

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**

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

**In Attendance.** NY Police.

**Members of the Public.** None.

### **Annual Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council.**

1. **Election of Chairman.** Cllr. Robson proposed that Cllr. Austin be elected and Cllr. Chapman seconded the proposal. Cllr. Austin was duly elected as Chairman for 2015 - 2016 and signed the Declaration of Office.
2. **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
3. **Election of Vice Chairman.** Cllr. Bardon proposed that Cllr. Robson be elected as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Chapman. Cllr. Robson was duly elected as Vice Chairman for 2015 -2016.
4. **Committee Members.** Please see attached document.
5. **Vacancy.** A notice regarding the vacancy would be published and nominations were invited by 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

### **Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council.**

1. **Apologies.** None.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. **North Yorkshire Police.**

Special Constable Nigel Kettlewell was introduced by PC Kim Law. They gave a comprehensive list of incidents over the previous month. The Police had been asked to keep an eye on the Gravel Hole Lane and Kings Meadow area following complaints about parking obstruction and had spoken to some householders in connection with the complaint. It was confirmed that the contractors Galliford Try had promised that they would reinstate the area being used for parking at the junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Topcliffe Road that had been damaged.

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

Cllr. Baker reported that County Councillor Carl Les had been elected as the Leader of the County Council and the Deputy Leader would probably be County Councillor Gareth Dadd. A report of erosion of the road surface near 160 Front Street was noted.

Cllr. Baker was asked to find out what the effects of the Tip closing on a Wednesday were, although he did report that there had been no increase in fly tipping and high levels of recycling were being produced. Cllr. Robson pointed out that the District Council bears the cost of clearing up fly tipping, but that it was done out of good will as it was not a statutory duty.

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

Cllr. Austin congratulated Cllrs. Robson and Bardon for their success in being re-elected to Hambleton District Council and commented on how lucky it was that Sowerby has them.

Cllr. Robson reported that Conservative candidates had held 27 of the 28 seats on the newly formed wards. The other seat had been lost by 4 votes.

Cllr. Robson had been elected as Group Leader of the Conservative Group and would therefore be the Leader of Hambleton District Council.

Cllr. France commented on how good it had been that democracy had been good in Sowerby and Thirsk with elections being held in both, especially as only 10 parishes had had an election. He congratulated Cllrs Beadle and Bentley for standing.

## **6. To Discuss Matters Arising.**

**6.1 A new sign** for the junction of Topcliffe Road and Gravel Hole Lane had been put in place.

**6.2 Community Speedwatch.** A Speedwatch Group had been observed in action on Topcliffe Road.

**6.3 Confirmation** was given that building had temporarily stopped at the Gateway site because of the collapse of Southdale builders, but it was felt that only good would come from the situation.

**6.4 Thirsk Library Consultations.** The response to the Parish Council's concerns had evaded the matter of the similarity of the library to that in Filey which was to be a hybrid library with County Council staff rather than volunteers. It had been noted that the response mentioned Thirsk Community Care and Rural Arts had expressed support for the future running of the Library.

**6.5 Parking Problems at the Leisure Centre.** The present problems with unauthorised parking would be evaluated and dealt with once the development at Meadowfields was completed.

**6.6 Skate Park.** Regrettably there had been no volunteers to help with ground work.

**6.7 Sowerby Art.** Cllr. Storm reported that a very successful stone-carving day had been held.

**6.8 Galliford Try Development.** The company was doing its best with a difficult situation regarding additional parking. A 'sod-cutting' ceremony was to take place on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**6.9 Figure of Eight Bus Service.** The removal of this service as part of £94m of cuts by NYCC, was causing distress to former users and the retention of the timetables was causing confusion. Cllrs. Bardon, Chapman and Robson were in discussions with the Community Mini Bus Organisation about a possible replacement service, but nothing had been resolved. Cllr. Baker would ask the bus contractors to deal with the timetable issue and noted that whilst the service was not commercially viable the social service was of great importance. It was queried as to whether Patient Transfer Services be used more and then become more costly?

## **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.

8c **Approval of the Annual Accounts 2014 – 2015.** It was moved that the Chairman sign the Accounts Document as being a true reflection of the Council's financial affairs.

The Clerk would follow up the present situation with the Moorsbus.

Investment of some of the funds with a higher rate of interest would be beneficial if a suitable account could be found.

It was confirmed that the Council held substantial funds from Section 106 monies which were for the future maintenance of various sites.

## **9. Resurfacing and repairing various roads on the Greens.**

Work had been completed.

## **10. Correspondence.**

Pensions Regulator. PC now has new automatic enrolment legal duties regarding workplace pension's scheme. Nominate a contact by 31 May 2015. Sowerby PC Staging Date is 1 November 2016.

HDC. Consultation on Draft Size, Type and Tenure of New Homes Supplementary Planning Document. See [www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk)

D. Bird. Complaint about Parking on Gravel Hole Lane.

Charity Golf Day in aid of Carers Centre and Thirsk Community Care. 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Thirsk & N/A Golf Club. Contact Ellen Cross 01845 523115 or [proshop@tngc.co.uk](mailto:proshop@tngc.co.uk) – cancelled.

Ripon and District Scouts. Invitation to Chairman to attend the District AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

NYCC Advance notice of works to railway bridge, Topcliffe Road. 7<sup>th</sup> September for 5 weeks. Single lane, convoy system, some night work including closures.

Comments welcomed.

YLCA. Good Councillors Guide. Paper booklets or online version available.

Safer Hambleton. Results of deployment of data logger 12<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 on Front Street. Results shown to be higher than those expected within a 30mph speed limit and a flashing matrix sign will be deployed for a 7 day period as an educational message to motorists. NY Police will be requested to undertake periodic speed enforcement activity.

Town Hall Minutes.

Clerks and Councils Direct

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

Thirsk and Sowerby Relief in Need. This Group would be wound up after the forthcoming Magna Carta event.

## **12. Any Other Business.**

-Grasscutting. Work was needed on Blakey Lane where the signs are.

-Hedge Cutting. 20mph signs on Topcliffe Road were obscured by overgrown vegetation.

-An offer of free hedging had been made for the land at the Pines.

-Cllr. Baker was asked to investigate why the gas works at Melbourne Place were taking so long.

-It was agreed that there would not be a meeting of the Council in August unless necessary.

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Chairman

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Date