

Sowerby Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
on Thursday 10th February 2022 at 7.30pm in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe.

Present: Cllr M Robson (Chairman), Cllr P Bardon, Cllr T Beadle, Cllr G France, Cllr D Gray, Cllr S Hoyland, Cllr A Jackson, Cllr C Snowden, Cllr E Storm and Cllr A Turner.

Also present: A member of the public, a representative of North Yorkshire Police and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

Members of the Public

A member of the public noted there is a bolt sticking up on the way into the Sports Village on the left hand gate. There are also two tree supports broken in the area with nails showing. Cllr Robson is aware of this and the contractors will deal with it. He also requested an update on road markings from Cllr Baker.

21/097 To receive and consider apologies for absence and to receive declarations of interest

It was resolved that apologies be noted and accepted from Cllr D Hannan and received from County Councillor Baker

21/098 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 9th December 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings be accepted and signed as a correct record

21/099 To receive Report from NY Police

A PCSO joined the meeting and a report was circulated.

Cllr France asked if NYP offers cadet opportunities, considering the difficulties there have been in the local high school recently. The PCSO advised that the nearest for young people is in Catterick but Cllr Robson will take this up with NYP. Councillors were advised that police crime data from previous months is available on the website and is accessible to all.

21/100 To receive Report from the County Councillor on items of relevance to Sowerby

Cllr Baker was not present.

Cllr Bardon noted that it is now 4 years since the drainage issues on Topcliffe Road were raised and have not been addressed. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the county council to ask for progress on the work needing to be done. The footpath on the Flatts Walk and the white lining mentioned by a resident have also not been addressed. Cllr France advised that 3 of the holes on the highway at the entrance to the Parochial Hall have been temporarily filled.

21/101 To receive Reports from District Councillors

- a. Cllr Robson advised that the recommendation to council will be to increase Council Tax by £5 on a Band D property to preserve the services provided by HDC. This will remain the lowest in North Yorkshire and third lowest in the country.
- b. Making a Difference and Bounce Back Grant applications have been received, panels have met and recommendations will come back to cabinet on 8th March. The recommendation to council will be to increase MAD funding to £390,000 to meet the demands of all applicants.
- c. Northallerton May Fair will take place this year from 28th April and there has been a 5 year licence granted with a waiver of the fee for this financial year.
- d. An announcement for devolution and an Elected Mayor proposal for North Yorkshire & York has been made. The target for this is May 2024 and Cllr Robson is a representative on the leaders panel for this.
- e. The draft order is now in Parliament to change the district and county to a single unitary authority. HDC will be the only local authority going into the new authority with a current local plan.
- f. Maple Park Crematorium Open Day is on Thursday 24th Feb 11-3.

Signed
Chairman
Date

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- g. Cllr Hoyland asked why there had been a reduction in the amount of social housing being set as a target. Cllr Robson advised that this is to reflect a target which is achievable and deliverable. Cllr Hoyland noted that this lowers expectations of developers.

21/102 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only

1. Flatts Walk Footpath has been reported into NYCC.
2. 3g Pitch is underway and will be completed by the end of March and the pavilion will be started in March and should be completed by the Autumn. The dog walking area will be reseeded once the weather has improved.
3. Cllr Robson noted that there will be an update on 18th February on Town End works.
4. Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre Traffic Order will be put to NYCC on 18th March.
5. Hornbeam Hedge has been collected and planting will be organised with Cllr Jackson.
6. Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Trust AGM took place.
7. The Council MVAS is repaired and will be back up this week.
8. Cllr Robson suggested the council send a letter of thanks to Steven Dresser for his work on the Christmas lights.

21/103 To consider opening and closing arrangements for the Play Area

Cllr Beadle offered to close the play area in the evening.

A social media post will be done to ask for volunteers.

It was resolved that the council offer thanks to both residents for their support in opening and closing the play area

21/104 Planning

1. Decisions were noted
2. To consider new applications Appendix i

Cllr Snowden declared an interest in the application 22/00191/FUL.

It was resolved that the Clerk will feed back comments to the planning authority

21/105 Financial Matters

1. To note Receipts
2. To note and approve Payments Appendix iii

It was resolved that receipts be noted and payments be approved

3. A donation to Thirsk and Sowerby Festival on the Flatts was considered based on the accounts statement received.

It was resolved that further information about the account balances are to be requested and that the committee be reminded that Cllr Jackson will represent the Parish Council.

4. A donation to Thirsk Community Library as requested in a letter.

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council donate £500 to the library

21/106 To receive late correspondence for information only

Items circulated by email between meetings

21/107 To receive Reports from Sub Committees

1. Cllr France advised that a 12 month agreement has been reached with the Conservative Club for Town Hall Parking at an increased fee. It is hoped that the toilet project will be able to commence subject to grant funding.
2. Cllr Snowden reported that the Community Works AGM took place in January and they hope to be able to maintain services for the coming year.

Signed
Chairman
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21/108 Any other business that may be legally discussed

(items requiring a decision will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting)

- Cllr Jackson commented that on Gravel Hole Lane towards Topcliffe Road there are no street lights. This is a historic issue and there may be improvements as the Sports Village develops.
- Cllr Turner asked if there had been any feedback from Broadacres on the tree branches. There has not.
- Comments were made about the provision of broadband by Zoom who are causing some issues with their installation. They are also removing Dog Waste signs and Cllrs France and Robson will replace these.
- Cllr Beadle raised the issue with the drainage on Station Road, this has already been raised with Yorkshire Water.
- Cllr Storm asked if there could be a seat for residents at the bus stop area on Gravel Hole Lane. The Clerk will contact NYCC about this.
- Cllr France noted the lack of bins in the car park at the Sports Village. Cllr Robson will request additional bins.
- A wall at Green Lane East was damaged in the recent storms and will be replaced. The tree will be removed.
- Cllr Hoyland asked about the footpath between Aldi and Orchid House. This has been designed, will be installed subject to contractor availability and will be paid for by the land owner then adopted by the NYCC in future.
- Two vacant allotments will be taken by the next on the waiting list and hedge and path tidying is schedule in the next two weeks.
- Jubilee commemoration around the village:
 - There has been a resident request for tree planting on Kings Meadows, however SPC can't give permission as it is not parish council land
 - There has been a resident request 2 flowering cherries Back of Leisure Centre/Villa Place - this will be done
 - The WI have asked to plant a tree at the end of Gravel Hole Lane NYCC will not allow this due to utilities
 - Parish Council commemoration Discussion with Vicar to support the Church with an event
 - Potters Memorial Field - Community Orchard with bulbs and wildflowers
 - Fence repair and infill hedge
 - Commemorative Bench location to be agreed at March meeting

21/109 It was agreed that the date of the next meeting is Thursday 10th March 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed
Chairman
Date