

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 11th September 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. Cllr. A. Turner and Cllr. C. Ungley.

In Attendance. County Councillor Bob Baker and Stuart Minting D & S Times.

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Members of the Public. Mr David Tucker gave an illustrated presentation of the recent history of Blakey Bridge which has suffered repeated damage from vehicles hitting it as they cross. He had previously circulated his ideas for suitable remediation works.

Mr Russell Hinton put forward ideas such as building another bridge, re-routing the road and such like, which it was pointed out were unlikely to be feasible because of the lack of County Council funds.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. S. Hoyland.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meetings held on 11th and 25th July 2014. The minutes were approved and signed with one alteration that Cllr. Turner had objected to the planning application for a caravan site on York Road rather than abstaining.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

A list of Sowerby related incidents was circulated in the absence of the PCSO. District Councillor Robson mentioned that the threat level was high after a suspect package had been taken in to the Northallerton Police Station. At the end of October Inspector D. Murray would replace D. Sutcliffe for this area.

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

Cllr. Baker gave a short report and promised he would follow up outstanding issues such as the visit by someone from Public Transport to talk about the station bus. He noted that the footpath near the Fish and Chip Shop on Back Lane would have immediate remedial work and then the matter would be reviewed in future.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Cllr. Robson reported that it had been agreed by HDC to enter into negotiations to purchase the former HM Prison. It had been incorrectly reported that HDC was looking to purchase the former RPA offices.

From 1st October parking charges in the Northallerton Applegarth car park would reflect those in Thirsk Market Place.

Cllr. Robson expressed his disappointment at the PCC going back on her promise that a new Police HQ would be built in Hambleton. He was concerned that business generated from the workforce would most likely in future go to Cleveland. The present HQ at Newby Wiske was likely to become redundant in 2016.

Members of the Public were invited to comment on HDC Budget Proposals for 2015-2016. The intention was not to increase the District Council Council Tax levy.

Congratulations were given to Barry Dodd on his appointment as the new Lord Lieutenant.

Improvements to the HDC owned area of Thirsk Market Place would commence in the near future. County Councillor Dadd's survey to 6700 voters had resulted in 51 responses and many of their ideas will be incorporated in the new look seating arrangements. Mike l'Anson from Thirsk Woodland Group had advised on suitable trees which would be away from seats. The paving flags at the rear of the Fruit and Vegetable Shop and Fish and Chip Shop would be re-laid.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Play Area CCTV. The CCTV would be monitored.

6.2 Thirsk and Sowerby Past and Present. The leaflet was now available from TIC for 50p.

6.3 Thirsk School Signage. The signs were now in place.

6.4 Thirsk8 Park had sent formal thanks for the donation from the Council.

6.5 WW1 Memorial Gatherings. Heather Limbach had sent thanks from Churches Together for the Council donation and support. Positive comments had been received.

6.6 Sowerby Sport's Village. The Stakeholder meeting on 18th July had reflected resident's views, especially regarding perimeter fencing. The construction of three buildings was discussed. There would be adequate parking on the site, most being accessed from Topcliffe Road. A planning application would shortly be submitted once HDC owned the land.

Landscaping and allotments would be prepared from the outset of the project.

6.7 Non Essential Grass Cutting. County Councillor Baker confirmed that grass at road junctions would continue to be cut and also other areas where sight lines could be compromised by overgrown vegetation. He noted that some farmers had cut back on verge and hedge cutting because of recent CAP rulings.

6.8 Objection to York Road Caravan proposal. It was confirmed that although a letter of objection from A. Cook had arrived too late for Sowerby PC's meeting it was included on the HDC draft agenda for when the application is to be discussed.

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.

9. Blakey Bridge.

Cllr. Robson led the discussion about Blakey Bridge and possible future works. In summing up the discussion he confirmed that the bridge had been repaired and that in most instances of damage the culprits have usually been found and that they have paid the costs of repair. However after more than 20 years of looking for solutions, the County Council felt that something had to be done to physically prevent larger vehicles from using the bridge as the present warnings appeared to be insufficient, especially when unfortunately some sat navs directed people down to the bridge.

Ideas connected with construction of new approaches and a new bridge had to be discounted because of financial restrictions and past polls of residents had not wished to see the bridge closed. Various ideas had been considered

but NYCC in conjunction with Cllr Robson had decided that on a trial basis they would put in measures at either side of the bridge to prevent large vehicles accessing the listed structure and causing further damage. Thereafter consultation would take place with the Parish Council to decide on the effectiveness of the scheme and future permanent measures.

10. Correspondence.

A. Cook. Letter against Planning Application for Holiday Park off York Road. RAF. Increased Aircraft Activity at RAF Leeming 7-26 September. Includes some low flying and night activity.

HDC. Budget 2015/16 Consultation. Visit hambleton.gov.uk/surveys/budget or call in to DC Office or phone 01609 779977.

Messages regarding the closure of Blakey Bridge requesting that it be repaired and reopened quickly and suggesting various actions. D. Tucker, Richard Dimon and Deborah Wright.

Sowerby Sports Village Stakeholder Meeting 18th July – Minutes

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Minutes 9th June & 14th July + Annual Report.

Thirsk Community Care. 18th September 9am – 6pm. Fundraising with Boden. 20% off purchases.

NYCC. Summary of proposals ref renewal of local bus contracts.

NY Police. Sowerby Crime Statistics August 2014. Apologies for non-attendance from PCSO Kim Laws.

Speeding Concern on Topcliffe Road Report from Mr Kennedy agreed.

HDC. Heritage Craft Alliance. Looking for recruits from Hambleton Area.

www.heritagecraftalliance.co.uk

Clerks and Councils Direct.

Rural Action Yorkshire.

Thirsk Tourist Information. Second edition of Thirsk and Sowerby Past and Present available @50p per copy.

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

Thirsk8 Park. The AGM had recently been held. Planned Skate Jams had had to be cancelled because of adverse weather. The Committee was wondering about the implications for the park from the planned Spot's Village.

12. Any Other Business.

Crown and Anchor Signs on Parish Council land. It was noted that no application had been received for additional signs that were positioned on the grass. The Clerk would contact inviting the Landlord to submit an application.

Signs near the Parochial Hall. Some were in a dangerous state.

HGV parked in layby on the road to the tip. Cllr. Robson would investigate.

School hedge next to Gravel Hole Lane. Pavement width is restricted by grass.

Vela Homes Development. Work to start on extra care housing on 22nd September.

Fiona Colman from Broadacres would attend the October meeting to discuss the use of an art's grant that had been received for the Gateway development.

Mobile Speed Matrix Sign available for hire. Cllr. Bardon would find out more information.

Chairman

Date

