

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 10th October 2013.**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr Cllr. G. France and Cllr. S. Hoyland.

In Attendance. County Cllr Bob Baker and a representative from NY Police.

Members of the Public. There were two members of the public in attendance. Mr Parnaby reiterated his complaint of speeding traffic on Blakey Lane and again asked that a 30mph roundel be painted on the road near to the bridge. County Councillor Baker offered to deal with this matter. He also complained that the white lines at the junction of Blakey Close and Blakey Lane were too far back from the junction.

Mr Hinton complained about the lights under the bridges carrying the dual carriageway, being on all day, wasting electricity. Cllr. Bardon reminded members that he had raised this matter at the September meeting on behalf of Mr Hinton.

The Chairman also reported that lorries had been seen using Blakey Lane whilst access to the A168 had been closed.

1. Apologies. Cllr. A. Turner, Cllr. Robson, Cllr. P. Chapman and Cllr. E. Storm.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th September 2013. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

There was a short report from the Police. A joint initiative between Easingwold and Thirsk Police would be concentrating on preventing anti social behaviour in the period 28th October to 6th November.

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

County Councillor Baker reported that work in connection with the reduction of night time street lighting was continuing and that work was being done to potholes throughout the area.

It was hoped that the Cherrygarth (Meadowfields) redevelopment was back on schedule.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Robson had sent a report that he had met with William Hague MP regarding the recent announcement of the imminent closure of the Northallerton Prison. District Councillor Bardon informed Councillors that parking in the market towns would be free every Thursday in December and from 3pm on Christmas Eve until 2nd January 2014.

The issue of vehicles being parked over gullies preventing gully cleaning was raised and it was queried how this could be prevented. It was agreed to put a note in the monthly bullet points to ask drivers to take this in to consideration when parking as it was very apparent that there are some drains that the gully sucker can never reach.

Hambleton District Council's policy of the percentage of affordable homes included in new developments was queried. Would developers agree to 40% when 19% was being discussed at Northallerton York Trailer's site? It was hoped that the District Councillors would stand their ground.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Parking Issues in Victoria Avenue. There had been no further complaints so it was assumed the problem had been rectified following the matter being reported to the Police.

6.2 Thirsk School. NYCC would be contacted in connection with work to be carried out on trees.

6.3 Part Night Lighting Initiative by HDC and NYCC. A request would be made that some lights be left on, along the Flatts Footpath as a matter of safety for pedestrians using this route; being the most used link between Sowerby and Thirsk.

6.4 Reduction of Subsidised Bus Service. A letter had been sent to NYCC requesting a rethink about plans to replace the Hambleton Estate, Norby, Thirsk and Sowerby service route with a dial a ride system and also pointing out the difficulties many users faced trying to send in their comments.

Assistance had been given to people who had requested paper copies of the questionnaire. Cllr. Bentley offered to provide additional copies if needed.

6.5 Sowerby Leisure Park. The next meeting would be held on 14th October. It would be made clear that all plans were under consultation and Cllr. Austin would ask for a press release to be issued.

6.6 Churchyard Extension. Certain legal matters were still outstanding.

6.7 Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. It was hoped that quotes for single glazed windows would not be considered.

6.8. Thirsk Past and Present. A reissue of the leaflet was not required at present as another box full had been located.

6.9 Boarded up property on Silver Street. Work would be carried out to redevelop the whole site in due course.

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, with the addition of £480.00 to PKF Littlejohn for the External Audit fee.

9. Play Area CCTV. BT will carry out a site survey and install a broadband link once the cabinet at the base of the CCTV camera is in place. It was queried if the lack of street lights would have an effect on the efficiency of the system.

10. To Discuss the need for a Village Caretaker and Litter Picker.

It was agreed to remove litter picking from the grass cutting contract and tendering arrangements. The Chairman outlined his thoughts about the employment of someone to open and close the Play Area and litter pick in the Play Area, Memorial Park and Miss Warner's Field and suggested advertising for a tender for the job of 10 hours per month in Winter and 12 hours per month in Summer. It was pointed out that employment issues were a minefield. Councillors were asked to consider the matter in readiness for the next meeting and the setting of the precept by the end of the year.

Exploration of the possibility of the District Council being the employer and billing the Parish Council may be undertaken.

11. Christmas Arrangements.

Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree would take place on 17th December at 7pm. The Clerk would invite Reverends Carnall and Heathcote to attend. As Oswalds had closed, the Crown and Anchor would be approached for a donation of soup and the Clerk would ask Sowerby Scout Group if they would like to help serve the soup or she would organise it herself.

12. To Receive Correspondence.

Letter re £500 bequest from Mr AW Josephy. *This item would be included in the November Agenda.*

Sowerby WI. Thank you for £50 donation.

Councillor Vacancy. *Correspondence was awaited re the result of an invitation for 10 members of the public to call an election.*

RAF. Increased activity at RAF Leeming between 7th and 17th October, including a series of controlled explosions.

Rev. N. Carnall. Confirmation of agreement to consecrate all the new churchyard extension.

HDC. Street Naming and Numbering. 107 Front Street to be known as Milestone House.

Great North Air Ambulance. Request to make provision for a grant for them in 2014/2015 budget.

NYCC. Bulletin re update on Extra Care Housing Scheme and Public Library. Name is confirmed as Meadowfields.

NYCC. Notice of replenishment cost of £75+VAT for grit bin in McArthur Close.

Area 2. Notification that drains are not considered to be blocked on Front Street and that potholes will be filled and yellow lining carried out. No dates given.

Mr Craig Low, Robb Close. Complaints about ground works in the new development opposite the Racecourse.

YLCA. White Rose Update.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Minutes of 8th July meeting.

Healthwatch North Yorkshire. New independent Consumer Champion for Health and Social Care

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

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Cllr. France tendered his resignation as a member of the Town Hall Committee as he already had a regular commitment for Monday evenings. Cllr. Bentley offered to take his place on the Committee. The offer was accepted.

YLCA. Cllr. Hoyland had attended his first meeting where the guest speaker had focussed on NYNET and Superfast Broadband. 90% of N. Yorkshire would be covered by the end of 2014. The speaker had offered to talk to Parish Councils. There had also been a discussion about the HDC grant situation in advance of precept setting.

14. Any Other Business.

Cllr France wished to attend a Training Course and was granted approval.

Concern was raised about the width of the realigned Gravel Hole Lane/Topcliffe Road junction. The Chairman had been assured that it would be wider after staged development when it would be completely realigned.

Cllr. Bentley wished to make the point that the width of Blakey Lane had never been intended for high traffic volume.

Notice was given of a consultation at Rural Arts on 16th October 2pm – 7pm about the redevelopment of land to the east of Topcliffe Road to provide 26 bungalows and an Extra Care Scheme.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on November 14th 2013.

Chairman

Date