

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 8th August 2013.**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr. G. France, Cllr. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson and Cllr. E. Storm.

In Attendance. PCSO Lucy Walker, NY Police.

Members of the Public. None.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chapman, Cllr. Turner and County Councillor Bob Baker. Cllr. Wood was absent.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2013. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Walker gave a report for the previous month. There had been a spate of shed burglaries and thefts of Land Rover Defenders in the wider area. The Police had spoken with Pub Landlords about the cigarette smokers outside their properties, rather than in their designated smoking areas. The Councillors felt that it was time that action was taken about offences in relation to a horse straying into Gravel Hole Lane.

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

County Councillor Baker did not attend the meeting. Cllr. Robson reported that there was an ongoing problem with blocked drains near 30 Front Street. The Clerk was asked to regularly write to Area 2 to remind them and ask for progress on outstanding requests including yellow lines in the vicinity of Back Lane and Gravel Hole Lane, pot holes, Victoria Avenue parking issues and yellow lines to prevent parking at The Maltings junction with Topcliffe Road.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Robson reported that the appeal lodged by the prospective developers of Melbourne Place had been dismissed on the grounds of design, housing density and access. He noted that regular contact with nearby residents in Cocked Hat Park was being maintained by the developers at the Gateway site. The first show house was planned to be completed by February 2014. The District Councillors and the press would be kept updated and a programme of works would be displayed. A showroom office would soon be completed. Work on the two roundabouts would be commencing shortly. The building company was fully aware of the sensitivity of the development and were doing their utmost to ensure the least possible disruption. It was pleasing to note that all heavy construction traffic was being kept out of the town.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Litter outside Public Houses in Thirsk Market Place. There had been liaison between the Police and the Licensees.

6.2 Straying Horse on Gravel Hole Lane. Concern was expressed that action was not being carried through by the Police, especially as the owner is tethering the horse illegally on land which does not belong to him.

6.3 Parking Problems in Victoria Avenue. A plan had been sent to County Councillor Baker showing where the problem is for the occupier at number 52 who is often unable to leave their property because of badly parked cars.

6.4 Junction of Victoria Avenue and Topcliffe Road. It was noted that the footpath was being badly degraded by oil leaking from a parked vehicle(s). Area 2 would be asked to look at resurfacing the footpath.

6.5 Play Area Repairs. New chains for the Pod Swing and new litterbins had been obtained.

6.6. The Churchyard Extension.

The matter was still with the solicitors.

6.7 Fence around Bowling Green /Play Area. Cllr Robson noted that the existing fence between the Bowling Club and the Play Area would be removed by Noble Fencing at the expense of the Bowling Club. It may well be necessary for the Play Area to be closed for a few days during the work.

6.8 Thirsk School Headmaster had written to confirm that he would ask the contractors to do work to the hedges and trees as requested.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Financial Matters.

8a It was agreed that the Clerk would be awarded a 1% pay increase as per the NALC recommendation, back dated to April 2013.

8b Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8c Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

8d Play Area CCTV. The quotations from an alternative contractor were still awaited.

9. To elect a Co-opted Member for Thirsk and Sowerby Area NYCC Hambleton Area Committee.

Sowerby Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr. Edward Fraser of Thirsk Parish should receive their vote.

10. To Receive Correspondence.

Environment Agency. Confirmation of issuing of Environmental Permit Application to Allerton Waste Recovery Park.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Parking available at the rear of The Conservative Club for Town Hall users.

Police and Crime Commissioner N. Yorkshire. Special Constable Recruitment.

HDC Update.

HDC Highways Agency Noise Action Plans.

Complaint from resident about disturbance in Victoria Avenue.

Complaint from resident about issues in Kings Meadows.

HDC Planning Committee Site Visit to 146 Front Street on 12th August at 9.30am.

The Planning Inspectorate. Appeal Dismissed: Ref 2194149: Buffer Depot, Melbourne Place, YO7 1QY

Fun in the Park 12.30 – 3.30 Play Area, Friday August 16th.

NALC/SLCC Notice of Clerk's 1% increase.

Sir Robert McAlpine. Night time resurfacing works on A19 to continue until 16th August.

Russell Hinton. Thank you for letter re Greens.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Minutes of Meeting 10th June 2013.

Hambleton Leisure. Hyper Holidays.

HDC. Safer Food...Better Shared Kitchens.

Rural Action Yorkshire RAY. Notice of AGM 12th October, Pannal.

YLCA. E-Information Bulletin

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

Skate Park. Cllr. France submitted a comprehensive report outlining ongoing works at the skate park, including the planting of shrubs.

12. Any Other Business.

- It had been pointed out by a resident that one of the newly planted lime trees had been severely damaged by a strimmer. The resident had kindly fitted rabbit guards around the other young trees. The grasscutting contractor would be advised accordingly and a new tree would be purchased.
- Blakey Lane. SGS would be reminded about cutting the verges near the village sign and also to undertake some hedge work.
- Traveller Sites. Questions were raised regarding the recent initiative to locate suitable land for the provision of 5 pitches per year for the next 5 years which had been indicated as being necessary. Various sites had been offered and were being looked at for suitability.
- 19 Mowbray Place. PVC windows had been installed. This would be referred to the Enforcement Officer.
- 20 Mowbray Place. The County Council would be asked to carry out work to the holly tree which was blocking light from the street lamp.
- Play Area. A request was made to supply more picnic benches. SGS would be asked to obtain them.
- Bullet Points from Meetings. It was agreed that they should be sent for publication in the Darlington and Stockton Times. The August list would include a request to users of the Play Area to put food wrappers in the new bins with the bird flaps.
- Play Area. Soil needed to be placed in various holes.
- Taylor Wimpey Site. Holes left after tree removal needed to be filled.
- Remembrance Service and Parade. 10th November at St Mary's Church commencing 9.45am.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on September 12th 2013.

Chairman

Date