

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 9th January 2014**

Present: Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson and Cllr. E. Storm.

In Attendance. PCSO Lucy Walker from NY Police, S. Minting, D&S Times and County Councillor R. Baker.

Members of the Public. There was one member of the public in attendance.

The Chairman Cllr W. Austin welcomed everyone and offered greetings for the New Year. He congratulated Cllr. Robson on the 25th anniversary of his joining Sowerby Parish Council. He had represented the Parish magnificently and secured the best services for the village.

1. Apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. G. France and Cllr. P. Beadle.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th December 2013. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Lucy Walker notified the meeting that there had been 33 reported incidents since the last meeting. Three Operations had been undertaken across the area: FEROX which is aimed at cross-border crimes, HAWK tackling rural crime throughout the region and ATTENTION tackling Christmas drink and drug driving. 2026 people had been tested, 118 arrested and 60 charged. The Police would continue to monitor parking and obstruction issues on Gravel Hole Lane.

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

County Councillor Baker reported that he was working with NYCC to alleviate drainage problems outside 26 Sowerby Road. He was aware that Blakey Bridge had suffered recent damage. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Area 2 about the correct location of the problems with traffic turning out of Green Lane East on to Sowerby Road and that Area 2 would also be reminded about their promise to paint double yellow lines at the junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Back Lane and the junction of The Maltings with Topcliffe Road before the end of the Financial Year. Area 2 would also be asked to remove the 'New Road Layout' signs at Town End as they were now at least 18 months old.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon reported that he serves on the Appeals Committee and there had recently been a dismissal. Scrutiny One had agreed that there would be more paperless working. He reminded those present that the next Bin collection would be a special Green Bin collection for Christmas Trees, so long as they had been cut down sufficiently to fit in the bin with the lid down. District Councillor Robson notified the meeting that the Boundary Changes had been confirmed and that in 2015 the number of District Councillors would be reduced to twenty eight.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Sowerby Gateway Parking Issues. A tarmacked area for parking had now been provided and it was hoped that the parking problems on Gravel Hole Lane had now been resolved.

6.2 Overgrown trees at Thirsk School. As the weather conditions had been so poor over the Christmas break, progress with the tree works would be checked over the coming month.

6.3 Reduction of Subsidised Bus Service. The consultation period was now over but the decision had not been taken because of an IT communication problem at NYCC.

6.4 Play Area CCTV. BT had surveyed the site and installation of the telephone line was awaited.

6.5 Police Meeting. Following a letter of formal complaint about the changes of date and venue for the Time to Talk meeting an apology had been received from the office of the PCC.

6.6 Pool Changing Facilities. The Pool had reopened following the installation of new changing facilities and feedback had been very positive.

6.7 Pavement Obstruction. As no action had been taken about the overgrown hedge at the end of Mowbray Terrace, a further letter would be sent notifying the owner that NYCC would be asked to enforce the matter. It was also noted the a sign was being obstructed by the growth.

6.8 CAB Representative. Carol Shreeve would attend the March meeting.

6.9 Town Hall Celebrations. The previous report was corrected to show that the Town Hall would celebrate its 101st birthday in March.

6.10 19 Mowbray Place. The householder had been sent a letter from the Enforcement Officer about the removal of a UPVC window.

6.11. Gutter on Flatts Walk. The gutter had been cleaned and the Doctors Surgery Premises Manager said they would talk to their builder about the pebble dash and that their caretaker would keep an eye on the situation of the gutter filling with pebble dash falling off the wall.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Financial Matters.

8a **Receipts.** Approved as tabled.

8b **Payments for approval.** Approved as tabled.

8c **Grass Cutting Quotations.** Four tenders had been received. With one abstention Councillors approved the awarding of the contracts for the next three years to the existing contractors, CE & CM Walker and SGS.

8d **Precept 2014/2015.** The Chairman noted that HDC had not passed on to the Parish Councils the Government Support Grant. There was no legal obligation for them to do so. The Chairman proposed and Cllr. Robson seconded that the Council should keep the precept at £62,000.00 as for the previous year and this would result in a 4.09% increase meaning a £1.79 increase per annum or 3.2p increase per week for a Band D property. The motion was passed.

9. Co-option of a new Councillor.

Three candidates had applied for the vacancy. Following a secret vote Charles Ungley from Saxty Way was co-opted.

10. Correspondence.

St Oswalds Church. Thanks for donation towards churchyard upkeep.
Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Minutes 11th November 2013.
HDC. Guidance on administration of Casual Vacancies.
HDC. Update December 2013.
Tackling Cold Related Illness in Hambleton – circulated.
YLCA. Bulletin 23 December 2013 – circulated.
NYP. Safer Neighbourhoods. Drop in Meetings Thirsk Library. 23 Jan 10.30 – noon. 11 Feb. 2 – 3.30pm. 21 March 4.30 – 6pm, 14 Apr. 10.30am – noon.
Yorkshire Water. Construction of new sewer for Sowerby Gateway. – circulated.
Clerks and Councils Direct
Eccles Heddon. Confirmation by Diocesan Solicitors that Transfer dated 18th December had been received.
Toy Library. New Contact Number for web site. 07787055835.
HDC. Sowerby Sports Village Stakeholders Meeting, planned for 17 January cancelled.
CAB. Carol Shreeve to attend Council Meeting on 13th March if appropriate.
HDC Enforcement Officer. Response ref 19 Mowbray Place Planning infringement.
North Yorkshire Now. NYCC Funding settlement extremely challenging. Increases in Council Tax likely. To be agreed in February.
HDC. Street names for Gateway first phase. Oak Drive, Poplar Crescent, Sycamore Drive, Maple Gardens, Ash Court, Acorn Road.
YLCA. Expectation from them that billing authorities should carry on passing on support to town and parish councils to help mitigate any reduction in their tax base due to the local council tax support scheme.

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

None.

12. Any Other Business.

- Cllr Bentley was reassured that the Parish Council was covered by insurance should any of the Lime Trees cause damage.
- The Sowerby Village signs would be looked at for accuracy of position once the building work was done on Topcliffe Road and Gravel Hole Lane.
- Cllr. Hoyland noted that a high fence and gateway had been erected at 9 Belgrave Terrace and wondered if it should have had planning permission.
- Cllr. Robson reported that work would start on the A168 four way junction at the end of February.
- Cllr Chapman reported that the property in Green Lane west was full of old cars once again. Cllr. Robson would report this.
- The Chairman thanked all who had contributed to the undoubted success of the Carols around the Christmas Tree.
- He urged members to keep a watchful eye on neighbours if the weather worsened.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on February 13th 2014.

Chairman

Date

