkshire) Ltd – cleaning Town Clock £282.00

BT – Office telephone £102.91

The Barker Partnership – Internal Audit Fee £587.50

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Mrs Sal Billany – watering for Thirsk in Bloom, Aug 2007 £238.00

Hollin Barn Nurseries – plants for Picnic Area £62.50

C.E. and C.M. Walker – grasscutting, 8th and 21st Aug 2007 £1,482.85

HDC – rent of Town Council Office, qtr comm. 1.9.07. plus increased rent following review (31.5.07.-31.8.07) £1,028.12

Yorkshire Water – water rates for Cemetery Lodge (2nd half) £193.60

C.A. Amy – Play Area Inspections (6.8.07.-2.9.07.) £182.80

Litter picking (6.8.07.-2.9.07.) £200.00

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, Aug 2007 £490.16

Hollin Barn Nurseries – bulbs for Thirsk in Bloom £147.00

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

Paid since last meeting

Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store – donation £100.00

Income Received:

Burial Board: Rent £485.37

Grave Purchase £122.00

Interments £244.00

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for August 2007

These had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

Correspondence

NYCC; Proposed temporary closure of Sutton Bank for essential maintenance works for up to five days from 17th September.

BT; Application to install a pole with associated wires outside 31 St, James Green. It was felt that such a pole would detract from the visual amenity of the area and it was agreed that this be refused and that should the wires be required they should be run underground.

TRI; Agenda for the next Neighbourhood Policing/Community Safety Meeting to be

held on 26th September 2007 at Knayton Village Hall.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Application for an Additional Inscription:

Grave No. UU 16 Flora I'Anson Interred 12.5.06.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that this application be approved; agreed.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson reported that he had met with Neil Collinson who have given him a plan showing the amount of land which needs to be left at the top of the grave for the stability of memorials. Cllr Adamson advised that he intends to suggest to the Burial Board that we go back to having a Cemetery Superintendent. Cllr Marshall referred to cars parked on the grass near Cemetery Lodge and Cllr Adamson said more gravel needs to be put down.

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Reports

Representatives

No reports received.

Members

Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council have now removed the bollards from Long Street which were not required following the Enhancement Scheme.

Cllr Marshall advised that there is a possibility of going for significant grant monies for independent cinemas and if monies are available it would be hoped to improve the projection room and enhance the subtitles. She advised that they will be coming to the Town Council for a letter supporting this.

Cllr Watson asked about the plants in the planters on Long Street and Cllr Pack said there is a problem with this which will be resolved.

Cllr Jackson referred to shops selling food which is described as half-price; a letter to be sent to Trading Standards.

Cllr Watson advised that, as Mayor, she had recently attended the Battle of Britain Cocktail Party at Linton on Ouse.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a personnel nature; agreed.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack that the Cemetery Groundsman be asked to come to the Town Council Office at a specified time to meet with Cllr Pack and the Clerk; agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 4th October 2007 at 7.30 in Thirsk and Sowerby town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs C Pack (in the chair), D Adamson, C Hesmondhalgh, J Jackson, A Morton, J Marshall, F Roberts, I Noble (Darlington and Stockton times) and the Assistant to the Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs J Watson (away), R Mallett (ill) and the Clerk (away); accepted

Open forum

No members of the police or public present.

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed

Matters arising from the meeting held on 6th September 2007

P061 Public conveniences: nothing further received re possibility of timetable to show when the toilets are cleaned.

P061 Advertising signage on McCarthy & Stone development; these have now gone.

P061 Rubbish on Industrial Estate; letter sent to HDC no reply received as yet.

P061 Duck race; this has been held and was in aid of Sessay Village Hall.

P061 Development at Norby Depot; nothing further as yet re site meeting.

P061 Fencing on Castlegarth: Quote from Mr Noble received. Permission is needed from English Heritage to replace the fence unless it is utilising the existing fence posts. Clerk to request the necessary forms from English Heritage and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

P061 Mileposts; These have now been repainted in situ as it was not possible to remove them.

P062 Works to Millgate Bridge; no plans received as yet.

P062 Redundant signage; no reply as yet from Market Cross Jewellers. Reply received from Hutchinson and Buchanan stating that the property is no longer owned by the Strom family. Cllr Marshall suggested we contact Joplins to try to ascertain ownership of the building.

P062 Move of Post Office; further letter sent, no reply as yet. Cllr Hesmondhalgh pointed out that there are only three service outlets instead of four at the new location, which would not provide an improvement to the service. Agreed that we will monitor the situation .

P062 Thirsk Children's Centre Steering Group; a letter has been sent suggesting the steering committee be comprised of representatives of the schools and other professionals in that field. Cllr Marshall expressed her disappointment that the Town Council did not have a representative on the steering group and informed the meeting that she is on the steering group as a representative of the local residents. Cllr Marshall offered to provide a report to the Town Council. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, that we accept Cllr Marshall's offer to report from the Steering Group. Declined.

P063 Signboards on Thirsk Industrial Estate; nothing further on this as yet.

P063 Carrs Field; further letter sent to Tony Jordan, no reply received.

P063 Blocked gullies; HDC have cleaned the downpipe and surrounding areas.

Town Clock; the door, hinges and small bollards have been painted.

P064 Street nameplates for alleyways; the clerk has spoken to Clive Thornton who is to let us have details of the signs HDC can provide. If we want anything different we may have to contribute.

P064 Litter near Millgate toilets; reported to HDC

P064 Overgrown bushes on The Marage near Millgate car park; reported again, no action as yet.

Correspondence

Letter from Edith Holmes regarding rubbish in the Beck and along the footpath from Todds Court to Finkle Street. It was agreed that this be dealt with by the Greens Committee. The lack of cleaning along the footpath to be reported to HDC. Peter Penny to be contacted again re the signs at both ends of this footpath. A letter of thanks to be sent to Edith Holmes thanking her for her interest and help in trying to keep this area tidy.

Schedule of outstanding amenity items

Cllr Marshall pointed out that some of these items are now actively being worked on by the relevant committees. It was agreed that they be kept on the schedule.

The work to the car park is now due to start in November which will result in the start date for the work to the cobbles and Millgate Bridge being put back.

Reports:

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts reported that although a further letter had been sent from the Town Council there had been nothing received from the Secretary of the Carrs Field Trust. The gate has recently been mended. The hedge needs attention and there is a lot of litter and broken glass near the tarmac, which does not provide a safe environment for dog walking or for children using the basketball net. Cllr Roberts informed the meeting that she had gone through the Carrs Field constitution to clarify the position and that there was a three year appointment for Trustees. It was Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that we write to the Secretary of Carrs Field Trust voicing our concerns and informing him that if we do not receive a response within fourteen days we will contact our solicitors to remove the Carrs Field Trustees as they are not discharging their duties.

Central Areas

Cllr Marshall had been through the list with Cllr Watson. There was concern at the state of the cobbles and paving but there was nothing else to report.

Christmas Lights

The date for the switch on of the Christmas Lights is 25th November.

The Ladies Chamber of Trade is concerned about future fundraising for the lights as the auction of promises had to be cancelled.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack reported that Hollin Barn had started replanting the roundabout this week.

We need someone to plant and water the boxes on Long Street as soon as possible as they are not being tended at the moment. It was suggested we advertise for someone to do the planters along with other regular jobs. To be looked at when the budgets are set.

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that Millennium Green is looking tidy. No action can be taken by HDC against the resident responsible for putting branches in the ditch as the branches were dumped more than 6 months ago. The Enforcement Officer is to talk to the resident concerned.

A replacement for the vandalised piece of equipment on the Millennium Green has been ordered and is to be replaced soon. Chris Amy has been reminded about tightening the chain on the play equipment.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall reported that we are awaiting the Rospa report which should have been done in September. The traffic sign at the Workhouse play area had been installed following consultation with the residents association regarding the style, wording and location of the sign. However, following completion, the sign has now been removed by the residents. It was agreed that we write to the Secretary to express our concern at what has happened and to arrange to recover the sign and also that we write to the residents explaining that our reason for installing the sign was to protect their children from injury. Rospa to be consulted and the situation to be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

Cllr Marshall reported that the East Thirsk Problem Solving Group meeting would take place on 10th October at 7.00pm at Bail House.

The new fence has been installed at the East Thirsk Play Area. Cllr Marshall expressed her thanks to Kevin Brookes and the Probation Service for removing the old fencing and cutting back the hedges and also to Todds for providing a skip and HDC for providing two large bins whilst the work was in progress. The last two panels of fencing are being held by the builders and will go up when the access to the Children's Centre is no longer required. Cllr Marshall has met with three play equipment providers and they are drawing up schemes for the play area. It is the intention of the committee to consult the young people at the school and when the plans are drawn up they and the problem solving group will be given a chance to comment. Nothing will go onto the site until next summer, due to ongoing work at the school. At present there are two sets of swings, a slide and new safety surfaces, and Cllr Marshall expressed her disappointment that the swings were not available for use during the summer as they had been removed following damage to the seats and left in the Cemetery, and were subsequently stolen. Replacements have been ordered and they will be reinstated as soon as possible. Cllr Marshall to write to Chris Amy.

Town Development

The resurfacing of Porter Vaults is currently taking place.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Morton reported that the seat in the Picnic area next to the stone needs fastening down. Malcolm Burnett to be asked to see to this as soon as possible. Cllr Marshall pointed out the difficulty experienced in getting small jobs done and it was agreed that we contact Broadacres to enquire if they have a list of local tradesmen we could call upon. Also to contact Peter Alderson of Sowerby.

The ditches working party continues to meet. Mike I'Anson has joined the committee as a representative of the Millennium Green Trust, and he has met with the Environment Agency regarding the Tranmire Ditch. The solicitor has contacted Barratts re the ownership of the ditch but no response has been received as yet. Cllr Marshall advised that the Sensory Gardens Working Party has been set up. Mike I'Anson has been employed to design the Sensory Garden and Cllr Marshall brought the site plan and initial picture boards to the meeting. Cllr Marshall explained that the land will not be available until the development at Chapel Street has been finished. She has received conflicting information regarding the location of burials on the site and there are approximately 20 headstones/kerbstones remaining. Mike I'Anson has suggested taking up these stones and storing them whilst the work is ongoing Cllr Adamson informed the meeting that there is no formal requirement regarding the removal of the stones and proposed that a notice be placed on the gate and in the Darlington and Stockton Times explaining our plans. He suggested Cllr Marshall contact Neil Collinson re advice and equipment needed for the removal of these stones. It is planned to include them in a memorial in an area of the Sensory Garden.

Cllr Jackson informed the meeting that Mr Peter Hatch, a local historian and writer has died.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Nothing to report.

It was proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the press be excluded for a Confidential item.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

Confidential Item

Cllr Pack informed the meeting that Jeremy Cave had resigned as Cemetery worker. This is yet to be confirmed in writing. Cllr Adamson said the Burial Board would consider the situation before employing another worker.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 15th October 2007 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Morton, C. Pack, A. Robinson, County and District Cllr G. Dadd, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), PC Sarah Jobe (NY Police), Mr Robin Meyshall (NYCC) and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllr J. Jackson (away), R. Mallett (ill), J. Marshall (away), F. Roberts (away), A. Robinson (late arrival); accepted.

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

Presentation by Mr Robin Meyshall of NYCC's Emergency Planning Department

Mr Meyshall referred to flooding which had taken place in Thirsk, the last being in 2005. He referred to the Civil Agencies Act 2004 which gives the Environment Agency and other parties a duty to ensure they are capable of responding to emergencies. Mr Meyshall explained that Emergency Planning is done on a partnership basis with all relevant organisations involved. He advised that a multi agency Flood Response Plan is being produced per district and this includes identifying properties in each area which are likely to flood. It is particularly in this respect that, because of local knowledge, he would like input from the parishes. He showed the meeting a draft Community Emergency Scheme which covers all emergencies including flooding and suggested we set up a sub group of Town Councillors to work through the Community Emergency Scheme and then bring it back to the Town Council for discussion. When completed this would be amalgamated into the Plan. He advised that one of his Officers would assist us through the process of working through the Community Emergency Scheme. Mr Meyshall advised that as far as emergency shelters are concerned they are now tending to move away from using schools. Cllr Morton mentioned the house building which takes place on flood plains and asked whether the County Council's Emergency Planning Department has any jurisdiction as far as this is concerned. Mr Meyshall advised that they have no influence over HDC's Planning Department, but they work closely with the Environment Agency who have. He will ask someone from the Environment Agency to come and talk to the Town Council about flood warnings etc.

Cllr Robinson joined the meeting

Cllr Watson asked about the logistics of doing the Community Emergency Scheme and Mr Meyshall said their Officers would help us from the start. Cllr Watson also mentioned blocked drains and gullies which can be the cause of flooding and Mr Meyshall said this is a difficult issue because the ownership of such drains and gullies is not always known. However, he will look into this.

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Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that Standing Orders be

reinstated; agreed.

Agreed that Item 4 (Police Report) be dealt with before Item 3 (Minutes).

Police Report

PC Jobe advised that the police are holding crime surgeries at Tescos in Thirsk – one has been held today and there is another on Saturday. This is a Neighbourhood Policing Team initiative also involving other agencies and is an opportunity for people to come and ask questions. There is also to be an “Inside Justices” Week on 3rd-10th November and similar agencies will be involved in this; further details about this are to follow. Cllr Watson enquired about the Over 21 rule relating to sales of alcohol which had been in place during the school holidays; PC Jobe said this is not continuing at present, although it was very successful. She will keep the Town Council informed on this.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Pack, subject to one amendment on Page P066, one on Page P067 and six on Page P068; agreed.

Reports

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised he had been informed by some Thirsk residents that the tour buses are now pulling into Millgate Coach Park rather than the Market Place. He has spoken to HDC and they are sending a letter to the bus companies asking them to pull into the Market Place. A new light has been installed between Hambleton Place and Rymer Way. Cllr Dadd referred to the Children’s Centre Steering Group and said that as the elected community representative he will report to the Town Council on this. Cllr Dadd advised that he has met with Steve Pimperton of NYCC regarding Ingramgate and he has agreed to put forward the state of the footpath for assessment. Cllr Dadd referred to the proposed cuts to North Yorkshire Police saying this is a very grave matter and he has launched a petition objecting to it. Cllr Watson asked about the Friarage Hospital; Cllr Dadd said this appears to be quite secure and nothing has been said to the contrary. Cllr Watson referred to the travellers’ site in Thirsk saying there are quite a number of caravans on York Road at present; Cllr Dadd advised that he is to meet with the Acting Highways Manager at Thirsk and he will bring this up at that meeting. The position regarding Station Road is to be put before the Area Committee in November.

District Council

Cllr Adamson referred to the industrial land allocation on Station Road and said there is to be an exhibition regarding the LDF in the Town Hall on Wednesday 31st October followed by a public meeting from 7.00-9.00 p.m. The Swimming Pool Trustees have met and prices are to be increased by 5% from January 2008. They intend to build an extension to house a gym and they are also to re-vamp the car park in order to accommodate more cars. Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the East Thirsk Play Area Problem

Solving Group. The police had produced the minutes of the first meeting which said that East Thirsk is too big an area for one problem solving group

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alone and they are therefore breaking it down into areas – dealing with one and then moving onto the next.

Cllr Dadd advised that he was also in attendance at the East Thirsk Play Area Problem Solving Group meeting and he felt this group works very well. He said that East Thirsk should not be described in public as a deprived area. Cllr Watson referred to the extension to Millgate Car Park and asked that this be chased up; Cllr Adamson agreed to do this. Cllr Dadd advised that he had attended a meeting re low cost housing and housing needs and said it is felt that Broadacres needs to strengthen its policy of low cost housing for local people.

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 17th September 2007

P066 Proposed industrial allocation of land on Station Road; 'E' mail sent to Peter Simpson at HDC and telephone call received from him confirming its receipt. Cllr Adamson advised that he and Cllr Dadd went to Cabinet about this and there is a meeting on Thursday to look at other options.

P066 Recycling Scheme; letter not sent as Cllr Adamson had clarified that households are entitled to have two boxes and two bags each. Cllr Adamson advised that another leaflet has been sent out from HDC and according to this the category of items they will take for recycling has been reduced; he is to take this up with the person responsible.

P066 White lining on the Industrial Estate; no reply as yet.

P066 Carrs Field; dealt with at Thursday's Town Council meeting.

P066 Footpath on The Holmes; Bikers have been back and this is now finished.

P066 Request for quote for cutting and collecting grass around the headstones in the Cemetery; not received as yet.

P067 Public footpath from Gillings Court to Kirkgate; nothing further as yet.

P067 Subsidence in the road on Station Road; nothing further as yet.

P067 Resurfacing of Porters Vaults; work started on 1st October.

P067 Request by a resident for additional waiting restrictions on Norby Front Street: reply received from NYCC advising that they have reassessed the situation in the light of our letter and will inform the resident that they will review this request as part of the overall review for traffic calming once the County Council depot site has been developed.

P067 Affordable Housing Event; 'E' mail received from Amanda Madden at HDC giving details of events in the various market towns. The one in Thirsk is

to be held on 26th November at the Town Hall.

P067 Hambleton and Richmondshire Furniture Store; letter of thanks received re donation.

P067 Action for Market Towns Report – article re car parking research; awaited.

P067 Ponding in East Thirsk; reply received from NYCC advising that they are aware of the problems and are monitoring the situation in order to decide upon the best course of action.

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P067 South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust Foundation Trust; Cllr Adamson felt we should put ourselves forward to be a member.

P068 Request by BT to install a pole outside 31 St. James Green; letter sent refusing this request.

P069 Shops selling food described as half-price; reply from Trading Standards awaited.

P069 Cemetery Groundsman; dealt with at Thursday's Town Council meeting.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

(Cllr Adamson declared an interest re the payment to Dragon Fabrications (Thirsk) Ltd).

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

C.E. and C.M. Walker – Grasscutting, 6th and 25th Sept 07 £1,482.85

D. Bell – Painting door of Town Clock and bollards £80.00

Cleveland Corrosion Control – painting milestones and roundel £998.75

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – room hire, July-Sept 07 £157.50

Fox's Copy Centre – photocopying etc. £59.54

Hambleton IT Services Ltd – restoring files on Office computer £75.00

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, September 2007 £490.11

HDC pest control contract £293.75

Alpha Signs – sign for Centenary Field £141.00

Brian Noble Fencing Contractors – fencing at East Thirsk Play Area £6,391.41

J.A. Jackson – widening gateway and installing gate at Carrs Field £210.00

Record RSS Ltd – swing parts for East Thirsk £329.24

Thirsk Garden Centre – plants for Thirsk in Bloom £41.25

C.A. Amy Weekly inspections (3.9.07.-30.9.07) £182.80

Litter picking (3.9.07.-30.9.07.) £200.00

Weeding shrubbery at St. James Green £25.00

Weeding White Mare Shrubby £61.00

Cutting Himalayan Balsam on the Ings £50.00

John Howse – repairs to floodlights at St. Mary's Church £417.13

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's normal practice

Paid Since Last Meeting

Playsafety – publications on risk assessments of playgrounds etc. £56.50
Dragon Fabrications (Thirsk) Ltd – railings for Sensory Garden £3,818.75

Income Received
Bank Interest £310.73
Burial Bd: Rent £485.37
Interments £610.00
Memorials £13.00

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for September 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Robinson; agreed.

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Correspondence

Hambleton Strategic Partnership advising that there are five Area Groups and asking whether we would be interested in becoming involved or would like someone to attend a future meeting to give a presentation on it; noted.

TRI re Thirsk Festival 2008 asking that we notify them of any events during the Festival; noted

Maureen Worley – request for sponsorship for Cancer Research. Agreed that individuals should sponsor this if they wish to do so.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Adamson referred to an article in “The Vital Link” entitled “Why Waste” and asked that Councillors look at the “Why Waste” website or call into the CCA for further details as it might be of use to groups or individuals.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following applications be approved, subject to the comment that in the case of Margaret Myers six months be allowed to elapse before the memorial is put in place; agreed:

Grave No. C1 8 Garry Parsons Ashes interred in existing grave 5.5.07.

Grave No. GG 10 Doreen Emily Stamp Ashes interred in GOR 28.8.07.

Grave No. BB18 Eileen Pitts Ashes interred in GOR 24.4.07.

Grave No. F4 15 Margaret Myers Interred 31.8.07.

Grave No. B4 25 Roy Wayne Walker Interred 1.12.04.

Grave No. F2 23 Ray Cartman Interred 1.12.06

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that he is attempting to arrange a Burial Board meeting in advance of the precept being calculated.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she will be attending the CCA meeting on Thursday.

Cllr Watson reported that she will be attending the League of Friends meeting

on Wednesday.

Members

Cllr Morton advised that the laurel bushes on Millgate need cutting back; these have already been reported to HDC.

Cllr Watson drew the attention of Committees Members to the need to meet to sort out their budgets before the Finance Meeting. A date for this meeting is to be arranged shortly.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Thursday 1st November 2007 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times") and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs J. Jackson (away), R. Mallett (ill); accepted.

Open Forum

No members of the public or police present.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th October 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising

P065 Public conveniences; reply received from Steve Prentice at HDC in response to our request for timetables of cleaning to be displayed in the public toilets. He will discuss this with the staff and should be able to implement something very soon.

P065 Rubbish on the Industrial Estate; reply received from NYCC enclosing copies of the planning permission for Todds to operate as a waste transfer station. Cllr Adamson to look at this and report back.

P065 Development at Norby depot; nothing further re site meeting as yet.

P065 Fencing on Castle Garth; application forms to apply for Scheduled Monument Consent now received from English Heritage. Cllr Marshall advised that a plan is being obtained showing the position of the proposed fencing posts. She is including in the application the move of the interpretation board at the Market Place end of Castle Garth away from under the tree.

P065 Works to Millgate Bridge; plans now received and included on the agenda for tonight's planning meeting.

P065 Redundant signage; Joplings have no details of who has purchased the former Mind Shop. Agreed that a letter be put through the door of the Mind Shop and that we also ask Fizeek. Reply received from Market Cross Jewellers advising that they put their sign up over the John Smith's sign, but were told by HDC to remove it. Cllr Watson advised that, as Chairman of Central Areas, she will look into this.

P065 Move of the Post Office; reply received giving their reasons for the move and advising that our comments have been noted. Cllr Watson felt we should monitor the performance of the new Post Office as there have been complaints about long queues there. Agreed that it be monitored over the next two months or so.

P065 Signboards on Thirsk Industrial Estate; nothing further as yet.

P065 Carrs Field; letter sent to Tony Jordan, requesting a reply by 9th

November and advising that should we not receive a response by that date then we will contact the Charity Commissioners.

P066 Sign nameplates for Alleyways; details awaited from HDC.

P066 Overgrown bushes on The Marage near Millgate car park; now cut back.

P066 Letter from Edith Holmes; reply sent. The letter has been copied to Peter Penny at NYCC and a new public footpath sign has been put up at the Finkle Street end of the footpath.

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P066 Ladies Chamber of Trade Christmas Lights; letter received from Jill Miller advising that at the switch on they are to have Father Christmas, the Thirsk Band, a choir and perhaps the fire engine and a small ride from Alan Crow and asking for the Town Council's agreement; proposed agreed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts; all in favour.

P066 Replanting of the White Mare Roundabout; now done.

P067 Millennium Green; vandalised piece of equipment now replaced and the chain on another piece of equipment there has been tightened.

P067 Sign at The Workhouse; a sign was put up warning motorists entering The Workhouse of the play area, but we understand the residents are not happy with the sign and it has been taken down. Reply received from Dr Shawcross, the Secretary of Sutton Mews (Management) Ltd, advising that the sign was larger than anticipated and was thought to be a possible hazard to adult pedestrians on a poorly lit corner. Dr Shawcross advises that the AGM is to be held soon and the views of the residents will be sought. Cllr Marshall pointed out that consultation took place on the size, sign, wording and position of the sign before it was put in place and permission for it was received. It was suggested we write pointing this out, asking where the sign currently is and requesting they make a contribution towards the cost. It was felt to be a good idea to have a site meeting with the residents to decide upon the positioning of the sign and also suggest that the Town Council and Sutton Mews (Management) Ltd each pay half towards the cost of a new sign with the old sign being returned to the Town Council Office; agreed that this course of action be followed.

P067 East Thirsk Play Area; thank-you 'E' mails have been sent to PC Kevin Brookes and the Probation Service for removing the old fencing and cutting the hedges back, to Todds for providing a skip and to HDC for providing two large bins whilst the work was in progress. Replacement swings have been purchased and put in place.

P067 Picnic Area; the seat next to the stone has been fastened down.

Broadacres have been asked about providing a list of tradesmen, but they are not able to do this.

Correspondence

HDC – Public Path Stopping Up and Creation Order No 2007/3 re footpath alongside Millgate Car Park and Gillings Court on Marage Road; noted.

HDC – Temporary Road Closure on Sunday 11th November for Remembrance Day Parade; noted.

HDC – Temporary Road Closure on Sunday 2nd December for the Thirsk 10

Road Race; noted

St. Mary's Church re "Welcome to Thirsk" pack; St. Mary's Church are looking at the possibility of producing welcome packs for newcomers to Thirsk. In addition to church services these would include other information about the town such as doctors, hospitals etc. They ask whether the Town Council would contribute towards the printing costs. No details of the amount involved are available as yet. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack that we agree to this in principle subject to further information about the actual costs involved; agreed.

A site meeting to look at the proposed second roundabout near the new development on Station Road is to be held on Monday 12th November at 5.00 p.m.

Litter Bins: 'E' mail received from John Proud asking if someone can meet him in the town to discuss the provision of 8 new and free litter bins with ashtrays; Cllrs Marshall, Pack and Watson to attend.

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HDC; copy letter to the owners of The Three Tuns Hotel confirming that the name is to be changed to "The Three Tuns".

HDC; copy letter to the owner of a new property adjacent to 1 St. Mary's Avenue confirming that the address will be 1A St. Mary's Avenue.

NYCC: 'E' mail asking for information of "What's On" events to be included in the "North Yorkshire Times". Agreed to include details of the Christmas Lights switch on, the East Thirsk Christmas Party and also to ask them to contact the schools regarding their Christmas events.

HDC; consultation as a neighbouring property regarding a planning application by Enterprise Inns plc for the construction of a porch at "The Darrowby Inn". It was noted that this is to be on the side elevation of the property in the alleyway. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that an objection be sent to this on the grounds that the position of the proposed extension is on a public footpath which is not in the ownership of Enterprise Inns plc; agreed.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

This had already been circulated to Councillors and was self explanatory. The following points were made:

Bollard on Piper Lane – no action had been taken on this pending redevelopment of the area. However, as nothing appears to be taking place at present it was agreed to ask Malcolm Burnett to remove the bollard.

Extension to Millgate Car Park; Cllr Adamson advised that he has chased this and is awaiting a reply. Cllr Watson pointed out that the works which NYCC are to carry out to Millgate Bridge have to be completed within this financial year and she expressed her concern that, because of the delay carrying out the works in the car park, these works may now clash. Agreed that an E mail expressing the Town Council's concern be sent to Peter Simpson at HDC.

Entrances; Cllr Pack advised that she has not heard anything further from Lionel Twiss regarding the Thircon roundabout and she will chase this up.

Porters Vaults; the resurfacing works in Porters Vaults are almost completed.

Black sacks of rubbish were put there and HDC have removed them and

there is also a large open container of rubbish; John Proud to be asked to remove this.

HDC's assessment of the condition of their trees; HDC to be asked how they are progressing with this.

Reports

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts had nothing to report.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that a meeting of Central Areas has been held, attended by herself and Cllr Pack. They went through a lot of items and had a walk round and identified various jobs which require doing. She advised that the corner of Mill Gardens has been built up, but she is not proposing to carry out too much work in Mill Gardens until the work on Millgate Bridge is completed. The Committee has looked at the Town Clock and is considering appointing an expert to clean and re-point it. The tree guards in the pedestrian area outside the White Horse Café are proud of the paving; HDC to be reminded of this. The lighting in the alleyways was looked at and Cllr Watson pointed out that some more netting has been put up on the roof of the

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Help the Aged shop to prevent the pigeons sitting there. Cllr Watson reported that Central Areas also did its budget for 2008/09 and there are no large increases. Cllr Pack pointed out that the seats in the Picnic Area need repainting; these are included in the seat schedule and the Clerk will find out when they are to be done. Cllr Marshall advised that there is the possibility of some grant monies for street name signs for the alleyways.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson said that when the Committee does its budget it will consider an increase in the amount contributed towards the Christmas lights.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Pack advised that the Greens Committee has not had a meeting recently, but will be doing so in order to do the budgets. She reported that Hollin Barn Nurseries will be doing the gardening/planting work on Long Street next week. She has asked the Clerk to look at the condition of the piece of tarmac which runs off from the Green going towards the White Bridge. Cllr Marshall pointed out that some of the cobbles on the White Mare roundabout are loose; to be reported to the County Council.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the replacement piece of play equipment is now in place on the Millennium Green. There is still a problem with the logs in the beck. Mike l'Anson is to discuss the plans and quotes received for the footpaths with the Trustees.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that Open Areas had met on 8th October. The invoice for the repainting of the milestones is to be queried as, because they had to be done in situ, they were simply re-painted, as opposed to the quote which was to take them away and sandblast them. Cllr Marshall advised that there is a problem with the Centenary Field as someone is grazing five horses in it; Chris Amy has been asked to repair the fence as a matter of urgency. Someone has extended their garden into the Whitelass; it is intended to ascertain whose property it is. A complaint had been received that people in mobility scooters cannot access The Holmes from the footpath alongside the Northallerton Road and it was queried whether the bend in the

path near the waterfall could be removed in order that they could access The Holmes this way; Peter Penny at NYCC to be contacted re the possibility of removing the post to straighten out the path. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the RoSPA Report has not as yet been received; to be chased up.

Regarding the East Thirsk Play Area, Cllr Marshall advised that three suppliers have been contacted for designs and so far one design has been received. Cllr Marshall referred to the East Thirsk Problem Solving Group and advised that at the last meeting of the Group she, Cllr Hesmondhalgh and Cllr Pack had felt very uncomfortable and said they may have to remove themselves from the Group. Cllr Marshall referred to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 saying it is necessary to consider the impact of decisions on crime and disorder and to review how powers are exercised and services are delivered in the light of the Act. She felt that the County and District Councils should set up scrutiny committees to look at crime and disorder. Cllr Marshall to look into the implications of the Crime and Disorder Act further.

Town Development - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the resurfacing of Porters Vaults is ongoing and is looking very good.

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Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended the public meeting regarding the Hambleton Local Development Framework re the allocations of land for housing and industrial use. The meeting was very well attended and there was a lot of concern, mainly about affordable housing and the proposal to allocate land on Station Road for industrial. Cllr Roberts pointed out that comments need to be made to HDC by 23rd November; the document is currently being circulated around the members of the Planning Committee. Cllr Marshall advised that the bus timetable case on Hambleton Drive is broken and there is a streetlight out in the Market Place.

Cllr Marshall reported on the Sensory Garden, advising that monthly meetings are being held and progress is being made. She advised that it is proposed to move the headstones and kerbstones from the graves whilst the work is taking place and then re-site them in another part of the Sensory Garden, this area to be known as the Memorial Garden. It is hoped to have a sign listing the names of the people interred in the Salem Chapel burial ground.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Roberts that we proceed in this matter with the headstones/kerbstones; agreed. Cllr Marshall had met with Neil Collinson on site and he is to have a further look at it. Cllr Marshall advised that the Sensory Garden Committee will not be asking the Town Council for any funds in excess of the £5K currently in the budget. Mike l'Anson has consulted the Environment Agency and the Yorkshire Congregational Union have also been contacted and they are in agreement with the proposals for the Sensory Garden. Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that one part of the scheme involves some form of artwork and a grant from the Arts Council is being applied for. She said it is possible for the application for this grant to be applied for by HDC or the Town Council; Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that HDC should deal with it; agreed. Cllr Watson asked whether the Sensory Garden would be lit and Cllr Marshall said the possibility of low level

lighting is being considered. Mike l'Anson is to speak to the police re the implications of this in the light of the Crime and Disorder Act. Cllr Marshall advised that HDC has allocated approximately £1K for maintenance in perpetuity. It is intended to write and enquire whether there are any Section 106 monies available that could be accessed for this as we are taking on extra costs because of the position of the land next to a river.

Cllr Marshall reported on the Ditches Committee saying they are meeting regularly. Eccles Heddon have contacted Barretts' Solicitors, but have not received a response as yet. A site meeting with the Environment Agency has been held; following this a letter has been received from them and it is felt we now have a way forward. A copy of this letter has been sent to a Civil Engineer asking him for a costing to do various works to the ditch and a reply has been received setting out details of the various phases. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that the Ditches Committee should look into this and come back to the Town Council with its decisions; agreed. Agreed that the Sensory Garden and Ditches be added to the Committee Reports at future meetings.

Cllr Adamson advised that the District Council is to call a meeting of the Members in December to look at an update on car parking charges.

Cllr Morton referred to the number of pigeons in the town and expressed concern that the quantity of pigeon droppings are causing some of the pavements to become slippery; a letter to be sent to Environmental Health. He also referred to rubbish in

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Steads Yard; a meeting is to be held with John Proud shortly and this will be mentioned. Cllr Morton also expressed concern about difficulties with visibility for traffic coming out of Stammergate because of the height of the planting in the bed on Long Street. Cllr Marshall advised that the plants in the beds were specifically chosen because they do not grow big and they were approved by the highways authority. She said a litter bin has been moved and she felt this, together with a vehicle parking in that area, was contributing to the problem; to be looked at. Cllr Roberts felt the street cleaning should be improved. Agreed to ask HDC if they have an updated schedule of where they sweep and when.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk in Bloom are meeting on a regular basis and the planting is going well. Cllr Watson queried whether it was necessary for this report to be included on the agenda each month; agreed that in future it be dealt with as a representative's report.

The meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 19th November 2007 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, PC Clare Mayes (NY Police) and the Clerk

Prior to the start of the meeting a minute's silence was kept in memory of Cllr Roger Mallett who died recently.

Apologies:

Cllr J. Jackson (away); accepted.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts, subject to two amendments on Page P078 and two on Page P079; agreed.

Police Report

PC Mayes advised that the Neighbourhood Policing Team is now known as the Safer Neighbourhood Team. She said they are starting to notice some differences; they have obtained their first CRASBO and a second one has been accepted. Various schemes are to take place, notably a no lights on bikes scheme and a free stamping initiative on bikes; this can be done at home if necessary. Letters are being sent to lorry drivers who are seen parking and sleeping on the Thirsk Industrial Estate and there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of trailers left overnight. Further leaflets are to be issued re purse thefts around the town. A "no calling" area is being set up within the Hambleton Estate, particularly for elderly people, and the police are to speak to Broadacres about putting chains on the doors of elderly people's rented accommodation. Referring to the lorries parking on the Industrial Estate, Cllr Morton pointed out that lorry drivers have nowhere else to park overnight in Thirsk; Cllr Adamson advised that HDC are trying to enter into negotiations with the Auction Mart for lorry parking. Cllr Robinson advised that there are problems with antisocial behaviour at the former hostel on Westgate; PC Mayes advised that the police are aware of this and are working with the owner of the flats. Cllr Watson referred to people driving buggies and asked whether they are bound by the normal drink driving laws; PC Mays said not.

County and District Council Reports

In Cllr Dadd's absence, Cllr Adamson read a report which he had supplied. Cllr Dadd advised that he has raised the issue of the restriction in parking spaces on the Market Place whilst the repairs are being carried out and has now seen an improvement in the amount of space available. He is continuing to work with Sowerby Parish Council and their County Councillor to seek a

long term solution to the problem of Blakey Bridge. Referring to the development at Norby, Cllr Dadd advised that, because of possible conflicts prior to the hearing and site visit by HDC, he has chosen not to be present at the initial informal meetings. However, he is meeting informally with the Highways Officer to comment upon the traffic scheme that will be incorporated on Norby Front Street; these comments will then be submitted formally to HDC. Referring to the Art Project, Cllr Dadd advised that he has met with the Thirsk

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Community Primary School Head and Art Teacher and offered his support. A date for the next Children's Centre Steering Group meeting is awaited. Cllr Dadd, along with the Mayor of Thirsk and the Chairman of Sowerby Parish Council, had met with representatives of Highways and the developers on Station Road last Monday regarding the proposed second roundabout on Station Road and the feelings of local people were made known. He will be commenting on this further when he has received the views of Sowerby, Carlton Miniott and Thirsk Councils. Cllr Dadd reported that he and Cllr Adamson have written to the residents of Carlton Miniott and Station Road informing them of the proposed allocation of land for industrial use to the rear of Station Road. The letter included a slip for residents to fill in objecting to this and he understands that HDC have now received a large number of these slips. Cllr Dadd is awaiting an update from the Acting Officer responsible for Extra Care Housing and if it is appropriate he will ask for a further presentation to the Town Council. He stressed that Cherry Garth will not close until a new improved facility is ready. He is working with both County and District attempting to solve problems with footpaths at Todds Court and Ingramgate. Cllr Dadd thanked everyone who signed and gathered signatures on the petition objecting to the proposed cuts in the police service (approximately 500 signatures were collected). He advised that the petition will be presented to the House of Commons this evening by Anne McIntosh MP.

District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that the scheduled start date for the works to Millgate car park is 7th January 2008. The work which the County Council are proposing to do to the bridge has still to go out to tender. Reporting on kerbside recycling, Cllr Adamson said the blue boxes are still being distributed in some areas. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the original green boxes supplied to East Thirsk have not yet been taken away and when she rang and asked for a second blue box she was supplied with a green one. Cllr Adamson advised that the on-street drinking ban is likely to go to Cabinet in January/February 2008.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 15th October 2007

P070 Presentation by Mr Robin Meyshall of NYCC's Emergency Planning

Department; thank you sent to Mr Meyshall. Cllr Watson enquired whether we had heard anything from him regarding the setting up of the Community Emergency Scheme; to be chased up.

P072 White lining on the Industrial Estate; no reply as yet. Agreed that this be included in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

P072 Request for cutting and collecting grass around the headstones in the Cemetery; not received. Agreed that this be looked at when the grasscutting tenders are sent out.

P072 Public footpath from Gillings Court to Kirkgate; nothing further as yet. Agreed that this be included in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

P072 Subsidence in the road on Station Road; nothing further as yet. Agreed that this be included in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

P072 Resurfacing of Porters Vaults; now completed and looks very good.

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P072 Action for Market Towns Report – article re car parking research; now received.

P072 Ponding in East Thirsk; nothing further received as yet. It was pointed out that there is severe ponding on the Tranmire Ditch side of the sleeping policeman on Hambleton Drive; to be reported to the County Council.

P073 South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust Foundation Trust; form to be completed.

P073 Shops selling food described as half price; reply from Trading Standards awaited.

P074 Bushes on Millgate; now cut back.

P074 Budgets; the Clerk thanked Councillors for sending in their budgets – these have now all been received.

Finance

Report from the External Auditor

The Clerk reported that Mazars, the External Auditors, have signed off the accounts for 2006/07 – they had no queries and no items of concern.

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Morton that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

Hollin Barn Nurseries – planting White Mare roundabout £297.00

KRM Plumbing & Heating – repairing Cemetery tap £30.00

M.L.Burnett: Work to White Bridge £259.38

Repairs to play areas at Craigs Way and Shire Park Play Areas £65.00

Refixing plinth stones at The Whitelass £32.50

Repairs to seat and fence at Castle Garth £32.50

Repairs to seat in Picnic Area £115.37

Work to Mill Gardens £205.14

Fixing sign at Cemetery Lodge £20.00

C.A. Amy: Weekly inspections (1.10.07-4.11.07) £228.50

Litter Picking (1.10.07-4.11.07) £250.00

Replacing swings at East Thirsk £100.00

Work to White Mare Shrubbery £80.00

Removing dead tree on St. James Green £170.00
F D Todd - emptying Cemetery skip £190.78
Information Commissioner – Data Protection renewal £35.00
C.E. and C.M. Walker – grasscutting (17.10.07.) £741.43
Playsafety Limited – RoSPA inspection of play areas £564.00
Biker Contracts – footpath on The Holmes £12,403.28
Playdale – replacement of mini suspension bridge on the Millennium Green
£1,760.15
Nigel Burn – garden maintenance on White Mare roundabout £85.00
R. Bennett – cleaning bus shelter (30.7.07.-1.10.07.) £80.00
Cllr J. Watson – Mayor’s Allowance (1st half 2007/08) £250.00
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, October 07 £490.15
Thirsk Museum – Walks and Talks re Interpretation Boards £300.00
M. l’Anson – repayment for new lock and keys for Millennium Green £29.93
Mazars – External Audit Fee 2006/07 £646.25

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D.E. Adamson – reimbursement for blower vac for the Cemetery £107.32
M.L. Burnett: Constructing ramp on The Holmes £210.00
Replacing stone on Town Clock and Refitting stone plinth on water trough
£65.00
Elaine Coulson – reimbursement for donation in memory of Cllr Mallett £20.00
Hollin Barn Nurseries – plants for Thirsk in Bloom £281.80
In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk will be paid
in accordance with the Town Council’s normal practice

Paid Since Last Meeting

Biker Contracts – resurfacing of Porters Vaults £11,518.64
Petty Cash £47.99
Viking Direct – printer/cartridges etc £253.12
Npower – office electricity £98.20
Alexander Rose Ltd – picnic table for The Holmes £512.31

Income Received

Precept (second half of 2007/08) £43,000.00
NYCC – contribution to Sensory Garden £1,083.23
Burial Board: Rent £485.37
Grave Purchases £244.00
Interments £377.00
Memorials £181.00

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for October 2007

These had already been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the donations of £500 to each of the Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau and the Thirsk Community Care Association included in the budget have not yet been paid.

Proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that these be paid; agreed. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Pack that the monthly balance sheet and budget report for October 2007 be accepted; agreed.

Correspondence

Hambleton LDG Development Policies Examination; advising that the Examination into the Development Policies DPD was formally closed on 1st November 2007; noted.

NYCC – North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Site Allocations Preferred Options; these can be viewed on the website or on a CD supplied by the County Council; noted.

Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau re support for and work of the Bureau; donation already agreed.

Thirsk Royal British Legion; requesting a donation of £148.00 to cover 50% of the cost of the refreshments on Remembrance Sunday. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that this be paid; agreed.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the following applications be approved; agreed:

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Grave No. F4 3 Arthur Bardon

Grave No. F3 20 Edna McDonald

Applications for an additional Inscription:

Grave No. U 57 Marjorie Jean Baddeley

Grave No. AA 19 Albert Henry Kennedy

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that the Burial Board met very recently. It was decided to employ a worker for the Cemetery for about 20 hours per week. Enquiries are being made and then notices will be put up before any advertising takes place. At the meeting it was agreed that fees will be increased by 4% with effect from 1st April 2008. A blower vac has recently been purchased for use in the Cemetery. Cllr Adamson intends to explore the possibility of having a large wheeliebin rather than the skip if HDC have one of an adequate size. It is hoped to include having the grass around the memorials cut and cleared when the grasscutting goes out to tender.

Station Road Highways Scheme

Cllr Watson advised that she, Cllr Robson from Sowerby Parish Council and Cllr Dadd had met with representatives from the County Council's Highways Department, Persimmon and Wimpey on site. Cllr Watson said it is felt that drivers will get very frustrated at having to negotiate two roundabouts so close together. She also felt that parking restrictions will need to be introduced in order to stop vehicles parking on the road. Cllr Marshall pointed out that when a mini roundabout was requested on Stockton Road at the entrance to St. Mary's estate it was refused because it was too near the roundabout at the top of Stammergeate. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that the Town Council is opposed to a second mini roundabout at the new development on Station Road, but would support a yellow box junction there; agreed.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended the CCA meeting and everything is going well.

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended the Lambert Hospital League of Friends meeting. It has been agreed to replace some of the televisions in the wards. A presentation is to be made to Sister Sweeting who is retiring. Cllr Watson had attended the 15 years of the CCA celebration. She had also attended the Remembrance Day service and wreath laying and took the salute in the Market Place.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting.

Members

Cllr Marshall expressed concern that estate agents when advertising properties for sale are referring to them having parking facilities on St. James Green. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that a letter be sent to all estate agents pointing out that this is not the case and that it is privately owned land with a byelaw governing the use of it.

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Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that the public and press be excluded for two items of a confidential nature.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Thursday 6th December 2007 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, A. Morton, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times", PC Duncan Pears and PC Simon Williamson (North Yorkshire Police), two members of the public and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs J. Jackson (away), C. Pack (family funeral), F. Roberts (away) and A. Robinson (no reason given); accepted.

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

Talk by Mike l'Anson re landscaping of the York Road Roundabout and the Sensory Garden

Mr l'Anson reported that an initial meeting had been held involving the Highways Department, Town Council, Rotary and other community organisations. Lionel Twiss has worked with Severfield Reeve and Cllr Dadd has worked with Bagby Parish Council and the County Council. The Thirsk Community Woodlands Group and the Highways Department have been in discussion about it. Various matters need to be taken into account, for example the need to retain sightlines and to not cause additional problems for people who may inadvertently go onto the roundabout in their vehicles. Mr l'Anson advised that he has drawn up a specification – it is to be minimum maintenance, it is to be planted with native species and there is to be all year round interest. Severfield Reeve are to pay the capital cost plus ten years maintenance of the roundabout and they will put the planting scheme out to recognised contractors. The County Council can only grant a licence for this planting to a statutory body such as the Town Council. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall that the Town Council take the Licence from the County Council; agreed.

Turning to the Sensory Garden, Mr l'Anson referred to liabilities saying that the top course of bricks (and possibly the second course also) on the harbour wall is out of true and this needs to be rectified before railings can be put on top of it. Cllr Marshall has written to Tim Wood at HDC about both the condition of the harbour wall and the fact that we are being asked to take over a site that is in this condition and also querying the fact that when HDC calculated the amount of Section 106 monies to be allocated for development and maintenance (around £1K for the latter in perpetuity) they had not taken into account the type of land (ie a former burial ground) and its position on the side of the river. We feel therefore that the amount of money allocated for its maintenance should be more, hence the letter asking for more monies from other S106 allocations. Referring to the graves and memorials, Mr l'Anson

said the Sensory Garden Committee are looking into how much notice needs to be given for the memorials to be moved, both temporarily whilst the work is taking place and also looking at the possibility of re-siting them into another part of the Sensory Garden. We are in contact with Eccles Heddon regarding the wording of the notices. Permission for access across the library car park is also required. Mr l'Anson pointed out that the Town Council needs to be aware of the maintenance issues regarding the

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Sensory Garden and to ensure that everything is in place before it takes it on. Regarding consultation, Mr. l'Anson advised that he has been in contact with the voluntary sector and they are to let us know which groups may want to use the Sensory Garden and it is intended to get them together to see what they would like. Mr l'Anson has been in contact with PC Kevin Brookes regarding the implications of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and he will be involved throughout. There will need to be some discussion with neighbours. Referring to the design, Mr l'Anson said the intention is to make it robust and a Sensory Garden that everyone can use and enjoy. Mr l'Anson pointed out that the Sensory Garden will include the last piece of the path going alongside the river, so there will be a path on both sides of the Cod Beck south of Finkle Street Bridge. Cllr Morton referred to the memorials and Mr l'Anson said it is necessary to go out to the community for three months' consultation on this.

Open Forum

PC Pears introduced PC Simon Williamson who has transferred from Scarborough and is now a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Pears advised that the DPPO on street drinking ban has been accepted by the Licensing Committee at HDC and there will now be a 30 day public consultation period. PC Pears pointed out that this will be the largest DPPO area in Hambleton; Cllr Watson thanked the police for all their hard work with this. PC Pears advised that there is currently an unlit pedal cycle operation ongoing and so far 9 people, including 2 adults, have been stopped. PC Pears reported that there have been a considerable number of burglaries in Whitby, Ryedale and Hambleton where people have left their properties and vehicles unlocked. Cllr Morton advised that one of the floodlights at St. Mary's Church has been damaged and the lantern has been taken from the church porch. There is also evidence of fires being lit in the ledges of the stonework in the porch.

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 1st November 2007

P075 Public conveniences; nothing further received from HDC regarding the display of cleaning timetables in the toilets.

P075 Rubbish on the Industrial Estate; Cllr Adamson had read through the reply received from NYCC and will look through it further. He has received a complaint from a neighbouring unit about domestic waste and about Todd's lorries and skips left overnight without lights. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this item was brought up originally because of concern about the amount of rubbish in the streets and rats and she felt we need to keep on top of this.

P075 Development at Norby Depot; Cllr Adamson advised that HDC Development Control have a site meeting on Monday. Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that two meetings have been held which Cllr Roberts had attended and she was not invited to the second one which included items about play areas. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the site meeting originally requested was in respect of work which Wimpey want to

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do on The Holmes and was with the Open Areas Committee as the responsible Committee of the Town Council who are the leaseholders.

P075 Works to Millgate Bridge; letter in "Correspondence".

P075 Redundant signage; letter to be put through the door of the Mind Shop and Fizeek to be asked whether they know who the current owners of the building are. Cllr Watson advised that she has spoken to HDC about the John Smith's sign on the Market Cross Jewellers building; they are to look into this.

P075 Signboards on the Industrial Estate; nothing further as yet.

P075 Carrs Field; reply received from Tony Jordan advising that his 4 year term expired on 5th December 2006 and he therefore needs to be re-nominated, as does Sue Dodds whose 4 year term expired on 18th November 2006. Mr Jordan advises that a vacancy exists for a second Co-opted Trustee and the Carrs Field-Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust will endeavour to fill this vacancy. Letter also received from Mr. S. Ballard suggesting that a regular report from the trustees be recorded in the Town Council minutes every few months. Cllr Watson suggested that this correspondence be passed to the Carrs Field Committee.

P075 Sign nameplates for Alleyways; 'E' mail sent to HDC.

P075 Public footpath sign at the Finkle Street end of the footpath; it is understood that the new sign has been broken down.

P075 Post Office; Cllr Morton advised that there have been long queues in the relocated Post Office. Agreed that this be monitored for a further 3-4 weeks.

P075 Fencing on Castle Garth; Cllr Marshall advised that she has now received the information she requires from Brian Noble Fencing and she will send the application off.

P076 Christmas Lights; switch on took place on 25th November.

P076 Sign at The Workhouse; It has been ascertained that Sgt Ben Frank has the sign. A mutually acceptable position for the sign has been agreed on a lamppost, subject to obtaining NYCC's consent (as the owners of the lamppost). Cllr Marshall advised that NYCC have previously refused permission for this and Sgt Frank is to consult with them. He is in agreement with the Town Council about the siting of the sign and is working with us on this.

P076 "Welcome to Thirsk" pack; the Town Council's view was reported to St. Mary's PCC – the PCC is to obtain costings.

P076 Roundabout on Station Road; site meeting held and Cllr Watson attended on behalf of the Town Council. Following the last meeting the Town Council's views were 'E' mailed to Cllr Dadd, ie that the Town Council is not in favour of a second roundabout, but would welcome a yellow box junction.

P076 Meeting re new litter bins; meeting held with John Proud of HDC and Cllrs Watson and Marshall. Cllr Watson advised that it was decided where the new bins should be sited – this includes one in Mill Gardens. John Proud has been asked to alter the position of the bin on the corner of Long Street and Stammergate as it was felt this affected visibility of traffic from Stammergate. Cllr Morton referred to rubbish in Steads Yard; John Proud has been asked to put a bin in there, but to re-site it further away from the wall.

P077 "North Yorkshire Times"; details of Christmas events 'E' mailed to the North Yorkshire Times, together with a request that they contact the schools to obtain details of their Christmas events.

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P077 Planning application for the construction of a porch at "The Darrowby Inn"; objection as a neighbour sent to HDC.

P077 Bollard on Piper Lane; M. Burnett to be asked to remove this.

P077 Extension to Millgate Car Park; following the 'E' mail to Peter Simpson at HDC a reply has been received from Dave McGloin advising that the scheduled start date is 7th January 2008 with a contract period of ten weeks. The work will be undertaken in two phases, phase 1 being Millgate Car Park and phase 2 the coach park and Marage car park. Mr McGloin advises that there should be the minimum of disruption . He understands that work on Millgate Bridge will now not start until the beginning of February and does not feel that having both sets of work at the same time will result in any significant additional disruption and a combined programme to facilitate the dovetailing of the two schemes is to be formulated.

P077 Entrances; covered earlier in the meeting.

P077 Porters Vaults; the large container of rubbish has been removed.

P077 Assessment of the condition of HDC's trees; 'E' mail sent to Clive Thornton.

P078 Seats in the Picnic Area; Chris Amy has been reminded about painting these.

P078 Loose cobbles on the White Mare Roundabout; Joe Gallagher of NYCC advises that these are in hand.

P078 Repainting of Milestones; reply received from Cleveland Corrosion Control advising that they were unable to remove two of the mileposts as they were very solidly embedded in concrete. As a result of this they were unable to take them away for sandblasting and they were therefore painted on site. The three coat paint system used would normally need no maintenance for ten years and Cleveland Corrosion advise that if the milestones show signs of rust before that time then they will carry out remedial work.

P078 Path near the waterfall; Malcolm Burnett has looked at this and advises that the path could not be widened because there is a large tree in the way.

P078 RoSPA Report; now received.

P079 Porters Vaults; resurfacing work now completed.

P079 Hambleton LDF Allocations; comments sent in by the due date.

P079 Bus timetable case on Hambleton Drive; reported.

P079 Streetlights; several streetlights in the Market Place which were not working were reported and these appear to have now been fixed.

P079 Ditches; Eccles Heddon are still awaiting a reply from Barretts' Solicitors.

P080 Pigeons; letter sent to HDC's Environmental Health Department

P080 Street sweeping schedule; 'E' mail sent to HDC.

P080 Planted areas on Long Street; Cllr Adamson expressed concern that there is a large plant in the bed near the Long Street/Stammergate junction which restricts the visibility of motorists pulling out of Stammergate. Cllr Marshall advised that this bed had been clipped back, but the further concerns will be passed to Cllr Pack. She said the visibility is also restricted because of the position of the litter bin and a vehicle which parks there.

Correspondence

Highways North Yorkshire re works to Millgate Bridge enclosing drawings. They advise that the scheme is programmed to commence on 7th January 2008 with a 12 week duration. They point out that because of the need for temporary work platforms and walkways Mill Gardens will be unusable for this period. The drawings show an

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indicative arrangement but the contractor may propose an alternative arrangement. However, they ask that the Town Council confirm its agreement in principal to this indicative arrangement in order that the scheme can go out to tender. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that we are happy with the arrangement. Jacobs to be asked whether we have to close Mill Gardens or whether they will do it and also that any damage must be made good; agreed. 'E' mail received from Jacobs asking whether it would be possible to use some of the land to the north west of the bridge for a site compound; reply to be sent advising that this land is owned by Bill Calvert and it is not possible to use it because it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Mrs Diane Miller advising of the gardening work she has carried out in the Picnic Area; Cllr Watson to take this to Central Areas Meeting and a letter of thanks to be sent to Mrs Miller

Mrs Diane Miller re parking on Picks Lane near the junction with Croft View. Cllr Marshall pointed out that approval for double yellow lines was granted some considerable time ago, but the County Council have not done the work; a letter to be sent to the Highways Department.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Matters

This had been updated and circulated to Councillors. The following points were noted:

Land on Ingramgate; Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Greens Committee are querying the ownership of this with John Bell.

St. James' Green byelaws; Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that a meeting had been scheduled to look at this, but it had had to be cancelled.

Reports

Carrs Field - In Cllr Roberts' absence, there was nothing to report.

Central Areas - Cllr Watson advised that a meeting is scheduled for next week. Chris Amy has been asked to look at any outstanding work in Mill Gardens. A new litterbin is to be put in there and the old one taken away. A letter has been sent to Davic McGloin re re-siting the CCTV camera and PC Brookes is to write to him again.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson felt that the Christmas tree looks very good.

Greens and Ingramgate - A meeting to set the budget was held.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that a clean up had been held at the weekend. The Woodlands Group are thinning out the trees near the mosaic. Cllr Hesmondhalgh has spoken to Mike l'Anson and suggested the Trustees put some money towards having one of the paths done and they are willing to pay 50% towards having the path which runs around the trees done; agreed they should accept a quote previously obtained in the amount of £2,625.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that a budget meeting had been held. They had looked through the RoSPA Report and are to look at it in more detail later. They have asked for schemes for the East Thirsk Play Area to be drawn up and two have been received so

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far; the third supplier is to be put on notice that this is required within the next week or so. Cllr Marshall had spoken to Kate Staines and HDC are not expecting any information from the Big Lottery until January 2008. The Committee is looking at the possibility of replacing equipment at Shire Park and Johnson Close. Cllr Marshall had met with John Bell on The Holmes and discussed how people in disabled buggies, wheelchairs etc can access The Holmes. Referring to the large gap in the fencing installed by NYCC, Cllr Marshall advised that as a temporary measure it was agreed to put some flower tubs to narrow the gap and prevent vehicles driving onto The Holmes. Cllr Marshall said that by taking out one of the fences near the Sluice Gate a new footpath could be constructed to get onto the existing footpath. Cllr Marshall has approached Tim Wood at HDC to enquire whether Wimpey would be prepared to finance this. She reported that John Bell was in favour of such a footpath.

Town Development - Nothing to report.

Sensory Garden - Cllr Marshall referred to the application for a grant from the Arts Council and said that at a previous Town Council meeting it was agreed that HDC should apply for this. However, the Arts Council felt it would be better if the Town Council did this; agreed. Chris Fitzgerald had made one of the panels to go in the fencing and the Sensory Gardens Committee was very pleased with this. The developer has scraped off the site and cleared the undergrowth that was there. The fencing at the Nursery Gardens side has been taken down.

Ditches - Cllr Marshall reported that the Working Party had met on 28th November. The Environment Agency have written to residents warning them against littering the ditches. Cllr Marshall advised that the Working Party

would like to instruct the structural engineer to proceed with his suggested Phase 1, ie undertaking a Topographical Survey of existing ditch, assessment of ditch and catchment area to enable preliminary sizing of culvert and liaising with the Environment Agency to discuss initial proposals and agree design parameters for culvert, at a cost of £1,800. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that they should go ahead with this; agreed.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Marshall asked that we write to Highways regarding flooding on Long Street outside the new furniture shop and also flooding at the entrance to Thircon.

Cllr Adamson referred to car parking charges and said that a report on this is to go to Cabinet on Tuesday to look at introducing car parking charges in 2009/2010. Cllr Adamson said there will be a period of consultation and there will be a meeting with us as a Town Council. It is possible there would be a free area for short term parking (30 minutes) in the Market Place. A similar arrangement for car parking charges would take place in Northallerton, subject to the agreement of the County Council, who are responsible for the High Street parking. Cllr Adamson pointed out that this will be an economic decision and the proposed indicative charges would be 40p per hour short stay and £1.50 per day. Cllr Hesmondhalgh asked whether they had considered introducing residents' permits, but Cllr Adamson said that would cost more than it would bring in. Cllr Marshall felt that of all the market towns it was very

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unfair that Thirsk and Northallerton are the ones who will be penalised because of having larger amounts of land owned by the District Council. Cllr Adamson provided a copy of the report to Cabinet and asked that this be copied to all Town Councillors.

The meeting closed at 9.12 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 17th December 2007 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, F. Roberts, County and District Cllr G. Dadd, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times") and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs B. Ogleby (other commitments), A. Robinson (other commitments); accepted.

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Morton; agreed.

Police Report

No members of the police present.

Reports

County Council

Cllr Dadd referred to the proposed introduction by HDC of car parking charges and advised that he is urging that the Leader and Officers to meet with the Town Council and hopefully also involve the Thirsk Business Association. He advised that HDC will be calling the meeting and it is the Town Council's decision whether or not it decides to also have a public meeting. Cllr Dadd has spoken to Gordon Gresty of NYCC and has advised him that he wishes to be kept abreast of any negotiations between the two authorities regarding this matter. Cllr Dadd advised that there is a lot of concern around the Dalton area regarding the possible building of an incinerator. He pointed out that at the moment there is nothing formally planned, but should a formal proposal be put forward and should it have an effect on his area then he will become involved. Referring to the proposed police funding formula, Cllr Dadd reported that the Home Secretary has decided not to implement the proposed change and there will therefore be a 2.5% increase for police in North Yorkshire. Cllr Dadd thanked all those who had taken part in getting signatures on the petitions. Cllr Dadd advised that the original Order for the implementation of yellow lines on Picks Lane had to be re-done and the new Order was published on 14th December. Referring to the closure of the Rutson Hospital, Cllr Dadd advised that the Scrutiny Committee has looked into it and has supported the decision of the PCT to move it into the Friarage Hospital. By doing so the services will be improved and it will add to the viability of the Friarage. A full Council Meeting is to be held on Wednesday and this will discuss Councillors' Allowances which are proposed to increase by 2.9% across the board; Cllr Dadd advised that he will not be supporting the increase. It is also suggested that County Councillors attending Parish and Town Council meetings should be able to claim mileage allowance. Cllr Dadd advised that he has been in

touch with John Proud at HDC regarding Ingramgate and this has been added to the street cleaning schedule. Cllr Jackson expressed his concern about the proposed car parking charges. He also pointed out that the last time the introduction of car parking charges came up it was suggested that the car park at Stone Cross be included in any such scheme. Cllr Dadd advised that he will not be supporting the proposed car parking charges scheme.

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Cllr Pack said she would like clarification of the proposed waste disposal site at Dalton, but Cllr Dadd said he is not able to comment on another County Councillor's division.

Cllr Adamson expressed his agreement with Cllr Dadd's views re the proposed car parking charges. Referring to the ex Todds site, Cllr Adamson said he is still working on this with the Minerals and Waste Planning Officer at NYCC. He said that as a District Councillor his main work is dealing with queries and complaints from residents. He is working with the Recycling Officer at HDC to get more help for the elderly, particularly those in East Thirsk, with dealing with recycling. Cllr Watson said she would like to have an open meeting with the Thirsk Business Association and the public re the car parking charges and Cllr Marshall said she would support this. Cllr Marshall felt it was an insult to the Thirsk Business Association and other organisations in the town that they are simply to get a letter and questionnaire. She pointed out that this is an inequitable proposal as, because of the amount of land in Thirsk which is owned by HDC, Thirsk will be affected by car parking charges more than other towns. Cllr Adamson advised that it is proposed to have some free parking in the Market Place; a residents' parking scheme has been ruled out as being too expensive. Cllr Jackson referred to when car parking charges were proposed some years ago and pointed out that HDC did not consider alternatives, such as charging for parking discs etc. He felt it was an unfair scheme particularly for people who work in the town. Cllr Dadd agreed that it is unfair to Thirsk. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Marshall that the Town Council hold an open public meeting and invite Officers from HDC. Cllr Roberts felt this should be extended to include Carlton Miniott and Sowerby; agreed. Dave McGloin at HDC to be contacted with the possibility of having the Open Meeting in the second half of January 2008.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 19th November 2007

P082 Community Emergency Scheme; 'E' mail sent to Mr Robin Meyshall of NYCC.

P082 White lining on the Industrial Estate; now included in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

P082 Public footpath from Gillings Court to Kirkgate; now included in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

P082 Subsidence in the road on Station Road; now included in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items.

P083 Ponding in East Thirsk; letter sent
P083 South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust Foundation Trust; form completed.
P084 Donation to Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau; donation of £500 sent and letter of thanks received.
P084 Donation to Thirsk Community Care Association; donation of £500 sent and letter of thanks received.
P084 Thirsk Royal British Legion; cheque for £148.00 sent as a donation towards the refreshments on Remembrance Sunday.

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P084 NYCC – North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework; Cllr Adamson pointed out that the closing date for comments on any issues in this is 24th December 2007.
P085 Station Road Highways Scheme; 'E' mail sent to Cllr Dadd advising that the Town Council is opposed to a second roundabout at the new development on Station Road, but would support a yellow box junction there.
P085 Letter to estate agents re parking on St. James' Green; letter done and to be delivered.
P086 Pigeons; letters sent to HDC and to Enterprise Inns.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

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

- F.D. Todd & Sons Ltd – skip for Millennium Green £146.88
- Sowerby Parish Council – one-third of grasscutting of the Flatts £573.30
- Lite – replacement bulbs for Christmas lights £56.40
- Thirsk Ladies Chamber of Trade – contribution to Christmas lights £500.00
- Hambleton IT Service – work to office computer £50.00
- SLCC membership renewal £145.00
- HDC – Office rent, qtr comm. 1.12.07. £844.53
- Hollin Barn Nurseries – plants and planting on Long Street £407.95
- Nigel Burn – garden maintenance on Long Street £165.00
- D. Connelly – cleaning office windows (4 x £6.50) £26.00
- C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (5.11.07-2.12.07) £182.80
- Litter Picking (5.11.07.-2.12.07.) £200.00
- Repairing/painting swings £60.00
- Removing debris and blocking fence at Centenary Field £50.00
- Trimming hedges on The Holmes £50.00
- Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, November 2007 £695.85
- Biker Contracts – balance re resurfacing of Porters Vaults £11,518.64
- C. Fitzgerald – fabrication of railings for Sensory Garden £3,231.25
- X-Calibre – domain name for Thirsk website £141.00

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's normal practice

Paid Since Last Meeting

- Wired – installing Christmas Lights £1,515.75
- BT – Office telephone £109.02

Income Received
VAT Refund (1.7.07.-30.9.07.) £5,346.61
NYCC – contribution to grasscutting £3,052.34
NYCC – contribution to Porters Vaults £2,499.79
Burial Bd: Rent £485.37
Interments £244.00
Memorials £210.00
Bank Interest £116.29

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Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for November 2007

Already circulated to Councillors. Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

Precept 2008/09

Cllr Marshall pointed out that Councillors have been provided with a copy of the budgets for 2008/09 as updated following the Finance Meeting, and these result in a precept calculation of £102,787. Cllr Hesmondhalgh offered to reduce the Millennium Green budget by £1,000 to £3,000. Cllr Watson said she was prepared to take out the £2,000 allocated for the Apex Scheme as she has not heard anything on this. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that a precept of £99,800 be applied for 2008/09; agreed unanimously. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the main reason for the increase in precept is because the Council is improving the service it provides to the people of Thirsk.

Correspondence

HDC – Confirmation of Stopping Up and Creation Order No. 2007/3 re footpath on Marage Road; noted.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

No applications received.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Marshall reported that the Millennium Green Committee had met and had discussed the implications of the Ditches work. They also talked about the Problem Solving Group in East Thirsk and its implications for the Millennium Green.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern that he had missed the Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Trust meeting because he did not know about it in time.

Cllr Watson advised that, as Mayor, she had attended a cocktail party at RAF Leeming. She had planted a tree on The Holmes in aid of Christian Aid and she had attended the Thirsk CCA who had been awarded a certificate for work with volunteers.

Members

Cllr Marshall said she had attended the TRI meeting last week. Mark Haynes and Beth Carss have now moved to Stone Cross. Cllr Marshall suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mark Haynes for all his help and this was agreed. At this stage it is not certain who will move into the TRI Office, but Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council has some old records etc stored in one of the rooms. She felt we should look at these and look at disposing of anything we can.

Cllr Adamson asked that the old Minute Books be taken to the County Records Office.

Cllr Marshall felt it would be appropriate to think of a memorial to Roget Mallett in recognition of his service to the Town Council.

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Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that the press be excluded for a confidential item.

An 'E' mail had been received regarding wheeliebins being put on the roadway of the St. James' Green. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that this be acknowledged and that a letter be sent by recorded delivery to the resident of St. James' Green concerned pointing out that no one has the right to reserve parking spaces on St. James' Green and that wheeliebins etc should not be left on the roadway there; agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Thursday 3rd January 2008 at 7:30pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Councillors J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Marshall, C. Pack, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), PC Jobe (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk

Apologies:

Councillors J. Jackson (away), A. Morton (another commitment), B. Ogleby (other commitments); accepted.

Open Forum

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

PC Jobe referred to the recent instances of graffiti and reported that two people have been arrested for this and have been dealt with in court. She reported that there has been some interest in Valewatch and they are looking at re-introducing it over the next few months. Regarding the proposed On Street Drinking Ban, PC Jobe reported that the signage for this will be put in by March 2008.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th December 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 6th December 2007

P087 York Road Roundabout; NYCC have been informed that the Town Council will take the Licence for the landscaping of the roundabout.

P088 Public conveniences; chasing 'E' mail sent to Steve Prentice at HDC re the possibility of having cleaning timetables in the toilets.

P089 Redundant signage; letter put through the letterbox of the Mind Shop asking the owners to remove the redundant signage.

P089 Signboards on the Industrial Estate; nothing further as yet.

P089 Carrs Field; this is an agenda item for later in the meeting.

P089 Sign nameplates for the Alleyways; chasing 'E' mail sent to Clive Thornton at HDC and reply received advising that he has not been able to progress this in this financial year. However, he has been talking to Mark Haynes who is looking at a possible scheme and he will ask his colleague, Claire Spink, to liaise with Mark with a view to installation of the signs in the early part of the next financial year.

P089 Public footpath sign at the Finkle Street end of the footpath; P. Penny of NYCC informed that this has been broken.

P089 Sign at The Workhouse; nothing further on this as yet.

P089 "Welcome to Thirsk" pack; the PCC has not obtained any costings as yet.

P089 Roundabout on Station Road; Cllr Watson understands from Cllr Dadd that the second roundabout is to be put in.

P090 Planning application for the construction of a porch at "The Darrowby Inn"; the application has been refused by HDC.

P090 Bollard on Piper Lane; M. Burnett has removed this.

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P090 Assessment of the condition of HDC's trees; chasing 'E' mail sent to Clive Thornton and reply received advising that a survey has not been done. However, he has received an update of the tree survey for Millgate car park and it is hoped to tie the necessary work in with the car park extension scheme.

P090 Ditches; nothing further received from Barrett's Solicitors.

P090 Pigeons; awaiting reply from HDC's Environmental Health Department.

P090 Street sweeping schedule; reply received from John Proud at HDC advising that there is a schedule, but because of constant demands on staff, it is not always possible to follow it. Following an accident with one of the mini sweepers their schedule is currently under review. Mr Proud is happy to attend a Town Council meeting if required.

P090 Planted areas on Long Street; another complaint has been received regarding the restriction in visibility for vehicles emerging from Stammergeate; Cllr Pack to look into this. Cllr Marshall advised that she has reported to HDC the fact that the bin has not yet been moved.

P091 Work to Millgate Bridge; reply received from Jacobs advising that the contractor will be responsible for closing off Mill Gardens. He confirms that the contractor will also be responsible for carrying out any remedial works to Mill Gardens which may be required as a result of the work.

P091 Picnic Area; letter of thanks sent to Mrs Miller for her gardening work in the Picnic Area.

P091 Picks Lane junction with Croft View; reply sent to Mrs Miller. Notice now received from NYCC Highways Department regarding the installation of yellow lines (to be dealt with under "Correspondence").

P091 Millennium Green; acceptance of quote for footpath work sent.

P092 Ditches; Structural Engineer instructed to proceed with Phase 1.

P092 Flooding on Long Street and at entrance to Thircon; reported to Highways. The drain outside the furniture shop on Long Street has now been cleared.

P092 Car parking charges; to be dealt with as an agenda item later in the meeting.

Correspondence

NYCC – Notice re temporary closure of Kirkgate from 6th-10th January 2008 for footway improvement works; noted.

Post Offices; the Chairman had received a letter from Anne McIntosh MP enclosing a copy of a letter from Peter Luff MP, Chairman of the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee, regarding the future of the Postal Service. Mr Luff advises that they would like responses to the

consultation by 14th January. Agreed that two letters be sent to Mr Luff, the first saying that the Town Council has not been consulted and is not happy at the number of post offices which are to close; the second expressing its displeasure at the move of the Post Office in Thirsk plus the fact that there are now long queues and there is very little room for wheelchair users. It was queried whether planning permission for change of use was required when the Post Office moved into the Co-op premises; HDC's Planning Department to be asked about this. It was also pointed out that the Post Office sign is still up on the old closed Co-op building.

Crossing near Bakers Alley; complaint received from a member of the public that it is not clear whether this is an actual crossing point and whether motorists or pedestrians

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have the right of way; agreed that a letter be sent to Jayne Charlton at NYCC about this.

NYCC – Notice re Prohibition of Waiting Order re Picks Lane/Croft View; the Town Council is in agreement with this.

BTCV; enquiring whether we have any work we would like including in their schedule for the period March to September 2008; no interest at present.

NYCC re amendments to the 30 mph speed limit at Norby. It was noted that it is proposed to extend the 30 mph limit along the Northallerton Road beyond the old Norby depot. A reply to be sent advising that we welcome the extension to the 30 mph limit area and hope that some traffic management scheme will be put in place to ensure that drivers comply with the speed limit.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

Landlords' signboard on the Industrial Estate; it was pointed out that this has been ongoing for some considerable time now – to be chased up.

Possible Introduction of Car Parking Charges in Thirsk

An 'E' mail had been sent to Dave McGloin at HDC advising that it is our intention to arrange an Open Meeting and asking Officers from HDC to attend. Reply received declining and pointing out that meetings will be held with business contacts and parish/town councils, but the public will be consulted through focus groups, interviews and the "Hambleton News". Cllr Marshall expressed concern that they have not agreed to attend a meeting and proposed that a letter be sent expressing our disquiet that they have failed to respond positively to a parish council's request. She felt we should arrange a public meeting and ask the Thirsk Business Association to speak at it. Cllr Marshall suggested organising a petition; however it is understood there is one already going round the town. Cllr Robinson explained that HDC need to raise revenue in order to keep the services at the same level and they feel the only way to do this is by introducing car parking charges. Cllr Marshall pointed out that because HDC own a greater amount of land in Thirsk than in the other market towns it is not an equitable scheme. Agreed that a letter be sent to the Leader and the Chief Executive of HDC asking them to attend an open meeting; once their response is received the meeting will be organised.

Trustees of Carrs Field

A reply had been received from Tony Jordan advising that his 4 year term as a Trustee expired on 5th December 2006 and Sue Dodds' 4 year term expired on 18th November 2006. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we re-nominate Mr Jordan and Mrs Dodds as Trustees; motion carried with one abstention. Agreed that this be diaried forward in order that we can publicise it in future. Agreed that we ask Mr Jordan to keep us informed, perhaps by sending us copies of the minutes of their meetings.

Reports

Carrs Field - The need for them to pay the insurance has been chased up.
Central Areas - Cllr Watson pointed out that a meeting has been scheduled for later in the month.

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Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that he is still getting compliments about the tree and the lights. Cllr Marshall advised that she had received a request that the lights be put on earlier in the day; to be looked at next Christmas.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Pack advised that she had received a quote for alterations to the roadway outside the "Lord Nelson" to stop the gravel going into the road; a Committee Meeting is to be held to look at this. Cllr Watson pointed out that two plant tubs on Ingramgate have been turned over; Cllr Pack to sort this out.

Millennium Green - Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that a quote for re-surfacing one of the paths on the Millennium Green has been accepted.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall referred to the gap in the fencing between the footpath alongside the Northallerton Road and The Holmes and advised that Cllr Pack has ordered some planters to be put there to reduce the width of the gap. Cllr Marshall had met with Peter Penny of NYCC to look at a footpath onto The Holmes near the waterfall. Mr Penny thinks this is a good idea and is happy for us to take down the fence which is part of the right of way footpath. He is to get someone from the bridges department at the County Council to contact Cllr Marshall to look at the deterioration of the stonework at the waterfall; he has a responsibility for this as it is part of the public footpath. Cllr Marshall had pointed out to Mr Penny that part of the fence alongside the public footpath from the road to the waterfall is missing; we are to deal with this and Mr Penny will meet the cost.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Lottery application for the East Thirsk Play Area and said that HDC are not expecting to hear anything about this until January as they had to provide additional information. Three schemes have now been received for the East Thirsk Play Area from play equipment manufacturers and estimates have been received for work on other play areas; the Open Areas Committee is to look at these.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Hesmondhalgh pointed out that the alleyways have now been completed and queried whether this needs to remain on the agenda; agreed that it no longer needs to be included.

Sensory Garden - Cllr Marshall advised that there had been various concerns from both the Working Party and the Town Council about the process to be

followed re the headstones etc. A letter was therefore sent to Eccles Heddon and following this Cllr Marshall and Mark Haynes attended a meeting with Mr Armstrong of Eccles Heddon. A letter has now been received from Mr Armstrong and Cllr Marshall read out the salient points. Mr Armstrong advises that the Town Council could deal with taking details of the memorials and putting up the notices in a management role before the freehold is passed to it. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that we follow the advice given by Mr Armstrong and write to Tim Watson asking him if he will agree to allow us to go on site to record the details and to start the notice period. Also that we ask Mr Armstrong to draft a suitable form of notice; agreed.

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Ditches - Cllr Marshall advised that we have written to the Structural Engineer instructing him to undertake the work detailed as Phase 1 in his report. Mr Armstrong of Eccles Heddon has not had a reply from Barretts' solicitors. He suggested we ask Dave Goodwin at HDC to speak to his contacts at Barretts as a matter of urgency and ask them to ask their solicitors to contact ours.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Marshall expressed concern at blocked drains outside the cinema and the Town Hall and also on the other side of the road; Cllr Robinson advised that they have been cleaned out within the last few days. Cllr Marshall also referred to the drains on Ingramgate near Bridge Garage which need attention; to be reported.

Cllr Marshall mentioned that there is water ingress in the old TRI Office again. Cllr Robinson referred to the trees which have been cut down on the corner of Newsham Road; Cllr Roberts pointed out that they are not in the Conservation Area; she understands one of them was considered dangerous.

Cllr Adamson advised that Cllr Dadd has asked Highways yet again to deal with the ponding at East Thirsk.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on Monday 21st January 2008 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.**

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Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J.E. Jackson, C.M. Pack, F.M. Roberts, A. Robinson, County and District Cllr G. Dadd, I. Noble ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 2 Members of the Public and the Clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs A. Morton (family commitments), J. Marshall (family commitments); accepted.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd January 2008

Proposed accepted Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson; agreed.

Reports

County Council

Cllr Dadd advised that the County Council Engineers have been out to Hambleton Place to look at the ponding; they have assessed it and are looking at solutions. They are also looking at the drainage in Hambleton Place. Cllr Dadd advised that the County Council has received a settlement from Central Government which reflects the increase in population, but he pointed out that the waste strategy will require over £20m of funding. The Fire Brigade has received an indicative settlement of 1% with increases of 0.5% over the following two years.

District Council

Cllr Dadd advised that the District Council has received an indicative settlement of just over 1%.

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report.

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to the blue box recycling, saying that last week the collection was two days late and that they reverted back to the recycling system used previously. Cllr Dadd advised that HDC did not realise how much people would recycle. He has received assurances that they are getting to grips with it.

Open Forum

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

Mr Peter Mills addressed the Town Council saying there is a need for more allotments. There are allotments to rent at Norby, but there are currently 12 people on the waiting list for these and the allotments in Sowerby are owned by the allotment holders. Mr Mills asked whether the Town Council would provide such allotments and referred to Section 23 of the Smallholding and

Allotment Act 1908. Cllr Adamson advised that it is necessary for six people to write to the Town Council requesting allotments and then the Town Council would need to consider it. He suggested the Centenary Field could be considered for this. Cllr Robinson felt there would be people with gardens who would be happy for others to use them for growing vegetables and plants.

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Mrs Penson expressed her delight that the plants which were obstructing the visibility of the Stammergate/Long Street junction have been removed.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 17th December 2007

P095 Community Emergency Scheme; reply received from Wendy Muldoon, Emergency Planning Officer, saying that she would be happy to talk to the Town Council and help us complete the Plan. Agreed that a sub-committee consisting of approximately three members of the Council should deal with this and that Ms Muldoon be asked for some dates when she would be able to come.

P096 Letters to estate agents re parking on St. James' Green; letters delivered to all estate agents in the town and reply received from James Winn advising that they are aware of the situation regarding St. James' Green and are always careful to ensure that there is no misrepresentation in their property descriptions.

P096 Pigeons; reply received from Eric Kendall at HDC advising that they are worked proactively with a number of proprietors of properties in the town to proof their buildings to prevent pigeons gathering. He has asked David McGloin to look at the TIC building to see if it can be proofed.

P096 Donation to Ladies of Thirsk Chamber of Trade for Christmas Lights; letter of thanks received from Mrs Jill Miller.

P097 Precept 2008/09; letter delivered to HDC.

P097 Mark Haynes; letter of thanks sent to Mark Haynes.

P097 Old Minute Books; these are being sorted and will be taken to the County Records Office.

P098 Wheeliebins on St. James' Green; acknowledgement sent and letter sent by recorded delivery to the resident concerned.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Room Hire (Oct-Dec 07 inc) £157.50

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall insurance premium £1,063.74

R & P Bennett – window cleaning of bus shelter £80.00

Record RSS Ltd – Cradle Seats for swings on The Holmes £654.65

C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (3.12.07-30.12.07) £182.80

Litter Picking (3.12.07.-30.12.07.) £200.00

Removal of tree from Whitelass Beck £50.00

Weeding/pruning Long Street/Craigs Way £25.00
Trimming willows in Whitelass Ings £50.00
Installing gate on Centenary Field and replacing fencing £320.00
Staining new bench on The Holmes £35.00
Replacing cradle swings on The Holmes £60.00
National Savings – transfer to Clerk’s Gratuity Fund 2007/08 £789.04
Inland Revenue – Tax/Ni, December 2007 £516.05

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T. Imeson – Christmas Tree £125.00
M.L. Burnett – assembling new picnic table and seats and putting in Place on The Holmes. Putting concrete base on The Holmes and siting seat there £501.84
In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Town Council’s normal practice

Paid Since Last Meeting
BT Internet Line £77.51
Petty Cash £49.68

Income Received
Bank Interest £1,614.32
Burial Bd: Rent £435.37
Interments £427.00
Grave Purchase £122.00
Reservation of space in GOR £122.00
Bank Interest £130.38

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for December 2007

These had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Pack that they be accepted; agreed.

Correspondence

NYCC – North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Core Strategy Submissions; advising that this can be viewed on the County Council’s website or at Thirsk Library or on a CD. The CD is in the Town Council Office for Members to borrow if they wish.

Communities and Local Government; Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority Members; comments on this are required by 15th February. It was agreed that Councillors should borrow the document from the Town Council Office.

Thirsk Cricket Club requesting financial support; proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the Town Council should sponsor a Match Ball at a cost of £25; agreed.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Adamson referred to the CCTV statistics provided by John Smith and asked that Mr Smith be requested to break this down into the various market town areas.

Possible Introduction by HDC of Car Parking Charge

As an employee of HDC, Cllr Watson declared an interest and Cllr Pack took the Chair for this item.

A letter had been sent to Peter Simpson, the Chief Executive of HDC, and Cllr Arthur Barker, the Leader of the Council, asking them to come to a public meeting in Thirsk. A reply had been received from Cllr Barker declining to do this and advising that their consultation will include meetings with Parish and Town Councils and businesses and public opinion will be sought through opinion surveys and focus groups. A letter had also been received from David McGloin of HDC inviting members of the Town

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Council to a meeting on Wednesday 23rd January at 7.30 p.m. Upon receipt of this an 'E' mail had been sent to David McGloin asking if the Thirsk Business Association could also attend this meeting; no reply received, but it is now understood that there is to be a separate meeting with the Business Association and businesses at 5.30 p.m. on 23rd January. Cllr Adamson was pleased they were meeting with the Business Association. Cllr Pack asked who would make the decision on whether to implement car parking charges; Cllr Adamson explained that a recommendation would go from Cabinet to the full Council. He advised that he and other local District Councillors will be pushing for a lower parking charge for Thirsk. Cllr Robinson explained that there are only certain criteria which could allow HDC to introduce parking charges, but one of these is if the financial situation demands it in order to carry out their services as at present. He pointed out that it is intended there should be 40 half-hour free parking spaces in the Market Place. Cllr Jackson felt that HDC should look at other schemes for raising revenue, including those suggested previously such as charging for parking discs. Cllr Roberts suggested we see what comes out of the meeting on Wednesday before we take this further; agreed.

Co-option to fill the vacancy on Thirsk Town Council

Two applications have been received, one from Mrs Maureen Penson and one from Mr Fred Suggitt and their letters were read to the meeting. A paper ballot was held; there were 6 votes from Mrs Penson and 1 for Mr Suggitt and Mrs Penson was therefore co-opted onto Thirsk Town Council.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following applications be approved; agreed:

Grave No. C2 24 Greta Irving Interred 8.5.07.

Grave No. F4 6 Patricia Mary Abbott Interred 7.3.07.

Grave No, GG14 Leslie Stockdale Ashes interred in GOR 10.12.07

Grave No. GG 9 Stuart Hanley Ashes interred in GOR 16.6.07.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson advised that the Clerk is making enquiries as to the largest wheeliebin available in order that we can start recycling flowers, glass etc. in the Cemetery. Mr Burnett has painted the Cemetery Office door and cemented under the threshold.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Roberts advised that she is now the Joint Executive Board's representative on the NYCC Footpaths Liaison Committee.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the next meeting of the CCA is to be held on Thursday.

Cllr Pack advised that she had spent a pleasant evening last Thursday at the Thirsk in Bloom dinner. Their AGM is to be held shortly.

Cllr Adamson advised that the next meeting of the NYCC Area Committee for Hambleton is to be held on Monday 28th January at County Hall. Cllr Watson asked

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whether there is any further information as to whether the second roundabout on Station Road is to go ahead; Cllr Adamson had not heard anything further on this and will chase it up. Cllr Roberts pointed out that the regulations regarding roundabouts have changed and asked Cllr Adamson to query what the effect of these changes are.

Members

Cllr Roberts advised that Cllr David Murkett is in hospital and asked that a "Get Well" card be sent to him.

Cllr Roberts brought the latest planning applications for "The Three Tuns" and the Wimpey development on the former Norby Depot to the meeting and explained these. Regarding the Norby application, Cllr Roberts felt this was a good mix of large and small houses, there are a lot of green areas and they have listened to what we have said about the boundaries. The latest application for "The Three Tuns" is simply for where the air conditioning units are to be sited. Cllr Roberts has spoken to Weatherspoons and has asked them to provide some notices to go on the boarding on "The Three Tuns" advising that they have purchased it and work will be starting soon.

Cllr Watson advised that she had received notification that someone else is in court for causing damage in Thirsk.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 7th February 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J.E. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, County and District Cllr G. Dadd, PC Claire Mayes (North Yorkshire Police) and the Clerk. In addition there were 45 members of the public who signed in.

Apologies: None received

Open Forum

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Marshall that Standing Orders be suspended; agreed.

Mr Peter Mills handed in nine letters from people requesting allotments; Cllr Watson advised that the Town Council would look at this.

Concern was expressed by members of the public present regarding the proposal to introduce parking charges in Thirsk. Cllr Marshall explained that this proposal is being made by HDC; the Town Council is not a party to that decision and has in fact always strenuously opposed the introduction of parking charges in Thirsk in the past. She advised that the Town Council recently asked the Leader and Chief Executive of HDC to come to a public meeting, but they declined to do so. Cllr Jackson urged the public to contact HDC and oppose the proposal re parking charges. Mrs Miller expressed concern about the impact on small businesses in the town whose staff will have to pay to park when they come to work. Concern was also expressed at the number of empty shops in the town and that should parking charges be introduced this would exacerbate the problem. Mr Breeds pointed out that they backed HDC when it was proposed to have a unitary authority and he felt it was very poor that the authority which they had supported were now proposing to bring in parking charges. Mr Shirtcliffe pointed out that Councillors at HDC can be voted out of office at the next election. It was pointed out that a lot of the surrounding villages have no facilities and therefore people from the villages have to travel into Thirsk regularly. Cllr Robinson explained that HDC has a 10 year financial strategy and in 2-3 years time they will have run out of money. They require an additional £450K per annum to maintain the services. A member of the public mentioned the cost of setting up the car park charging system and Mrs Breeds pointed out that it will be necessary for Parking Enforcement Officers to be employed.

Cllr Watson thanked the members of the public for their input and said that this subject is an agenda item for the Town Council later in the meeting.

PC Mayes reported that a new Dispersal Order is in place and this can be applied to people committing antisocial behaviour if they are under the influence of alcohol; if they do not disperse within fifteen minutes then they can be arrested. A drugs dog in the public houses initiative is to be in place during the summer months. PC Mayes advised that the police are paying joint visits with Broadacres to Broadacres' houses where there are youths who have displayed antisocial behaviour and they are looking

at putting conditions on their tenancies. PC Mayes reported that Valewatch is up and running and the police are working with the RSPCA re thefts of livestock.

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

Cllr Watson welcomed Cllr Penson to her first meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2008

Proposed approved Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Roberts, subject to one minor addition to Page P107; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 3rd January 2008

P099 Public conveniences; nothing further heard from Steve Prentice at HDC; will chase again.

P099 Redundant signage on the Mind Shop; no response to the letter put through the letterbox asking the owners to remove the redundant signage.

P099 Signboards on the Industrial Estate; Kirsty McGreedy at HDC is looking into this.

P099 Sign nameplates for the Alleyways; it is not envisaged that there will be any developments on this until the start of the new financial year.

P099 Public footpath sign at the Finkle Street end of the footpath; now replaced.

P099 Sign at The Workhouse; chasing 'E' mail sent to Dr Shawcross and reply received advising that he is still trying to contact Sgt Frank who has the sign.

P099 "Welcome to Thirsk" pack; the PCC has not obtained any costings as yet.

P100 Ditches; Dave McGloin at HDC was asked to contact Barretts and request they chase up their solicitors; reply received and passed to Mike Armstrong at Eccles Heddon.

P100 Pigeons; reply received from HDC's Environmental Health Department and reported to the last meeting.

P100 Planted areas on Long Street; the large plants which were blocking visibility from Stammergate have now been removed.

P100 Millennium Green; the contractor appointed to do the footpath work on the Millennium Green has confirmed he will do this before the end of this financial year.

P100 Car parking charges; these are an agenda item for later in the meeting.

P100 Post Office; letters sent to Peter Luff MP, Chairman of the Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee, with copies to Anne McIntosh MP, objecting to the number of post offices which are to close and pointing out that the Town Council was not consulted on this. Also a letter was sent expressing displeasure at the move of the Thirsk Post Office and pointing out that there are now long queues and there is very little room for wheelchair users. Acknowledgement received from Peter Luff and letter received from Miss Anne McIntosh advising that she is to enquire why the move of the Thirsk Post Office took place when there was local opposition to the move and also advising that there is to be a public meeting in the Vale of York about the post office closures. Letter sent to the Post Office pointing out that their sign is still up on the outside of the old Co-op building; reply received confirming that this will be dealt with. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the finger post in the Market Place is now incorrect as it is pointing to the old Post Office.

P100 Crossing near Bakers Alley; letter sent to Jayne Charlton at NYCC and acknowledgement received.

P101 Prohibition of Waiting Order re Picks Lane/Croft View; included in “Correspondence”.

P101 30 mph speed limit at Norby; letter sent to NYCC welcoming the 30 mph speed limit and requesting that a traffic management scheme be put in place. Details of proposed traffic calming included in “Correspondence”.

P101 Possible introduction of car parking charges in Thirsk; Letters sent to the Leader and the Chief Executive of HDC. No reply from the Chief Executive, but a reply received from the Leader and reported at the last meeting.

P101 Trustees of Carrs Field; letters sent to Tony Jordan and Mrs Sue Dodds advising that they have been re-nominated. Tony Jordan has been asked to keep the Town Council informed, possibly by sending copies of their minutes.

P102 Sensory Garden; letter sent to Tim Watson and reply received giving consent for us to go on site to record the details regarding the memorials and to begin the notice period. Letter sent to Mike Armstrong asking him to draft a suitable notice and reply received.

P103 Blocked drains; reported.

Correspondence

NYCC – Traffic Regulation Order re Prohibition of Waiting on Picks Lane/Croft View; noted.

John Bell – Herbage Agreement for Castle Garth for 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this be signed and that the Agreement fee of £120 be paid.

HDC – Thirsk and Sowerby Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Order; giving details of the areas which will be covered by the Order. Cllr Robinson expressed concern that the Order does not include St. James’ Green and Carrs Field; Cllr Adamson pointed out that this has been ongoing for some time now and any such objections should have been made earlier. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the Town Council agree with this Order. The areas not included will be watched carefully. HDC have supplied a copy of the plan of the areas to be covered by the DPPO which is to be kept in the Town Council Office for public inspection when required.

NYCC; notice that Picks Lane will be closed from 19th to 23rd February whilst telecom cable renewal work takes place – it is envisaged the work will be done on 19th February.

John Proud of HDC advising that a deep clean was carried out in the town in the early hours of 5th February when 4 tons of waste was cleared from the streets. He also enclosed a schedule of where it is proposed to site the new litter bins – passed to Central Areas Committee. Cllr Marshall advised that the alleyway alongside “The Royal” is very littered; HDC to be asked whether they clean the alleyways.

NYCC – Traffic calming proposals for Norby Front Street. Cllr Robinson was not happy with the proposed traffic calming as he felt it is too busy a road for this type of scheme. Cllr Marshall made the following points: she queried the effect on the millstone (not featured on the plan, but extra signs to be put up); she pointed out that it is proposed to put extra kerbs near the WI House ramp and she mentioned that there

have been issues with the ramp; a pedestrian crossing (presumably with associated signage) is suggested outside St. Mary's Church which is a Grade 1 Listed building and she queried whether this is to be a pedestrian crossing or a dropped kerb. The Town Council was not in agreement with the traffic calming scheme as proposed and it was agreed that a representative of NYCC be asked to come to a Town Council meeting to discuss this.

From Tabled Correspondence, Cllr Roberts pointed out that we have received Winter Maintenance Service leaflets from NYCC at the end of January, saying if these are to be sent out then it should be at the beginning of the winter as sending them now is a waste of resources; agreed that a letter be sent to John Marsden at NYCC.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

This had already been circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Penson suggested that a notice be put in the toilets asking people to contact HDC if they are not happy with the condition of the toilets.

Cllr Marshall referred to the signboards on the Industrial Estate which we first wrote to HDC about in 2005 and asked that where there appeared to have been no action on such long outstanding matters we send a letter to the Chief Executive.

Cllr Penson referred to the item regarding silt under the bridges and said that if the silt is left it narrows the water into two arches which is of benefit as far as flooding is concerned. Cllr Watson explained that NYCC are to do some work to Millgate Bridge and as a one-off they are to clear the silt and they are to construct some form of chicane to assist with the flow of water.

Cllr Watson referred to the item about the Byelaws on St. James' Green; Cllr Pack advised that they are to be discussed at a meeting shortly.

Cllr Penson asked if it would be possible to have a temporary nameplate for Porters Vaults; Cllr Watson explained that this was part of an alleyway nameplates project and a scheme is to be drawn up.

Possible Introduction of Car Parking Charges in Thirsk

(As an employee of HDC, Cllr Watson declared an interest and Cllr Pack took the Chair for this item)

Cllr Adamson advised that the local district councillors met with the Leader of HDC and some members of the Cabinet last night and expressed their concerns. He is taking forward our concerns, including items raised at the meetings with the Thirsk Business Association and with Stakeholders, and some of the suggestions put forward for lessening the impact upon residents of Thirsk and workers in the town. He felt we need to wait until the consultants have carried out their work which is due to finish in April. Cllr Roberts said we have been to the consultation last week and we have heard what the public has said tonight and we now need to put together a formal reply to HDC. She suggested that all Councillors complete the form which was sent to them with their minutes and then a letter can be compiled from these. Cllr Jackson felt the public should have the opportunity to put forward their opinions and HDC are not offering them any consultation on the whole issue. Cllr Marshall suggested the Town Council organise a public meeting to include the public, representatives of HDC and the consultants. She also suggested that people who are willing to lead the campaign to oppose the introduction of parking charges should form a group. She felt that if HDC need more revenue then a scheme to achieve this should involve the

whole district, including Easingwold and Great Ayton who are currently not having car parking charges. She also pointed out that in Stokesley the proposed charge is only 20p per hour, as opposed to 40p in Thirsk and Northallerton. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a public meeting be held; agreed. Cllr Pack was concerned that there is a very short time between the consultants finishing their work and a decision being made and she proposed that we request a longer time be allowed, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh; agreed. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Penson that a campaign group (as outlined above) be formed; motion carried with 7 in favour. Cllr Penson expressed the view that the Town Council needs to make it clear that we are working very hard to save the town; she felt that if parking charges are introduced then a lot of shops will close. She pointed out that in 1998 and 2002 she put forward a proposal to charge for the discs with free parking and she felt this would still be a good idea. She said that some shops would be happy to stock the discs and she asked that this be discussed at the public meeting.

Nominations to fill vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies

Following the death of Cllr Mallett there were various vacancies on Town Council Committees and outside bodies and these were filled as follows:

Planning Committee	:	Another member not required
Greens and Ingramgate	:	Cllr Morton
Central Areas	:	Cllr Penson
Open Spaces	:	Another member not required
Town Office	:	Cllr Roberts
Personnel	:	Cllr Penson
East Thirsk Community Association	:	Cllr Hesmondhalgh
CAAG	:	Cllr Watson
Thirsk Business Association	:	Cllr Penson

Reports

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts advised that the Carrs Field Trustees have yet to co-opt a fifth member and they still have no insurance. Tony Jordan to be contacted regarding this and to be asked to respond within a week.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that a meeting had been held. Details have now been received from John Proud of HDC regarding the siting of the new litter bins and this will be discussed by the Committee. NYCC have been contacted about the crossing near Bakers Alley and about the time it takes for the lights to change at the crossing in the Market Place. Cllr Watson advised that she has taken photographs of the shop fronts which are in poor condition and is to send them to HDC. Cllr Robinson noted that one of the proposed sites for a new litter bin is outside the "Blue Lounge" and he expressed concern that the pavement is very narrow there; Cllr Watson replied that her Committee has looked at the sites in question. Cllr Pack pointed out that the tarmac on the pathway leading to the houses next to the "Blue Lounge" is in a poor condition; to be reported to NYCC.

Christmas Festivities

Cllr Adamson explained the reason for the delay in the Christmas tree and lights being taken down and said hopefully it will not happen next year.

Greens/Ingramgate

Cllr Pack advised that she had received a quote for the work required on St. James' Green and her Committee will be meeting to look at this. Joe Gallagher of NYCC is to check that the planters on Long Street have not been moved or damaged whilst the work on behalf of the gas board has been taking place there. Cllr Roberts was concerned that we were not informed that work was to be taking place and that there were no notices saying who was carrying it out; Cllr Adamson advised that they are subcontractors working for the gas board and their names are on some of the barriers. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that we write to the gas board and NYCC about this; agreed.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that early last year the Committee looked at the position re the plascrete which HDC had put down on the Little Green some years ago instead of grasscrete. She said that at the last Committee meeting it had been agreed to write to HDC again and ask them to rectify this and if they did not do so then legal action would be taken against them; agreed that this be left until the meeting on 6th March.

Millennium Green

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the Millennium Green is in good condition. She had approached a man who had been working on the Millennium Green behind his property; Mike I'Anson is to deal with this.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that there is a problem with the building of the Children's Centre in that pebbles etc are finding their way into the play area; she said that, as we had allowed them to access the site from the play area, they should ensure they do not spill materials in the play area. Cllr Marshall reported that a replacement piece of play equipment for the Shire Park play area is on order. Cllr Marshall and Cllr Hesmondhalgh went to see the school council at Thirsk Primary School and took the various plans for the East Thirsk Play Area. They are very interested in what we are doing and they put forward their views on the plans; an amendment is to be made to the plans and then they are to be put on display in the school. One of the classes at the school is to come up with suggestions for the play area as part of their geography project. Cllr Roberts asked whether the Open Areas Committee have been to Askham Bryan and looked at the equipment which has been put there by various manufacturers; Cllr Marshall felt it would be good to take some of the children there.

Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall advised that there is a problem with the harbour wall which came to light when the undergrowth was cleared away. She said the Sensory Garden Working Party would like permission to spend £500 from grant money to engage a structural engineer to give us a view on the harbour wall; proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that this be done; agreed. Cllr Marshall reported that the survey work on the gravestones should be underway.

Ditches

Cllr Marshall reported that we are still waiting to hear from Barretts. The survey was done on Monday.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Roberts advised that she had been to visit David Murkett in hospital and he is hoping to go home tomorrow. He thanked the Town Council for the "Get Well" card.

Cllr Marshall referred to East Thirsk Community Hall saying there are organisational problems and currently only three Trustees. There are also not as many hirers as they would like. A meeting is to be held with interested parties to decide on the way forward and she hopes the Town Council will support this and that someone from the Council will attend the meeting.

Cllr Adamson referred to the letter and consultation paper received from Communities and Local Government on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members. He brought the attention of Members to Question 3B and 3C in the Consultation Criteria which requires consultation to be clear and concise and referred to Question 1 in the Summary of Questions which is quite the opposite; a letter to be sent pointing out that the Summary of Questions does not meet its own criteria.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Standing Orders be extended until 10.00 p.m., agreed.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Marshall that the public and press be excluded for a confidential commercial item; agreed.

Grasscutting Tenders

Six invitations to tender had been sent out and two tenders had been received. In view of the closeness of the prices quoted by the two parties, it was proposed by Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts that if one of the contractors has cut the Town Council's grass before then we should appoint him; the motion was carried with 7 in favour and 3 abstentions. C.E. and C.M. Walker were therefore appointed to carry out the grasscutting this year.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 18th February 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. E. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, County and District Cllr G. Dadd, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”), 13 Members of the Public and the Clerk

Apologies: None received

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2008

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh, subject to two amendments on page P110 and one on page P112; agreed.

Police Report

No members of the police present.

Reports

County and District Council

Cllr Dadd advised that County is to set its Council Tax at 4.7% increase. A figure of between £16m and £40m is to be spent on waste strategy in the next four years. They are looking to make savings of approximately £9m per year. Government has increased the settlement to reflect the increase in population. County is now trying to plan ahead for 5/6/7 years time. Cllr Dadd advised that the PCT has identified Thirsk and Whitby as their priorities for investment. The proposed traffic calming scheme at Norby is currently out to consultation and he requested that two members of the Town Council meet with representatives of the County Council for an informal discussion about this on Thursday; Cllrs Adamson and Roberts to attend. Cllr Dadd had received reports of delays in repairing streetlights. Cllr Dadd advised that the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police had visited the County Council some time ago and had said he would be happy to speak to the Town and Parish Councils in the area. Cllr Hesmondhalgh referred to Long Street asking whether we had received any prior notice of the work being carried out on behalf of the gas company; Cllr Dadd confirmed that he had received no such notice. Cllr Adamson referred to the land next to Cherry Garth which is currently the subject of a planning application for housing; Cllr Dadd confirmed that Cherry Garth is not closing. Cllr Dadd advised that the Rutson Hospital has not yet moved into the Friarage.

District Council

Cllr Robinson had nothing to report.

Cllr Adamson had nothing to report.

Cllr Marshall referred to the trees in front of the White Horse Café where the roots and grilles are proud of the ground. She said site meetings had been held with representatives of HDC and we had suggested that a circular seat be put around the tree. No action has been taken and she asked all three District Councillors to chase this up. Cllr Penson pointed out that that soil has been put around the tree roots, but Cllr Marshall said this was a short-term solution only.

Open Forum

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended; agreed.

David Andrews of Hutton Sessay who is the Chairman of the Dalton Incinerator Steering Committee addressed the meeting explaining that Dalton Industrial Estate is one of the sites detailed in the North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Disposal Strategy as being suitable for a major waste recycling unit. He explained that there is great concern in Dalton about the potential impact and said the pollution from this will affect a 16 mile radius which will include Thirsk. Consultants have been commissioned and Mr Andrews pointed out that any objections to this must be received at NYCC by 29th February. Cllr Marshall queried whether low cloud cover brought the pollution down to a lower level and Mr Andrews said that many factors can have an effect, eg rain, the fact we are in a vale etc. Cllr Robinson queried the effect it would have on agriculture and Mr Andrews explained that there will be a very fine ash from the incinerator and when cows eat the grass upon which this has fallen it will put dioxins into the milk. Mr Andrews said there is great concern about the effect on the food chain. Cllr Watson queried whether the land is available and Mr Andrews said it is not. He said the reason this site has been identified is because it is in the A1 corridor and therefore very accessible. Cllr Pack queried the traffic movements and Mr Andrews said they are looking at approximately 200 vehicles per day. Cllr Watson thanked the members of the public for attending and said this is an agenda item for later in the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 21st January 2008

P104 Requests for allotments; several requests for allotments received. Agreed that this be moved to the Thursday Town Council meetings.

P105 Community Emergency Scheme; 'E' mail sent to Wendy Muldoon requesting some dates.

P105 Pigeons; Cllr Adamson advised that HDC are appointing a consultant to look at this. However, he pointed out that should the TIC building be proofed it will not solve the problem of pigeons, but simply move them to another building in the town. Cllr Marshall suggested the roof of the building in which the TIC are be insulated so it is not warm. Cllr Penson expressed concern about the pigeon droppings outside the TIC building.

P105 Old Minute Books; the move of the old Minute Books to the County Records Office is still to be done.

P106 Communities and Local Government; Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the conduct of Local Authority Members; discussed at last meeting and letter sent.

P106 Thirsk Cricket Club; the cheque for £25 to sponsor a Match Ball is to be signed tonight.

P106 CCTV statistics; 'E' mail sent to Mr Smith asking him to break these down into the various market towns.

P106 Car Parking Charges; agenda item for later in the meeting.

P107 Burial Board Report; the largest wheeliebin which HDC can provide is not large enough for the Cemetery's requirements. Two bins were therefore requested, but HDC will not agree to this. The Clerk has spoken to Cllr Dadd and he has passed it to District Cllr Bob Baker.

P108 Cllr David Murkett; "Get Well" card sent from the Town Council.

P069 Half price offers; reply received from Trading Standards setting out the current position and advising that later this year a new EU Directive controlling unfair commercial practices will come into effect and it is anticipated that this may be used to tackle misleading promotions. Cllr Adamson referred to the practice of some supermarkets to get suppliers of perishable goods, such as fruit, to commit to sell to them for a long period and in some cases the goods are being sold for less than it costs the supplier to grow them.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Hesmondhalgh, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following accounts be approved for payment; agreed:

Thirsk & Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust – 50% of insurance premium	£	382.58	
Fox's Copy Centre – photocopying etc.	£	47.24	
M.L. Burnett – Painting Cemetery Office door & repairing threshold	£	110.50	
C.A. Amy: Play Area Inspections (31.12.07.-3.2.08)	£	228.50	
Litter Picking/sweeping (31.12.07.-3.2.08)	£	250.00	
Tree planting on the Green and Long Street	£	111.40	
Shrub planting at the Ings and Centenary Field	£	285.00	
Repair fence, cut hedge/shrubs on Long St, Replacing swings on The Holmes and Making banking safe, Pruning at McCleans and Craigs Way, repair swing at East Thirsk	£	235.00	
Tow van off The Holmes (recharged to Record Playground Equipment)	£	30.00	
Prune/weed shrubbery at Little Green	£	45.00	
Clear area at White Mare shrubbery	£	30.00	
Hedge cutting at Herriot Way	£	40.00	£1,254.90
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, January 2008	£	515.81	

In addition, the salaries of the Clerk and the Assistant to the Clerk will be paid in accordance with the Town Council's normal practice

Paid Since Last Meeting

Npower – office electricity	£	326.06
Playdale – deposit for replacement equipment at Shire Park	£	2,949.50
Thirsk Hall Farms – Licence fee for Herbage Agreement re Castle Garth	£	120.00

Income Received

Refund of VAT (1.10.07.-31.12.07)	£	8,947.14
HDC – contribution to Porters Vaults	£	5,000.00
NYCC – contribution to Porters Vaults	£	2,499.79

NYCC – contribution to Sensory Garden	£ 754.92
Burial Board: Rent	£ 485.37

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for January 2008

Copies already circulated to Councillors. Cllr Marshall pointed out that some budget headings are shown as overspent, but there is in fact income to offset against these figures. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Jackson that the Balance Sheet and Budget Report be approved; agreed.

Correspondence

Audit Commission; advising that they are proposing to appoint Mazars as auditors for a period of five years commencing with the 2007/08 accounts (Cllr Adamson declared an interest). There were no objections to the proposal.

HDC – Notice of District/Parish Liaison Meeting – Monday 3rd March at Northdale Horticulture; concern was expressed that there was a very short timescale from receipt of the notice to the date specified for including items on the agenda. Agreed that a letter be sent pointing this out and asking whether car parking charges in Thirsk could be included on the agenda for the meeting on 3rd March. Cllr Roberts agreed to attend the meeting.

‘E’ mail and supporting documents received from the Dalton Incinerator Steering Committee re Planned Major Incineration Site for Waste Handling on Dalton Industrial Estate and its impact on Thirsk. Copies of all the documents received had been sent to Councillors. Cllr Adamson pointed out that the owners of the site in question will not sell it as it would make the rest of the site untenable. However, Cllr Jackson pointed out that the land is where the current owners intend to extend into and he felt that if the extension did not go ahead they could consider selling it. He felt that such an incinerator should be positioned away from population and food producing industries. It was felt that the way in which we deal with waste is a major issue. The question of disposal of the ash was also of great concern as it could contain metal, toxins etc. Cllr Pack expressed her concern at the amount of vehicle movements which would take place and also the fact that Dalton is within a flood risk area. Cllr Roberts expressed the view that local authorities are not being strong enough about recycling and she felt that if necessary there should be more recycling facilities provided at tips. Cllr Morton asked whether Defra have been contacted about this; Cllr Marshall said we assume they will be consulted. Cllr Robinson felt the County Council would not consider Dalton as a suitable site unless they felt it was safe. Cllr Adamson pointed out that at this stage any objection is not to the earmarking of the Dalton site, but to the core strategy, ie to the technical side of the incineration of waste and the effects of it. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the HDC LDF designates Dalton as being suitable for business and housing and queried how such a waste disposal site would fit in with this. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack that we support Dalton and Topcliffe in their objections to the proposal for Dalton Industrial Estate; agreed. The letter of objection to be copied to the Dalton Incinerator Steering Committee.

Proposed traffic calming scheme at Norby; the Clerk advised that in response to her letter to Neil Linfoot of NYCC asking that he attend the next Town Council meeting he had asked whether it would be possible to come at 6.30 pm; agreed this was not possible. Agreed that Cllrs Adamson and Roberts should meet with Mr Linfoot at the

meeting arranged for later this week and they would then report back to the Town Council. Cllr Marshall felt that if they could not reach any agreement at the meeting later this week then it would be useful for Mr Linfoot to come to the next Town Council meeting.

Proposed Introduction of Car Parking Charges in Thirsk

(Cllr Watson declared an interest and Cllr Pack took the Chair for this item)

The Clerk reported that a Public Meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 27th February. She has notified the Thirsk Business Association, sent out a press release to the local papers and radio stations and put notices on the noticeboards in the Market Place. Cllr Penson is handing out notices about it to the shops in the town and to motorists. A letter has been sent to Peter Simpson, Cllr Arthur Barker and David McGloin at HDC inviting them to attend the meeting. Cllr Robinson agreed that if no representatives of HDC come to the meeting then he will explain the reasoning behind HDC's proposal to introduce parking charges. Cllr Pack indicated that she did not wish to chair the Public Meeting and suggested that Cllr Marshall should do so. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that Cllr Marshall chair the Public Meeting; agreed. Concern was again expressed at the impact of such parking charges on the town and the fact that the proposal is not equitable with the other market towns. It was pointed out that at the Stakeholders' Meeting David McGloin had said that the breakdown of people parking in the town is 33% Thirsk residents and 66% tourists and it was queried whether people from the villages and outlying areas were included in the 66%. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a letter be sent to HDC requesting clarification of this. Cllr Marshall asked that we also ask them, under the Freedom of Information Act, if a decision was taken in 2005 to introduce parking charges and, if so, by whom such a decision was made; agreed. Cllr Jackson referred to Tesco's car park saying if parking charges are introduced he thinks they may install a barrier; Cllr Penson thought this was not possible, saying there was an agreement made with the Council when Tesco were given planning permission for their extension. However, Cllr Adamson felt that the planning decision might now be out of date. Cllr Robinson made the point that he will not vote for car parking until we get a good deal for Thirsk, particularly for the people working in Thirsk and for the shoppers.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that the following applications be approved; agreed:

Grave No. GG 17	Derek Francis Bullock
Grave No. HH 9	David John Fillery
Grave No. H1 36	Gabrielle Readman
Grave No. GG 16	David Spence
Grave No. GG 14	Leslie Stockdale

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson reported that the door into the Cemetery Office has now been repainted and the threshold has been repaired. A report on Cemetery Lodge has been received

from Joplings and some work is required; this is to be carried out. Cllr Adamson has 'E' mailed Eric Kendall at HDC regarding our request for wheeliebins and is awaiting his reply. Cllr Adamson mentioned that there is still a damaged seat in the Cemetery shed; Cllr Marshall said this can be disposed of.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended a TRI meeting last month. At that meeting Dave Goodwin of HDC spoke about HDC's leisure plans and Section 106 monies. She said the TRI are of the same view as the Town Council regarding car parking charges.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Millennium Green AGM saying she is not able to attend.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended a CCA meeting. Their accounts are in order and the members of staff have agreed to take a cut in hours.

Cllr Pack advised that the AGM of Thirsk in Bloom was held on 20th February.

Members

Cllr Roberts advised that she was pleased to hear HDC have agreed to collect the sandbags from Finkle Street etc.

Cllr Watson referred to the market stalls saying that some are spreading their goods over the cobbles; to be taken up with HDC. Cllr Pension made the point out that if the stall holders move further back they will take up a row of parking spaces. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Market Superintendent should be there checking the stalls; Cllr Robinson advised that a new Market Superintendent has now been appointed.

Cllr Pension advised that the ladies' toilets in the Market Place are still in a poor state.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

**Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Thursday 6th March 2008
at 7.30 p.m. in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe**

Present: Cllrs: J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, J.E. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F. Roberts, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”), 1 member of the public and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr C. Hesmondhalgh (away); accepted.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be suspended; agreed.

Open Forum

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

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated; agreed.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February 2008

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton; agreed.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 7th February 2008

P109 Requests for allotments; of the letters received from people requesting allotments only three live in Thirsk. However, in the recent past other requests for allotments have been received and passed to Thirsk Hall Estates. Understand that John Bell is looking to see if there is any land which could be allocated for this.

P110 Public conveniences; ‘E’ mail sent to Steve Prentice at HDC requesting that signs be put in the toilets asking people to contact HDC if they have any complaints. Also chasing up the Town Council’s request that cleaning timetables be put in the toilets.

P110 Redundant signage on the Mind shop; nothing further on this.

P110 Signboards on the Industrial Estate; ‘E’ mail sent to Peter Simpson at HDC and acknowledgement received.

P110 Sign at The Workhouse; nothing further heard on this.

P110 “Welcome to Thirsk” pack; the PCC has taken no further action on this as yet.

P110 Millennium Green; the contractor is being reminded that we require the work to the footpath to be completed in this financial year.

P110 Post Office; the sign has now been removed from the old building. Reply received from Anne McIntosh MP enclosing a copy of a letter from the Business as Usual Change Manager at the Post Office explaining the reason for the move. Cllr Adamson felt the new premises are not fit for purpose. Cllr Penson urged people to write and complain. Cllr Marshall pointed out that some of the delay at the counter is caused because they no longer have forms out for people to pick up; a further letter to be sent to the Post Office about this. Cllr Penson referred to the finger post which currently points to the old Post Office and Cllr Watson advised that we are contacting HDC about this.

P111 Crossing near Bakers Alley; reply received from Jayne Charlton at NYCC advising that our request has been added to the Area Office’s Traffic Management

Priority List of matters awaiting investigation. They will endeavour to investigate our request within six months. Cllr Watson advised that this was discussed at the Central Areas meeting and a letter is to be sent saying we are not satisfied and feel it should be treated as a high priority.

P111 Prohibition of Waiting Order re Picks Lane/Croft View; yellow lines now in place.

P111 Herbage Agreement for Castle Garth; signed and returned to John Bell.

P111 Thirsk and Sowerby Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Order; letter sent to HDC confirming the Town Council's agreement to this.

P111 Street cleaning; reply received from John Proud of HDC advising that many of the alleyways are private land. Mr Proud would like to introduce a scheme for businesses to keep the fronts of their premises clear of litter; this was felt to be a good idea.

P111 Traffic calming proposals for Norby Front Street; Cllr Adamson reported that he and Cllr Roberts had attended the meeting with the representative of NYCC, the developer and Cllr Dadd. Highways work to a set of protocols and must try the proposed scheme first; only if it does not work will they do something else. Cllr Watson felt a strong letter about this should be sent. Cllr Roberts advised that NYCC agreed that 6 months from the completion of the last house on the Norby site an independent safety audit will be carried out to see how the scheme is working. Cllr Marshall said that such proposed schemes sometimes go to the County Area Committee for Hambleton; agreed that we ask whether it is on the agenda for the next Area Committee meeting and, if not, request that it be included.

P112 Winter Maintenance Service leaflets; letter sent to John Marsden at NYCC.

P113 Carrs Field; reply received from Tony Jordan advising that they have not as yet been able to appoint a fifth Trustee although they are actively approaching suitable people. They are liaising with the insurance company to ensure they are adequately covered.

P114 Works on Long Street/Stockton Road etc; reply received from NYCC confirming that any utility company requiring to undertake work should contact the Town Council. They advise that omitting to do this and the lack of noticeboards has been raised with the utility company and the subcontractor. Reply also received from Northern Gas Networks advising that they are replacing old metal mains with plastic pipes and they notified all affected properties in advance. Cllr Marshall pointed out that utility companies wishing to carry out works on the highway have to consult the County Council; agreed that a letter be sent to NYCC asking them to notify us in future, also saying that we will be contacting them should any damage have been caused to Town Council property on Long Street.

P114 Plasticrete on the Little Green; letter sent to Peter Simpson, copy to Arthur Barker, of HDC in December and reply received from Clive Thornton requesting a little more time to deal with this. A chasing 'E' mail has since been sent to Clive Thornton. Cllr Marshall said the Greens Committee will consider this further as there are legal implications.

P115 Communities and Local Government on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members; 'E' mail sent pointing out that the list of questions does not meet its own criteria.

P116 Grasscutting tenders; letters sent to C.E. and C.M. Walker accepting the tender and to the other contractor advising that he has not been successful. Letter now received from NYCC advising that the contribution they will make for 2008 will amount to £2,966.60. This is a reduction of £85.74 on this year and is because the number of cuts the County Council will be undertaking has been reduced to six from 2008; agreed that a letter be sent pointing out that we have fourteen cuts done and are therefore subsidising them.

Correspondence

NYCC – Notice re extension of 30 mph speed limit on Norby Front Street; noted.

HDC – Proposal re temporary road closure on 21st March for the Good Friday Procession of Witness; noted.

NYCC – Notification that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire was formally adopted by the County Council in October 2007 and is available at local libraries and on the website; noted.

Smiths of Derby – confirmation that the routine annual maintenance service of the Town Clock has been carried out and no problems were found; noted.

A photograph had been given to the Town Council showing car tracks across one of the grass verges on Cemetery Road. Cllr Roberts advised that whilst roadworks on Long Street have been ongoing cars have been racing along Newsham Road and Cemetery Road and going across this grassed area. It was felt this may resolve itself when the roadworks on Long Street are finished; to be monitored.

NYCC – Proposed amendments to the Finkle Street/Market Place junction; Cllr Penson suggested we ask the County Council to paint arrows on the cobbles showing the entrance and exit.

NYCC – Proposal to stop up a cobbled area on Millgate; no comments.

Resignation of Councillor Barry Ogleby

Letter received from Cllr Ogleby resigning from the Town Council; proposed accepted Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton; agreed.

Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

Already circulated to Cllrs. The following comments were made:

Yellow lining on Kirkgate; Cllr Watson thinks that NYCC may be starting to do this.

Willow trees on Riverside Mews; Cllr Penson advised that the Riverside Mews

Residents are trying to find out the ownership of the land that the trees are on.

Possible introduction of car parking charges

(Cllr Watson declared an interest and Cllr Pack took the Chair for this item)

The minutes of the Public Meeting had been circulated to Councillors and Cllr Marshall pointed out that a list of the questions raised at the meeting is to be sent to HDC. Comments arising from the Public Meeting were made; Cllr Marshall advised that the first meeting of the Action Group is this evening. Cllr Roberts expressed concern that the Clerk had been asked to take the minutes of the Public Meeting on her day off and Cllr Marshall proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for doing this. Cllr Pack proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Marshall for chairing the Public Meeting. Cllr Adamson advised that the Citizenship Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be looking at the proposed scheme at its meeting on 11th March; proposed Cllr Marshall,

seconded Cllr Jackson that the views of the Town Council be sent with a request that they be circulated for discussion at that meeting; motion carried with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions. Agreed that a letter be sent to Anne McIntosh MP

Reports

Carrs Field

Cllr Roberts advised that the Carrs Field Trustees have now got the quote for the insurance and they are to let us have the invoice.

Central Areas

Cllr Watson advised that the Committee met on Tuesday. They are chasing the County Council about when the work is to be done to Millgate Bridge. A quote has been received from Malcolm Burnett for doing some pointing in Mill Gardens. A letter requesting that a CCTV camera be repositioned to the corner of Millgate and Riverside Mews has been sent to HDC. The grille has been removed from the tree near the White Horse Café and Clive Thornton has ordered a seat to go around the tree and we have asked HDC if a triangular seat can be fitted around the other tree; this should obviate the tripping hazard. Weatherspoons have been chased about the notices they are to put up. An application for funding for signs in the alleyways, an archway between the White Horse Café and the opposite building and re-surfacing two of the alleys has been put in.

Christmas Festivities

Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate

Cllr Pack is to call a meeting to discuss the Byelaws on St. James' Green. She reported that quite a lot of work has been done on the Green; setts have been put across near "The Lord Nelson" to stop the gravel going onto the road and the other entrances have been tidied up. Cllr Marshall said she feels some more plants are needed in the beds on Long Street now that the large plants have been removed; Cllr Pack has asked Hollin Barn Nurseries to look at this.

Millennium Green

In the absence of Cllr Hesmondhalgh there was no report.

Open Areas

Cllr Marshall advised that we have heard nothing further about the Big Lottery. An Open Areas meeting was held on 12th February to follow up on the visit to the School Council and on the progress of matters already reported. The Children's Centre Manager has been contacted regarding the building materials etc dropped in the East Thirsk Play Area and it is expected there will now be an improvement with this. The Committee also went through the RoSPA Report.

Sensory Garden

Cllr Marshall reported that the survey of the harbour wall has been carried out. The advice is that the wall should be repaired, the trees should be removed and steps taken to ensure they do not grow again. A quote in the amount of £15,200 for this work has been received from a contractor who could start the work before the end of this financial year, to be funded from the grant money. It was felt necessary to obtain another quote and Bikers are to be asked for this; to be brought to the next appropriate Town Council meeting. Cllr Marshall stressed it is important the wall is sorted out before any work starts on the surface. Mark Haynes has completed the

application to the Environment Agency and has also been in discussion with them. Cllr Marshall advised that some funding has been rolled forward to the beginning of the next financial year, but we need to start spending some of it. Cllr Marshall advised that it is necessary for us to do a survey of the memorials and put notices in the newspaper and on site; the survey has been done; proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Penson that we go ahead and advertise.

Ditches

Cllr Marshall advised that the survey has been carried out, but the report has not yet been received. We have not heard from Barretts' solicitors. Details have been received from the Environment Agency about the design of a new top for the grate where the water goes underground; no action to be taken until survey report received. The Environment Agency has provided a list of the residents they wrote to requesting that no rubbish be dumped in the ditch.

Other Items of Interest and Information

Cllr Roberts advised that there was a recent article in the national press saying that on average there has been a hole in the road every 20 yards in every road in the country. Cllr Marshall advised that the AGM of the Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society is to be held on 11th March at Treske.

Cllr Jackson referred to the Amenity Tip at Sowerby saying that initially this worked very well. However, on a recent visit there he was refused assistance as the attendant who was there was dealing with paperwork and he was threatened with being banned from the site. For safety reasons it was felt to be important that there are enough personnel there at all times.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday 17th March 2008 at 7:15pm
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present:

Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C.M. Pack, M. Penson, F.M. Roberts, A. Robinson, County and District Cllr G. Dadd

Apologies:

No apologies received

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 19th March 2007

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

Matters Arising

Silt under Millgate Bridge; to be dealt with this year.

Alcohol Free Zone; this is ongoing.

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Chairman's Report

Cllr Watson gave her report, a copy of which is in the Minute Book.

She also thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all their work during the year.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that this report be accepted.

Representations from the Electors of the Parish

No representations received.

Other Items of Interest and Information

No items raised.

The meeting closed at 7.08 p.m.

**Minutes of a Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 17th March 2008
in the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe following the Annual Parish
Meeting**

Present: Cllrs J. Watson (Chairman), D.E. Adamson, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, M. Penson, F.M. Roberts, A. Robinson, I. Noble (“Darlington and Stockton Times”) and the Clerk

Apologies: No apologies received

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2008

Proposed approved Cllr Pack, seconded Cllr Morton, subject to one minor amendment on Page P125; agreed.

Police Report

No representatives of the Police present.

Reports

County and District Council

Cllr Dadd advised that Highways are looking at imposing a 3.5 tonne weight limit on Blakey Bridge with perhaps some road narrowing measures and possibly CCTV. Referring to the proposed traffic calming on Norby Front Street, Cllr Dadd advised that he has consulted some local residents informally on this and they had raised no objections to the build out. Cllr Dadd confirmed that a safety audit is to be carried out six months after the last building is built on the Wimpey site and he has obtained a written guarantee from the County Council that should this audit reveal the build out is not working or is a danger then it will be removed; he has given it his approval with that qualification. Cllr Dadd advised that dropped kerbs are to be put in on Sutton Road as disabled people are not able to cross. The yellow lines have now been put in on Picks Lane. A public meeting with the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police has been organised for 22nd April.

As a District Councillor, Cllr Dadd advised that he will not be supporting the proposed car parking charges in Thirsk; he feels such charges are unfair on the people he represents.

Referring to the proposed traffic calming at Norby, Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the Area Committee Meeting today. She had some discussion with Sgt John Hunter, the Road Safety Officer. He suggests that we go with the build-out, but that we insist it is not high because if the lighting on it is damaged/not working then a car accidentally hitting a high kerb in the dark could be badly damaged. She was assured that these comments will be taken on board. Cllr Dadd said he will suggest to the Officer at the County Council that he takes these concerns seriously. Cllr Robinson felt money would be wasted if traffic calming was put in and then had to be taken out and he expressed concern that it appeared the results of the consultation were being disregarded. Cllr Robinson referred to the yellow lines which have been put on Picks Lane saying he thinks they are further along Picks Lane than was originally shown on the plan. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Marshall that the plans be checked and if this is found to be the case then a letter be sent to County; agreed. Cllr Dadd agreed to also check this with the County Council.

District Council

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended an unofficial meeting of the Local Plan Committee. Various questions have been asked and Officers are looking at these. Cllr Adamson reported that the latest Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting had looked at parking charges and has requested that the matter of parking charges in Thirsk be reconsidered. Another Scrutiny Committee Meeting is to be held tomorrow and another on 27th March.

Cllr Robinson reported that he had attended the Citizenship and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

Cllr Jackson referred to the fact that another 20 people are to be recruited at HDC and felt it was inappropriate to appoint more people at this time when HDC are proposing to implement parking charges to raise funds.

Open Forum

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 18th February 2008

P117 Trees outside the White Horse Café; a circular seat has now been put in place around one of the trees.

P117 Community Emergency Scheme; reply received from Wendy Muldoon of NYCC giving possible dates for a meeting. She advises that it is proposed to update the Community Emergency Plan this year, possibly in September/October. Agreed we should proceed with the existing Plan and that Councillors who wish to be involved should get together after this meeting to sort out a date.

P117 Old Minute Books; the move of the old Minute Books to the County Records Office is still to be done.

P117 Thirsk Cricket Club; cheque for £25 to sponsor a Match Ball sent and letter of thanks received.

P117 CCTV statistics; nothing further received on this.

P118 Burial Board; in view of the fact that HDC cannot provide two wheeliebins for the Cemetery the Burial Board has decided not to pursue this, but to continue using the skip.

P118 Half price offers; Cllr Jackson expressed great concern at the practice of larger shops advertising goods such as strawberries marked at half-price as he feels this is misrepresentation. Cllr Penson enquired whether it would be possible to write to Tescos about this. Cllr Robinson pointed out that we have not received any complaints from the public. Agreed that we wait until the new EU Directive comes out later this year and see if it deals with such matters. In the meantime should individuals wish to write and complain about this then they can do so.

P119 District/Parish Liaison Meeting; 'E' mail sent to HDC pointing out that the time between receipt of the notice and the date for including items on the agenda is not sufficient. Also asking that car parking charges be included on the agenda for the meeting on 3rd March. A reply was received noting our comments about the deadlines and confirming that car parking charges would be put on the agenda for the March meeting. Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the meeting and put our views forward; the view of the meeting regarding parking charges was the same as that of the Town Council. At the meeting Eric Kendal of HDC had spoken about recycling; items taken to the amenity tip to be recycled are not credited to HDC.

P119 Proposed Waste Handling site at Dalton Industrial Estate; letter of objection sent to NYCC and copied to the Dalton Incinerator Steering Committee.

P120 Burial Board Report; the go ahead has been given for some minor work, ie sealing round the bath at Cemetery Lodge. A quote has been received for the other works and passed to the Burial Board who have now accepted it.

P121 Market stalls spreading goods over the cobbles; 'E' mail sent to HDC.

Finance

Accounts for Payment

Cllr Roberts queried the item on Chris Amy's invoice relating to The Holmes Management Plan. Cllr Marshall explained that a Holmes Management Plan was drawn up some years ago with Chris Amy. Agreed that we pay the invoice, but ask Chris Amy where he is with the plan.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that the following accounts be approved for payment with the above proviso; agreed:

Hollin Barn Nurseries – barrels and plants for The Holmes		£360.00
Nigel Burn work to Long Street flower beds		£ 75.00
F.D. Todd and Sons – Emptying Cemetery skip		£140.58
Power Point – padlock for Carrs Field		£ 8.62
Action for Market Towns membership renewal		£126.90
HDC - office rent, qtr comm. 1.3.08.		£844.53
R. Bennett - cleaning bus shelter windows		£ 80.00
BHD Partnership Ltd – report on Harbour wall at Salem Chapel site		£587.50
BT office phone		£ 98.13
C.A. Amy – repainting seats as per Contract		£1,250.00
C.A. Amy – Play Areas Inspections (4.2.08-2.3.08)	£182.80	
Litter picking/sweeping/planting	£240.00	
Erecting fencing around Christmas tree and		
Disposing of tree	£180.00	
Pruning/planting at various sites	£226.00	
Hedge cutting	£215.00	
Gapping up hedges	£ 85.00	
Holmes Management Plan	<u>£2,550.00</u>	£3,678.80
Thirsk Royal British Legion – donation to poppy wreaths		£100.00
Mayor's Allowance (2 nd half of 2007/08)		£250.00
Yorkshire Water – Water Rates at Cemetery Lodge (1 st half)		£210.62
HDC – Rates, April 2008		£ 52.05
Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, February 2008		£516.04
C. Fitzgerald – artwork for the Sensory Garden (50% of cost)		£2,056.25

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

Paid Since Last Meeting

Zurich Municipal – Insurance for Carrs Field	£735.00
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Income Received

HDC – Contribution to Sensory Garden		£4,548.48
Luke Miller – sponsorship of one quarter of White Mare Roundabout		£250.00
Burial Board: Rent	£485.37	
Interments	£610.00	
Grave Purchases	£610.00	
Reservation of Spaces in GOR	£244.00	
Memorials	<u>£254.00</u>	£2,203.37

Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for February 2008

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack; agreed.

Correspondence

HDC – Request for a temporary road closure on Sunday 20th April for the Vale of Mowbray Scouts St. George’s Day Parade; noted

HDC – advising that HDC is looking at how it can better relate to local communities and parish councils. As part of this they are to establish “area forums” based around each market town and through these local concerns can be aired. Comments on this proposal are invited and the arrangements will be reviewed in 12 months’ time. Cllr Marshall questioned the purpose of these meetings; further information to be requested. Cllr Marshall expressed reservations that it could undermine the Parish Councils’ role. Agreed that a letter be sent to HDC asking how its role with Parish Councils would work out and querying what they plan to do.

HDC – the Hambleton LDF Adoption of Development Policies Development Plan Document has now been received and any objections to matters contained in this must be made by 11th April 2008. The document is available in the Town Council Office for Councillors to read.

Samaritans – request for financial support. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Marshall that a donation of £100 be made; agreed.

NYCC re Thirsk Service Centre Transportation Strategy; a 2nd Stakeholder Workshop is to be held on Thursday 10th April at 5.30 p.m. at Thirsk Community Primary School.

NYCC advising that new dropped crossing points and a short section of new footpath are to be installed at the junction of the A170 Sutton Road and Hambleton Place; the work is to start during week commencing 17th March.

Proposed Introduction of Car Parking Charges

(Cllr Watson declared an interest and Cllr Pack took the Chair for this item)

A letter objecting to the car parking charges was sent to HDC with the request that it be circulated to all members of the Citizenship and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Safety and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Prosperity, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to their meetings. A letter had been sent to HDC asking whether the 66% of “tourists” parking in the town included people from outlying villages and also asking whether a decision to introduce car parking charges was taken in 2005 and, if so, by whom. A reply received from Dave McGloin, but the response re the percentage of tourists was not clear; further information to be requested. Mr McGloin replied that the income from parking charges was included in HDC’s revised Financial Strategy which was agreed by Cabinet on 22nd November 2005 and formally approved by Full

Council on 13th December 2005. Cllr Penson referred to the survey which was being carried out in the town, saying the questionnaire was very badly drawn up and she felt this would give HDC a misleading impression of what the public really feel.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that a letter be sent to HDC questioning the veracity of the questionnaire and the fact that it tries to persuade people to answer questions they do not want to answer; motion carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention. Cllr Robinson advised that he attended the Citizenship and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting and the fact that a letter had been received from the Town Council was referred to, but the letter was not read out. He had challenged Cllr Arthur Barker about the decision which was made in 2005/06 as it had not been agreed that parking charges would be dealt with in this manner. Cllr Robinson had put the suggestion about paying for discs to HDC. Cllr Marshall said it is unfair to expect the car users of Thirsk etc to pay and not those of Great Ayton and Easingwold and felt it is totally inequitable. Cllr Jackson referred to the leaflet enclosed with the council tax demands which says that HDC's turnover is £37m, but only £3m of that is raised from the council tax and said HDC is therefore used to raising money in other ways. He was concerned at the extra 19.11 full time equivalent members of staff who are to be appointed and felt they may need even more people to run the car parking scheme. Cllr Marshall expressed her annoyance that our letter was not passed to the members of the Citizenship and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee; proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that a letter of complaint about this be sent; agreed. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hesmondhalgh that the letter also be sent to the "Darlington and Stockton Times" advising that it was not passed to the Committee; agreed. Cllr Roberts asked that we ring Peter Simpson at HDC and Cllr John Coulson tomorrow morning and ask they ensure that the letter is put before the Safety and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee tomorrow. Cllr Adamson said he will ensure it is read out at the Prosperity, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27th March. Cllr Jackson felt the parish councils are not represented and suggested a poster campaign; Cllr Adamson pointed out that he represents the parish councils in his area. Cllr Marshall advised that the Action Group has met and has some good plans; she has asked they keep the Town Council informed.

Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

No applications received.

Burial Board Report

Cllr Adamson expressed his annoyance at the fact that a large amount of prunings have been put in the Cemetery skip and it is necessary for it to be emptied again. Cllr Marshall suggested that the appropriate committees could make a contribution towards the cost of emptying the skip. Cllr Adamson advised that the damaged seat which was in the shed has been given to the tenants at Cemetery Lodge.

Reports

Representatives

Cllr Marshall advised that she had attended an EngAGE Meeting last Friday; they are rolling out EngAGE over the whole of the district. Cllr Marshall reported that the Information Day had been very successful.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh had attended an East Thirsk Community Hall emergency meeting. Not enough people are using the facility. There should be a committee member from every user of the Hall. A further meeting is to be held on 26th March. There is concern that if the Committee members leave there will be no one to take it on.

Members

Cllr Marshall advised that the meeting of the East Thirsk Community Hall to be held on 26th March is open to the public; notices advertising the meeting have been put up and a press release has been done.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Sensory Garden; two quotes have now been received for carrying out the repairs to the harbour wall and she explained these. Cllr Robinson referred to the Town Council's Standing Orders which require that for the amounts in question three quotes to be obtained. However, Cllr Marshall pointed out that there are extenuating circumstances, ie the need to make the harbour wall safe and the fact that it is necessary to have the work done soon in order not to interfere with spawning times etc. Cllr Roberts agreed, pointing out that the work is specialised and the Standing Orders have not been updated for some considerable time. The quotes had been put before the Sensory Garden Working Party and they were happy to accept the lower of the two quotes. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that the lower of the two quotes in the amount of £11,000 be accepted; motion carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention. It was revealed that this quote was supplied by Bikers. Cllr Penson advised that a new PCSO has been appointed to replace Ian. She also mentioned that a new Polish food shop is to open on Millgate and that the windows of the photo shop and Julian Graves were broken some time ago.

Cllr Watson reported that the sign outside the "Red House" needs repositioning. She advised that the seat which was formerly chained to the tree outside the White Horse Café is being stored at the moment.

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

The number of drakes was mentioned. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Penson that we apply to Natural England for a Licence re their collect and relocate service and obtain further details, together with an idea of costs; agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.