

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 15 April 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs H Dalgleish-Brown (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, R Gladstone, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: None

In attendance: District Cllr D Elders

C958 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C959 Police Report

PCSO Warby circulated an update which detailed incidents the police had attended and crimes which had been reported within the last month. He noted that there was an increase in the number of reported fraud and theft offences. The report also contained information in respect of a police operation which targeted criminals who stole goods from lorries, often when they were parked up for the night.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh informed the PCSO that criminal damage had been caused to one of the Wetpour safety surfaces at East Thirsk play area and Cllr Jackson reported that damage had been caused to some fencing at the picnic area.

C960 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders did not report any matters but indicated that he had attended the meeting so as to give an opportunity for Town Councillors to raise any questions or concerns.

C961 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C962 Minutes

C962(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 March 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 March 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C962(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

C963 Committee Minutes and Reports

C963(a) Planning Committee – 18 March 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 March 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C963(b) Personnel & Office Committee – 8 April 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Personnel & Office Committee held on 8 April 2019. With regard to the proposed office move to a property in Roses Yard, the Clerk advised that he had received confirmation that planning permission for change of use of the premises was not required.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C964 Burial Board

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Ivy Cartwright be approved.

C965 Correspondence/Items Raised

C965(a) Merchant Navy Day – 3 September 2019

The meeting received a letter dated March 2019 from Seafarers UK concerning a campaign to raise awareness of the UK's dependence on Merchant Navy seafarers.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C965(b) Subsidised Local Bus Services – Renewal of Contracts

The meeting received an email dated 28 March 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the renewal of contracts for subsidised local bus services. Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that there appeared to be no major changes.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C965(c) Thirsk Rotary in Bloom – Application for Grant 2019 - 2020

The meeting received a letter dated 1 April 2019 from Thirsk Rotary in Bloom seeking confirmation of a grant which the Town Council have given to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom in previous years. The Clerk noted that a copy of the Rotary Club's latest accounts was attached.

Resolved: that the Town Council confirms a donation of £2,500 to Thirsk Rotary in Bloom for 2019 - 2020.

C965(d) Consultation on the Draft Priorities for the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Plan 2019/2021

The meeting received an email dated 2 April 2019 from J Mulligan, North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, concerning a consultation on the draft priorities for the fire service.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C965(e) Application for Street Trading Consent – Hambleton Licensing

The meeting received an email dated 2 April 2019 from the Licensing Team, Hambleton District Council, which attached an application for street trading consent for an ice cream van.

Resolved: that the Town Council raise no objection to the application for street trading consent.

C965(f) Notice of Extraordinary Governing Body Meeting as Committees in Common – Thursday, 11 April 2019

The meeting received a notice dated 4 April 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising that an Extraordinary Governing Body meeting as Committees in Common would be held on Thursday, 11 April 2019.

Resolved: that the notice be noted.

C965(g) Update – Allerton Waste Recovery Park

The meeting received an email dated 5 April 2019 from Amey PLC which attached an update from the waste treatment facility at Allerton Waste Recovery Park.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C965(h) East Thirsk Play Area – Damage to Wetpour Safety Surface

The Clerk reported that damage had been caused to one of the Wetpour safety surfaces at the East Thirsk play area and that further damage had then been caused to some Heras fencing which had been erected to prevent the equipment in the affected area being used. He advised that an appointment had been made to meet with a play equipment specialist on Thursday, 18 April 2019 when all options would be considered and quotations sought for repairs. Cllr Duffey suggested that the

Town Council's mobile CCTV camera should be moved to cover the play area in an attempt to minimise the risk of further damage.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Town Council seeks advice from a play equipment specialist concerning repair/replacement of the damaged Wetpour safety surface;**
- (ii) that a request be made for a mobile CCTV camera to be moved to cover East Thirsk Play Area.**

C965(i) Sowerby Primary Academy School – Vacancy for Co-opted Governor

The Clerk read out an email dated 8 April 2019 from the Chair of Governors of Sowerby Primary Academy School requesting that he help promote a vacancy for a co-opted governor on the school's Governing Body.

Resolved: that any Town Councillor interested in the governor vacancy at Sowerby Primary Academy School contact the Clerk for further details.

C966 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 April 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C967 Reports from Members/Representatives

In response to a query from Cllr Duffey, the Clerk indicated that he had contacted Hambleton District Council concerning the business rates for Millgate public toilets as it was understood these were to be abolished. HDC had advised that they had not received any notification from the government in this respect and therefore business rates continued to apply at the present time.

Cllr Potter noted that there was an area of overgrown foliage on a verge on Sutton Road close to the Hambleton Estate which looked untidy and would benefit from being cut back. It was noted that the verge was the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council and that NYCC only carried out works for health and safety reasons. The Clerk indicated that he would examine the matter.

In response to a question from Cllr Trueman concerning the Long Street flower boxes, the Clerk advised that all planting had been removed from the ground level beds and that grass seed which had been sown a few weeks ago was starting to grow. As far as the boxes were concerned, he stated that three boxes which were in a poor state of repair would be removed and one new box would be put in place in the very near future. With regard to planting the boxes, Cllr Potter offered to plant one of these and some other Town Councillors indicated that they would assist.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended a Dementia Friendly Communities meeting at Thirsk Community Library and that he had information on the matters discussed if anyone wished to be updated.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she and Cllr Jackson had attended a meeting which had been organised with HDC's Safer Hambleton Co-ordinator and the police but that the meeting had been poorly attended. She noted that two further meetings were scheduled to take place.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that the Mayor's Ball held on Saturday, 23 March 2019 had raised over £14,000 which would be divided between Herriot Hospice Care and the new inclusion unit at Thirsk School & Sixth Form College.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had attended Thirsk Community Primary School where she had judged an Easter Egg competition. She had also attended a meeting of Thirsk & Sowerby Swimming Baths Trust.

Cllr Dalglish-Brown indicated that she had presented Certificates of Appreciation to the volunteers at Thirsk Museum and to the volunteers who organised the annual Picnic in the Park. She noted that Thirsk Yarnbombers had just put out yet another fantastic display of knitted creations.

C968 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.09 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 May 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, R Gladstone, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllr F Potter (Prior commitment)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C969 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C970 Police Report

No police representative was in attendance.

C971 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd congratulated Cllr Duffey on his appointment as Mayor. He remarked that Cllr Dalglish-Brown had been an exemplary mayor, noting in particular her support for charitable causes and her recognition of volunteers.

Cllr Dadd advised that he hoped to assist in moving a road sign which had been positioned directly in front of one of the windows of the old savings bank building in Castlegate. He was also supporting Thirsk Community Library in their efforts to have new directional signage erected.

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC had recorded an underspend of 0.77 per cent at the end of the 2018/2019 financial year.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders thanked everyone who had voted for him in the district council election on Thursday, 2 May 2019.

Cllr Elders reported that a tarmac repair to a cobbled area in the Market Place had been a temporary measure and he understood that the cobbles were to be re-laid during the week commencing Monday, 27 May 2019.

C972 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mr David Tonge addressed the meeting and stated that he hoped to persuade the Town Council to declare a climate emergency. Mr Tonge explained that the purpose of declaring a climate emergency would be a symbolic action which he felt was necessary to exert pressure in order to bring about environmental changes more quickly. Cllr Duffey suggested that if Mr Tonge wanted to provide some written documentation for Members to consider, he was happy to include the matter on the agenda for the June Town Council meeting.

Resolved:

(i) that the matter be placed on the agenda for the Town Council meeting to be held on Monday, 17 June 2019;

(ii) that standing orders be reinstated.

C973 Minutes

C973(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 April 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C973(b) Matters Arising

C965(h) East Thirsk Play Area – Damage to Wetpour Safety Surface

Cllr Duffey reported that the Open Areas & Greens Committee had met on Thursday, 16 May 2019 and considered the ongoing issues at East Thirsk Play Area. He indicated that quotations to repair the damaged safety surfaces had been accepted but that the Committee wanted the mobile CCTV camera to be moved to cover the play area before carrying out the work. Cllr Duffey added that he had spoken to the headmaster at Thirsk Community Primary School about the recent damage and that the police were intending to visit the school to talk to pupils about issues of antisocial behaviour.

C967 Reports from Members/Representatives

Following the report of overgrown foliage on a verge on Sutton Road, the Clerk advised that he had visited the area in question and that he would seek a quotation for the foliage to be cut down and the area tidied. Members agreed that a quotation should be obtained.

C974 Committee Minutes and Reports

C974(a) Planning Committee – 15 April 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 April 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C975 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that he had been made aware of damage which had been caused to the railings at Thirsk Cemetery over the weekend. He understood that repairs to the railings may be very costly. Discussion took place and Members felt that the railings should be repaired and retained if at all possible. Cllr Duffey suggested that options for repairing the railings be explored and that a quotation be obtained for the installation of a motion activated spotlight/CCTV camera.

Resolved: that the applications for memorial for Thomas Lowey and Mason Robert Pearson be approved.

C976 Correspondence/Items Raised

C976(a) Thirsk Royal British Legion Band – Shine TV Donation

The meeting received a letter dated 19 April 2019 from Thirsk Royal British Legion Band thanking the Town Council for approving the donation from the Shine TV community monies to assist with the purchase of new uniform blazers.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C976(b) Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 25 April 2019 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of new properties as 1 to 6 St James Lodge, Masonic Lane, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C976(c) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Appointment of Council Representatives

The meeting received an email dated 1 May 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the appointment of Town Council representatives to attend YLCA Branch meetings in the area and to represent the Town Council as voting representatives at those meetings.

Resolved: that Cllrs Jackson and Trueman continue to fulfil the role of YLCA representatives.

C976(d) Non-Competitive Cycling Sportive – Sunday, 11 August 2019

The meeting received an email dated 1 May 2019 from UK Cycling Events concerning a cycling sportive due to take place on Sunday, 11 August 2019 out of Thirsk Racecourse.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C976(e) Morris Dancers – Thirsk Market Place

The meeting received an email dated 4 May 2019 from Kemp's Men of Norwich concerning a dancing tour of North Yorkshire and a performance scheduled to take place in Thirsk Market Place on Monday, 27 May 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C976(f) Notice of CCG Governing Body Meeting – Thursday, 23 May 2019

The meeting received a notice dated 13 May 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising that the next Governing Body meeting was due to take place on Thursday, 23 May 2019.

Resolved: that the notice be noted.

C976(g) 1st Thirsk Scout Group – Fundraising Request

The Clerk advised that an email dated 18 May 2019 had been received from the Chair of the 1st Thirsk Scout Group concerning fundraising to enable essential refurbishment works to the scout hut to be undertaken. Town Councillors made suggestions with regard to funding sources and suggested that the scouts be requested to supply a copy of their accounts so that the matter could be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

Resolved: that the 1st Thirsk Scout Group be requested to provide a copy of their accounts to enable the matter to be considered at the Town Council meeting to be held in June 2019.

C977 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 May 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C978 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that she had participated in a raffle organised by Thirsk Yarnbombers which had raised £750 for the Freddie's Fight funding campaign. She advised that she had presented certificates of appreciation to volunteers at Thirsk & District Business Association and Thirsk Royal British Legion Band and she had presented cheques of £7,180 each to Thirsk School & Sixth Form College for their new inclusion unit and to Herriot Hospice Care.

Cllr Adamson reported that amalgamation between The Clock and the Community Care Association was progressing, although he anticipated that the amalgamation may not be completed until some time in 2020.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the grant which funded the parent, baby and toddler group at East Thirsk Community Hall was to come to an end in July and that

endeavours were being made to obtain a further grant of £150,000 to enable the group to operate for a further five years.

Cllr Trueman advised that he had received an email and photographs from a resident who was concerned about groups of people drinking on the pavements outside public houses in the Market Place on race days. It was suggested that the photographs be forwarded to the Licensing Team at Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Gibson-Brown advised she had contacted the Environment Agency in respect of fly-tipping into the river in connection with building works which were ongoing in the Waterside/Todd's Court area.

Cllr Gibson-Brown indicated that she had been approached by the family of a resident of Riverside Mews who had passed away and the family wanted to attach a small plaque on a bench adjacent to the lady's former property. Cllr Gibson-Brown explained that the resident had helped keep the riverside area tidy for many years and that the family had confirmed that they would look after the bench. Cllr Duffey suggested that in the circumstances the Town Council could accede to the request, subject to receiving written confirmation that the family would maintain the bench.

C979 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 17 June 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, R Gladstone, C Hesmondhalgh, D Jackson, F Potter, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs L Hunter Bell (Prior commitment), S Ward (Prior Commitment), County/District Cllr G Dadd

In attendance: District Cllr D Elders

C980 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C981 Police Report

PCSO Warby went through the crime report which showed the previous month's crime figures. This included seven reports of arson/criminal damage, one burglary and eight reports of violence against a person. The report also contained information in respect of Operation Owl which was an initiative implemented by North Yorkshire Police to reduce the number of illegal attacks on birds of prey.

C982 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that a trench which had been recently dug in the central part of the Market Place was a precursor towards the installation of electric charging points for vehicles and that they would also be able to be used for market traders and would eliminate the use of generators. Cllr Elders understood that it was intended to install further power points on the opposite side of the Market Place.

Cllr Elders advised that cobbles had now been replaced in an area which had been previously Tarmacadamed.

C983 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mr David Tonge addressed the meeting regarding climate change and advised that several councils around the country had already declared a climate emergency. Mr Tonge suggested that if Thirsk Town Council were to become a part of the move against climate change they would be "on the right side of history."

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C984 Minutes

C984(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 May 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 May 2019 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of Minute number C978 which should indicate that the grant application by East Thirsk Community Hall was to enable the parent, baby and toddler group to operate for a further five years, as opposed to three years.

C984(b) Matters Arising

C967 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that he had requested the Town Council's grass cutting contractor to provide a quotation in respect of cutting down and tidying overgrown foliage on a section of verge on Sutton Road.

C975 Burial Board

The Clerk indicated that he had contacted Mr D Pickles of Agriweld concerning the damaged railings at the cemetery. Mr Pickles had observed that this type of railings sometimes came under certain provisions as a result of their historic value and, if this was the case, only approved contractors were allowed to carry out any repair work. Mr Pickles had stated that he would visit the cemetery to ascertain whether he considered that the railings fell within this remit. The Clerk stated that he was examining the installation of a CCTV camera at the cemetery.

C978 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Trueman noted that the licensing department at Hambleton District Council had been advised of the concerns of a local resident in respect of race-goers drinking alcohol outside licensed premises in the Market Place on race days and that licensing officers were to visit the premises in question.

C985 Committee Minutes and Reports

C985(a) Planning Committee – 20 May 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 May 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C985(b) Open Areas and Green Committee – 16 May 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 16 May 2019. Cllr Gladstone reported that it had been necessary to cancel the two walkabouts of public open spaces on 7 June and 14 June due to wet weather. Cllr Duffey noted that the mobile CCTV camera was now in place overlooking East Thirsk Play Area. The meeting was advised of the poor condition of some of the old play equipment on The Holmes and that a quotation had been obtained from Park Lane Playgrounds to carry out necessary repair works.

Resolved:

(i) that the Minutes be received and noted.

(ii) that the quotation from Park Lane Playgrounds to repair play equipment on The Holmes be accepted.

C986 Burial Board

Nothing reported.

C987 Correspondence/Items Raised

C987(a) Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 14 May 2019 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a property as 54A Long Street, Thirsk YO7 1AU.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C987(b) Planned Road Closure Notification – Cemetery Road, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 14 May 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Cemetery Road, Thirsk for a period of 12 days between 17 and 28 June 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C987(c) Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting

The meeting received a letter dated 21 May 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning the next Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting to be held on Thursday, 18 July 2019.

Resolved: that Cllrs Gladstone, Jackson and Trueman will attend the Hambleton Parish Liaison Meeting on Thursday, 18 July 2019.

C987(d) Certificate of Registration for the Add of Alias Name

The meeting received a letter dated 29 May 2019 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration of a property at 3 The Crescent, Thirsk with an alias name of Farrow House.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C987(e) Resolutions for Debate at the YLCA Joint Annual Meeting – 13 July 2019

The meeting received an email dated 29 May 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning resolutions for debate at the YLCA joint annual meeting to be held on 13 July 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C987(f) Climate Change

The meeting received a letter from local schoolchildren concerning climate change and included some ideas which it was thought might assist in this respect.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C987(g) Climate Emergency

The meeting received an email dated 3 June 2019 from Mr David Tonge concerning his proposal that the Town Council declare a climate emergency. It was noted that Hambleton District Council had now committed to the installation of electric charging points for vehicles in the Market Place.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Town Council recognises that there is a climate emergency situation;**
- (ii) that a committee consisting of the chairs of existing committees be set up to examine how the Council can help alleviate and be proactive with regard to climatic change;**
- (iii) that the Planning Committee takes into account renewable energy regulations/implications when considering new build applications.**

C987(h) Funding - Refurbishment of Scout Hut

The meeting received an email dated 4 June 2019 from 1st Thirsk Scouts concerning proposed refurbishment works to the scout hut. Town Councillors noted that the latest accounts were attached.

Resolved: that the matter be adjourned to the next Town Council meeting to enable further information to be obtained.

C987(i) Great British High Street Awards 2019

The meeting received an email dated 5 June 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning entries for the Great British High Street Awards for 2019. It was suggested that the Town Council liaise with Thirsk & District Business Association.

Resolved: that Cllr Gladstone discuss the matter with Mr G Baragwanath of Thirsk & District Business Association.

C987(j) Standards Hearings Panel - Appointment of Parish Council Representative

The meeting received a letter dated 7 June 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning the appointment of a third Parish Council representative on the Standards Hearings Panel.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C987(k) Return of the Farmers' Market

The meeting received a press release dated 10 June 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning a farmers' market to be held in Thirsk Market Place on Sunday, 23 June 2019.

Resolved: that the press release be noted.

C988 Meetings

(i) Extraordinary Town Council Meeting

Resolved: that an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting to consider the Annual Return for 2018/19 be held on Thursday, 27 June 2019 at 7.00 pm.

(ii) Internal Control Review Committee

The Clerk advised that it was necessary to hold a meeting of the Internal Control Review Committee prior to the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting.

Resolved: that a meeting of the Internal Control Review Committee be held on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 in the Town Council office.

C989 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 June 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C990 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown indicated that a recent school reunion at Thirsk School was a success with over 200 visitors. The school has now been open for 62 years.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown indicated that £250,000 had now been raised for Freddie's Fight by the local community.

Cllr Adamson advised that damage had been occasioned to a greenhouse by children on the Millennium Green. Gina Allen had responded to the occupiers of the property concerned advising that the CCTV camera that had been positioned at the East Thirsk Play Area would also cover the area that was causing them concern. It was noted that C Amy had now locked the gate allowing access past Yorkshire Water and Yorkshire Water's pumping station and the electricity substation.

Cllr Adamson also indicated that a smell was reported as coming from the Tranmire Ditch and this was reported to Hambleton District Council. This stretch of water is not fast flowing and comes from St Mary's Close and not from Millennium Green.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had been to the opening ceremony of the Offices of Continuing Care for the Elderly and Young.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that a grant of £150,000 to £180,000 was applied for regarding the East Thirsk Community Hall. This matter will be checked and sent for approval.

Cllr Trueman reported that the May Bank Holiday market was set up in different areas of the Market Place. Following complaints about parking bays being prevented from use by market stalls, new arrangements were to be put in place for the next Bank Holiday market.

C991 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 15 July 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalgleish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs D Duffey (Alternative commitment), R Gladstone (Alternative commitment), F Potter (Alternative commitment)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C992 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in Minute No C999(I) concerning Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall and took no part in the discussion.

C993 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C994 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that an order had been placed for marking the double yellow line parking restriction on a section of Cemetery Road which he expected would be carried out within the next few weeks.

Cllr Hunter Bell advised that a 30 mph traffic sign on Newsham Road, just beyond the junction with Cemetery Road, was faded and not clearly seen by motorists. Cllr Dadd indicated that he would raise the matter with NYCC Highways.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council planned to install a number of electric charging points in the Market Place. He advised that the work would be carried out in conjunction with the realignment of the parking bays, including alterations to the bays adjacent to the courtesy crossing near Bakers Alley. In response to a query from Cllr Hunter Bell, Cllr Elders explained that the new parking bays would be larger and, although there would be fewer bays, there would be no reduction in the number of disabled parking bays.

Cllrs Elders indicated that positive feedback had been received following the farmers market held in the Market Place on Sunday, 23 June 2019 and that the next farmers market was due to take place on Sunday, 22 September 2019. In response to a query by Cllr Jackson, Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council was looking at ways to revitalise the regular Saturday market.

Cllr Elders reported that problems had arisen with the new development on land at the end of St Mary's Close, Thirsk in that the developers had raised the level of some of the ground to assist with drainage issues. He advised that planning enforcement officers had been to inspect the site and that a further planning application had been submitted.

C995 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C996 Minutes

C996(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 June 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C996(b) Matters Arising

C984(b) Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that he was still waiting for a quotation in respect of cutting down and tidying overgrown foliage on a section of verge on Sutton Road.

C987(g) Climate Emergency

Following a query by Cllr Trueman, the Clerk confirmed that a committee which would examine how the Council can be proactive with regard to climatic change would comprise the chairmen of existing Town Council committees and that a meeting would be arranged in the near future to set out the terms of the committee.

C997 Committee Minutes and Reports

C997(a) Planning Committee – 17 June 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 June 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C998 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson indicated that he had considered the contents of a letter dated 18 June 2019 which had been received from Mrs P Dunning following a fall on an uneven section of the cemetery footpath. Cllr Adamson advised that he had identified a section of footpath where some tarmac had eroded and that he would arrange to meet a contractor on site and obtain a quotation for this repair and some other minor repairs to be carried out.

Resolved:

- (i) that applications for memorials for Shaun Jenkins, Norma Monica Thompson and Diane Mary Williamson be approved.**
- (ii) that Cllr Adamson obtain a quotation to repair a damaged section of footpath at the cemetery.**

C999 Correspondence/Items Raised

C999(a) Funding – Refurbishment of Scout Hut

The meeting received an email dated 4 June 2019 from 1st Thirsk Scouts concerning proposed refurbishment works to the scout hut. The Clerk advised that there was some money available to be allocated from the Shine TV community monies and a suggestion had been made that £400 could be allocated to the scouts, which would leave some funding available to purchase additional Christmas lights.

Resolved: that the Town Council approves a donation of £400 to 1st Thirsk Scouts from the Shine TV community monies to be utilised for the purpose of refurbishing the scout hut.

C999(b) Cemetery Footpaths

Dealt with above, under C998 Burial Board.

C999(c) Castle Garth – Antisocial Behaviour

The meeting received an email dated 23 June 2019 from Nicky Jenkins concerning antisocial behaviour on Castle Garth along with a suggestion that CCTV be installed to deter troublemakers from congregating in the area. It was noted that other residents had raised similar concerns. The Clerk advised that he would contact Mr S Dresser to discuss the feasibility and cost of installing a CCTV camera on Castle Garth.

Resolved: that the Town Council investigates the feasibility and cost of installing a CCTV camera on Castle Garth.

C999(d) Street Naming Consultation – Land off End St Mary’s Close, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 25 June 2019 from Hambleton District Council which requested comments in respect of two proposed street names for the development on land at the end of Mary’s Close, Thirsk.

Resolved: that Town Councillors suggest that the development be named Bluebell Court.

C999(e) Planning Training for Parish and Town Councils

The meeting received an email dated 26 June 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning planning training which the District Council may offer to parish and town councils.

Resolved: that the Town Council advises Hambleton District Council that members of the Planning Committee have expressed interest in attending a planning training event.

C999(f) Courtesy Crossing – Thirsk Market Place

The meeting received an email dated 27 June 2019 from the Thirsk Nationwide Building Society branch regarding concern over safety on the courtesy crossing outside the Nationwide Building Society (near Bakers Alley) with a proposal that the crossing be changed to a zebra crossing. The Clerk advised that certain regulations were in force applicable to the installation of pedestrian crossings. Following discussion, Town Councillors considered that the matter should be referred to NYCC Highways.

Resolved: that the matter be referred to North Yorkshire County Council Highways Department for its observations.

C999(g) Thirsk Yarnbombers – Remembrance Sunday

The meeting received an email dated 1 July 2019 from Thirsk Yarnbombers concerning a proposal to decorate the town centre with poppies for Remembrance Day, including decorating the town clock with a drape of netting covered in poppies. Town Councillors were supportive of the proposal, subject to appropriate insurance being in place for everyone involved with putting up the netting and poppies. It was also noted that the decorations would need to be removed in time for the installation of the Christmas lights.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the proposal by Thirsk Yarnbombers to decorate the town centre and town clock with poppies for Remembrance Day.

C999(h) Annual General Meeting – Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group

The meeting received a media release dated 3 July 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group advising of the Annual General Meeting of NHS Scarborough and Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group to be held on Thursday, 25 July 2019.

Resolved: that the media release be noted.

C999(i) Primary Care Commissioning Committee Meeting – Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group

The meeting received a notice dated 8 July 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning a Primary Care Commissioning Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16 July 2019 at Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton.

Resolved: that the notice be received and noted.

C999(j) Road Closure Notification – Masonic Lane, Thirsk

The Clerk advised that an email dated 10 July 2019 had been received from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Masonic Lane, Thirsk between 5 August and 9 August 2019 to facilitate the installation of a new water supply.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C999(k) Application for Street Trading Consent – Thirsk Industrial Estate

The Clerk indicated that an email dated 15 July 2019 had been received which attached an application for street trading consent for a mobile catering unit on Thirsk Industrial Estate.

Resolved: that the Town Council raise no objections to the application for a street trading consent.

C999(l) Repairs to Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had received two estimates from Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall for repairs to the Town Hall roof and he understood that Sowerby Parish Council had approved the + quotation in the sum of £660.

Resolved: that the Town Council approves the quotation in the sum of £660 to carry out repairs to the Town Hall roof.

C1000 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 15 July 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1001 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that the 14th Picnic in the Park held on Saturday, 6 July 2019 had been a huge success with money raised going to charities including the Freddie's Fight campaign.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that Thirsk & Sowerby Festival would take place on Sunday, 4 August 2019 on The Flatts Fields, with free entry and free bouncy castles.

Cllr Adamson reported that the developers of the new properties at the end of St Mary's Close had submitted details of a footbridge to the Millennium Green which did not comply with requirements set down by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted that the shrubbery on the Whitemare Roundabout needed cutting back.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that an Art Fayre would be held in the Town Hall on Sunday, 4 August 2019.

C1002 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 19 August 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs D Duffey (Holiday), R Gladstone (Personal)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1003 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1004 Police Report

PCSO Warby circulated a police report which contained the crime figures for July 2019 as well as information in respect of a firearms amnesty which had resulted in unwanted weapons and ammunition being taken off the streets of North Yorkshire. PCSO Warby advised that the police had received complaints following a recent meeting of Thirsk Races where large numbers of visitors had been dropped off from coaches in the Market Place and had congregated on the cobbles and on footpaths outside public houses. He indicated that the police had contacted the coach companies in question stating that passengers should not be dropped off in the Market Place. Cllr Elders advised that he had received a complaint in respect of coaches parking on double yellow lines on race days and noted the need for a parking enforcement officer to be on duty to prevent a reoccurrence.

C1005 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that new 30 mile per hour signs had been ordered to replace the old, faded signs on Newsham Road (close to the junction with Cemetery Road).

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council was in the process of establishing a crematorium and he anticipated further details would be available in the next few weeks.

Cllr Elders reported that a piece of fencing adjacent to the old recycling bins at Millgate car park had been removed as it had been in a poor state of repair and it was considered no longer to be necessary.

Cllr Elders reported that a retrospective planning application by Milanos takeaway had not been approved and that the signage was in the process of being removed. He understood that a more appropriate sign was being prepared.

Cllr Dadd referred to recent publicity surrounding a loan which Hambleton District Council had made to Broadacres Housing Association some years ago, stating that due diligence had been carried out and that the loan had been a good deal for both parties.

C1006 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C1007 Minutes

C1007(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 July 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1007(b) Matters Arising

C996(b) Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that he would arrange for a meeting of the Climate Control Committee to be held in the near future.

C999(e) Planning Training for Parish and Town Councils

The Clerk indicated that an email had been sent to Hambleton District Council concerning planning training events for Town Councillors and he was awaiting a response.

C1008 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1008(a) Planning Committee – 15 July 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 15 July 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1009 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that repairs had been carried out to some sections of the cemetery footpath and it was believed that the rest of the footpaths were in a reasonable condition. As far as the cemetery railings were concerned, the Clerk indicated that a specialist contractor had undertaken an inspection and counted approximately 60 missing railings. The contractor had advised that new railings would need to be manufactured to the same specification, requiring the use of a foundry, which would be very costly. It was suggested therefore that repairs should not be undertaken at the present time, particularly as the area was very overgrown with foliage.

The Clerk reported that the entrance to the cemetery was also in a poor condition, with quite a large area in need of resurfacing. He indicated that there had been some question as to ownership of the area of land immediately outside the cemetery gate and stated that he would pursue the matter with North Yorkshire County Council.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Ian David Backhouse, Sandra Mary Campbell, Paula Gomersall, Derick William Marriott and David Samuel Williams be approved.

C1010 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1010(a) Toilet Twinning

The meeting received an email dated July 2019 from Mrs M Penson attaching a photograph of an advertisement by Toilet Twinning, an organisation which enabled toilets and clean water to be provided in poor communities. Members noted that Mrs Penson had suggested that some of the toilet donations could be used to support the scheme and that framed certificates could then be displayed in both the ladies and gents toilets.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £120.00 to the Toilet Twinning organisation to support the provision of toilets and clean water in poor communities.

C1010(b) Non-Competitive Cycling Sportive – Saturday, 12 October 2019

The meeting received an email dated 15 July 2019 from UK Cycling Events concerning a non-competitive cycling sportive due to take place on Saturday, 12 October 2019 out of Ripon Racecourse.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1010(c) Thirsk Community Library

The meeting received a letter dated 22 July 2019 from Thirsk Community Library thanking the Town Council for its donation towards the library's running costs.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1010(d) Hambleton Local Plan: Publication Draft

The meeting received a letter dated 30 July 2019 and emails dated 30 July, 6 August and 9 August 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Hambleton Local Plan Publication Draft. Cllr Jackson advised that this was not a public consultation but that representations were sought in respect of soundness and legal compliance.

Resolved: that the Town Council request to be provided with a hard copy of the Hambleton Local Plan Publication Draft.

C1010(e) National Association of Local Councils – Elections 2019

The meeting received an email dated 30 July 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a request by the National Association of Local Councils to circulate links to surveys to be completed by clerks and councillors.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1010(f) Street Naming and Numbering – Land off End of St Mary's Close, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 31 July 2019 from Hambleton District Council confirming the registration and formal postal address of the above development as Numbers 1 to 41 (excluding 13) Bluebell Court, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1010(g) Courtesy Crossing – Nationwide Building Society

The meeting received an email dated 29 July 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council and an email dated 8 August 2019 from Nationwide Building Society concerning a proposal by Nationwide that the existing courtesy crossing adjacent to Bakers Alley be replaced with a zebra/signal-controlled crossing. It was noted that the response from NYCC suggested that a zebra crossing may result in an increase in vehicle congestion along the Market Place and that police records showed only one recorded accident at the crossing point over the last five years. NYCC would not therefore support such a crossing in that location.

Resolved: that the emails be noted.

C1010(h) Parks and People, Stronger Together – Community Empowerment Conference in Yorkshire and Humber

The meeting received an email dated 12 August 2019 from the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces concerning a series of conferences and a survey to obtain opinions about parks and green spaces.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1010(i) Newsham Road, Thirsk – Carriageway Resurfacing

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter dated 20 August 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council advising that resurfacing works would commence at Newsham Road, Thirsk on 3 September 2019 and last for two working days.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1011 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 19 August 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1012 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that Thirsk and Sowerby Festival, which had been held on Sunday, 4 August 2019, had been another huge success and was growing year on year.

Cllr Potter raised a concern about the lack of white road markings on a cobbled section of the Market Place to indicate drivers should give way before accessing the main road. The Clerk advised that he would raise the matter with North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that an Art Fayre held at the Town Hall on the day of Thirsk & Sowerby Festival had raised a total of £846 which would be divided between four local charities.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that several low hanging branches of willow trees adjacent to Riverside Mews needed removing and she requested that the Town Council's amenity contractor be asked to carry out the necessary work.

C1013 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.54 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 September 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalgleish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs F Potter (Personal), S Ward (Personal)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

At the beginning of the meeting the Clerk read out a letter of resignation which had been received from Cllr R Gladstone which stated that after careful consideration due to planned and unforeseen circumstances he was not in a position to carry on being a Councillor. Cllr Duffey requested that a letter be sent to Cllr Gladstone to thank him for his hard work on behalf of the Town Council.

C1014 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1015 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C1016 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that there had been a delay in painting the double yellow lines parking restriction on Cemetery Road and confirmed that the work would be carried out in the near future.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State against Hambleton District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a development on land adjacent to Shire Road (off Stockton Road).

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had agreed to gift the former Lambert Memorial Hospital to Herriot Hospice Homecare for use as an end-of-life care facility and it was expected that the deal would be approved at HDC's Full Council meeting on 17 September 2019. In answer to a query by Cllr Hesmondhalgh, Cllr Elders advised that HDC had agreed to donate £90,000 to Herriot Hospice Homecare to help with the provision of the facility.

Cllr Elders advised that HDC's proposals to establish a crematorium were to be considered and hopefully approved at the Full Council meeting on 17 September 2019.

Cllr Elders reported that the 2019 UCI Road World Championships (cycling) were due to commence on 22 September and he advised road users to check routes as road closures would be in place in some areas.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern with regard to a derelict property on Long Street for which planning permission had been granted to convert the property into flats. He advised that work had commenced some time ago but appeared to have come to a halt. Councillors agreed that the property was an eyesore but noted that the owner/developer was allowed three years in which to complete the works following the grant of planning permission.

C1017 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C1018 Minutes

C1018(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 August 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 August 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1018(b) Matters Arising

C1007(b) Matters Arising

C999(e) Planning Training for Parish and Town Councils

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Hambleton District Council which indicated that two planning training sessions had been arranged for 9 and 14 October 2019 and that both sessions would be identical, covering a range of topics. He stated that he would forward the email to members of the Town Council's Planning Committee for their consideration.

C1010(a) Toilet Twinning

The Clerk reported that the Town Council had made a donation to the Toilet Twinning organisation to support the provision of toilets and clean water in poor countries and that two framed certificates had been received.

C1019 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1019(a) Planning Committee – 19 August 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 August 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1020 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that Cemetery Lodge was still occupied at the present time, although the tenants had given notice to terminate the tenancy. He advised that there was an issue with regard to the energy performance certificate which needed to be rectified before the property could be re-let.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Sandra Garner and Doris Mary Pipes be approved.

C1021 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1021(a) Dalesman Yorkshire Village of the Year

The meeting received an email dated 28 August 2019 from Dalesman Publishing inviting the Town Council to enter a Yorkshire Village of the Year competition.

Following discussion, members felt that it was not appropriate to enter the competition, Thirsk being a town, not a village.

Resolved: that the Town Council does not submit an entry to the Dalesman Village of the Year Competition.

C1021(b) Request for Temporary Road Closure at Thirsk and Sowerby

The meeting received an email dated 4 September 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning a request for temporary road closures to enable the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Remembrance Day Two Minutes Silence on 10 and 11 November 2019 to take place.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(c) Entrance/Exit from Market Place Car Park (adjacent to pedestrian crossing)

The meeting received an email dated 5 September 2019 from Hambleton District Council which indicated that surface markings would be carried out to an

entrance/exit point on a cobbled section of the Market Place (adjacent to the pedestrian crossing).

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(d) Consultation on Proposed Reforms to Permitted Development Rights to Support the Deployment of 5G Mobile Coverage

The meeting received an email dated 6 September 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a consultation seeking views on the principle of amending permitted development rights to grant planning permission for mobile infrastructure to support deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage, particularly in rural areas.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(e) NALC – Policy Consultation E-Briefing 09-19 Independent Review into Local Audit

The meeting received an email dated 6 September 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a Policy Consultation E-Briefing by the National Association of Local Councils.

Resolved: that the Town Council submits a response to the NALC Policy Consultation E-Briefing 09-19 Independent Review into Local Audit.

C1021(f) Planned Road Closure Notification – 22698 – Riverside Mews, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 9 September 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Riverside Mews for three days between 7 and 9 October 2019 to allow Yorkshire Water to carry out pollution prevention lining.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(g) Parking Enforcement

The meeting received a report from Cllr Trueman concerning the parking enforcement officers attitude with regard to issuing parking tickets in Thirsk. Cllr Trueman advised that he had been made aware of several occasions where parking enforcement officers appeared to have been over-zealous in issuing tickets and had not applied understanding or common sense. He indicated that some visitors had stated that they would not return to Thirsk after being issued with parking tickets which they felt were inappropriate.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to Hambleton District Council and Scarborough Borough Council with regard to parking enforcement in Thirsk.

C1022 Thirsk Past and Present – Interpretation Boards, Castle Garth

The meeting received notes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 6 August 2019 with officers of Hambleton District Council, a volunteer from Thirsk Tourist Information and the Clerk. The Clerk advised that the proposal was to replace the three interpretation boards on Castle Garth which were in a poor state of repair and to submit a grant application to HDC's Vibrant Market Towns Team, with the Town Council making a contribution of up to 25% of the total cost of the work.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the proposal to replace the three interpretation boards on Castle Garth and agrees to contribute up to 25% of the total project cost.

C1023 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 September 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1024 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that seven businesses from Thirsk had reached the final stages of the Flavours of Herriot Country Awards 2019.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that the next meeting of Thirsk & District Business Association was due to take place on Wednesday, 2 October 2019 at Spilman's Farm in Sessay. She also indicated that the second Farmers Market was to be held in Thirsk Market Place on Sunday, 22 September 2019.

Cllr Trueman reported that the first meeting of the Climate Control Committee had been held on Tuesday, 10 September 2019 and that it had been a very positive meeting with a variety of issues being considered.

C1025 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 September 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalgleish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs F Potter (Personal), S Ward (Personal)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

At the beginning of the meeting the Clerk read out a letter of resignation which had been received from Cllr R Gladstone which stated that after careful consideration due to planned and unforeseen circumstances he was not in a position to carry on being a Councillor. Cllr Duffey requested that a letter be sent to Cllr Gladstone to thank him for his hard work on behalf of the Town Council.

C1014 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1015 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C1016 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that there had been a delay in painting the double yellow lines parking restriction on Cemetery Road and confirmed that the work would be carried out in the near future.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State against Hambleton District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a development on land adjacent to Shire Road (off Stockton Road).

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had agreed to gift the former Lambert Memorial Hospital to Herriot Hospice Homecare for use as an end-of-life care facility and it was expected that the deal would be approved at HDC's Full Council meeting on 17 September 2019. In answer to a query by Cllr Hesmondhalgh, Cllr Elders advised that HDC had agreed to donate £90,000 to Herriot Hospice Homecare to help with the provision of the facility.

Cllr Elders advised that HDC's proposals to establish a crematorium were to be considered and hopefully approved at the Full Council meeting on 17 September 2019.

Cllr Elders reported that the 2019 UCI Road World Championships (cycling) were due to commence on 22 September and he advised road users to check routes as road closures would be in place in some areas.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern with regard to a derelict property on Long Street for which planning permission had been granted to convert the property into flats. He advised that work had commenced some time ago but appeared to have come to a halt. Councillors agreed that the property was an eyesore but noted that the owner/developer was allowed three years in which to complete the works following the grant of planning permission.

C1017 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C1018 Minutes

C1018(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19 August 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 August 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1018(b) Matters Arising

C1007(b) Matters Arising

C999(e) Planning Training for Parish and Town Councils

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Hambleton District Council which indicated that two planning training sessions had been arranged for 9 and 14 October 2019 and that both sessions would be identical, covering a range of topics. He stated that he would forward the email to members of the Town Council's Planning Committee for their consideration.

C1010(a) Toilet Twinning

The Clerk reported that the Town Council had made a donation to the Toilet Twinning organisation to support the provision of toilets and clean water in poor countries and that two framed certificates had been received.

C1019 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1019(a) Planning Committee – 19 August 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 August 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1020 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that Cemetery Lodge was still occupied at the present time, although the tenants had given notice to terminate the tenancy. He advised that there was an issue with regard to the energy performance certificate which needed to be rectified before the property could be re-let.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Sandra Garner and Doris Mary Pipes be approved.

C1021 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1021(a) Dalesman Yorkshire Village of the Year

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Following discussion, members felt that it was not appropriate to enter the competition, Thirsk being a town, not a village.

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Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(c) Entrance/Exit from Market Place Car Park (adjacent to pedestrian crossing)

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Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(d) Consultation on Proposed Reforms to Permitted Development Rights to Support the Deployment of 5G Mobile Coverage

The meeting received an email dated 6 September 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a consultation seeking views on the principle of amending permitted development rights to grant planning permission for mobile infrastructure to support deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage, particularly in rural areas.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(e) NALC – Policy Consultation E-Briefing 09-19 Independent Review into Local Audit

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Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1021(g) Parking Enforcement

The meeting received a report from Cllr Trueman concerning the parking enforcement officers attitude with regard to issuing parking tickets in Thirsk. Cllr Trueman advised that he had been made aware of several occasions where parking enforcement officers appeared to have been over-zealous in issuing tickets and had not applied understanding or common sense. He indicated that some visitors had stated that they would not return to Thirsk after being issued with parking tickets which they felt were inappropriate.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to Hambleton District Council and Scarborough Borough Council with regard to parking enforcement in Thirsk.

C1022 Thirsk Past and Present – Interpretation Boards, Castle Garth

The meeting received notes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 6 August 2019 with officers of Hambleton District Council, a volunteer from Thirsk Tourist Information and the Clerk. The Clerk advised that the proposal was to replace the three interpretation boards on Castle Garth which were in a poor state of repair and to submit a grant application to HDC's Vibrant Market Towns Team, with the Town Council making a contribution of up to 25% of the total cost of the work.

Resolved: that the Town Council supports the proposal to replace the three interpretation boards on Castle Garth and agrees to contribute up to 25% of the total project cost.

C1023 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 September 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1024 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that seven businesses from Thirsk had reached the final stages of the Flavours of Herriot Country Awards 2019.

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown advised that the next meeting of Thirsk & District Business Association was due to take place on Wednesday, 2 October 2019 at Spilman's Farm in Sessay. She also indicated that the second Farmers Market was to be held in Thirsk Market Place on Sunday, 22 September 2019.

Cllr Trueman reported that the first meeting of the Climate Control Committee had been held on Tuesday, 10 September 2019 and that it had been a very positive meeting with a variety of issues being considered.

C1025 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 21 October 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: None

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1026 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1027 Police Report

PCSO Warby circulated a police report which incorporated the crime figures for Thirsk and a summary of incidents which the police had attended. The report also included figures published by the Office of National Statistics which indicated that North Yorkshire continues to have the lowest crime rate in England and Wales despite a 12% increase in recorded offences.

Cllr Dadd referred to the slow response times for calls to the police 101 non-emergency telephone number and asked if the officer was aware if there had been any improvement. Cllr Dadd also noted that there appeared to be a lot of speed camera vans in the area and enquired about speed detection ratios. PCSO Warby did not have any information in respect of these matters.

C1028 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that following a recent spending review the financial outlook for North Yorkshire County Council appeared to be better than it had for some time. Despite this good news, Cllr Dadd was cautious as he anticipated that extra demands may be put upon NYCC as the improved financial position became known. Cllr Dadd advised that NYCC's scrutiny committee was working on a number of measures with regard to climate control and that a subcommittee was also examining measures which could realistically be put in place.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council had approved plans to establish a crematorium and that the proposed site was located between Busby Stoop and Skipton-on-Swale.

Cllr Elders advised that HDC had recently purchased two electric vehicles and that this was the start of an ongoing process to replace its aging vehicles with new electric vehicles, wherever possible.

Cllr Elders reported that delays had been occasioned to works to realign the parking spaces in the Market Place for a number of reasons. He understood that North Yorkshire County Council was investigating the possibility of replacing the footpaths around the Market Place and noted that all works needed to be co-ordinated.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she had attended a planning training event and queried whether there may have been a breach of planning control in respect of a derelict property in Long Street, Thirsk. Cllr Dadd advised that Hambleton District Council was aware of the matter and was seeking to try and resolve the issue.

C1029 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mr David Tonge, local resident, advised Members that he had set up a Thirsk Friends of the Earth group and that the group hoped to co-operate with North Yorkshire County Council, Hambleton District Council and Thirsk Town Council. He stated that the group was very supportive of a proposal to install a drinking water fountain in Thirsk. He advised that the group was particularly concerned about air pollution and in attempt to reduce vehicle emissions in the Market Place he queried whether it may be possible to erect notices requesting that drivers turn off their engines when stationary. Cllr Duffey indicated that Thirsk Community Primary School was already investigating this proposal. Mr Tonge advised that he wanted to organise a series of litter picks, not in the Market Place but on minor roads and country lanes. Cllr Duffey advised that the matter would be considered at a meeting of the Climate Control Committee.

Mr Stuart Mountford introduced himself as a co-ordinator for Thirsk Community First Responders and explained that the Community First Responders had purchased and installed 18 defibrillators in the Thirsk area, including one attached to Thirsk Tourist Information. Mr Mountford was very concerned about the proposal by BT to remove the public payphone in the Market Place as he was aware that this phone had been used by people to dial 999 to obtain the code to access the defibrillator.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C1030 Minutes

C1030(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1030(b) Matters Arising

C1021(g) Parking Enforcement

The Clerk advised that he had written to both Hambleton District Council and Scarborough Borough Council in connection with parking enforcement in Thirsk but had not received a reply. Cllr Duffey requested that a further letter be sent asking for a response.

C1022 Thirsk Past and Present – Interpretation Boards, Castle Garth

The Clerk indicated that he had written to Historic England with regard to replacing the interpretation boards on Castle Garth and that he was still awaiting a response.

C1031 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1031(a) Planning Committee – 16 September 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 September 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1031(b) Climate Control Committee – 10 September 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Climate Control Committee held on 10 September 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1031(c) Open Areas and Greens Committee – 19 September 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 19 September 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1032 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting of the Burial Board would be held in November and suggested that the meeting incorporate a visit to the cemetery. He hoped that a new energy performance certificate for Cemetery Lodge would be obtained soon so that the property could be re-let as quickly as possible.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Peter Cartman, Elizabeth Elliott, Sheila Rose and Kenneth Neil Walker be approved.

C1033 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1033(a) BT Consultation – Removal of Public Payphones

The meeting received emails dated 20 September 2019 and 7 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning a consultation by BT in preparation for the removal of 18 public payphones in the HDC area. The Clerk noted that 520 calls had been made from the public payphone in the Market Place in the last 12 months and that the phone had been used by people who needed to use the defibrillator which had been installed at the Thirsk Tourist Information building. It was noted that BT also proposed to remove the public payphone located on Dowber Way, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the Town Council strongly objects to the removal of the public payphone in Thirsk Market Place on the following grounds:-

- a) The phone is well used with 520 calls in the last 12 months which suggests that the phone continues to serve a clear need.**
- b) The payphone is sited next to a public access defibrillator which requires a 999 call to be made to obtain the key code from the operator.**
- c) Thirsk is a major tourist town and therefore it can be expected that both residents and visitors will use the facility.**

C1033(b) Citizens Advice – Mid-North Yorkshire

The meeting received a letter dated 26 September 2019 from Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to assist with its running costs. Discussion took place as to when the Town Council had last made a donation to Citizens Advice. The Clerk stated that he would check the position and suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

Resolved: that the Clerk check the position with regard to the Town Council's donations to Citizens Advice.

C1033(c) Application for Premises Licence – Uno Ristorante, 17 Market Place, Thirsk

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 26 September 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning a premises licence application for Uno Ristorante, 17 Market Place, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the Town Council has no objections in respect of the premises licence application for Uno Ristorante.

C1033(d) Road Closures – Remembrance Sunday/Remembrance Day

The meeting received a notice dated 2 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning road closures in connection with the Remembrance Sunday/Remembrance Day events.

Resolved: that the notice be noted.

C1033(e) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The meeting received two letters dated 9 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning payments of Community Infrastructure Levy. Cllr Hesmondhalgh

suggested that some of the money could be utilised towards the purchase and installation of a water/drinking fountain. Cllr Duffey advised that it may be possible to apply for a grant to help finance a water/drinking fountain.

Resolved: that the letters be noted.

C1033(f) A19 Trunk Road – Resurfacing of South Kilvington Roundabout

The meeting received an email dated 10 October 2019 from Autolink Concessionaires Limited advising of resurfacing works at South Kilvington roundabout due to be carried out under a series of night-time road closures between 20 October 2019 and 2 November 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1033(g) Friarage Hospital, Northallerton – Public Consultation

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 30 August 2019 from the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group concerning a public consultation on the future of the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. Cllr Duffey suggested that Members respond individually to the consultation and that the Town Council also submits a collective response.

Resolved: that the Town Council submits a collective response to the public consultation on the future of the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

C1033(h) North Yorkshire Local Access Forum – Recruitment of Voluntary Members

The meeting received an email dated 11 October 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the recruitment of volunteers to become members of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1033(i) North Yorkshire County Council – Your Services, Your Say Consultation

The meeting received an email dated 14 October 2019 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning an online consultation inviting people to have their say on how NYCC should prioritise key ambitions.

Resolved: that the Town Council submits a response to NYCC's online consultation.

C1034 Extraordinary Meeting – Precept 2020/2021

The Clerk advised that the Town Council normally held an Extraordinary Meeting towards the end of January to enable Members to consider and approve the draft precept figure for 2020/2021.

Resolved: that the Clerk email Town Councillors to confirm the date of an Extraordinary Meeting to be held in January 2020.

C1035 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 21 October 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1036 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that the Thirsk & Sowerby Festival organising committee had held a debrief meeting and had agreed that the next festival will take place on Sunday, 2 August 2020. She indicated that the organisers were looking for new sponsors and that if anybody had any suggestions in this regard to contact herself or any member of the committee.

Cllr Adamson reported that Thirsk Clock had changed its status from being a limited company and was ready to merge with the Community Care Association.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended a recent meeting of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and he advised that the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) website was available for the benefit of Town Councillors as well as the Clerk.

Cllr Jackson advised that he had spoken to the Chief Executive of Thirsk Clock regarding services for young people in Thirsk and had learnt that there was currently very little provision for older teenagers. He stated that he and Cllr Duffey were looking to see what assistance could be offered to improve the situation.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she and other members of the Planning Committee had attended a planning training event hosted by Hambleton District Council and she had found the session to be interesting.

Cllr Hunter Bell indicated that she wanted to make progress with regard to repairing the damaged mosaic on Millennium Green. She advised that she would request a quotation for the work and then examine funding opportunities.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had attended the official opening of the new Herriot Hospice Homecare shop in the Market Place and he had presented awards at a swimming gala at Thirsk & Sowerby Leisure Centre. He had also attended a meeting with the police and members of the Safer Hambleton Group where matters of antisocial behaviour were considered. He advised that the intention was to hold these meetings every three months and he hoped that they would be given increased publicity in future.

Cllr Duffey advised that he had recently met with Ms Sally Burton, Chair of the Trustees of Thirsk Community Library, and they had discussed the possibility of obtaining funding to enable the library to engage the services of a full-time paid employee.

C1037 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.13 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 18 November 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllr Dalglish-Brown (Illness)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1038 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Adamson and Hesmondhalgh declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Frequency/Location of Town Council Meetings) in respect of East Thirsk Community Hall and took no part in the discussion.

C1039 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. The Clerk circulated copies of a report prepared by PCSO Warby which contained the crime figures for October 2019 and a warning urging shoppers to be on their guard against bogus supermarket vouchers which were being shared on social media.

C1040 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd indicated that although the financial outlook for North Yorkshire County Council appeared to be better than it had previously, the local government settlement figure was still to be confirmed.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that a seminar in connection with the proposed crematorium was to take place on Tuesday, 19 November 2019.

Cllr Elders advised that an appeal hearing was to be held on 10 December 2019 following Hambleton District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a development on land adjacent to Shire Road (off Stockton Road).

Cllr Elders indicated that HDC's planning committee had refused to grant planning permission for a proposed development of houses on land occupied by the properties, Burniston and Stonehall, on Stockton Road.

Cllr Trueman enquired if it was possible to place a time restriction on vehicles using the disabled parking bays in the Market Place as he had been contacted by a driver who held a Blue Badge who had noticed that one particular vehicle frequently occupied a disabled parking bay for an entire day which meant that the bay was unavailable for other Blue Badge drivers. Cllr Elders stated that he would investigate the matter.

C1041 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C1042 Minutes

C1042(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 October 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1042(b) Matters Arising

C1030(b) Matters Arising – C1021(g) Parking Enforcement

The Clerk advised that he had received a lengthy email from Mr C Thornton, HDC's Corporate Facilities Manager, in response to the Town Council's email concerning parking enforcement. The Clerk summarised the email and noted that Mr Thornton had indicated that he would discuss the issues raised with Scarborough Borough Council.

C1033(a) BT Consultation – Removal of Public Payphones

The Clerk indicated that the Town Council had objected in strong terms to the proposed removal of the public payphone in the Market Place and also to the removal of a public payphone situated on Dowber Way, Thirsk.

C1043 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1043(a) Planning Committee – 21 October 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 October 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1044 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that the letting of Cemetery Lodge had been placed with Joplings and that several prospective tenants had shown interest in renting the property.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Bill Carver, Mary Coster, Peggy Dundon, William Anthony “Tony” Knowles and Marion Margaret Lennon be approved.

C1045 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1045(a) Citizens Advice – Mid-North Yorkshire

The meeting received a letter dated 26 September 2019 from Citizens Advice, Hambleton Office, requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation towards its running costs. The Clerk advised that the Town Council had previously approved a donation of £200 to Citizens Advice in the last financial year.

Resolved: that the Town Council makes a donation of £200 to Citizens Advice, Mid-North Yorkshire.

C1045(b) VE Day 75 – 8 May 2020

The meeting received an email dated 17 October 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. Discussion took place and it was agreed that St Mary's Church be requested to ring their bells as part of the nationwide “Ringing out for Peace” on the evening of Friday, 8 May 2020. Members also suggested that the Town Council should contact Mr C Northridge MBE and Thirsk Yarnbombers so that they were aware of the proposed celebrations.

Resolved: that the Town Council request that St Mary's Church ring their bells as part of the nationwide “Ringing out for Peace” on Friday, 8 May 2020.

C1045(c) NHS Media Release – GP Advice On How To Stay Well This Winter

The meeting received an email dated 24 October 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which contained advice on how to stay well during the cold weather.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1045(d) Public Consultation on the Future of Urgent Care at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton

The meeting received a letter dated 29 October 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which contained an update in respect of the public consultation on the future of urgent care services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. Members noted that a public meeting was due to be held at East Thirsk Community Hall on Friday, 22 November 2019.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1045(e) Certificates of Registration for the Merge and Change of Name/Address

The meeting received three certificates dated 30 and 31 October 2019 from Hambleton District Council confirming the registration and formal postal addresses of properties as Wishing Well Folly, Sutton Road, Thirsk, Thistle Cottage, Sutton Road, Thirsk and No 85A Market Place, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the three certificates be noted.

C1045(f) General Election, 12 December 2019 – Guidance for Local Councils

The meeting received an email dated 5 November 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which contained guidance for local councils for the pre-election period prior to the General Election on Thursday, 12 December 2019.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1045(g) Merger Approved for Three North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups

The meeting received an email and briefing dated 5 November 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which indicated that approval had been received to merge three CCGs – NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG, NHS Harrogate and Rural District CCG and NHS Scarborough and Ryedale CCG - on 1 April 2020 to create the North Yorkshire CCG.

Resolved: that the email and briefing be noted.

C1045(h) Hambleton Safety Advisory Group

The meeting received an email dated 11 November 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Hambleton Safety Advisory Group which had been set up to provide advice and guidance on events at which large numbers of people are expected to attend.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1045(i) York Disabled Workers Co-operative

The meeting received a letter dated 11 November 2019 from the York Disabled Workers Co-operative requesting that the Town Council consider making a donation to support its operations.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1046 Co-option of Town Councillor

Members considered three applications which had been received to fill the Town Councillor vacancy and a paper vote took place.

Resolved: that Mrs Kate Mountford be co-opted onto the Town Council.

C1047 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 18 November 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1048 Frequency/Location of Town Council Meetings

Cllr Duffey advised that he and Cllr Jackson had been examining how the Town Council conducted its business and suggested that the number of meetings could be reduced to 11 and that the August meeting be dropped. He also noted that it had been identified as good practice for meetings occasionally to be held at a different venue and he suggested that at least one meeting per year be held at a location such as East Thirsk Community Hall.

Resolved: that the Town Council Standing Orders be amended so that 11 meetings are held each year with at least one meeting being held at a venue other than Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall.

C1049 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Duffey reported that the Remembrance Sunday events had been very well attended both at St Mary's Church and at Sowerby War Memorial.

Cllr Duffey advised that he had been contacted in respect of ongoing issues of antisocial behaviour at Mill Gardens. Discussion took place and Cllr Duffey advised that he would raise the issues at the next meeting with the Safer Hambleton Thirsk Working Group.

Cllr Duffey indicated that he had recently been made aware of the lack of facilities for young people in Thirsk and that there was currently no provision for teenagers. He advised that he and Cllr Jackson were investigating and looking at ways of improving services for young people.

Cllr Hunter Bell advised that she had obtained a quotation to repair the damaged mosaic at the Millennium Green and she hoped to receive a second quotation in the next few days.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that the Thirsk Chamber of Trade Ladies Group had held their winter ball at the Town Hall on Saturday, 16 November 2019 to raise money for the Christmas lights. Cllr Duffey thanked Cllr Gibson-Brown for her hard work and assistance in decorating the Town Hall for the event.

C1050 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 December 2019 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, K Mountford, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1051 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1052 Police Report

PCSO Warby attended the meeting and circulated copies of the crime report for November. He advised that the neighbourhood police team was running a “Be safe be seen” campaign during the winter months and that funding had been obtained to enable lights to be fitted on children’s bikes free of charge. The report also contained information concerning an online counter terrorism training course which was available for members of the public to complete on the North Yorkshire Police website.

C1053 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd noted that emergency works carried out by the National Power Grid had caused serious traffic congestion in the Market Place recently. He advised that North Yorkshire County Council was unable to intervene when utility companies required works to be carried out as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Dadd noted that North Yorkshire was falling behind other areas with regards to devolution. He indicated that NYCC was supportive of a York city region deal which it was expected would bring in additional funding for infrastructure.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council was proposing to hold a total of 12 farmers markets in Thirsk during 2020. The intention was that the markets would follow the same format as those held in 2019 and would be held on the first Sunday of every month.

Cllr Elders indicated that a further seminar in respect of the proposed crematorium would take place in January 2020, following which the proposal was expected to go before HDC’s Full Council in April with construction hopefully commencing by the end of 2020.

Cllr Elders reported that HDC’s car parks would be free of charge on Thursdays up to Christmas, but he pointed out that the maximum two hours’ time restriction would still apply.

Cllr Elders advised that he had attended a hearing in connection with HDC’s refusal to grant planning permission for a proposed development on land adjacent to Shire Road (off Stockton Road). A decision was still awaited.

Cllr Duffey observed that there was a gas cylinder in one of the doorways of the Uno Momento restaurant (formerly Aspire). Cllr Elders advised that he would make enquiries at Hambleton District Council and update the Town Council as to the outcome.

Cllr Trueman thanked Cllr Elders for seeking clarification in respect of parking restrictions for the disabled parking bays. Cllr Elders advised that HDC’s policy was

that there was no time limit for parking in the disabled bays and that this policy would be reconsidered in connection with works to realign the parking bays in the Market Place.

C1054 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C1055 Minutes

C1055(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 November 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 November 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to the resolution in Minute No 1046 being amended to read, "Resolved: that Mrs Kate Mountford be co-opted onto the Town Council".

C1055(b) Matters Arising

C1045(b) VE Day 75 – 8 May 2020

Following a query by Cllr Duffey, the Clerk indicated that he would contact Mr C Northridge within the next few days as well as St Mary's Church and Thirsk Yarnbombers.

C1056 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1056(a) Planning Committee – 18 November 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 November 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1057 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that new tenants would be moving into Cemetery Lodge in the very near future. He also advised that a part-time amenity worker would be commencing employment for the Town Council in February 2020 and that the duties, would include, amongst other things, looking after the cemetery.

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Winifred Stuart be approved.

C1058 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1058(a) Warm Up Hambleton – Free Energy Efficiency Measures

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 18 November 2019 from Hambleton District Council concerning an energy efficiency scheme to help residents access funding to install energy efficiency measures which could save money on fuel bills.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1058(b) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Certificate of Registration for New Property/Address

The meeting received a certificate dated 20 November 2019 from Hambleton District Council which confirmed the registration and formal postal address of a property to be No. 10 Stammergate, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1058(c) NALC Legal Topic Note 22: Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements – Updates and Revised Templates

The meeting received an email dated 22 November 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning updates to NALC's disciplinary and grievance

procedures. The Clerk advised that the updates would be incorporated into procedures which were already in place.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1058(d) Thirsk Friends of the Earth – Litter Picks

The meeting received an email and attachments dated 26 November 2019 from Thirsk Friends of the Earth concerning a series of litter picks which were being planned to take place in 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1058(e) 1st Thirsk Scout Group – Refurbishment of Scout Hall

The meeting received a letter from 1st Thirsk Scout Group thanking the Town Council for the donation which had been provided to help finance the refurbishment of the scout hall and grounds.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1058(f) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Bulletin

The meeting received an email dated 10 December 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which attached the latest bulletin from the Chief Executive of the National Association of Local Councils.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1058(g) Home Office Consultation: Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments

The meeting received an email dated 10 December 2019 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a Home Office consultation regarding strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. The Clerk suggested that the Town Council submit a collective response and Members agreed that this should be in line with the stance taken by the National Association of Local Councils.

Resolved: that the Town Council submits a collective response to the Home Office consultation in line with the stance taken by the National Association of Local Councils.

C1058(h) Office Opening Hours – Christmas/New Year

The Clerk advised that the Town Council’s office opening hours over the Christmas and New Year holidays were normally in line with those of Hambleton District Council. This would mean that the office would close on Christmas Eve and re-open on Thursday, 2 January 2020. Cllr Duffey requested that emergency contact numbers be provided in case of any urgent matters arising over the holiday period.

Resolved: that the Town Council office will close on Christmas Eve and re-open on Thursday, 2 January 2020.

C1059 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 December 2019 be approved and cheques signed.

C1060 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that members and trustees of the Community Care Association had now formally agreed to an amalgamation with The Clock and papers had been submitted to the Charity Commission.

Cllr Hunter Bell advised that she had recently become aware of a Santa’s Grotto at The Clock and that she had found it difficult to find much information about the event. Cllr Jackson indicated that the Santa’s Grotto was a new venture for The Clock and that it had been publicised on social media.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that a free Christmas meal had been provided for approximately 90 older residents at East Thirsk Community Hall on Saturday, 7 December 2019. She thanked everyone who had donated raffle prizes and food for the event.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had been involved in judging the Best Dressed Christmas Window competition which many shops had participated in. He stated that the window displays had been fantastic and had been publicised on the Town Council's Facebook page.

Cllr Duffey advised that he Cllr Jackson and the Clerk had attended a meeting with representatives from various youth services of North Yorkshire County Council, the police and the church to consider the provision of services for young people in Thirsk. He advised that there was currently a lack of services for teenagers and suggested that the Town Council consider providing funding to help improve the position. It was anticipated that there would be input from a variety of organisations and Cllr Gibson-Brown indicated that she had become involved with the YouthBus project. Cllr Duffey advised that volunteers would be needed and requested that anyone interested in becoming involved to let him know.

C1061 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 January 2020 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, K Mountford, F Potter, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs D Jackson (Holiday), L Hunter-Bell (Personal)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1062 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1063 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance

C1064 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC were in the process of finalising the budget for 2020/2021 and that it would then be put out for public consultation. He anticipated that there may be an increase in council tax payments for the next financial year. Cllr Dadd confirmed his commitment to the care of vulnerable people within the community and that he would not wish for that to be compromised by any increase in council tax. Cllr Dadd stated that a "Thank you" event for volunteers was to be held at the East Thirsk Community Hall on Saturday, 4 April 2020.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that the planning application to build new homes behind Shire Park on Stockton Road, Thirsk had been refused.

Cllr Dadd advised that he was aware of a press report regarding problems with sewage and drains in the Carlton Miniott area and that he felt that Yorkshire Water was letting the town down.

Cllr Elders reported that the plans for the new crematorium were at the stage where they were ready to be shown to members. He advised that the land had been purchased and that a public consultation would take place in March. He stated that one low-carbon electric cremator was to be installed. Cllr Adamson queried whether one cremator would be sufficient and Cllr Elders stated that he had been informed that only one cremator was considered necessary.

Cllr Elders indicated that the views of the public had been sought with regard to electric charging points in Thirsk Market Place and it was hoped that this would be funded by money from the government. He advised that two electric charging units had been installed in the Millgate Car Park and it was hoped that these would be operational by February 2020.

Cllr Elders reminded Members that farmers' market were to be held on the first Sunday of each month commencing in February.

Cllr Elders advised that some additional parking facilities were to be made available at Thirsk Station on land adjoining the station. Cllr Trueman informed Cllr Elders that the free parking signs in the Market Place in the run-up to Christmas had not been clear and that many people had misinterpreted them which had led to them receiving parking tickets. Cllr Elders advised that people who received parking tickets in those circumstances should be encouraged to appeal. Hambleton District Council was being urged to speak to the body who had the contract for the parking control.

Cllr Trueman spoke of the discontentment of local traders and the general public in this respect.

Cllr Elders reported that the gas cylinder which had been positioned in the doorway of the Uno Momento premises (formerly Aspire) had been removed on the same day as the complaint had been made.

C1065 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C1066 Minutes

C1066(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 December 2019

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C1066(b) Matters Arising

C1045(b) VE Day 75 – 8 May 2020

The Clerk advised that he had contacted Mr C Northridge and Thirsk Yarnbombers about possible events to commemorate VE Day 75. St Mary's Church had also been requested to ring the church bells as part of the nationwide Ringing Out for Peace.

C1067 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1067(a) Planning Committee – 16 December 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 December 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1067(b) Open Areas and Greens Committee – 9 December 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 9 December 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1067(c) Central Areas and Christmas Festivities Committee – 9 December 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas and Christmas Festivities Committee held on 9 December 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1067(d) Personnel and Office Committee – 13 December 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Personnel and Office Committee held on 9 December 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1067(e) Public Conveniences Committee – 13 December 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 13 December 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1067(f) Burial Board – 19 December 2019

The meeting received the Minutes of the Burial Board Committee held on 19 December 2019.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1068 Burial Board

There were no applications for memorials to be considered. Cllr Adamson reported that new tenants were now residing in Cemetery Lodge.

C1069 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1069(a) Remembrance Sunday 2019

The meeting received a letter dated 23 December 2019 from the Royal British Legion, Thirsk and District Branch, thanking the Town Council for the contributions towards the costs of the Remembrance Sunday commemorations.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1069(b) Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group – Newsletter

The meeting received an email dated 23 December 2019 from Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group attaching the latest CCG newsletter.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1069(c) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Bulletin

The meeting received an email dated 10 January 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils attaching the Chief Executive’s Bulletin.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1069(d) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Confirmation Certificate of Registration for an Existing Property

The meeting received a certificate dated 13 January 2020 from Hambleton District Council regarding the registration of the Family Life Church, The Old School, Finkle Street, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 1DA.

Resolved: that the certificate be noted.

C1069(e) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations – Hambleton Branch Meetings

The meeting received an email dated 14 January 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations outlining the dates for the 2020 Hambleton Branch Meetings to be held in Easingwold. It was agreed that Cllrs Jackson and Trueman would continue to attend the meetings.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1070 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 20 January 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1071 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Trueman asked if the Climate Control Committee could be included on the Town Council’s website.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that a resident of St Mary’s Walk had enquired if the street was to be cleaned each day whilst the adjoining building works were being undertaken.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Thirsk Working Group. The police had stated that Thirsk had been “quiet” over the Christmas period before the mobile CCTV camera had been moved from East Thirsk Play Area, but that shortly after the camera was removed a car had been vandalised. The Town Council hoped to install its own camera in this location.

Cllr Duffey stated that a number of emails had been sent to fellow councillors over the Christmas period purporting to be from him but they were not. The plan was to develop inhouse emails.

Cllr Trueman enquired about the monitoring of the CCTV cameras at Hambleton District Council as plants had been ripped out of the boxes adjacent to the Millgate

Public Conveniences. It was noted that Gina Allen, HDC Community Safety Officer, would be contacted in this respect.

It was intended that an extra lighting column would be installed in Mill Gardens. A quote was to be obtained from a local electrician.

Members considered that on-going items could be removed from future Town Council meeting agendas.

Members discussed the appointment of trustees for the Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust and requested that the Charity Commissioners Scheme details be presented to the next meeting.

C1072 On-Going Items

Nothing reported.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 17 February 2020 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, K Mountford, F Potter, A Trueman

Apologies: Cllrs D Duffey (Holiday), L Hunter-Bell (Personal), S Ward (Alternative engagement)

In attendance: County/District Cllr G Dadd, District Cllr D Elders

C1073 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1074 Police Report

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from PCSO Warby indicating that he was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk circulated copies of the police report provided by PCSO Warby which contained the crime figures for January 2020.

C1075 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd indicated that North Yorkshire County Council was expected to increase its council tax by 3.99% for the next financial year. He advised that the government had stated that they would carry out a fairer funding review as it had been shown that residents in North Yorkshire were paying more council tax than residents in Westminster. He stated that NYCC would continue to push for a better government settlement.

Cllr Dadd indicated that he had received complaints in respect of a footbridge on the Holmes and there was a concern that dogs or small children could fall through the railings. He advised that he had contacted NYCC's public rights of way department and would consider making a financial contribution from his locality budget to improve the safety of the footbridge.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council was expected to approve a council tax increase of £5.00 for a band D property.

Cllr Elders indicated that a report would be considered by HDC's full council on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 in respect of a car park improvement scheme which would see new payment methods being introduced, along with realignment of the parking bays and the introduction of electric car charging points. He advised that it was proposed that parking in the disabled bays would be limited to a maximum of three hours for Blue Badge holders.

Cllr Elders reported that a public consultation event concerning the proposed crematorium would take place on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 at Sandhutton Village Hall where members of the public would be able to view plans and make observations.

C1076 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Mrs M Penson, flood warden, attended the meeting to express concern about recent high water levels and the risk of flooding in the Riverside Mews area. Mrs Penson was also concerned about erosion of the riverbank and requested that a site meeting be arranged with representatives of the Town Council, Hambleton District Council

and the Environment Agency. She suggested that the Environment Agency be requested to consider installing willow stakes in the riverbank to slow down erosion. Cllr Jackson requested that the Clerk contact the Environment Agency to request a site meeting and Cllr Dadd indicated that he would be happy to attend if a meeting could be arranged.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C1077 Minutes

C1077(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 January 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1077(b) Matters Arising

C1071 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Trueman noted that the Town Council's website had been updated to include the Climate Control Committee but requested that an amendment be made as Mr D Tonge had been incorrectly listed as Cllr D Tonge.

C1078 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1078(a) Planning Committee – 20 January 2020

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 January 2020.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1079 Burial Board

Resolved: that applications for memorials for John Garbutt and Wenanty & Kay Konieczny be approved.

C1080 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1080(a) New YLCA Website

The meeting received an email dated 23 January 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning the launch of their new website at the end of January 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(b) ACT Awareness Sessions – National Counter Terrorism Awareness Initiative

The meeting received an email dated 24 January 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that an ACT awareness session was to be held on Thursday, 27 February 2020 at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(c) Thirsk Yarnbombers' Programme 2020

The meeting received an email dated 25 January 2020 from Thirsk Yarnbombers outlining their planned programme of displays for 2020.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(d) Section 215 Notice – 91 and 91A Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 27 January 2020 from Hambleton District Council advising that a Section 215 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) had been served in regard to the property of 91 and 91A Long Street, Thirsk because the amenity of the area was said to be adversely affected by the condition of the land. Town Councillors noted that the owner had until 28 February 2020 to appeal against the notice.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(e) Friends of Moorsbus – BBC Panorama

The meeting received an email dated 6 February 2020 from M Penson concerning an email from Moorsbus which advised that the BBC Panorama team was looking to make a television programme about the impact of cuts in public bus services and requesting that anyone who would like to be featured to contact Friends of Moorsbus.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(f) Carr's Field

The meeting received an email dated 4 February 2020 from Mr T Jordan, Trustee of Carr's Field, concerning a proposal by the Rotary Club of Thirsk to create a wheelchair walk around Carr's Field. The Clerk advised that a site meeting had taken place and that it had been agreed that the Rotary Club could go ahead with the proposal.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1080(g) Thirsk Castle, A Motte and Bailey Castle

The meeting received a letter dated 10 February 2020 from Historic England giving approval to replace the three ageing interpretation boards on Castle Garth. The Clerk hoped that the new boards would be installed early in the next financial year.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C1080(h) Temporary Part-time Amenity/Cemetery Worker

The Clerk advised that the gentleman who had been recruited by the Town Council as a part-time amenity/cemetery worker had requested that his start date be postponed until May 2020. In the meantime, therefore, in order to cover the position until that time, the Town Council had taken on a temporary member of staff.

C1081 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 17 February 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1082 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that the parent, baby and toddler group at East Thirsk Community Hall had recently received a grant of £173,873 from the Health Lottery community fund which would enable the group to continue operating for a further five years. Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that an official opening would take place on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 and she asked Cllr Jackson if he would invite members of Thirsk Rotary Club to the event.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that toilet rolls had recently been taken from the public toilets in Millgate and strewn around the trees in Mill Gardens. She queried whether it would be worthwhile closing the toilets earlier during the winter months to reduce the likelihood of this type of incident. The Clerk advised that, following the incident, stronger, metal toilet roll holders had been fitted in the gents' toilets. Cllr Jackson indicated that Cllr Gibson-Brown's suggestion would need to be considered by the Public Conveniences Committee.

Cllr Jackson reported that a further meeting of the youth project group had taken place comprising representatives from North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Youth, Ms J Gillanders, a curate from St Mary's Church, and the Town Council. He indicated that Ms Gillanders had managed to get a session for young people up and running at East Thirsk Community Hall and that the group was attempting to set up some further provision for older teenagers, hopefully on a Friday evening.

Cllr Gibson-Brown advised that a defibrillator training session would be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 19 February 2020. She advised that this was a free event for anyone wishing to attend.

Part II

Resolved: that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of confidential business

C1083 Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust

The Clerk indicated that he had placed this item in Part II on the agenda as the Charity Commission's documentation contained the names and addresses of individuals who had been trustees when the scheme was set up in 1997. He advised that the Charity Commissioners scheme for the Trust provided for three nominated trustees and two co-opted trustees. Discussion took place and Members agreed that further efforts should be made to appoint trustees in order to comply with the Charity Commission's scheme. It was suggested that enquiries be made with the present trustee, Thirsk Rotary Club and with Ms J Gillanders, a curate at St Mary's Church, to see if anyone was interested in becoming a trustee.

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 16 March 2020 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs D Duffey (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, W Gibson-Brown, C Hesmondhalgh, L Hunter Bell, D Jackson, K Mountford, A Trueman, S Ward

Apologies: Cllr F Potter (Work commitment), County/District Cllr G Dadd (Personal)

In attendance: District Cllr D Elders

C1084 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1085 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance.

C1086 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Nothing reported.

(b) HDC

Cllr Elders reported that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner elections had been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr Elders advised that Hambleton District Council had received a licensing application from the Uno Momento restaurant (formerly Grand Dame/Aspire) but that the application had been withdrawn two days later.

Cllr Elders reported that the public consultation in respect of HDC's proposed crematorium had now closed and that an application was expected to go before HDC's Planning Committee in April or May 2020.

Cllr Elders indicated that he had read an article in the Yorkshire Post newspaper published on 27 February 2020 in relation to a package of improvement works to make railway stations more accessible which included plans to install three lifts and a new footbridge at Thirsk Railway Station.

Cllr Trueman raised the issue of parking charges in the Market Place and noted that they were due to increase by 25%. He queried why such a big increase was considered necessary. Cllr Elders stated that he would make enquiries at HDC.

C1087 Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

C1088 Minutes

C1088(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 February 2020

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

C1088(b) Matters Arising

C1076 Open Forum

Cllr Jackson advised that a meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency and the Town Council had been arranged for Wednesday, 18 March 2020 to consider issues of flood risk and erosion of the riverbank at Riverside Mews.

C1089 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1089(a) Planning Committee – 17 February 2020

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 February 2020.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C1090 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson indicated that he had been in touch with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and the National Association of Funeral Directors in relation to the coronavirus pandemic and advised that burials would be conducted in line with government guidance with regard to social distancing.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Ronald Baker, Paul Michael Galloway, Timothy Kavanagh and Joseph Saunders be approved.

C1091 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1091(a) North Yorkshire County Council Consultation on a New Policy on Developer Contributions for Education

The meeting received an email dated 19 February 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning a consultation in relation to a new policy on developer contributions for education.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1091(b) Funding for Supported Bus Services and Rural Mobility Fund

The meeting received an email dated 24 February 2020 from North Yorkshire County Council seeking proposals for the use of funding for supported bus services and the Rural Mobility Fund in North Yorkshire.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1091(c) Community Payback

The meeting received an email dated 25 February 2020 from Cherri Blissett, a consultant who was bidding to deliver a Ministry of Justice contract in respect of community payback. Discussion took place and it was suggested that Members contact the Clerk if they had any ideas with regard to making use of the scheme.

Resolved: that the email be forwarded to Mr D Tonge, Thirsk Friends of the Earth.

C1091(d) Yorkshire Local Councils Associations Training Programme – April to September 2020

The meeting received an email dated 2 March 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning a training programme for Town Councillors and Clerks who wished to increase their knowledge base and capability.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1091(e) Dementia Friendly Council

The meeting received an email dated 2 March 2020 from Cllr K Mountford concerning dementia friends/dementia friendly councils. Cllr Mountford advised that she was able to arrange for an information session to be delivered to the Town Council by a Dementia Champion for the Alzheimer's Society.

Resolved: that the matter will be considered at a future meeting when the situation in relation to coronavirus has improved.

C1091(f) Ripon Cathedral Service for 75th Anniversary of VE Day – 8 May 2020

The meeting received an email dated 4 March 2020 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which included an invitation for Town Councillors to attend a service at Ripon Cathedral to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Resolved: that any Town Councillor who wished to attend the VE Day Anniversary at Ripon Cathedral should contact the Clerk.

C1091(g) Street Naming and Numbering Legislation – Land Rear of 131 Long Street, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 6 March 2020 from Hambleton District Council concerning suggestions in relation to a street name for a new development on land at the rear of 131 Long Street, Thirsk.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1091(h) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive's Bulletin

The meeting received an email dated 6 March 2020 from the National Association of Local Councils attaching the Chief Executive's bulletin.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1091(i) Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge

The meeting received an email dated 11 March 2020 from Jasmine Harrison concerning a challenge to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean. Ms Harrison requested that the Town Council consider providing funding/sponsorship to help cover the costs of the challenge. Discussion took place and Members agreed that the Town Council was unable to support an event where any monies raised would not necessarily benefit local charities/organisations.

Resolved: that the Town Council is unable to make a financial contribution in connection with the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

C1092 Finance

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 March 2020 be approved and cheques signed.

C1093 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Hunter Bell reported that the Picnic in the Park event which had been planned to take place on Saturday, 4 July 2020 had been cancelled.

Cllr Jackson indicated that work was still ongoing in respect of setting up a group for young people on a Friday evening, possibly in the form of a drop-in session, and that the next step was to secure suitable premises.

Cllr Duffey advised that he, Cllr Jackson and the Clerk had discussed the functioning of the Town Council during the coronavirus pandemic and it had been agreed that the office would remain staffed but that contact with members of the public would be via the door intercom, telephone, email or Facebook. He suggested that no meetings be held for the next two months, although he was awaiting advice in respect of the requirement to hold the Annual Town Council meeting scheduled for May 2020. Cllr Jackson indicated that planning applications would be considered by email/telephone as opposed to holding a meeting. Cllr Duffey advised that an email had been received from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations concerning delegation of decision making to an officer of the Council so that the Council remains functional during the coming weeks/months.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Town Council empowers the Clerk to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the Town Council and to deal with mandatory undertakings in order to prevent the Town Council from incurring liability during the period that the delegation is applicable; in the event of the Clerk being unavailable, the power to pass to the Deputy Clerk.**
- (ii) that the Deputy Clerk be added as a signatory to the Town Council's bank account.**

The meeting closed at 7.46 pm.