

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 1st April 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard, J Jackson, J Marshall, A Morton, F Roberts, J Watson, Ms C  
Thorpe ('Darlington & Stockton Times'), 2 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs D Adamson (ill), R Mallett (away), C Pack (ill), K Reynard (ill), J Watson  
(late arrival), accepted.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed accepted Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Open forum:

Mr Ogilvy and Mr Chaudry presented a letter signed by several residents  
expressing concern at the speeding around St James' Green, also in Millgate and  
Stammergate. They asked that a 20mph speed limit be imposed here and that a  
speed camera be installed. They expressed concern at the danger to people and  
property as a result of speeding vehicles. They felt there should be a pavement  
near the sign shop and, if possible, a crossing. It was agreed that letters be  
sent to the Police and Highways enclosing their letter and requesting that a  
site meeting be held.

Matters Arising:

A0044 CCTV; another meeting is to be arranged for Councillors who were not able to attend the last one and who wish to visit the CCTV.

A0044 Grasscutting outside Rybeck Farm; nothing further from the County Council - a letter has been sent asking for the up to date position.

A0044 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further - another letter has been sent to Mr Calvert.

A0044 Rospa Report; agreed with Cllr Marshall that we will have the Johnson Close and Workhouse Play Areas inspected in September 2004 - Rospa advised.

A0044 Benches in Millgate Car Park/landscaping; the clerk has had a telephone call from Clive Thornton advising that HDC will put the concrete pads down for the seats. She has reminded him about the landscaping proposals.

A0044 Seat in the Market Place; reply from Mike Roberts agreeing to this and suggesting a site meeting.

A0044 Spreadsheet of Amenity matters; Councillors happy with the format of this. Agreed that once items have been completed they can be removed.

A0045 Overgrown hedges - Gormire Close/Hambleton Avenue; Reply from Mike Roberts advising that he has passed this to Peter Penny as it is a Public Right of Way.

A0045 Police Station on Westgate; reply from Sowerby Parish Council advising that they are not in favour of the proposal because of potential traffic problems and very little gain in terms of parking.

A0045 Repainting of yellow box junction; reply from Mike Roberts advising that he is arranging for this to be done. He is also pursuing Yorkshire Water to have the markings at the mini roundabout at Town End reinstated.

A0045 Graffiti in alleyways; reply received from Thirsk Clock Café advising that

they will paint over these. The Town Council to provide them with the paint.

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A0045 Trees in Mill Gardens; letter sent to Steve Quartermain, but no reply received. Telephone call from Mrs Sally Leeming - she is not prepared to give consent to the pollarding. She has had a survey done by Tilhill Forestry who recommend that one tree be crown lifted, one trimmed, eight felled and new trees planted. Chris Amy has spoken to Tilhill who were not aware of the problems of putting new trees in and the risk of vandalism and have now rescinded their report and agree the trees should be pollarded to 3 metres. The work has now been done. The clerk advised that Cllr Adamson was not happy at the way in which this had been dealt with by the Planning Department and had asked that she draft a letter to Steve Quartermain for the Council's approval. The draft letter was read to the meeting and it was agreed that this be sent and also that copies be sent to the Chief Executive and to the Leader of the Council. Cllr Marshall felt a notice should have been put up advising members of the public of what was being done in Mill Gardens. A notice to be put on the noticeboard. A0045 Patches on the Green; no response from Yorkshire Water as yet. A0045 Drain near the White Bridge; Joe Gallagher of NYCC has dealt with this. A0045 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; reply from Mike Roberts suggesting a site meeting. Cllrs Roberts and Hubbard to attend - the clerk to check with Cllr Mallett. A0045 Litter bin on the Little Green; Malcolm Burnett has been asked to deal with this.

A0045 Grass at the end of Tranmire Close; Joe Gallagher has looked at this.

A0045 Seat on Hambleton Place; nothing further as yet.

A0045 Parking outside Texaco Garage on Long Street; nothing further as yet.

A0045 Spelling of Marage; reply received from HDC - they assume that this is a modernism of the original spelling of 'Marriage'. There is currently an anomaly on the street nameplates and they are proposing to change these to 'Marage Road Formerly The Marriage'. This was agreed.

A0045 Repairs to boundary wall of St Mary's Church; nothing received from the church as yet. The clerk advised that she had checked the records and when a payment was made in 2003 for repairs to another section of the wall it was simply referred to as a donation.

A0046 Proposed cycle path on Topcliffe Road; letter sent. Cllr Marshall advised that a decision on this has been deferred. Sowerby Parish Council has not had chance to look at the proposal.

A0046 Planning application for residential development on Station Road; returned with the comments made.

A0047 Fencing around the Holmes Play Area; letter requesting advice sent to the York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association, - no reply as yet.

A0047 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; letters sent to John Bell and English Heritage; no reply as yet.

A0047 Application for grant aid for the Interpretation Boards; e-mail containing some queries received today from the Countryside Agency, to be passed to Cllr Watson.

A00467 Storage of building materials/skip on St James' Green; a further letter has been sent to Mr and Mrs Delderfield. Agreed that if there is no response then a letter be sent giving them notice that if something is not done then the Town Council will take action.

A0047 Flood Plans; letter sent asking them to present these to the Town Council.

To receive correspondence:

Letter from Stewart Ferguson of Sowerby requesting that another skatepark be provided. Cllr Roberts asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The committee has looked round Thirsk for a site and there is nowhere suitable.

She referred to information received from Tribe who produce mobile equipment.

Community Education have a van which they would like to use as a youth work van

and if it is possible they could combine with us on this. There would also be

the opportunity to take the mobile ramp out to the villages and cover the wide

catchment area of Thirsk School. The use of the ramp would be supervised which

would prevent vandalism. HDC have offered to contribute £20K from the Racecourse

Mews development and the Town Council have offered £10K. A Skatefest is to be

held in Ripon next weekend. It was agreed that possible provision of

skateboarding facilities should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Smiths of Derby; letter advising that they have serviced the clock and

everything is in good working order.

Mrs J Young of Barleys Yard re the speed limit on Stockton Road and disabled

access on Castlegarth. Cllr Marshall advised that both of these matters are in

hand. The clerk to check with Eddie Hayward on the progress re speed

restrictions on Stockton Road. Telephone call from Mr Walker advising that he

has started the grasscutting but has not been able to cut some parts because of

the amount of bulbs. He will cut over the crocus and snowdrops in another week

or two and will cut around the daffodils.

To receive Reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Cllr Hubbard advised that the pollarding of the trees in Mill Gardens had taken place (as reported in Matters Arising).

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Hubbard reported that plans for the alleyways are ongoing.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate - A meeting is to be held on 6th April

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that the Committee need to meet. The clerk advised that the picnic bench for the Holmes has been delivered and is being stored in the Office. Cllr Marshall to decide on a site for it.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Roberts advised that she had attended the Action for Market Towns Conference in Beverley. It was a very good meeting. The main speaker spoke about funding. Cllr Roberts explained about the competition which had been held and which had comprised various categories. The one for Leisure and Tourism is to be awarded to the people of Thirsk for the work done for the Thirsk Festival. The Award will be

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displayed in the Rotary Festival Office. Agreed that a letter be sent congratulating the Rotary Club.

It was pointed out that Yorkshire Water still have notices up around the town about the work which is now completed; a letter to be sent asking them to remove them.

Cllr Marshall advised that on Stockton Road there is a millstone without a name on it. There is a spare nameboard in the office, which can be put on it. It had been suggested some time ago that the millstone be moved to where it would be more visible. The clerk to contact Mike Roberts.

Referring to Long Street Enhancement, Cllr Marshall advised that at the Cabinet Meeting on 18th March Cabinet agreed to contribute £20K towards a revised scheme. They will therefore be looking at having impact areas. Plans have been prepared, but the Long Street group have not seen them as yet. Once they have had the opportunity of looking at them they will be available to the public.

Cllr Marshall referred to problems with the open watercourses in East Thirsk and a suggestion had been received from a resident that the Tranmire Ditch be culverted. However, Cabinet are not in agreement with this. Officers are to consult with the local residents, the Town Council and the Millennium Green Committee re alternative proposals. Cllr Marshall expressed concern that the report totally disregarded the work done by the Town Council on this.

Cllr Marshall advised that she had received a letter from Insite, National Grid's landscape architects. They have been unable to get agreement from any landowners re planting trees.

Cllr Marshall referred to Quality Status saying the Town Council had not moved forward on this. The clerk advised that she is attending the meetings at HDC, the next one of which is scheduled for early April. The clerk will do a report for the Town Council.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern at how the new Council Tax bills are drawn up, saying that they do not appear to be reconciled. He asked Councillors to examine their bills.

Cllr Morton advised that the Swimming Pool Trustees had met recently. He said that they are treated as an advisory body, but because they make decisions, they are obliged to arrange their own insurance cover rather than be covered by HDC. Cllr Morton said that swimming is not as popular as a sport as it used to be, and they are trying to incorporate swimming with exercise routines. They are also trying to attract more corporate business.

Cllr Watson expressed concern at the copy of the e-mail she had had handed to her earlier in the meeting re the Interpretation Boards. She said there is a great deal of work to do in order to respond to the queries in the e-mail. Cllr Marshall pointed out that she and Cllr Watson had spent a great deal of time completing the form and

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obtaining advice and she too was concerned that the Countryside Agency have now raised such a number of queries at this late stage.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.



Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 19th April 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chair), S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Ms Carolyn Thorpe (Darlington and Stockton Times), Councillor J Weighell, Leader of NYCC (first item only), 3 members of the public and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllr J Jackson (abroad), accepted.

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

Local Government Review:

Cllr Weighell explained the background to this, advising that the Government wish to bring in another tier of government. A questionnaire will be going out later in the year asking people whether they want a Regional Assembly and if there is a no vote then it will not happen. The County and District Councils are opposed to it. Cllr Weighell outlined the four options, i.e. a single unitary Authority (NYCC) Three Unitaries (Craven and Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmond, Rydale and Scarborough), Two Unitaries (North Riding and Craven and Harrogate or North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales).

Cllr Pack joined the meeting.

Cllr Weighell said the main question is who could deliver the best local services and at what cost; generally it was felt that the lower the number of councils the less costly it would be.

Cllr Marshall joined the meeting.

Cllr Weighell advised that should there be a Single Unitary County Authority then they would propose to have 15 Area Committees spread throughout the County &#150; this would mean an Area Committee of approximately one third the existing size of Hambleton. There would be Town Managers who would be contact points in most if not all of the market towns. Referring to the role of Town and Parish Councils, Cllr Weighell said it is hoped that, particularly the larger councils, would take on more responsibilities.

Ms Carolyn Thorpe joined the meeting.

Cllr Weighell pointed out that there would be cost savings in having a single authority. Cllr Roberts asked what the role of regional government would be if we go down this route and Cllr Weighell replied that regional government will not take any powers from local government and therefore will not deliver services. There is the prospect of a regional fire service and possibly a regional police service, although not in the foreseeable future. Cllr Robinson expressed the view that the electorate are not happy with the services currently

provided by the County and District Councils. Cllr Weighell said people do not want to see an increase in the Council Tax; he explained

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that in North Yorkshire 55% of the budget is spent on education and 20% on social services which does not leave a great deal to cover other services. Cllr Marshall asked whether it is likely we will have a unitary council at some stage, even if it is not at this time and Cllr Weighell replied in the affirmative. Cllr Watson asked about the jobs for the employees of the County and District Councils. Cllr Weighell said that if we have a unitary authority then the District Council Services would still be run from Stonecross and there would be limited job losses. If it is a dual authority then they would only need approximately a quarter of the County Hall staff.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

Police Report:

No members of the police were present. Cllr Marshall reported that the East Thirsk Community Hall has been vandalised again and a hole has been cut in the window. She queried whether this could be happening elsewhere &#150; a letter to be sent to the police. It was mentioned that at a recent race day there were two police and two Community Support Officers in the Market Place. Cllr Mallett referred to the meeting he had attended recently regarding the policing on racedays when it had been said that a greater police presence would be provided

on racedays and he reported that on the recent raceday there were a lot of police both at the racecourse and in the town. A letter to be sent to the police saying we are pleased at this and hope it continues for future race meetings.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Mallett that standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Penson said she wished to commend the Community Safety Officer who dealt with a problem with youths in Riverside Mews. Speaking on behalf of the residents of Riverside Mews, Mrs Penson expressed concern at the fact that, having been contacted by the Environment Agency at 2.45 am on 19th April, she rang the Hambleton 24 hour Floodline, but there was no reply at any time.

Hambleton delivered sandbags around lunchtime on the 19th, but by then the water was receding. Cllr Marshall said she had tried the Floodline, but couldn't get through and she had then rung Cllr Arthur Barker who managed to get a response from the Floodline. It was said that the non-operation of the Floodline was due to a technical error. Cllr Hubbard understood that Hambleton did not receive a call from the Environment Agency at the same time as the residents. Cllr Marshall suggested that Cllr Arthur Barker be asked to come to a Town Council meeting to explain what had happened. It was also mentioned that one of Broadacres' tenants who was very concerned had rung Broadacres, but they had not been very helpful. A letter to be sent reminding them that they have a duty of care to their residents.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Ms Carolyn Thorpe left the meeting.

Matters arising:

P0066 Development of Castlegate; nothing further regarding the drain &#150; assume it will be dealt with as part of the development.

P0067 Cemetery Noticeboard/Kerbing around the Garden of Rest; still chasing this. Malcolm Blackburn has said he will put the noticeboard in place this week.

P0067 Thirsk School; Application for Specialist School Status; letter of thanks received plus a further letter advising that they have now reached the £50K required in sponsorship. The bid has been submitted and they are optimistic. However, if it is rejected they will resubmit it on 12th October.

P0067 Gates leaned against the lamp post outside Martin&#146;s; these have now been removed.

P0067 Dog bin near Ingramgate; reply from Gary Brown - this is being used for other than dog refuse. They are monitoring it and if necessary will supply a larger bin.

P0068 Open Watercourses; letter sent to Arthur Barker and Peter Simpson. Cllr Marshall said Hambleton are now to consult with the Town Council and the residents.

P0069 Development at 100 Long Street; letter sent to Tim Wood advising that we did not receive the letter until after the Development Control Meeting had taken place; telephone acknowledgement received. Regarding the puffin crossing, Cllr Marshall said the County Council are now looking at where this can be sited and she is to have a site meeting with them. Cllr Adamson requested that at the same time they look at the possibility of having a yellow box junction at the

entrance to St Mary's.

P0069 Cllr Robinson reported that the Crime and Safety Roadshow was very poorly attended and the organisers have said they will not hold another one in Thirsk.

Cllr Robinson pointed out that it was not very well advertised and Cllr Marshall felt it was at the wrong time of the day.

P0070 Burial Board; Cllr Adamson said we are still trying to get the noticeboard erected and still attempting to get estimates for the kerbing and the extension to the water supply.

P0071 The Holmes; Chris Amy has removed the branch which came off the tree. Cllr Reynard pointed out that there are four piles of branches on The Holmes.

P0071 Fencing outside the Lord Nelson; Chris Amy is to deal with this.

P0071 Lamp post on the White Mare roundabout; letter sent to County and telephone call received from Paul Gilmore saying the lamp post was corroded and in a dangerous state. They have no plans to replace it.

P0070 Cllr Robinson referred to the graffiti in the alleyway alongside the Clock Café. The clerk advised that the Café are to paint over it once she has obtained the paint for them.

Finance:

To approve accounts for payment:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

YLCA Membership Renewal 2004/05 £491.00

YRCC Membership Renewal 2004/05 £25.00

Todds Skip Hire; Emptying of Cemetery skip £122.39

K Dickinson; cleaning office windows £10.00

Record - Swings for East Thirsk Play Area £922.14

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Streetmaster - Picnic bench for The Holmes £459.43

Thirsk Festival 2004; Sponsorship/advertising £1,000.00

D.E. Adamson re hosting service for thirsk-tc.gov.uk £38.16

Action for Market Towns; Membership Renewal Fee £111.63

NYCC; Attendance by Cllr Roberts at the Action for Market Towns Conference in Beverley £7.50

Cllr Roberts travelling expenses for above £24.00

D.J. Mann; cleaning bus shelter windows Nov 03-Mar 04 (including price increase from £4.50 to £5 to include cleaning extra notice board wef 8.3.04) £101.50

C.A. Amy: Weekly inspections £228.50

Mill Gardens; litter picking Plus supply and planting of New shrubs and plants  
£330.00

Litter picking; Picnic Area and Castlegarth £100.00

HDC; Rates for Office &#150; May 2004 £58.00

Julie Harron; Salary; April 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson; Salary; March 2004 £989.23

Inland Revenue; Tax/NI; March 2004 £556.24

D E Adamson; reimbursement for computer cables etc. £62.50

Paid since last meeting:

C.A. Amy; Pollarding trees in Mill Gardens £1,700.00

Aon Limited; Insurance for Millennium Green £386.93

Petty Cash £40.36

Income Received since last meeting:

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £330.00

Purchase of Plot £55.00

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for March 2004: (copies already circulated)

Received and approved.

The clerk had received a telephone call from the External Auditors advising that they should now be in a position to sign off the accounts.

To receive correspondence:

HDC; notice of the Flood Forum to be held on 29th April

The Environment Agency; proposed upgrading of Cod Beck to a river. Cllr Marshall proposed we should support this, agreed.

Kitching Walker Solicitors; Transfer of Licence of Jesters to Debora Elizabeth

Barker; agreed with the comment that she attend a training course.

Standards Board for England Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct

Allegations. This had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Roberts made the

point that there should be no need to put a public notice in an independent newspaper saying



that an investigation into a particular Councillor had shown there was no breach of the Code of Conduct. She felt that in such an instance only the complainant, the Councillor and the Council should be informed. Agreed that these comments be made to The Standards Board.

Thirsk and Sowerby Civic Society; letter advising that the annual subscription has been increased from £6.00 to £8.00, agreed.

HDC; letter re Farmers Markets enclosing a questionnaire; this was completed.

To approve applications for exclusive rights and memorials:

Dudley Royston Sutton

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that this be approved with the proviso that the memorial is not put in place until at least six months after the date of the burial.

Request received from Mrs Otterburn for consent to put a wooden edging around two of the graves and put gravel on. Cllr Adamson to look at this.

To receive Planning Report:

Cllr Roberts referred in particular to two planning applications which had been considered. One was for a new sign outside the James Herriot Centre which the Planning Committee felt was rather garish and the other was for a mast at Millgate Car Park; the Planning Committee was totally opposed to this.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that we are still having difficulty getting an estimate for

piping water to the top of the Cemetery and for kerbing around the new Garden of Rest. If we continue to be unsuccessful then we will go outside the town for prices. We are assured by Malcolm Burnett that the notice board will be put in place this week. Cllr Adamson said the skip has been filled with branches by either the Amenity Contractor or a member of the public. This has taken up 4-6 weeks of space and consequently the skip is having to be emptied again.

To receive Reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall reported that the Economic Development Scrutiny Committee had held a special meeting to look at Tourism and Yorkshire Forward's proposals to take tourism within their orbit. She felt the consultation was too quick. The next Hambleton Area Meeting is on 10th May in the afternoon.

Cllr Robinson asked about the Welcome to Thirsk notice board in the Market Place.

Cllr Marshall said the County Council are having timetables produced and they will put them in. It was pointed out that the notice board needs cleaning.

District Council

Cllr Marshall reported that there had been a good presentation at the District Council meeting by the Officer responsible for the Community Support Officers. The police are using them as official witnesses. They will be getting more powers this year as new legislation goes through. The Christmas Fayre is to be discussed at Cabinet this week.

Cllr Robinson reported that the Licensing Committee are discussing moving the taxi rank for the duration of the Christmas Fayre. It was suggested it be moved to outside Fox's, but Cllr Robinson had suggested they use the spaces at the back of the bus shelter and this had been agreed. The Black Lion had applied for a one hour extension to their Entertainment License. No objections were received and this was granted.

To receive Reports:

Representatives:

Cllr Roberts reported that Thirsk Regeneration are at the last stages of their regional plan and are looking both at ways of keeping the organisation going and at funding. It was felt this had brought a lot of money into the town.

Cllr Roberts had attended the Joint Executive Committee of the YLCA meeting. The YLCA are proposing to send out snippets of information to councils who wish to receive it by E-mail every Friday. The Yorkshire Local Councils has been congratulated by NALC and the SLCC as being the County who has the best relationship between the organisations.

Cllr Hubbard reported that he had received £780 from the TRI towards the alleyways improvements scheme and £1000 for the church floodlighting scheme. The CCA has obtained planning consent to convert the garages at the rear of their property to meeting rooms and offices.

Referring to the Millennium Green, Cllr Marshall said a meeting is to be held on Wednesday and a clean up on Saturday.

Cllr Watson reported that the Town Hall has received £550 from the TRI towards a hearing loop. This is in the process of being ordered and it will be installed before the Festival. A quote for the redecoration of the entrance hall and stairs has been accepted.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had been a guest at the Rotary Club Charter Night held at Romanby Golf Club. He reported that the East Thirsk Learning Resource Centre is going from strength to strength. Reporting on a meeting of the Primary School Governors, Cllr Adamson said there had not been anything controversial. Finance is very tight this year.

Members:

Cllr Robinson pointed out that the footpath in the Porters Vaults Yard is in a bad state as a result of work carried out by the utility companies. Cllr Hubbard explained that this is temporary as they are going to do some more work to the services.

Cllr Marshall enquired whether we had written to Yorkshire Water to seek compensation for the town for the works carried out which took a lot longer than anticipated. Agreed that a letter be sent asking for compensation on behalf of the town.

Cllr Watson referred to an electric cable in the alleyway to Steads Yard, which has come away from the wall. A letter to be sent to Northern Electric.

Cllr Watson had met with Mark Haynes of the TRI re the queries raised on the grant application for the interpretation boards. It is hoped that this will now go forward.

Cllr Robinson referred to the Town Council's claim to National Grid for compensation re the pylons. It was pointed out that we have to put a scheme forward for their consideration. It was agreed that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 6th May 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard, D Adamson, R Mallett, J Marshall, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts,  
A. Robinson, J Watson, Mrs Carolyn Thorpe ('Darlington & Stockton Times'), 1  
member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr J Jackson (away), A Morton (ill), accepted.

Open forum:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hubbard that Standing Orders be suspended.  
Mrs Sue Dodds referred to the path from The Marage to the Waterfall. Cllr  
Roberts advised that this was looked at with HDC some years ago with a view to  
doing something about it. Cllr Marshall said that at that time the Town Council  
did not feel it necessary to take any action and since then it has been widened  
slightly. It was agreed that this be left to the Open Areas Committee to  
re-appraise. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders  
be reinstated.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Proposed accepted Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Marshall, agreed.

Matters Arising:

A0049 Speeding around St James' Green; reply received from Inspector Broadley advising that she has on several occasions asked the County Council to consider traffic calming in this area. Letter also received from County advising that as there have been no recorded personal injury accidents within the last five years this is not considered to be a high priority area. Also letter from Anne McIntosh MP enclosing a copy of Mr Ogleby's letter to her. Cllr Marshall proposed that we ask for this to go to a County Committee for Hambleton meeting with a request from the Town Council that speed restrictions be introduced on St James' Green. Also ask for a speed check to be carried out.

A0049 Grasscutting outside Rybeck Farm; reply received from County advising that they cannot justify adding this to the grasscutting schedule for Thirsk. A copy to be sent to Edward Barker.

A0049 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this.

A0049 Benches in Millgate Car Park/landscaping; Telephone call from Clive Thornton advising that he is looking at the landscaping in all the car parks throughout the district. They are looking at tidying up the beds in Millgate Coach Park and at improving the planting near the toilets. They will put the pads down for the seats. A0049 Seat in the Market Place; Cllrs Mallett and Roberts had attended a site meeting with Mike Roberts and were of the opinion that there was nowhere suitable to site a seat. Cllr Robinson suggested we look into the area outside Pattersons - consent from the County Council to be sought. Cllr Marshall asked that we clarify with the Three Tuns their ownership of the pavement outside and see if we could put a seat there.

A0049 Police Station on Westgate; the clerk had received a complaint from RANY as they own the car parking spaces behind the Police Station.

A0049 Graffiti in alleyways; the Town Council have provided the Clock Café with paint and brushes.

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A0050 Trees in Mill Gardens; reply received from Maurice Cann. Cllr Robinson expressed concern that he had not responded to our dissatisfaction at how this had been handled by the Planning Office. A letter to be sent to Steve Quartermain pointing out that the Town Council's first consideration was the safety of members of the public and we are not happy at the fact that the Planning Officer concerned tried to use her position to influence the views of this Council. A notice has been displayed on the noticeboard informing people of the work carried out to the trees in Mill Gardens.

A0050 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; Cllrs Mallett and Roberts had attended a site meeting with Mike Roberts to look at this. Mr Roberts suggested carrying out works to the path and kerbing down to the bridge - he will put this in as a scheme. Cllr Marshall expressed concern about the danger of driving over the pavement. A letter to be sent to the owners asking who owns the land. It could be manorial waste.

A0050 Litterbin on the Little Green; Malcolm Burnett has repaired this.

A0050 Parking outside Texaco Garage; Joe Gallagher advises that this has been passed to Eddie Hayward. Cllr Marshall advised that she had met with Mike Roberts re a site for the crossing. Other ways of crossing are being looked at and this would involve the area outside the Texaco Garage. Mr Roberts had agreed to define the area to protect the part where people cross.

A0050 New signs for Marage Road; Clive Thornton is ordering these today.



A0050 Repair to the boundary wall of St Mary's Church; nothing further from the church on this.

A0050 Proposed cycle path on Topcliffe Road; Site meeting was held today. They are to do a trial run of this for approximately 18 months, but it can be stopped at any time if it is not working. Cllr Marshall advised that there are a lot of old telegraph poles on Topcliffe Road and it was suggested that the Conservation Area Committee ask BT to underground the line and do away with the poles. Cllr Robinson expressed grave concern at the safety of having a joint footpath and cycle track. Cllr Marshall said that cyclists are currently at risk because of having to weave in and out of parked cars.

A0050 Fencing around The Holmes Play Area; reply received from Mrs Spence of the YNYPFA saying that whilst there is no specific legislation requiring play areas to be fenced, the YNYPFA recommend fencing if possible. Cllr Marshall suggested that Mrs Spence come and have a look at The Holmes as it was not felt to be appropriate to fence the play area there. Alternatively, if she cannot do this, the Clerk will take some photographs of The Holmes and send them to Mrs Spence.

A0050 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; no replies received - chasing letters sent.

A0050 Storage of building materials/skip on St James' Green; reply received from Mr Delderfield advising that all the materials and the skip should be removed by the end of May. Cllr Adamson expressed concern about the amount of soil removed from the site, bearing in mind that this is in a Conservation Area. Cllr Mallett advised out that there is a car outside advertised for sale. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the materials etc should not be on Town Council land. It was agreed to leave this until the end of May and then the Greens Committee should put forward a plan of what to do in these circumstances. Cllr Adamson to check

the byelaw and advise.

A0050 Flood Plans; no reply from Hambleton as yet.

Cllr Mallett left the meeting

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A0050 Interpretation Boards; Cllr Watson advised that she had met with Mark Haynes of the TRI to go through the form. All the queries have been addressed and this has now been completed.

A0051 Skateboard Park; since the last meeting Cllrs Hubbard and Roberts had asked that this should not be an agenda item for this meeting.

A0051 Speed limit on Stockton Road; reply received from County advising that they cannot confirm whether or not the 40mph speed limit will be reduced. A letter to be sent to them encouraging them to spend the money they have under the Section 106 Agreement on reducing the speed limit, pointing out that there has been an accident recently.

A0051 Picnic bench on The Holmes; the new picnic bench is now in place.

A0051 Grasscutting; Cllr Reynard referred to Mr Walker's recent telephone call to the clerk. Cllr Roberts queried whether Thirsk in Bloom had consulted the Town Council and the County Council regarding planting bulbs on their land. Cllr Reynard confirmed that Thirsk in Bloom have consulted all necessary parties and have kept the Town Council fully informed.

A0051 Award for Thirsk Festival; letter of congratulations sent to the Rotary Club.

A0052 Yorkshire Water notices of works; Yorkshire Water have been asked to

remove them.

A0052 Millstone on Stockton Road; reply received from Mike Roberts saying this was to be relocated by the Town Council. The County Council could provide us with a quote. Agreed that County and Malcolm Burnett be asked to quote for this.

A0052 Quality Parish Council Status; the clerk advised that she had recently attended another meeting run by Steve Quartermain and Bryan Metcalf of the SLCC. No further meeting for 6 months. The first step is for the clerk to be qualified. We are also required to do a newsletter/annual report.

A0052 Open Watercourses in East Thirsk; Cllr Marshall advised that there has been no progress with this as yet.

Correspondence:

Mrs E Blacknell of Station Cottages, Carlton Miniott regarding the vegetation growing across the path on Station Road; a letter to be sent to the County Council. NYCC advising that surfacing schemes on the A61 Market Place, A168 dual carriageway to the A61 roundabout and A170 Sutton Road are included in their 2004/5 Approved Works Programme. On the subject of surfacing, Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the condition of the road to the Amenity Tip. Cllr Marshall advised that Sowerby Parish Council has taken this up with County on a regular basis. It is hoped that some of the planings from the bridge replacement will be used to carry out some repairs to the road.

Complaint (anonymous) from a resident of Steads Yard; Cllr Robinson referred to the conditions imposed at the time that planning permission was granted. Cllr Pack said there should be a camera at the rear and this is to be done. It was agreed that the letter be copied to Abigail McGhie expressing the concern of the

Town Council and saying we hope they will install the camera at the rear as soon as possible and also take any other measures to prevent causing a nuisance outside.

HDC re street name plates for St James' Green; the clerk asked for confirmation that the Council is happy with the proposed signs as they are to be ordered; agreed.

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Christmas Lights:

To look at the possibility of making a payment to the Chamber of Trade to take over responsibility for the Christmas Lights.

Cllr Hubbard explained that this Council currently contributes the Christmas tree lights and the lights around the clock tower. The Chamber of Trade is willing to take this over and Cllr Hubbard felt it was possibly time to join with them. Cllr Robinson in favour of this. Cllr Reynard felt the Ladies Chamber do a lot in the town and would welcome this. Cllr Adamson was concerned that if we do this, the contribution made by the Town Council will not be apparent and this view was shared by Cllrs Pack and Marshall. Cllr Roberts would not like the Town Council to lose its sovereignty over its property, ie the lights. Cllr Adamson proposed the matter be put to the vote, the motion being whether the Town Council is prepared to pass responsibility for the Christmas tree and lights to the Chamber of Trade and make a payment to them; there were 3 in favour and 5 against. Cllr Robinson asked that the Town Council make provision for storage of the lights.

To look at the possibility of a Thirsk Flood Plan:

Cllr Marshall explained that we already have an Emergency Plan, which was drawn up some years ago.

Ms Carolyn Thorpe left the meeting.

Cllr Hubbard advised that when a survey was carried out many residents did not know where to go in the event of an emergency. Cllr Marshall reiterated that we have a Thirsk Emergency Plan and this should be deposited with the County and District Councils and she asked that this be brought to a meeting. It was suggested that a meeting be held with David McGloin and an Officer for the County Council to include representation from this Council, i.e. Cllrs Hubbard, Roberts and Robinson. Cllr Hubbard summed up by saying that the main objective is to look at the Emergency Plan and reappraise it with the District and County Councils in order that all parties know how the plan works and the correct sequence of events.

Cllr Robinson left the meeting

Reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report

Central Areas - Nothing to report

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Marshall suggested we need to do something about the White Mare Roundabout. Chris Amy to be asked to weed it as soon as possible.

Open Areas-Cllr Marshall reported that the repairs to the play equipment at East Thirsk have now been carried out.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Hubbard reported no further news on the alleyways. Currently waiting for plans to come from Hambleton.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Marshall advised that a Long Street meeting had been held. Asking Hambleton to re-vitalise the plans they put to Cabinet with the various costed schemes.

Looking at the £50K scheme. Agreed that Long Street Enhancement be an agenda item for the June Town Council meeting.

Cllr Marshall reported on a Hambleton Area Committee meeting held on Monday regarding the Periodic Electoral Review draft recommendations. She expressed concern that they are going for the Option put forward by an individual rather than by bodies representing large amounts of people. It is proposed that Thirsk and Sowerby should be split with a new Sowerby division containing the district wards of Sowerby, Thorntons and Topcliffe created and a revised Thirsk division containing the district wards of Thirsk and Whitestonecliffe; Carlton Miniott be added to other villages. A letter to be sent to the Area Committee for Hambleton and to the Boundary Commission objecting to this as we feel that Thirsk and Sowerby are a unit.

Cllr Watson referred to Todds Court saying there are quite a lot of elderly people with scooters, which have to be charged up. This is done in the corridors, but Health and Safety are not happy about this. A letter to be sent to Broadacres.

Cllr Watson advised that the portable hearing loop for the Town Hall had been collected today.

Cllr Marshall advised that the ceremony of unveiling of the blue plaque on Thirsk Museum is to be carried out on 3rd June at 2.30pm.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack reported that Thirsk had come first in the Small Country Town category. Cllr Hubbard congratulated Thirsk in Bloom on their efforts. Agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Walker thanking him for all his help with grasscutting.

Proposed Cllr Hubbard seconded Cllr Marshall that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting  
held on Monday 17th May 2004 at 7:00pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annexe

Present:

Cllrs D E Adamson, S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K  
Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, M Warne (Darlington and Stockton  
Times) and the clerk

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs J Jackson (away), Ms C Thorpe Darlington and Stockton Times (away);  
accepted

Election of Chairman for 2004/5:

Cllr Roberts proposed that Cllr Adamson be elected Chairman, seconded Cllr  
Watson; 6 in favour.

Cllr Robinson proposed that Cllr Hubbard be elected Chairman, seconded Cllr  
Reynard; 3 in favour.

Cllr Adamson was duly elected Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman:

Cllr Roberts proposed that Cllr Hubbard be elected Vice Chairman, seconded Cllr  
Mallett; carried unanimously.



Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2003:

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson; agreed.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Representatives Reports:

Written reports had been copied and circulated to Councillors with the agenda for this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Written reports had been copied and circulated to Councillors with the agenda for this meeting.

To elect Council Representatives for 2004/5:

A list of the organisations on which the Council are represented had been circulated. Councillors indicated which organisations they wished to represent and this was accepted.

Other items of interest and information:

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 17th May 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall  
following the Annual Parish Council Meeting

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,  
K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Malcolm Warne (Darlington and  
Stockton Times), 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr J Jackson (away), Ms Carolyn Thorpe (away); accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to two minor  
amendments on page P0077.

Police Report:

No member of the police present. Cllr Mallett said that at a recent race meeting  
there had been a confrontation, but this was nipped in the bud by the police.

Cllr Roberts commented that we are seeing a greater police presence recently.

Cllr Marshall was pleased at the presence of the CSOs on race days. Cllr

Robinson made the point that we do not want to turn people away from the town,

but we want them to behave properly whilst here. He had spent some time with the

police recently and was very impressed with the policing of Thirsk. Cllr Mallett expressed concern that the police office was closed for two days recently but there was no notice up.

#### Open Forum

The member of the public present had nothing to raise.

#### Matters Arising:

P0073 Vandalism at East Thirsk Community Hall; letter sent to the police re the hole cut in the window.

P0073 Policing on racedays; letter of appreciation sent to the police.

P0073 Floodline; reply from Cllr Arthur Barker explaining about the non-operation of the Hambleton Floodline and apologising for this. Agreed that he be invited to the Amenity Committee meeting in June. Cllr Marshall advised that there is to be a meeting of the District Council and Officers re the flood.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Emergency Plan and the clerk advised that there is a draft of this in the office. Cllr Marshall suggested that we either re-convene the group who were originally involved in this, or that some councillors look at it. Cllr Robinson pointed out that it is a County Plan, but Cllr Marshall advised that the Town Council's Plan was based on the County Plan. A copy of the Emergency Plan from the County Council to be requested. Cllr Adamson to report back to the next meeting.

P0074 Cemetery Noticeboard; Malcolm Blackburn has said he will put it in place this Wednesday.

P0074 Graffiti in alleyway; the paint and brushes have been given to the Clock Café.

P0074 Branches on The Holmes; it was pointed out that these have not been removed. Chris Amy is to do this, the clerk will remind him.

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P0075 Upgrading of Cod Beck; letter supporting this sent to the Environment Agency.

P0076 Standards Board for England Local Investigation and Determination of Misconduct Allegations; comments sent to the Standards Board.

P0076 'Welcome to Thirsk' notice board; reply from the County Council advising that this noticeboard is provided for the Town Council's use. The clerk has now received the key. Agreed that Mr Mann be asked to clean it when he does the bus shelter.

P0078 Electric cable in alleyway to Steads Yard; reported.

P0078 Cllr Watson reported that we have now got the funding of £25K from Local Heritage for the Interpretation Boards.

## Finance

### Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following accounts be approved for payment;

BT - Internet line £74.48

Allianz Cornhill - Insurance Premium 2004/05 £2,150.74

Evershed Products - Planks for seats in Mill Gardens £253.89

Wicksteed Leisure - Repairs to East Thirsk Play Area equipment £433.92

Thirsk Hall Estate - Rent of The Holmes and various Wayleaves £5.00

C.E. & C.M. Walker - Grasscutting - 2 cuts £1,527.50

Staples - printer cartridge and stationery £146.83

Npower - electricity for office £200.48

M.L. Burnett: Supply & fit post in Cemetery £225.00

Concrete base and fixing seat on The Holmes, Barrier at Craigs Way Play Area,

Repairing litter bin on The Little Green, repairing damaged seat £312.27

HDC - Rates for Office £58.00

Julie Harron - Salary - May 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary - April 2004 £989.67

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI - April 2004 £555.29

C Amy - Inspection and litter picking £422.80

Income received since last meeting:

HDC - Rating Precept 2004/05 - 1st half £44,000.00

HM Customs & Excise - Refund of VAT 1.1.04.-31.3.04 £791.86

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge Apr & May £794.24

Interment £110.00

Memorial £ 32.00

War Graves £ 10.58

TRI - Grant towards Church Floodlighting £1,000.00

TRI - Grant towards Alleyways Improvements Scheme £780.00

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To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for April

2004:

Received and approved.

#### Correspondence

Kitching Walker Solicitors - application being made by Debora Elizabeth Barker for the transfer to her of the Restaurant and Residential Licence of 'Jesters'

HDC - copy letter to Mrs. Naylor confirming the change of name of her property from 'Southwood', to 'Southwold' Stockton Road, Thirsk

Graham Cumming Group re Thirsk Diary 2005; agreed that the clerk should check the proposed entry and make any amendments.

Citizens Advice Bureau re their bid for funding from the Department of Work and Pensions Partnership Fund. Agreed that a letter be sent supporting their bid.

Thirsk Community Care Association enclosing letter and questionnaire from the Vale of York Community Accounting Scheme; to be completed.

Thirsk Festival - request for support. An invoice for £1,000 had been received and approved at the last Town Council meeting. A telephone call had since been received from Mr Gardiner apologising for the fact that the invoice had gone out before the letter.

Thirsk Cricket Club requesting we sponsor a cricket ball to the value of £25 (Cllr Marshall declared an interest). Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Pack that we do this.

HDC re Hambleton District Wide Local Plan, requesting details of any development sites we wish to put forward. Cllr Robinson proposed we put Rybeck Farm back on and Cllr Marshall said we have always supported this. Cllr Adamson expressed the view that there is a need for good quality larger housing for families. Cllr Roberts suggested we should first ask a senior planning officer to come and talk about it and it was agreed we should invite Mick Jewitt and also ask for an

extension of the deadline of 30th June. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this not only refers to housing, but to all types of development and the Industrial Estate is now full.

Cllr Marshall expressed concern that we are not getting information from NALC.

Cllr Adamson said that 'Clerks and Councils Direct' do a legal bulletin - 6 issues per year for approximately £60. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that we should subscribe to this. A letter to be sent to NALC and the YLCA pointing out that we are not receiving any information from NALC.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the following applications be approved.

Arthur Thompson and Hilda Thompson Memorial

Annie Elizabeth Knowlson Memorial

Herbie Banthorpe Memorial

Revd John Benson and Mary Benson Memorial

Thomas Ward Memorial

Eric Forth Additional inscription

Cynthia Lofthouse Additional inscription

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To consider projects in respect of the National Grid compensation scheme:

Cllr Hubbard suggested the Alleyways Improvement Scheme to coincide with the feasibility study ongoing at the moment, seconded Cllr Mallett. As an alternative he suggested the White Mare Roundabout and Cllr Reynard suggested

the works to Long Street. It was agreed that the suggested projects should be firstly the Alleyways Improvement Scheme and secondly the Long street Enhancement Scheme.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts advised that the extension to St James' Church was approved by Hambleton despite the Town Council and the Conservation Area Advisory Group not being happy. Hambleton have refused the proposed phone mast at Millgate car park. Cllr Robinson expressed the view that some of the reasons given by the Town Council when recommending a refusal were not material planning issues, but Cllr Roberts explained that the Planning Committee ask questions of Hambleton to clarify issues where it is felt there could be problem. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Town Council supports the Article 4 directive and therefore must stick to it.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that we have still not been successful in getting anyone to quote for the kerbing around the Garden of Rest and for piping water to the top of the cemetery. He said we will have to look at contractors outside the town. Malcolm Blackburn advises that the noticeboard is to be put in position on Wednesday. The post in the middle of the footpath is now in place.

To receive Reports:

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that there is a County Council meeting on Wednesday, but there is nothing on the agenda specifically relating to Thirsk. A consultation



on bus shelters will be coming out. Cllr Marshall is chasing up the possibility of a roundabout at the new Auction Mart and she is also chasing up what is happening at Sutton Bank.

#### b) District Council

Cllr Robinson reported on a recent Council meeting, saying that Mrs June Imeson had been elected Chairman with Cllr Peter Brown as Vice Chairman. Later in the year all Councillors are to be supplied with laptops for their use at home for District Council work. Cllr Hubbard explained that the intention is to cut down on paperwork.

Cllr Hubbard advised that he is still on the same committees as the previous year.

Cllr Marshall advised that she is still on the same committees as last year. She reported that Cabinet has approved a car parking strategy, which included part of the Nursery Gardens becoming long stay. They are looking for further car parking locations on the edge of town.

Cllr Marshall referred to Cllr Adamson being on the radio that morning. She said that Cabinet are looking at schemes for homeless people. There is a proposal to convert the homeless shelter in Thirsk from families to single people. Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the condition of the hostel, particularly bearing in mind that it is the only one in Hambleton.

Cllr Marshall advised that Hambleton got an 'excellent' in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

Cllr Hubbard advised that it is thought a recommendation will go forward to move the Farmers' Market to next to the existing market.

To receive Reports:

Representatives

Speaking on behalf of the Thirsk Infants School Charity, Cllr Marshall said that some grab rails have been installed to comply with the requirements of the DDA . She advised that some young boys are climbing over the fencing next to library and onto the island in the river and damage may have been caused to the flower boxes on the library railings. The IDB to be asked to clear the silt.

Cllr Pack referred to an invitation from Thirsk in Bloom to a buffet to thank the Council for their support. Cllr Adamson thanked Thirsk in Bloom for their hard work. Cllr Marshall complimented Thirsk in Bloom on the fact that the town looks so attractive.

Cllr Watson advised that the hearing loop has been installed in the Town Hall and the portable one has now been delivered. The main hall, entrance and staircase is to be redecorated and more power points are to be put in the main hall.

Reporting on a YLCA meeting held the previous week, Cllr Watson said this was very poorly attended and they are looking at changing the venue. Cllr Roberts was appointed onto the Joint Executive Committee and also the Playing Fields Committee. Cllr Adamson had attended the appointment of Reverend Richard Rowling as Rural Dean. He had also been invited to an exhibition of photographs at the church.

Members

Cllr Marshall referred to the White Mare Roundabout, pointing out that at the Amenity Committee Meeting it had been agreed to ask Chris Amy to weed it. The clerk apologised for not having passed this on and said she would speak to Chris Amy the following day.

Cllr Robinson referred to an Auction of Promises to be held by the Ladies Chamber of Trade on Wednesday in aid of the Christmas Lights.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that there is no information or map of Thirsk at the railway station. He also pointed out that the Public Footpath sign is still not up at the back of the 'Golden Fleece'. Cllr Mallett also referred to the Thirsk Map, expressing concern that if it is decided that it should be sited at RANY then no one will see it.

Referring to Cllr Reynard's report on the camera to be installed at the Clock Café, Cllr Morton queried where this will be positioned. Cllr Reynard advised that it will be at the rear.

Cllr Marshall referred to the unveiling of the blue plaque on Thirsk Museum on 3rd June.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the public be excluded for a confidential item and that Standing Orders be suspended.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 3rd June 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, J Marshall, A Morton, K Reynard, F Roberts, J Watson, Cllr John Fletcher of HDC (1st item only), 4 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs S Hubbard (family bereavement), J Jackson (away), R Mallett (away), C Pack (away), accepted.

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Morton that Standing Orders be suspended.

Address by Councillor John Fletcher of HDC

Cllr Fletcher advised that at the last Hambleton Flood Forum the question of the non-operation of the Floodline at the recent Bank Holiday weekend was discussed. This had been due to a technical problem with their communications equipment, which has since been rectified and steps have been taken to ensure it does not happen again. Hambleton have apologised to the residents of Thirsk for the mix-up and Cllr Fletcher reiterated these apologies. Cllr Fletcher referred to the County Council's Emergency Plan and said the Town Council could have an emergency plan, but it would need to dovetail in with the County Council Plan. Cllr Fletcher said the Flood Forum had explored the future possibilities to

prevent flooding in Thirsk and Cllr Hubbard had raised the question of having floodgates. However, this was not thought to be a wise move because of the knock-on effect. The main issue is to stop the water getting to Thirsk and passing through Thirsk. The possibility of water storage areas is being looked at and the Town Council would be consulted as to where these should be. Cllr Watson referred to the silting in Cod Beck and Cllr Fletcher said this had been looked into and the Internal Drainage Board have been consulted, although Cllr Fletcher said this is not as big an issue as might be thought. Cllr Reynard referred to the silting under Finkle Street Bridge and also to the dead trees on the riverbank there. Cllr Marshall felt the Flood Forum had been a very good meeting. She expressed concern that although people were contacted when the river was rising there did not appear to be a system in place to contact people when it had reached its peak. It was suggested that the Town Council and Broadacres should be on the list of people to be contacted.

Mrs Konieczny advised that when she was unable to get through to the Hambleton Floodline she rang the Environment Agency, but their information had not been updated.

Cllr Reynard enquired about the timescale for the water storage areas. Cllr Fletcher explained that this is a large, complex and expensive project and he felt that five years would be optimistic.

Cllr Marshall felt that once we have received all the information a special meeting to look at the Emergency Plan should be held.

Cllr Fletcher concluded by saying that a great deal of money has been spent on flood prevention on Hambleton and he felt the District Council are working in the right direction.

Cllr Adamson thanked Cllr Fletcher for attending.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

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To appoint Chair of Amenity Committee for 2004/5:

Cllr Adamson wished to propose Cllrs Hubbard, seconded Cllr Roberts, but as Cllr Hubbard was not present it was agreed that this be deferred to the next meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6th May 2004:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Fisher asked about the progress with the Long Street Enhancement Scheme. Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting re this had been held the previous evening. At the June meeting the Town Council will be asked to approve the plans in order that they can go to consultation. The plans will be on display in the library for a week and at East Thirsk Community Hall for a day. A letter about this will be sent to all residents of Long Street telling them about the exhibition. The plans are being drawn up by Hambleton's Engineers based on the original scheme, but much reduced, partly because of comments from the first consultation, but also because there is not a great deal of money available. The scheme will be mainly heavy planters. Mr Fisher expressed concern at the number of HGVs which park outside his house.

Mr Wilkinson and Mr Hodgson referred to the item about the speeding on St James' Green and pointed out that this is a particular problem on Stammergegate where severe damage to properties has occurred, but people have not been prosecuted. Cllr Marshall explained that we have asked for this to go to a County Committee for Hambleton meeting. Mr Wilkinson and Mr Hodgson, together with any other residents, were asked to write with their complaints to reinforce those made by the Town Council. It was also suggested that they should speak to Inspector Broadley. Cllr Adamson suggested the Town Council write to the Divisional Commander expressing concern that there have been no prosecutions.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Morton that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

A0054 Speeding around St James' Green; letter sent to Stephen Hague asking that this be an agenda item at the County Committee for Hambleton meeting. The County Council have been asked to carry out a speed check.

A0054 Grasscutting outside Rybeck Farm; letter sent to Edward Barker enclosing letter from County.

A0054 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this; chasing letter sent.

A0054 Benches in Millgate car park/landscaping; nothing further on this. It was pointed out that some work is ongoing. It was noted that the seat in memory of John Gormley is now in place.

A0054 Seat in the Market Place; letter sent suggesting this be sited outside Pattisons; acknowledgement received.

A0054 Graffiti in alleyways; the Clock Café have painted over the graffiti in

their alleyway.

A0055 Trees in Mill Gardens; letter sent to Steve Quartermain; no reply as yet.

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A0055 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; nothing further on this as yet.

A0055 New signs for Marage Road; E-mail received from Chris Wright pointing out that Marage is correct and not Marriage.

A0055 Repairs to boundary wall of St Mary's Church; nothing further on this.

Agreed that no action be taken.

A0055 Fencing around The Holmes Play Area; letter sent to Sheena Spence asking her to come and have a look. If she can't do this then the clerk will take some photographs to send to her.

A0055 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; reply from English Heritage advising that in principle they have no objection to putting play equipment there, but they point out the financial and management implications of doing this. Agreed that a letter be sent saying we already have several play areas and have systems management in place. At this stage this is a tentative investigation. We have monies to come from a neighbouring development and once we have the landowner's consent we will submit their forms. Cllr Watson referred to the new kissing gates to be installed on Castlegarth Peter Penny is dealing with this; the clerk will check on progress.

A0055 Storage of building materials/skip on St James Green; Cllr Adamson had checked the terms of the byelaw and they are in contravention of this. Agreed that Mike Armstrong be asked to send a letter.

A0056 Speed limit on Stockton Road; letter sent and reply awaited.



A0056 Millstone on Stockton Road; no action on this as yet as the clerk is endeavouring to trace where it is to be positioned. She was advised that Cllr Robinson and Mike Roberts are aware of this.

A0056 Vegetation on Station Road; letter sent to the County Council and reply awaited.

A0056 Complaint re Clock Café; letter sent to Abigail McGhie.

A0057 Emergency Plan; a copy had been obtained from County and a draft plan is in the office. It was agreed that this be passed round and then it should be an agenda item for the Town Council in order to set a date for a meeting.

A0057 White Mare Roundabout; The clerk had spoken to Tony Jordan and had received an e-mail from him advising that he will let us know what Rotary plan to do. A0058 Periodic Electoral Review draft recommendations; letter sent. Cllr Marshall advised that the Hambleton Area Committee had decided not to put any representation in.

A0058 Todds Court; letter sent.

A0058 Thirsk in Bloom; letter sent to Mr Walker thanking him for all his help.

A0058 Blue plaque on Thirsk Museum; Cllr Marshall advised that this was unveiled today. She thanked the members of the Town Council Office for their help.

To receive Correspondence:

NYCC; notification of carriageway resurfacing works on A168 from the dual carriageway to the A61 roundabout.

NYCC; notice re the proposed road hump in Finkle Street

NYCC; notice re temporary suspension of HGVs on the A61 from The Busby Stoop to Long Street on Saturday nights from 5th June to 17th July.

Mr. A. Roscamp re grassed area at the end of Herriot Way, which is being used

for parking. Cllr Marshall said this has been looked at before and it appears to be local

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residents who are parking there. It was agreed that we look at the cost of the boundary fencing put on St James Green to see whether it will be feasible to put a fence there. Ron Cowels re renovation of milestone on Ingramgate. Agreed that his invoice at the increased cost of £100 for painting both milestones be included in the accounts for payment at the June Town Council meeting. Workcrafts; no longer able to take part in any maintenance of the Millennium Green. The Millennium Green Committee to meet as soon as possible. An advert for someone to do litter picking on the Millennium Green to be put on the noticeboard.

To Appoint Town Council Committee Members:

Councillors had been circulated with a list of Committee Members and some amendments were made to this. Agreed that this be adopted subject to Cllr Jackson indicating the Committees he wishes to serve on upon his return. The Chairman stressed that Committees should meet as soon as possible.

To Receive Reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Nothing to report

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Marshall advised that Cllr Mallett had reported to

her that the pumping station was pumping sewage into the Beck; Yorkshire Water have now been to this. It was noted that the grass on Ingramgate had been cut for the first time this year and the grass had gone into the grates.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that the new picnic table, along with the other picnic tables on The Holmes, is being well used. She had looked at the trees on East Thirsk Play Area which Chris Amy advises have bacterial canker. Chris Amy to be asked for an estimate for treating them. Not all the swings appear to be in place at East Thirsk; the clerk will speak to Chris Amy.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Roberts advised that part of the path from the Black Bridge to Stockton Road has been strimmed but it has not been finished. It is understood that Chris Amy has done this for Peter Penny and the clerk will speak to him.

Cllr Watson reported that she had met some representatives of the Missing Persons Helpline on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr Watson pointed out that new goods are being sold at the car boot sales at the Racecourse. Trading Standards to be asked to look at it.

Cllr Reynard pointed out that there are still branches that need to be removed from The Holmes.

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To receive Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Reynard reported that the planting is going well. A celebration evening was held recently.

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

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 21st June 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, (Chairman), S Hubbard, J Jackson, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Owen Hayward, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (2nd item only), Mrs C Thorpe (Darlington & Stockton Times), 2 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

R Mallett (away), J Marshall (family illness), A Robinson (late arrival), accepted.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hubbard that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Owen Hayward of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

Mr Hayward gave a presentation on the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2004-2009. He explained that they were required to produce the plan by 31st October 2003. They are looking at prevention as well as cure, at optimising resources to obtain maximum value for money and at maximising flexibility. He said they are required to define particular risk areas - Thirsk is classed as a 'red' area, i.e. high risk, because of the number of major roads around Thirsk and also to some extent the number of house fires.

Mr Owen advised that the Fire and Rescue Service work with other agencies and in some cases are looking at shared sites. Thirsk is manned by a retained crew and it is planned to upgrade their vehicle to a rescue tender. The Chairman thanked Mr Hayward for attending.

Proposed Cllr Morton seconded Cllr Hubbard that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts, accepted.

Police Report:

PC Hannon reported that there are four Police Support Officers in Hambleton; they are used for race days and for foot patrols around the estates and the town. She advised that the police are hoping to move into their unit on the Industrial Estate by the end of the year.

Cllr Robinson joined the meeting.

PC Hannon advised that one person has been convicted of shoplifting in the last month. Cllr Hubbard referred to incidents under Millgate Bridge where youths are congregating and PC Hannon said that the Community Safety Officers are keeping an eye on this. They are looking at moving the CCTV camera to pick up such incidents, but this will cost £20K. Cllr Reynard referred to the fact that a Hosta had been taken from a tub in Bakers Alley - PC Hannon to check the CCTV tape. Cllr Robinson referred to new powers which give the police the ability to move groups of people on - PC Hannon to look into this.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Dodds pointed out that last year there was a big improvement in the appearance of The Holmes when the grass was cut up to the beck side. Mr Walker had been asked to do this this year. The clerk will contact him about this and about cutting the vegetation down on either side of the path to the White Bridge.

Mrs Bond referred to the planning application for four townhouses on Barbeck saying that this was out of keeping with the area. Cllr Roberts said we welcome development on this site, but feel this block of houses is too large and too high. She felt that three two storey dwellings would be welcomed. Cllr Adamson expressed concern that this is being dealt with as a delegated item. Cllr Robinson to ask for it to be a Committee item.

Matters arising:

P0079 Emergency Plan; copy obtained from the County Council - will be circulated to Councillors. There is also a draft copy in the office.

P0079 Cemetery Noticeboard; Malcolm Blackburn has indicated that he will do this later this week.

P0079 Graffiti in alleyway alongside Clock Café; this has been painted over.

P0079 Branches on The Holmes; the clerk has reminded Chris Amy.

P0080 'Welcome to Thirsk' noticeboard; now being used for Town Council notices.

Mr Mann is cleaning it.

P0081 Graham Cummings Group re Thirsk Day 2005; amendments made and submitted.

P0081 Citizens Advice Bureau; letter sent

P0081 Thirsk Cricket Club; letter sent confirming the Town Council will sponsor a ball.

P0081 Hambleton District Wide Local Plan; Mick Jewitt coming to Amenities on 1st July.

P0082 National Grid compensation scheme; suggested projects submitted to National Grid.

P0082 Kerbing in the Garden of Rest; the clerk had met with a contractor last week. He is to provide a quote for the kerbing and one for a concrete base for a seat in the Garden of Rest.

P0083 Silting under Millgate Bridge; reply received from the IDB advising that they have scheduled some work for August.

P0083 Town Hall; decorating started last week.

P0083 White Mare Roundabout; now weeded. Cllr Reynard expressed concern at the state of the roundabout. Cllr Roberts advised that Rotary are wanting to do this - the person dealing with it is on holiday at present. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that Chris Amy arranges for it to be sprayed and cleaned off.

P0083 Farmers' Market; Cllr Robinson advised that Cabinet are looking at moving it to adjacent to the existing market.

P0083 Unveiling of blue plaque; letter of appreciation from Roger Knight of the MCC.

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Finance

Accounts for payment



Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Roberts that the following accounts be approved for payment: Fox's Copy Centre - photocopying etc. £49.73

CE & CM Walker - grasscutting, May £1,527.50

Ron Cowels - Painting milestones £100.00

BT - Office telephone £108.29

Power Point - padlock and chain for Castlegarth £15.99

Wybone - 2 wire baskets for Cemetery £152.30

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall - Hire of Hall, Apr-June £150.00

HDC - Office rent, quarter commencing 1.6.04. £660.94

HDC - Office rates, July £58.00

York & North Yorks Playing Fields Association Subscription £30.00

YLCA - Association of Burial Authorities Subscription £40.00

Todd Waste Management - Emptying Cemetery Skip £121.62

Mazars - Audit Fee, year to 31.3.02. £881.25

Mazars - Audit Fee, year to 31.3.03. £763.75

Sakata Ornamentals - plants for Thirsk in Bloom £474.56

Julie Harron - Salary, June £260.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary, May £989.67

Chris Amy Weekly inspections, £182.80

Mill Gardens £120.00

Picnic Area £40.00

Castlegarth £40.00

The Holmes Management Plan £260.00

Mike l'Anson - pvc gloves £14.40

- Skip hire £129.25

Thirsk Museum - research and advice Re blue plaques £210.00

Paid Since last meeting

Petty Cash £49.16

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI May £555.29

Income received

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge - June £397.12

Grave Purchase £220.00

Interment £110.00

Interment of Ashes £32.00

Memorials £168.00

To receive and approve the Monthly Balance Sheet and Budget Report for May 2004

Received and approved.

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To receive the report from the external auditors for 2001/2 and 2002/3:

The accounts have now been signed off by Mazars. They require that in the future an Asset Register and a Risk Assessment be produced and that the Fidelity Cover is increased. The clerk advised that an Asset Register and a Risk Assessment have now been produced. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that the Fidelity Cover be increased to £20K.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

No applications received.

Correspondence

Tadcaster Pub Company; Copy of a Protection Order made on behalf of Michael

Henly and Angela Edwards re 'The Lord Nelson'

NYCC - Proposed Street Lighting Column Replacement on the Hambleton Estate and Norby Estate; advising that all concrete and aluminium columns are to be replaced.

Following receipt of the letter the clerk had spoken to Paul Gilmore who advised that practically all columns are to go and will be replaced with white lights on stainless steel columns - the lights have a better control and the columns are guaranteed for 70 years. All cast iron columns will be removed. A scheme plan is to be sent to the Town Council in due course.

Miss Anne McIntosh MP re silt under Millgate Bridge and antisocial behaviour.

Reply to be sent advising her of the action taken and informing her that to move the camera would cost £20K.

HDC request for Street Trading Consent for Mr Robert Barrie Proctor to sell ice cream from a vehicle in Thirsk Market Place. Not in agreement with this as there are already several shops selling ice cream and we would not wish to take trade from them. Also do not wish to lose a parking space.

NYCC; notice re proposed extension of 30mph limit, A61 Stockton Road - noted.

The Environment Agency enclosing a copy of letter sent to properties at risk inviting them to sign up to or renew their details on the Automatic Voice Message system.

YRCC; advising that HDC have appointed David Cumberland Housing Regeneration to undertake a district wide housing needs survey.

David Cumberland Housing Regeneration Limited enclosing questionnaire; the clerk

will complete this.

The Boundary Committee re Periodic Electoral Review of North Yorkshire County Council; no further comments.

HDC re proposed Charter (copy circulated to Councillors)

It was agreed that the following points be made.

Clause 19 : remove 'all'

Clause 20 : no time limit given. Felt this should be dealt with in the same way as the County Council.

Clause 22 : 28 days is too long.

YLCA Annual Conference and AGM - 4th/5th September. Councillors to advise the clerk if they wish to attend.

1st Thirsk Scout Group -letter of thanks for the help with their badge.

United Co-op; copy of application for the Transfer of the Justices' Licence of the Co-op Late shop from Michael Walsh and Nicola Cottingham to Michael Walsh and Joyce Wright.

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Cricket Ball sponsorship; the clerk passed on a message from Cllr Marshall requesting we sponsor a second cricket ball. We will then not be charged for the buffet following the unveiling of the blue plaque. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that we sponsor a second ball.

The Boundary Committee; Report on the final recommendations for unitary local government in North Yorkshire (already circulated to Councillors). No further comment.

HDC enclosing Town Centres Study Survey; the clerk will complete this.

HDC re a seminar of Planning Training for Parish Clerks; the clerk will attend.

To receive update and approve plans for the Long Street Enhancement Scheme:

In view of the fact that Councillors had not had an opportunity to look at the plans in advance, it was agreed that this be deferred until the Amenity meeting on 1st July. Cllr Robinson expressed the view that he would like to see the parking layout.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts advised that Hambleton have approved the application for the conversion of an outbuilding to form a dwelling on land adjacent to 27A Ingramgate contrary to the Town Council's recommendation. Another enquiry re siting a mobile phone mast had been received, this time for a mast on the Regent Bingo Hall. Cllr Robinson felt that this could be acceptable as all the equipment would be inside the Bingo Hall and only the mast would be visible. It was pointed out that there is a banner on the front of Quality Fayre - the Enforcement Officer to be advised.

Burial Board Report:

The notice board could be up this week. We are currently awaiting quotes for the kerbing and for the concrete base for the seat. The piping of water to the top of the Cemetery is being looked at by two people. Cllr Morton advised that he and Cllr Adamson had laid down a number of stone crosses which were not secure. Cllr Adamson said that any headstones in the old part of the Cemetery, which become loose, will be laid down. In the new part, any which become loose will be laid down and, where possible, the relatives will be informed. Agreed that a

letter be sent to HDC asking how they dealt with the safety aspects in the closed churchyard at Hutton Rudby. The same enquiry to also be made to Bedale and Northallerton Burial Boards.

To Receive Reports:

a) County Council

The County Councillor was not present.

b) District Council

Cllr Hubbard advised that the Cultural and Social Overview Scrutiny Committee are currently appraising the need for a Town Centre Manager to promote tourism etc. If it is felt that there is a need then this will go to Cabinet.

To Receive Reports

Cllr Pack reported on the Thirsk Clock Café saying that things were going quite well. Fund raising events are going on. This is to be a dinner dance at the Golden Fleece to celebrate their first year and a barbecue for the young people.

Cllr Robinson advised that the Lambert Memorial Hospital are holding an Open Day on Saturday.

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Members

Cllr Roberts advised that the Town Hall now has a new Union Jack Flag - she asked whether the Town Council, along with Sowerby Parish Council and the Town Hall Management Committee, would pay for it; agreed.

Cllr Pack pointed out that there are no hanging baskets up at the moment as there are some problems with the brackets. It is hoped this will be rectified within the next few days.

Cllr Reynard pointed out that several residents from Norby who are in wheelchairs would like to go onto The Holmes, but there are no dropped kerbs onto The Holmes. Agreed that Mike Roberts be asked whether they can put a dropped kerb onto the Holmes.

Cllr Morton reported that there are travellers on the Industrial Estate.

Cllr Adamson advised that when the rearrangement of the road was taking place in Picks Lane the County Council removed a swan necked lamp post and took it to Romanby. A letter to be sent requesting that it be returned.

Cllr Watson referred to the tarmac potholes on the cobbles on Kirkgate. Some time ago Mike Roberts advised that he had applied for funding for this. Agreed to ask for the up to date position.

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

The meeting closed at 9:40pm

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 1st July 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, S Hubbard, J Jackson, J Marshall, C Pack, K. Reynard, F. Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, M Jewitt (Head of Planning and Economic Development, HDC), Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr R Mallett, (away), Cllr A Morton (another engagement), Cllr F Roberts, late arrival (hospital visiting), accepted.

Cllr Adamson proposed that Item 8 on the agenda be moved to item 4, agreed.

Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Mick Jewitt of HDC re the Hambleton District Wide Local Plan Review.

Mr Jewitt explained that the District Council has a statutory duty to prepare a local plan setting out the planning policies for the area over a period of time.

These include policies for housing, retailing, industrial etc. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill has meant that a new Plan must be prepared and this new style Local Plan must be in place by 2007. However, this can be prepared in



modules and Hambleton may not do the whole plan at once because of the time constraints. There are a number of consultations taking place, including a housing needs survey, a survey of town centre outlets etc. The letter sent to parish and town councils requesting their input into possible development sites was a preliminary in order to look at the possibilities and would not affect the Town Council's right to object later. The plan will run to 2021, but will be reviewed 5 yearly. Planning applications will be required to be determined in line with the Plan.

Ms Thorpe joined the meeting.

Cllr Hubbard enquired whether it will be put to consultation and Mr Jewitt confirmed that this will be the case. At the end formal objections to the Plan can be made and these will be determined by independent bodies at a Public Enquiry.

Cllr Jackson felt the questionnaire should have been addressed to individuals and should have come from the District Council. Mr Jewitt explained that this was done by specialist consultants and needed to be anonymous. They are also consulting estate agents, housing associations etc.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Thirsk Local Plan Sub Committee who had been asked about where the extra houses should be, i.e. in the market towns or outside. Mr Jewitt said it is not known how the extra development will be distributed, but there is a possibility of a higher proportion in villages than was originally thought. He said there is less support for restricting development than in the

past. Cllr Adamson expressed concern at the fact that there are very few large houses in Thirsk. Mr Jewitt replied that to ascertain such views was one of the reasons for the housing needs survey.

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Cllr Robinson pointed out that when housing development is restricted it causes house prices to rise, but Mr Jewitt felt this was not significant.

Cllr Reynard asked about affordable housing. Mr Jewitt said a percentage of housing development will be affordable housing, but if the survey shows that a higher percentage is needed then this will be looked at. Much less public sector housing is being built.

Cllr Watson referred to the Auction Mart site and asked whether, when development takes place there, account will be taken of the impact on schools, doctors, services etc. Mr Jewitt confirmed this will be the case.

Cllr Jackson referred to the number of parking spaces for new builds. Mr Jewitt advised that the government are seeking to encourage people not to use cars.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Article 4 Directive. Mr Jewitt explained that designation as a Conservation area does not control development in the way an Article 4 directive does. Cllr Jackson referred to the use of 'appropriate materials' in an Article 4 area.

Mr Jewitt advised that the proposed Local Plan would be out for consultation in Spring 2005.

Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be reinstated.

To appoint Chair of Amenity Committee for 2004/5:

Cllr Adamson proposed that Cllr Hubbard be appointed Chairman, seconded Cllr Jackson. Cllr Hubbard accepted the position and took the Chair.

To receive update and approve plans for the Long Street Enhancement Scheme:

Cllr Marshall explained about the Long Street Enhancement Working Party. A consultation was held on the plans drawn up by the Working Party and in general the public were very supportive of doing something to Long Street. A feasibility study was then drawn up and attempts were made to obtain funding for the scheme. £50K funding is available, i.e. £20K from HDC £20K from the TRI, £5K from the Hambleton Area Committee and £5K from Thirsk Town Council. Impact areas have been identified. Looking at raised beds outside the shop rather than the bollards, leaving two grassed areas to create impact (also because this was a request from the owners of the houses), improved traffic management by making it not look so open. The plans will be available in the Library for a week from 12th July and at East Thirsk Community Hall for the afternoon and evening of 20th July. A letter will be sent to all the residents of Long Street and comments forms will be available at the Library and at East Thirsk Community Hall. If there is agreement then it is hoped to start work in the Autumn.

Cllr Watson expressed concern at the grassed area near the entrance to Hambleton Drive, pointing out that it will do away with parking spaces.

Cllr Robinson was also not in agreement with grassed areas. He would also like to see the parking layout.

Cllr Reynard enquired who would maintain the planted areas and also expressed concern at having trees in planters.

Replying to the above queries, Cllr Marshall said that nothing has been done on this plan about parking and it is up to the people concerned to determine how and where

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they park. Grassed areas - will see how they come out in the consultation.

Upkeep - the Town Council would be asked to maintain the planted areas.

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Jewitt pointed out that the proposed Enhancement Scheme is a start because of the limited amount of money available at present. He said that £45K is available for this and if it is not spent then it is possible it may not be spent in Thirsk.

Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Proposed Cllr Watson seconded Cllr Jackson that the plans as shown should go to consultation; all in favour.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

Matters arising:

A0059 Emergency Plan: Cllr Marshall referred to the Floodline Packs supplied by

the County Council. Cllr Roberts felt they should be available for members of the public and suggested the video should be on show in the Town Hall. Cllr Hubbard felt we should involve other agencies, such as the CCA, in this. It was agreed that a special meeting to look at the Emergency Plan be held on 12th August at 7.30pm.

A0060 Speeding on St James' Green; reply from the County Council advising that this is to go to the Hambleton Area Committee on 12th July. Results of the speed check received - the average speed around The Green is 30mph.

A0060 Grasscutting outside Rybeck Farm; letter from the County Council asking whether our contractors can add this to their schedule. The clerk will check with Mr Walker.

A0060 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this as yet.

A0060 Benches in Millgate Car Park/landscaping; nothing further on this as yet.

A0060 Proposed seat outside Pattisons; reply from County Council advising that they cannot agree to this as it would be over a water stop-tap and there would not be sufficient footway left for pedestrians.

A0060 Trees in Mill Gardens; reply received from Steve Quartermain explaining how this was dealt with. He has made the Planning Officer aware of the Town Council's concern at how this was handled.

A0061 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; replies received from the owners advising that they understand the land belongs to John Bell. Letter already sent to John Bell, reply awaited.

A0061 Fencing around The Holmes Play Area; reply from Sheena Spence awaited.

A0061 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; letter sent to English Heritage.

Chasing letter sent to John Bell. Reply from Peter Penny re kissing gates advising that he has asked Mouchel-Parkman to put together a scheme for this.

A0061 Storage of building materials/skip on St James' Green; Eccles Heddon have sent letter asking the residents concerned to remove these within 14 days. No action appears to have been taken. Agreed that we go back to Eccles Heddon and ask how we should proceed with this.

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A0061 Speed limit on Stockton Road; reply from the County Council advising that they are undertaking a period of consultation and a proposal to extend the existing 30 mph speed limit.

A0061 Millstone on Stockton Road; Cllr Robinson and the clerk to look at this.

A0061 Vegetation on Station Road; reply from the County Council advising that they have reported this to John Bell.

A0061 Todds Court; reply awaited.

A0061 White Mare roundabout; Cllr Adamson advised that he had spoken to Rotary about this. In the meantime it was agreed that as there are wild flowers on it it should not be sprayed at the moment.

A0061 Cost of fencing on St James' Green; the clerk could find no trace of this. Agreed to ask Chris Amy for a price for fencing the grassed area at the end of Herriot Way.

A0062 Litter picking on the Millennium Green; notice on board - no applicants as yet.

A0062 East Thirsk Play Area; estimate for treating trees requested from Chris Amy. He has also been reminded that there are two swings, currently in the cemetery shed, to be put up.

A0062 Path from the Black Bridge to Stockton Road; now strimmed.

A0062 Car boot sales; reply received from Trading Standards advising that there are no restrictions on the sale of new goods at car boot sales.

A0062 Branches on The Holmes; the clerk has once again reminded Chris Amy that these need to be removed.

A0062 Painting of milestones; Cllr Roberts commented on the attractiveness of the milestone on Ingramgate. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is the milestone at Spa Farm. Ron Cowels to be asked to paint it if it needs doing.

#### Correspondence

HDC - Request for a temporary road closure from 1400 hours on Friday 3rd December to 1700 hours on Monday 6th December for the Christmas Fayre. Cllr Robinson proposed we support this. This was put to the vote and was carried with 5 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

C.E. and C.M. Walker re damaged trees on St. James' Green - he will inform his staff to take care when strimming near young trees. Uncut grass at Fairfield - Mr Walker to inspect.

NYCC; contribution to grass cutting for 2004 season will be £1,343.38. The percentage rate increase is to be reviewed at the end of June.

Tony Jordan; E-mail offering his services for gardening/maintenance work.

Copy of letter from Broadacres to Mr Welford of Hambleton Place advising that they are considering building houses on some of the garage sites on the Hambleton Estate, also copy of a letter from Mr and Mrs Murray of Hambleton Place objecting to this. A letter to be sent to Broadacres asking exactly what their intentions are.

Note from Mrs Kirton and Mrs Richards of Todds Court re two large willow trees blocking out their light - a letter to be sent to Broadacres. Also path from

Ingramgate to the Little Green is in need of attention - to be reported to the County Council. Mrs Kirton and Mrs Richards also advise that from time to time sewerage is spilling out of the pumping station - when the red light comes on they should inform Yorkshire Water of this.

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To receive Reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Nothing to report.

Christmas Festivities - Nothing to report.

Greens and Ingramgate - Nothing to report.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that a hole has formed in one step of the slide on Johnson Close - replacement parts have been ordered.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Adamson advised that the Burial Board is giving serious consideration to employing a permanent worker if this could be done in conjunction with other Committees. Open Areas and Central Areas Committees to look at this.

To receive Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the judging is to take place on 20th July. The hanging baskets are still not available owing to a technical problem with the brackets, but it is hoped to have them in place this weekend. Cllr Pack referred to the



problem of weeds in the pavements etc - a letter to be sent to Mike Roberts.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 19th July 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, J Watson, PC Francis Hannon, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington & Stockton Times'), 3 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs A Morton (away), J Marshall (family illness), accepted.

Proposed Cllr Mallet, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Ms Abigail McGhie of Thirsk Clock Café:

Ms McGhie advised that the Clock Café has now been running for ten months since its opening in September 2003. The aim is to provide a safe venue for young people in Thirsk, particularly in the evenings. It is proving to be very successful with an average of 50 young people using it each night, mainly young men. The Café also opens during the day on Thursdays and provides a one to one service at various periods during the week. They have been awarded a Community Grant which will provide staff for two years and will enable them to open more hours. Ms McGhie was pleased to report that there has been no vandalism in the building since it opened. She explained that they cover a great many activities,

including helping young people apply for jobs. She is aware that there are instances of groups of young people congregating outside and said they do their best with this, but have very little influence outside the building. They are looking for a larger building, but have financial constraints, although Ms McGhie tries all sources of funding. Ms McGhie said the young people would be interested in attending a future Town Council meeting to give their views and it was agreed that arrangements for this would be made. She invited Councillors to visit the Clock Café at any time. Cllr Reynard thanked Ms McGhie and her staff for all the work they are doing. Cllr Adamson thanked Ms McGhie for attending.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hubbard, accepted.

Police Report:

Referring to items raised at the previous Town Council meeting, PC Hannon advised that the theft of the Hosta from Bakers Alley was not picked up by the CCTV cameras. She explained that for two months from 1st July 'hot spots' have been identified in Northallerton and Romanby. The police will go to these areas in the evenings and if they see any instances of antisocial behaviour they will ask the Duty Sergeant if they can enforce the Order. Youngsters under 16 will be taken home, those between 16 and 18 will be taken to the Police Station and those over 18 will be arrested. Inspector Broadley had advised that there were not many incidents during the Thirsk Festival, but there had been an assault and someone had been apprehended for this. Mill Gardens are being checked on a

regular basis and if there are underage

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drinkers then the alcohol is taken from them. The police are also checking up on HGVs exceeding the 7.5 tonne limit.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Hubbard that Standing Orders be suspended.

Open Forum

Mr Fisher referred to the Long Street Enhancement Plan and expressed concern that no planters etc are planned for outside his property. He advised that he had written to the County Council some time ago and was awaiting their response. Cllr Adamson pointed out that the 7.5 tonne weight limit does not apply to Long Street. Mr Robson of Long Street also expressed concern that nothing is being done outside his property which is next door to Mr Fisher's. Cllr Pack agreed to pass on their comments to the Long Street Enhancement Working Party. Mr Robson also mentioned the signage on Long Street which he felt is not adequate - this will be taken up with the County Council. Cllr Jackson pointed out that the Town Council is also disappointed that there is not more funding available for the Long Street Enhancement.

Mr Tony Jordan referred to the White Mare Roundabout, saying that the Yorkshire in Bloom judging is taking place on 20th July and expressing concern at the impact of the roundabout on the judging. Cllr Adamson said that the dealings with Rotary regarding the roundabout will be done officially.

Matters Arising:

P0085 Grasscutting; Mr Walker has cut the becksides and the grass alongside the path to the White Bridge. Cllr Reynard said it has not been cut far enough back from the path; the clerk will take this up with Mr Walker.

P0085 Emergency Plan; circulated to Councillors. A meeting has been arranged for 12th August.

P0085 Cemetery noticeboard; now in place.

P0085 Branches on The Holmes; removed.

P0085 Kerbing/seat base in the Garden of Rest; quotes obtained - to be dealt with as a confidential item.

P0085 White Mare Roundabout; Cllr Adamson pointed out that amenity matters such as this must be kept for Amenity Meetings.

P0087 Fidelity Insurance Cover; form to increase this obtained from Allianz Cornhill Insurance.

P0087 Silt under Millgate Bridge; copy of letter from David McGloin to Anne McIntosh MP. Also E-mail from John Fletcher advising that he has spoken to Mike Roberts about the silting under Millgate Bridge.

P0087 HDC's proposed Charter, comments sent in.

P0088 Seminar on Planning for Parish Clerks; the clerk had attended this and found it very interesting although a little basic. A further seminar is to be arranged.

P0088 Banner on Quality Fayre; now removed.

P0088 Cemetery noticeboard; now up. Quotes received for kerbing and seat base.

Reply received from Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar and Burill Joint Burial Authority advising that safety issues in the Cemetery are to be discussed at

their meeting on 4th August and they will contact us following that meeting.

Also telephone reply from

Page P0092

Northallerton Burial Board advising that Zurich Insurance did a push test on their graves. Zurich then produced a spreadsheet showing the different categories of memorials, their stability etc. Northallerton are to let us have a copy of the spreadsheet. They advise that Neil Collinson provides a testing and making stable service.

P0089 Dropped kerb onto The Holmes; reply received from Mike Roberts advising that this will be considered as part of a future programme. The Town Council to be consulted nearer the time re the exact location.

P0089 Removal of swan necked lamp post; reply received from Mike Roberts advising that he has passed this to Paul Gilmore.

P0089 Tarmac on the cobbles on Kirkgate; reply received from Mike Roberts advising that he has now secured funding to reinstate some of the cobbled areas in Kirkgate. The works should be carried out later in the financial year.

Finance:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Jackson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

CE & CM Walker - Grasscutting, June £2291.25

Amberol - Hanging baskets/brackets £274.95

Amberol - Brackets £65.80

Able Flags - Union Jack for Town Hall £61.57

Cod Beck Internal Drainage Board - drainage rates for The Holmes £24.75

K. Dickinson - cleaning office windows £8.00

NYCC - Copy of entry from Deeds Register for Thirsk Cemetery £40.00

Trevor Iles Ltd - litter bin for Mill Gardens £464.13

C.A. Amy - tree pruning on Millennium Green £125.00

HDC - Rates for Office, August 04 £58.00

Cllr D.E. Adamson - Mayor's Allowance (half year) £250.00

Julie Harron - Salary, July 04 £260.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary, June 04 £989.67

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, June 04 £555.29

C A Amy weekly inspections £228.50

Mill Gardens £150.00

Picnic Area £50.00

Castlegarth £50.00

Little Green weeding £50.00

Allianz Cornhill - Premium re increased insurance cover for Cemetery Lodge

£133.45

Plus Publishing - legal updates £60.00

M Dodds - watering £125.00

Income received since last meeting

Burial Board: Interment £110.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for June 2004

(copies already circulated):

Received and approved.

Annual Return for 2003/4:

To receive and approve the Statement of Accounts (copy already circulated)

Proposed approved Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Roberts.

To complete the Statement of Assurance (copy already circulated).

Completed. Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts.

To approve applications for exclusive Rights and Memorials:

No applications received.

Correspondence

NYCC; Proposed Infrastructure Improvements to Thirsk and surrounding area (plans already circulated). It was suggested that bus shelters be installed outside

Thirsk Station.

Thirsk & District Business Association re Christmas Lights; Cllr Adamson

confirmed that arrangements have been made for the Christmas lights to be

installed and switched on at the same time as the Thirsk Business Association's lights.

Royal British Legion re meeting for Remembrance Sunday Church Service and

Parade; Cllr Adamson advised that he will go to the meeting. He referred to the



wreaths which have printed centres showing the names of the organisations giving them and suggested he approach David Brown to ask for a price for such a centre, agreed.

#### Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts reported that the banner is still on the tanning salon in Finkle Street. It was noted that there is an advertising board at Collinson's on Cemetery Lane. Cllr Roberts pointed out that there are cars for sale outside Spa Farm - to be monitored. Cllr Adamson expressed concern that two controversial planning applications were delegated - a letter to be sent about this. Cllr Roberts said the Planning Committee would like Maurice Cann to come and speak - agreed that he be asked to come to a Town Council meeting. Cllr Roberts pointed out that site plans which were out of date were being used for planning applications. It was agreed that we should request a site meeting be held to look at the Alan Evans site - Cllr Hubbard to take this up.

#### Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that the notice board is now in place. We are attempting to find some suitable backing material. Cllr Jackson suggested plasterboard - Malcolm Burnett to be asked whether he can supply some.

#### Reports:

##### District Council

Cllr Hubbard had nothing to report. Cllr Roberts referred to the noticeboard outside the Hambleton Community Centre which is in a very dilapidated state and has some very old out of date notices on it. She asked that Cllr Hubbard take

this up with Hambleton.

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Reports:

Representatives:

Cllr Roberts reported on a Market Towns Initiative Meeting she had attended.

Applications for funding for the Interpretation Boards, Long Street and The Ritz have been approved. Meetings have been held with people from the hinterland. A consultant is being taken on to look at how well the Market Towns Initiative is doing and how best to go about looking at future funding.

Cllr Roberts also reported on a YLCA meeting. Quite a bit of time spent on discussing Quality Councils. She reported that when a Council becomes a Quality Council there is the possibility that they will get a proportion of the business rate. The YLCA will be happy to look at our application when we are ready to submit it.

Cllr Mallett advised that he had attended a Community Education meeting last week. They were sorting out the budgets for the following year. The School has achieved Specialist Status for Computer Studies and Mathematics and are very pleased about that and would thank the Town Council for its help with this.

Cllr Adamson had attended a School Governors' meeting and he reported that all is going well. They have had to dispense with the services of one part time assistant due to a drop in numbers.

Members:

Cllr Reynard reported on the poor state of the public toilets in the Market

Place and showed Councillors some photographs taken the previous weekend. It was agreed that these be sent to Steve Quartermain.

Cllr Pack referred to the street cleaning in the town saying some litter has been there for days. An extra clean-up has been promised for tomorrow prior to the judging. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Steve Quartermain with a copy to Peter Simpson.

Cllr Pack advised that the weeding in the town was carried out yesterday.

Cllr Mallett referred to the bollards which were put on Picks Lane to stop parking. One bollard appears to have been removed which allows two cars to drive through the gap and park. Mike Roberts to be asked about this.

Cllr Jackson pointed out that Station Road is now potholed where Yorkshire Water were working and there is a trench in the road where the sewer work was. Mike Roberts to be advised.

Cllr Jackson expressed concern that there is no mention of Thirsk on the map at the top of Sutton Bank. A letter to be sent to the North York Moors about this.

Cllr Jackson advised that water is escaping from the pumping station. He met with someone from Yorkshire Water who advised that it is not foul water, but is from the service main going into the pumping station.

Cllr Roberts had received a complaint about two black wheeliebins on the pavement outside 1/3 Westgate; a letter to be sent to Hambleton.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack that the public and press be excluded for two confidential items.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 5th August 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard (Chairman), D Adamson, J Jackson, R Mallett, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 1 member of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr J Marshall (family illness), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Pack, subject to one amendment, agreed.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Adamson, that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Dodds referred to the tree, which came down on The Holmes, saying there are some branches in the Beck; to be reported to the IDB. She also referred to another tree further along The Holmes where a branch is coming off and is resting on a second tree; a letter to be sent to John Bell. Mrs Dodds pointed out that the path to the picnic area is very overgrown; to be reported to the

grasscutters.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

A0065 Long Street Enhancement; the clerk advised that the Exhibition had taken place. The Working Party is looking at the consultation comments and will be modifying the scheme appropriately.

A0066 Speeding on St James' Green; this had been discussed at the Area Committee for Hambleton and it had been agreed to reduce the speed limit to 30mph.

A0066 Grasscutting outside Rybeck Farm; letter sent to Mr Walker.

A0066 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this as yet - chasing letter sent.

A0066 Benches in Millgate car park/landscaping; nothing further on this as yet.

A0066 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; no reply from John Bell as yet.

A0066 Fencing around The Holmes; no reply from Sheena Spence as yet.

A0066 Play Area on edge of Castlegarth; awaiting reply from John Bell.

A0066 Storage of building materials/skip on St James' Green; no improvement.

Eccles Heddon have sent a final letter advising that this must be removed within one month, i.e. by 16th August.

A0067 Todds Court; acknowledgement received.

A0067 White Mare roundabout; two letters under 'Correspondence'.

A0067 Grassed area at the end of Herriot Way; the clerk advised that she had looked at the area in question and there were no cars parked on it. Chris Amy had also inspected it twice and on one occasion there was a vehicle on the grass which appeared to be there whilst work was taking place at one of the houses.

Agreed that a letter be sent to all the residents in that area asking them not to park on the grass.

A0067 East Thirsk Play Area; Chris Amy reminded about the estimate for treating the trees and also the swings currently in the Cemetery shed.

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A0067 Branches on The Holmes; removed.

A0067 Painting of milestones; Cllr Roberts and the Clerk have checked and the milestone at Spa Farm has been painted.

A0067 Uncut grass at Fairfield; the clerk has identified the area in question and has written to Mr Walker.

A0067 Building on garage sites on Hambleton Estate; reply received from Broadacres advising that because of the severe shortage of affordable housing they have identified a number of garage sites on the Hambleton Estate where they are proposing to build houses. Two planning applications have been received which are to go to the planning meeting before the Town Council meeting. Cllr Roberts felt that if we receive any complaints from the tenants then we should take these up with Broadacres.

A0067 Todds Court - willow trees; letter sent to Broadacres.

A0067 Path from Ingramgate to the Little Green; letter sent to the County Council.

A0068 Slide at Johnson Close; all the steps have now been replaced.

A0068 Weeds in pavement; reply from Mike Roberts advising that the weed treatment programme has been completed. A second treatment will be carried out around September. Cllr Mallett advised that there are weeds alongside Newsham

Road to the Athletics Club - the County Council to be informed.

#### Correspondence

NYCC; copy of a letter sent to Cllr Marshall re Sowerby Household Waste Recycling Centre. This points out that since the wheeliebins were introduced the amount of waste going to the Sowerby Recycling Centre has increased. Cllr Roberts expressed concern at the amount of bottles from pubs which go in the normal waste. Cllr Adamson advised that a lot of the glass used for such bottles is not easily recyclable in this country. Cllr Pack expressed the view that recycling is to be encouraged.

Jill Miller re White Mare Roundabout; Cllr Hubbard suggested that it be sprayed. Rotary have expressed interest and the businesses have expressed interest in sponsoring it. He suggested the businesses should take it on for six months.

Cllr Adamson had received a letter from Lionel Twiss re the roundabout. He would like a meeting with representatives of the Town Council and the County Council to look at the regulations, insurance cover etc. The meeting is to take place later this month and following that Mr Twiss will go back to Rotary. Cllr Mallett felt we should clear the roundabout whilst Rotary are making a decision on it and it was agreed that Chris Amy be asked to have it sprayed and cleared. Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Mallett that a working party of the Greens Committee should liaise with Rotary and Jill Miller. A representative of the Town Council to meet with Lionel Twiss and report back to the next Amenities meeting.

NYCC; the clerk had reported on a complaint re a hedge growing over a footpath adjacent to the Old Sutton Road. Reply received from NYCC advising that it has not presented any safety concerns for pedestrians, but it is being monitored

and, if necessary, will be cut back.

E-mail from Mike l'Anson re some further damage by the grasscutters to a tree on St. James' Green. A letter has been sent to Mr Walker.

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To receive Reports

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts advised that she wants to meet with the Carrs Field Trustees to see what works they are having done this year. When she has this information she will hold a meeting.

Central Areas - Referring to Mill Gardens, Cllr Hubbard reported that the planks on most of the seats have now been replaced. A new litter bin was purchased and is now in situ. It was mentioned that Mill Gardens is looking rather overgrown.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Watson that a meeting of the Chairs of the Burial Board and the three relevant Committees be held to look at the possibility of having a worker to do certain jobs, although he pointed out that it is not included in the budget for this year.

Christmas Festivities-Cllr Adamson advised that Wired are to provide us with a quote as they suggest a transformer is required to reduce the lights. Mr Woodhead to be asked if he will supply the tree (Cllr Jackson has already spoken to him about this) and Roger Hall to be asked if he will put it up and take it down.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallet reported that they will be meeting within the next few days.

Millennium Green - Not met.

Open Areas - The clerk reported that Malcolm Burnett has repaired the fencing



and gate at East Thirsk Play Area.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Hubbard reported that he had received plans and costings for resurfacing the various alleyways. The costings are as follows:

Steads Yard £30,000

Roses Yard £28,500

TIC Yard £10,750

Bateman's Yard £ 7,750

Total £77,000

Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Adamson advised that Steve Quartermain had been having a demonstration of a machine, which, if it is purchased, could be used for cleaning the Market Place.

It was pointed out that the gutters have not been cleaned for some time.

Cllr Jackson expressed the view that having a Town Council meeting and Amenities meeting does not work as was intended. He suggested, as an alternative, that all the items currently on Town Council and Amenities agendas be put on the agenda for the Town Council meeting and that if all the items are not covered at that meeting then the meeting be suspended and continued on the evening when it would normally have been Amenities. Cllr Adamson pointed out that if this were to be the case then there would only be one set of minutes. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that this be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack reported that the judging had taken place on 20th July and the results will be out on 7th September. The hanging baskets had been put up after last month's meeting. There was a very good feedback from the judges and they were impressed that it was done by volunteers. Cllr Hubbard thanked Thirsk in Bloom for their hard work and said how good the town is looking.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 16th August 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, F Roberts, A Robinson, Ms C Thorpe ("Darlington and Stockton Times") and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs S Hubbard (away), K Reynard, J Watson (family commitments), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approve Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett, subject to one minor amendment on page P0094.

Police Report:

No representative of the Police present. Cllr Morton advised that Mrs Penson had asked some boys who were cycling between the bollards near the Coop not to do so as they were causing a nuisance to pedestrians. Cllr Robinson pointed out that there are no signs prohibiting cycling on the Market Place. It was agreed to seek guidance from the police.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising

P0091 Grasscutting alongside path to the White Bridge; a letter has been sent to Mr Walker asking him to cut this further back.

P0091 Emergency Plan; meeting held on 12th August. A meeting with various outside organisations is being arranged. Cllr Adamson pointed out that the video and CD received from the Environment Agency set out how to prepare an Emergency Plan.

Cllr Marshall joined the meeting.

P0091 Kerbing/seat base in the Garden of Rest; now done.

P0091 Safety issues in the cemetery; reply received from HDC giving details of how they deal with the stability of memorials in the three closed churchyards for which they are responsible. The clerk is to go to Northallerton Burial Board to look at the spreadsheet produced by Zurich. A further response from Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar and Burrill Joint Burial Authority is awaited. Cllr Adamson said the Burial Board will need to discuss this issue.

P0092 Removal of swan necked lamppost; reply from Paul Gilmore enquiring where this was removed from. Cllr Adamson advised that it was Picks Lane.

P0093 Proposed Infrastructure Improvements to Thirsk and the surrounding area; reply from NYCC advising that they are not able to erect a bus shelter outside the railway station because of the narrowness of the pavements and the impact on visibility. They are investigating the possibility of putting a shelter in the

station car park. Cllr Adamson pointed out that there is not enough parking at the station as it is and also that the bus and train times do not currently coincide.

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P0093 Planning; the clerk advised that Maurice Cann will be coming to speak to the Town Council at its September meeting.

P0093 Cemetery Noticeboard; the clerk is in the process of obtaining some plasterboard.

P0094 Public toilets; letter sent to Steve Quartermain. The toilets in the Market Place and in Millgate have now been steam cleaned.

P0094 Street cleaning; reply received from Eric Kendall. He has taken up the matter with the Operational Services Manager who is to increase monitoring. They are looking at setting up a district wide street cleaning forum to look at ways in which different agencies can work together to improve the street scene. Cllr Pack advised that they have already set up a forum. Cllr Marshall had asked Steve Quartermain whether the street cleaner is paid for extra hours during the summer when there are more people in the town and on race days. Mr Quartermain had replied that this is one of the issues he will be looking at in his review.

Cllr Robinson felt that the street cleaner does a very good job.

P0094 Bollards on Picks Lane; letter sent to Mike Roberts.

P0094 Surface of Station Road; reported to Mike Roberts.

P0094 Map on Sutton Bank; reply received from the North York Moors National Park Authority advising that the map in question is the Moorsbus route which does not service Thirsk. The out of hours board outside the Centre lists Thirsk and its

amenities.

P0094 Wheeliebins on Westgate; letter sent to Mike Roberts.

P0094 Pumping station; Cllr Mallett advised that Yorkshire Water have turned off the source of the water which was leaking out.

Finance:

To approve accounts for payment:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Morton that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Kompan Ltd - Parts for slide at Johnson Close £188.18

M L Burnett - work to East Thirsk/Johnson Close/Mill Gardens Fitting baton for curtain rail at the Museum £279.31

Npower - electricity for office £42.32

CE & CM Walker - Grasscutting £1,527.50

HDC - Rates, September 2004 £58.00

Julie Harron - Salary, August 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson - Salary, July 2004 £989.67

Inland Revenue - Tax/NI, July 2004 £555.29

M Dodds - watering for Thirsk in Bloom £125.00

Thirsk Garden Centre - plants for Thirsk in Bloom £107.41

Sakata Ornamentals - plants for Thirsk in Bloom £949.29

S2 Construction - Kerbing in Garden of Rest £1,956.85

Seat base in Garden of Rest £452.38

D J Mann - cleaning bus shelter windows/notice board April, May, June, July

£89.00

C Amy - weekly inspection/hedge cutting £242.80

Litter pick £200.00

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Paid since last meeting

BT - Internet Line £78.06

Petty Cash £49.01

Thirsk School - Sponsorship of Maths and Computing College Application £500.00

Income received since last meeting

HM Customs and Excise - Refund of VAT, Apr-June 2004 £1,372.34

Burial Board: Interments: £220.00

Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Bank Interest £69.92

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for July 2004

Received and approved.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Robinson that the following applications

for memorials be approved:

Elaine Lambert Plot No. VV 10 (west half)

Edna May Lambert Plot No. Z 63

To receive Correspondence:

Thirsk School - advising that they were successful in their bid to become a

Specialist School in Maths and Computing and requesting sponsorship monies. In view of the timescale, the cheque for £500 was sent to them prior to the meeting.

The Churchwardens of St. Mary's Church re a presentation on 7th October. This is at the same time as the Amenities Committee meeting. Cllr Adamson advised that he will be attending.

Somerfield Stores re their application for a Transfer of the Justices' Licence to Tracy Dawn Henson, Steven Anthony McGowan and Suzanne Ineichen; Approved with the request that the applicants attend an appropriate training course.

NYCC enclosing an Order for the temporary road closure in the Market Place from 1400 hours on 3rd December to 1700 hours on 6th December.

BT advising that they are proposing to remove one payphone from the seven in Thirsk. Agreed that the plans be circulated prior to the September Town Council meeting.

Bow House, 'Herriot Country 2005 - Short Breaks Visitor Guide'. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that once again this year we have a half page colour advertisement at a cost of £578 plus VAT. This was carried with five in favour and one abstention.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts advised that HDC have refused the application for a dwelling in Nicks Alley and the Planning Committee find this difficult to understand. The Planning Committee is opposed to the plans for the Alan Evans' site. Cllr Marshall referred to



the plans for the building on the garages on the Hambleton Estate. Cllr Roberts advised that we are asking for a site meeting to be held and for it to go to Committee.

Cllr Marshall felt it was necessary to look at the effect on the estate roads if the garages go. HDC to be asked to consult with the Town Council as a neighbour as one of the potential sites is next to East Thirsk Play Area and also to consult with the Millennium Green Committee.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Nothing to report. Cllr Adamson advised that a meeting is to be arranged shortly.

Reports:

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall referred to the Infrastructure Improvement plans for the County Council, pointing out that it is proposed to create a footpath across the grass on Stockton Road from the seat to the roadside. It was felt that this was unnecessary as people waiting for a bus would be unlikely to sit on the seat as it was too far away from the roadside and a path would further 'carve up' the grass verge. It was also pointed out that the new bus stop has been positioned outside the East Thirsk Community Association noticeboard, whereas at present people wait for the bus outside 42/44/46 Dowber Way. A letter to be sent to the County Council.

Cllr Marshall reported that County have said they will do something about the

Blakey Lane bridge.

No further information re the possibility of a roundabout at the new Auction Mart. No progress re Sutton Bank.

b) District Council

Cllrs Marshall and Robinson had nothing to report.

To Receive Reports:

a) Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported on the TRI saying that David Potts, a Consultant, has started work on talking to a number of people in Thirsk. He will be coming up with ideas as to how to keep the Initiative going.

Cllr Roberts reported on the CAB, saying they are hoping to man Thirsk once a fortnight. Cllr Robinson referred to reports in the press of cut-backs and Cllr Roberts said the CAB are very short of funding. They rely on many different sources for funding.

Referring to the Millennium Green, Cllr Adamson said the middle of the Mosaic has been repaired. A meeting had been held on site to identify trees which need attention and thinning out.

Cllr Marshall reported that Thirsk Infant School Charity is trying to arrange a meeting with the Trustees.

Cllr Adamson reported on the East Thirsk Community Association saying it is going reasonably well. They are now without a Deputy Chairman, but they may have a new secretary.

b) Members

Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is a quantity of builders rubble, pipes etc in the river near Finkle Street - to be reported to the IDB. She also said there is an island of silt in the river near the Library car park. Cllr Adamson to look at the IDB rules.

Cllr Jackson referred to a suggestion he had made at Amenities regarding the meetings. He has now spoken to the YLCA who have said that it is possible to have two Council meetings in one month. Cllr Marshall pointed out that Amenity meetings were started to deal with Amenity matters as the Town Council agenda was so full. Cllr Roberts said that if the sub committees were to meet more often this would save time at Amenity meetings. Cllr Robinson suggested that we carry on having monthly Amenity meetings, but with reports from Committees. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Adamson that the status quo be maintained, with the proviso that any committee which has not yet met does so before the next meeting. The motion was carried with five in favour.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that the public and press be excluded for some confidential items.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 2nd September 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard (Chairman), D Adamson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C. Pack,  
F Roberts, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ("Darlington and Stockton Times"), 3 members of  
the public and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs J Jackson (ill), K Reynard, accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed accepted Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to one amendment  
on page A0069.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be  
suspended.

Mr Norfolk referred to the planning application submitted by R S Hall  
Engineering for Change of Use from B2 print works to engineering works. He  
pointed out that when consent for the Industrial Estate was granted it was a  
condition that there was only to be B1 use along the western boundary to create

a buffer zone of quiet uses near the neighbouring properties. In 2000 consent for change of use to B2 was granted to Stratus Holdings, but for printing only. Mr Norfolk felt that should this application be granted it would be contrary to that policy. Cllr Hubbard advised that he had spoken to Maurice Cann who had said that each planning application is judged on its own merits. Sound recordings will be taken in the existing building and in the area of the proposed site. Cllr Marshall pointed out that in order to get the Industrial Estate, HDC made the concession of this quiet zone and she felt we should protect what was agreed. Cllr Hubbard assured the residents that they would have the support of this Council in their objection.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Adamson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

A0069 Branches in Cod Beck; reported to the IDB.

A0069 Damaged tree on The Holmes; reported to John Bell.

A0069 Path to Picnic area; reported to the grasscutters.

A0069 Stable on Marage road; nothing further on this as yet.

A0069 Benches in Millgate car park/landscaping; nothing further on this as yet.

Cllr Marshall expressed her concern at the time HDC are taking; a letter to be sent to Steve Quartermain. Cllr Marshall said that Rotary have some spare benches and there may be a possibility of siting one next to the pathway going down to the picnic area in the shade.

A0069 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; a further letter sent to John Bell.

A0069 Fencing around The Holmes Play Area; no reply from Sheena Spence as yet.

She has been reminded.

A0069 Play Area on edge of Castlegarth; reminder sent to John Bell.

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A0069 Storage of building materials/skip on St James' Green; the building materials have been removed. Todds are to remove the skip by tomorrow evening.

A0069 Todds Court; reply received from Broadacres confirming that there is currently no provision for the charging up of battery powered scooters. They are looking at where they can develop such a facility, but are bound by financial constraints.

A0069 Grassed area at the end of Herriot Way; letters done - to be delivered.

A0069 East Thirsk Play Area; Chris Amy and the clerk have looked at the swings currently in the Cemetery shed and have confirmed they are for East Thirsk. Chris to put them in place as soon as possible.

A0070 Uncut grass at Fairfield; this has now been cut.

A0070 Building on garage sites on the Hambleton Estate; A petition has been received from residents opposing this and this has been sent to HDC and Broadacres. Cllr Marshall had advised HDC that they should have consulted the Town Council as a neighbour and also the Millennium Green Trust. Cllr Marshall expressed the view that, although we understand the need for housing, the application for development behind 123 Hambleton Place includes a house next to the East Thirsk Play Area and we would not wish to have complaints about the Play Area from whoever moves into the property. Also the proposed development is next to the Tranmire Ditch and the Millennium Green Ditch and we would not want drainage to be into these watercourses.

A0070 Willow trees near Todds Court; reply received from Broadacres advising that they are not their trees. A letter to be sent to John Bell.

A0070 Weeds alongside Newsham Road; letter sent to the County Council and acknowledgement received.

A0070 White Mare Roundabout; Chris Amy was asked to have it sprayed and cleared - the clerk has reminded him.

A0070 Damage to tree on St James' Green; reply from Mr Walker advising that strimmer guards need to be fitted. The clerk advised that she has examined the trees and they have strimmer guards fitted and there is no damage visible.

A0071 Christmas Festivities; a letter has been sent to Mr Woodhead about the tree and to Roger Hall about putting it up and taking it down. Wired are being chased for their quote.

Correspondence:

NYCC; Copy of a Notice of a Traffic Order re one-way traffic on the A61 Millgate. Concern was expressed at this as it was felt better to retain the two-way section; Cllr Marshall was opposed to the suggestion of retaining the status quo. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts that we request the two-way section be retained, five in favour, two against.

NYCC; Copy of a Notice of a Traffic Regulation Order re proposed 20 mph speed limits on various roads in Thirsk; noted.

Thirsk Museum; letter of thanks re the Town Council standing the cost of £50 for the hanging baskets at the museum. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Town Council should bear the cost.

NYCC re Topcliffe Road cycle path; the works to implement the scheme will start during week commencing 16th August and the six month trial period will start on

1st September. At the end of that period the scheme will be reviewed and a decision made on whether it should remain. The Town Council will be consulted again at that stage.

BT re review of public payphones (letter already circulated to Councillors). It was noted that the payphone in the lay-by on Long Street is scheduled for removal and it was proposed by Cllr Adamson, seconded by Cllr Mallett that no objection to its removal should be made.

NYCC; copy of Notice of Traffic Regulation Order re reduction of speed limit to 30mph on the A61 Long Street/Stockton Road.

NYCC; notice re temporary closure of the A170 Sutton Road from 20th September for resurfacing works.

NYCC; Notice re temporary closure of Picks Lane for 2 weeks from 6th September for maintenance of the underground apparatus.

NYCC; proposed stopping up of the highway turning head in St Mary's Walk.

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that we support this.

RAF Leeming; advice re increased flying on 3rd September to celebrate the X1(F) Squadron Association Reunion.

## Reports

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts referred to a request from the Carrs Field Committee for payment of the insurance; agreed. Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that one of the provisions of Ethel Johnson's will was that there was to be an annual sports day. A shield was made for this and is currently being stored in the office. It was agreed that the shield be passed to the Trustees with a suitable



letter.

Central Areas - Cllr Marshall said it is necessary to have a meeting.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson reported that we are still waiting for the quote from Wired. He does not foresee any problems getting the Christmas tree and Roger Hall has been asked if he will put it up and take it down.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett reported that the Committee has now met and he was elected chairman. The White Mare roundabout has not yet been sprayed - Cllr Mallett and the Clerk to meet with Chris Amy re this and other items. They are to investigate turfing it in order to make it look tidy for the moment. Cllr Mallett to investigate the possibility of tar spraying on the tracks on the Green. He will report back to the next meeting.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Committee not yet met.

Town Development Working Party - Referring to the alleyways, Cllr Hubbard advised that he had met with Peter Penny to discuss whether there is any funding for this - there is the possibility of a small amount. Other possible sources of funding are being looked at and once it is known what amounts are available it will go out to consultation.

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Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Marshall advised that the Clerk has carried out a seat survey and it was agreed that this should go out to tender. It was agreed to add the picnic benches on The Holmes and in the Picnic Area and the seats in the Cemetery on to the tender.

Reporting on Long Street, Cllr Marshall said that since the Exhibition the Working Party has held two meetings. A site meeting is to be held to talk to residents on each part of Long Street. No works are to be carried out south of Hambleton Drive because of concern about loss of parking. On the remainder of Long Street they are looking at marking entrances and exits in a buff colour rather than red. The £5K from the County Council is to be used to purchase some planters to put trees in. It is hoped to convert the pebbled area at the Stammerge junction into a flower bed(s), but all this is dependant on what becomes apparent when they go on site. When the site visit has taken place Cllr Marshall will come back with a plan showing the position of the planters. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson that the Town Council support this. Cllr Marshall referred to the Schedule of Ongoing Amenity Items which is circulated with the minutes. It was agreed that looking at the matters on this schedule should be an agenda item in future.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that he was quoted in the 'Darlington and Stockton Times' when it was actually Cllr Morton who spoke.

Cllr Pack reported on the Thirsk Clock Café who have just celebrated their first anniversary. A barbeque had been held which was very successful and there is to be a dinner at the Golden Fleece. A football tournament had been held and she asked whether the Town Council would consider donating a trophy at a cost of £25. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the Town Council do this.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had met with Lionel Twiss and other parties re the entrances into Thirsk. The object of the meeting was to look at who is responsible for each of the roundabouts, i.e. the ones at South Kilvington, the Busby Stoop, York Road and the White Mare roundabouts. Another meeting will be

held in the near future to decide on the way forward.

Cllr Adamson advised that the YLCA have been asked how often the District Council has a boundary review.

Cllr Pack asked about the signs at the entrances and Cllr Marshall advised that a group from the TRI were looking at the signs and also at the fingerposts in the town.

Cllr Watson reported on the progress on the blue plaque scheme saying that a planning application has been submitted for the one on 'The Three Tuns' and a site has been identified for the plaque to go on the Herriot Centre.

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Cllr Watson advised that she had been approached by children wanting to use the Skateboard Park, but were prevented from doing so by older youths. Cllr Hubbard said they are trying to get more supervision.

Cllr Roberts reported that the footpath from the Black Bridge to Stockton Road and the Centenary Field is overgrown and, as a consequence is very narrow - to be reported to Peter Penny.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack advised that the competition results will be out next Tuesday - they are hoping for a good result.

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

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 7th October 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard (Chairman), D Adamson, R Mallett, K Reynard, F Roberts, A  
Robinson, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times') and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs J Jackson (away), A Morton (away), J Marshall (ill), C Pack (ill),  
accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed accepted Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett, agreed.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters arising:

A0073 Planning application for Change of Use on Thirsk Industrial Estate; letter  
sent to Hambleton. Cllr Roberts advised that the sound report has been received,  
but all its findings are based on assumptions. The Planning Committee is  
pressing for it to be classed as B1.

A0073 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this as yet. A0073 Benches in Millgate car park/landscaping; letter sent to Steve Quartermain. Letter also sent to Clive Thornton re siting some benches alongside the pathway from the car park to the picnic area.

A0073 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; nothing further on this as yet.

A0073 Fencing around The Holmes; reply received from Sheena Spence advising that she does not have enough time allocated to allow her to visit The Holmes. The clerk will take some photographs to send to her.

A0073 Play area on the edge of Castlegarth; awaiting reply from John Bell.

A0074 Skip on St James' Green; the skip has now gone. Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that a copy of the Byelaw be sent to the YLCA asking how we can get it amended or get a new one.

A0074 East Thirsk Play Area; part required for the swings – this has been ordered.

A0074 Willow trees near Todds Court; letter sent to John Bell.

A0074 White Mare roundabout; Chris Amy has been reminded about spraying the roundabout. Cllr Adamson advised that he has had a meeting with Lionel Twiss. There have been a number of offers of sponsorship and it is proposed to divide it into four so there would be four sponsors. Hoped to have a contractor who would do three planting schemes to cover spring, summer and autumn/winter and who would also maintain and water it. The cost would then be divided between the four sponsors and it is suggested this should be for a four year term. Any sponsors' signage would need to be approved by the County Council. A licence to plant the roundabout would need to be applied for by the Town Council and it was agreed that such a licence should be sought. Cllr Mallett advised that Chris Amy is arranging to have it sprayed and if it is not done within two weeks he will

cut it down. It was felt that this should be done as a matter of urgency and Cllr Robinson offered to approach someone who he felt would

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do it quickly. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Adamson that Cllr Robinson should arrange this. The clerk was asked to let Chris Amy know that this course of action is being pursued.

A0074 Christmas Festivities; the clerk has spoken to Mr Woodhead and he is happy to provide the Christmas tree. She has also spoken to Roger Hall who has agreed to put it in place. A quote has been received from Wired and this has been accepted.

A0074 Traffic Order re one-way traffic on the A61 Millgate; letter of objection sent and acknowledgement received.

A0075 Proposed stopping up of the highway turning head in St Mary's Walk; letter supporting this sent.

A0075 Carrs Field; shield given to the Carrs Field Committee together with a letter pointing out that one of the provisions of Miss Johnson's will was that there was to be an annual sports day.

A0075 Greens and Ingramgate; Cllr Mallett advised that he had met with Chris Amy to arrange the spraying of the roundabout. He had also asked Chris to give a quote for turfing the roundabout and for filling in the potholes on the tracks around The Green.

A0075 Alleyways; a copy of the plan for the alleyway between the TIC and the Darrowby Arms has been sent to Enterprise Inns, the owners of the Darrowby, with a request that they give consideration to contributing towards the cost.

A0076 Seat survey; this is being put out to tender.

A0076 Boundary review; reply received from the YLCA advising that a district council is the authority that is empowered to carry out a review to alter a parish boundary. The decision to carry out a review and how often to have a review is completely in the hands of the District Council. Cllr Hubbard suggested we ask to have a boundary review now that the Local Plan is being drawn up. Cllr Adamson asked that a formal request for Thirsk Industrial Estate and York Road to be included in Thirsk be made. He pointed out that the Town Council cannot expend any monies on improving this area because it is currently not within the parish boundary, agreed.

A0076 Blue Plaque Scheme; Listed Building Consent for the blue plaque on the Three Tuns has now been received. The clerk will liaise with the manager of The Three Tuns and Malcolm Burnett as to when it can be put up.

A0077 Footpath from the Black Bridge to Stockton Road; reported to Peter Penny. Reply received advising that their contractors will clear the footpath at an early opportunity.

To receive Correspondence

Sowerby Parish Council re the deteriorating state of the concrete surface of the A168 bypass, requesting the Town Council to lobby the Highways Agency to bring forward the full resurfacing programme. It was agreed that we should do this.

Concern was expressed that extra traffic is coming through the town to avoid the poor road surface on the bypass.

Thirsk Clock – Invitation to their AGM on 12th October 2004

HDC re Cod Beck Feasibility Study and Topographic Channel and Environmental Surveys requesting consent to go onto the Town Council's land – agreed.

HDC re new development at Castlegate; the proposed name is Castlegate Mews apart from the dwellings which front onto Castlegate which will be numbered as part of Castlegate – no objections.

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Christopher Barden; complaint re the overgrown state of the footpath along Station Road – this was reported to the County Council some time ago and they have taken it up with John Bell as the land owner. Mr Barden also referred to several street lights on Station Road which are not working - to be reported.

Letter from Jean Hotton of 1 Riverside Mews, Stephanie Welch of 3 Riverside Mews and Mo Penson of 9 Riverside Mews complaining about the overgrown state of Mill Gardens, the silting under the bridge, the litter, the youths congregating there and the return of the rat problem. Cllr Hubbard to have a look at it. Cllr Reynard said it is intended to cut the shrubs down.

To consider and decide upon the way forward for the proposed Emergency Flood Plan:

A copy of the proposed notice re a public meeting had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Hubbard explained that the first draft of this had been sent to David McGloin and Stephanie Renno and this was the amended version, taking into account their comments. Cllr Hubbard advised that HDC are to finance the leaflets. Agreed that this should go to the Town Council meeting to formulate a date.

To consider providing increased support for Thirsk in Bloom should they decide



to enter Britain in Bloom:

(Cllr Reynard declared an interest)

Cllr Roberts felt the Town Council should see Thirsk in Bloom's accounts and hear from them what extra they need. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Watson that we should commit to giving them extra support, but that the actual amount should be decided at a future time. Cllr Watson said that whilst seconding this she agreed with Cllr Roberts that we should see the accounts.

To look at the Entrances to Thirsk:

Cllr Reynard said Thirsk in Bloom are looking at what needs to be done for Britain in Bloom. She pointed out that entrances are part of Britain in Bloom's criteria and she had obtained one estimate for an entrance marker and is waiting for a second. They are looking at sustainable planting at the entrances. Cllr Watson pointed out that Cllr Marshall is doing work with the TRI and David Shields on this. The South Kilvington one is to be dealt with as part of the speed limit signs. Agreed that the entrances should be an agenda item at the next Town Council meeting and that Cllr Marshall should be asked for the up to date position on this.

To consider, and where applicable decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

It was pointed out that this is updated by the Clerk and circulated monthly for Councillors' information/consideration. It was agreed that this should not be an agenda item at future meetings.

To Receive Reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Nothing to report.

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Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that everything is arranged. The lights will be in accordance with the recommended safety regulations. Cllr Hubbard advised that the Christmas Fayre Committee are to have a meeting and he asked whether Cllr Adamson would attend that meeting – Cllr Adamson agreed.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett reported that he had met with Chris Amy; Chris has now mended the fencing on The Green and he is to provide a quote for turfing the roundabout and for filling in the potholes on the tracks on the Green. A vehicle is being parked on the Little Green and a letter has been sent to the residents of Todds Cottages asking them not to park on the Little Green. Cllr Mallett reported that Chris Amy has cut the tree back near the bridge. The IDB have cleared the silt from under Finkle Street Bridge and two dead trees have been removed. The pathway from Ingramgate to the Little Green has now been cleared by the County Council. Cllr Mallett expressed concern that where bulbs have been planted on the Little Green the turf is now sticking up - Cllr Reynard to look at this.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - A meeting had been arranged for earlier in the week, but it had not taken place as it was not quorate.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

To receive Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Roberts pointed out that the detailed plans for 167 dwellings on Station Road are in the Town Council Office. She asked that Councillors look at these prior to the next Town Council meeting and that a decision be made at that meeting.

Cllr Reynard advised that the pavement behind the 'Cross Keys' is cracked and there is a piece of metal sticking out of the tarmac – to be reported.

Cllr Mallett pointed out that the Public Footpath sign from the Chapel Street end of the Golden Fleece car park has still not been put in place. He suggested there should be a sign down the passageway leading to the Nursery car park.

Cllr Adamson referred to the planning application for the Old Brewery site and asked whether the Planning Committee had requested that an archaeological survey be carried out. Agreed that HDC be asked to commission such a survey.

To receive Report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Reynard reported that there is to be a meeting to meet other new members of Thirsk in Bloom. They have now finished planting crocuses in the Churchyard and will be planting crocuses in Sowerby this weekend. They would like to obtain a shredder rather than having a skip in Mill Gardens and this was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 18th October 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, (Chairman), S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack,  
F Roberts, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), 3 members of  
the public and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs J Jackson (away), K Reynard (ill), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed accepted Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Pack, agreed.

To receive Police report:

No representatives of the Police present. Cllr Marshall advised that the police  
have now moved onto the Industrial Estate.

Open Forum

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Konieczny asked about the up to date position re the flooding as she had  
read that extra money was available to help with this. Cllr Hubbard said that

extra money is to pay consultants to carry out more intensive studies etc. Cllr Hubbard explained that the Town Council is looking towards working with members of the public in the areas which are more prone to flooding in order to come up with a local plan and a meeting is currently being arranged with members of the public who live in the risk areas to try and move this forward.

Two residents of Sowerby referred to Blakey Bridge and Cllr Marshall explained that this is the responsibility of the County Council. She had asked that it be an agenda item at the County Council's Area Committee for Hambleton Meeting and at that meeting she had asked, and it had been agreed by the Area Committee, that they should attempt to have some physical restrictions to stop lorries going onto Blakey Bridge and that there should be a complete ban on heavy vehicles going over the bridge - this is now going to the County Council Executive. It is thought that when the Auction Mart moves there will be changes to the junction. The Auction Mart will be telling all its users not to go down Blakey Lane.

In response to a query re the concrete section of the A168, Cllr Marshall advised that she has been researching this. Sowerby Parish Council has written to the Highways Agency requesting that the resurfacing programme be brought forward and Thirsk Town Council has also written supporting this request.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

P0100 Application for Change of Use on the Industrial Estate; Cllr Marshall advised that the results of the noise tests did not arrive at HDC until the day before the Committee Meeting and therefore no decision was made.

P0101 Refreshments at the Herriot Centre; reply received from HDC advising that the serving of refreshments, limited to tea/coffee and biscuits, will be for a trial period

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from Spring 2005. The results will then be analysed and a decision made as to whether to proceed with this. Cllr Hubbard had attended a Chamber of Trade Meeting and he advised that they are still opposed to it. Cllr Hubbard had contacted Peter Simpson who has said he will attend one of the Chamber of Trade meetings. Cllr Marshall had spoken to the leader of the Council and had asked him to refer it back to Cabinet in the light of comments received. However, he is not prepared to do this. P0101 Cycling on the Market Place; reply received from Val Broadley advising that this depends upon whether HDC have a byelaw in place. Letter sent to HDC. P0101 Removal of swan necked lamppost from Picks Lane; reply received from Ian Dawson confirming they know the lamppost is at the County Council's Leeming Bar depot.

P0102 Planning application to build on garage sites on the Hambleton Estate; site meeting held this morning.

P0102 Proposed Infrastructure Plans for Thirsk and the Surrounding Area; letter sent to NYCC advising that the Town Council wishes the bus stop on Stockton Road to be a 'Hail and Ride'.

P0102 Rubble in the river/silt in the river near the library car park; now cleared by the IDB.

P0103 Closed churchyard at St Mary's Church; reply received from HDC setting out the responsibilities that will be transferred. Clive Thornton wishes to carry

out an inspection of the churchyard and a detailed condition survey of the churchyard structures in order that any unsafe structures can be identified and made safe before handover. Agreed that he should do this and that it should be arranged with the Rector. Cllr Roberts pointed out that the Town Council currently cuts the grass in the churchyard and she queried whether HDC will cut it as often. Agreed that we should speak to Hutton Rudby and find out how often HDC cuts the grass in their closed churchyard.

P0103 Purchase of seat by Mr Peter Banthorpe; reply received from Mr Banthorpe advising that he would be very happy to provide a seat for the new Garden of Rest. We have not stipulated any particular type of seat other than that it should be wood. Agreed that the Town Council will have it fixed in position.

P0104 Burial Board Rules; these are now an agenda item. The clerk advised that she has sold the original vehicle prevention post for the same price as the Town Council had paid for it.

P0105 Sale of vehicles on St James' Green; reply received from Trading Standards advising that they are going to inspect and will speak to the person concerned. If he is in the trade then he would need a licence to sell vehicles and would have to comply with Trading Standards' regulations. Trading Standards have no powers as to where vehicles for sale are placed.

Finance:

To approve Accounts for Payment

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

Record Playground Equipment – replacement swing seats for The Holmes £684.08

RoSPA – Playground Inspections £554.60

C.E. & C.M. Walker – grasscutting £1,527.50

Power Point – padlock for Cemetery Post, padlock and chain for Millennium Green  
£ 23.61

Evershed Products – planks for Mill Gardens seats £137.80

Malcolm Blackburn – Cemetery Noticeboard £1,500.00

M. Dodds – watering £125.00

J. Almond – strimming White Mare Roundabout £40.00

HDC – Rates for Office £58.00

Julie Harron – Salary, October 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson – Salary, September 2004 (including difference back To 1.4.04.)  
£1,171.22

HM Inspector of Taxes – Tax/NI, September 2004 £679.80

F D Todd – Emptying Cemetery skip £118.97

Barker Partnership – Internal Audit Fee £252.63

Sakata Ornamentals – plants for Thirsk in bloom £363.34

Staples – office stationery £58.00

C A Amy: weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Work on St James' Green £60.00

Paid since last meeting:

M.L. Burnett – Fitting Post in Cemetery £295.00

Petty Cash £48.08



Income received since last meeting:

Burial Bd: Rent of Cemetery Lodge, Sept and Oct 04 £794.24

Interments £440.00

Memorials £65.00

Grant from Countryside Agency re Interpretation Boards £12,500.00

Bank Interest £746.97

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for September 2004:

Proposed accepted Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

Internal audit:

The clerk advised that The Barker Partnership have completed the internal audit.

They will be writing to the Town Council on two points, i.e. the level of the reserves and the type of bank accounts. They were happy that the Town Council has control of its finances and its assets.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that the following be approved, agreed:

Grave No. B3 24 Sonny Linfoot

Grave No. F3 5 Ivy Doreen Allenby

Grave No. FF 4 John Snelling

In the case of Ivy Doreen Allenby, it was noted that her interment took place in August and it was agreed to point out that a period of six months must be allowed to elapse before the memorial is erected.

Additional Inscription:

Grave No. D5 3 Leonard Forth

Correspondence:

NYCC's Council Plan for 2004-07 – plan being circulated. Meetings have been arranged to look at this, the most local being at County Hall on 9th November. Cllrs Mallett and Roberts to attend.

YLCA re Standards Board Visit to Yorkshire for YLCA Member Councils. The most local meeting is to be at Northallerton Town Hall on 8th November.

HDC re Crime Seminar – this is now to be held on 30th November.

HDC re Getting Involved with the new Plan Making Process – questionnaire to be completed – all methods of consultation thought to be equally applicable.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister re enclosing documents on (1) A Draft Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees and (2) A Review of Restrictions on the Political Activities of Local Authority Employees and Pay of Political Assistants (already circulated to Councillors). They had no comments to make on this.

Thirsk Clock re moving the IT suite upstairs and creating a resource room. They are looking for contributions towards this. Cllr Pack explained that they have found the IT suite to be a problem on the ground floor and if it is moved they

will be able to use the room for community groups. It is thought that a stair lift is to be installed – Cllr Pack to find out more.

Thirsk CCA – request for donation (Cllrs Adamson and Hubbard declared an interest) Cllr Marshall proposed £500, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

Valuation Office Agency; notice of a new rateable value of 49A Market Place of £1975 – a formal appeal to be lodged after 1st April 2005, being the first date when Appeals can be made.

RAF Leeming; notice of simulated emergency exercise to take place on 28th October.

RAF Leeming; notice advising that during the period 1st –12th November various helicopters will be based at RAF Leeming whilst taking part in training exercises.

RAF Leeming; notice advising that a firework display for Station personnel will be held on 4th November at 6.30pm.

NYCC; advising that resurfacing work in the Market Place will be carried out on Sundays starting on 17th October until the middle of November. NYCC to be asked not to carry out any work on Sunday 14th November when the Remembrance Day marchpast will take place.

The Boundary Committee for England; final recommendations re the periodic Electoral Review of North Yorkshire County Council.

United Co-Op; notice re application for the transfer of the Licence at Quality Fayre from Andrew Leathley and Mandy Foster to John Hudson and Amanda Park.

HDC; Bonfire Night and new legislation on the ownership and use of fireworks.

Thirsk Chamber of Trade Ladies Group; requesting sponsorship of the Christmas Dinner Dance.

Yorkshire and The Humber County Trading Partnership; booklets re Quality Parish Councils (already circulated to Councillors) enclosing questionnaire – the clerk will complete this.

To look at supporting Thirsk Festival 2005:

Letter received from Thirsk Festival. Cllr Hubbard proposed the Town Council support the Festival by the same amount as in previous years, seconded by Cllr Pack; all in favour. Cllr Adamson felt that their suggestion to reduce the Gala to one day would be regarded as a retrograde step. He felt that this Council would be interested in being involved in any partnership they come up with. Agreed that Cllr Adamson would reply to them on these lines. Cllr Watson felt the admittance charge was rather high. Cllr Mallett pointed out that none of the concerts were designed for young people and felt they should have young people on the committee.

Ms C Thorpe left the meeting.

Planning Committee Report:

Re: Planning application for 167 houses on Station Road. Cllr Hubbard suggested there should be a link road from the new development onto Topcliffe Road. Cllr Watson expressed concern at the impact on the services, schools, sewerage etc. Cllr Marshall pointed out that there are paths crossing the public open space, which reduce its usability. Also to reach this space children would have to cross the estate road. Cllr Roberts was concerned at the size of some of the

buildings, particularly the height of the four storey building which she felt would overshadow the public open space. Cllr Hubbard referred to the amount of surface water and queried how it will be dealt with. A letter to be sent to Hambleton putting these points forward.

Cllr Roberts had attended the site meetings on the Hambleton Estate where it is proposed to build houses on the garage sites. The Town Council's Planning Committee are of the view that they do not wish to see more cars parked on the road, motorists would have to reverse out which could be a danger and it would cause a great deal of inconvenience to people, all for four houses. A letter to be sent to Hambleton making these points. It was pointed out that no support is available from Broadacres if the tenants have to make their gardens into parking areas. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the School has not been consulted. Cllr Mallett agreed to go to the planning meeting.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the new vehicle prevention post is now in and has been painted yellow. The plasterboard in the noticeboard has also been painted. Cllr Adamson has laid another memorial down. A copy of the proposed new Burial Board Rules had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Roberts referred to Clause 3.3 which prohibits dogs from the Cemetery, saying she felt that dogs, particularly those belonging to people visiting deceased relatives graves, should be allowed in on a lead. This was put to the vote and the motion not to allow dogs in the Cemetery was overruled, with a vote of three in favour and four against. The Rules do not apply to Cemetery Lodge as this is a residential property within the Cemetery and as such is covered by the Landlord and Tenant Act. The Rules, as amended above, to be brought

to the next Town Council meeting. It was agreed that a copy of the fees be put on the notice board.

To receive Update re Entrances to Thirsk:

Cllr Marshall proposed this be dealt with at Amenities, agreed.

To receive Progress Report re Flooding Plan for Thirsk and to determine date and venue for meeting:

Some dates to be agreed with Dave McGloin and Stephanie Renno, subject to the availability of the Town Hall.

To receive Reports:

County Council:

Cllr Marshall referred to the letter from the Boundary Commission. She said they have noted our comments, but she does not think they will change their minds from their draft recommendations. A further letter to be sent to the Electoral Commission.

Cllr Marshall reported that planning consent has been granted for the Auction Mart, a condition of such consent being that improvements to the junction be carried out. Cllr Marshall is pressing for a roundabout. Two alternative proposals have been drawn up and they are pursuing the possibility of a three leg roundabout – consultations with the statutory undertakers are taking place.

A letter to be sent reiterating the Town Council's support for a roundabout and asking that funding be found for this.

Referring to Sutton Bank, Cllr Marshall said the County Council are coming up with further signage for lorries and are also working with the Freight Trade Association.

Cllr Marshall referred to the school travel plans which show that in this area approximately 70% of children walk to school.

Cllr Marshall has asked for a report to go to the Hambleton Area Committee re the concrete section of the A168.

Cllr Marshall expressed the view that physical measures to stop lorries going over Blakey Bridge are required – a letter to be sent to the Executive of NYCC.

Cllr Marshall reported that the work on Finkle Street junction will not start until January 2005 and she expressed her dissatisfaction with this. The Hambleton Area Committee supported the recommendation that Millgate be one-way.

Referring to the Norby Front Street scheme for traffic safety Cllr Marshall said this is programmed for the 2005/06 and she would like some input from the Town Council prior to the formal consultation which will take place in the next financial year.

An application was made to the Hambleton Area Committee for the Thirsk Christmas Fayre, but it was turned down.

The County Council has set up funds from the second homes' revenue. At a recent meeting submissions were considered and two for Hambleton were refused, one of which was the Thirsk Regeneration Succession Strategy.

District Council

Cllr Marshall thanked the Town Council for its support of Thirsk in Bloom

Representatives:

Thirsk Regeneration Initiative; Cllr Roberts reported that the TRI are still working on how they can carry on and put their case for a share of any monies that are likely to be available.

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Community Education; Cllr Mallett expressed his disappointment at the syllabus this year. They are to send out a questionnaire to find out what people want. They are looking at possibly doing some sort of DIY course.

Members:

Cllr Watson pointed out that there is a sandbag outside Harrietts – to be reported to the County Council.

Cllr Watson reported that vehicles advertised for sale are parked outside the gates of the old sorting office.

Cllr Watson referred to the 'Residents Only' sign outside Gillings Court, saying other vehicles park there. It was pointed out that the sign is not enforceable as it is a lay-by.

Cllr Pack referred to the invitation to come to an open meeting regarding the entry for Britain in Bloom.

Cllr Hubbard advised that he has changed the light bulbs in the clock.

Cllr Mallett referred to the amount of rubbish in the alleyways between the A61 and Castlegarth, also the fence is damaged; a letter to be sent to Tesco.

Cllr Marshall referred to the number of streetlights in the town centre, which are out.



Cllr Marshall reported that new indices on deprivation have been produced. This shows that East Thirsk and three areas of Northallerton are the most deprived areas in Hambleton.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 20th September 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D. Adamson (Chairman), S. Hubbard, J. Jackson, J. Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, K. Reynard, F. Roberts, A. Robinson, M. Cann, Head of Development Control at HDC, (second item only), 1 member of the public and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs R. Mallett (ill), J. Watson (ill); accepted.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Maurice Cann, Head of Development Control at HDC

Mr Cann pointed out that when a planning decision notice is issued a report is now included giving the reasons for the decision and containing comments received. In the last year there have been approximately 100 planning applications in Thirsk, of these the number of cases where HDC have made a decision contrary to the Town Council's recommendation have been less than 10%.

Mr Cann outlined some of the planning applications where the views of the Town Council and HDC have differed and gave the reasons for these.

The subject of replacement UPVC windows was raised and Mr. Cann said that where a property is within the Conservation Area but outside the Article 4 Directive

Area, then each application is considered on its own merits. He felt the strength of the planning guidelines lay in the ability to consider each application on its own merits rather than giving a carte blanche refusal to, say, UPVC windows. Mr Cann also made the point that HDC employs people with planning qualifications to make decisions, although he stressed that the input from Parish Councils was always taken into account.

Cllr Roberts said that sometimes planning applications give very little information and Mr Cann explained about the new planning application forms which give applicants details of how to apply. Cllr Adamson expressed concern that applicants sometimes use very old OS maps to show the site location and these may not show any recent buildings etc. Mr Cann advised that the planning officers now have some new mapping software.

Cllr Marshall referred to the recent application for Change of Use on the Industrial Estate, pointing out that the western edge of the Estate was designated as B1 by HDC in order not to cause disruption to nearby residents. Mr Cann advised that details of the noise level tests are awaited and no decision will be made until these are received and the Town Council has been consulted again.

Cllr Marshall also referred to the applications by Broadacres to build on the garage sites and expressed concern particularly about the application to build behind 123 Hambleton Place where the Town Council is the neighbouring landowner.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that in a large number of cases people are using their front gardens for parking and Mr Cann advised that planning consent is not required, particularly on unclassified roads where no permission to create an access is needed. Cllr Jackson referred to amendments, saying it is not always clear what the amendment is. Mr Cann explained that there is a very tight

timescale on amendments,

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but he will take this up with the planners. The Chairman thanked Mr Cann for attending the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Jackson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Minutes

Proposed accepted Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton, agreed.

Police Report

No members of the Police present.

Open Forum

Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mrs Sue Dodds referred to the report in the "Darlington and Stockton Times" that refreshments are to be available in the Herriot Centre and she queried whether change of use is required for this. Cllr Roberts pointed out that at the time the Herriot Centre opened the idea was that it would bring trade to the shops, cafes etc in the town. Cllr Hubbard had spoken to Dave Goodwin who had carried out a survey and found there is a shortfall in the opening times of the cafes.

Cllr Robinson pointed out that Cabinet has made the decision and Cllr Marshall said it is actually a refreshment cart which will be sited in the garden. She

said Cabinet has gone against the decision made at the time the Herriot Centre opened. Agreed that a letter be sent to Cabinet expressing the Town Council's disappointment that they have now gone against the promises made to the people of Thirsk. It should also be mentioned that neither the Town Council nor the Ward Members were aware of this until the decision had been made.

Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Jackson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Matters Arising:

P0095 Cycling on the Market Place; letter sent to Inspector Broadley, reply awaited.

P0095 Emergency Plan; meeting held with various outside bodies. E-mail received from Stephanie Renno of NYCC advising that the Environment Agency are currently updating existing plans for each district. She will send one when they are available.

P0095 Safety issues in the Cemetery; reply received from Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar and Burrill Joint Burial Authority. The clerk is making arrangements to go to Northallerton Burial Board.

P0095 Removal of swan necked lamppost from Picks Lane; Paul Gilmore advises that this was the property of HDC not the Town Council. Some are being removed from East Thirsk if we require one. HDC to be asked whether they are aware that this lamppost is now at the Leeming Bar depot.

P0096 Cemetery noticeboard; plasterboard obtained and put in place.

P0096 Public toilets; reply from David McGloin advising that the toilets are cleaned daily and the missing door has been vandalised and is being repaired. He will keep the situation under review.

P0096 Bollards on Picks Lane; reply from Mike Roberts advising that he is liaising with County Hall re the missing bollard.

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P0096 Surface of Station Road; reply from Mike Roberts advising that they have identified what work is required on Station Road and are liaising with Yorkshire Water.

P0096 Wheeliebins on Westgate; NYCC advise that we should contact HDC. Gary Brown is writing to the occupants of the houses. Agreed that a further letter be sent to NYCC as the wheeliebins are obstructing the pavement.

P0097 Presentation at St Mary's Church on 7th October; letter sent advising that this is the same night as Amenities, but that Cllr Adamson will be attending the presentation.

P0097 BT removal of payphone; circulated and discussed at Amenities. No objection to the removal of the payphone, therefore no reply sent.

P0097 Bow House, 'Herriot Country 2005 – Short Breaks Visitor Guide' advert placed.

P0097 Planning application to build on garage sites on the Hambleton Estate; letter of objection sent, as neighbours, to the application to construct dwellings behind 123 Hambleton Place.

P0098 Proposed Infrastructure Plans for Thirsk and the surrounding area; reply received from NYCC advising that they are required to put the path across the grass verge on Stockton Road to ensure that all passengers have a Right to Access. They advise that if the Town Council are opposed to this the stop could be left as a 'Hail and Ride'. Agreed that we request it to be left as a 'Hail

and Ride'. NYCC confirm they will amend their drawings to show the stop in Dowber Way as being outside 42/44/46 Dowber Way.

P0098 TRI; The clerk advised that she had been consulted by David Potts.

P0099 Rubble in the river/silt in the river near the library car park; reported to the IDB.

P0099 Town Council/Amenity Meetings; Cllr Jackson raised the question of what Amenity Committee meetings should be called in future and it was felt this should be kept as at present.

Finance:

Accounts for Payment:

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

K Dickinson – cleaning office windows £4.00

HDC - Town Council Office rent £660.94

Fox's Copy Centre – photocopying £39.18

C E & C M Walker – grasscutting £1,527.50

M. Dodds – watering for Thirsk in Bloom £125.00

BT – office telephone £109.65

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Hire of Hall, July-September £160.00

Plus Publishing Services – “Clerks and Councils Direct” £82.50

SLCC – “Working with your Council” (Course documents re Clerk’s qualification)

£195.00

Julie Harron – Salary, September 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson – Salary, August 2004 £989.67

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, August 2004 £555.29

HDC – Town Council Office Rates, October 2004 £58.00

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C A Amy Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

Little Green weeding £20.00

Paid since last meeting

Carrs Field – Ethel Johnson Bequest Trust – Insurance Premium £555.22

Income received

Burial Board: Interments £495.00

Grave Purchase £220.00

Memorials £44.00

MTI Grant for Interpretation Boards £2,500.00

MTI Grant re Long Street £10,000.00

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for August 2004 (copies already circulated):

Proposed approved Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Hubbard that these be approved.

To receive applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following applications be approved.

Elizabeth Graham



William Boynton, Mary Jane Boynton, Emily Thompson, Edward Thompson.

Additional Inscriptions:

George Henry Wilson

To receive Correspondence:

HDC; Referendum on Regional Government and Review of Local Government

National Association of Civic Officers re meeting on 21st September

Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber; Proposed Changes to Draft

Regional Planning Guidance for Yorkshire and the Humber (already circulated to Councillors); no comment.

HDC re Crime Seminar on 22nd September; Cllr Robinson advised that this has now been cancelled.

HDC; copy of letter to Mr Delderfield confirming the postal address of the new dwelling as 39a St James Green

NYCC; details of the County Council Community Development Fund

Thirsk Team Ministry; giving twelve months' informal notice of their intention to serve a three month statutory notice requesting that the Town Council take responsibility for the closed churchyard at St. Mary's Church. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Adamson that a similar letter be sent to HDC.

Mr. J.R. Fisher; making reference to the minutes of the July Town Council meeting regarding matters in Long Street.

Mr Peter Banthorpe; advising that he would like to purchase a seat in memory of his late father, Herbert Banthorpe. Cllr Adamson suggested we ask if he would like to site this in the new Garden of Rest.

Postwatch; notice of meeting to be held on 28th September in Pickering.

Howard Mendell; enquiry about purchase of garage sites

NYCC; Closure of the A170 Sutton Bank for five days from 20th September for maintenance works.

NYCC; Proposed extension of the 30 mph speed limit on the A61 Stockton Road, giving details of the proposed Gateway traffic calming – no comments

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Adamson referred to the Town Council's comments on planning applications which he felt did not always give planning reasons. However, Cllr Roberts pointed out that, as Mr Cann had said earlier, Parish Councils have local knowledge and this can be of help to the planners when making a decision.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advised that the plasterboard is now in the notice board and will be painted shortly. A Burial Board meeting is to be arranged and following this it is hoped to come back to the Town Council with a new set of Burial Board rules to go on the noticeboard. Cllr Adamson had laid some unstable memorials down in the new part of the Cemetery and he is continuing to monitor this. The original vehicle prevention post has been removed and replaced with one which sinks into the ground in order that it is not a trip hazard.

To receive Reports:

a) County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council has not met since July. The Economic Development Scrutiny Committee is looking at how schoolchildren are prepared for work and this is to form part of the curriculum. Cllr Marshall referred to a report from the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly re scrutiny of market towns. Currently looking at what happens when the term of Regeneration ends.

b) District Council

Cllrs Hubbard and Robinson had nothing to report. Cllr Marshall advised that the Cultural Scrutiny Committee is continuing to look at Tourism and Town Centre Managers.

Referring to planning applications, Cllr Pack asked whether the District Council take into account the views put forward by local residents on planning applications. Cllr Robinson referred to the Forward Plan and said we should put our views via the Scrutiny Committee.

To receive Reports

Representatives

Cllr Morton had attended a meeting of the Swimming Pool Trustees. A new pricing structure is to be brought in from 1st January 2005.

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk in Bloom have received an invitation from Yorkshire in Bloom to enter Britain in Bloom and they were asked whether they had the support of their local authorities. Cllr Pack thanked the Town Council, as the main contributor of finance, for its support during the years Thirsk in Bloom have been in the competition and asked whether they could rely on the Town Council's continued support. Cllr Pack advised that she is also writing to the County and District Councils. Cllr Jackson

asked that this be an agenda item for the next Amenity Meeting to look at the increased support required to enter Britain in Bloom, agreed. Cllr Robinson asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to the "Black Swan" at Norby, agreed.

Cllr Marshall had attended a meeting of the Thirsk Infants School Trustees. Three grants have been made; one to Thirsk Primary School for play and gym equipment, one to improve the disabled access to the Courthouse and one to Thirsk in Bloom. Cllr Marshall mentioned the Thirsk Map, which is currently upstairs in the library. Cllr Pack to look into this.

Cllr Adamson advised that he had been to RAF Linton earlier this month where there had been refreshments followed by a flying demonstration. He had also taken up an invitation for drinks with John Dennis at the County Council. He had received an invitation from the Diocesan Chairman of the Mothers Union to a family day at the racecourse last Saturday and this had been very enjoyable.

#### Members

Cllr Robinson referred to the fact that quite a number of streetlights are not working.

Cllr Hubbard advised that there are three cars with "For Sale" signs on them on St. James' Green and he felt we need to look at amending the byelaws. Cllr Marshall suggested we inform Trading Standards of the vehicles for sale.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that the public and the clerk be excluded for a confidential item, agreed.

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 4th November 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard (Chairman), D Adamson, J Marshall, F Roberts, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times') and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs J Jackson (away), R Mallett (away), A Morton (ill), C Pack (ill), K Reynard (another meeting), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to a minor amendment on each of pages A0079 and A0081.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising:

A0078 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this as yet.

A0078 Benches in Millgate car park/landscaping; reply received from Clive Thornton advising that HDC have been working on a car parking strategy, part of which involves providing additional car parking in Thirsk. They are currently

looking at the layout of Millgate car park and, subject to their decision on this, they will look at the possibility of the installation of the benches in the New Year. HDC intend to improve the landscaped areas in the car park during the Autumn 2004 and Spring 2005 planting seasons.

A0078 Seats on the edge of the pathway near Cod Beck; reply received from Clive Thornton advising that HDC have no objection to this. Cllr Marshall suggested that a site meeting be held to be attended by representatives of HDC, Rotary and the Town Council.

A0078 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; nothing further on this as yet.

A0078 Fencing around The Holmes; photographs to be sent to Sheena Spence.

A0078 Play area on the edge of Castlegarth; further letter sent to John Bell.

A0078 St James' Green; copy of byelaw sent to the YLCA.

A0078 Swings at East Thirsk Play Area; part now received and Chris Amy advised.

A0079 White Mare Roundabout; reply received from the County Council advising that they will grant the Town Council a Licence and requesting details of the planting proposals. Cllr Adamson advised that he intends to pass responsibility for the planting of the roundabout to the Greens Committee, with the proviso that the planting must be acceptable to the sponsors. Cllr Hubbard had received an E-mail from Tony Jordan requesting that, if it is turfed, then spring bulbs be planted underneath and saying that Thirsk in Bloom would be able to advise on bulb selection and possibly the provision of bulbs. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the suggestion of turfing the roundabout was a temporary measure and Cllr Adamson felt that now is the wrong time of year to lay turf. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Long Street Working Party are engaging a planting consultant and he could possibly also look at the roundabout. A reply to be sent to Tony Jordan thanking him for his offer and advising that the Town Council has

this in hand.

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A0079 Traffic Order re one-way traffic on the A61 Millgate; reply received from the County Council advising that this has now been granted.

A0079 Boundary Review; letter sent to Martyn Richards at HDC asking for a boundary review to incorporate the Industrial Estate and York Road into Thirsk Parish.

A0079 Blue Plaque Scheme; the clerk has spoken to the Manager of the Three Tuns and she is flexible as to whether or not there is a ceremony. The Plaques Committee feel there should be an unveiling, possibly by the Mayor.

A0079 Concrete surface of the A168; letter sent to the Highways Agency and Sowerby Parish Council.

A0079 Christmas Festivities; Cllr Adamson advised that Roger Hall is not now putting the tree up but alternative arrangements have been made.

A0079 Proposed stopping up of the highway turning head in St Mary's Walk; Cllr Marshall advised that this is going to the Magistrates Court in January.

A0080 Schedule of Outstanding Amenity items; Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that at the last meeting it was felt it was not necessary to have this as an agenda item at future meetings. She felt it should be an agenda item in order that Members could pick up on the progress of any items. Agreed that this should remain as an agenda item at future meetings.

A0080 Street lights on Station Road; reported.

A0081 Pavement behind the 'Cross Keys'; reported to HDC and they have dealt with it.

A0081 Planning application for the Old Brewery site; HDC have been asked to have an archaeological survey carried out.

#### Correspondence

HDC advising that a tree outside 74 Hambleton Avenue has been made the subject of a Tree Preservation Order

BTCV re their programme for Spring/Summer 2005. It was agreed that in future this should be an agenda item at the July Amenity Meeting in order that some forward planning can be done. Cllr Roberts suggested they could carry out some maintenance work on the footpath through The Ings as it is very overgrown.

Thirsk Community Care Association giving notice of their AGM on 18th November.

Cllr Hubbard confirmed that he will be attending.

HDC re Christmas tree recycling; it was suggested that a suitable place for a recycling point would be Millgate coach park.

To receive update re the Flood Plan Meeting:

Cllr Hubbard referred to the notice circulated to Councillors with the agenda.

He suggested that when a flood warning is received from the agencies then Councillors should be notified as well. They could then contact someone in the affected area to identify how bad it is or alternatively go and see. It was agreed that the office should be the first point of contact. Agreed that the meeting take place on Monday to identify what people want. Cllr Marshall suggested the video be shown at the meeting and this was agreed. Cllr Marshall felt a flip chart should be purchased for use in an emergency.



To receive update re Entrances to Thirsk:

Cllr Marshall explained that improving the signage is one of the projects of the TRI who are acting as facilitators in taking the scheme forward. Along with Cllr Marshall, Ian Beighton, David Shields and Mark Haynes are involved in this.

There is no specific money for this – it would be necessary to obtain the funding to do the scheme. They are to be tourism type signs (brown signs) rather than directional signs. Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council will be reviewing the traffic management scheme for Thirsk in the future and therefore directional signs from the A1 etc are not included. The Town Council was happy with the proposed brown signs. Cllr Marshall showed photographs of the 'Welcome to Thirsk' signs which it is proposed to put at all the entrances. These are to be green and are to contain the words 'The Home of James Herriot', but this is to be checked with the family first. The signs can either be put on a plinth or on the existing millstones where these are in a good state of repair. Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Roberts that the 'Welcome to Thirsk' signs should be put on the millstones where these are in good condition and where they are not in a suitable state then the signs should be put on a plinth with coping stones on top.

Reports:

Carrs Field - Cllr Roberts referred to the suggestion made at previous meetings of employing a part-time person next year. She expressed the hope that if this goes ahead then Carrs Field would be included in it. Cllr Adamson said that, if necessary, the Burial Board will go ahead with employing someone on its own.

Central Areas - Cllr Hubbard advised that the possibility of having a worker is being put to the Committee.

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson advised that someone will be putting the Christmas tree up. Cllr Hubbard said the Christmas Fayre Committee is wanting to have a Tornado fly over Thirsk on Monday 6th December at 2.00pm to signify the end of the Fayre. The Squadron Leader would like a letter from the Christmas Fayre Committee and one from the Town Council.

Greens and Ingramgate - Nothing to report

Millennium Green - Nothing to report.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall advised that the Open Areas Committee has not met as yet, but a meeting is currently being arranged. There has been some unauthorised cutting down of trees by a resident and the Committee will be trying to sort this out.

Town Development Working Party - Cllr Hubbard advised that Peter Penny has not been able to sort out much funding for this so far. Tenders will be sent out.

Permission for the Church floodlighting has now been received. The clerk has let the electrician know of this and he is to call into the office.

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Other items of interest and information:

Cllr Roberts advised that the footpath between Shire Park and Whiteless Bridge is overgrown – Peter Penny to be contacted.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that a new sign has been erected showing Stockton Road/Long Street, but it has not been positioned at the junction.

Cllr Roberts referred to a letter from the Woodlands Group advising that they

are hoping to plant trees in Thirsk next summer, some of which will be on Town Council land and they wonder whether the Town Council would precept a sum towards this. They are to supply a copy of their annual accounts before the Finance Meeting. Cllr Marshall felt this should go to the Open Areas Committee before that.

Cllr Watson referred to the Thirsk Map, saying the library are not happy to have the Map on display. A representative of the South Tees Hospital had spoken to Cllr Watson and said it may be possible to have it at the Friarage Hospital, but not before 2006, provided the Committee agree to it. The map would need to be protected by glass or perspex. It was felt this would be a good idea, but that it should go to Rural Arts, who have expressed interest in having it, until such time as it can go to the Friarage. Cllr Watson to take this forward.

Cllr Marshall reported on Long Street, saying that following the second consultation the Working Party have taken on board the comments made by residents. It is intended to send a letter and plan to the residents of the affected part of Long Street. A consultant has been approached who will be giving advice on the type of trees to put in the planters and also on the planting of the flowerbeds. The Town Council expressed its approval.

Cllr Adamson reminded Members that the Remembrance Day Service is on Sunday 14th November.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 15th November 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard,  
F Roberts, J Watson, Sgt B Franks and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllrs S Hubbard (ill), J Jackson (away), A Robinson (family commitments), Ms C  
Thorpe, 'Darlington and Stockton Times' (another meeting); accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to one amendment  
on page P0111

To receive Police Report:

Sgt Franks advised that there have been no particular issues. There have,  
however, been one or two burglaries and he stressed the need for individuals be  
aware and take crime prevention measures. Sgt Franks said the police are very  
pleased they have moved into the new premises on the Industrial Estate as these  
are very well suited to their needs and he expressed thanks to the people who  
supported them in the move. He felt that Thirsk will benefit from the presence  
of so many police vehicles. Cllr Adamson asked whether the increased numbers

would help when there are incidents on Sutton Bank and Sgt Franks said that the traffic police are frequently called out to deal with small incidents, but sometimes local officers get involved. Sgt Franks reported that there was some damage by fireworks. Cllr Watson referred to the number of motor scooters on the roads. Sgt Franks advised that the ruling on cars also applies to scooters, i.e. if they are being driven badly the police can serve a notice on the driver and if they offend again then the vehicle can be temporarily removed. Cllr Marshall said that Inspector Broadley would be pleased for any of the members to visit the new premises on the Industrial Estate to have a look round.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising:

P0106 Flooding; meeting re Flooding Plan held last week. Reporting on this, Cllr Marshall advised that around 20 people had attended. Cyril Dyke of HDC had also attended. The video had been shown and names of volunteers had been requested; we now have a number of names. A meeting is to be held with the volunteers to move this forward. Cllr Marshall felt there are various items which should be acquired, i.e. a wind-up radio, torches, flip chart etc.

P0107 Cycling in the Market Place; HDC does not have a bylaw to prevent this.

P0107 Closed churchyard at St Mary's Church; no progress with this as yet.

P0107 Purchase of seat by Mr Peter Banthorpe; a wooden seat was supplied and fixed in position in the new Garden of Rest by Mr Banthorpe. A letter of thanks to be sent to him.

P0107 Sale of vehicles on St James' Green; reply received from the County

Council advising that Trading Standards' interest is limited to sellers who are in the trade of

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selling used cars. They have checked the cars being offered for sale on St James' Green and advise that they are both privately owned vehicles and therefore outside the remit of Trading Standards.

P0108 Internal Audit; report not yet received.

P0108 Resurfacing work in the Market Place; reply received from Mouchel-Parkman advising that the work is almost completed and confirming that no work will take place on Remembrance Sunday.

P0109 NYCC Council Plan 2004-07; Cllrs Mallett and Roberts had attended the meeting and found it to be very useful.

P0010 Thirsk Festival 2005; agreed that the cheque for £1000 will be done in April 2005. Cllr Adamson had spoken to Derek Gardiner who advised that the letter sent had not represented exactly what was said. The Festival Committee thanked the Town Council for its comments and continued financial support. Cllr Adamson advised that one of the events for 2005 will be The Searchers.

P0110 Planning application for 167 houses on Station Road; letter sent.

P0110 Planning application to build houses on the garage sites on the Hambleton Estate; letter sent. Cllr Marshall had opposed this application.

P0110 Cemetery fees; a copy of the fees has been put on the noticeboard.

P0111 Periodic Electoral Review of NYCC: Final Recommendations; letter sent to the Electoral Commission and acknowledgement received.

P0111 Relocation of Auction Mart; letter supporting the need for a roundabout

sent.

P0111 Blakey Bridge; letter sent and acknowledgement received from John Weighell.

P0111 Thirsk in Bloom; Cllr Pack advised that this had been a very successful meeting. She asked if the Town Council would invite the Britain in Bloom judge to speak to the Council. Agreed that he be invited to the January Amenity Meeting.

P0112 Vehicles for sale outside the sorting office; the clerk advised that she had inspected and there were no vehicles outside. However, it was reported that some had appeared again.

P0112 Damaged fence along alleyway between the A61 and Castlegarth; letter sent to Tesco.

P0112 Streetlights; the clerk had carried out an inspection of the street lights in the town centre and had reported the defective ones.

To approve Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

C.E. & C.M. Walker – grasscutting £763.75

Sowerby Parish Council – one-third share of cutting The Flatts etc £494.66

K. Dickinson – cleaning office windows £8.00

Yorkshire Water – water rates of Cemetery Lodge (half-year) £153.53

Information Commissioner – renewal re Data Protection Act £35.00

YLCA, "A Practitioner's Guide" £16.99

Julie Harron – Salary, November 2004 £260.00

Elaine Coulson – Salary, October 2004 £1,017.36

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, October 2004 £569.16

C A Amy – Weekly inspections £228.50

Litter picking £250.00

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Income received:

Rating Precept (2nd half of 2004/05) £44,000.00

VAT Refund (1.7.04.-30.9.04) £1,609.62

HDC's contribution of 50% of cost of bin for Mill Gardens £197.50

Bank Interest £0.25

Burial Bd: Interments £440.00

Grave Purchase £110.00

Memorials £76.00

Rent – Cemetery Lodge £397.12

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for October 2004.

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Pack that these be approved.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that Committees should meet before the Finance Committee Meeting.

To approve applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett that the following applications be approved:

Grave No. F1 19 Arthur Herron



Grave No. F3 1 Percival Stanley Whinham

Grave No. F3 6 Susan Spence

Additional Inscription:

Grave No. E5 20 William (Bill) C.R.Pitt.

To receive Correspondence

United Co-op advising that various licensed premises currently known as Quality Fayre have transferred ownership to United Cooperatives Ltd and will now be known as 'Co-op Late Shop'. This includes the former Quality Fayre shop at 26 Market Place.

HDC – notice of next meeting of the Flood Forum on 6th December at 10.00am. North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership; Proposed Community Strategy. This had been circulated to Councillors – no comments.

YRCC Parish Government Conference, 25th-27th February 2005 – Cllr Adamson to attend on Saturday only (cost £57.58 including VAT)

YLCA; Leaflet re Seminars on Councillor Skills. Cllrs Pack and Watson to attend on 19th January at the Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall (cost £18.80 including VAT per person)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister re New Ethical Framework Regulations NYCC; notice of their application to the Magistrates' Court for an Order to stop up the highway outside Nos 15 and 17 St Mary's Walk. Agreed that the Town Council would support this.

Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau requesting financial support; proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that a donation of £500 be made.

E-mail from 'Thirsk Weekly News' asking whether it would be possible to publish the Town Council minutes. Agreed that rather than sending the minutes a brief report should be submitted for inclusion in the 'Thirsk Weekly News'.

To receive Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts advised that a site meeting had been held today to look at the planning application for houses on the York Road Garage site. The houses have been amended from three storey to two storey with a roof light, which is more acceptable. A further noise report has been received for R Hall's application but this is still based on the assumption that all doors and windows will be kept closed. The Planning Committee is still recommending B1 use.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the new seat is now in place in the new Garden of Rest, at no cost to the Council. It is hoped to put the Burial Board rules on the noticeboard. The Clerk had met with the Clerk of Northallerton Burial Board regarding memorials. She had given us a copy of a letter they sent out, a notice that is put on memorials requiring attention and a copy of a spreadsheet produced by the Zurich. Cllr Adamson to look at these and, if necessary, call a meeting of the Burial Board. A copy of the revised Burial Board Regulations had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that they be adopted – all in favour. Cllr Adamson signed and sealed the Regulations.

To receive Reports:

District Council

Cllr Marshall reported on a Thirsk Local Plan Committee Meeting had been held at which there was a presentation on the Local Development Scheme 2004. In the new year HDC will be engaged in a consultation process with parishes and communities – this consultation is to be carried out first before the plan is drawn up. Cllr Marshall said it is necessary for the Town Council to have a view about what we want to see in the Plan before a meeting is held with HDC. She suggested we set up a meeting in the new year. A copy of the Local Development Scheme 2004 to be circulated to Councillors.

County Council

Infrastructure; Cllr Marshall reported that she had been in correspondence with NYCC re some of the suggestions regarding the bus routes.

Concrete Road; Cllr Marshall had spoken to Tammy Adams at HDC . The Highways Agency have indicated a time frame of 2007/2010. Cllr Marshall pointed out that it is necessary to put good reasons to the Highways Agency as to why they should bring it forward. She felt we should get all the parties together and she had asked that it be an agenda item for the November meeting of the Hambleton Area Committee.

Reporting on Blakey Bridge, Cllr Marshall said this had been considered by the County Area Committee for Hambleton. Further weight restrictions are to be put on the bridge indicating that it is only suitable for cars and light vans.

Advance warning signs to be put on the A19 saying that the bridge is not suitable for HGVs and long vehicles, also signs showing weak bridge. They are looking at the cost of physical

restrictions to prevent HGVs going down Blakey Lane, such as blocks in the road.

However, the police are concerned that they will not be adequately lit.

Cllr Marshall had asked about an East/West bypass for Thirsk. This is very unlikely, but it will be given consideration.

Cllr Marshall reported that Paul Hoey of the Standards Board for England came to the County Council to give an update. He advised that they receive approximately 100 complaints each week – about 30% are investigated. A Code of Conduct for Local Council Officers is to be introduced.

Reports:

Representatives:

Cllr Marshall reported that a tidy up of the Millennium Green was held on Saturday morning.

Cllr Roberts advised that the AGM of the CAB is to be held on 25th November.

Reporting on Thirsk Regeneration Initiative, Cllr Roberts said the AGM, which is open to the public, is to be held on 1st December at the Golden Fleece.

Cllr Pack advised that Thirsk Clock have not met recently, but she has passed on the comments about litter in the alleyway.

Members:

Cllr Marshall advised that the East Thirsk Community Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday 11th December at the East Thirsk Community Hall – volunteers are required for this. An exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of its opening was held at the East Thirsk Community Hall recently. This included a strawberry

tea party as a thank you to Val and Alan and they unveiled the wall hanging.

Cllr Reynard expressed concern at the condition of the town on Sunday morning, saying there was a large amount of litter. Also grass and weeds growing in the cracks of the paving. She also referred to the graffiti on the clock; the clerk had spoken to Chris Amy about this some time ago and he felt that specialist stone cleaners would be needed to deal with it. The matter to be taken up with Cllr Hubbard.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that HDC have a new letter heading which no longer gives the general telephone number and fax number of HDC. A letter to be sent to HDC re this.

Cllr Watson asked for helpers for the Thirsk Christmas Fayre.

Cllr Pack reported that Thirsk in Bloom is looking at developing two possible projects, one of which is the entrances to Thirsk, although she understands that Cllr Marshall had spoken about the entrances at Amenities.

Cllr Mallett advised that he had recently travelled to Northallerton by bus and he expressed concern at the speed at which the bus had travelled around the Hambleton Estate.

Cllr Adamson advised that the Christmas Tree was put in place on Saturday morning. He thanked Cllr Roberts for attending.

Cllr Marshall advised that Julia Smith of St Mary's PCC had informed her that the church is having an exhibition of Christmas trees. All businesses had been approached and asked if they could do a tree which reflected their business.

Cllr Marshall asked whether the Town Council would like to do one. Cllr Adamson asked members to give some thought to this.

Referring to the Blue Plaques and Interpretation Boards Scheme, Cllr Marshall advised that the Town Hall Management Committee had now decided where they would like the blue plaque placing on the Town Hall. The clerk has asked Malcolm Burnett to do this.

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

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting  
held on Thursday 2nd December 2004 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

Page A0086

Present:

Cllrs. S Hubbard (Chairman), R Mallett, J Marshall, C Pack, K Reynard, A  
Robinson, J Watson, 2 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllrs J. Jackson (away), A. Morton (playing organ for a carol service), F.  
Roberts (away); approved.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett.

Open Forum:

The members of the public had no matters to raise.

Matters Arising:

A0082 Stable on Marage Road; further letter sent.

A0082 Seats on the edge of the pathway near Cod Beck; site meeting arranged.

A0082 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; further letter sent.

A0082 Fencing around The Holmes Play Area; photographs to be sent to Sheena  
Spence.

A0082 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; further letter sent.

A0082 St James' Green byelaw; reply from YLCA awaited.

A0082 White Mare Roundabout; reply sent to Tony Jordan.

A0083 Boundary Review; reply received from HDC advising that it is not considered appropriate to consider a boundary review at this time. Agreed to take this further, as per the information received from the YLCA.

A0083 Concrete surfacing of the A168; reply received from the Highways Agency confirming that Thirsk Bypass is considered a medium priority with a time frame of 2007/8 to 2010/11, subject to available funds. Autolink have an ongoing programme to replace the slabs as they fail. Cllr Marshall advised that she had asked for this to be included in the agenda at the County Council Area Committee for Hambleton meeting and this had been considered at the recent meeting of that Committee. Cllr Marshall explained that the work to the Thirsk Bypass is currently in phase 3 and on the reserve list for phase 2. The County Council are to ask for it to be moved to phase 2. A query was raised as to what they are replacing the concrete sections with when they fail – it was felt they would be replaced with the same materials.

A0083 Christmas Festivities; the Christmas tree is now up and the lights have been put on.

A0083 Flood Plan meeting; meeting held.

A0084 Christmas Festivities; a letter has been sent to RAF Leeming requesting that a Tornado fly over the Market Place on 6th December to mark the close of the Christmas Fayre. The clerk has also spoken to the officers and they will do this.

A0085 Footpath from Shire Park to Whiteless Bridge; overgrowth now cut back.



Correspondence

HDC; Copy letter to Seeger Developments Limited confirming the Castlegate numbering scheme of 9-29 (odds only, excluding 13) and 1-6 Castlegate Mews.

To consider, and where applicable decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch; a further reminder to be sent to Eccles Heddon.

Tarmac patching on Kirkgate cobbles, chasing letter to be sent.

Steads Yard; it was queried whether the camera had been installed at the rear of the building. Cllr Pack said this had not been done, saying there is only a year left on the lease and they are looking for new premises. Cllr Robinson pointed out that this was a planning condition and Cllr Pack agreed to take it forward.

Cllr Hubbard offered to speak to a contractor.

Damaged tree on The Holmes; Cllr Marshall queried why this had been reported to John Bell as it is a Town Council tree – Chris Amy to be asked to look at it.

Possibility of putting play equipment for young children on the edge of Castlegarth; Cllr Marshall stressed that a reply is needed from John Bell. A further letter enclosing a reply slip to be sent.

To receive update re proposed Emergency Flood Plan:

Cllr Hubbard advised that he has not been able to progress this a great deal as yet. He asked for the names of Councillors who wish to be on the floodplan telephone list to be notified by the Environment Agency of a flood warning. The

following Councillors wished to be included in this; Cllrs Hubbard, Mallett, Marshall, Pack, Reynard and Watson. Cllr Hubbard is to look at the list of volunteers to see which areas of the town they are from and where they would be able to notify us of the current position. Cllr Marshall felt we should purchase the items shown on the Environment Agency video. The next Hambleton Flood Forum is to be held on 8th December. It was pointed out that the flood barrier near Todds Court is still up; HDC have been asked to remove it.

To receive Reports:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report. Cllr Marshall reminded them of the need to set a budget.

Central Areas/Christmas Festivities - Cllr Hubbard reported a lot of activity in Central Areas, referring particularly to the Christmas Festivities. The section of the road through the Market Place between Kirkgate and Millgate will be closed from 2.00pm on Friday and there will be Park and Ride from Austin Reeds and from the Industrial Estate. Signs warning of road closures will be put up on the external roundabouts. The lights will be switched on at 6.45pm on Friday. Litter picking over the weekend has been arranged.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett reported that the Committee had met and had set its budget. Cllr Mallett advised that this Committee has been asked to deal with the White Mare Roundabout and he has started the process. He said he will sort it out and then come back to his Committee and to the Town Council. He had spoken to Lionel Twiss who has four or five sponsors to fund the roundabout. It is hoped to give them each a four year contract. Cllr Mallett had approached two contractors, i.e. Northdale and Yorkshire

Landscapes, and they are to provide ideas and prices. Cllr Mallett has an appointment with Stephen Pimperton at NYCC.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report. Cllr Marshall reminded them of the need to set a budget.

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall reported that a meeting had been held earlier this week. The budget was set and the Rospa Report was examined. This did not reveal anything particularly different from previous years. The Open Areas Committee will visit all the play areas in the new year. Central Areas also did their budget at the meeting. Town Development Working Party - Cllr Hubbard reported that we are still attempting to get funding for doing all the alleyways. Cllr Marshall pointed out that it might be possible to get some funding from the Hambleton Area Committee – an application form to be obtained. She also mentioned the second homes discount money, which is also a possibility. Cllr Hubbard advised that we are also looking at funding for lighting in the alleyways under the Crime and Disorder Act. Cllr Hubbard advised that planning permission for the floodlights at the church has now been obtained. The clerk has contacted the electrician and we are now waiting to hear back from him.

Other Items of Interest and Information:

Cllr Reynard referred to trees along the side of the White Bridge and asked if they could be cut back; Stephen Pimperton to be asked to do this.

Cllr Reynard also referred to trees along the middle of The Holmes, particularly a hawthorn which is dead and cherry trees which need pruning. She asked if it could be done before the summer judging; the Open Areas Committee to look at it.

Cllr Marshall referred to the dog bins saying that some of them are disintegrating; many of them have broken lids or no lids at all. Cllr Marshall also referred to the yellow litter bins which HDC were supposed to be painting green. Letters to be sent to Steve Quartermain, Gary Brown and Eric Kendall asking what is happening re the dog bins and the painting of the litter bins.

Cllr Mallett offered to put stickers on the dog bins and these will be obtained from HDC.

Cllr Mallett referred to the wheeliebins saying some are being permanently left outside 48/48A St James Green and there are a few bins outside Waterside; a letter to be sent to HDC.

Cllr Mallett referred to the trolley store on the pavement outside Somerfield; to be taken up with the County Council.

Cllr Mallett referred to some Town Council trees on the Ings which have been cut down. Agreed that a letter to be sent to all the people in Shire Park asking for help in identifying who is cutting the trees down. Chris Amy to be asked to clear them away. Cllr Mallett referred to the amount of rubbish on the side of Sutton Road; a letter to be sent to the County Council.

Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack referred to a document which had been circulated to Councillors, saying that this is a discussion document. She said that entering Britain in Bloom is important to everyone as it is not just about planting, but about community involvement. Cllr Pack expressed her gratitude to Cllr Mallett for the work he is doing re the White Mare Roundabout. Cllr Pack expressed the hope that everyone will put forward ideas for

possible projects. She stressed the need for attractive entrances to the town for the judging, expressing concern particularly about the entrances on Stockton Road and York Road.

A letter to be sent to Stephen Pimperton regarding the goods on the footpath outside Rosie and Jim's and Cllr Marshall also mentioned that sometimes the seat outside was being used to hold stock. Cllr Marshall advised that she has asked HDC for a ruling on the sign on Rosie and Jim's.

Cllr Pack advised that Roger Burnett, one of the Britain in Bloom Judges, is to give a presentation at the January Amenity Meeting. Cllr Watson asked about the route the judges take and Cllr Reynard said this is decided by Thirsk in Bloom. They are looking at having a competition for private gardens and for pubs/shops etc. Cllr Mallett suggested 'adopt an area'

Cllr Reynard asked about the funding for the entrances. Cllr Marshall advised that she has received replies from the Town Council and from Sowerby Parish Council and will now be pulling this together. Cllr Reynard was not happy at the new signs being put onto existing millstones. Cllr Marshall advised that a "wall" to put a sign on would cost £1,600. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Signs Committee are now dealing with this project which had originally been going to be dealt with by the TRI. Cllr Robinson felt the cost of walls to replace millstones should be budgeted for and expressed the view that the signs would not look appropriate on round millstones. Thirsk in Bloom will attempt to obtain some sponsors.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 20th December 2004 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson, (Chairman), S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, K Reynard, F Roberts, A. Robinson, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times') and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr C Pack (another event), accepted.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts, agreed.

To receive Police Report:

No members of the Police present. Cllr Robinson expressed concern at the parking which takes place on the pavement at the end of Ingramgate, particularly at night. A letter to be sent to the police.

Cllr Hubbard referred to youths congregating on Castlegarth at night and obstructing the pathway. The police to be asked whether they can maintain a watch on that area. He also pointed out that there is still no light at the Market Place end of Castlegarth – a letter to be sent to HDC.

The police to be asked about the recent drive by shooting in Hambleton Drive.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters arising:

P0113 Closed churchyard at St Mary's Church; meeting arranged with the Rector, Clive Thornton and the clerk for 19th January.

P0113 Purchase of seat by Mr Peter Banthorpe; letter of thanks sent.

P0113 Flooding; Cllr Hubbard expressed disappointment at the lack of response to the last meeting. He has drawn up a questionnaire (copy already sent to Councillors) and would like to put this to the householders in the affected areas, agreed. Cllr Marshall advised that the Flood Forum had taken place at HDC. There had been a presentation on the current position re the defences for Thirsk. The consultants are still working on a scheme – they are suggesting it will consist of an emergency flood plain area and also some works within the town. David McGloin has promised to have a special meeting to update the Local Members.

P0114 Internal audit; report not yet received.

P0114 Thirsk in Bloom; Roger Burnett, one of the Britain in Bloom Judges, is to attend the January Amenity meeting.

P0115 Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau; cheque to be signed at this meeting.

P0116 'Thirsk Weekly News'; reports of meetings not yet being sent to them, but this will be done.

P0117 Graffiti on the Clock; Tony Robinson to be consulted re suitable cleaners.

Letter sent to Mike Kneebone re grass/weeds in cracks of paving.

P0117 HDC's new letter heading; letter sent.

P0117 Exhibition of Christmas Trees; the Town Council had put a Christmas tree in the church. The tree had been designed and made by Cllr Roberts.

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P0117 East Thirsk Community Christmas Party; Cllr Marshall advised that this had been held and was very successful. She thanked the British Legion Band, the Mayor and the volunteers.

P0118 Blue Plaques; these have now been put on 'The Three Tuns', The World of James Herriot and the Town Hall.

Finance:

To approve accounts for payment

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

Fox's Copy Centre – photocopying £38.73

Bow House Publishers – "Herriot Country 2005" £679.15

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Hire of Room £150.00

D.E. Adamson – Chairman's Allowance (2nd half) £250.00

Sakata Ornamental UK Ltd – Plants for Thirsk in Bloom £391.07

D.J. Mann – Cleaning bus shelter and noticeboard £99.00

BT – Office telephone £121.98

HDC – Feasibility Study for Alleyways £1,762.50

HDC – Office Rent – Quarter commencing 1.12.04 £660.94

HDC – Pest Control Contract for Mill Gardens £235.00

A. Swift & Son – repairs to toilet cistern at Cemetery Lodge £33.60



K. Dickinson – Cleaning Office Windows £6.00

C.A. Amy - Weekly inspections £228.50

Litter picking £280.00

Weeding Little Green shrubbery £50.00

Repairs to fence in Picnic Area £15.00

Removal of trolley from Cod Beck £10.00

Julie Harron – Salary, December 2004 £292.50

Elaine Coulson – Salary, November 2004 £1,016.37

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, November 2004 £571.30

Wired – Fixing Christmas Lights £769.62

Hambleton Sports Council Membership (2 years) £6.00

M L Burnett – fixing remainder of planks on seats in Mill Gardens & Fixing 3  
blue plaques £118.50

The payment for the removal of the trolley from Cod Beck was mentioned. Proposed  
Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Hubbard that a letter be sent to Tesco, saying we  
had given them notice of this and enclosing an invoice for £10.00

Paid since last meeting:

Julie Harron – back pay following increase (01.04.04 – 30.11.04) £260.00

Income received

NYCC contribution towards grass cutting £1,343.38

Burial Board: Grave Purchase £220.00

Interments £220.00

Memorials £92.00

Reimbursement of two-thirds of cost of Union Jack £34.94

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for November 2004 (copies already circulated)

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Morton that these be received and approved.

To receive Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials

No applications received.

To receive Correspondence

The Royal British Legion; request for donation for poppy wreath; Cllr Watson proposed £100, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

The Royal British Legion; advising of a possible service and parade on 3rd July 2005

The Boundary Committee re Periodic Electoral Review questionnaire – the clerk to complete this.

Thirsk CCA - letter of thanks for donation advising that they propose to use this to help fund the hire of The Big Bus to go into the rural areas and promote the services provided by the Volunteer Bureau.

Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Roberts pointed out that the banner on the Tanning Salon is still there.

She referred to the goods on the pavement outside Rosie and Jim's and also the sign which has been put on top of the 'Mind' sign. Cllr Marshall advised that she has queried the sign and it is legitimate.

Cllr Roberts also queried how much of the land around the flower shop in the middle of the square is owned by them.

She advised that HDC have written to the Pizza shop about a breach of opening hours. Cllr Robinson referred to the new rules which give the Licensing Committee power not to grant a Licence.

Cllr Adamson mentioned that CAG have expressed concern that their views do not always appear to be taken into account when planning applications are considered.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson advise that there is nothing particular to report.

There is a dead tree in the Cemetery which has split, but it is not a danger.

Precept 2004/5

To receive Report from Finance Committee

The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, held on 8th December 2004, had been circulated to Councillors. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that these be accepted, agreed.

Cllr Robinson queried the amount budgeted to be paid to a worker in the cemetery.

Cllr Adamson advised that it would be possible for other committees to use such a person provided they bear the cost of this.

To receive and approve budgets and precept for 2005/6

Cllr Marshall advised that the opening balance at 1st April 2004 was much larger than in the previous year and therefore a decreased precept of £70K was being

recommended. Cllr Watson proposed a precept of £70K for 2005/6, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

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To receive Reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting had been held with Eddie Hayward, Mike Moore and the police to discuss Blakey Bridge. Mike Moore has agreed to finance work to the kerbing to act as a deterrent for lorries. It is hoped that this will be done early in the new year.

Concrete road; Cllr Marshall had asked for this to be included on the agenda of the Hambleton Area Committee. They have agreed to write to the Highways Agency asking that this work be brought forward. Sowerby Parish Council has arranged for a representative of the Highways Agency to speak to its Members about the concrete road.

Roundabout at the Auction Mart; Cllr Marshall advised that this is still under discussion.

Cllr Marshall reported that the Hambleton Area Committee has received a report from the Health Scrutiny Committee re The Friarage, looking particularly at the Accident and Emergency Department and the management of the hospital.

Referring to the future of Cherry Garth, Cllr Marshall said there are two options, i.e. to move to Tanpit Lodge temporarily and then back to Cherry Garth when it is developed; or to look for an alternative site in Thirsk. Cllr Roberts expressed the view that there is nowhere else in Thirsk which would be suitable. Cllr Marshall suggested we invite Neil Revely to a Town Council meeting to give

us an update. It was agreed that he be invited to the February Town Council meeting.

A County Council meeting had been held on 15th December when the budgets for 2005/6 were discussed.

Cllr Marshall referred to the Cycle Lanes across The Flatts, saying Councillors can comment on this.

Cllr Marshall had asked Peter Sowray what the Council is doing on the English Heritage Report, 'Save our Streets'. She will ask for a report on this at the Hambleton Area Committee.

District Council

Cllr Hubbard - nothing to report

Cllr Robinson – nothing to report. He queried why this item is not higher up the agenda.

Cllr Jackson referred to the Industrial Estate which is now full. Cllr Marshall pointed out it had been agreed the Town Council would have a meeting before HDC begin consultations on the Local Plan; a meeting to be arranged.

Cllr Marshall advised that the District Council met early in December. It was suggested that the East Thirsk recycling pilot scheme be extended to other areas, but this was not agreed because of cost. HDC are looking at Tourism and Town Centre Managers.

To receive Reports

Representatives:

Swimming Pool: Cllr Morton advised that they intend to extend the swimming pool to create more exercise rooms and showers when funds are available.

Cllr Mallett advised that he and Cllr Marshall attended a recent meeting on Community Education.

Page P0123

Cllr Adamson advised that he had attended the Friarage Hospital where there was a turf cutting. They have pulled some of the wooden buildings down. The East Thirsk Christmas Party was enjoyed by all. As the representative on the School Governors, Cllr Adamson reported on a letter from Hileys Solicitors to the County Council.

Members:

Reporting on the Christmas Fayre, Cllr Hubbard thanked the Town Council for its support and the Mayor for switching on the lights. He felt that as a Community event it was very successful. Questionnaires were handed out and about a hundred have been received back so far which were very positive. A questionnaire has yet to be sent to the businesses.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Thursday 6th January 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

Page A0090

Present:

Cllrs S Hubbard (Chairman), J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A. Morton, C. Pack, K. Reynard, J. Watson, Mr R Burnett, Britain in Bloom Judge (2nd item only), 2 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr F Roberts (away); accepted.

Talk by Mr Roger Burnett, Britain in Bloom Judge:

Mr Burnett gave a presentation explaining that Britain in Bloom was established in 1963. The aim is to bring communities together and, in addition to planting, to include other environmental issues such as recycling, waste management etc. Mr Burnett gave details of the criteria and stressed that the planting needs to be appropriate. This year's five entries for Yorkshire are being supported by Yorkshire in Bloom, i.e. Barwick in Elmet, Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Luddenden and Thirsk. Entrants will be judged against other entries and also against the standard. This year for the first time there will be unannounced judging in the Spring, with actual judging taking place in August. Cllr Marshall pointed out that in August there will be visitors in the town and the schools will be on holiday. Cllr Hubbard thanked Mr Burnett for attending the meeting.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson, agreed.

Open Forum:

No matters raised.

Matters Arising:

A0086 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further as yet.

A0086 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; reply from John Bell awaited.

A0086 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; further letter sent to John Bell together with a reply slip and stamped addressed envelope.

A0086 St James' Green Byelaws; reply received from the YLCA advising that the byelaw together with any amendments required should be sent to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Cllr Marshall suggested that the Greens Committee look at the byelaw and come forward with some proposals.

A0086 Boundary Review; this is being taken further, as per the information received from the YLCA.

A0086 Tornado Flypast on 6th December. This had taken place and a letter of thanks had been sent to RAF Leeming.

A0086 Seats on the edge of the pathway near Cod Beck; Cllr Marshall confirmed that a site meeting is to be arranged.

A0086 Concrete surfacing on the A168; Cllr Marshall advised that Sowerby Parish Council is to have a representative of the Highways Agency to talk them about this. Members of the public can attend.

A0087 Millennium Green and Dowber Way ditch; a further reminder sent to Eccles Heddon.



A0087 Tarmac patching on the cobbles on Kirkgate; reminder letter sent and acknowledgement received.

A0087 Damaged tree on The Holmes; Chris Amy has been asked to deal with this.

A0087 Flood barrier near Todds Court; HDC have been asked to remove this.

A0087 Camera at the rear of Thirsk Clock Café; Cllr Hubbard has spoken to Abigail and has given her details of two contractors. She is currently waiting for quotes.

A0087 Emergency Flood Plan; Cllr Marshall asked whether Councillors' names and telephone numbers have yet been given to the Environment Agency. Cllr Hubbard said we will get the response from the public first and then we will do this.

Cllr Marshall asked that the items specified in the flood Video be purchased.

A0088 Trees along the side of the White Bridge; letter sent to NYCC and acknowledgement received.

A0088 Litter bins/dog bins; letter sent to HDC.

A0088 Wheeliebins; letter sent to HDC.

A0088 Trolley store outside Somerfield's; letter sent to the County Council and acknowledgement received.

A0088 Church Floodlighting; Cllr Hubbard had spoken to the electrician who is to contact Mike Wilkinson very shortly.

A0088 Letter to Shire Park residents; Cllr Marshall enquired whether the letters had yet been delivered; to be done very soon.

A0089 Stock on pavement outside Rosie and Jims; letter sent to NYCC. Cllr Jackson enquired whether this was a listed building and was informed that it was not – he is to speak to Cooper Harding. Referring to the 'Mind' sign which has

been left up, a letter is to be sent to 'Mind' and to the owners of the building.

To receive Correspondence

NYCC; Thirsk Cycle Plan Route 1 (Sowerby to Stone Lane) Cllr Jackson queried whether consideration has been given to the people who currently use it as a vehicular access and whether this is to be restricted. The questionnaire was completed incorporating Cllr Jackson's comments.

Department for Culture Media and Sport; Enquiring whether the Town Council has any objection to the proposed works on Castlegarth, i.e. the replacement of the kissing gates and resurfacing of the footpath. In view of the deadline for responses, a letter had been sent saying the Town Council welcome these.

To consider and, where applicable decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items:

The following were raised: Chewing gum; a chasing letter sent to Cabinet.

Additional streetlighting in Hambleton Place; Cllr Marshall to take this up with County.

Damaged seat in Hambleton Drive; now removed.

Grass on Stockton Road; Cllr Marshall advised that residents are now parking on the grass and there are tyre tracks; to be taken up with County.

Lamp post on Castlegarth; still not working. A letter to be sent to Hambleton.

To receive Reports from the following Committees:

Carrs Field - Nothing to report.

Central Areas - Nothing to report

Christmas Festivities - The Christmas tree is to be removed on Sunday 16th January. A letter to be sent to Sue Dalton congratulating the Committee on the Christmas Fayre. A letter to be sent to Edward Jackson thanking him for putting the Christmas tree up.

It was reported that there are some loose cobbles opposite the 'Black Bull'; to be reported to Hambleton.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett had not had any reply from the contractors he had approached. He reported that the seat on the Little Green has become unfixed. Malcolm Burnett to be asked to deal with it.

Millennium Green - Cllr Marshall reported that the trees are to be trimmed in the near future. She pointed out that this is a 'wild' area, which may be of use for the entry into Britain in Bloom.

Open Areas - Not met as yet.

Town Development Working Party - Nothing to report.

To receive other items of interest and information:

Cllr Marshall showed the photographs of the hanging in the East Thirsk Community Hall, which had been done as a community project.

Cllr Marshall referred to a CD called HERM re historic monuments; a copy to be obtained.

Cllr Watson reported on the Blue Plaque scheme, saying that plaques have now

been put on the Town Hall, the Herriot Centre and the Three Tuns Hotel. Several more plaques to be produced shortly and a route is to be drawn up.

They are currently working on a leaflet. Cllr Marshall advise that RANY have been appointed to run some workshops to do the Interpretation Boards. Getting different groups involved in doing different boards.

Cllr Marshall reported that 2005 is to be the tenth anniversary of the cinema being run by volunteers and the cinema will be doing something to mark this.

Cllr Pack thought everyone involved should be congratulated.

Reporting on entrances/new signs, Cllr Marshall said they are looking for locations for finger posts. She thinks that most of the money required for the project is now available. These are to be as follows:

Station Road: new stone plinth with new sign in place of the existing millstone.

Newsham Road: current sign to be replaced by millstone with new sign.

Norby: nameplate to be replaced by new nameplate on existing millstone.

Stockton Road: new stone plinth and new nameplate (subject to approval by South Kilvington Parish Council).

Sutton Road: the position of this was discussed. Proposed Cllr Hubbard, seconded Cllr Reynard that the new sign should be on the Thirsk side of the bypass (by the 30mph sign).

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York Road: Existing millstone to be replaced by new sign and wall. Agreed that it may be moved nearer to the roundabout.

Cllr Reynard asked about planting in front of the millstones – planting in a

trough was suggested.

It was reported that Todds Court is very dark. The Town Council had asked for an additional streetlight there some time ago, but this had not been possible. A further request to be made.

Cllr Reynard reported there is a streetlight out outside Lloyds Bank, also one on Norby Estate near the willow tree.

On Norby Estate there is a large hole and the tarmac is breaking up.

The problem of water collecting outside the fire station and old sorting office was mentioned – it is now bubbling up. Cllr Marshall said there is no drain there- she has spoken to Steve Pimperton again about this.

Cllr Hubbard referred to the litter on Castlegarth, particularly by the central seat and suggested we purchase a litter bin. Chris Amy to be asked whether he will empty it. If so, it was proposed by Cllr Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Mallett that a litter bin be purchased.

To receive report from Thirsk in Bloom:

Cllr Pack stressed the need for everyone to be involved in Britain in Bloom and to pull together. She had spoken to Rotary about the Festival banners and suggested they be put on the brackets for the judging.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 17th January 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), S Hubbard, J Jackson, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson and the clerk.

Apologies:

No apologies received, all Councillors being present.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Mallett; agreed.

To receive Police Report:

No members of the police present. Cllr Marshall referred to the move of Inspector Broadley from Thirsk to the Control Room and expressed her concern that this move took place without a new Inspector being appointed.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

Matters Arising:

P0119 Police matters; letter sent to the police and reply awaited.

P0119 Closed churchyard at St Mary's Church; meeting to be held on Wednesday with Clive Thornton, the Rector and the clerk.

P0119 Flooding; questionnaire done and delivered to all affected houses; now getting replies in.

P0119 Graffiti on the clock; Tony Robinson has supplied us with details of suitable chemical cleaners. Agreed that Chris Amy be asked to do this.

P0120 Plaque on Three Tuns; date to be arranged for the Mayor to unveil this.

P0121 Dead tree in the cemetery; the whole tree is now down and is resting on the ground.

P0121 Precept; precept request sent to HDC – they have confirmed receipt of this.

P0121 Sign on 'Rosie and Jim's'; Cllr Jackson referred to the sign which has been put over the 'Mind' sign. He was of the opinion that the building should be listed. He had spoken to Cooper Harding who would be happy to support an application for listing. Agreed that this be an agenda item at a future meeting.

P0121 Periodic Electoral Review; Cllr Marshall advised that the results of this will be announced in February.

P0122 Cherry Garth; letter sent to Neil Revely inviting him to speak at the February Town Council meeting.

P0122 Cycle lanes across the Flatts; questionnaire completed at Amenities and sent in. Cllr Jackson reported that he had looked at the cycle route and it seemed to include the access used at the Festival. It was pointed out that the bollards would be removable. Cllr Robinson advised that the Flatts Preservation

Trust have approved the cycle plan.

P0122 Local Plan; meeting to be arranged.

P0122 District Councillors' Reports; Cllr Robinson expressed his objection to the District Councillors' Reports being towards the end of the agenda as he felt that the members of the public may wish to hear these. Proposed Cllr Robinson seconded Cllr

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Hubbard that this be moved to Item 4. This was put to the vote and was carried with 10 in favour and 1 against.

P0122 Industrial Estate; Cllr Marshall advised that the District Wide Local Plan ceases to be operative in 2006, and HDC are currently drawing up a new plan. A document is currently being circulated which sets out the framework and Cllr Marshall stressed that this Council needs to look at Thirsk as a whole – a meeting about this to be arranged.

Finance:

To Approve Accounts for Payment

Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Watson that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Society of Local Council Clerks Membership Fee 2005/06 £115.00

C.A. Amy – Trimming trees on Millennium Green £150.00

Julie Harron – Salary, January 2005 £292.50

Elaine Coulson – Salary, December 2004 £1,016.37

Inland Revenue – Tax/Ni, December 2004 £571.30



C Amy: Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking and pruning – Mill Gardens £150.00

Litter picking – Picnic Area and Castlegarth £80.00

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Mallett that £500 be sent to Thirsk Chamber of Trade as a donation to the Christmas lights.

Paid since last meeting

Royal British Legion – contribution to poppy wreaths £100.00

Petty Cash £50.04

YLCA – 2 places on Councillor Skills Conference £37.60

Income received

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interment £110.00

Bank Interest £1,058.50

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget for December 2004:

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Morton; approved.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

No applications received.

To receive Correspondence

Royal British Legion – Notice of Meeting on 2nd February re Church Service and

Parade on 3rd July

Citizens Advice Bureau – thanks for donation also advising that mainly due to financial and staffing resources, they have had to suspend outreach services to Stokesley, Easingwold, Bedale and Thirsk. However, they hope to resume the service

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again early in 2005. Cllr Roberts explained the problem and confirmed that it is hoped to continue in the near future.

Edward Barker; would like to know whether the Town Council would like to have sight of some concept drawings for Rybeck Farm. Agreed that he be invited to bring these to a meeting.

Planning Committee Report:

Cllr Reynard declared an interest in respect of Planning Application No. 2/04/152/0798 for the construction of 3 terraced dwellings and 1 detached bungalow at 5 Norby Front Street.

Cllr Marshall pointed out that the conversion of the former shop on the corner of Stammergate/Long Street appears to have plastic windows.

Cllr Marshall referred to the demolition of garages in Hambleton Place raising the question of whether there will be any transfer of ownership of the entrance to the pipe, which takes the water from the Millennium Green. This has always been in the ownership of Broadacres; a letter to be sent to them.

Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the dead tree in the Cemetery which was partly down

is now fully down and another tree has blown over in the wind. He said it will be necessary to arrange a Burial Board meeting. Cllr Reynard referred to the Cemetery wall at the Norby side, saying it looked to be in need of some repair. Malcolm Burnett to be consulted on this.

To Receive Reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall reported that a budget workshop meeting had been held. They are aiming for a 4.9% increase.

Referring to Blakey Bridge, Cllr Marshall said County are considering building out under the bridge to deter lorries.

A representative from each of the Highways Agency and Autolink had attended a Sowerby Parish Council meeting to talk about the concrete road. They are both trying to get the date for the resurfacing of the bypass brought forward into phase 2. Cllr Marshall reported that an Economic Development Committee meeting had been held at which a report on behalf of the Working Group on Vocational Education Strategy had been presented and they will be presenting it to the Executive on 1st February. They are hoping to influence the County Council's decision making on it. Cllr Marshall pointed out that all the Further Education Colleges are in the region of 20 miles from Thirsk.

Cllr Marshall reported that she had asked for an investigation of whether the amount of waste taken to the waste sites had increased since the introduction of wheeliebins. This is currently being monitored, together with the effects of more of Hambleton going on to the wheeliebin system.

## District Council

Cllr Robinson reported that small businesses will be entitled to claim a reduction in rates and this will be absorbed by the larger businesses.

Cllr Marshall advised that there is to be a meeting of the Standards Committee this week.

Cllr Marshall reported that she has chased up the District Council on a number of issues, including the ditch through the Millennium Green and the Tranmire Ditch. She has asked for an update on the riverside footpath and had also asked them to inspect the car parks for any wind damage. Cllr Marshall said a tree had come down in Cod Beck, which had been removed, but a lot of branches had been left in the river. Cllr Roberts said there are some lights out in Millgate car park which were reported to HDC some time ago.

## To receive Reports:

### Representatives

Cllr Watson reported on a Chamber of Trade meeting saying there was a very poor attendance. They are currently looking at ways of encouraging more people to join.

### Members

Cllr Marshall reported that 4th March is the 10th anniversary of the cinema being run by volunteers. There is to be a series of special films shown and a gala evening.

Cllr Watson referred to the fact that car parking charges are now being levied

at Thirsk Station. She had queried this and was advised it has been passed to National Car Parks. She felt work should be carried out to the car park as water collects there when it rains.

Cllr Mallett referred to branches hanging from some of the trees on the other side of Cod Beck. A letter to be sent to John Bell.

Cllr Adamson reported that work has started on erecting the poles for the new bus stops at East Thirsk. Some soil from these has been put into the Tranmire Beck; a letter to be sent to the County Council.

Cllr Mallett said footpath signs are missing from Ingramgate (near Ingram House) and from Gillings Court Mews to Kirkgate. Cllr Reynard also pointed out the sign on the tyre depot at Norby is very rusty; Peter Penny to be informed.

Cllr Robinson pointed out that road works will soon be starting in the Market Place, although Cllr Marshall said no official date has yet been set for this.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 21st February 2005 at 7:15pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Mr P Richardson, Head of Adult Services (Commissioning) for the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area of NYCC (second item only) and the clerk.

Apologies:

Cllr J Jackson (away).

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Marshall that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Mr Phil Richardson, Head of Adult Services (Commissioning) for the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area of NYCC re Cherry Garth.

Mr Richardson explained that Cherry Garth is one of a number of elderly people's homes, which they intend to reconfigure to make into Extra Care Housing. There are various options: (1) remodel the services within the existing building; (2) a new build on the same site; or (3) a new building on a new site. The disadvantages to Option (1) would be accommodating the residents whilst this is going on - space is limited and it would therefore be difficult to build a

modern Extra Care Housing scheme. Option (2) would involve moving the residents out whilst work was done – a move to Tanpit Lodge had been mentioned. Mr Richardson advised that funding has not yet been approved for Cherry Garth or Tanpit Lodge. Referring to Option (3) Mr Richardson said there are no sites in mind – any such site would need to be accessible to local community services. Mr Richardson stressed that whichever option is pursued it would need to be in the best interests of the residents. Cllr Morton asked whether less people would be able to be catered for if they rebuilt on the existing site. Mr Richardson agreed there would be a smaller number as there would be better facilities. Cllr Roberts raised the question about people who are not able to look after themselves and Mr Richardson explained that care increases to meet their needs. Cllr Reynard felt there should be facilities for people with dementia/Alzheimer's at Cherry Garth. Mr Richardson said the Town Council will have the opportunity to make its views known when the new unit is being commissioned. Cllr Reynard felt it should be on the site of Cherry Garth and Cllr Marshall agreed, pointing out that it is near the town centre and easily accessible. Mr Richardson stressed that in the Extra Care complexes the elderly people are tenants and couples would not be split up. He said that the future lies in Extra Care Housing, together with EMI homes. He is in discussion with Broadacres re day services, extra facilities etc.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Marshall that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Minutes:

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson, subject to an amendment on Page P0126.

To receive the Police Report:

Cllr Marshall advised that the new Inspector, Inspector Richardson, is starting in March. Cllr Hubbard pointed out that during half term there was more vandalism in the town.

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To Receive Reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that there are two lighting schemes for St Mary's and part of Hambleton Place. The County Council has set its precept at 4.9%. Cllr Marshall referred to the Electoral Review and said that the Boundary Commission's views are to be upheld as to the divisions in North Yorkshire. The A19 is to be resurfaced with a low noise surfacing, starting on 14th February. Cllr Marshall reported that at the initiative of the Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership the Home Secretary had recently visited the Clock Café where the young people had behaved very well and the Home Secretary was very impressed. Cllr Robinson asked whether the Town Council was invited and Cllr Marshall said not as these visits are organised by the Hambleton and Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership. Cllr Marshall advised that a lot of work and planning has gone into the entrances and the work on these should be done in March. Finger posts around the town are being looked at and when the



details are finalised Cllr Marshall will bring the details to a meeting. Agreed that prices be obtained for new arms on the finger post in the Market Place as one arm is pointing towards the old police station.

District Council

Cllr Marshall advised that a meeting is to be held tomorrow at which the Council Tax is to be decided. The Thirsk Local Plan Committee is to meet on Wednesday afternoon.

Open Forum:

No members of the public present.

To consider Matters Arising:

P0124 Police matters; reply received from Sgt Frank advising that he is keeping an eye on Ingramgate, but there does not appear to be a problem with pavement parking there. He has asked officers to pay attention to Castlegarth in the course of their patrols. Sgt Frank also gave the correct story of the discharge of a shotgun in Hambleton Drive.

P0124 Closed Churchyard at St Mary's Church; a site meeting had been held, attended by The Rector, two representatives of the church, Clive Thornton, Cllr Roberts and the clerk.

P0124 Flooding; a spreadsheet of the replies is now being prepared.

P0124 Graffiti on the clock; the details of suitable chemical cleaners received from Tony Robinson have been passed to Chris Amy.

P0124 Plaque on 'The Three Tuns'; unveiled by the Mayor today.

P0124 Trees in the Cemetery; quotes being obtained. So far one has been

received.

P0124 Periodic Electoral Review; letter received from the Electoral Commission advising that the recommendations of the Boundary Committee have been accepted and the order has been signed.

P0124 Local Plan Meeting; looking at 15th March for this.

P0124 District Councillors' Reports; County and District Councillors' Reports now moved to higher up the agenda.

P0125 Donation to Christmas Lights; letter of thanks received from the Ladies Chamber of Trade.

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P0125 Citizens Advice Bureau; letter advising that the Outreach service to Thirsk is now being resumed.

P0125 Rybeck Farm; Edward Barker to present his concept drawings to the meeting on 3rd March.

P0126 Pipe from Millennium Green; letter sent to Broadacres.

P0126 Burial Board Report; Quotes being obtained for trees. Cllr Adamson advised that he had looked at the wall – no work to be done on it at the moment. Cllr Reynard wished her concerns regarding the wall to be noted.

P0126 Concrete road; letter received from the Highways Agency advising that carriageway reconstruction works to include low noise surfacing on part of the A19 are to be carried out between February and May 2005.

P0127 Small businesses rate reduction; form received in respect of the rates of the Town Council Office – this has been completed.

P0127 Trees on the other side of Cod Beck; letter sent to John Bell.

P0127 Soil in the Tranmire Beck; letter sent to the County Council.

P0127 Footpath signs; reported to Peter Penny.

P0117 HDC letterheading; reply received advising that the letterheading is due to be reprinted shortly and if need be the Contact Centre number can be incorporated in the letterheading. The fax number has been omitted because most people contact them by telephone or 'E' mail.

Finance:

To Approve Accounts for Payment:

(Cllr Adamson declared an interest regarding the reimbursement to M I'Anson in respect of the Millennium Green)

Proposed Cllr Watson, seconded Cllr Hubbard that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Annual Insurance £907.54

D.J. Mann – cleaning bus shelter and noticeboard £28.50

M.L. Burnett – fixing seat on Little Green £14.00

Julie Harron – Salary, February 2005 £292.50

Elaine Coulson – Salary, January 2005 £1,016.37

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, January 2005 £571.30

C A Amy –litter picking £200.00

weekly inspections £182.80

fence around Christmas lights etc £150.00

work on trees on The Holmes £825.00

M I'Anson – reimbursement for skip and saw £163.77

Paid since last meeting

YLCA – 1 place on “Councillor Skills” Seminar for Cllr Adamson £18.80

YRCC – 1 place for Saturday only on Parish Government £57.58

BT – Internet line £83.84

Npower – office electricity £179.93

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Income received

Refund of VAT (1.10.04-31.12.04) £1,379.33

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £715.00

Grave Purchase £220.00

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for January 2005 (copies already circulated).

Proposed approved Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Marshall; accepted. Cllr Marshall advised that we are still mid-audit. There is currently a query, which we have passed back to our Internal Auditors.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

No applications received

To receive Correspondence

Defra re the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill

Henry Hyams giving notice of an application made by Jonathan Prendergast and

Julie Ann Prendergast to renew the Gaming Licence at the Regent Bingo and Social

Club

National Probation Service; offering the opportunity to invite a member of the North Yorkshire Probation Board to attend a Town Council meeting; agreed that this be arranged for June/July.

The Royal British Legion requesting financial assistance towards the cost of the administration of their annual events. Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that a donation of £100 be made; agreed.

NYCC re new brown and white sign which they would like to put on The Holmes – they would also take down the two existing car park signs; this was agreed.

Mouchel Parkman advising that works on the A61 Market Place will not now start until after Easter.

HDC; TPO at 74 Hambleton Avenue – Order confirmed.

HDC; TPO at the Old Rectory – plan showing location of trees included in the Order.

NYCC; copy of a letter to the residents of part of the Hambleton Estate re renewed street lighting.

Carrs Field; letter from Chris Amy expressing concern at the state of Carrs Field and suggesting that the Town Council approaches the Trust with a view to managing the site. Proposed Cllr Robinson, seconded Cllr Morton that a letter be sent to the Trustees advising that we have received a complaint about Carrs Field and pointing out that there is £1,444.78 remaining in this year's budget which can be spent on improving this area. Cllr Hubbard advised that he is resigning as Chairman of Carrs Field and, because of his workload, will be resigning from the Town Council. Cllr Roberts expressed the view that there are not enough people on the Carrs Field Trust. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the Carrs Field Trust could ask the Town Council to manage it on their behalf. Cllr

Hubbard had approached Abigail about getting some of the young people from the Clock Café to be involved in it, but had not received any feedback as yet. Cllr Hubbard felt it would be better if there were more attractions for families, eg by having picnic tables, basketball hoops etc.

Page P0132

To receive and approve amendments to the Charitable Scheme for Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall:

The Town Council's amendments accepted with one exception. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that this be accepted.

To decide on holding a second monthly Council Meeting:

Cllr Adamson pointed out that the Town Council is entitled to have as many meetings per month as it wishes. It was suggested that a further Council meeting be held on the first Thursday of the month in place of the former Amenity Committee Meeting, starting at 7.30pm and finishing not later than 9.45pm. Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Roberts; agreed.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson confirmed that quotes are being obtained for the tree work in the Cemetery. He advised that the cost of heating oil has doubled and prices are being obtained for putting gas into Cemetery Lodge and it may be necessary to have a new boiler. Once the quotes are obtained a Burial Board meeting will be held.

To Receive Reports:

a) Representatives

Cllr Roberts confirmed that the CAB in Thirsk has re-opened. Time has been purchased from Ripon CAB, therefore money given by Thirsk will be used in Thirsk. Cllr Roberts reported that the Market Towns Initiative is in its last few weeks and all monies have been spent. The Thirsk Initiative has been highly successful and over £1m has been spent in Thirsk in the last few years.

Discussions are currently taking place to ascertain where the next run of money will come from. Mark Haynes is currently working in Thirsk one day a week, with another person also working one day per week.

Cllr Pack had attended a meeting at Thirsk Clock and said the young people's behaviour recently was exemplary. The Café is now open three nights per week and Saturday afternoons and they are looking for new premises. A lot of work is going on and a lot of young people are finding work through the Café.

Cllr Robison reported that the Palliative Care Unit at the Lambert Hospital is still underway.

Cllr Marshall reported on the Interpretation Boards, saying that the Working Group is meeting regularly. A launch was held recently and this went very well. A series of workshops has been set up with schools and other groups to work on the boards. Referring to the Long Street Enhancement, Cllr Marshall said the planters are expected shortly. A landscape consultant has been consulted to design the planting of the planters and the beds. It is hoped it will be done by the end of March.

Cllr Adamson reported that the Millennium Green Committee had met; Mike l'Anson was appointed Chairman and Cllr Adamson Secretary. A working day was held last Saturday. The trees on Millennium Green to be checked; the Town Council to do

this.

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Cllr Morton advised on a new pricing structure at the swimming pool. There are to be Premier Cards (can use everything at the pool), Standard Cards (can use some of the things at the pool) and a Children's Card. Children under 3 are free. Also a separate pricing structure for retired, disabled and unemployed people. They are encouraging people to pay by direct debit. Hoping to increase their annual income by around £11K.

Cllr Adamson had attended a meeting at the British Legion re the VE/VJ celebrations and party. The parade is to start at Sowerby War Memorial and come back into the town

. Cllr Adamson advised that a School Governors' meeting had been held and the boiler is to be replaced.

He reported that all is going well with the East Thirsk Community Association.

Cllr Adamson reported that he had unveiled the blue plaque on 'The Three Tuns' this afternoon.

Cllr Adamson proposed that Standing Orders be suspended for a further ten minutes, seconded Cllr Morton.

Cllr Roberts advised that the Planning Committee felt the materials to be used for windows should be included on the planning application form. A letter had been sent to Maurice Cann who had replied saying this was a very good point and he is to give instructions for the planning application forms to be amended



accordingly.

b) Members:

Cllr Roberts felt it would be a good idea to have a recycling bin for plastic bottles in Millgate car park; a letter to be sent to HDC.

Cllr Hubbard advised that the floodlighting at St Mary's Church is due to be finished this coming weekend.

Cllr Mallett advised that the triangular piece of garden at Waterside is full of rubbish; a letter to be sent to Broadacres.

Cllr Morton pointed out that there is a lot of news about staffing at the Friarage. Cllr Marshall said the Health Scrutiny Committee is looking at this. There will be a series of public meetings to be held around the area.

This was followed by three items of a confidential nature.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Thursday 3rd March 2005 at 7:30pm  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall.

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), S Hubbard, R Mallett, J Marshall, C Pack, K Reynard,  
F. Roberts, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), Mr. E  
Barker and the clerk.

Apologies:

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

Proposed Cllr Marshall seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be suspended.

Talk by Edward Barker re concept drawing of Rybeck Farm:

Mr Barker presented his concept drawing to the meeting. This showed a green area around the edge of Thirsk with a proposed development of approximately 100-110 houses. No decision as yet on what to do with Stoneybrough Farm. Mr Barker referred to the flooding, saying HDC has looked at the possibility of having flooding defences to the North of Thirsk and he said that the dual carriageway provided a similar arrangement to the East. Cllr Roberts referred to the surface water which currently goes into the Whiteless Beck and felt that some form of holding chamber would be necessary to cope with the extra water from these houses. Mr Barker agreed that he would not want a development which creates more

water going into the beck. He pointed out that this is free draining land which does not drain into the beck, and there is the ability to create soakaways. The Town Council felt this would be a very good development and would support the plan. Cllr Marshall felt it adds to the Town Council's desire to create more land for people to walk on. Proposed Cllr Marshall, seconded Cllr Pack that a letter be sent to HDC saying we have seen the drawings and would like to discuss this with the planners.

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Minutes:

To Approve the Minutes of the following Town Council meetings:

Meeting held on 6th January 2005:

Proposed Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Watson that these be approved, subject to one minor amendment on Page A0091.

Meeting held on 21st February 2005:

Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hubbard that these be approved, subject to one amendment on each of pages P0129, P0130, P0131 and two amendments on page P0132.

Open Forum:

No items raised.

Matters arising:

A0090 Stable on Marage Road; nothing further on this as yet. A0090 Grass verge outside Foxwynd; reply received from John Bell advising that he owns the land.

Stephen Pimperton to be informed as the County Council have indicated that they will continue the pathway there.

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A0090 Play Area on the edge of Castlegarth; reply received from John Bell advising that he will not agree to play equipment being sited on the edge of Castlegarth. Cllr Marshall said that HDC has been advised of this. Need to have an Open Areas meeting.

A0090 St James Green Byelaws; copy of existing Byelaw given to Greens Committee.

A0090 Boundary Review; Reply received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister advising that the decision to undertake a review rests with the District Council. Cllr Adamson stressed that in the light of this it must be made quite clear that the responsibility for the area in question, i.e. the Industrial Estate and York Road, lies with Bagby Parish, then HDC and not Thirsk. Cllr Hubbard advised that he would like to proceed with attempting to get the boundaries changed. A letter to be sent to HDC pointing out that because it is outside the parish Thirsk Town Council is prohibited by law from spending money on one of the main entrances into the town. A0090 Seats on the edge of the pathway near Cod Beck; the clerk had spoken to Clive Thornton on site and also to Lionel Twiss and they were both happy with this. A site meeting with all parties to be arranged.

A0090 Millennium Green and Dowber Way Ditch; reminder sent to Eccles Heddon.

A0090 Concrete surfacing on the A168. Cllr Marshall advised that a representative of the Highways Agency attended a Sowerby Parish Council meeting. Resurfacing now taking place.

A0091 Emergency Flood Plan; a spreadsheet has been compiled from the questionnaires received back. A flip chart is on order. Looking at wind up radios and torches.

A0091 Church Floodlighting; now done.

A0091 Letters to Shire Park Residents; letters delivered. Telephone calls received from two residents in response to this.

A0091 Kissing gates on Castlegarth; Chasing e-mail sent to Keith Emerick at English Heritage. Reply received advising that his deadline is 18th March, but he will attempt to deal with it as quickly as possible.

A0091 Chewing gum on pavements; HDC advise that this is to be cleaned off shortly.

A0091 Additional street lighting on Hambleton Place; letter received from NYCC advising that the streetlight would have cost £2,300, but as a new lighting system is being put into Hambleton Estate, this can be installed at a reduced cost of £1,200. Agreed that this be done.

A0091 Grass on Stockton Road; reported to NYCC.

A0091 Lamp post on Castlegarth; reported to HDC.

A0091 Tarmac patching on the cobbles; Cllr Marshall advised that Stephen Pimperton is not able to get this done in March, but it will be done in April.

A0091 Damaged tree on The Holmes; Cllr Reynard said she noted some tree work had been carried out on The Holmes and asked whether more work was to be done. Cllr Marshall said there is more ongoing work to be carried out, but the emergency work was done first.

A0092 Christmas Festivities; letters of thanks sent to Edward Jackson and Sue Dalton.

A0092 Loose cobbles opposite the 'Black Bull'; reported to HDC.

A0092 Blue Plaques Scheme; Three Tuns Plaque unveiled recently.

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A0092 Todds Court; additional streetlight requested.

A0093 Hole in tarmac at Norby; reported to NYCC and now repaired.

A0093 Litter bin on Castlegarth; the clerk had spoken to Chris Amy who did not think it was a good idea to site a litter bin on Castlegarth. HDC to be asked if they would empty it and, if so, one will be purchased.

A0093 Light on Marage Road; Cllr Reynard reported that this is still out. Cllr Marshall advised that the County Council are to replace all the streetlights at Norby and she will be having a site meeting about this.

Correspondence:

HDC; Approval to carry out works to cherry tree on St James Green. The clerk advised that some clipping back is to be done to the cherry tree outside 33 St James Green and she had applied for consent to do this work – this has now been granted.

Ms Diane Miller re street cleaning, litter and the state of the toilets; to be sent to HDC Cllr Hubbard advised that HDC are looking at reviewing their street cleaning system. They now have a motorised vehicle which can carry more waste from the bins, leaving more time for street cleaning. A letter to be sent to HDC asking for their proposals re toilet cleaning in Thirsk, pointing out that as a main tourist town Thirsk should have stewardship of the toilets.

NYCC enclosing questionnaire re cycleway on Topcliffe Road which has now been implemented on a six month trial basis; the questionnaire was completed.

Tony Jordan re the White Mare Roundabout; Cllr Mallett advised that he had contacted two contractors. One had put forward his proposals, but as this involved the use of gravel, County would not agree to it. He is chasing the second contractor. Cllr Mallett had spoken to County about the possibility of putting water onto the roundabout and asked how much it would cost to put a standpipe there. He will be going back to the Greens Committee. May go back to the idea of turfing the roundabout. The clerk advised that she had contacted Yorkshire Water about the feasibility and cost of putting water on the roundabout and they are looking into it. Cllr Watson congratulated Cllr Mallett on his work with the roundabout.

Cllr S. Hubbard; letter resigning from the Town Council with effect from 21st March. There will therefore be a vacancy after the next Town Council Meeting. Cllr Roberts said Cllr Hubbard has worked very hard during his time on the Town Council.

To consider, and where applicable decide upon, the items contained in the Schedule of Outstanding Amenity Items

Drain on Castlegate; it was reported that this is full of rubbish.

Steads Yard; Cllr Hubbard asked Cllr Pack whether a camera has yet been installed at the rear of the Clock Café. Cllr Pack said that Abigail McGhie is still waiting for estimates but she will chase it up. Cllr Roberts mentioned that the Clock Café is hoping to move, but Cllr Hubbard pointed out that the installation of a camera is a planning requirement. Abigail McGhie is looking at having a camera which can be removed and re-sited if necessary. Cllr Roberts pointed out that there is no light in Steads Yard and Cllr Hubbard said that this will be looked at as part of the Alleyways Scheme.

Four trees at East Thirsk Play Area with bacterial canker: Cllr Marshall had received a quote for cleaning, crowning, removing all dead and diseased wood and removing

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two overhanging limbs from one tree in the amount of £375. Agreed that this be accepted.

Painting of the litter bins; Cllr Marshall advised that she has spoken to HDC re this. Letter to be sent highlighting the deteriorating state of the litter bins over a number of years. She pointed out that HDC has committed to supporting Thirsk with Britain in Bloom and the lack of action is detrimental to the image of Thirsk as a number one tourist attraction.

To Receive Reports

Carrs Field - Nothing to report

Central Areas - Nothing to report

Christmas Festivities - Cllr Adamson reported that the Committee will be investigating the source of a Christmas tree for this year. He felt we need to get a more permanent arrangement in place for the erection of the tree.

Greens and Ingramgate - Cllr Mallett congratulated Thirsk in Bloom on the bulbs planted on Ingramgate. Cllr Marshall had received a complaint regarding the state of the tracks on the Green. Cllr Adamson felt we should approach contractors direct to ascertain whether they wish to be considered for work.

Millennium Green - Nothing to report

Open Areas - Cllr Marshall stressed the need for a meeting. She would like to



arrange a walk round in the better weather.

Town Development Working Party - Alleyways Scheme; Cllr Hubbard advised that Peter Penny has agreed to forward some monies to us which they have set aside for this scheme. More contractors have been approached and invited to tender.

Other items of interest and information

Cllr Watson referred to the car parking at the station. Cllr Adamson advised that a reduction in the annual season ticket for parking at the station has been made, but the daily charge remains the same.

Cllr Roberts reported that Julian Smith is leaving the YLCA.

Cllr Marshall referred to the fact that it is the tenth anniversary of the cinema being run by volunteers. There is to be a Charity Gala Evening with a showing of "Calendar Girls" on Friday 4th March. The ten most popular films will be shown the following week, concluding on Sunday 13th March with a film in preview which is part of the Bradford Film Festival. New Ritz mugs are available for purchase.

Cllr Adamson reported on a meeting at the British Legion re the anniversary of VE/VJ Day. He had approached the organisers of both the Remembrance Day and the

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VE/VJ Parades about the wreaths and Cllr Adamson showed the meeting some suggested drawings to go on the wreaths from the Town Council. Cllr Marshall pointed out that Rowleys had another picture which was used on the wreaths –

Rowleys to be asked whether they still have it.

To receive Report from Thirsk in Bloom

Cllr Pack reported that a public meeting had been held the previous night with a presentation by Roger Burnett and our mentors were also there. There is to be a further meeting on 16th March. Cllr Reynard had attended a seminar in Derby for Britain in Bloom where there had been workshops etc.

To Compile a List of Property/Equipment etc purchased by Thirsk in Bloom in order that these can be included in the insurance schedule

Cllr Roberts referred to items purchased by Thirsk in Bloom which they regard as being the property of the Town Council and which are not currently insured. Cllr Pack to draw up a list in order that these can be added to the insurance schedule.

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Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Mallett that the public and press be excluded for a confidential item of a commercial nature.

Tenders for Seat Maintenance

Three tenders had been sent out, but only one received back. This was opened and it was proposed by Cllr Hubbard, seconded by Cllr Watson that this be accepted; agreed. It was revealed that the tender was supplied by C.A. Amy.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Minutes of the Town Council meeting  
held on Monday 21st March 2005  
following the Annual Parish Meeting  
in the Annexe Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

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Present:

Cllrs D Adamson (Chairman), S Hubbard, R Mallet, J Marshall, A Morton, C Pack, K Reynard, F Roberts, A Robinson, J Watson, Ms C Thorpe ('Darlington and Stockton Times'), Insp. John Richardson (North Yorkshire Police) 5 members of the public and the clerk

Apologies:

Cllr J Jackson (away); accepted.

Minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 3rd March 2005

Proposed approved Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Watson subject to one amendment on Page P0135.

To receive Police Report:

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Richardson to his first meeting since he took up the position previously held by Inspector Broadley. Inspector Richardson advised that the government has brought in a directive of neighbourhood policing. There is a requirement on police forces to introduce this system by 2008, but North Yorkshire is doing it from April 2005. Two units are to be created, one for

Thirsk and one for Easingwold with four officers dedicated to the Thirk area to engage with the communities and work with other agencies etc. The sergeant in charge of the two units plus one of the Community Safety Officers will be taken off their usual duties to deal with this. There is a big recruitment drive for Special Constables and it is intended to have three additional ones deployed to the Thirsk area. Inspector Richardson reported that in the last twelve months there has been a large drop in crime in North Yorkshire and in Thirsk in particular.

Cllr Marshall said some people are still having difficulty with the current telephone number for the police and Inspector Richardson said that any such complaints should be referred to him. Inspector Richardson advised that the unit on the Industrial Estate is now occupied. Cllr Roberts referred to another part of the country where it was reported that the sirens are being removed from police cars and Inspector Richardson said this is not the case in this area.

Cllr Reynard referred to the phone outside 33 Market Place, saying it was a long time before it was answered. Inspector Richardson explained that this depended on how busy the radio operators were, but said it was very unusual for there to be a delay. Cllr Hubbard referred to take-away establishments in the town, which do not always comply with their hours of operation. Inspector Richardson said they are dealing with this. Cllr Hubbard also referred to the graffiti in the alleyway near TAVEA; Inspector Richardson to look into this.

To Receive Reports:

County Council

Cllr Marshall advised that Tanpit Lodge has got its funding. She had been to an Economic Development meeting that day and they have been looking at tourism.

Cllr Marshall attended the Action for Market Towns Conference at Garforth. Cllr Marshall advised that the traffic calming/extension of the 30mph limit on Stockton Road is to be done in May. She also advised that the Blakey Lane chicane works are being

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treated as top priority. Referring to the new street lighting scheme at Hambleton and East Thirsk, Cllr Marshall said the lamps are now in and will be connected when the electricity board can do it, which should be in April. She said the scheme at Norby should either have started or be imminent. Consultation letters sent to residents. Cllr Marshall said that on the Norby Estate and on Northallerton Road there are a number of cast iron lamp posts and some of these will be available if we want them (not to be used as lamp posts). The new lighting columns will be stainless steel, but Cllr Marshall has stressed that the lights near St Mary's Church must be in keeping with the building. Plans will be coming for traffic calming near the school on Hambleton Drive.

Cllr Marshall expressed her displeasure at the fact that the entrances which were to have been done now are not going to be done until April. Cllr Adamson asked whether, as part of the traffic calming works on Stockton Road, they could put a yellow box junction at the entrance to St Mary's. Cllr Marshall to enquire about this.

District Council

Cllr Marshall advised that the concessionary fares are being looked at, together with a scheme for supporting the CCA with minibuses. A meeting of the Standards

Committee had been held this week.

Open Forum:

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Mallett that Standing Orders be suspended.

Speaking on behalf of Thirsk in Bloom, Mr Tony Jordan gave details of the judging for Yorkshire in Bloom. He advised that there will be an unannounced visit by the judges between 18th April and 13th May and the escorted visit will be in August. Thirsk in Bloom need to advise the judges of a route and he asked for the Town Council's cooperation regarding various matters which he felt need to be dealt with before the judging takes place. He thanked the Town Council for the new seats in Mill Gardens and said the borders there are now being looked at by members of Thirsk in Bloom. Mr Jordan highlighted specific areas of concern as follows: litter and graffiti in the town – he is taking this up with the District and County Councils. Damaged tree near Millgate Bridge – this is in the ownership of John Bell and Mr Jordan will speak to him about it. Damaged trees on the far side of the beck and fire damaged tree near the picnic tables on the Holmes – Cllr Marshall advised that a site meeting will be organised for later this week to look at these. White Mare roundabout – Cllr Mallett reported that we are in contact with Yorkshire Water regarding the possibility of water being put on the roundabout. He has contacted six or seven landscaping contractors regarding the work required. He has now got two quotes which he will be putting to the Greens Committee within the next few days. He will be recommending that it be turfed with beds. Cllr Mallett advised that the County Council will not allow work on the roundabout whilst the A19 diversion is in place. Cllr Mallett advised that he has also obtained quotes for repairing the roads around the

Green. In response to a comment from a member of the public regarding the support of the Town Council, Cllr Adamson pointed out that the Town Council makes a significant financial contribution to Thirsk in Bloom. In reply to this it was said that other help rather than financial is required from the Town Council.

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Roberts that Standing Orders be reinstated:

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Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 21st February:

P0128 Talk by Mr Phil Richardson; letter of thanks sent, particularly thanking him for the straightforward way he answered questions raised.

P0129 Flooding; spreadsheets drawn up.

P0129 Trees in the Cemetery; quote accepted.

P0129 Local Plan meeting; meeting arranged, but did not take place. A further date to be decided. Cllr Marshall advised that on the same evening there was a meeting at Thirsk Racecourse which she, together with several other Councillors, attended regarding the Friarage Hospital. She asked that this be an agenda item and that we have a presentation by the PCT; agreed that this be an agenda item for the next Town Council meeting.

P0129 District Council Report; Cllr Marshall advised that Hambleton has increased its Council Tax by 17.5%.

P0130 Burial Board; quote to remove damaged trees accepted.

P0131 Finance; query from Mazars now resolved and amended Annual Return submitted to them, together with a new Income and Expenditure Account and

Balance Sheet.

P0132 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall; meeting held last week.

P0132 Burial Board; meeting held last Saturday.

P0132 Long Street Enhancement; planters now received and being stored.

P0133 Recycling bins in Millgate car park; reply received from HDC advising that their waste strategy is due to be reviewed this year. Should the plastic bottle recycling scheme be expanded then Millgate car park would be considered.

P0134 Reply from Dave Goodwin advising that he is unable to attend the Town Council Meeting on 4th April; a further date to be arranged

Finance

Proposed Cllr Morton, seconded Cllr Hubbard that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Rent of Town Council Office – quarter commencing 1.3.05 £660.94

Rates of Town Council Office – April 2005 £59.58

K. Dickinson - Cleaning Office Windows £4.00

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall – Room Hire, Jan/Feb/Mar 05 £130.00

Smith of Derby – Maintenance of Town Clock £151.58

Safety Glass – Replacement glass in Market Place bus shelter £77.74

Subscription to Thirsk Civic Society (2004 and 2005) £16.00

F.D. Todd and Sons Limited – emptying Cemetery skip £141.00

Yorkshire Water – Water Rates for Cemetery Lodge (1st half 2005/06) £168.05

John Howse – Installing floodlighting at St. Mary's Church £9,122.93

Barnes & Associates – Planting designs for Long Street Enhancement £517.00

Thirsk Museum – Historical work on Plaques and Interpretation Boards £237.50

Julie Harron – Salary, March 2005 £292.50



Elaine Coulson – Salary, February 2005 £1,016.37

Inland Revenue – Tax/NI, February 2005 £571.30

C.A. Amy: Weekly inspections £182.80

Litter picking £200.00

East Thirsk Play Area – hedge cutting £100.00

Holmes Management £338.00

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Thirsk Garden Centre – plants for Thirsk in Bloom £144.85

Michael Holliday – cleaning bus shelter and notice boards £38.50

Action for Market Towns – subscription 2005/06 £111.63

Barnes & Associates – meeting/documentation etc £329.00

Paid Since last meeting

BT – Office telephone £110.06

Income received

Burial Board: Rent of Cemetery Lodge £397.12

Interments £220.00

To receive and approve the monthly balance sheet and budget report for February

2005

Proposed approved Cllr Mallett, seconded Cllr Pack; accepted.

To approve Applications for Exclusive Rights and Memorials:

Additional Inscriptions:

Grave No F2 13 Charles Frederick Nattress

Grave No E3 15 Albert Stokell

Proposed Cllr Adamson, seconded Cllr Morton that these be approved, accepted

To receive Correspondence:

Thirsk Festival requesting support; agreed that the same donation as last year (i.e. £1000, as per budget) be made.

Ms Carolyn Thorpe; advising that she is leaving the "Darlington and Stockton Times" but will be working freelance. Ms Thorpe requests that copies of the agenda and minutes be sent to her.

Yorkshire and Humber Assembly – Consultation on Pre-Draft Regional Spatial Strategy

Association for Market Towns enclosing copy of letter to Alun Michael.

NYCC re Local Transport Plan 2006-2011; Consultation Draft and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Standards Board for England re consultation of the Code of Conduct (leaflets already circulated to Councillors)

Harrowell Shaftoe enclosing a copy of an Application for the Transfer of the Justices' Licence of Caesars (formerly known as Restaurant Borghetti) to Abdel Aziz Labied. Approved with the usual condition re training. Cllr Roberts felt we should ascertain whether training is given.

St Mary's Church PCC; letter of thanks for the floodlighting.

Telephone message from Neil Dowker of Yorkshire Water re the recent interruption to the water supply. Mr Dowker would be available to attend a meeting to answer

questions. Agreed that we should decline his offer but should ask him to clarify what the problem was.

E-mail from Tony Jordan re the trees on the Carrs Field side of Cod Beck; expressing concern that in time they may block the view of the CCTV. Cllr Marshall pointed out that this is a hedge which was planted to replace the previous one which was in a poor

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state. It is maintained by the Town Council on behalf of Carrs Field. Chris Amy to be asked whether the tree guards can now be removed.

Cllr Adamson referred to Cllr Hubbard's resignation from the Town Council and this was formally accepted.

On behalf of the Members, Cllr Adamson thanked Cllr Hubbard for all his work for the Council and wished him well.

To receive Burial Board Report:

Cllr Adamson reported that the Burial Board had met the previous Saturday. The Committee still wish to take forward the installation of water to the top part of the cemetery. Cllr Adamson reported that the cost of heating oil has gone up 82% and the Burial Board has agreed to give British Gas the go ahead, as per their quote, to put gas in to Cemetery Lodge. A quote has been obtained for the work of running the gas within the property and installing a new boiler and a second quote is being sought. It has been decided to go ahead with the cheaper quote. The Burial Board has agreed to go ahead with the appointment of a part

time worker in the Cemetery for 15 hours per week. Cllr Adamson requested that the Personnel Committee proceed with the recruitment of a worker, the appointment to be for sometime early in the financial year.

To organise a meeting in order to take the Flooding Plan Forward:

Cllr Hubbard advised that the next step is to have a meeting of those Councillors who wish to be involved in the Flooding Plan and then a meeting with the people who have volunteered to be wardens. The meeting of councillors arranged for Monday 11th April at 7.00 pm in the Town Council Office. Cllr Hubbard advised that he will still be dealing with this as a District Councillor.

To consider and decide upon two further floodlights for St Mary's Church:

The lighting levels required by HDC have now been received from John Howse and will be sent to them. Proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Morton that we proceed with the installation of the two extra floodlights once we have consent from HDC.

To receive Reports:

Representatives

Cllr Roberts reported on a meeting of Thirsk Regeneration Initiative saying they are ready to proceed with various projects which are in the pipeline and are waiting to hear whether the money will be forthcoming.

Cllr Roberts attended an Action for Market Towns meeting and also a YLCA meeting. At both of these meetings the question of Quality Councils was mentioned and it was pointed out that councils achieving Quality status have a

greater chance of getting money both from public and commercial bodies for schemes in their towns.

Cllr Roberts pointed out that one of the criteria is the production of a newsletter.

Cllr Hubbard reported on a meeting of the Carrs Field Trustees. At the last meeting the question of whether the Town Council should manage Carrs Field was raised. However, the Committee do not wish to pass this management to the Town Council as they wish to maintain control. A new representative will need to be appointed and Cllr Hubbard expressed his willingness to accompany the new representative to the next meeting. Cllr Roberts referred to a number of small trees on Carrs Field which were put in by the Woodlands Group and have grass growing inside the tree guards.

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Cllr Hubbard said it was thought this would protect them from damage. However, the Committee will review this on an ongoing basis.

Cllr Adamson referred to the East Thirsk Resources Centre Steering Group, saying that the Steering Group has now come to an end and they have now become a management group.

Cllr Adamson had represented the Town Council at the Rotary Charter, which was the 70th anniversary of Thirsk Rotary Club. He had also represented the Town Council at a lunch to celebrate 150 years of racing in Thirsk.

Members:

Cllr Roberts asked that the County Council paint the roundabout at Town End – a

request to be sent to them.

Cllr Hubbard thanked everyone for their support during his time as a Town Councillor.

Cllr Marshall advised that the street washing machine was in Northallerton today and seemed very effective.

Cllr Marshall reported that Cllr June Imeson unveiled the blue plaque on the Herriot Centre last week.

Cllr Adamson referred to the soil which was deposited in the Tranmire Beck whilst the work on the new bus stops was taking place. A further letter to be sent to the County Council.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.