

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council held
on Thursday 14th December at 7.30pm in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe.**

Present: Cllr M Robson (Chairman); Cllr P Bardon; Cllr Y Bowling; Cllr G France; Cllr S Hoyland; Cllr A Jackson; Cllr C Snowdon and Cllr E Storm.

Also Present: Cllr D Sladden, North Yorkshire Council(NYC); a representative of North Yorkshire Police (NYP); 26 members of the public and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

23/088 Members of the public

1. A resident spoke on the amended planning application on York Road, to be discussed in 23/091 2. They consider this to be a huge intrusion into the green corridor, which was established through the local plan process and feel it could and should go elsewhere i.e Sowerby Gateway. They commented that there was overwhelming opposition from residents and felt that the level of objection was higher than the last application. Another resident wished to share a picture of a 40,000 sqft warehouse to give some scale of the development, which was circulated to councillors. Residents trust that Sowerby Parish Council (SPC) will adhere to their previous objection to this application.
2. Drainage at York Road, into Cod Beck has been a live application for over a year. Residents asked for SPC to remove their support for this and request compensation for the community.
3. A resident noted that dog waste is an issue at the Sports Village and the illuminated sign at the end of Blakey Lane is not working, both of which have been reported to NYC.

23/089 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

It was resolved apologies be received and accepted from Cllr T Beadle and Cllr A Turner

Cllr A Jackson declared a non pecuniary interest in planning application 23/091 2.

23/090 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 9th November 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2023 be approved

23/091 To consider Planning Applications

1. ZB23/02390/FUL Proposed extension to rear of dwelling, 2 Railway Terrace Sowerby Thirsk North Yorkshire YO7 1QT

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council has no objections to this application

2. ZB23/02328/OUT Revised Outline application (to consider access)with all matters reserved, land At York Road.

This land is not in the most recently adopted local plan and this is an appropriate reason for refusal. Councillors feel that it is important to protect green spaces in the area. There are significant matters outstanding from statutory consultees which would impact on SPC consideration.

It was unanimously resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wishes to see this application refused in its current form as the land is not in the local plan

23/092 To receive report from North Yorkshire Police

A report from NYP had been circulated to councillors. PC Johnston, who is new to Thirsk Community Policing, attended the meeting. Councillors commented that there was noticeably more NYP presence in the area and around the school particularly and SPC requests that this continues and is made available if possible.

23/093 To receive a report from North Yorkshire Council on items of relevance to Sowerby

Cllr D Sladden was welcomed to his first parish meeting and his report had been circulated in advance. Cllr Sladden added the following matters:

- He intends to call the application 23/091 2 into the planning committee.
- He has urged highways to begin a consultation process to consider the permanent implementation of the one way system on Blue Row.

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- A Home Upgrade Grant Scheme is available for homes meeting specific criteria.

It was requested that Cllr Sladden ask the NYC IT team to update the system regarding the street lights as many of these are still showing as not the responsibility of NYC. (ie previous District Council lights)

Gully cleaning for the drainage around Sowerby seems to have been reduced and it was asked if this can be looked at.

The Clerk will ensure that Cllr Sladden is made aware of the outstanding issues that are historically outstanding from NYC.

23/094 Financial Matters

1. No receipts to note
2. To Note and Approve Payments

It was resolved that payments be approved

3. To consider a quote for repairs to the aerial slide base

It was resolved that the quote will be accepted and the work will be done as soon as possible

4. To confirm acceptance of a quote for works to trees at World's End to remove ash dieback

It was resolved that the quote will be accepted and work undertaken as soon as possible

A site meeting will take place after this work is done to consider replacement trees required

5. To consider opening a Unity Trust Bank Current Account for day to day council transactions

It was resolved that the Clerk will set up this account with signatories in line with the current bank mandate

23/095 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only

A short update on items was given.

23/096 To receive correspondence for information only

1. A residents letter regarding a footpath at Sowerby Gateway. It was confirmed that all Community Infrastructure Levy was directed into the Sports Village, no money has been received by Sowerby Parish Council.
2. A residents letter regarding the planning application at York Road had been circulated to councillors.
3. Footpath and roadways on Front Street issue has been raised, as there is a sunken path. Highways will be asked to review this, before SPC takes further steps.
4. Feedback had been received from planning regarding the drainage on York Road, which is still a live application. The planning authority has not been provided with answers to outstanding matters. Councillors feel that their initial support for this application should be withdrawn, request that enforcement be proactive and some form of compensation be made to the parish from the company. This decision will be ratified at the meeting in February.

23/097 To receive reports from Committees and Organisational Representatives

1. Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall drainage is being surveyed and there is expected to be some future cost to SPC.
2. Community Works AGM had taken place, Cllr Snowden was elected as a trustee and has been given permission to share information regarding the work of the charity. There has been an increased demand for services and staff were praised for their handling of this, an increasing challenge is finding grant funding to support their work.

23/098 Any other business that may be legally discussed

Items requiring a decision will be placed on a future agenda

1. Cllr France commented on the location of the polling stations considering the geography of the village. NYC is currently reviewing the locations and numbers of polling stations.
2. Back Lane development is bringing a lot of debris onto the road and the sweeper has been reduced to once a week. Cllr Jackson has requested this be increased. There is also a lot of contractor parking and the verges are deteriorating. Cllr Sladden will request a Highways Officer attend the site.

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3. Sowerby Carol Service will take place at 7pm on 19th December and Cllr Robson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

23/099 To confirm the date of next meeting

It was resolved that the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 8th February 2024

The meeting closed at 20.45