

**Minutes of the Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 12th April 2012.**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson, (Chairman), Cllr. A. Sadler, Cllr. D. Wood and County Councillor N. Huxtable.

In Attendance.

No members of the public.
PCSO A. Morrison and PC C. Mayes.

Members of the Public.

There were no issues from members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence. Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. D. Murkett, Cllr E. Storm and Cllr A. Turner.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th March 2012.

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th March 2012. The minutes were approved and signed,

4. North Yorkshire Police.

PC Mayes reported that since the first week in March there had been two burglaries and five cases of theft as well as three incidences of criminal damage. There had been an increase in cases of drinking and associated littering around the Swimming Pool Area and consideration was being given to extending the DPO area. The Chairman noted that a remote CCTV could be made available.

Concern was raised by Councillors that, although not completed, the skate park was being used, resulting in anti social behaviour and litter problems. It appeared that the contractor had given the young people permission but it was felt that as the site was not yet complete, public access should not be allowed. The Chairman would discuss the matter with the relevant parties.

5. To receive the report from County Councillor N. Huxtable on items of relevance to Sowerby and Thirsk.

Cllr. Huxtable confirmed that the new double yellow lines on the Sowerby Road/Green Lane East junction were a top priority.

He reported that the footway in St Oswald's Close was to be reconstructed.

Cllr. Huxtable would check the Library opening hours as there appeared to be some discrepancy between the advertised and actual reduced hours.

Discussions were taking place about Blakey Lane.

6. To receive reports from District Councillors.

A Full Council Meeting had been held on 10th April which both District Councillors had attended.

On 1st April Hambleton and Richmondshire CABs had merged.

There was to be an examination of shared services between Hambleton and Richmondshire.

It was hoped that a plan to recycle more materials would be initiated.

An apprentice scheme was to be investigated.

Community Infrastructure Levy CIL would replace Section 106 in April 2014 and a contract had been given to a company to ensure that arrangements would be in place.

On 27th March the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was introduced and took immediate effect. At just 50 pages it would be a much easier planning document to deal with.

The Chief Executive of HDC remained on Gardening Leave.

7 To Discuss Matters Arising.

7.1 White lines at junction of A19 and Blakey Lane. Questions about the remains of the former white lines had been raised with the Police and Area 2. The Police had deemed that the situation was acceptable.

7.2. The Electoral Boundary Review. It was thought that the proposed recommendation would be for one District Councillor. The Parish Council felt that the Ward should have two, as it had been well represented in the past by two.

7.3. Road to Tip. Work to fill the potholes was still awaited.

7.4 Riverside Path. Part of the fence had been removed. It was felt that NYCC should be asked to provide appropriate signage.

7.5a. Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Planning was going according to plan.

7.5b Olympic Torch. A meeting was planned for key personnel.

7.6 Blakey Lane Footpaths. The Chairman confirmed that there was a kissing gate at each end of the path.

7.7 Blakey Lane. It was confirmed that any overhanging vegetation had been removed.

7.8 Back Lane snicket. It was confirmed that at present there was no problem with an overgrown hedge.

7.9 Pack Horse Bridge. Ivy covered trees would be assessed by Neil Whitaker, Aire Valley Tree Services.

7.10 Swimming Pool. Customers having issues should direct their queries to the Manager and to Dave Goodwin at HDC.

8. Planning Applications.

8a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

8b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

9. Council Communications.

Councillors Hoyland and Wood and Mrs de Wet the Clerk, had met to discuss possible improvements in Communications. It was felt that it was not possible, at the moment, to find any sites with sufficient footfall to justify spending the large amount of money needed to provide notice - boards of a similar standard to that near the Church.

Meetings had been arranged with two of the three web site providers who had quoted.

As there had been little technical difference in the proposals it was agreed that the contract should be decided on lowest cost. The site would be made to be of top specification to allow all parishioners access whatever their needs and there would also be a twitter account. The contract was awarded to SolutionsNOW.

10. Financial Matters.

10a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

10b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

10c It was agreed to increase the Clerks hours to 15 per week from 1st May.

11. Response to Questions and Answers about Sowerby Gateway Infrastructure.

Cllr. Wood was concerned that the response by Highways to the questions posed about the proposed infrastructure fell short on meaningful comment. It had been a very disappointing response, with misinformation which paid little regard to the comments submitted. The existing junctions will be over capacity.

Cllrs. Wood, Sadler and Hoyland expressed their concern that if the Planning Department had used the Highways comments they had been misled in reaching their conclusion. They questioned if the document Cllr. Wood had prepared had been

represented at the Planning Decision meeting. Cllrs Wood and Sadler would draw up a response.

12. Response to letter received from Grant Shapps MP re Housing Finance and Affordable Housing.

Cllr. Hoyland reported that he was very disappointed in the response from the MP. It had been very difficult to understand and he would have appreciated an answer in plain English.

Cllr. Robson explained that in simple terms private housing pays for affordable housing and at present the HDC policy is to lean towards 40% affordable housing. It was agreed that the matter would be left.

13. To receive quotations for the next phase of road surfacing work around the Greens.

Cllr. Robson explained that £1000 had been spent already this financial year on road improvement on the Greens and some more would be needed for remedial repairs. He proposed that the road between, but not including, Doxford House, 73 and up to 97 be surfaced this year. It comprised of a stretch of approx. 80 yards with three entrance roads. Three quotations had been received and it was agreed to accept the lowest quote from Miles Bainbridge.

GRM had agreed to be on the list of preferred contractors.

14. To Receive Correspondence.

-NHS. Meeting about Children's and Maternity Services at Friarage Hospital. Thirsk Farmers Auction Mart, 19th April. Exhibition and video presentation 6.30pm to 7.30pm followed by presentation and questions from the floor 7.30pm to 8.45pm.

Demonstration planned for 26th May at 2.30pm from NYCC, down South Parade to Friarage.

-Olympic Torch Route. Thirsk Station at 09.23 on Wednesday 20th June. Proceeds up Station Road and out to Norby Front Street via Westgate, Market Place and Kirkgate. From there to Northallerton by vehicle.

-NYCC. Urban Grass cutting. Six cuts - £645.35 but as the reduction from £686.48 hasn't been budgeted for, the new payment rate will be introduced in 2013.

-Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Rent increases 1.5%. Annexe now £12.50 per hour from £12.30.

-York and North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association. Undergoing re-structuring. No longer being administered by Rural Action Yorkshire.

-Local Government Boundary Commission Review for number of District Councillors for Hambleton. www.lgbce.org.uk Initial representations to be made by 8th May 2012 - reviews@lgbce.org.uk

You may also wish to comment on the electoral arrangements.

-NYCC. Programme of Works 2012/2013. To include reconstruction of footways in St Oswald's Close 25th June for two weeks.

- Persimmon. Public Consultation Invitation re proposed development at former DEFRA Depot, Melbourne Place. Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th April at Golden Fleece from 3-8pm.

- Jonathan Mann. Letter of concern about proposed development at former DEFRA Depot and the possibility that access routes may be Victoria Avenue and / or Admiral's Court.

- HDC. Name of new property at rear of 76A Front Street - The Hay Meadow, Back Lane.

- Chief of the Defence Staff. Armed Forces Day. Saturday 30th June. Request to fly the flag and organise events. www.armedforcesday.org.uk

- Christopher MacKay. Disapproval of the name Potter's Memorial Field and calling for a public vote. *Following consultation with YLCA the Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council was allowed to decide the name and that correct procedures had been followed. A proposal had been received that the field should be named to recognise the*

huge amount of work done for the Parish by Jim and Mary Potter over very many years and that proposal had been seconded and approved. Following the public consultation it was confirmed in March 2011 that there would be no benches or paths in the field and only the replacement of dead trees or bushes would be allowed.

- Cllr Hoyland had been informed about a meeting on 18th April about Multi Agency on Homelessness and would attend. It was noted that there had not been any correspondence with the Parish Council.

15. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

None.

16. Any Other Business.

A Boards on the Village Green. It would be necessary for the Children's nursery to request permission for their board and Oswalds would need to request permission for an additional board. The Crown and Anchor were not breaching their permission as they owned the land where other boards were displayed.

Town Hall Boundary Wall. It was noted that a large crack had appeared.

The next meeting will be held on May 10th 2012 and will include the AGM.

Chairman

Date