

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council  
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,  
on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

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

**In Attendance.** County Cllr Bob Baker, PCSO Warlby from NY Police and S. Minting, D & S Times.

**Members of the Public.** There were no members of the public in attendance. .

**1. Apologies.** Cllr. A. Turner.

**2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013.** The minutes were approved and signed.

**3. North Yorkshire Police.**

There was a short report from the Police. It was reported that North Yorkshire was the safest place to live in England with 42.43 recorded crimes per 1000 people. Crime figures continue to fall in the County. A third PCSO was due to start work in December.

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

County Councillor Baker reported that it had been brought to his attention by Cllr. Storm that there was only one street light in Orchard Lane.

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

In response to the query about Hambleton District Council's policy of the percentage of affordable homes included in new developments District Councillor Robson, Leader of HDC said that each development would be judged on its own merit but in the case of Sowerby Gateway the 40% as agreed in the LDF would be adhered to. A development in Stokesley would have 50%. The District Council was well below target for the building of affordable homes.

The Parish Liaison Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November had been well attended and comments received had been positive.

There had been two more successful prosecutions connected with over payment of benefits and £13,000 had been recovered.

**6. To Discuss Matters Arising.**

**6.1 Overgrown trees at Thirsk School.** The Headmaster had confirmed that work would be carried out during Half Term and over the Christmas break.

**6.2 Part Night Lighting Initiative by HDC and NYCC.** An agreement which had been made for some of the lights be left on, along the Flatts Footpath as a matter of safety for pedestrians using this route had been successful.

**6.3 Reduction of Subsidised Bus Service.** Residents should be encouraged to contact NYCC by phone, email or letter if they wish the local bus services to be kept.

**6.4 Sowerby Sports Village.** The forthcoming public meeting at Thirsk School on 20<sup>th</sup> November would outline the design proposals. The cost could be an estimated £4m, £1.5m being provided by Section 106 money and the remainder from such bodies as the Sports Council. The project had been launched in the press. The completion of 150 dwellings on the Sowerby

Gateway site would trigger the release of the land and the start of a phased development.

6.5 Churchyard Extension. Legal documents had been signed and submitted to the solicitors.

6.6 Play Area CCTV. BT were to survey the site and provide a link up telephone line plus a new BT broadband connection for the office. The cabinet at the base of the camera column had been put in place. It had been advised that in addition to the existing camera a further 3 low light vision cameras at an estimated cost of £600 would result in a better coverage of the park.

6.7 Village Caretaker and Litter Picker. The Chairman proposed that this item be adjourned for up to 9 months.

6.8 Christmas Arrangements. It was confirmed that the Crown and Anchor would provide the soup. Cllr. Bardon would provide a table, cups and rubbish bags. The provision of the tree had been organised.

6.9 Councillor Vacancy. The vacancy for a co-opted Councillor would be advertised.

6.10 Extra Care Housing Scheme. Meadowfields. It was pointed out that this property was technically in Sowerby and yet it had a Thirsk address.

6.11. Parking Issues in Gravel Hole Lane. The Police had spoken to the Manager of the Sowerby Gateway site about matters of congestion from contractors vehicles parked on Gravel Hole Lane. A parking area had been constructed for visitors. The situation would be monitored. The junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Topcliffe Road had been constructed to comply with the approved plan with a realignment to discourage vehicles from turning in to Gravel Hole Lane. The other side of the junction would in due course also be re-aligned.

6.12. The Extra Care Scheme at the junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Topcliffe Road. Cllr. Robson confirmed that the Extra Care Scheme, providing local facilities for local people, had been given outline permission in the original planning process. The detailed application was now in the process of being discussed. The Education Authority had requested that the proposed education facility be sited further back from the road and as such the significantly reduced in size care facility had been repositioned. Cllr. Robson invited people to check the facts before commenting publicly with incorrect information.

## **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, with the addition of £100 to RBL towards the Remembrance Day wreaths.

**9. To Consider the Clerk's Hours of Employment.** It was agreed that the Clerk should be paid for an additional 5hrs per month. Current hours of employment were confirmed as 15 hours per week @ £9.69 per hour. The additional 5 hours per month would be apportioned accordingly.

## **10. To agree the designation of the £500 bequest from Mr AW Josephy.**

Cllr. Austin proposed that the bequest be used to offset the price for extra

cameras in the play area and this was unanimously agreed by all present. There would be no plaque in agreement with Mr Josephy's wishes.

### **11. To Receive Correspondence.**

HDC. 08.10.13 Parish Precept. Arrangements for the Financial Year 2014/15. 31<sup>st</sup> December closing date.

HDC. 31.10.13 Parish Precept. Arrangements for the Financial Year 2014/15. 31<sup>st</sup> December closing date. *It was noted that HDC would respond with up to date figures in January at which time adjustments could be made if so wished in order to maintain 0% increase.*

HDC Update. Green Bin Collections finish on week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> December and restart on w/c 24<sup>th</sup> February. Chopped up Christmas Trees will be collected on w/c January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Patricia Titchmarsh. Letter about non consecrated land in Churchyard.

Bryan and Margaret Cooke. Letter about non consecrated land in Churchyard.

Thirsk Museum. Free entry 28<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November.

RAF Leeming. Increased Activity, low flying and night activity during November.

Mr. Mason. Thirsk School. Confirmation of work to trees.

HDC. Offer of Street Recycling Bank. *Accepted for use in the Play Area.*

Craig Weatherill. Land and Sea. Request to renew permission for sign at junction of Back Lane and Front Street. *Agreed for a further year.*

YLCA. Revised Standing Orders. *These would be adopted by Sowerby Parish Council and placed on the website.*

AON. Snow Clearance, Salting and Gritting Guidelines in respect of the Council's public liability cover. *It was noted that Paul Ellis who generally did the salting and gritting, had his own insurance cover.*

Sowerby Sports Village open meeting. 20<sup>th</sup> November. 4pm – 7pm. Thirsk School A Hall.

HDC. Parish Liason meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November. Agenda and Terms of reference. Circulated to delegates.

Clerks and Councils Direct

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> September.

War Memorials Trust. Call to Remember.

North Yorkshire NOW. Circulated.

Rural Action Yorkshire. Notice about Touchstones and Community Hubs Event.

St Mary's Attic Auction. 16<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm. Viewing from 10.30am.

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

Thirsk Clock. The AGM had been held and included an excellent presentation by some of the members. Mr J. Salmon had been appointed as a Trustee.

Parish Liaison Meeting. Cllrs. Hoyland, Austin, France, Bardon and Robson had attended the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November, along with representatives from 80 Councils.

The PCC Julia Mulligan had explained that the new Northern Base Police HQ would be built in the Thirsk area. The number of Police would remain the same. The Police were concentrating on rural and cross border crime. She had confirmed that there would continue to be no fixed speeding cameras in the County. A public meeting 'Time to Talk' with the PCC and Chief Inspector would be held in East Thirsk Community Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> December between 6pm and 8pm.

Hambleton District Council would not be in receipt of any money from the Government to give to the Parishes. Last year an additional 84p for a Band D

property was levied. Councils were requested to submit their Parish Precept Requests by 31<sup>st</sup> December and HDC will confirm in early 2014 what adjustment needs to be done to keep 0%.

Highways Winter Maintenance. Priority is given to keeping the main roads clear during bad weather. Explanation was given of a very complex operation and it was agreed by all present that NYCC do a remarkable job.

#### **14. Any Other Business.**

- Cllr. France apologised that he would be absent for the next three meetings.
- Concern was expressed that many Parochial Hall users parked on Front Street, instead of the empty car park. This was probably due to the potholes in the approach road. The Parish Council would look into filling the potholes. The PCC would be contacted.
- Congratulations were expressed to the organisers of the Remembrance Day events.
- It was generally felt that the Swimming Pool car park which was for users of the Pool facilities and Flatts was being used for general parking. Cllr. Robson would discuss the matter with the Pool staff.
- It was reported that a rung had fallen apart on the new piece of play equipment.
- A complaint was made about ivy encroaching on to the Topcliffe Road pavement at the property at the end of Mowbray Terrace.
- A request was made that Highways look at the yellow lines at the junction of Green Lane East and Sowerby Road as people were parking very close to the junction and causing difficulties for motorists.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2013.

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Chairman

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Date