

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

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. D. Wood.

In Attendance. Stuart Minting, Darlington and Stockton Times.

Members of the Public. There was one member of the public in attendance who raised questions relating to rumours about Sowerby Gateway. The Chairman responded that only factual items could be discussed. The Parish Council was congratulated on the new website.

1. Apologies were accepted from County Councillor N. Huxtable, Cllr A. Turner and NY Police.

2. To receive signed Declaration of Office from Mr France.

Mr France was welcomed and duly signed his Declaration of Office and Registration of Interests.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th November 2012 . The minutes were approved and signed, with an amendment that members had been asked to report footways which needed repair and a specific report of work needed on Green Lane East footways.

4. North Yorkshire Police.

NYP were unable to attend.

5. 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 unable to attend.

6. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon reported that the District Council had set the Council Tax for 2013/2014 with a 0% increase to Council Tax payers. The District Council had accepted the Government's offer of a subsidy to the District Council in return for no increase to the Council Tax. There will be small increases in the Leisure Centre charges (3%) and car parking charges. Parking would remain free for the first hour in Thirsk Market Place, with an increase of 10p to 50p for the second hour. All day parking will be £2.

The report by the Scrutiny Committee into the Area Forums and Market Town and Village Partnerships had been accepted leading to the cessation of Area Forums. Ironically Thirsk's Regeneration Group had already suspended itself so an alternative community liaison meeting may have to be sought.

HDC in conjunction with NYCC will look into the feasibility of reducing the usage of street lights as a cost cutting exercise. A consultation will be carried out.

Under the Localism Bill the Community Right to Bid is now in place for communities to register their interest in properties which may be of interest to the community should they be put up for sale.

District Councillor Robson reported that a fleet of new refuse wagons had been purchased by HDC.

The CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) was out for consultation to replace the majority of Section 106. It has to be in place by April 2014 and briefings would be prepared to aid community take up.

Lack of enforcement, particularly in planning matters, had led to the appointment of Anthony Dozy as an Enforcement Officer. The situation would be reviewed in Spring 2013.

A challenge to the Supreme Court by Mr Barker re the LDF and Sowerby Gateway had been dismissed. A Judicial Review requested on 29th November, just before the deadline for action, had been withdrawn on 6th December.

Alternate week green bin collections had now been suspended until the week commencing 11th February. Each household is eligible for two free degradable sacks which will be available for collection locally from Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre. Extra sacks can be purchased. Details of collection of Christmas trees and blue bags are on the bin tag.

7. To Discuss Matters Arising.

7.1 Traffic Congestion in vicinity of Primary Schools. Councillors were grateful to the Police and Schools for working together to alleviate the worst of the problems and to make it safer for the children. There may be future problems with displaced parking in Green Lane West. Letters of thanks would be sent.

7.2 Station Road surface. Cllr. Robson made it clear that discussion about resurfacing had been included in County Councillor Gareth Dadd's newsletter to his constituents.

7.3 Pedestrian Crossing Areas in the Market Place. The courtesy crossing near the Nat West Bank may not be easy to remove as a path leads to it.

7.4 Pedestrian Setts across the cobbles near the Golden Fleece.

Sympathetic warning signs were being considered.

7.5 Boundary Review. The final round of consultation was now underway and comments were sought by 7th January. Comments to consultation.lgbce.org.uk The plan is to reduce the number of District Councillors to 28 representing 16 wards.

7.6 Obstructed road signs. The overgrown hedges obstructing road signs at Cocked Hat Park had been cut.

7.7. Road to Tip. Repairs had not yet been carried out. Concerns were expressed that some holes were now 6 inches deep and posing a real threat to vehicle safety.

7.8 SowerbyNOW. 'Not Quite Sowerby Now' had been published, predominantly advertising Church Christmas events.

7.9 Works to Trees. Various works at Worlds End, the Lime Tree Avenue and the Memorial Park had been carried out. The tree stump at World's End had been ground out. The Jubilee Tree had been planted by the Thirsk Community Woodland's Group and a plaque would follow.

7.10 Transfer of Land adjacent to the Churchyard. This matter was still in the hands of the York Diocesan authorities.

7.11 Entrance to Medical Centre. It was noted that vehicles were no longer able to park on the grass and the footpath would be repaired.

7.12 Flatts Trust Changing Rooms. The Chairman was pleased to report that the footballers were now looking after the Changing Rooms.

7.13 Snickett by the side of the Play Area. This path was still in need of some hardcore.

7.14 Silver Street. Some work was being carried out at the boarded up dwelling.

7.15 Fish and Chip Shop Signs. The Chairman reported that the shop owner was removing his signs at the close of the day's business.

7.16 Thirsk School Sign. The Headmaster had stated that signage inside and outside the school was being reviewed and tenders for the work would be submitted in the New Year.

7.17 Speed Matrix. Confirmation about the siting of a matrix on Gravel Hole Lane had been received. The Clerk would request a speed matrix for Green Lane West.

7.18 Trees Obscuring Lamp Posts. The owner of trees in Belgrave Terrace had agreed to carry out some work over the Christmas period.

7.19 Footway on Green Lane East. Area 2 had confirmed that the area from Sowerby Road to The Grange would be repaired before the end of the current financial year. The Highway Inspector would also check out the rest of the footways and carry out any necessary patching that may be required.

8. Planning Applications.

8a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

8b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

Cllr. Hoyland declared an interest as a neighbour, regarding the application for felling a walnut tree in South Terrace.

9. Council Communications.

The new website had been live for a month. There had been 98 hits. The steering group would have a review in due course. It was hoped that the news pages could be used. Reports would from now on be included under Sub Committees. The website address is www.sowerbyparishcouncil.org.uk and the new email address is clerk@sowerbyparishcouncil.org.uk

10. Financial Matters.

10a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

10b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

10c It was agreed that Mark Robson, Peter Bardon and Bill Austin would be signatories for the Nationwide Treasurer's Account.

11. To Discuss an upgrade to the Play Area. Proludic, the Play Area Equipment provider had submitted a proposal to upgrade the play area particularly for younger children. The project would cost £33,986 + VAT. District Councillors Robson and Bardon had secured £25,000 from Section 106 funding from developments in Sowerby, to be used for play and leisure activities plus £30,000 from the Blakey Lane development. Councillors agreed that the project would be undertaken.

12. To Nominate a Representative for Thirsk8 Executive Committee.

Cllr. France agreed to meet with Lisa Wilson to discuss this role.

13. To Receive Correspondence.

- Not Quite SowerbyNow.
- Thirsk School. Notice of record breaking examination results and positive Ofsted Report.

- YLCA. Localising Council Tax Support. Implications for Local Councils. More appropriate for District and County Councils.
- Cllr. D. Bentley. Report of footway problems on Gravel Hole Lane.
- HDC. Article 4(1) Direction 2012. Confirmation that certain works, installation, alteration or replacement of solar PV or solar thermal equipment could not by right be carried out on certain dwelling houses as specified.
- NY Police. Permission for the Royal British Legion Band to carry out Street Collections in the forthcoming Christmas period.
- Thirsk Tourist Information. Permission sought and granted for copyright material to be used for Blue Plaque Trail leaflets.
- HDC. 74 Front Street to be known as Pax Cottage.
- London - Edinburgh - London Endurance Cycle Event. Stopping over at Thirsk 28th - 31st July 2013. Invitation to find out about it at The Courthouse on Tuesday 12th February at 7.30pm.
- HDC. Notice of review of the Premise Licence at Crown and Anchor.

14. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

None.

15. Any Other Business.

- Traveller's Horses. Concern was raised that horses had been running loose on Gravel Hole Lane. The Police were aware.
- Skate Park. Concern continued about the dangerous method by which some parents were dropping their children off at the Skate Park. It was confirmed that the Police visit regularly and were pleased to report that there was no sign of misuse.
- Sowerby Gateway. The Chairman reiterated that a planning gain for the community would be £1.5 million for recreational use. He confirmed that the Parish Council and members of the public will be consulted as to its use. He also gave assurance that all developers will sign into the Section 106 agreement and it will be legally binding regardless of who originally signed it. It was reported that Sowerby CP School Governors were not happy with plans for a new Primary School to be built and would prefer that the existing school be extended. Cllr. Robson said that the matter would be dealt with at the appropriate time, but commented that they might discuss the matter with County Councillor Huxtable in the meantime. No firm plans for the layout of facilities on the Eastern side had yet been agreed.
- Code of Conduct. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had adopted the Hambleton District Council Model Code of Conduct.
- The Chairman concluded by wishing everybody Season's Greetings.

The next meeting will be held on January 10th 2013.

Chairman

Date