

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 9th April 2015.**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, (Chairman), Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. G. France, Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson, Cllr. E. Storm, Cllr. C. Ungley and County Councillor and Mrs Bob Baker.

In Attendance. Three members of the public.
Stuart Minting. Darlington and Stockton Times.
NY Police.

Members of the Public.

Mr. Halliday outlined concerns about the planning application submitted for 20 Croft Heads.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March 2015 and the Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO N. Warby presented a comprehensive list of incidents over the previous month. The Police were asked to keep an eye on the Play Park and Memorial Park for incidents of anti-social behaviour.

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

Cllr. Baker reported that all requests were in hand.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

Cllr. Robson reminded members that the number of District Councillors was reducing to 28. He paid tribute to the 10 retiring members who had between them a total of 193 years of service to the community.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 A new sign for the junction of Topcliffe Road and Gravel Hole Lane had been ordered.

6.2 Community Speedwatch. A number of people were known to have volunteered to help the Police and a location had been agreed, but the project had yet to be launched in Sowerby.

6.3 Confirmation was given that nationally the trend for building rate was slow. At the Sowerby Gateway site, 23 new properties were occupied of which 15 are private dwellings. Cllr. Robson assured members that he would pass updates to members and to Mr. Hinton.

6.4 Base Rate for Council Tax. It was confirmed that the base rate had been reduced because of the number of new properties. Consideration may be given to raising the precept request in the future.

6.5 Thirsk Library Consultations. Cllrs. Austin, Bardon, Bentley, Hoyland and Robson had attended the latest meeting. The outcome of the consultations were awaited and no decisions had yet been made, although it was looking as though it was a fait accompli that it would be a volunteer run facility. Cllr. Hoyland had pushed for it to have hybrid status (headed up by paid staff) and although his points had been well made they were not well received. The new building was well on the way to completion. The Clerk was asked to write again stressing the similarities to Filey Library which is to be a hybrid library and questioning how the basic management

would be assured with volunteers at the helm. It was thought that 70/80 volunteers would be needed. The example of Great Ayton, already running a volunteer led library was often used, but it should be noted that each household was paying an extra £8 on their precept, to fund 1½ paid workers. Cllr. Robson pointed out that Thirsk and Sowerby were not losing the library and that the new arrangements were due to be implemented in Spring 2017.

6.6 Blakey Bridge. The present width restrictions had saved the bridge from further traffic damage over the winter and there would now be a period of consultation, leading to a possible permanent fixture.

6.7 Parking Problems at the Leisure Centre. Cllr. Robson had asked for a report about the parking problems which will not be allowed to continue. The Pool facilities had been granted the right to use the land but with the proviso that car parking was regulated.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro-forma.

Declarations of interest as a member of the Planning Committee were received from District Councillor Bardon regarding the Aldi proposal and for 20 Croft Heads. He remained in the meeting and listened to the discussion.

District Councillor Robson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application for 27 Back Lane, having a shared access.

8. Financial Matters.

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

9. Resurfacing and repairing various roads on the Greens.

Quotations were awaited. Responsibility for agreeing and instructing the preferred contractor was delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. It was noted that a car power washer was being used on a vehicle parked on one of the roads and it was felt that all residents of the Greens area had to bear some responsibility for the care of the roads as well as the Parish Council. To that end, a reminder of the bye-laws and householder responsibilities would be delivered to all properties during the summer.

10. Correspondence.

White Rose Update.

HDC Speeding Concern, Front Street. *A monitoring device would be set up.*

Hambleton Parish Liaison meeting, Thursday 4th June at 7pm at Stonecross. Two representatives invited. *Cllrs P. Beadle and P. Chapman requested places.*

NYCC. Grasscutting in Sowerby. Annual payment of £797.40 for 2000sq.metres.

HDC. Notice of small business relief resulting in a nil charge for SPC.

Mr. D. Ludley. Complaint about surface of road outside his property on Sowerby Greens.

HDC. Request for new Topcliffe Road Sign on 23.02.15. On Claire Spink's list of jobs to do.

NYCC. Phil Jackson. Response to request for new street lighting.

Churches Together. Hustings. Thursday 23rd April, 7pm. MP candidates.

RAY. Certificate of Membership. News circulated.

Ripon and District Scout Council. Invitation to Chairman to attend St George's Day Service at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 26th April.

NY Now Newsletter. Circulated.

YLCA Transparency Code for Smaller Councils. Circulated.

PCC newsletter. Circulated.

Thirsk Tourist Information. Review of What's On. Circulated.

Library Meeting. 24th March. Attended by Chairman and some Councillors.

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

Skate Park. Cllr France reported that volunteers were needed to help trim and cut the grass.

Sowerby Art. Encouraging the local community to become involved with an art project at Sowerby Gateway. Free Stone Carving Taster Day: Saturday 9th May, 10am – 4pm at Thirsk Garden Centre.

Thirsk Station. Cllr. Storm reported that the Rail Users Group were in discussion about improvements to the crossing.

12. Any Other Business.

-Triangular piece of land at junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Topcliffe Road. This land is owned by NYCC and they have given permission for Galliford Try to park vehicles on it. Galliford Try have promised to reinstate the grass and bulbs once the work on their site has been completed.

-Cllr. Ungley said he was not standing for re-election but would be available for co-option if necessary.

-HDC were now the owners of the old gravel tip off Gravel Hole Lane and there would be a meeting the following Friday to progress the provision of the various facilities for the Sports Centre.

-Proposed removal of the Figure of 8 Bus Service. Concern was expressed at the loss of this under-used service, which nevertheless was a vital service for those who do use it. NYCC would be urged to reconsider their decision.

Chairman

Date