

TRI Annual General Meeting

7.30pm at 49b Market Place, Thirsk

Wednesday 20th August 2008

Minutes

Present

Ted Naisbitt; Jan Marshall; Peter Cole; Alison Cramb; Bill Austin; Ellen Storm; Gillian Gill; Harry Woodhead; Colin Musgrave; Peter Walker; Linda Gibbon; Mark Firth; John Potter; Freda Roberts; Richard Rowling.

Apologies

Cllr. Gareth Dadd, Mick Jewitt; Tony Jordan; Mark Haynes; Lindsay Ross & Geraint Williams.

1. Chairman's Welcome & Introduction

Ted agreed to Chair the meeting in Lindsay's absence (due to ill-health) and introduced Peter Walker, nominee for the post of TRI Chair and Bill Austin, recently elected Chair of the Thirsk Safe Group.

2. Chair's Report

Ted provided a summary of the Chair's Report presented by Lindsay at the last TRI meeting held on Wednesday 25th June.

3. Treasurer's Report

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting in order that a revised format of the accounts be presented. **Action:** Alison to contact Mark Haynes to agree a format for the accounts to be presented at the next TRI meeting to be held on Wednesday 24th September 2008.

4. Election of Officers:

The following, proposed by Cllr. Ellen Storm and seconded by Linda Gibbon, were duly elected TRI Officers:

Chair: Peter Walker

Vice Chairs: Mick Jewitt & Ted Naisbitt

Treasurer: Alison Cramb

Secretary: Peter Cole

(Peter Walker in the Chair.)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Peter thanked TRI members for their support and indicated that over the next few weeks he would be seeking the views both of TRI members and Parish Councils to help identify local priorities and key issues for TRI to address. These issues would then be fed back at the next TRI meeting and would help inform future strategic planning **Action:** Peter W. to write letter of thanks to Lindsay on behalf of TRI for his support for the Group over the last 7 years and also to wish him a speedy recovery. Peter C. to co-ordinate visits to future Parish Council meetings.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held 25th June 2008

Agreed as a true record thereof.

3. Actions & Matters Arising

Thirsk Station:

It was agreed that Thirsk Station remain a priority for the Group and that the following issues need to be addressed:

- Accessibility, especially for the elderly and disabled
- Signage
- Taxi & bus links to the town centre.

It was noted that TRI has received a positive response following enquiries to Network Rail in the past. **Action:** Peter W., Mark and Peter C. to liaise with Network Rail and other transport providers regarding TRI's concerns.

Carrs Field:

It was agreed that in order for the situation at Carrs Field be clarified an update on plans for the development of the site be requested from the Trustees. **Action:** Peter C. to contact Tony Jordan to provide an update at the next meeting.

East Thirsk Play Area

Jan reported that £43k had been secured from the Big Lottery and that further funds are being sought by the Town Council to develop the Play Area. The project is included in the list of leisure & recreation projects across Thirsk and surrounding villages which may attract Section 106 money and other sources of funding. **Action:** Peter W. to liaise with Jan for further updates.

4. Thirsk Contact Centre Update

TRI members considered the draft letter circulated prior to the meeting in support of a Contact Centre in Thirsk. It was agreed that whilst an enhanced service is desirable given concerns expressed over the wording of the draft letter the item be deferred until the next meeting to be held in September. It was noted that such a facility has been a priority for TRI over many years but that during this time customer demands have changed and technology has developed to permit more cost effective methods of delivery. It was suggested that through a partnership approach mobile libraries and mobile Post Offices may provide a vehicle by which benefit and Council Tax payments can be paid and bus passes issued. It was agreed that the issue of a Contact Centre be raised at the next meeting of the Thirsk Area Forum to be held on Tuesday 28th October.

5. 14-19 Curriculum Development

Peter C. provided an update on 14-19 curriculum development from Ros Sands, the key points of which were:

- Thirsk School is to lead on the development of the IT Diploma which should be introduced in September 2010
- Askham Bryan are developing the delivery model for the Environment & Land-based Studies Diploma which has been approved for delivery from September 2010
- A new Head of Thirsk School has been appointed and will take up the post early in the New Year.

It was agreed that given disappointment expressed over the recommendations made within the CoRE Report and concerns as to whether the Rural Academy addresses the skill needs of learners across Thirsk access to vocational learning opportunities across Thirsk & the surrounding villages remains a key priority for TRI. Peter W. confirmed that dialogue between public sector (FE) providers *is* ongoing but that the development of the new Diploma's will take time. **Action:** Peter W. to liaise with the LSC and other learning providers and feedback at future TRI meetings.

6. Project Update

• Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan

Peter presented Mark's update on those projects across Thirsk & surrounding villages which appear in the Hambleton Renaissance Business Plan.

Jan confirmed that ginnel resurfacing was almost complete, that a decorative arch is to be erected between the Old Post Office and the Fish 'n' Chip shop and that architects plans for the sensory garden are available for viewing in the library. An application has been submitted to the Environment Agency regarding repairs to a wall on the site. **Action:** Peter W., Mark and Peter C. to liaise to identify possible sites for the development of a 'café culture' in and around Thirsk Market Square. Jan to check the level of support for this project with members of Thirsk Town Council.

• Other TRI Projects:

• Kilburn Projects

Peter C. confirmed that following a conversation with NYCC Highways repair work on drainage channels in Kilburn (including road surface repairs) should be completed by December 2008 subject to favourable weather conditions. The work will require a road closure.

• Thirsk Children's Centre

Peter C. reported that the Children's Centre is now open during the week and that plans to open on Saturday are being explored.

• Thirsk Skatepark

A request for financial support to allow a contaminated land survey on land on Gravel Hole Lane at a cost of £3172 (inc. VAT) was made on behalf of the Thirsk8 Park Committee. It was agreed that further financial information was required before a decision on whether to provide financial support could be made. Clarification is also required as to whether Governors at Thirsk School have been consulted and whether planning consent has been sought or approved. **Action:** Peter to invite Lawrence Monaghan to the next meeting to provide more details of other funding streams being explored. (Following the meeting it was confirmed that the Thirsk8 Park Committee had submitted a bid to the Community Safety Grant scheme which, if successful, would cover the cost of the survey. There may however be a shortfall of approx. £20k towards the estimated cost of approx. £100k needed for equipment, insurance and ground preparation.)

• Thirsk Millennium Green

TRI members endorsed proposals to improve access to and through Thirsk Millennium Green and agreed that the project be added to list of leisure & recreation projects being compiled by Lisa Wilson which may attract Section 106 money and other sources of funding.

7. TRI Sub Group Updates:

- Thirsk Events Group

The Group has not met recently and it was agreed that planning and the co-ordination of events including future festivals should be discussed as a matter of urgency **Action:** Peter W. to liaise with Geraint and Colin to agree a way forward.

- Tourism Group

Peter provided an update on the meeting held on the 16th July 2008. Members agreed that TRI was not in a position to provide financial support for the Yorkshire Moors and Coast Tourism Partnership's plans for a website redesign. The next meeting of the Tourism Sub Group is to be held on Friday 5th September at 2pm. A decision as to whether a third edition of the Thirsk 'What's On' Guide be produced and distributed will be taken at this meeting.

- Thirsk Safe Group

Peter circulated a copy of the revised Action Plan and confirmed that the next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 10th September at Dalton Village Hall. Both Geoff Lodge, the Community Safety Partnership's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and PCSO Carrie Watson have agreed to attend to provide an update on community safety initiatives and neighbourhood watch schemes operating across Thirsk.

8. Any Other Business

- Jan confirmed that Thirsk Town Council is keen to get involved with Keep Britain Tidy's 'Big Tidy Up' initiative being held in September during which time Hambleton's Street Scene Team will be seeking to work alongside individuals, schools, community groups and volunteers to take part and help clean up the community.
- Mark described the purpose of a seminar on the Skill Builders Programme being held on Tuesday 14th October in Knaresborough as part of the Renaissance Market Towns Programme. More information of the programme is available at: www.skillbuilders.org.uk. **Action:** Peter C. to circulate details of the seminar to TRI members.
- Linda reported that the lease for Thirsk Clock comes to an end later in the year and as a result new premises are being sought. Linda confirmed that a bid is to be submitted to the Government's 'My Space' programme by the end of September for funding.

9. Dates for Future Meetings:

- Weds 24th September: Thirsk Children's Centre
- Weds 22nd October: 49b Market Place
- Weds 19th November: 49b Market Place
- Weds 17th December: 49b Market Place