

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 13th June 2013.**

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

In Attendance. County Councillor Bob Baker, PCSO Nigel Warby, NY Police.

Members of the Public. None.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. France, Cllr. Hoyland and Cllr. Turner. Cllr Wood was absent.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th May 2013. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Warby circulated a comprehensive report for the previous month which included a report of numerous incidents of vandalism at Thirsk School and noted that investigations in to possible offences in relation to a horse straying into Gravel Hole Lane were ongoing.

The new Chief Constable David Jones had taken up his post.

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

County Councillor Baker reported that in Area 2's opinion the overgrown hedge on Blakey Lane did not pose a problem. He had reported numerous complaints about blocked drains and associated flooding on Sowerby Road. The gully sucker had been called out. It was felt that further investigations may be required. He would meet with Area 2 in early July to familiarise himself with the organisation. The Persimmon/Wimpey development has never been on the street cleaning rota and this would now be resolved as the roads had been adopted. There were issues about parking in part of Victoria Avenue. Cllr. Baker was asked to follow up a request for double yellow lines at the entrance to The Maltings and also from Gravel Hole Lane in to Back Lane. It was also noted that the entrance to The Maltings was in a very poor state of repair. Cllr. Baker was asked to convey the Parish Council's thanks for the much improved junction from York Road into Blakey Lane.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon reported that District Councillor Robson had been elected as Leader of Hambleton District Council. Cllr. Bardon had been given responsibilities in Planning, Licencing and Scrutiny One.

Cllr. Robson outlined the main points from the latest HDC Cabinet meeting where it had been agreed that £10,000 be given as the annual subscription for Welcome to North Yorkshire. A further £40,000 had been given to Welcome to North Yorkshire in conjunction with the Tour de France 2014. Although the Hambleton Area would only host 1.7 miles of the race at West Tanfield, the event had the potential to bring in £3.5m to Hambleton. A budgeted pay increase of 2% had been given to staff as a reward for their hard work in difficult times.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Homechoice and Homelessness. Sue Walters-Thompson would be invited to attend in the Autumn.

6.2 Litter. It was agreed that two bird proof bins would be obtained for the play area and that two of the existing bins would be relocated in the play area.

6.3 Overgrown hedge in Blakey Lane. The hedge had no nests in it and it was felt that it could be safely trimmed. Area 2 would be approached again as it was felt to be a problem.

6.4 Parking on the Village Greens. Cllr. Bentley requested that a sign banning parking or driving on the Greens, be placed at the Southern end of Front Street.

6.5 Play Area Completion. Cllr. France had obtained the wild flower seed but had decided that it was probably not a suitable proposition after all.

6.6 Green's Roadways. The resurfacing work had been completed.

6.7 Silver Street. The Chairman confirmed that the boarded up property was to be renovated in due course.

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. Hillside Beavers and Cubs were thanked for their efforts at litter picking and £50 was donated.

8c CCTV. A further quotation from Cam Tec of £6857.84 inc.VAT to relocate the camera column to ensure that reception would be improved if the upgrade to the links was carried out, had been received. Councillors felt that a second opinion and quotation was needed.

8d Annual Financial Statement. Councillors approved the Financial Statement having received a positive Internal Audit Report. They were confident that measures were in place to protect the Council's assets.

9. The Churchyard Extension.

Rev. Carnall had expressed concern that the area of land that had been allocated for an unconsecrated burial plot was liable to have a high water table at certain times of the year and would only be suitable for one coffin per plot. In addition Rev Carnall was concerned that isolating the allocated unconsecrated plot sent out a negative image of the pastoral care of the Church. Her views were supported by the York Diocese and her Church Council.

Much discussion took place to agree an alternative position for the unconsecrated area.

It was finally proposed by Cllr. Robson and seconded by Cllr. Beadle that the whole of the Churchyard extension should be consecrated. All Councillors present agreed, except Cllr. Bentley who abstained from voting.

10. To receive a request from Cllr. Hoyland for permission to access the YLCA password protected website.

As Cllr. Hoyland was not present and therefore unable to give the reasons why he wished to have access, the matter would be carried forward to the July meeting.

11. To Receive Correspondence.

- Area 2. Emergency closure of Finkle Street for repairs to burst water pipe.
- RBL Planning meeting on 25th July at 7.30pm at RBL Club, Kirkgate re Remembrance Sunday Parade 10th November.
- NYCC Highways Capital Programme 2013/14 and 2014/15. *York Road done.*
- RBL Band Garden Party. 15th June 2pm 16 St Mary's Walk.
- Cam Tec revised quotation £6,857.84 inc VAT. *Second quote sought.*
- Thirsk Tourist Information. Request for letter of support. *Agreed.*
- Lindy Davison. Conservation Work in Sowerby. *Brian Spink would be contacted.*
- NYCC. Taken over Enforcement of Parking Restrictions. Full details www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx
- HDC. Laura Venn. Apologies for delay in registration by Land Registry of PC's title of Land at Station Road.
- Bird proof bin. £269 + £136 fixing and delivery + VAT. Smaller £229 + £136 +VAT
- Andrew Turner. Parking arrangements in Market Place for local work men. *Mr Turner would be invited to talk to Cllr. M. Robson.*
- NY and Y Forum. Community Champions. Rough Sleeping.
- Nicky Ghouri. Questions connected with Villa Place. *Cllr. M. Robson to respond.*
- Pat Dixon. Request for allotment. *Noted.*
- Thirsk Children's Centre. Fun in the Park. Requested Safety Report. Allianz brought forward inspection. SPC asked them not to bring fire pit to the Fun Day at Sowerby on 16th August.
- YLCA. 9th Edition of Arnold Baker's Local Council Administration soon to be available. Discounted price of £60 to members, if bought on line. *Agreed to purchase.*
- Area 2 responses to C. Cllr. Bob Baker re blocked drains on Sowerby Road and overgrown hedge on Blakey Lane.

- RAY Winter Action Toolkit
- Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Minutes 11th March 2013
- NYCC Hambleton Area Committee. 17th June 2pm County Hall.
- NYCC. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) Deployment.
- Thirsk Tourist Information. What's On In and Around Thirsk.
- Rural Services Network. Rural Vulnerability Service. Fuel Poverty.
- LGA/NALC Joint Conference. Unlocking the General Power of Competence. London - 23 July 2013.
- NYWAG. Application to quash planning consent for Allerton Park by Marton cum Grafton PC. 30/31 July. Funds needed.
- NALC Chairman's update on meeting with Brandon Lewis MP re Council Tax Support Funding.

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

There were no reports from Sub Committees.

11. Any Other Business.

- Overgrown Hedges were obstructing road signs at Cocked Hat Park. SGS would be asked to deal with them.
- Some updating of the website was required.

- Cllr. Robson proposed and it was agreed in principle that a new fence @ £2,850 + VAT should be purchased for the area of the Play Area on the boundary of the Bowling Green. The Bowling Club would be expected to remove the existing fence. Cllr. Bardon would draw up an agreement confirming the land ownership. The matter would be confirmed at the July meeting.
- The Town Hall Committee had been advised that many windows required to be replaced and Councillors were reminded that half the cost would fall to Sowerby Parish Council.
- Cllr. Robson had ordered more benches.
- The Clerk noted that a repair to the safety surface underneath the swings was needed, as was work to bark pit in the Play area.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on July 11th 2013.

Chairman

Date