

## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and incorporating decisions taken at the Planning Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

**Present.** Cllr. W. Austin Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. G. France, Cllr. S. Hoyland and Cllr. E. Storm.

**In Attendance.** PCSO N. Warlby, NY Police and S. Minting, D&S Times.

**Members of the Public.** Two.

Concern was raised again about the danger of the parking practices on either side of the road on Front Street and outside the Methodist Church in particular. It was worrying that emergency vehicles would struggle to get through. Cllr. Austin had previously spoken with both Churches and advised the public that if there is a definite obstruction the Police should be called.

It was felt that traffic turning right into Chapel Street from Westgate would benefit from improved white lining to guide less confident drivers into the right hand turning lane, thereby allowing an improved traffic flow through the town.

Concern was again raised about the closure of the footpath through the former Bridge Garage site. The Chairman confirmed that NYCC had stated that the path would be re-opened once the work was finished.

**1. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. M. Robson and County Councillor Bob Baker. There were no apologies from Cllr. Turner.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**3. North Yorkshire Police.**

A report was given. It was confirmed that cyclists should not ride their bicycles on the Flatts Walk between the Play Area and Institute and the gardens of Blue Row.

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

In Cllr. Baker's absence Cllr. Austin confirmed that the temporary blocks at Blakey Bridge had been effective in safeguarding the structure of the bridge when in position and urged the County Council to provide a more permanent structure which selfish drivers could not move. It was very concerning that people were breaking the law by moving the barriers and witness were requested to report them to the Police. Councillors complimented the NYCC on the successful completion of Meadowfields.

**5. To receive reports from District Councillors.**

District Councillor Bardon reported that a number of local businesses had been put forward for Awards which were being announced that evening.

Making a Difference Grants of £125,000 across the District had been awarded to 30 organisations including £5,000 towards a kitchen upgrade for Asenby and Topcliffe Village Hall and £12,500 to the Thirsk and Sowerby Community Care Association for a scheme to attract and train more volunteers, and which would involve other organisations in the locality.

**6. To Discuss Matters Arising.**

**6.1 Blakey Lane Road Closure.** This had only lasted for half an hour so grass cutting work had not been undertaken. The Chairman would ask SGS to ensure that when the grass was cut the signs would be moved and the grass cut beneath them.

**6.2 Speedwatch Group.** A follow up report would be requested.

**6.3 Thirsk Library Consultations.** Latest announcements indicated that there would be additional staffing of 12 to 15 hours compared to the original proposal. Cllr. Hoyland was thanked for his efforts in lobbying the County Council.

6.4 Figure of Eight Bus Service. Cllr. Baker was involved with negotiations.

6.5 Blakey Lane Hedges. Overgrown hedges were encroaching on the lane. The Chairman would follow this matter up, although it was noted that hedges should not be cut during bird nesting season.

6.6 Request for a mirror at Blakey Bridge. Cllr. Baker had tried to request a mirror, but was unsuccessful as mirrors are not approved signs on roads.

6.7 Junction of Sowerby Road and Green Lane East. As the surface of this junction was dangerous, Cllr. Baker and Area 2 would be reminded about an earlier request to resurface it.

6.8 External Presentations. Cllr. France put forward a suggestion that such presentations should take place before the start of the formal meeting. Cllr. Hoyland supported the request.

## **7 Planning Applications.**

### **7a Decisions.**

Also see updated pro-forma.

15/00681/FUL. Aldi. Granted.

15/003436/FUL. 1 Turkhan Close. Granted.

15/00543/FUL. Station Road Business Park. Granted.

15/00544/FUL. 71 Front Street. Granted.

15/00899/FUL. 55 Front Street. Withdrawn.

### **7b New Applications.**

- Licence for Garden Centre. Wish to see approved. Cllr. Bardon declared an interest as a member of the Licensing Committee.

-15/01298/FUL 12 Mowbray Place. Alterations to windows, door, lean to green house and associated works. Insufficient details so deferred. Cllr. G. Fox declared an interest. Wish to see approved - decision taken 27.07.15.

-15/013454/FUL 13 Mowbray Place. Removal of single storey extension and construction of double and single storey extension. Wish to see approved.

-15/00149/FUL 7 Belgrave Terrace. Notice of Appeal re refusal of permission for construction of boundary fence. APP/G2713/W/15/3015608.

- 15/01425/CAT Land adjacent to 28 Topcliffe Road. Tree work in Conservation Area. Wish to see approved.

- 15/01186/FUL 72A Topcliffe Rd. Two storey side extension. Insufficient details so deferred. Wish to see approved - decision made on 27.07.15. Cllrs. Robson and France declared an interest.

- 15/00815/FUL Ammended plans for Cocked Hat Farm application tabled last month. Cllrs. Bardon and Robson declared an interest. Wish to see approved.

- 15/01568/MRC. Land East of Topcliffe Road and South of Gravel Hole Lane. Variation of Condition 4, to include new sub station. Wished to see approved. Cllr. Bardon declared an interest as a member of the Planning Committee.

- 15/01514/FUL. 85 Front Street. Insufficient details so deferred. Wish to see approved - decision made on 27.07.15.

## **8. Financial Matters.**

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled. None.

8b Payments for approval. Approved in detail as tabled and posted on website and in the Library. Clerk's wages: £571.63; N power Christmas Lights, £149.88; Chairman's Allowance £500.00; Play Surface Repair Kit, £72.00; Grasscutting, £ 981.60, Website £18.00; Play Area Grasscutting, £3684.00;

**9. Co-option of new Councillor.** Four nominations for co-option had been received and a secret ballot took place. Graham Foxton was the successful candidate. He was formally welcomed and signed his acceptance of office form at the planning meeting held on 27.07.15.

## **10. Request for Double Yellow Lines Outside Garages on Sowerby Road.**

After discussion it was agreed that a formal letter with detailed measurements and diagrams be requested.

## **11. Correspondence.**

Northallerton Prison Visits. Limited places were available to book from July 13<sup>th</sup>.

NYCC. Mirrors are not approved signs and are not usually installed by Highways.

Blakey Bridge Press release requesting evidence of unauthorised moving of temporary restriction barriers. Phone NY Police 101 or NYCC 01609 780 780.

HDC Update. Electronic copy requested to aid circulation.

Office to be closed 15 -20 July.

Sowerby Art Exhibition. Rural Arts 10 - 22 July. Public consultation re Gateway Project 22<sup>nd</sup> July 4- 7 pm.

Hambleton Strollers need new Walk Leaders. Contact Paul Fisher 01609 771624.

Laura Venn, Legal Manager at HDC. Inspection Report for play space at Station Road. Request tabled that developer arranges for and pays for all repairs prior to the completion of the transfer of the land to Sowerby PC.

HDC Street naming and numbering. Land adjacent to Little Pastures, Worlds End – to be known as The Meadows.

NY Police. Warning about Courier Fraudsters posing as detectives from New Scotland Yard and requesting details about Bank and Cards.

Police and Crime Commissioner. Views requested on Policing and Crime in Rural Areas.

Melanie Brown. Complaints re state of entrance to Cocked Hat Park.

Mr Curtis. Request for double yellow lines opposite 28 Sowerby Road.

Thirsk Tourist Information. Local Events Updates.

Amanda Madden – Rural Housing Enabler Newsletter.

Moorsbus poster and timetable.

Clerks and Councils Direct.

YLCA White Rose Update.

YLCA. Invitation to Joint Annual Meeting of Yorkshire Local Council Associations. 18<sup>th</sup> July. Bridge Hotel, Walshford. 2pm.

## **12. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees and Groups.**

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. The Chairman of the Town Hall Committee, Cllr. France, reported that there was a vacancy for a caretaker. The Annual Meeting would be held the following week.

Thirsk Clock. Cllr. France had met with Abigail Homer and was looking forward to being a Trustee.

YLCA. Cllr. Hoyland had attended the AGM of the Hambleton Area branch. It was hoped that there would be a Pension Seminar in September. He noted the new three level Local Council Award Scheme and suggested Sowerby PC should apply.

Thirsk and Sowerby Relief in Need. Cllr. Storm reported that there had been no further developments with closing it down.

## **13. Any Other Business.**

- Tin Tack Lane. Cllr. Baker reported that the grass at the side of the path would be cut as a one off arrangement for the season.

- Moorsbus Timetable. It was commented that the timetable was difficult to read. The organisers would be asked to give a breakdown of use with a view to the possibility of a further donation.

- Cllr. Baker was asked to remind Area 2 about refreshing white lines at the junction of Green Lane West and Admirals Court.

- Prison Tours. A reminder was given of tours on 27 – 31 July and 3-7 August. Early booking essential once bookings open on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

- The question was asked as to why the grass along the play area fence was not being kept tidy.

- Topcliffe Road overgrown hedges obstructing speed limit signs.

- Road to tip. Wagon parked in passing place again.

- Gutter at end of Flatts Walk full of weeds and rubbish.
- Request for metal picnic table in play area to be repainted.
- Concern was raised over the closure of the vehicle access for members of the public at the GPO sorting office. Representation would be made to the manager about the inconvenience.
- Closure of path at former Bridge Garage site. Cllr. Bardon suggested a closed sign would be helpful at the eastern side of the beck.
- Weeds along the Flatts Walk wall need attention.
- Rail Users Group. Discussion about lift and stairs.
- Gateway Artwork. Stone carving is being done by members of the public at the Garden Centre. Concern had been raised about the large amount of money being spent on other aspects which would amount to a distraction.
- Lambert Hospital man hole cover rattles. Area 2 would be contacted.  
*(NB. Responsibility of the utility service provider and should be requested by the Lambert.)*

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Chairman

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Date