

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 13th September 2012.**

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

In Attendance. S. Minting, D & S Times.
PCSO Charlotte Ballantyne.

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

Chairman's Statement.

Following complaints he had received from residents of Melbourne Place and Victoria Avenue concerning a Councillor calling at their premises and giving inaccurate information and making impolite comments about the Parish Council Leader, the Chairman made it clear that no member of the Council should act on behalf of the Council unless authorised by the Chairman or Vice Chairman to do so. It was a breach of the Members Code of Conduct to behave in this way and further action would be taken against the perpetrator if such activities continued.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr A. Turner and County Councillor N. Huxtable

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th August 2012. The minutes were approved and signed

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Ballantyne gave a comprehensive and positive report about crime statistics. There had been 13 cases of anti social behaviour, mainly around school buildings. There had been 3 cases of noisy neighbour complaints, 2 burglaries, 2 cases of criminal damage, 5 cases of theft from Tesco, 3 cases of crime related violence, 3 cases of suspicious activity and 8 road related incidents. The police were mounting regular school patrols.

The Police relationship with Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Watch was good and there were three No Cold Calling Zones in Saxty Way, McArthur Close and Croft Heads. There were eight Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the village and individuals were invited to join the Ringmaster scheme to receive warnings. (Contact the Parish Clerk to sign up.)

If complaints from the public were received about cold callers the Police would check for any criminal offence and to see that the traders were properly licensed.

Cllr. Austin expressed great concern about the removal of the school crossing service outside Sowerby Primary School and the behaviour of some motorists who were parking and encroaching on the crossing. He had witnessed a near accident between a car, parent, pram and toddler. He asked that the Police attend the site at peak periods to warn motorists if necessary.

There had also been a complaint from residents of Southland's Court about motorists parking on their private road to drop children off for school.

There was also a complaint about parking on double yellow lines in Chapel Street.

The Schools would be contacted to remind parents about the dangers of parking and letting children out of cars into the road, especially when the clocks change and also to ask them not to block private entrances and use private roads when they park.

4. To receive the report from County Councillor N. Huxtable on items of relevance to Sowerby and Thirsk. None.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillors Bardon and Robson would attend the Full Council Meeting the following week.

It had been moved that Permitted Development for solar panels would be removed in Article 4 Areas. A four week consultation period would follow the announcement and if subsequently approved, residents would then need to apply for permission within the Article 4 Areas.

Increased enforcement had been placed on Bagby Airfield to reduce the number of flights and the disturbance caused to members of the public.

The planning application for a development in Danum Avenue had been refused.

The Rural Housing Enablers were to carry out a consultation exercise in conjunction with Broadacres about using properties which could be brought back into use for affordable use. There were 1900 people currently on the waiting list for housing in Hambleton. In 2011/12 only 343 properties had been made available. Unfortunately Developers are not building even though plans have been approved by HDC. The outline permission for 900 dwellings at Sowerby Gateway had been signed off at the end of August and the Section 106 order had been signed. It was noted that recent publicity about an incentive of reduced affordable housing allocations by the Government only applied to schemes which had been in the pipeline for 5 years.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Meeting with residents about proposals for the DEFRA site.

Approximately 120 residents had attended the meeting and their concerns had matched those raised by Councillors.

6.2 Double yellow lines at junction of Green Lane East and Sowerby Road.

These were now in place.

6.3 Potholes. Potholes had been filled as requested., but the footpath request adjacent to Sowerby House had not been deemed to be necessary.

Cllr. Bardon reported that there were potholes outside 21 Green Lane West and there was a crack in the road near 5 Saxty Way.

6.4 Boundary Commission Review. No decision had yet been made.

6.5 Obstructed road signs. There were still signs illegally obstructed by overgrown hedges in Cocked Hat Park.

6.6. Road to Tip. A response was awaited.

6.7 A Board Complaint. Following a complaint from a member of the public that Oswalds leave their A board out all the time, discussions had been held with the Planning Enforcement Officer and it had been agreed that because Oswalds are officially open 24 hours a day and that the board was of a high standard and not causing an obstruction, no further action would be taken.

This would be reviewed at the time of renewal.

6.8 Paint on Interpretation Board. The Chairman had removed the paint.

6.9 Grass cutting in the Play Area and Memorial Park. The Play Area had been locked whilst cutting took place for health and safety reasons. However as the contractors had elected to cut the grass on Sunday mornings there had been numerous complaints from families wishing to use the facility. The Chairman would talk to the contractors to arrange a different day when usage would not be so great. Regrettably the mower the contractors were currently using was not ideal for the job as the cut grass was not dispersed sufficiently.

6.10 Churchyard Extension Wall. Work to build the wall had commenced. An agreement to transfer the land to the Church would be considered at the October meeting.

6.11 Riverside Path. It had been ascertained that the path in question was not a public footpath and therefore there would not be any official signs.

6.12 Town Hall. Two quotations had been received for painting the exterior windows and doors.

7. Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Council Communications.

A further meeting with the website designer was awaited. The discussion with the school would take place in due course.

9. Financial Matters.

9a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

9b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

9c Following complaints of it being a hazard, the remains of the Youth Shelter had been removed. Mr Bainbridge had removed it for £800, whereas Proludic had quoted £900.

Complaints had again been made to the Environmental Health Department about disturbance to neighbours caused by users of the gyrosipal. The equipment needed to be relocated and a site in the vicinity of the Youth Shelter could be a possibility. A quotation of £3575 from Proludic was approved and it was noted that the surface needed to be repaired in any case. There was concern that this was a large expense to appease the complainant but the Chairman pointed out that the complainant was satisfied with this proposal and that the EH Officer would support the Parish Council in the future as they had complied to requests, if further complaints were made.

10. Works to Roads around the Village Greens.

Two quotations had been received to complete the work to resurface all the roads around the Village Greens (29 - 37 Front Street and 154 - 170 Front Street) and to refill any holes. It was agreed to accept the cheapest quote, which was from Mr Benson at £4,250.00 The work would be completed by the end of October.

11. To Receive Correspondence.

Andrew Leeming. Complaint about closure of play area for grass cutting. NYCC. Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order 2012.

Proludic. Quote to re position the Gyrospiral.
Sowerby PC. Notice of Vacancy. Applications by 15th October.
HDC. Planning Enforcement. Complaints about Oswalds A Board.
Northern Powergrid. Unmetered electricity supply.
Area 2. Sowerby Road double yellow lines.
G & A Roberts. Questions on Land Compensation Act 1973 and Sowerby Gateway.
Response to above from Pam Johnson NYCC, Team Leader, Transport and Development.
Thirsk Area Forum. Tuesday October 16th at 6.30pm.
Mrs Sanders, Southlands Court. School parking issues.
Police Roadshow. Community Safety Roadshow. Friday 21st September, 10am -2pm at Golden Lion, Northallerton. Call in.
RBL. Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade. 11th November at St Oswald's Church, Sowerby.
Cam Tech. CCTV Service Report. Problems with equipment in office.
Allianz. Play Area Inspection Report.
Gladys Wilson, Admiral's Court. Complaints about Tin Tack PROW and Football Field off GLW being overgrown.

12. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

Town Hall. It had been agreed at the last meeting to pay the licence fee to the Conservative Club to enable Town Hall patrons to use the car park.

13. Any Other Business.

New Benches. A concrete pad had been placed on Miss Warner's Field in readiness for a new bench. A bench would also be positioned on a similar pad at World's End.

44 Front Street. It was hoped that the wooden board over a ground floor window would soon be moved.

SowerbyNOW. The Standing Order had been cancelled until such time as a request was made from new organisers.

Ragwort. Cllr. Bentley wished it to be known that he was concerned about removing Ragwort from the verges as it is dangerous to animals.

Jubilee Tree. Cllr. Storm would request an Oak Tree from Thirsk Woodland Group which had kindly agreed to donate a tree. The stump of the old willow tree would be ground out when Aire Valley Tree Services returned to carry out further tree works.

Golden Wedding. The Chairman along with the Chairman of HDC had presented Brian and Isabel Douglas with a bouquet in recognition of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Christmas Lights. It was noted that it would be necessary to replace the Christmas Tree lights this year and it was agreed that they should be coloured and as traditional as possible.

Councillor Vacancy. Co-option of a new Councillor was invited. Applicants should send a letter to the Chairman by October 15th.

The next meeting will be held on October 11th 2012.

Chairman

Date