

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thirsk Town Council
held on Monday, 16 January 2023 at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall**

Present: Cllrs D Jackson (Chairman), D Duffey, W Gibson-Brown, K Mountford, F Potter, B Smith, D Southward, S Ward

Apologies: Cllrs D Adamson (Illness), A Trueman (Holiday)

Cllr Jackson opened the meeting by paying tribute to Cllr Cynthia Hesmondhalgh who, sadly, passed away in December 2022. He observed that Cllr Hesmondhalgh had been a very effective Town Councillor, former Mayor, and friend to many. Cllr Mountford echoed Cllr Jackson's comments, adding that Cllr Hesmondhalgh had also been a very good mentor.

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

C1378 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C1379 Police Report

There was no police representative in attendance. However, the police had submitted a report containing the crime figures for December 2022 which was circulated and noted.

C1380 Reports on Matters Relating to Thirsk

(a) NYCC

Cllr Dadd reported that, prior to the Town Council meeting, he had attended a meeting of the "20s Plenty for North Yorkshire" action group. He explained that the group was campaigning for a default 20 mile an hour speed limit in North Yorkshire. He advised that North Yorkshire County Council would instigate 20 mile an hour speed limits in locations where this was considered necessary but not as a blanket policy.

Cllr Dadd indicated that NYCC would set the council tax for 2023/2024 in the next month. He advised that there was likely to be an increase of 4.99% but that a more generous council tax reduction scheme would be in place from April 2023.

Cllr Dadd reported that NYCC had recently received a number of section 24 requests from district councils (though not from Hambleton District Council). He advised that, in the lead-up to the new unitary council taking effect on 1 April 2023, any capital expenditure over £1 million by district councils had to be authorised by NYCC. He stated that no further requests would be processed before April 2023.

In answer to a question from Cllr Jackson, Cllr Dadd advised that he was awaiting an announcement concerning funding for the proposed improvement works at Thirsk Railway Station.

(b)HDC

Cllr Elders reported that Hambleton District Council employees were busy preparing for the new unitary council to take effect on 1 April 2023. He advised that town and parish councils should continue to communicate with their current contacts at HDC until told otherwise. Cllr Elders expected that, as from 1 April 2023, six new planning committees would be set up across the county. Cllr Dadd confirmed that this would be the case and that the Hambleton Planning Committee would be replaced by a Thirsk and Malton Committee. Cllr Elders added that Hambleton's Local Plan, which was adopted in February 2022, would remain in force until such time as a new plan was put in place by North Yorkshire Council.

Cllr Jackson enquired about the possibility of the Town Council establishing its own neighbourhood plan and Cllr Dadd encouraged the Town Council to consider this.

C1381 Open Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

C1382 Minutes

C1382(a) Town Council Meeting held on 21 November 2022

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 November 2022 be approved as a correct record.

C1382(b) Matters Arising

No matters were raised.

C1383 Committee Minutes and Reports

C1383(a) Planning Committee – Minutes of Meeting held on 21 November 2022 and Summary dated 19 December 2022

The meeting received the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022 and a Summary dated 19 December 2022.

In response to a question from Cllr Duffey, Cllr Jackson advised that Hambleton District Council had refused a planning application to develop a site at Rybeck House on Stoneybrough Lane, Thirsk. Cllr Duffey expressed concern in respect of ongoing antisocial behaviour at that location.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2022 and a Summary dated 19 December 2022 be received and noted.

C1384 Burial Board

Resolved: that the application for memorial for Julie Kelly be approved.

C1385 Correspondence/Items Raised

C1385(a) 2022-2023 National Salary Award (National Joint Council)

The meeting received an email dated 3 November 2022 from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations which advised that agreement had been reached on a cost of living salary increase to take effect from 1 April 2022.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1385(b) Planned Road Closure Notification – Masonic Lane, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 29 November 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Masonic Lane, Thirsk between 20 February and 24 February 2023 to allow for fibre installation works on behalf of Zzoomm PLC.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1385(c) Citizens Advice North Yorkshire - Donation

The meeting received an email dated 29 November 2022 from Citizens Advice North Yorkshire thanking the Town Council for its recent donation.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1385(d) Planned Road Closure Notification – Cemetery Road, Thirsk

The meeting received an email dated 15 December 2022 from North Yorkshire County Council concerning the closure of Cemetery Road, Thirsk for a period of three hours on 13 March 2023 to allow Yorkshire Water to replace a manhole frame and cover.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1385(e) Riponian Rally – Sunday, 12 February 2023

The meeting received an email and attachment dated 2 January 2023 from Mr Richard Hart concerning a motor rally which was scheduled to finish at Thirsk Auction Mart on Sunday, 12 February 2023.

Resolved: that the email be noted.

C1385(f) Thirsk Community Library – Application for Grant

The meeting received an email dated 10 January 2023 from Ms S Burton, Thirsk Community Library, which attached the library's accounts for the financial year 2021/2022. In answer to a question from Cllr Duffey, Cllr Ward advised that the library had employed a paid member of staff for a period of time as a grant had been received but that person no longer worked at the library.

Resolved: that the email and attachment be noted and taken into account when the precept was considered.

C1386 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the accounts for payment as at 16 January 2023 be approved and cheques signed.

C1387 Precept 2023-2024

The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Chairs of Town Council Committees had been held the previous week to consider the proposed budgets for 2023/2024. He indicated that the draft precept of £219,800 equated to an increase of £20.74 per year for a Band D property. Members noted the monies spent on the refurbishment of the public toilets, inflation and increasing costs. Following further discussion, it was:

Resolved:

- (i) that the Town Council accepts the draft budgets;**
- (ii) that the Town council sets the precept at £219,800 for the financial year 2023/2024.**

C1388 Reports from Members/Representatives

Cllr Southward reported that he had been contacted regarding a grassed area of land adjacent to Mitchell House, Gillings Court, which had been churned up as a result of cars parking on it. The Clerk stated that he had visited the area and he believed it to be the responsibility of the adjoining property.

Cllr Mountford thanked Cllr Jackson and the Town Council for its contribution towards the cost of hosting a Christmas afternoon tea for local residents at East Thirsk Community Hall. She stated that this had been a successful event with about 70 people attending.

Cllr Gibson-Brown reported that she had been contacted in respect of cars parking on grass verges on a stretch of Stockton Road just north of the mini-roundabout. She stated that cars were driving on the footpath and grass, which was becoming churned up, and a hazard was created for residents stepping out of their front doors. The Clerk advised that he understood that these areas were privately owned and belonged to individual householders. Cllr Gibson-Brown also stated that the grassed area between Barleys Yard and the new riverside path was becoming a mudslide. Cllr Jackson believed that the situation would improve when the grass starts to grow back in the spring.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had attended the 100th birthday celebrations of a resident at Hambleton Grange Care Home and he had helped to open a birthday card sent from His Majesty King Charles III.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.