

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 8th November 2012.**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson, (Chairman), Cllr. E. Storm and Cllr. D. Wood.

In Attendance. County Councillor N. Huxtable.

Members of the Public. There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr A. Turner and NY Police.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th October 2012. The minutes were approved and signed, with an amendment that Cllr. Austin was not present at the meeting.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

Knowing that NYP were unable to attend, an email had been sent which included a Wanted Poster for Josh Sargent. After two weeks of patrols and educating the parents, the Police were now moving in to an enforcement phase to tackle the issues of congestion and illegal parking around the schools.

Councillors felt that there had been some improvement in school traffic congestion at Green Lane East and Croft Heads road junction but now the problem had been transferred on to Green Lane West. It was hoped that this would be followed up by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team.

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

Cllr. Huxtable reported that he had looked into the continuing problems of the A19/Blakey Lane junction which was causing dangerous confusion for drivers because of lines which should not be there and similarly, although not in Sowerby Parish, the A168 junction near to the Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club. Area 2 would respond about the safety aspects of these junctions but the old white lines would eventually wear off. Any observations of drivers carrying out U turns at the junctions should be reported to the Police.

Concern was raised about the poor state of the surface of Station Road. It was noted that Cllr. Gareth Dadd had sent out a leaflet to Thirsk residents reporting that it was to be resurfaced soon and that there was also a possibility that the two mini roundabouts might be removed. Sowerby Councillors would be in favour of their removal.

It was reported that visibility at the junction of Dalton Road and Black Plantings was being obstructed by excessive plant growth.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Robson reported that the three month period for the call in for Sowerby Gateway would end on November 23rd. Roundabouts and access roads would be the first phase. An archaeological survey was being undertaken.

A consultation re Option B for the Cherry Garth proposal would be held in the Library.

Repairs to the cobbles in Thirsk Market Place would be undertaken soon and it was likely that the courtesy crossings would be removed. It was requested that the pedestrianised area of setts from the crossing to the Golden Fleece be marked with a warning following an incident of a pedestrian being knocked over whilst using it.

There was no further news about the Boundary Commission Review.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Obstructed road signs. Cllr. Robson would look in to whose responsibility it was to cut the overgrown hedges obstructing road signs at Cocked Hat Park.

6.2. Road to Tip. No repairs had been carried out. However the County Council was very busy with flood damage repair elsewhere.

6.3 Churchyard Extension Wall. Work to build the wall had been completed.

6.4 SowerbyNOW. A Christmas edition was planned.

6.5 Tree Stump at World's End. Work was planned to commence on 10th December to carry out various works at Worlds End, the Lime Tree Avenue and the Memorial Park. The Jubilee Tree would be planted by the Woodland Group on 24th November.

6.6 Transfer of Land adjacent to the Church yard. In response to concern from Cllr. Hoyland, the Chairman confirmed that the last row of plots in the graveyard extension would remain unconsecrated until such time as the rest of the graveyard was full when the incumbent at the time would make a decision about consecration, should there still be some vacant plots. Confirmation had been received from Eccles Heddon that they had sent the documentation to the York Diocesan authorities.

6.7. Entrance to Medical Centre. Paving stones cracked by delivery lorries were to be repaired but this was a private matter with the doctors and was not a County issue.

7. Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

Cllr. Hoyland declared an interest as a neighbour, regarding the application for work to a walnut tree in South Terrace.

8. Council Communications.

The new website was now live. Whilst there were still some additions to be made, most of the documentation and information was in place. Cllrs Hoyland and Wood and Steve Snow were thanked for an excellent job. Feedback was requested and it was hoped that Councillors would encourage others to visit the site. It would be advertised in SowerbyNOW and Cllr. Hoyland would issue a press release. It was hoped that a link could be set up with Thirsk School and Sixth Form College.

The website address is www.sowerbyparishcouncil.org.uk and the new email address is clerk@sowerbyparishcouncil.org.uk

9. Financial Matters.

9a Receipts. Approved as tabled. A contribution for grass cutting had been received from Thirsk Town Council and a loan to the Flatts Trust had been repaid.

9b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

9c There had been a request from Thirsk Town Council for financial help to refurbish the Town Clock which had been given to the town following the raising of funds by public subscription in 1896. It was proposed by Cllr. Bardon and seconded by Cllr. Robson to donate £1000.00 when required to do so. The motion was agreed by all present.

9d The Budget for 2013-2014. The Chairman outlined proposals for Council spending and proposed that the precept remain the same as it had been since 2011, i.e. £62,000.00 and that the Council would continue to provide the same level of services to the village. Given the current economic climate it would be insensitive to propose any increase. It was agreed by all Councillors.

10. Co-option of a new Councillor. Mr Graham France had expressed an interest in joining the Council. Cllr. David Wood spoke in support of the application and it was agreed that Mr France would be co-opted and invited to the December meeting.

11. To Consider the Appointment of an Engineer to carry out Monthly Checks of the Play Area Equipment. It was proposed and agreed that Mr David Tweed from Sutton should be responsible for checking the Play Area Equipment. Councillors were made aware that Mr Tweed is the Clerk's brother but that his level of competence would be of value to the Parish Council.

12. To Nominate a Representative for Thirsk8 Executive Committee. As there were no expressions of interest, the matter would be raised at the December meeting.

13. To Receive Correspondence.

- HDC. Police and Crime Commissioner Election. 15th November.
- White Rose Update. This would be circulated to Councillors.
- Cllr. S. Hoyland. Letter re unconsecrated land at Graveyard Extension.
- Highways Area 2. Closure of C168 Moor End Lane for renewal of water main commencing 19th November for a maximum of 6 weeks.
- HDC. Winter Weather Intervention. Looking to recruit volunteers to help vulnerable people.
- Eccles Heddon. Details of the Title for the transfer of the proposed burial ground have been forwarded to the York Diocesan Authorities.
- N power. There were ongoing negotiations re invoice of £612 for last year's Christmas Tree Lights.
- Freedom of Information Request. Following a request regarding the identity of those residents who had called for a by election for the vacant post of Parish Councillor following the death Of Cllr. Murkett, a list was read out.

14. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

Thirsk and Sowerby Flatts Trust AGM would take place in the Town Hall on 5th December at 7pm.

15. Any Other Business.

Snicket by the side of the Play Park. SGS would be asked to infill a muddy area adjacent to the Flatts Walk with hard core.

Boarded up house on Silver Street. Renovation was scheduled for this property.

Fish and Chip Shop Signs. There was concern that the advertising boards were being left out all the time on Back Lane and on Topcliffe Road, thereby indicating that the facility was open for 24 hours a day.

Thirsk School Sign. This had not yet been replaced.

Green Lane West. Concerns were raised about speeding motorists and a request for a speed matrix may be made.

Trees Obscuring Lamp Posts. The owners of trees in Belgrave Terrace and one overhanging Holly Close would be asked to trim their trees to remove the obstruction.

Green Bin Collection. The last collection for 2012 would be during the week commencing 3rd December and collections would recommence during the week February 11th 2013.

Repairs to Pavements. Councillors were asked to report pavements in need of repair to the Clerk.

Christmas Carol Singing. The annual Carol Singing event around the Christmas Tree would be held on December 18th.

The next meeting will be held on December 13th 2012.

Chairman

Date