

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 14th February 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 A. Turner and Cllr. D. Wood.

In Attendance. S. Minting, Darlington and Stockton Times and one member of the public.

Members of the Public. Attention was drawn to the damage caused by the HDC employee who had driven on to the Greens to empty the dog fouling bin. The Chairman assured the meeting that it would not happen again. With the possible reduction in numbers of District Councillors it was proposed that Sowerby would be a bigger ward with two District Councillors. The Parish Council was requested to work very hard with the District Council and be the voice of the Parish.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. E. Storm, County Councillor N. Huxtable and NY Police.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th January 2013. The minutes were approved and signed. Cllr. Bentley noted that the Police had not received the Secure by Design Discharge Agreement for SW Thirsk.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

There was not a NY Police representative present.

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. He had said though that he would do what he could for Sowerby Parish. Cllr. Robson reported that Cllr Huxtable would not be standing for re-election in the May County Council election. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr. Huxtable about his views on the future of Primary Education in the Parish in connection with the Sowerby Gateway proposals. Should there be a new school, a merger or an extension on the present school? It was felt that a full public consultation should be considered

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon reported that a freeze on Council Tax increase had been approved by Cabinet and they had also approved a joint consultation with the County Council to consider reducing street lighting during the night. Public Consultation would take place. The District Licensing Panel had met to review the Entertainment Licence for the Crown and Anchor and it had been agreed that reductions should be made to the number of live events (now to be 24) and a sound box should be installed. NY Fire and Rescue would be consulted about the front door.

District Councillor Robson reported that the Recycling scheme was to be extended by the end of April. 60 litre weighted bags would replace the present blue bags and additional material would be collected, increasing recycling income by £50,000. In Spring 2015 the recycling vehicles would be replaced, following consultation with the public.

Cllr. Robson declared that he was a portfolio holder for planning but notified the Council that work on two roundabouts, roads and infrastructure including drains, was commencing at Sowerby Gateway. He confirmed that all infrastructure, including slip roads at the A168, works to Gravel Hole Lane and works in the town would have to be complete six months after the first house was occupied. A condition of the development was that all heavy construction traffic was to approach the site from the A168. Any large vehicles obviously heading to the site through the town should be reported.

Revised plans for the former Buffer depot had had turned down. The number of proposed dwellings had been reduced from 51 to 47 but was felt to be an excessive amount and the application had been turned down over development and design issues.

The Cherrygarth redevelopment proposal had been approved subject to revised consultation.

Homechoice and Homelessness. Although there was no record of homelessness in Hambleton, numbers elsewhere were rising.

The so called bedroom tax being brought in on April 1st 2013 would affect the Housing benefits system and social housing. Helen Fielding, Housing Manager, HDC would be invited to attend and address a future meeting of the Council to clarify the situation. Cllr. Robson confirmed that each case would be looked at on its merit.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Dog Fouling. It was felt that the problem was always worse during the winter months. More spray painted signs would be put on the footpaths and the broken dog bin near the entrance to the Flatts would be dealt with by the Chairman. It was hoped that dog owners would be more responsible.

SowerbyNOW article to include a suitable message.

6.2 Work to resurface part of the A61. Work was to commence on Sunday, being a day when the least disruption was likely. The mini roundabouts would need to remain.

6.3 Re-cobbling the Market Place. Remedial works costing £100,000.00 were due to start and it was hoped that 80% would be completed by the end of March and the rest by the end of April.

6.4. Road to Tip. Repairs to the road would commence very shortly as a good will gesture from NYCC but with no liability to NYCC as ownership of the road is not clear. It will be repaired to a better standard than just filling potholes. Thanks to County Councillor Dadd for his efforts in securing this work.

6.5 Works to Trees. A replacement lime tree would be planted to replace the one which had to be felled on Front Street. An inspection of the tree outside Cllr. Bentley's would be made at the same time.

6.6 Snickett by the side of the Play Area. Although it had been repaired, ash is still being deposited on it. It was hoped that this would stop.

6.7 Trees Obscuring Lamp Posts. The owner of trees in Belgrave Terrace would be contacted to get an update about proposed works.

6.8 Litter. This was a major issue around parts of the village.

6.9 Cold Meeting Room. The problem had been resolved.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

Cllr Robson advised the meeting that changes to the roof for the Cherrygarth redevelopment had been proposed and the plans had been approved subject to any further consultation. There was no Section 106 agreement attached to the proposal. Works to improve the junction would be done internally. Housing 21 and HDC had been in discussion about the construction and parking details. Up to 12 more parking spaces would be available making a total of over 40 which was acceptable from Highways Point of view. There would be parking at the side of the drive and the position of the footpath would be changed. Work would commence soon and there would be a £3m Government grant. To be viable there needed to be 50/55 units. Sowerby Parish Council approved the application but Cllr Wood wished it to be recorded that he had reservations about the massing, height and the impact it will potentially cause.

8. Financial Matters.

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

Notice has been received that the processing fee for the payroll will increase to £15 per payroll run because of the extra work which will be required for the new requirements from hmrc Real Time Information, although at this time it is unclear what the full implications will be.

Notice of an increase of 1.5% (approx 20p per hour) for the rent of the Town Hall.

9. To Receive Correspondence.

- Users of The Town Hall park in the Conservative Club car park at their own risk as the former arrangement whereby there was a business agreement between the two organisations has now ceased.
- David Tucker. Sowerby Parochial Hall has agreed to become an emergency rest centre in the case of need.
- RAF. Notice of increased aircraft movement from RAF Leeming during March. Some night flying and low flying.
- Thirsk Cricket Club. Invitation to become a match ball sponsor @ £30 inclusive of VAT per ball. Publicity Benefit by so doing.

10. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

Skate Park. Cllr France was in receipt of meeting dates. The Committee was planning to have the site cleared and was looking for top soil suppliers. SowerbyNOW. Cllr. Turner advised that the closing date for the next issue was 25th February.

11. Any Other Business.

- The London Edinburgh London Cycle Event would approach Sowerby from the Dalton Road. A check point and overnight facilities would be provided at Thirsk School between 28th July and 2nd August. Volunteers were needed. Members of the public were encouraged to support the event where over a 1000 riders from all over the world are challenged to complete the route in 5 days.
- It was queried if there had been a reduction in street cleaning and sweeping and a schedule was requested. Autumn debris was still clogging up drainage gullies.
- There were planned improvements to CCTV which businesses could buy in to. Could the Parish Council also buy in to the scheme?
- The boarded up property in Silver Street will be dealt with in due course.

- Area 2 would be asked to help with cutting back an overgrown hedge in Blakey Lane.
- The Police would be asked to intervene in cases of illegal parking on pavements. The matter would also be included in SowerbyNOW.
- It was noted that BT had taken away the Phone Box near the Crown and Anchor, seemingly without consultation. They would be contacted.
- It was noted that a problem with the aerial slide in the Play Area would be rectified when the workmen were on site fitting the new equipment. It was agreed that when work was to start on the refurbishment of the Play Area it would be closed for health and safety reasons. Councillors would be emailed and notices would be displayed on the fence.

The next meeting will be held on March 14th 2013, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

Chairman

Date