

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 11th October 2012.**

Present: Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. P. Chapman, Cllr. S. Hoyland, Cllr. M. Robson, (Chairman) and Cllr A. Turner

In Attendance. PCSO Charlotte Ballantyne.

Members of the Public. There were four members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr. E. Storm, Cllr. D. Wood and County Councillor N. Huxtable

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th September 2012 . The minutes were approved and signed after discussion about the Chairman's Statement and a small alteration to the item about ragwort.

Cllr. Bentley in admitting via email that the Chairman's statement related to his actions, wished it to be known that he did not give false information nor did he slate the Parish Council and its members. Having heard an account of what happened from one of the complainants, the members of the Council agreed that regardless of whether his remarks were down to lack of knowledge or deliberate they were nonetheless false and although his derogatory remarks were directed at the Chairman, by default they were directed at the whole Council. Therefore the minute would stand. Cllr Bentley also requested that the words lobbying the County Council be removed from the section about ragwort and this was duly agreed.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Ballantyne gave a comprehensive and positive report about crime statistics. There had been 9 cases of anti social behaviour, mainly from four youths. There had been 2 burglaries, 1 case of criminal damage, 3 cases of theft and 8 road related incidents. The police were going to regularly patrol the Flatts Walk following reports of probable underage drinking and associated debris and smashed glass.

The Schools had been contacted by the Parish Council to remind parents about the dangers of parking and letting children out of cars into the road, especially when the clocks change and also to ask them not to block private entrances and use private roads when they park. Following consultations with local residents the Police were advising drivers about their illegal parking in Green Lane East and if after 2 weeks there was no improvement they would be served a £30 fine. The Police were in consultation with the schools about possibly implementing a drop off system.

There had been no complaints about the new skate park but there was concern about parked vehicles in the vicinity which according to planning conditions should be parked on the school car park. It was hoped that Lisa Wilson would be able to help with appropriate signage.

The Police had received complaints about speeding traffic on Gravel Hole Lane and a matrix would be requested by the Council.

4. To receive the report from County Councillor N. Huxtable on items of relevance to Sowerby and Thirsk. In Cllr. Huxtable's absence, Cllr.

Robson reported that there were delays in work to fill potholes because of the recent flooding and associated problems.

It was requested that Cllr. Huxtable look into the continuing problems of the A19/Blakey Lane junction which was causing dangerous confusion for drivers because of lines which should not be there and similarly, although not in Sowerby Parish, the A168 junction near to the Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

District Councillor Bardon reported that enforcement was to be placed on Bagby Airfield to control the number of flights. There would be free sessions at all HDC Leisure Centres for local residents over the weekend 13 - 14 October. The application for alterations at 7 Front Street had been refused and the applicant had gone to appeal. An appeal had been made that Bonfire Night should not be an excuse for people to burn noxious waste.

District Councillor Robson reported that another Enforcement Officer would be in post by December. A new Planning Manager, Mark Harbottle would commence employment on 5th November. The proposed relaxation of planning regulations by the Government was causing concern because of the lack of clarity and likely increase in enforcement issues.

The decision about the planning application at the former Buffer Depot had been deferred. Consultation from Highways and other statutory bodies was outstanding and there had been no dialogue by Persimmons with the Racecourse Mews access land owner.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Obstructed road signs. There were still signs illegally obstructed by overgrown hedges at Cocked Hat Park.

6.2. Road to Tip. A response had been received from NYCC. Ownership of sections of the road was unknown and all adjacent landowners and owners of land accessed from the road, were being contacted to find a way forward regarding funding of repairs to the road. In the meantime, before winter begins. NYCC would repair the worst of the potholes on a without prejudice basis until a more formal solution is agreed.

6.3 Grass cutting in the Play Area and Memorial Park. As the mower the contractors were currently using was not ideal for the job it was hoped that a different machine would be used next year.

6.4 Churchyard Extension Wall. Work to build the wall had almost been completed.

6.5 Work to Village Green roadways. The work had been completed and there had been numerous expressions of gratitude.

6.6 New Benches. New benches had been positioned on Miss Warner's Field and at World's End.

6.7 SowerbyNOW. A new editor had been identified and it was hoped that there would be a Christmas edition.

6.8 Tree Stump at World's End. The Chairman was to meet with Aire valley Tree Services to arrange for various works to trees and also to grind out the remains of the willow stump.

6.9 The Councillor Vacancy would be discussed at the November meeting.

7. Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Council Communications.

It was hoped that the new website would go live in readiness for the next meeting.

9. Financial Matters.

9a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

9b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled.

A question was raised about the unusually high price of £3,798.70 for the recent election to fill the vacancy left after Cllr Murkett's death. The Chairman responded that mid term elections were more expensive than those at full term and that was the price of democracy. However he did point out that it was pertinent that the Council was financially sound enough to stand such an expense.

10 Transfer of Land adjacent to the Church yard.

Cllr. Hoyland had circulated an email prior to the meeting raising a number of points about the proposed transfer of land.

After much discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Robson that the land be transferred to the Incumbent of the Benefice of Sowerby with a small part left unconsecrated, and if after a period of time the small area of unconsecrated land was not used it would then be consecrated. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Turner and carried by Council.

11. To Nominate a Representative for Thirsk8 Executive Committee.

As there were no expressions of interest, the matter would be raised at the November meeting.

12. To Receive Correspondence.

HDC. Thirsk Area Forum on 16th October cancelled.

HDC. Police and Crime Commissioner Election. Nominations to be submitted by 19th October. Election, if there is to be one will be on 15th November.

HDC Vice Chairman, Cllr. Bob Baker to attend Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

NYCC. Salt bin in McArthur Close to be replenished for £75 + VAT.

HDC. Public Open Space, Sport and Recreation Action Plan. Approved Projects. Flatts Trust. Changing Room and sports facilities. £6000.
Thirsk8 Park. Public Art Project. £1500.

Thirsk8 Park . Landscaping and street furniture. £6000.

Flatts Trust. Street furniture on Miss Warner's field.

Sowerby PC. Play Area. Update equipment and install new. £25000.

Thirsk Town Council. Refurbishment of Town Clock. Request for contribution. Include in November agenda.

13. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees.

Thirsk Clock. AGM. 1st November at 6pm. Open Day prior to AGM starts at 4pm.

14. Any Other Business.

Bamlett's Memorial. Cllr. Turner suggested that a memorial to AC Bamlett Ltd the former agricultural machinery company who were occupants of the Tesco site and also the former Thirsk Town Railway Station be positioned in the small triangle of land at Tesco's entrance. It was agreed that Cllr. Turner would pursue the idea and that he might also confer with Thirsk Museum.

Dog Fouling on the Village Greens. Residents were asked to try to identify the owners of dogs which were fouling the Greens. A photograph and/or name would be helpful for the Dog Warden to prosecute offenders.

Car Wash Signs. The proliferation of car wash signs displayed without permission would be reported to Area 2 and to Thirsk Town Council.

Inconsiderate school time parking. Residents using the junction of Saxty Way and Topcliffe Road were being badly inconvenienced by irresponsible parents parking to drop off school children. The Police would be asked to get involved as soon as possible.

Entrance to Medical Centre. Paving stones cracked by delivery lorries were to be repaired.

Christmas Carol Singing. The annual Carol Singing event around the Christmas Tree would be held on December 18th.

The next meeting will be held on November 8th 2012.

Chairman

Date