

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 8th January 2015.**

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

In Attendance. PCSO Kim Laws.

Members of the Public. Two members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. P Chapman and Cllr. G. France.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th December 2014. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Laws gave a full account of incidents during the previous month.

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

Cllr. Baker reported that he had requested that a pothole be filled in on Sowerby road and reported that Sowerby CP School had received a top grade in their recent OFSTED inspection. It was felt that the cyber attack on the Primary School website did not pose a threat to the school as it had happened as a result of the website having a low level of firewall protection. The issue had been resolved.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Cllr. Robson reported that the rule introduced by the Government on 28 November 2014 to remove the previous requirement of affordable housing is being taken advantage of by housing developers and effectively Section 106 will be cancelled. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) will be introduced after April and it was hoped that HDC Cabinet and Council can set a suitable trigger point.

The Making a Difference Grant of £25,000 for the 5 market towns and surrounding villages was showing a positive take up.

HDC would set their budget in February.

Concern was expressed by Cllr Robson at the inaccurate reporting of news items in the local press connected with the Sowerby Gateway developers. He confirmed that the building site was very active. He also confirmed that the 40% affordable properties for Phase 1 would be honoured. The percentage of affordable property may change as a result of a recent announcement by the Government minister.

The area of concern with the development was the failure to start work on the junction with the A168. HDC awaits a revised application.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Village Green Bye Law regarding Advertising Boards. The Landlord at the Crown and Anchor had left and no advertising boards were on display.

6.2 Zip Wire in the Play Area. More bark had been put beneath the zip wire. A reminder had been posted in the 'main points of the meeting' and in the minutes that the equipment was for young people to use and not adults.

6.3 Dog Warden. Regular patrols were being mounted in Sowerby, targeting dog walkers who do not clear up after their pets. A number of prosecutions had been made in areas of Hambleton.

6.4 Carol Singing. Grateful thanks were expressed to all who had helped with the various aspects of the Carol Singing around the Tree.

6.5 Additional Parking Space at Thirsk Station. Cllr. Storm would take up the matter at the next meeting of the Rail Users Group.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

There were no new applications.

8. Financial Matters.

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

8c To approve an increase in the Clerk's Wages. The increase of 2.2% and the pro rata one off payment as per the YLCA guidance had been approved, but no details were available.

8d Office Rent. A rent increase of £7 per week for the Council Office at 3 Sowerby Road was approved. Cllr. Bardon, co-owner of the premises declared an interest and left the meeting whilst this matter was under discussion. From 1st March 2015 the rent will be £312.00 per month, being a fixed rate for 3 years until 28th February 2018.

9. To agree a response to the NYCC Library Consultation.

Council agreed to send to NYCC the document prepared by Cllr. Hoyland regarding a request to consider Thirsk and Sowerby Library as a Hybrid Library when the cuts are implemented. This alteration to the current plan, because of the disparity of distribution of Hybrid Libraries throughout Hambleton, would ensure that there was a paid member of staff being in charge of the volunteer group.

10. Correspondence.

-HDC. Christmas Tree Recycling Jan 12-16.

-HDC. Estimated Band D Base Figure for Parish Precept 2015/2016. £1532.36. Final figure to be set on 15 January 2015.

-YLCA. Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 limit for financial year 2015/2016. £7.36.

-Peter Bardon, Richard and Diana Milka. Landlords of 3 Sowerby Road. Notice of increase of Rent from £65 per week to £72 per week from 1st March 2015.

-Clerks and Councils Direct.

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

Thirsk Clock had expressed thanks to the community for giving help to the needy over the festive period.

Bamlett's Project. Cllr. Turner was in negotiations with Tesco's regarding a site for the memorial.

12. Any Other Business.

-Improved communications at Thirsk Station. Cllr. Hoyland asked for Graham North to be contacted again.

-Thirsk School Examination Results. Congratulations for the best ever summer exam results were expressed.

-Tributes were paid to Harry Woodhead who had recently passed away, for his great achievements.

-Play Area CCTV. In light of the original equipment in the office now being obsolete, permission to scrap it was given.

Chairman

Date