

# *Sowerby Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Sowerby Parish at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annexe on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr M Robson; Cllr P Bardon; Cllr S Bardon; Cllr T Beadle; Cllr S Hoyland; Cllr C Snowden and Cllr K Till.

**Also Present:** Five members of the public and the Clerk, Alexandra Robson.

APM25 1 Apologies for Absence

**It was resolved that apologies for absence be received and accepted from Cllr Y Bowling; Cllr A Jackson, Cllr E Storm and Cllr A Turner**

NYC Cllr Sladden had also submitted apologies to the meeting.

APM25 2 Minutes of the previous meeting held Thursday 9th May 2024 were noted

APM25 3 Presentation of Reports

APM25 3 1 Sowerby Parish Council

Cllr Robson gave a verbal report.

- During 2024/2025 G France had resigned and the Council offered thanks to him and best wishes for the future. Cllr S Bardon had been welcomed to the Council.
- Allotments are successfully filled with plot holders and a waiting list still in place.
- Thirsk in Bloom has worked well in the village and the Parish Council is pleased to support this initiative.
- In December Councillors were pleased to make Honorary Citizenship awards to J & A Potter and J & M Worley.
- In order to deliver the services that the Parish Council is responsible for, the precept for 25/26 had been set at £130,000.
- Works as a result of Ash dieback had been completed and trees were being replaced, but this has been delayed by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) who had offered some trees for our community but these are not yet in place. A number of other trees, including fruit trees in Potters Memorial Field, have been replaced.
- Work along the pathways of the village greens has been done effectively.
- Play areas are well used but come with increased maintenance costs to ensure they are safe for use.
- Additional grass cutting from NYC on east & west of Topcliffe Road has been added to the parish grass cutting programme.
- NYC promised closer links with towns and parishes and this is clearly not working. There is no coherent dialogue or follow up of actions.
- A new Local Plan for NYC is delayed and a revised timeline has been issued.
- Finally Cllr Robson offered thanks to all members, the Vice Chairman and the Clerk for their support this year.

APM25 3 2 Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall

Cllr Robson gave a verbal report. The Town Hall continues to have many regular bookings and is very busy. As energy costs, alternative ideas to reduce costs have been considered. New heating panels and a small kitchenette at the back of the stage have been installed. The Town Hall continues to offer support for local events, with reduced hire rates including Christmas Lights, Royal British Legion and Yarnbombers Fundraising Coffee Mornings.

Signed  
Chairman  
Date

# *Sowerby Parish Council*

## APM25 3 3 Thirsk & Sowerby Flatts Preservation Trust

Cllr Robson gave a verbal report. P Bardon retired from the Trust at the last AGM after 37 years and many thanks were given to him for his commitment to the Trust. The building is now in an excellent condition and there are two tenants offering appropriate health and wellbeing facilities.

## APM25 3 4 Thirsk & Sowerby Swimming Baths Charity

Cllr Robson noted that he is Chairman for this committee and that NYC is continuing to manage the day to day running of the Leisure Centre.

## APM25 3 5 Community Works

Cllr Snowden noted his resignation from the charity, as the organisation was becoming more commercial and he felt that it needed another person to support it. A new CEO has been appointed.

## APM25 4 To discuss any other business, including questions from members of the electorate

Residents of Sowerby Road raised their concerns that the one way system will be removed, as they have received a letter advising that the two way system will be reinstated, without further consultation. Residents feel that this is a bad decision as the overall benefits outweighed the downsides of it. No consultation has been undertaken with the Parish Council either and Cllr Sladden has not given any feedback on this issue. Parish Councillors feel that this consultation should have taken place in line with a letter received on 28th Feb 2024. It was agreed that the Clerk will request an update from NYC why this has been done without the further consultation promised.

## APM25 5 To confirm the date of next annual meeting as Thursday 14th May 2026

**It was resolved that the next annual meeting will be Thursday 14th May 2026**

**This meeting closed at 7.54**

Signed  
Chairman  
Date