

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

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

In Attendance. One member of the public.
Stuart Minting. Darlington and Stockton Times.

Members of the Public. Mr. R. Hinton felt it was a shame that not more people attended the Annual Parish Meeting to hear about the good works the Councillors put in behind the scenes. He raised a question about why the Sowerby precept request appeared to be less for the coming year and felt it should be increased. As there were to be less District Councillors after the forthcoming elections and a larger number of electors for them to look after, he hoped that Sowerby would not be disadvantaged by the District Councillors having interests elsewhere. District Councillor Robson assured him that he and District Councillor Bardon had been working in the extended Sowerby and Topcliffe Ward for the last 18 months without any detrimental effects on their work for Sowerby. Mr. Hinton updated Councillors on the victim from the accident behind the Fruit and Veg Shop in the Market Place and urged the District Council to put in safety bollards as a matter of urgency. Cllr. Robson updated him on the lower than anticipated affordable housing development at Sowerby Gateway and also confirmed that the second phase would have 40% affordable housing.

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. C. Ungley and NY Police.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th February 2015. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.
No report available.

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

Cllr. Baker reported that the thanks 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 had been appreciated. There was to be some remediation work carried out in Back Lane to remedy a mistake in tarmacking over an inspection cover. County Councillor Baker was asked to get the CC to look into the sinking of setts in Meadow Garth.

6. To receive reports from District Councillors.

The removal of the affordable element in affordable housing quotas resulting from the Government resolution in November will add more weight to the local criteria to get more. The matter will be dealt with at HDC very shortly.

7. To Discuss Matters Arising.

7.1 Zip Wire in the Play Area. Cllr. Bardon reported that the timber surrounding the bark pit had been replaced.

7.2 Additional Parking Space at Thirsk Station. Cllr. Storm reported that there were no developments yet. Cllr Robson pointed out that the Rail Users Group acted as a talk shop to put pressure on Network Rail, but should be mindful of not causing the demise of the station by its actions.

7.3 The Clerk had requested a new sign from Clive Thornton HDC for the junction of Topcliffe Road and Gravel Hole Lane.

7.4 Community Speedwatch. A number of people were known to have volunteered to help the Police and a location had been agreed.

7.5 Parish Precept Setting. It was confirmed that the Parish Precept had been kept at £62,000. Cllr. Baker wondered if the 4.8% decrease noted in the householder demands was to do with the number of new dwellings at Sowerby Gateway. LATER CONFIRMED. Cllr. Bardon stressed that the precept set reflected the running costs of the Parish and suggestions that an increase without good reason would put the Council on dangerous ground.

8 Planning Applications.

8a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

8b New Applications.

See updated pro-forma.

9. Financial Matters.

9a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

9b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

10. Correspondence.

Friends of Moorsbus. Acknowledgement of donation.

R. Campbell. Observations about numerous issues in Sowerby. *Circulated. It was agreed that Miss Campbell had made some valid points and that most had been visited by the Council in previous years. County Councillor Baker would get NYCC to look again at the junction of Back Lane and Gravel Hole Lane where the parking issue was very dangerous and also at the lack of long enough yellow lines at the junction of The Maltings with Topcliffe Road which causes dangerous manoeuvring. Car drivers should where possible park in their own drives to free up street parking spaces and also reduce illegal parking on pavements. However it was acknowledged that many of the streets were too narrow for modern vehicle usage. Complainants should take a photograph of cars causing obstructions and pass the pictures to the Police.*

HDC. Non Domestic Rate Demand Notice. 100% Small Business Rate Relief.

Littlejohn External Audit Forms.

Val Easby prepared to carry out the internal audit 2014/2015 if required.

Cycle Sportiv – circulated.

Rural Action Yorkshire. 52 ideas for Community Activities.

Clerks and Councils Direct.

Meeting about Library. 24th March. *Cllrs Austin, Hoyland, French and Bentley wished to attend the meeting.*

Rev. N. Carnall. Thank you for £1000.00 donation for graveyard upkeep.

HDC. Standards Hearing Panel. Parish Council Reps. G. Lidster, C. Artingstoll and B. Slater.

NYCC Sowerby Gateway Consultation on Provision of Additional Primary Places. – *Circulated. It was noted that the results showed that the majority of respondents wanted the present facilities to be upgraded and yet a new Primary Academy had been chosen by NYCC.*

NYP. Community Speedwatch to be trialled in Sowerby. *Circulated.*

Town Hall. Rent increase from £13 per hour to £13.20 per hour.

Town Hall. Minutes of meeting on 8th December 2014.

Northern Powergrid. Unmetered Supply Certificates

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

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. The grant application for the new windows had not been sent in yet. Cllr. Robson confirmed that with or without the grant, new windows would be put in.

Skate Park. Cllr France reported that £1500 running costs needed to be raised.

12. Any Other Business.

Blakey Bridge. Concern expressed that the narrowing blocks appeared to be being moved.

Parking in Sowerby and Traffic congestion. Concern raised for the future and the situation would be monitored. Cllr. Robson pointed out that recent gridlock in the

town was caused by gas works at White Mare roundabout and not the Gateway development.

Presentation of Magna Carta at Castlegarth. A disappointing event as the presentation had taken place before the advertised time.

Parking at The Leisure Centre. Concern that parking spaces allocated for Leisure Centre and Flatts Users were taken up by vehicles from people visiting the town for work or shopping. Similarly, Police had been called to the Doctor's car park which had been used by non patients.

Bamletts Memorial. Cllr. Turner was struggling to make any progress with getting permission from Tesco's to site a memorial to Bamletts on the actual factory site. He would welcome any assistance.

Chairman

Date