

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 11th December 2014**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, (Chairman), Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr. G. France, Cllr. M. Robson, Cllr. E. Storm and Cllr. C. Ungley.

In Attendance. PCSO Kim Laws and Stuart Minting D & S Times.

Members of the Public. None in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. A. Turner and County Councillor Bob Baker.

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

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Laws gave a full account of incidents during the previous month. She was requested to relay compliments of the season to all Police Staff at Thirsk.

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

None.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Cllr. Robson reported that HDC had launched a 'Make a Difference Scheme'. Grants of between £2500 and £25000 were available. Parking would be free in Thirsk Market Place during the Christmas week and on Thursdays during December. Time restrictions would still be in place. A choir made up of HDC staff were raising funds for the Food Share for the Needy. Congratulations were given by Councillors to HDC for the good work done in the communal area in the Market Square in Thirsk. Works to the flagged area at the back of the TIC and Fruit Shop and in the alleyway would be carried out in Spring.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Future Educational Provision. The consultation had not resulted in any particular preference so the matter had been referred back to the local head-teachers.

6.2 Mulberry Homes would need to comply with plans to improve the A168 junction when the trigger point was reached.

6.3 Village Green Bye Law regarding Advertising Boards. The Crown and Anchor had not been complying with the bye law regarding one advertising board only on the Greens. Three boards were regularly on display. The Chairman would contact the licensee if the problem persists.

6.4 Back Lane Complaints about early morning disturbances. It was hoped that the matter had been resolved.

6.5 Play Area. More bark was required beneath the zip wire. The Infant Swings had been repaired. A request was made to consider putting a reminder up that the equipment was for young people to use and not adults.

6.6 Dog Warden. Regular patrols were being mounted in Sowerby, targeting dog walkers who do not clear up after their pets.

6.7 Memorial Park. The matter of the footpath widening scheme would be looked at in Spring.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Financial Matters.

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

8c It was agreed that the Clerk would be awarded a 2.2% increase in line with Government policy from January 2015.

9. Parish Council Office Closure.

The Council Office would be closed for the Christmas/New Year break from 22nd January 2014 until 2nd January 2015.

10. Correspondence.

YLCA Notice of Clerk's suggested pay increase.

HDC. Invitation to put forward a candidate for the Standards Board.

HDC Update Newsletter.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Minutes 13th October and 10th November.

HDC Draft Interim Policy Guidance Note for Settlement Hierarchy and Housing Development in the Rural Areas.

HDC Christmas Tree Recycling Jan 12-16.

Carols around the Village Christmas Tree, Tuesday 16th December @ 7pm.

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

- Skate Park. It was confirmed to Cllr. France that the Skate Park was not to be extended in the Sowerby Sport's Village proposal. There would however be an additional BMX Park.

- Relief in Need. Cllr. Storm reported that the Charity Commission had given the go ahead for the remaining assets of the Relief in Need Charity to be transferred to Thirsk Rotary Club. The transfer was now awaited after which the Thirsk and Sowerby Relief in Need Charity would be closed down.

- Flatts Trust AGM. Cllr. Robson had been elected as Chairman and Cllr. Bardon as Secretary/Treasurer. There was concern raised about the amount of dog fouling on the Flatts. The footballers wished to bring the second pitch in to operation which they would do at their own expense.

- Town Hall. It was confirmed that, if necessary the Parish Council was in a financial position to be able to fund the new improved windows in partnership with Thirsk Town Council.

12. Any Other Business.

- Rail Users Update. A report from Cllr. Storm had been circulated. She was asked to find out if plans for additional parking opposite Treske had been progressed.

Chairman

Date