

**Minutes of the AGM and Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 10th May 2012.**

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

In Attendance.

Two members of the public.
PCSO A. Morrison.

AGM. Before proceedings began, a minute's silence was held for Cllr. David Murkett who had recently passed away and the Chairman led tributes. Cllr. Murkett had joined the Council in May 1999 and had worked hard for the community.

1. Election of Chairman. Cllr. Austin proposed that Cllr. Robson be re-elected and Cllr. Chapman seconded the proposal. Cllr. Robson was duly elected as Chairman for 2012 - 2013 and signed the declaration of office. One Councillor did not vote.

2. Apologies for Absence. Cllr. A. Sadler.

3. Election of Vice Chairman. Cllr. Bardon proposed that Cllr. Austin be re-elected as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Turner. Cllr. Austin was duly elected as Vice Chairman for 2012 -2013. One Councillor did not vote.

4. Committee Members. Please see attached document.

Members of the Public.

Rachel Webster and Helen Gingell Chauvet from Melbourne Place and Victoria Avenue wished the Council to be aware of strong local opposition to a proposal by Persimmon to develop the former Defra depot site. The Chairman confirmed that this was not a formal proposal and since the exhibition the developers had met with HDC Planning Department for pre-application discussions. The Chairman assured them that he would keep them informed.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th April 2012. The minutes were approved and signed,

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Morrison reported that during April there had been one burglary from a shed in Back Lane, six attempted burglaries in Saxty Way and three cases of criminal damage involving damage to a stone wall on Topcliffe Road, a broken window at a school and damage to lead from a roof. Fence panels had been damaged at the Skate Park and milk stolen from Front Street.

Two new PCSOs were to start at Easingwold and Thirsk. Savings had been made in cars and fuel.

4. 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 to be painted in June, plus some surface dressing. He confirmed that the Library opening hours had been reduced by 1.5 hours. On Monday 14th May in the former Tourist Information Office, there would be a public display about proposals for Chapel Street.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

Both District Councillors had attended Cllr. Murkett's funeral and Jane Mason's hundredth birthday celebrations. Cllr. Bardon had attended an Appeals Committee meeting. Cllr. Robson reported that the Annual Meeting of HDC would be held on the following Tuesday. He had been troubled by the Persimmon proposal for the Depot site and subsequently official discussions had taken place between HDC and the developers. Cllr. Robson had also attended the official opening of the All Weather Pitch at Thirsk School.

6 To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Skate Park. The skate park, although not completed, was open, and young people were using it. There were problems with damaged fencing and litter and Councillors felt that the Skate Park Committee was not acting responsibly in allowing this to happen. A letter would be sent to Lawrence Monaghan pointing out the Council's concerns and requesting reassurance about the long term management of the site, within the conditions of approval. Cllr. Hoyland wished the matter to be taken to Health and Safety if a satisfactory answer was not given.

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

6.3a. Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Posters and a press release had been arranged and a newsletter sent to the schools. Volunteers were needed to run the games for the children and stewards were needed for the event.

6.3b Olympic Torch. It had been reported in the press that volunteers were needed for stewards. Louise Walton would be asked for an official poster.

6.4 Next Round of Work to Roadways on the Greens. This would commence on June 6th.

6.5 A Board request. A request had been received from Humming Birds Nursery to site an A Board at the junction of Back Lane and Sowerby Road. This was approved on condition that permission would need to be renewed annually and this would be dependant on the board being removed when the business was closed.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Council Communications.

The Website Team would meet with Steve Snow on May 21st

9. Financial Matters.

9a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

9b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

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

Cllrs Wood and Sadler had drawn up a response which would be circulated in due course.

11. To Receive Correspondence.

David Tucker- Queen's Diamond Jubilee Update.

Rural Action Yorkshire. Invitation to join.

Thirsk Area Forum. Next meeting 17th July, 6.30pm, Rural Arts.

HDC. New Code of Member Conduct due to be adopted 1st July. Arrangements to be considered.

Safer Neighbourhoods. School Watch.

Request for permission for siting an A Board from Mrs Cartman, Hummingbird Nursery.

HDC. Press release re 100th Birthday celebration for Jane Mason.

12. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

Community Care. Cllr Beadle reported that there had been a loss in funding, resulting in a £4,000 deficit. A temporary officer was in place and interviews would take place soon to fill the post.

13. Any Other Business.

A letter of condolence would be sent to Dr Rajan's family for their sad loss.

Bins at the end of Mowbray Place had not been moved.

A handrail had been broken on the path on Sowerby Road opposite the junction of Green Lane East. The Chairman would organise its repair.

The next meeting will be held on June 14th 2012.

Chairman

Date