

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 12th February 2015.**

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

In Attendance. Fiona Coleman and Associates.

Members of the Public. One member of the public was in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from NY Police.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th January 2015. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.
No report available.

4. Update from Fiona Coleman and Associates from Chrysalis Arts regarding the Sowerby Gateway Art Project.

The first payment from the Arts Council had been received. Two artists, Hilary Carmel a metal worker and Michael Bidley, a stone worker had been appointed and more were being sought. Two members of the Council, Cllr. E. Storm and Cllr. C. Ungley volunteered to be on the Steering Committee and would be joined by two members of the public. Community ideas on sustainability were being looked at and Thirsk School had been involved. Councillors suggested local community groups which might be approached.

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

Cllr. Baker reported that the drains on Front Street and between the two mini roundabouts on Station Road would be cleaned. Speeding issues on Topcliffe Road were to be looked at. He had had great pleasure in proposing Cllr. France as a member of the Hambleton Area Committee.

Thanks were expressed from the Council to NYCC for the resurfacing work done to the footpath on part of Back Lane and also the resurfacing on the Tip Road.

6. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Cllrs. Robson and Bardon reported that a recommendation had been put forward to freeze the Council Tax for the fifth year in a row. A recommendation that the District Council should purchase the former prison site was to be discussed. Two fraudsters who had illegally claimed benefits had been fined £500 each. Despite cuts of £2.8m there would be no increase in charges to the public and HDC has the third lowest Council Tax in the country. In comparison a HDC Band D charge will be approx. £78 pm whilst Richmondshire would be £200 pm. £10m would be available in the economic fund for the community. Deloitte had praised HDC for having one of the two best sets of accounts in the Country. Cllr. Robson, Leader of HDC expressed his pride and was privileged to be part of its success.

In response to comments made in the local press by a local resident, Cllr. Robson urged correspondents to check their facts before publishing them. For instance, Section 278 Agreements, a licence to work on the Highway are not issued by HDC and yet had been cited in a recent complaint.

It was confirmed that 28 District Councillors would be in place with larger Wards, after the May elections, a reduction of 16. Savings would be put to increase Councillor Allowances from £4,250 to £5,500, an amount which had been set by an independent remuneration panel.

7. To Discuss Matters Arising.

7.1 Zip Wire in the Play Area. Cllr. Bardon reported that a contractor had looked at the timber surrounds of the bark pit and found that 80% were rotten. It was agreed to

renew the all wood rather than to repair and that a quotation would be obtained and the work undertaken before the summer period. Payment would be covered from funds held for maintenance.

7.2 Additional Parking Space at Thirsk Station. Cllr. Storm would take up the matter at the meeting of the Rail Users Group the following week.

7.3 Request for improved bus services and infrastructure at the Railway Station. A response had been received from Graham North NYCC, which did not address the issues. Cllr. Hoyland had responded with a reminder of the original request.

7.4 Removal of old CCTV equipment. This would be done when the weather improved.

8 Planning Applications.

8a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

8b New Applications.

See updated pro forma. Cllr Beadle declared an interest as an employee of Tesco and took no part in discussions about the application for the car wash at Tesco, application 15/00177/ADV.

Cllr. Bardon declared an interest as a member of Hambleton District Council Planning Committee in the application to vary conditions 34 and 35 of application 10/02373/OUT - highway improvements and widening of mini roundabout at A168 - B1448 Junction, Topcliffe Road and application 11/01435/FUL - Variation of Condition 9 - improved junction. He remained in the meeting and listened to the discussion, but took no part in the decision making process.

9. Financial Matters.

9a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

9b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

9c To approve an increase in the Clerk's Wages. The increase of 2.2% (£14.93 per month gross) and the pro rata one off payment (£43.68) as per the YLCA guidance had been approved and would be paid in March.

9d A donation of £150.00 to Friends of the Moorsbus was made as a Section 137 contribution. A report on usage by Sowerby residents was requested along with a timetable which could be posted on the Council website.

10. Correspondence.

North Yorkshire Now. Circulated NYCC.

Sowerby Gateway - Primary School Academy Decision. Circulated.

Sowerby Sports Village. Notes from Meeting January 2015.

HDC Street Naming. 1-6 The Sidings. Land to South of Racecourse Mews.

YLCA Elections 2015. Nominations to be handed in by 9 April. Forms will be available at March Meeting, SPC office at 3 Sowerby Road or from Stonecross, Northallerton.

NHS. Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Community Public Access Defibrillators.

RAF. Increased activity at RAF Leeming 9 Feb – 6 March. Noted on website.

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

NYCC County Committee for Hambleton. Cllr. France had been elected as a member, unopposed.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. New Addition had been awarded the contract for supplying the new windows. A letter of support would be sent to the Town Hall to assist with their funding application.

12. Any Other Business.

The Clerk was asked to request a new sign from Clive Thornton HDC for the junction of Topcliffe Road and Gravel Hole Lane.

Chairman

Date