

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 15 April, 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: C. Hesmondhalgh (Chairman), D. Adamson, H. Dalglish-Brown, D. Duffey, E. Fraser, M. Penson, A. Robinson, J. Watson.

Apologies: Cllrs: J. Jackson (Holiday), A. Morton (Illness), F. Roberts (Holiday).

C133 Police Report

No police representative was present. It was noted that the Town Council had been advised that a representative would be present.

C134 Reports on Matters relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd was not present (due to forthcoming elections).

The Clerk advised that Cllr Roberts had expressed concern regarding the condition of white lines and markings at junctions and mini-roundabouts which had not been repainted for some time and which could constitute a hazard.

Resolved: that NYCC be requested to carry out a check on road markings on mini-roundabouts and junctions and repaint where necessary.

(b) HDC

Cllr Robinson queried the cost of the re-cobbling work being carried out in the Market Place particularly having regard to the number of days when work had not taken place. It was noted that the contract would be for a fixed price for the work.

C135 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

C136 Minutes

C136(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 March 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C136(b) Matters Arising

Minute No C129(b) Police and Crime Plan Consultation

The Clerk advised that he had contacted North Yorkshire Police regarding their policy for attendance at Town and Parish Council meetings and that the matter had been passed to the local police for their attention.

Resolved: that the Police be formally requested to send a representative to the next meeting.

C137 Committee Minutes and Reports

C137(a) Planning Committee held on 4 April 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning committee held on 4 April 2013.

Resolved: that the minutes be received and noted.

C138 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson stated there was nothing to report.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 20 May 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, H. Dalgleish-Brown, D. Duffey, E. Fraser, C. Hesmondhalgh, A. Morton, M. Penson, F. Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs J. Jackson (Holiday), A. Robinson (Work commitments).

C143 Police Report

Sergeant Frances Hannan and Police Officer Clare Mayes were in attendance.

Sergeant Hannan reported the latest crime figures, noting that the figures for anti-social behaviour in Thirsk were at an all-time low.

Cllr Duffey advised that there had been several incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour at the public conveniences in Millgate. The police responded that they were aware of activity at the toilets and were monitoring the situation.

Sergeant Hannan apologised for non-attendance at Town Council meetings during the past year as a result of the varying duties, commitments and cover requirements.

C144 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

Ms Marion Green explained that she had read about parking problems at Riverside Mews in the Thirsk Weekly News and had approached Cllr Penson to enquire about this but Cllr Penson would not discuss the matter with her at that time. Cllr Watson apologised to Ms Green and advised that she would talk to Cllr Penson about the situation. Cllr Watson explained that the concern in relation to the parking problems was that police had not been monitoring cars parking in Riverside Mews when residents had to pay for a parking permit if they wished to park their cars there.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C145 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that a number of A boards at the industrial estate had been removed and that alternative means of advertising for these businesses would be looked at.

Cllr Dadd reported that the new civil parking enforcement had been approved by the Department of Transport and would be implemented very soon.

Cllr Dadd advised that Cllr Robert Baker had been elected as the new County Councillor for the Sowerby division and noted that a report was due to be released within the next month in respect of the proposed waste incinerator facility at Allerton Park.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson stated that there were no particular items to report.

C146

C146(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15 April, 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 April, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C146(b) Matters Arising

Minute No C139(a) Hambleton Area Committee – Vacancies for Co-Opted Members

The Clerk reported that Cllr Robinson had decided not to put his name forward and Cllr Fraser would now be put forward as a nomination for co-option onto the Hambleton Area Committee.

Minute No C141 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson stated that she had been advised by Cllr Mark Robson that the majority of the re-cobbling work would be completed by the Spring Bank Holiday.

C147 Committee Minutes and Reports

C147(a) Planning Committee held on 9 May, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9 May, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C147(b) Central Areas Committee held on 9 May, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 9 May, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C148 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that there was nothing to report.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Mabel Browne, Rosemary Butcher, Brian W. Garthwaite, Lillian May Harker, Christiana Harris, Myra Otterburn and William Spence be approved.

C149 Correspondence/Items Raised

C149(a) Environmental Permit Application – Allerton Waste Recovery Park

The meeting received a letter dated 30 April, 2013 and consultation dated 7 May 2013 from the Environment Agency.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C149(b) The Chocolate Box, 5 Market Place, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 3 May, 2013 from HDC regarding a new premises licence application.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C149(c) Hambleton District Council Independent Remuneration Panel

The Meeting received a press release from HDC dated 9 May, 2013 which invited applications from Hambleton residents to join the District Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

Resolved: that the press release be noted.

C149(d) Annual Local Account – Adult Social Care Services

The meeting received an email and document dated 13 May, 2013 from NYCC regarding how money was spent in relation to adult social care services. Cllr Watson suggested that any comments should be made to the office by Tuesday 11 June 2013 for submission to the next Town Council Meeting.

Resolved: that Members submit their comments to the Town Council Office by 11 June 2013.

C149(e) Police Attendance at Town Council Meetings

The Clerk read out a response from Sergeant Hannan to an email regarding the attendance of officers at Town Council meetings.

Various proposals were put forward as to the best way of receiving information from the police regarding crime figures and discussion took place regarding reporting incidents of

antisocial behaviour and vandalism to the police. Cllr Duffey stated that it was important to obtain a crime number and that he would assist in producing a template which could be used for reporting incidents to the police.

C149(f) Julia Mulligan, Police and Crime Commissioner, North Yorkshire

The Clerk read out an email he had received which gave details of a talk due to be given by Julia Mulligan at the Galtres Centre in Easingwold on Wednesday, 22 May, 2013 at 7.30 pm.

C150 Finance

Resolved:

- (a) that the accounts for payment as at 20 May, 2013 be approved and cheques signed;**
- (b) that the Balance Sheet for April, 2013 be received and approved;**
- (c) that the Budget Report for April, 2013 be received and approved.**

C151 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson advised that arrangements were underway regarding celebrating the centenary of Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall on Saturday, 7 July, 2013. She requested that people be asked if they had any old photographs/programmes which may be displayed at the event. Cllr Roberts had received information about damage caused at the Holmes play area, including the zip wire not working and a panel having been removed from one of the picnic benches.

Cllr Watson suggested that contractors be requested to send their invoices in to the office at least a week prior to Town Council meetings.

C152 On-Going Items

(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

Cllr Watson advised that she would obtain the contact details of the prospective trustee.

(b) Allotments

Resolved: that this item be removed from on-going items.

(c) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Fraser advised that he would attend a meeting on 28 June, 2013 in Bury St Edmunds with other representatives and would have further information following that meeting.

(d) Public Open Space, Sport and Recreation Action Plan

Resolved: that this item be removed from the agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

C139 Correspondence/Items Raised

C139(a) Hambleton Area Committee - Vacancies for Co-Opted Members

The meeting received a letter dated 20 March 2013 from North Yorkshire County Council inviting nominations from Parish/Town Councillors interested in serving as co-opted members on the Hambleton Area Committee.

Resolved: that Cllr A. Robinson be put forward as a nomination for co-option onto the Hambleton Area Committee.

C139(b) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

The meeting received an email dated 20 March 2013 from Peter Sinclair regarding proposals for celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta in June, 2015. Cllr Fraser stated that he would be happy to attend a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 28 May in Bury St Edmunds at which the matter would be discussed.

Resolved: that Cllr Fraser be authorised to attend the meeting at Bury St Edmunds on behalf of the Town Council.

C139(c) Electoral Review of Hambleton: Final Recommendations

The meeting received a letter dated 25 March 2013 from the Local Government Boundary Commission advising of the final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Hambleton District Council.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C139(d) Application for distance selling premises at Unit AA, Alanbrooke Industrial Park

The meeting received a letter dated 21 March 2013 from North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust together with a copy of an application for distance selling premises. It was noted that the PCT undertook various checks when considering applications.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C139(e) Thirsk Cricket Club – Match Ball Sponsor

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter dated 12 February 2013 from Thirsk Cricket Club inviting the Town Council to become a match ball sponsor for the 2013 season at a cost of £30 per match ball.

Resolved: that Thirsk Town Council sponsor a match ball in the sum of £30 for the 2013 season.

C139(f) Community Care Association – Payroll Charges

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from the Community Care Association advising of slight increase in their charges for preparing the Town Council payroll. The rate took into account the new requirements of HMRC Real Time Information and meant an increase of £10.75 per year.

Resolved: that the new processing fee for payroll preparation be accepted.

C139(g) Cheque Signatories

The Clerk advised that it would be prudent for the Town Council to have an additional cheque signatory.

Resolved: that arrangements be made for Cllr Hesmondhalgh to become an authorised cheque signatory.

C140 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 15 April 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

(b) that the Balance Sheet for March 2013 be received and approved.

(c) that the Budget Report for March 2013 be received and approved.

C141 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson advised of concern expressed regarding the time spent on the re-cobbling works. She had attended the April meeting of the Business Association but the matter had not been raised by any members.

Cllr Watson stated that the Central Areas Committee had met with Nigel Copsey who had undertaken the refurbishment work on the town clock and a detailed report was to be provided. She noted that it might be necessary to establish a contingency fund in respect of the future replacement of the clock mechanism.

Cllr Dagleish-Brown reported that shopkeepers had been complaining that their takings were down as a result of the re-cobbling work being carried out.

Cllr Dagleish-Brown considered that the traffic calming measures on Bridge Street were not working as vehicles were still travelling too quickly. It was suggested that 20 mph markings painted on the road might help.

Cllr Robinson reported that some fencing on St James Green had been damaged, most likely caused by a speeding vehicle.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had been invited to attend the Family Baptist Church at the end of the month to talk about Thirsk.

C142 On-Going Items

C142(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

Cllr Watson advised that she expected see Kevin Brookes and would obtain the necessary contact details so that progress could be made with this matter.

C142(c) Millgate Toilets

Cllr Penson advised that all but one cubicle advertising space had been sold.

C142(g) Tranmire Ditch

No further progress to date.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 17th June, 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, D. Duffey, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, A. Morton, M. Penson, A. Robinson, F. Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs: H. Dalgleish-Brown (Holiday), E. Fraser (Holiday).

C153 Police Report

PCSO Lucy Walker reported the latest crime figures. Further details were requested regarding incidents at the Artist's Palette and the hairdressers, both in Millgate.

Cllr Robinson reported an incident of antisocial behaviour outside the cinema in Westgate.

Cllr Morton advised that alcohol had been consumed in the porch of St Mary's Church on Friday evening and the following day empty cans and broken glass had been discovered in the churchyard. PCSO Walker stated that the police would continue to patrol these areas.

C154 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

A member of the public attended as he was concerned about the state of the Tranmire Ditch and had noticed that this was on the agenda. The Clerk explained the long standing problems that the Town Council had encountered in respect of negotiating with the owners of the ditch and Cllr Watson assured the resident that the Town Council was still attempting to resolve the matter.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C155

Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that the provision of paediatric and maternity services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton would now proceed to formal consultation.

He noted that NYCC still had massive savings to be made and that no guarantee could be given as to safeguarding services in the future.

Cllr Dadd advised that the new civil parking enforcement procedures were now in force and that this should result in an improvement in traffic management.

Cllr Dadd stated that arrangements were in hand for the Tour de France 2014 and that NYCC was fully committed to this event.

In respect of the proposed waste incinerator facility at Allerton Park, Cllr Dadd advised that a judicial review was scheduled to take place at the end of July.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson advised that the date for consultation in respect of the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy had been extended for a further twelve months. Seventy-five responses had been received from the first round of consultations and, as a result of concerns expressed about the levy on agricultural buildings, this had now been set at zero.

C156 Minutes

C156(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20th May, 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20th May, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C156(b) Matters Arising

Minute No C139(a) Hambleton Area Committee - Vacancies for Co-Opted Members

The Clerk advised that Cllr Fraser had put his name forward as a nomination for co-option onto the Hambleton Area Committee.

Minute No C152(c) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

The Clerk reported that Cllr Fraser had attended the meeting in Bury St Edmunds and would report to the next meeting.

Minute No C152(a)

Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

Cllr Watson advised that she had left her contact details at Thirsk Clock and hoped that progress could be made.

C157 Committee Minutes and Reports

C157(a) Planning Committee held on 6th June, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6th June, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C157(b) Central Areas Committee held on 6th June, 2013

The Clerk advised that the minutes of the Central Areas Committee would be submitted to the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Robinson commented that the Town Clock looked nice following the refurbishment but considered that the plaque needed attention. Cllr Watson stated that the matter would be discussed at the next Central Areas Committee meeting. Cllr Watson advised that the four bollards/posts around the clock would be painted and a contingency fund would be set up in respect of the clock mechanism.

It was noted that the flower tubs on The Holmes were in a poor condition. The Clerk advised that he would arrange to have them removed.

C157(c) Public Conveniences Committee held on 24th May, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 24th May, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C158 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting would be held during the summer to discuss charges for searches of Burial Board records.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for John and Eleanor Hoyle and Joan Torr be approved.

C159 Correspondence/Items Raised

C159(a) Annual Local Account – Adult Social Care Services

The meeting received feedback from Cllr Hesmondhalgh in respect of the Local Account consultation.

Resolved: that the comments received from Cllr Hesmondhalgh be forwarded to NYCC.

C159 (b) Changes to Street Lighting in North Yorkshire

The meeting received a summary of the NYCC/HDC proposals to switch off some street lights between midnight and five am. A plan outlining the proposals had been drawn up and was available to view in the Town Council office.

Resolved: that the report be noted

C159(c) Colburn Leisure Centre

The meeting received a letter dated 14th May, 2013 from Richmondshire Leisure Trust requesting contributions to their planned improvement costs.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C159(d) Minerals and Waste Joint Plan

The meeting received a letter dated May, 2013 from NYCC/City of York Council and North York Moors National Park Authority regarding consultations for the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan. Responses were required by 28th June, 2013.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C159(e) Proposed Orienteering in Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 11th June, 2013 from Keith MacDermott regarding plans to hold an orienteering event in Thirsk. Councillors were generally in favour of the proposals although noted that further information would be necessary.

Resolved: that further information be obtained.

C159(f) Thirsk Tourist Information Building

The Clerk read out an email received from Peter Rush of the Thirsk Tourist Information regarding an application to HDC to register the building as a community asset.

Support from the Town Council was sought in respect of the social benefit local people the facility provided.

Resolved: that the Town Council support the application to register the TTI building as a community asset.

C159(g) Cherry Tree, Stockton Road, Thirsk

The Clerk advised that a query had been received from a resident of Stockton Road, Thirsk concerning a cherry tree that had been chopped down by NYCC on the grass verge in front of her property. The resident had asked if a replacement tree could be planted.

Resolved: that NYCC be requested to replace the tree.

C160 Extraordinary Town Council Meeting

Resolved: that an Extraordinary Town Council Meeting for consideration of the Annual Return for 2012/13 be held on Thursday, 27th June, 2013 at 7.15 pm.

C161 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 17th June, 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

(b) that the Balance Sheet for May, 2013 be received and approved;

(c) that the Budget Report for May 2013 be received and approved.

C162 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended a YLCA meeting in Northallerton.

Cllr Duffey reported that he had recently met with Sgt Hannan and various matters had been discussed. He had devised a template/form which should be used by the office and Town Councillors to report incidents of antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she had recently attended a Ceilidh at the Town Hall in support of the Community Care Association and the event had been well attended.

Cllr Watson advised that she had given an interview to BBC Radio 4 in connection with an article about Thirsk, though the interview had not yet been broadcast.

Cllr Watson reported that the street cleaner in Thirsk was looking for a place to store recyclable items that he picked up. However, this was considered to be a matter for HDC, and not the Town Council.

Cllr Adamson requested that HDC be asked to consider steam cleaning the pavements on Millgate as they looked very messy near to the takeaway food establishments.

C163 On-Going Items

No additional matters to report.

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

The meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 15th July, 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, H. Dalgleish-Brown, E. Fraser, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, A. Morton, M. Penson, A. Robinson, F. Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs: D. Duffey (Illness)

C165 Police Report

No police representative was present. The Clerk read an email from Sgt Hannan regarding police attendance at Town Council meetings and noting that Charlotte the PCSO had left to become a regular police officer and therefore Thirsk was now down to two. The email also contained details of incidents and matters affecting Thirsk.

C166 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that notification of spending cuts for NYCC for 2015/16 had been received, which had meant a £19m cut in the discretionary budget.

In response to a query by Cllr Hesmondhalgh regarding white road markings at the junction of St Marys Walk with Stockton Road Cllr Dadd stated that this matter was in hand.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd referred to two planning applications that had been submitted, one being a retrospective application for new stables on Stockton Road and the second for an Artisan Bakery in the Market Place. Cllr Dadd advised that he had asked for a site visit to be held in respect of the Artisan Bakery application.

Cllr Adamson reported that strategy boards were being replaced with new smaller boards which would deal with a wider range of issues.

(Agenda Items 8(a) and 8(b) were taken next whilst Cllr Dadd was in attendance.)

C167 Correspondence/Items Raised

C167(a) Proposed Highway Improvement at the Junction of the A168 and B1448

The meeting received a letter dated 20th June, 2013 from North Yorkshire County Council regarding proposed highway improvements at the junction of the A168 and B1448. Cllr Robinson expressed concern regarding traffic priority across the central reservation and the reduced visibility for vehicles such as vans. He considered that the proposals would make the situation worse. It was felt that the only way to improve overall safety would be the provision of a roundabout.

Resolved: that a site visit be arranged with NYCC to enable the Town Councils views to be put forward.

C167(b) Speeding Concern – Stockton Road near junction with Stoneybrough Lane

The meeting received a copy letter dated 13th June, 2013 from Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership regarding speeding concerns at Stockton Road near the junction with Stoneybrough Lane.

Resolved: that the letter be received and noted.

C168 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended

The resident who had attended the last Town Council meeting explained that he had contacted Barratt Homes and had been advised that they did not own the Tranmire Ditch. Members advised of the long standing situation and the previous contact made with Barratts.

It was noted that when properties had been sold it appeared that Barratts had not transferred the land along with the properties and so it would seem that they had retained ownership. Cllr Watson confirmed that the Town Council was still pursuing the matter. Mr David Tucker gave an update on the Thirsk Town Centre Task Force's scheme to enhance vacant shop premises. He had received licences for the Age UK and the old photography shop premises and had received material from Thirsk School and the Community Care Association. He also expected to receive items from Thirsk Clock.

Cllr Robinson enquired about the old Aspire building. Mr Tucker stated that he had had no involvement because there were problems regarding ownership. Cllr Dadd advised that as Cameron's had a 30 year lease of the building they would be responsible for its maintenance. Cllr Fraser was to pursue the matter with Cameron's.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C169 Minutes

C169(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17th June, 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17th June, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C169(b) Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 27th June, 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 27th June, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C169(c) Matters Arising

C157(b) Central Areas Committee held on 6th June, 2013

The Clerk reported that the marks on the plaque on the Town Clock were cigarette burns and could not be cleaned off.

Resolved: that the Central Areas Committee pursue the matter.

C159(f) Thirsk Tourist Information Building

The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to Hambleton District Council supporting the application to register the TTI building as a community asset.

C159(g) Cherry Tree, Stockton Road, Thirsk

The Clerk had been advised by Joe Gallagher, NYCC, that the cherry tree on Stockton Road had been removed because the roots were lifting the footpath and that NYCC would not replace it. It was noted that to replace the tree would require considerable root grinding of the original tree roots.

Resolved: that the matter be considered at the next Open Areas and Greens Committee meeting.

TC68 Pedestrian Crossing, Front Street, Norby

It was noted that any additional finance requirements over and above the agreed submission would have to be re-submitted to HDC Cabinet for approval.

C170 Committee Minutes and Reports

C170(a) Planning Committee held on 4th July, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4th July, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C170(b) Central Areas Committee held on 6th June, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 6th June, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C170(c) Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 3rd July, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 3rd July, 2013. Cllr Adamson expressed concern about proposals for the Millennium Green noting that the area was managed by the Millennium Green Trust. Cllr Hesmondhalgh noted the comments and requested that the Trust examine re-siting the existing goalpost.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C170(d) Public Conveniences Committee held on 21st June, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 21st June, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C171 Burial Board

There were no items to report.

Resolved: that the application for a memorial for Pat Dickinson be approved.

C167 Correspondence/Items Raised

C167(c) Policy Review of the Local Development Framework/Local Plan

The meeting received an email dated 24th June, 2013 from Hambleton District Council regarding workshop events in respect of the Local Development Framework/Local Plan.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C167(d) Ritz Cinema Centenary Celebrations

The meeting received a letter dated 25th June, 2013 from the Ritz Cinema regarding its centenary celebrations and thanking the Town Council for its continued support.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C167(e) Thirsk Cricket Club

The meeting received a letter dated 26th June, 2013 from Thirsk Cricket Club thanking the Town Council for its sponsorship of a cricket match ball.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C167(f) Request to hold a Scout Event in the Market Place

The meeting received a letter dated 1st July from the Group Scout Leader of the Hillside Scout Group requesting permission to put a large scout necker and woggle on the Market Place clock on Saturday 5 October as part of a scout event to be held in the Market Place.

Resolved: that the Hillside Scout Group be advised that the Town Council grants permission for the use of the clock tower subject to appropriate insurance being in place.

C167(g) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Fraser reported that he had attended a meeting in Bury St Edmunds Cathedral to discuss how this event might be celebrated. There had been an enthusiastic turn out and it was hoped that the occasion would be made a public holiday. An application had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £250,000 and, in addition, applications for local funding would need to be made. It was felt that a committee involving local bodies, organisations and individuals would need to be set up to explore the possibilities and that a great deal of work would be involved.

Resolved: that the Town Council approve and support further investigation of the celebration of the anniversary.

C172 Finance

Resolved:

- (a) that the accounts for payment as at 15th July, 2013 be approved and cheques signed;**
- (b) that the Balance Sheet for June, 2013 be received and approved;**
- (c) that the Budget Report for June, 2013 be received and approved.**

C173 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that he had been to look round the new 50 bed care home in Station Road and had been very impressed with the accommodation and staff.

Cllr Watson reported that she would be attending the White Horse Swimming Gala on Tuesday, 16th July, 2013 and on Saturday 20th July 2013 would be attending the Boltby, Thirlby and Sutton Show.

C174 On-Going Items

(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Appointment of Trustee

It was noted that a new trustee was still needed as the person previously interested was no longer able to fulfil the role.

(f) Asset Register

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she would be discussing the Asset Register with the Assistant Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday, 19th August, 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, D. Duffey, E. Fraser, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, A. Morton, M. Penson, F. Roberts

Apologies: Cllr: H Dalglish-Brown (Holiday)

C175 Police Report

PCSO Lucy Walker reported the latest crime figures and advised of on-going police operations. She also noted that there had been no incidents at Thirsk Races which had been held earlier in the day.

C176 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that the issue of travellers parking on Stockton Road was in hand. He reported that the consultation regarding proposals to reduce street lighting during the early hours had commenced and that householders had four weeks in which to respond. Cllr Dadd noted that the judicial review undertaken by objectors to the Allerton Park waste incinerator facility had failed. He advised that work at the Cherry Garth re-development had been delayed by approximately three weeks but the difficulty had been rectified and work was now proceeding.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson advised that the Local Development Framework was due for internal review and that meetings had been held regarding housing and market towns/market places due to changes to DP21.

C177 Open Form

No members of the public were present.

C178 Minutes

C178(a) Town Council Meeting held on 15th July, 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th July, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C178(b) Matters Arising

C167(a) Proposed Highway Improvement at the Junction of the A168 and B1448

The Clerk advised that a site visit had taken place attended by Cllr Penson and Cllr Robinson and that a letter detailing the view of the Town Council had been submitted. He advised that NYCC intended to implement the proposals within the current financial year but had indicated they would provide the Town Council with quarterly updates of any personal injury collisions during the first year following which an evaluation would be carried out to establish whether further works were necessary.

TC68 Pedestrian Crossing, Front Street, Norby

The Clerk reported that NYCC had now agreed to fund any financial shortfall.

C167(f) Request to hold a Scout Event in the Market Place

The Clerk advised that the Scouts had confirmed that appropriate insurance was in place.

C174(a) Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust- Appointment of Trustee

Cllr Watson requested that any person interested in this role contact the Clerk.

C174(f) Asset Register

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that a full examination of the cost of Town council play equipment had been completed.

C179 Committee Minutes and Reports**C179(a) Planning Committee held on 25th July, 2013**

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 25th July, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C179(b) Central Areas Committee held on 11th July, 2013 and 8th August, 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 11th July, 2013 and 8th August, 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C180 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson indicated that a meeting of the Burial Board would be held in the near future.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Allan Goode and Joshua Ward be approved.

C181 Correspondence/Items Raised**C181(a) Developing Parish Liaison**

The meeting received a letter dated 3rd July, 2013 from Hambleton District Council concerning improving liaison between the three tiers of local government by holding regular meetings.

Resolved: that the Town Council support regular liaison meetings between Parish, District and County Councils.

C181(b) Highways Agency Noise Action Plans

A letter dated 23rd July 2013 was received from Hambleton District Council concerning environmental noise from the Highways Agency network.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C181(c) Hambleton Area Committee – Election to Fill Vacancies for Co-opted Members

The meeting received a letter dated 24th July 2013 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the election to fill vacancies for co-opted members.

Resolved: that the Clerk be authorised to submit a ballot paper in respect of Cllr E. Fraser.

C181(d) Proposed Orienteering in Thirsk – 22nd March 2014

An email dated 28th July 2013 was received from Keith MacDermott, Eborienteers Permissions Officer, supplying further information about the proposed orienteering event in Thirsk. The Clerk advised that he had advised Mr MacDermott to contact Hambleton District council and NYCC.

Resolved:

a) that the email be received and noted.

b) that the Town council support the event being held in Thirsk.

C181(e) Ingramgate Bridge and Flooding Potential

The meeting received a copy email dated 8th August, 2013 from Mr T Jordan concerning silt underneath the bridge on Ingramgate. Cllr Penson noted that silting underneath Millgate Bridge was also very bad and that action needed to be taken.

Resolved: that the Environment Agency be asked to formally clarify their position with regard to the build-up of silt under Millgate and Ingramgate Bridges.

C181(f) Rural Fair Share Petition

The meeting received an email dated 14th August, 2013 from the Rural Services Network regarding finance for rural authorities.

Resolved that the letter be noted.

C181(g) Sutton Bank

A letter dated 14th August 2013 was received from North Yorkshire County Council advising of essential maintenance works scheduled to take place on Sutton Bank from 9th September for one week.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C181(h) Proposed Reductions to Bus Service Subsidy Consultation

The meeting received an email dated 9th August 2013 from North Yorkshire County Council in connection with proposed reductions to bus service subsidies together with a schedule of proposed service changes. Cllr Adamson noted that a full detailed list of the proposals was available on the North Yorkshire County Council website and advised that the consultation period would continue until November.

Resolved: that full details of the proposals be brought to a Town Council Meeting

C181(i) Land at Norby development

The Clerk advised that the transfer documents for the play area and public open space had been received from Hambleton District council for signing. The highway frontage land the Town council had agreed to take over would be transferred under separate documentation subject to agreement on maintenance monies.

Discussion took place with regard to an additional piece of land at the top end of the site which had remained with Taylor Wimpey and the trees on the public open space.

Resolved:

a) that the transfer documents for the play area and public open space be signed subject to any maintenance work required being undertaken by Taylor Wimpey prior to completion;

b) that further details regarding the additional piece of land retained by Taylor Wimpey be presented to the next meeting.

C181(j) Local Enterprise Partnership – Strategic Economic Plan

The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Hambleton District Council advising that consultation on the Strategic Economic Plan had started and that the event for Hambleton was on the 28th August at the Evolution Business Centre in Northallerton.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

C182 Finance

The Clerk advised that a 1% cost of living rise had been applied to NJC salary scales under the National Agreement with effect from the 1st April 2013.

Resolved:

a) that the report be noted and accepted;

b) that the accounts for payment as at 19th August, 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

c) that the Balance Sheet for July, 2013 be received and approved;

d) that the Budget Report for July, 2013 be received and approved.

C183 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts reiterated her concerns regarding the worn white markings at road junctions and roundabouts and that no action had been taken despite NYCC being advised by the Town Council some time ago.

Cllr Roberts noted that there was an art and photography exhibition currently on display at St Mary's church featuring some outstanding work by two talented local young people.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the shrubs on Whitemare roundabout needed cutting back.

Cllr Adamson reported that improvements had been made to the Town council website, though the work was not yet complete.

Cllrs Penson and Watson advised that they had assisted at the recent London-Edinburgh-London cycle event at Thirsk School and that the event had been very well supported.

C184 On-Going Items

(b) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Fraser advised that a further meeting was scheduled to take place in September.

(f) Asset Register

It was noted that this item had been dealt with and should be deleted.

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

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16th September 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J. Watson (Chairman), D. Adamson, H. Dalglish-Brown, D. Duffey, E. Fraser, C. Hesmondhalgh, J. Jackson, F. Roberts, A. Robinson

Apologies: Cllrs: A. Morton (Family), M. Penson (Holiday)

C187 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C188 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that the budget position at North Yorkshire County Council was worsening and he hoped that the Town Council and residents would consider working with NYCC to deal with minor matters such as overgrown hedges adjacent to public footpaths. Members noted the need to examine the matter in detail before any decision was reached.

Cllr Dadd advised on the savings that needed to be made and referred to the proposed reduction in bus service subsidy noting that careful consideration would be given to preserving bus routes for the most isolated, elderly and vulnerable.

Cllr Watson noted that the road surface in Long Street close to the pedestrian crossing was in a poor condition following utility works.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Hambleton Area Committee earlier in the day and that Cllr Fraser had been formally appointed as a co-opted member.

Cllr Adamson advised that landowners were seeking planning permission to develop the field adjacent to St Mary's Close and that proposals would be available to view on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at Thirsk Community Primary School. It was noted that this area of land had originally been earmarked for recreation.

C189 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

C190 Minutes

C190(a) Town Council Meeting held on 19th August 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19th August 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C190(b) Matters Arising

C167(a) Proposed Highway Improvement at the Junction of the A168 and B1448

It was noted that this work had been completed.

C181(e) Ingramgate Bridge and Flooding Potential

The Clerk advised that he was to meet with a representative of the Environment Agency to look at the river and the flooding potential. Cllr Hesmondhalgh indicated that she would be happy to attend the meeting together with the Clerk.

C181(h) Proposed Reduction to Bus Service Subsidy Consultation

Schedules of the bus services affected in Thirsk were circulated.

Resolved: that the matter be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

C191 Committee Minutes and Reports

C191(a) Planning Committee held on 19th August 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19th August 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C191(b) Public Conveniences Committee held on 6th September 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 6th September 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C192 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting of the Burial Board would be held in the near future. He noted that some property issues at the Cemetery Lodge had been reported by the tenants and a full inspection and report was to be carried out.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Cyril Forth and Mary Winifred Perkins be approved.

C193 Correspondence/Items Raised

C193(a) Hambleton Area Committee – Election to Fill Vacancies for Co-Opted Members

The meeting received a letter dated 28th August 2013 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of the five successful candidates. Cllr Fraser was congratulated upon his appointment to the Committee.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C193(b) Children's and Maternity Services at The Friarage Hospital

The meeting received a media release and consultation document from the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group which sought the views of the public on the future of children's and maternity services at the Friarage Hospital. It was noted that the first public meeting would be held at Thirsk on Wednesday 18th September 2013 and that the consultation period would continue until 25th November 2013.

Resolved: that the matter be considered at the next Town Council meeting.

C194 Finance

Resolved:

a) that the accounts for payment as at 16th September 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

c) that the Balance Sheet for August 2013 be received and approved;

d) that the Budget Report for August 2013 be received and approved.

C195 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Fraser reported that he had attended his first meeting of the Hambleton Area Committee and thanked Cllr Adamson for the guidance he had given.

Cllr Robinson noted that the Candy Bar in Millgate had closed.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that there had been a gas leak on 8th September 2013 and that the East Thirsk Community Hall had been opened for local residents.

Cllr Roberts reported that Thirsk Tourist Information was appreciative of the support provided to them recently by the Town Council.

Cllr Watson reported that she would be attending an event at RAF Linton-on-Ouse on Thursday 19th September 2013.

Cllr Watson reported that recently there had been problems with litter, cigarette ends and pigeon droppings in the Market Place. Most of the mess was noted to be outside licensed premises. Cllr Fraser stated that the matter had been discussed recently at a Central Areas Committee meeting with Mr D Grainger of Hambleton District Council and it was hoped that the situation would be addressed. It was noted that Hambleton District Council were no longer able to use their mechanical sweeper on the pavements and this was making the matter more difficult.

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

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 21 October 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, E Fraser, C Hesmondhalgh, F Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs: J Jackson (abroad), A Morton (in-capacitated), M Penson (holiday)

C199 Police Report

Sergeant F.Hannan was in attendance.

Sergeant Hannan reported the crime figures for the last month which included one assault, ten thefts and ten cases of anti-social behaviour. She advised on National Anti-Social Behaviour Week and the work undertaken in relation to such events as Halloween and bonfire night. Mention was made with regard to advising cyclists to ensure that their lights were working correctly.

Cllr Watson thanked Sgt Hannan for the report.

C200 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd advised that considerable savings still had to be made by NYCC and noted the various proposals and cuts including reducing street lighting hours and bus subsidies.

Regarding the consultation into the proposed reductions in bus service subsidies Cllr Hesmondhalgh had received some feedback that people might prefer to pay a small amount for the service they used rather than lose it, but Cllr Dadd stated that such a charge could not be legally levied.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson reported on improvement works due to be carried out at the Post Office in the Market Place on Tuesday 19 November. An additional counter would be provided and opening hours would be extended including Sunday opening.

Cllr Dadd reported that Thirsk Tourist Information had been granted the lease of their premises at a peppercorn rent from Hambleton District Council.

C201 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

C202 Minutes

C202(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 September 2013

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

C202(b) Matters Arising

C188(a) NYCC

Cllr Roberts noted that work was being carried out on Long Street close to the pedestrian crossing.

C195 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts noted that the Candy Bar had re-opened under a new name.

C203 Committee Minutes and Reports

C203(a) Central Areas Committee held on 26 September 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 26 September 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C203(b) Open Spaces and Greens Committee held on 3 October 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Spaces and Greens Committee held on 3 October 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C203(c) Public Conveniences Committee held on 11 October 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 11 October 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C204 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting of the Burial Board would be held in the next two to three weeks.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Paul Barker, Raymond Baxter, Margaret Louisa Jackson, Elizabeth Price, Margaret Stockdale, Gwen Sutton and Peter Darren Walker be approved.

C205 Correspondence/Items Raised

C205(a) Proposed Reduction to Bus Service Subsidy Consultation

The meeting received a summary of the services affected and the consultation form. Concern was expressed about the extent of the proposed cuts and about the difficulties encountered in completing the consultation on-line. The Clerk read an email from Cllr Penson in which she requested that copies of the consultation document be printed by the Town Council to make it easier for people to respond. Cllr Roberts noted that Thirsk School would also be affected as some pupils used buses to travel from Ripon and Northallerton.

Resolved:

(a) that Town Councillors respond to the questionnaire individually;

(b) that the Town Council print and circulate copies of the questionnaire.

C205(b) Children's and Maternity Services at The Friarage Hospital

The meeting discussed the consultation document circulated at the September Meeting. It was noted that the Town Council had previously submitted representations.

Resolved: that the matter be further considered when the outcome of the consultation is available.

C205(c) New Local Consumer Champion for Health and Social Care Services

The meeting received a letter dated 4 September 2013 from Healthwatch North Yorkshire regarding health and social care services.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C205(d) Great North Air Ambulance Service

The meeting received a letter dated 17 September 2013 from the Great North Air Ambulance Service requesting the support of the Town Council by way of a grant from the 2014/15 budget.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C205(e) Disabled Access in Thirsk

The meeting received a copy letter dated 30 September 2013 from Mrs M E Cossey regarding the inaccessibility of Thirsk Market Place to wheelchair users, including shops, the cobbles and pavements.

It was noted that new build shops were normally required to provide disabled access and that there was a covenant imposed regarding the cobbles remaining in the Market Place.

Resolved:

that the letter be passed to Thirsk and District Business Association for the attention of shopkeepers and licensees in the Market Place.

C205(f) Maintenance Issues, Cod Beck

The meeting received an email dated 3 October 2013 from Mr John Bell of the Environment Agency which summarised discussions from a site meeting held on 1 October 2013. Mr Bell did not consider silting to be a major issue at the present time. He noted that trees growing in the Finkle Street bridge piers could cause future problems and advised that Highways be contacted for advice.

Resolved: that NYCC be advised in relation to the trees growing in Finkle Street bridge piers.

C205(g) Hambleton Inaugural Parish Liaison Meeting

The meeting received a letter dated 9 October 2013 from Hambleton District Council in respect of the Hambleton Inaugural Parish Liaison Meeting due to be held on Thursday 7 November 2013.

Resolved: that Cllrs Fraser and Penson represent the Town Council at the meeting.

C205(h) Household Waste Recycling Centres

The meeting received a letter dated 10 October 2013 from North Yorkshire County council in respect of the consultation on household waste recycling centres.

The meeting considered that in relation to saving money in 2014/15 customers should be responsible for the cost for soil and rubble waste. With regard to saving money in the future members considered that non-north Yorkshire residents should be charged and that all HWRC sites should operate on the same basis.

It was noted that the consultation period ended on 22 December.

Resolved: that Councillors respond to the questionnaire individually.

C206 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 21 October 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

(b) that the Balance Sheet for September 2013 be received and approved;

(c) that the Budget Report for September 2013 be received and approved.

C207 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the YLCA. She noted that two training courses organised by the YLCA during the summer had been cancelled due to a shortage of participants.

Cllr Watson reported that Thirst Rotary Club were organising a bonfire and fireworks on Saturday 2 November in Mill gate Car Park and requested that the public toilets be kept open late.

Cllr Watson reported that the switch-on of the Christmas lights would take place in the Market Place on the evening of Friday 29 November 2013 and that a Christmas Fayre would be held in the Town Hall on Saturday and Sunday, 30 November/1 December.

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets Awards Ceremony at RAF Linton-on-Ouse and a local teenager had received an award for outstanding service.

Cllr Watson advised that the Town Council precept meeting would be held in January 2014.

C208 On-Going Items

(c) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Fraser advised that a meeting had taken place in September at Leicester which he had been unable to attend. He stated that he would not have sufficient time over the next two years to give the required time and hoped that someone else could take on the project. Names of two possible persons were suggested and Cllr Fraser said he would contact those people. Cllr Watson thanked Cllr Fraser for his work in connection with this matter.

(e) Tranmire Ditch

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended the meeting regarding the proposed development of the field adjacent to St Mary's Close and that he had discussed the tranmire ditch with the consultant planner for the project who had requested detailed information so the matter could be examined.

(f) Asset Register

The Clerk advised that the external auditors had noted that the fixed assets should be recorded at original cost or if this was unknown a proxy value could be used for example the insurance value when the asset was first recorded.

(g) Risk Management

It was agreed that all risk assessments would be a matter for each individual committee.

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 18 November 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, E Fraser, C Hesmondhalgh, M Penson, F Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs: J Jackson (abroad), A Morton (incapacitated).

C209 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C210 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reassured members that the removal of a bus service subsidy would not necessarily result in the reduction/removal of that service and that only 20% of bus services carried a subsidy from NYCC, the remainder being commercially viable. He referred to a letter which had appeared in the press and reiterated that NYCC were unable to levy a charge for concessionary pass holders. He advised that he had had assurances from NYCC that any questionnaires received in the week after the closing date of 25 November would still be considered.

Cllr Dadd again emphasised the difficult financial position of NYCC and stated that they may turn to Town and Parish Councils to take on some of the services which they currently provided.

Cllr Dadd acknowledged that there had been one or two issues with the street light switch off but he expected this to be resolved very quickly.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson advised that changes to the Local Development Framework had been accepted at a recent Cabinet meeting which would enable developers to commence building projects more quickly and could mean that phase two of the Sowerby Gateway and north Northallerton projects may commence more quickly than had been anticipated.

C211 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

C212 Minutes

C212(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 October 2013

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

C212(b) Matters Arising

C205(e) Disabled Access in Thirsk

The Clerk advised that the copy letter from Mrs Cossey regarding the inaccessibility of Thirsk Market Place to wheelchair users had been forwarded to Thirsk and District Business Association.

C208(c) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Fraser advised that he had yet to contact persons who it was considered may be interested in taking on this project.

C213 Committee Minutes and Reports

C213(a) Planning Committee held on 7 November 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7 November 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C213(b) Central Areas Committee held on 7 November 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas committee held on 7 November 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C213(c) Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 17 October 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 17 October 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C214 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting of the Burial Board had been held on 14 November 2013, though the minutes had not been completed. He reported that Burial Board fees would be increased by 5% generally for the 2014/2015 financial year. So far as charging a fee for searches in the Burial Board records was concerned, Cllr Adamson stated that most other cemeteries appeared to charge for this work and he felt that further information was needed prior to taking the matter further.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Thomas William Cartman, Linda Forth and Betty Taylor be approved.

C215 Correspondence/Items Raised

(a) Parish Precept

The meeting received an email dated 24 October from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and a letter dated 31 October from Ian Godfrey, Finance Team Leader at Hambleton District Council regarding Parish precepts for the financial year 2014/2015. The YLCA was advising parishes to delay settling their budgets and precept levy until January 2014, when all relevant information would be available from District Councils, so that an informed decision could be made.

HDC advised that the Council was seeking approval to amend the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 8% to 20% and a further letter would be sent after the Council Meeting in December advising of any reduction in the amount of Council tax payable. The Clerk noted the requirement for all the relevant information and advised that Ian Godfrey had agreed to the precept figure being submitted by the 15th January 2014.

Resolved:

a) that committee meetings be held as soon as possible in December to set budgets.

b) that an extraordinary Town Council meeting be held in early January 2014 to set the precept figure for 2014/15.

(b) Footpath at the Whitelass

The meeting received an email dated 8 November 2013 from NYCC regarding the wooden steps on the footpath through the Whitelass which had been removed by NYCC and replaced by reused stone creating a slope. Complaints had been received by the Town Council as it was felt that the slope was steep and may be slippery and dangerous.

Resolved: that NYCC be asked to re-examine the footpath with a view to improving this section.

(c) Christmas Lights

The meeting received an email dated 9 November from the Ladies Group, Thirsk and District Business Association requesting an increase in the annual donation from the Town Council to help fund the Christmas lights. The meeting noted the amount of money spent on the Christmas tree, surrounding lights and the donation. Cllr Duffey also referred to the hidden costs such as the toilets remaining open longer for the Christmas fayre.

Resolved: that the Ladies Group be advised that at the present time the Town Council is unable to increase its donation.

(d) Sponsorship Signs – Whitemare Roundabout

The meeting viewed the proposed new sponsorship signs for Whitemare Roundabout. The Clerk advised that final approval was still awaited from NYCC.

Resolved: that the new sponsorship signs for Whitemare Roundabout be approved by the Town Council.

(e) Tree Survey 2013 Update Report

The meeting received an update to the Tree Survey 2013 from C.Amey. It was pointed out that there was no indication of costs for the proposed works.

Resolved:

(a) that approximate figures for all works be obtained prior to work commencing.

(b) that the relevant proposed works be referred to each appropriate committee.

C216 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 18 November 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

(b) that the Balance Sheet for October 2013 be received and approved;

(c) that the Budget Report for October 2013 be received and approved.

C217 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that the National Association of Local Councils had issued new standing orders which were much simpler and easier to read.

Cllr Fraser reported that he had received complaints of drivers speeding along Front Street, Norby. The Clerk stated that he would report the matter to the Road Safety Partnership and request them to monitor the area.

Cllr Fraser reported that that he had attended the Hambleton Inaugural Parish Liaison Meeting.

Cllr Dalglish-Brown reported that there had not been a meeting of the Thirsk and District Business Association for the past two months but a meeting was planned for early December. Cllr Watson requested that Cllr Dalglish-Brown mention the problem of the feral pigeons in the Market Place in order to ascertain their views.

Cllr Watson thanked Town Councillors who had attended the Remembrance service and parade and the two minutes silence on Remembrance Day.

Cllr Watson reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Julia Mulligan, would be holding a meeting on 5 December 2013 at East Thirsk Community Hall.

Cllr Watson made a suggestion that the Town Council office should open to the public at 10.00 am instead of 9.00 am in order to enable various aspects of work to be carried out and completed. It was agreed that the new office opening hours

would be 10.00 am to twelve noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Cllr Penson reported that two new shops had opened in Finkle Street.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of Thirsk Clock on 13 November 2013. He advised that funds were still needed to help keep the Clock running. Cllr Roberts stated that the Clock should be congratulated on having being awarded the county-wide contract for advisory work.

The Clerk advised that Chris Amy's report dated 11 November had stated that packets and syringes had been found in the picnic area.

Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that the next Open Areas and Greens meeting would take place on 28 November 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 16 December 2013 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalgleish-Brown, E Fraser, C Hesmondhalgh, M Penson, F Roberts

Apologies: Cllrs: J Jackson (ill), D Duffey (work commitments).

C218 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C219 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd referred to the budget challenges faced by NYCC and advised of the possibility of a council tax increase of 2% for the next financial year.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson noted that a power cut had caused problems at HDC and advised that a new generator had been purchased.

C220 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

C221 Minutes

C221(a) Town Council Meeting held on 18 November 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 November be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to “county-wide” being substituted for “nationwide” in Minute No 217 concerning Thirsk Clock.

C221(b) Matters Arising

C215(c) Christmas Lights

The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to the Ladies Group of Thirsk and District Business Association concerning the annual donation from the Town Council. Reference was made to publicity concerning an unexpectedly high invoice which had been received by the Ladies Group for electricity charges in respect of the Christmas Lights and it was noted that the issue had been resolved.

C205(e) Disabled Access in Thirsk

The Clerk advised that Mrs Cossey, the lady who had written to councillors regarding the inaccessibility of Thirsk Market Place to wheelchair users, had noted the response of the Town Council but still hoped that improvements would be made.

C215(b) Footpath at the Whitelass

The Clerk advised that he had requested NYCC to re-examine the footpath through the Whitelass where wooden steps had been removed but a response was still awaited.

C217 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Dalgleish-Brown reported that 24 members of the Thirsk and District Business Association had committed to contribute up to £100 each towards work to relocate the feral pigeons. Cllr Fraser noted that some signatories to the petition had not actually specified the amount they would be willing to contribute. He advised that the matter had been discussed at the Central Areas Committee in December and that Rentokil had provided a quotation and further quotations were awaited. It had been suggested at the Central Areas Committee that the Town Council write to head

offices of the larger companies and banks in the Market Place requesting that they offer financial assistance in the same way as the smaller, independent companies had.

Cllr Penson expressed concern that the meeting due to be held with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Julia Mulligan, on 5 December 2013 had been cancelled, although a meeting had taken place on Tuesday 3 December. It was felt there had been a lack of publicity about both meetings and the cancellation.

Resolved: that the Town Council write to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting that additional publicity be given for future meetings.

C222 Burial Board

The meeting received the Minutes of the Burial Board held on 14 November 2013.

Resolved:

(a) that the Minutes be received and noted.

(b) that applications for memorials for Ronald William Christon and Carol Lesley Eggleton be approved.

C223 Correspondence/Items Raised

(a) Council Tax Benefit Support Grant

The meeting received an email/letter dated 29 November from the YLCA/Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils concerning the Council Tax Benefit Support Grant. The letter noted the position in relation to billing authorities passing on the grant to parish and town councils and council tax referendums.

The Clerk advised that all relevant information required to set the Town Council precept would not be available until January 2014.

It was noted that if the grant was not passed on it would impact on the precept and council tax charge. The Clerk noted that further information should be available from YLCA and HDC for the meeting to set the precept

Resolved: that the matter be considered at the extraordinary meeting to set the precept.

(b) Site of Cherry Tree on Stockton Road

The meeting received an email dated 6 December 2013 from Mr C Amy concerning the replacement of a cherry tree which had been removed by NYCC for safety reasons.

Resolved: that a quotation be obtained for a replacement tree.

(c) Hambleton District Council Budget Consultation

The meeting received an email dated 9 December 2013 from Hambleton District Council in which opinions from residents were sought on its budget and Council Tax levels for the next financial year.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C224 Extraordinary Town Council Meeting

Resolved: that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council be held on Friday 17 January 2014 at 5.00pm to set the precept.

C225 Finance

Resolved:

(a) that the accounts for payment as at 16 December 2013 be approved and cheques signed;

(b) that the Balance Sheet for November 2013 be received and approved;

(c) that the Budget Report for November 2013 be received and approved.

C226 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that he had recently helped to serve elderly residents at the East Thirsk Christmas dinner.

Cllr Roberts reported that Thirsk School and Sixth Form College had won an award for producing the best school magazine throughout the country.

Cllr Fraser reported that he had spoken to Mr David Tucker about the project to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta. He advised that Mr Tucker had appeared interested and that he would pass over relevant information to Mr Tucker. He added that an application for Heritage Lottery funding had just been submitted.

Cllr Penson reported that Asda had been appointed as official sponsors of the Grand Depart of the 2014 Tour de France.

Cllr Watson reported that Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall planned to hold a concert on Saturday 1 March 2014 to celebrate its centenary.

Resolved: that a letter be sent to Thirsk School and Sixth Form College congratulating them on their award for the best school magazine.

C227 Planning Application 13/02397/OUT Prop: Outline application for residential development of up to 36 dwellings

Location: Land off St Mary's Close, Thirsk

Applicant: Mr J Barker & Mrs R Taylor

The planning application had been referred to the Full Council by the Planning Committee. Cllr Watson advised that a letter had been received attaching a petition signed by local residents which was circulated. It was noted that the land had originally been allocated for recreational purposes in the District Wide Local Plan. Following further discussion it was

Resolved: that the following comments be submitted to Hambleton District Council's Planning Committee:

"The land was allocated for recreation in the District Wide Local Plan and was included as such in the Allocation Document for the Local Development Framework but subsequently changed to White land by the Inspector. The Town Council still considers that the land should be utilised for recreational purposes rather than residential development in view of its location and the limited land available in East Thirsk for such purposes, particularly taking into account the extent of the population in the area".

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 20 January 2014 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalgleish-Brown, D Duffey, E Fraser, C Hesmondhalgh, M Penson, F Roberts, A Robinson

Apologies: Cllrs: J Jackson (ill), A Morton (ill).

C228 Police Report

PCSO Kim Laws introduced herself as the new PCSO and reported the latest crime figures. These included twelve incidents of antisocial behaviour, 13 incidents of criminal damage, eleven thefts and two burglaries. Cllr Watson had concerns about heavy goods vehicles passing through the town and requested that the police monitor this.

C229 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

No new matters were reported.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson reported that building work had commenced on the site of the former Montessori Nursery School in Piper Lane.

Cllr Watson reported that further re-cobbling work in the Market Place was expected to commence at the end of February/ beginning of March and with more men being made available to do the work it was hoped to complete the job quickly.

C230 Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

C231 Minutes

C231(a) Town Council Meeting held on 16 December 2013

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C231(b) Matters Arising

C215(b) Footpath at the Whitelass

Cllr Roberts reported that she had spoken to a representative from NYCC and had been advised that the section of path where the wooden steps had been removed would be re-examined.

Resolved: that the Clerk write to NYCC requesting that they re-examine the state of the footpath through the Whitelass as soon as possible.

C217 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting additional publicity for future meetings.

C223(b) Site of Cherry Tree on Stockton Road

Cllr Roberts advised that Thirsk Community Woodlands Group would supply and plant a suitable replacement tree.

C226 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to Thirsk School & Sixth Form College regarding its award winning newspaper.

C232 Committee Minutes and Reports

C232(a) Planning Committee held on 16 December 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 December 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C232(b) Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 28 November 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 28 November 2013.

The Clerk advised that the play area inspection training course would take place on Friday 7 February 2014 and that the instructor had suggested it would be useful for a Town Councillor to attend the course in order to gain an awareness of the work required. Cllr Hesmondhalgh advised that she would attend.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C232(c) Central Areas Committee held on 12 December 2013

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 12 December 2013.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C232(d) Public Conveniences Committee held on 9 January 2014

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 9 January 2014. Cllr Duffey confirmed that the toilets were not open to the public whilst the cleaning operative carried out her duties.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C233 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that it was intended that the spoil heap in the cemetery would be removed within the next couple of weeks and that hedging for the new garden of rest had been ordered and would be planted in the near future.

C234 Correspondence/Items Raised

C234(a) NYCC Traffic Order – Sandhutton Lane/Newsham Road, Thirsk

The meeting received details of a Traffic Order for Sunday 23 March 2014 to enable the Thirsk 10km road race to take place.

Resolved: that the Traffic Order be noted.

C234(b) NYCC Traffic Order – A61, Barbeck, Thirsk

The meeting received details of the a Traffic Order to commence Tuesday 1 April 2014 for approximately twelve weeks to enable resurfacing and kerbing works to be carried out. Concern was expressed regarding the alternative route proposed during this period.

Resolved: that NYCC be requested to provide clarification of the alternative route.

C234(c) Resignation of Cllr Alan Morton from the Town Council

The Clerk read out a letter received from Cllr Alan Morton in which he formally offered his resignation from the Town Council. Members noted the long service of Councillor Morton on the Town Council.

Resolved:

(a) that a letter be sent to Cllr Morton thanking him for his long service on the Town Council;

(b) that letters be sent to Hambleton District Council and Thirsk & Sowerby Swimming Pool Trust advising of Cllr Morton's resignation.

C235 Finance

Precept

The Clerk reported that the amendment to the budget figures as agreed at the extraordinary meeting together with the amendment to the income figures had been incorporated and the precept figure was £118,000. This was an increase of 2.6% on last year's precept and taking into account the fact that Hambleton District Council was not passing on council tax support funding would be a 12.3% rise in relation to the Band D charge. This would result in an annual increase of £7.99 for Band D properties.

Cllr Penson was of the view that many people were unaware of all the services the Town Council undertook and considered that the information sheet should be placed on the noticeboard.

Resolved:

a) that the precept of £118000 be confirmed and submitted to Hambleton District Council

(b) that the accounts for payment as at 20 January 2014 be approved and cheques signed.

(c) that the Balance Sheet for December 2013 be received and approved;

(d) that the Budget Report for December 2013 be received and approved;

(d) that details of Town Councils services be placed on the noticeboard.

C236 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Robinson reported that the Foundation Housing office in Westgate, Thirsk was now open every Monday from 10am till 12 noon and advice could be sought on many problems including homelessness faced by predominantly young, single people.

Cllr Penson reported that both Thirsk Copy Centre and Peaches fashion shop had closed in the last month.

Cllr Roberts reported that the white road markings at many junctions and roundabouts were very worn and had almost disappeared in some places, leading to a number of near-misses due to rights of way not being clear. The following areas in particular were highlighted: Town End, Stammergate/Long Street, Ingramgate and the junction of Thirsk Industrial Estate with York Road. The Clerk stated that he had advised NYCC of this situation on two previous occasions.

Cllr Penson reported that her Town Council photograph needed updating and that photographs were required for the two most recently appointed Town Councillors for inclusion on the website/noticeboard.

Resolved: that the Clerk write to NYCC advising of the very poor condition of white road markings at junctions/roundabouts.

C237 On-going Items

(c) 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta

Cllr Fraser advised that he had emailed David Tucker with information he had gathered on this project.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 17 February 2014 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), D Adamson, H Dalglish-Brown, D Duffey, C Hesmondhalgh, M Penson, F Roberts, A Robinson

Apologies: Cllr: E Fraser (Holiday), J Jackson (ill).

C238 Police Report

PCSO Laws reported an incident of drunken disorder which had taken place in the Market Place the previous evening involving a number of local people and some outsiders.

Concern was expressed about the number of cars and cyclists with faulty lights and the police were requested to monitor these. The officer advised that previous concerns about heavy goods vehicles passing through the town had been passed to the sergeant.

C239 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC was expected to confirm an increase of 1.99% in its council tax for the next financial year. He warned of radical changes to be expected in future resulting from a 34% reduction in spending power. However, he advised that £5m extra funding had been allocated for maintenance and repairs on the county's highways following recent severe winter and flood damage.

Cllr Roberts felt it would be more appropriate if the illuminated sign at Blakey Bridge, warning of its unsuitability for HGVs, could be raised so that the sign only illuminated as HGVs approached. Cllr Dadd stated that he would refer the matter to the local County Councillor.

(b) HDC

Cllr Adamson reported that there would be no increase in HDC's council tax for 2014/2015. Requests for more dog fouling bins had been received and this was being examined.

Cllr Adamson advised that the application for the development of approximately 40 dwellings on land adjacent to St Mary's Close had been approved. It was noted that both HDC and the Town Council would have preferred the land to remain for recreational purposes. It was hoped that negotiations with the developers may be possible so that only single storey dwellings were built close to existing bungalows on St Marys.

C240 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Mr David Tucker reported that he had been requested by Cllr Fraser to take over plans to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta in June 2015. He advised that he had contacted various organisations and had commenced drafting an entry for Thirsk for inclusion on the website which had been set up. A meeting was planned for March when it was hoped further progress would be made. It was felt that the anniversary presented excellent opportunities for tourism and for education/schools. Cllr Watson thanked Mr Tucker for taking on this role and stated that he would be acting on behalf of the Town Council. The Clerk advised that in order to apply for Heritage Lottery funding a fee of £150 was payable by Thirsk towards match funding and this was included on the list of accounts for payment.

Resolved: that the Town Council support Mr Tucker in plans to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta in June 2015.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C241 Minutes

C241(a) Town Council Meeting held on 20 January 2014

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 January 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C241(b) Matters Arising

C217 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner apologising for the lack of publicity regarding recent meetings and with an assurance that future events would receive wider publicity.

C223(b) Site of Cherry Tree on Stockton Road

The Clerk had been advised that stump grinding would be necessary before a replacement tree could be planted. It was agreed that a quotation be obtained for this work before deciding whether to proceed with planting a replacement tree. The Clerk added that authority from NYCC would be required.

C232(b) Open Areas and Greens Committee held on 28 November 2013

The Clerk reported that the play area inspection training course held on Friday 7 February had been of an excellent standard. Various matters had been highlighted including the need for a checklist covering every item of equipment to be included in the weekly inspections.

C234(b) NYCC Traffic Order – A61 Barbeck, Thirsk

It was noted that details of the alternative route had not been received to date.

C242 Committee Minutes and Reports

C242(a) Planning Committee held on 20 January 2014

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 January 2014.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C242(b) Central Areas Committee held on 16 January 2014

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 16 January 2014.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C243 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that Cemetery Lodge shed roof had blown off during recent high winds and had been replaced, a gate had been damaged by a delivery driver and part of the cemetery wall needed to be replaced.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Pat Bickerton, Eileen Elizabeth Binns, Charles Henry George Blunden, Betty Holliday and Nancy Spence be approved.

C244 Correspondence/Items Raised

C244(a) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places for Parliamentary Elections

The meeting received a letter dated 24 January 2014 from Hambleton District Council concerning a review of polling districts and polling places used for Parliamentary elections.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C244(b) Thirsk Christmas Lights

The meeting received a letter dated 5 February 2014 from Thirsk & District Business Association Ladies Section setting out the Christmas lights costs. The Clerk advised that the Town Council's donation of £500 was included on the list of accounts for payment.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C244(c) Referendum Principles Not To Be Applied to Parish and Town Councils

The meeting received an email dated 5 February 2014 from Yorkshire Local Councils Association advising that referendum principles were not to be applied to parish councils for 2014/15.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C244(d) Meadowfields Extra Care Housing Scheme and Public Library

The meeting received the February 2014 Bulletin from North Yorkshire County Council regarding the development in Chapel Street.

Resolved: that the bulletin be noted.

C244(e) Street Naming: Rear of 21 Chapel Street, Thirsk

The meeting received a letter dated 7 February 2014 from Hambleton District Council in respect of the proposed naming of the development as Smith Row.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C244 (f) North Yorkshire Public Health Fuel Poverty Needs Assessment

The meeting received a letter dated February 2014 from North Yorkshire Public Health Team/National Energy Action.

Resolved: that the letter be received and noted.

C244(g) Bus Subsidy Reduction Implementation

The meeting received an email dated 10 February 2014 from North Yorkshire County Council advising of its decision to implement the consultation proposals. It was noted that the subsidy on the 152 Thirsk - Hambleton Estate service had been withdrawn and that it was down to individual bus operators to decide whether or not to continue services.

Resolved: that the email be noted

C245 Policy for Investigating Complaints

Cllr Adamson reported amendments to HDC's policy for investigating complaints and he proposed that the Town Council's policy be amended accordingly.

Resolved: that the Town Council's Policy for Investigating Complaints be amended in line with the policy accepted by Hambleton District Council.

C246 Finance

The Clerk advised that the bank required a formal resolution in order to amend the Town Council cheque signatories.

Resolved:

a) that the accounts for payment as at 17 February 2014 be approved and cheques signed;

b) that the Balance Sheet for January 2014 be received and approved;

d) that Cllrs D.Adamson and C. Hesmondhalgh be authorised to be cheque signatories for Thirsk Town Council together with Cllr J.Watson, Cllr F.Roberts and the Clerk.

C247 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Adamson reported that Thirsk Clock had formally changed its name to "The Clock".

Cllr Hesmondhalgh reported that she had attended the play area inspection training course on Friday 7 February 2014 and had found it very worthwhile.

Cllr Watson reported that she had recently presented a bouquet of flowers to a lady who was 103 years old.

The Clerk advised that the date for April's Town Council meeting fell on 21 April which was Easter Monday. He stated that he would check room availability on alternative dates.

C248 On-going Items

No further progress.

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

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council held on Monday 17 March 2014 at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall

Present: Cllrs: J Watson (Chairman), D Adamson, D Duffey, E Fraser, C Hesmondhalgh, M Penson, F Roberts

Apologies: Cllr: H Dalgleish-Brown (ill), J Jackson (ill).

C250 Police Report

No police representative was present.

C251 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that council tax bills showing an increase of 1.99% had recently been delivered. He warned that Thirsk may be affected by the reduction in financial support for grass cutting. He acknowledged that the state of the county's roads was not good and that, although the Government had announced extra funding for potholes, this was not sufficient to bring the roads up to a good standard.

Cllr Dadd reported that the decision to scale down children's services and maternity services at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton may be reviewed by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

(b) HDC

Cllr Dadd reported that there had been requests for additional cycle racks ahead of the Tour de France coming to Yorkshire in the summer. It was hoped that Hambleton District Council would work with the Town Council in order to provide these.

C252 Open Forum

Resolved: that standing orders be suspended.

Ms Heather Limback, Chair of Thirsk & District Churches Together, advised of proposals to commemorate the outbreak of World War I on 3 and 4 August 2014. The proposal was for a Churches Together United evening service on Sunday, 3 August at St Oswald's Church, Sowerby followed by events in the market place on the morning of 4 August and a candlelit vigil in the evening. Ms Limback advised that the proposals had the support of the Royal British Legion. Following discussion it was felt that a road closure would not be necessary.

Resolved: that the Town Council support Thirsk & District Churches Together in its proposals to commemorate the outbreak of World War I.

Resolved: that standing orders be reinstated.

C253 Minutes

C253(a) Town Council Meeting held on 17 February 2014

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C253(b) Matters Arising

C223(b) Site of Cherry Tree on Stockton Road

The Clerk advised that a quotation for £90 had been received for stump grinding although the figure would be lower if the work could be undertaken on the same occasion as other stump grinding works. It was felt that the resident who had requested the replacement tree should be asked to contribute towards the cost of the work.

Resolved: that the Council's amenity contractor be requested to stump grind at this location whilst carrying out other stump grinding works.

C234(b) NYCC Traffic Order – A61 Barbeck, Thirsk

It was noted that details of the alternative route were still awaited.

C247 Reports from Members/Representatives

The Clerk advised that the Town Council meeting for April would be held on Thursday, 17 April 2014.

C244(g) Bus Subsidy Reduction Implementation

The Clerk advised that the bus company which operated the 152 Thirsk – Hambleton Estate service had not announced whether or not the service would continue to operate following the removal of the bus subsidy and that the new timetable would be confirmed in mid-April.

C246 Finance

The Clerk advised that Cllrs Adamson and Hesmondhalgh had signed the necessary documentation authorising them to become cheque signatories for the Town Council.

C254 Committee Minutes and Reports

C254(a) Planning Committee held on 17 February 2014

The meeting received the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 February 2014.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C254(b) Central Areas Committee held on 13 February 2014

The meeting received the Minutes of the Central Areas Committee held on 13 February 2014.

Cllr Fraser advised that the Central Areas Committee required the approval of the Town Council concerning the proposed relocation/removal of the feral pigeons in the market place. It was suggested that Mr D Jackson who had contacted a number of local businesses in the market place be invited to attend the Central Areas Committee meeting to be held on Friday, 21 March 2014 to discuss the proposals.

Resolved:

a) that the Minutes be received and noted.

b) that the proposals put forward by the Central Areas Committee concerning relocation/removal of feral pigeons be approved by the Town Council.

c) that Mr D Jackson be invited to attend the Central Areas Committee meeting to be held on Friday, 21 March 2014.

C254(c) Public Conveniences Committee held on 28 February 2014

The meeting received the Minutes of the Public Conveniences Committee held on 28 February 2014.

Resolved: that the Minutes be received and noted.

C255 Burial Board

Cllr Adamson reported that further repairs needed to be carried out to the cemetery wall.

Resolved: that applications for memorials for Louisa Baxter, John Butterworth, Grace Phyllis Jones and Ita Jeanne Therese Phillips be approved.

C256 Correspondence/Items Raised

C256(a) Housing and Health Scheme 2014 – 2016

The meeting received a letter dated 24 February 2014 from Hambleton District Council concerning the Housing and Health Scheme 2014 – 2016.

Resolved: that Hambleton District Council be requested to inform the Town Council of any results/outcome.

C256(b) Minerals and Waste Joint Plan

The meeting received a letter dated February 2014 from Planning Services, North Yorkshire County Council concerning an Issues and Options Consultation (February – April 2014).

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C256(c) 4th Regiment Royal Artillery

The meeting received an email dated 4 March 2014 from 4th Regiment Royal Artillery concerning a proposed presentation to the local community.

Resolved: that the Town Council respond, welcoming the proposal and requesting further information as to what is envisaged.

C256(d) Extra Care Housing – Sowerby Gateway, Bulletin No 2

The meeting received a bulletin dated 6 March 2014 from North Yorkshire County Council giving details of the proposed development.

Resolved: that the bulletin be noted.

C256(e) Thirsk Market Place – Resurfacing Works 2014

The meeting received a letter dated 7 March 2014 from Hambleton District Council giving details of the resurfacing works.

Resolved: that the letter be noted.

C256(f) Proposed Pedestrian Crossing – Front Street, Norby, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 7 March 2014 from North Yorkshire County Council which attached a plan of the proposed pedestrian crossing at Norby.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C256(g) Tour de France – Turn the County Yellow – Planting/Flowers

The meeting received an email dated 7 March 2014 from Hambleton District Council which attached a request from Welcome to Yorkshire concerning the initiative to “turn the county yellow”.

Resolved: that the email be passed to Thirsk in Bloom.

C256(h) First World War Commemoration – 3/4 August 2014

Discussed previously.

C257 Finance

Resolved:

a) that the accounts for payment as at 17 March 2014 be approved and cheques signed;

b) that the Balance Sheet for February 2014 be received and approved;

d) that the Budget Report for February 2014 be received and approved.

C258 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Watson reported that she had attended the centenary concert at Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall on 1 March which had been enjoyable and well attended.

C259 On-going Items

No further progress.

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

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.