

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 10th April 2014**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle. Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson, Cllr. E. Storm, Cllr. A. Turner and Cllr. C. Ungley.

In Attendance. County Councillor Bob Baker and PCSO Lucy Walker.

Members of the Public. There was one member of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. D. Bentley and Cllr. G. France,

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th March 2014. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Walker gave a report outlining 35 recent incidents and a 12 month report of crime trends. FEROX which is aimed at cross-border crimes and HAWK tackling rural crime throughout the region were continuing. Although concern had been raised by a member of the public and Councillors about parking at the junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Front Street and at the cross roads on Gravel Hole Lane and Back Lane the Police had not noticed any problems. However Cllr. Austin had reminded the congregation at the Methodist Chapel about the problem and Cllr Robson had asked the Fish Shop Proprietor to discourage customers from parking on the pavement.

4. To receive the report from County Councillor B. Baker on items of relevance to Sowerby and Thirsk.

Cllr. Baker reported that there was to be a £58m spend on the schools budget. There had been 51 deaths on the County's roads, 16 of which were motorcyclists and 42 had been seriously injured. Therefore there was to be a campaign to make all road users more aware of the dangers. Area 2 would remove the new road marking sign near to Town End. It was queried as to the legality of the car wash signs. A report was given about a dangerous pothole on Back Lane and a pavement with difficult camber and the resulting accidents. In such instances complainants should notify NYCC in writing. Cllr. Baker informed the meeting that £300m would be needed to get the roads back into good condition and £3.5m had been received from Government. He agreed to try again to follow up the matter of the yellow lining which had not been carried out on the junction of The Maltings and Topcliffe Road. There was no evidence of any refreshment to the lines as claimed by Area 2 nor any progress with extending the lines as was being discussed in 2005.

It was confirmed by Cllr. Robson that residents of Cherry Garth who opt to move in to the new apartments in Meadowfields would be helped with finding additional furnishings.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon reported that he had attended the Cabinet meeting and a Recycling Seminar. He noted that there was to be consultation about recycling before the present contract ends in 2016 and a new leaflet was to be published. HDC recycles 45% of waste at present.

The planning permission for the demolition of the old Police Cells and the creation at a dance studio for Butterfly School of Dance, off Westgate had been granted.

Work was progressing well with the work to the cobbles in Thirsk Market Place. District Councillor Robson explained the reasons for carrying out the work in the way it had been done. The project was ahead of schedule.

District Councillor Robson, as Leader of Hambleton District Council congratulated Cllr. Hoyland on behalf of The Clock for receiving the Community Award for Working with Youth and the Clerk on behalf of the Hillside Scout Group and Hillside Rural Activities Park at Knayton for being awarded the Community Project Award.

He reported that significant investment was being put in to fund future strategy.

HDC had introduced a Living Wage of £7.65 for lower paid workers.

There is to be some Executive restructuring at HDC.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1. Swimming Pool. Matters noted about cleanliness in March will be rectified.

6.2 Sowerby Gateway Works. Works connected with the new sewage system will continue until the end of April as problems had been encountered. The traffic lights on the B1448 would only be removed once the footpath on the west side has been completed, because of safety issues.

6.3 Yellow Lines. Cllr. Baker was asked to follow up with Highways promised yellow lining at The Maltings.

6.4 Overgrown Trees at Thirsk School. A response had been received from Denis Gregson, NYCC, who regretted that as the sycamore in question was healthy no work would be undertaken to stop it overhanging a neighbouring property. The householder, although unhappy with this decision, thanked the Parish Council for their efforts to help.

6.5 Reduction of Subsidised Bus Service. Cllr. Hoyland outlined the bus provision from the Market Place to Thirsk Station following imminent removal of subsidised services. It was agreed to investigate what could be done locally to revive the services. Cllr. Hoyland agreed to follow this up.

6.6 Play Area CCTV. BT disappointingly did not attend to put in the new line on 2nd April. Dressers had been on site and had undertaken necessary preparatory work.

6.7 Pavement Obstruction. The overgrown hedge and undergrowth at 2 Mowbray Terrace, had been cleared the day after the March meeting. Cllr. Hoyland offered to tidy the remnants which had been missed.

6.8 Network Rail signs for the Station at Town End and the Maltings entrance off Topcliffe Road. NYCC had agreed that the sign at The Maltings was faded and in need of replacement but regretted that there was no money for the work to be carried out. County Councillor Baker explained that £90m had to be taken out of the budget and the only place it could be taken from was Highways.

6.9 Works to Various Trees. Work had started to remove a number of dangerous trees at the Pack Horse Bridge and some remedial work to a few Lime trees. Any trees removed at World's End would be replaced.

6.10 Thirsk TI. Walkers are Welcome in Thirsk and Sowerby. It had not been possible to arrange for Ms Caramello to address the Council, so instead she had met the Chairman and Clerk and outlined her proposal to include Sowerby in The Walkers are Welcome to Thirsk initiative. She gave an assurance that Sowerby Parish Council would not be liable for costs and maintenance of footpaths and the Chairman recommended that Sowerby PC should send a letter of support as requested. Agreed.

6.11 Donation to CAB. It was agreed to donate £100.

6.12 Conservation Area appeals. Cllr Hoyland was thanked for progressing this matter. An acknowledgement to the letter had been received from HDC.

6.13 Magna Carta. The first meeting had been held. Thirsk Hall were to be contacted.

6.14 HDC. Extra Care Unit, off Gravel Hole Lane. Cllr Robson requested that it be recorded that the HDC Planning Meeting Minutes of 06.03.14, Item 6, stated 'David Bentley objected to access arrangements for the Extra Care Facility'.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

- It was also noted that an appeal to the Secretary of State had been made by Mr Bird regarding an application for Oxmoor, Plantation Lane.

- Cllr Hoyland declared an interest in the application for a fence to be erected at 3 Mowbray Place.

8. Financial Matters.

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

9. Correspondence.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Minutes 10th February 2014.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Notice of rent increase. 30p increase per hour to £13 per hour.

Notice of European Parliamentary Election. 22nd May 2014. Nominations by 4pm 24 April. www.leeds.gov.uk/elections. Application for postal vote or proxy voting by 5pm 7th May 2014 to HDC Electoral Registration Office.

NYCC. 2014 Season Grasscutting. Notice of six cuts – donation of £764.41.

David Cameron. Details of new tax cuts as an Employment Allowance.

Request to consider taking on new employees.

NYCC. Have a say on Council Priorities.

www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23979/The-council-plan

National Fracking Conference. 19th May, London. Reduced fee £295 + VAT.

YLCA. White Rose Update.

YLCA. Legislative Reform Order. Repeal of Section 150 of Local Government Act 1972. Power for local councils to make electronic payments.

No longer a duty to require two signatories but for transparency the recommendation is that if cheques are used the policy of two signatories is retained.

Sowerby WI. Concerns re the garden at the Sowerby sign which has been affected by Sowerby Gateway works and the loss of spring bulbs.

HDC. Warm Healthy Homes Scheme extended.

Consultation re Draft Transparency Code for Parish Councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000.

HDC. Apology re problems with rubbish collection on Flatts areas.

Yorkshire Water. Update re laying of new sewer. Completion hoped for end of April.

Richard Inman. Invitation to join a Rural Sounding Board.

10. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees and Groups.

- Play Area. Cllr. Hoyland reported that he thought the bearings on the rotating see saw might be clunking.

11. Any Other Business.

- SGS would be reminded about work to be done off Station Road.
- The next Parish Liaison Meeting is on June 5th.
- Confirmation that Sowerby Fish and Chip Shop was allowed to put out advertising signs on Parish Council and County Council land as agreed.
- Thirsk Clock is now to be known as The Clock, although the building will still be referred to as Thirsk Clock.
- A willow tree on Flatts Trust land near the Swimming Pool had been removed because of severe decay to the trunk and possible root disturbance to nearby properties. It will be replaced with an appropriate tree in a different location on the Flatts Trust Land.

The AGM and next Ordinary Meeting will be held on May 8th 2014.

Chairman

Date