

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 11th April 2013.**

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

In Attendance. PCSO Nigel Warby, NY Police.

Members of the Public. None.

1. Apologies were accepted from Councillor D. Wood and County Councillor N. Huxtable.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th March 2013. The minutes were approved, with one amendment in Item 6.10 noting that advance notice of street cleaning would be given rather than closure of streets.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Warby gave a comprehensive report which indicated a 8.3% reduction in crime throughout the County in the last year. This was 3,216 fewer victims of crime compared to the previous year with a total of 35,363 crimes. Anti social behaviour had been reduced by 16.4% - 6,486 fewer incidents with a total of 33,093. Two new mobile camera safety vans were to be commissioned in April which will help tackle speeding issues and improve road safety.

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

There was no report from Cllr. Huxtable who was ill and unable to attend. A letter of thanks for his 4 years of service had been sent.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon informed the meeting that District Councillor Robson had been elected as leader of the Conservative Group in control at Hambleton District Council. Congratulations were expressed.

Cllr. Bardon supplied the meeting with a Top12 FAQ sheet about CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).

District Councillor Robson informed Councillors that a planning application for 40 dwellings in Carlton Miniott at the back of Ripon Way had been refused.

Cllr. Robson had shared his concern with County Councillor Dadd about road works on Station Road on Easter Saturday.

The patching work carried out on the Tip road was not the final finish but had used up surplus tarmac from the Station Road works.

Cllr. Turner raised concern about dangerous driving in a large American car at the Tip on Easter Saturday and asked that it be checked that the Tip Operatives had in fact followed the matter up following an assurance to him that they would.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Homechoice and Homelessness. Helen Fielding, Housing Manager, HDC was leaving the job and her replacement will be invited to attend and address a future meeting of the Council.

6.2 Dog Fouling. Evidence in the form of photographs, names and descriptions is needed. Let HDC know or the Clerk.

6.3 Re-cobbling the Market Place. Work had been delayed by low night time temperatures but was now progressing.

6.4 Road to Tip. Temporary repairs to the road had taken place but an improved surface would be laid very shortly.

6.5 Trees Obscuring Lamp Posts and Overhanging Trees and Shrubs. The owners of overhanging trees and vegetation obstructing footpaths would be contacted again and asked to trim them back.

6.6 Litter. This continues to be a major issue around parts of the village. It was suggested that if householders cleaned up in the vicinity of their own properties it would help but that until members of the public were better educated about their responsibilities to not drop it in the first place it would be an ongoing problem. A request was made by Hillside Scout Group to undertake some litter picking in early June as part of the national Scout Community Week. A suggestion was also made that Councillors and community minded residents and voluntary groups might organise a clean up.

6.7 Overgrown hedge in Blakey Lane. The hedge had not been trimmed.

6.8 Former BT Phone Box near the Crown and Anchor. A reply from BT indicated that a petition of 50 signatures had not been kept. They insisted that such closures were dealt with by the District Council and could not explain why in the past the Parish Council had been the focus of consultation. It was agreed that there was nothing further that could be done.

6.9 CIL. District Councillor Bardon provided a copy of FAQs to all Councillors. It was confirmed that there would be further consultations before a final decision was taken. Communities with a neighbourhood plan would be eligible for 25% funding to enhance development but areas such as Sowerby which is part of the LDF plan would be eligible for 14%

6.10 Parking on the Village Greens. Photographic evidence of perpetrators had been taken and warning notes placed under windscreen wipers. In due course all residents of Front Street would be reminded of the bye law banning parking or driving on the Greens.

6.11 Promotion of Sowerby as a separate entity. It was noted that it was not just Estate Agents who were failing to recognise Sowerby's autonomy in that the Auction Mart continued to have an incorrect address.

6.12 Play Area completion. It was hoped that work would soon be completed. The hill would be raked and re-seeded and a bag of seed left. The painting would be completed. Cllr. France's offer of purchasing 2sq. metres of wild flower mats and planting them in the Play Area was accepted.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

Cllr. Hoyland declared an interest and left the meeting when an application from his wife to fell a small tree was discussed.

Applications for the Buffer Depot were to be taken to appeal.

8. Financial Matters.

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

9. To Receive Correspondence.

- NYCC. Hambleton Area Committee. Vacancies for Co-opted Members following the elections on 2nd May. Consent for nomination to be handed in by 3rd June.
- Speeding Concern. Green Lane West. Logger deployed outside No 9 for 7 days w/c 27th March 2013. Heading out 85% of 3521 vehicles travelling at 29mph or less and heading in 85% of 3818 as above.
- Mr Gibbins re Openreach. Fibre Optic Cable Connection. Thirsk and Topcliffe have had a priority connection but not due in Sowerby until end of March 2014 but if sufficient people request it, it might be possible to get it earlier. Write to Mr Cole at HDC, BT, Superfast North Yorkshire to request priority connection. It now appears that until there is a cabinet in each street it won't be possible. *It was ascertained during the meeting that in fact many areas in Sowerby had already been connected.*
- Correspondence from Cllr. D. Wood concerning the Parish Council Tax Increase. *See Item 12.*
- David Tucker. Use of vacant shop windows for display purposes.
- Knocked Bollard opposite 23 Sowerby Road to be dealt with in due course.
- Enterprising Town's Workshop Thursday 25th April at Thirsk racecourse. Examples of where towns are successfully promoting themselves to new businesses, supporting young enterprise and providing business support to help existing businesses to succeed.
- Local Government Boundary Commission - Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for HDC in 2015, following Parliamentary scrutiny. 28 District Councillors in future. A reduction of 16. Sowerby & Topcliffe Ward and Thirsk Ward will both have two members.

10. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

Skate Park. Cllr France reported that thanks were due to Cllr. Robson for organising benches at a much reduced rate. A donation had been received from The Police Disposal Fund.

SowerbyNOW. Cllr Turner reported that ongoing issues had again prevented the production of the new style news-sheet but that it was hoped that the next edition would be better.

11. Any Other Business.

- Cllr. Bentley reported that he had heard of the existence of some old lantern slides which had belonged to the late Jim Potter and he wondered if they could be tracked down and perhaps digitised so that people could see them. The Chairman would talk to John Potter.
- It was reported by Cllr Chapman the hedge opposite the Topcliffe Road shop was causing a dangerous obstruction.
- Cllr. Robson gave an update about the Leylandii hedge alongside the Memorial Park. Planning permission was in place for its removal up until April 2015. Council felt that it would be a good opportunity to widen the footpath at the appropriate time.

12. Increase in Council Tax. Following complaints from Cllr. Hoyland about an apparent increase in Council Tax and a lack of information from the Parish Council, the Chairman explained at great length that the Sowerby precept remained the same as it had done for the last three years with a 0% increase

and it had been set at the November 8th meeting. There had also been a 0% increase from Hambleton District Council.

In February 2013 it was confirmed by HDC that a previous grant from the Government would cease to be paid from 1st April 2013 and that HDC would be allocating a grant to Parish Councils to help offset the changes which meant that Sowerby would have a 2.26% increase in Band D charge offset by a £4,411 grant. This equated to rate payers having to pay 7.4p per month extra which had been reported at the March meeting.

Cllr Hoyland was upset that the Parish Council had not been made aware of all the intervening Government actions as the process would have implications for 2014 and asked that all important information is made available for all Councillors.

Cllr. Wood had requested via email that consideration be given to the method by which Councillors are given important correspondence and to how it is recorded.

The Annual Meeting of the Council and next ordinary meeting will be held on May 9th 2013.

Chairman

Date