

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting of
Sowerby Parish Council
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,
on Thursday 9th May 2013.**

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, (Outgoing Chairman), and Cllr. E. Storm.

In Attendance. County Councillor Bob Baker, PCSO Nigel Warby, NY Police. Stuart Minting, D&S Times.

Annual Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council.

1. Election of Chairman. Cllr. Robson proposed that Cllr. Austin be elected and Cllr. Storm seconded the proposal. Cllr. Austin was duly elected as Chairman for 2013 - 2014 and signed the Declaration of Office. One Councillor did not vote. Cllr Austin offered sincere thanks to Cllr. Robson who had been elected as Chairman of Sowerby Parish Council over twenty years ago and on and off since then, for all of the support and hard work that he had given to Sowerby as Chairman of the Parish Council, but understood that it was now necessary for him to step down from the Chair so as there would not be conflicts of interest with his new role as Leader at Hambleton District Council.

2. Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. A. Turner and Cllr D. Wood.

3. Election of Vice Chairman. Cllr. Chapman proposed that Cllr. Bardon be elected as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Robson. Cllr. Bardon was duly elected as Vice Chairman for 2013 -2014. Congratulations were extended to newly elected County Councillor Bob Baker.

4. Committee Members. Please see attached document.

Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council.

Members of the Public. None.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Turner and Cllr. D. Wood.

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th April 2013. The minutes were approved, with one amendment which was corrected on the copy to be circulated.

3. North Yorkshire Police.

PCSO Warby circulated a comprehensive report for the previous month which included an incident of a lorry trying to negotiate Blakey Bridge and further incidences of loose horses in the vicinity of Gravel Hole Lane. As these incidents could lead to a potential accident, the owner has been warned that he will be prosecuted the next time an animal strays on to the road.

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

County Councillor Baker stated that he would attend Sowerby Parish Council meetings when his diary engagements allowed.

5. To receive reports from District Councillors.

The meeting was informed that three of the four Leisure Centres in the District were to be upgraded. Thirsk and Sowerby would have an upgrade of the dry-side changing facilities as a result of a £160,000.00 grant, match funded by HDC. This would take place during October and November and a mobile changing village would be provided. It would only be necessary to close the facility for two nights.

6. To Discuss Matters Arising.

6.1 Homechoice and Homelessness. Sue Walter-Thompson would be appointed as Housing Manager on 22nd May and would be invited to attend in due course.

6.2. Matters Relating to the Tip. The road had been resurfaced. A response had been received from NYCC regarding the reported incident of dangerous driving in the Tip yard. Whilst an Operative had been reprimanded for not following up a complaint as he had promised, it had been decided that there was no case to answer.

6.3 Trees Obscuring Lamp Posts, Overhanging Hedges, Trees and Shrubs. Letters had been sent to householders.

6.4 Litter. This continues to be a major issue around parts of the village. The matter would be revisited later in the year. A bird proof bin would be obtained for the play area to try to stop the crows pulling out discarded food wrappers.

6.5 Overgrown hedge in Blakey Lane. The hedge had not been trimmed, in spite of an initial request being made in February. Cllr. Baker offered to take up the matter with Area 2.

6.6 Parking on the Village Greens. Cllr. Robson had given all households on Front Street a copy of the bye law banning parking or driving on the Greens, along with a warning letter.

6.7 Play Area Completion. Work had been completed. Cllr. France had ordered the wild flower seed. Cllr. Robson would talk to SGS about mowing the grass in the vicinity of the wild flowers. Cllr. Hoyland reported that a step was missing off the Infant's Multiplay. This would be replaced in due course.

6.8 SowerbyNOW. It would not be possible to produce this any more.

6.9 Lantern Slides. Nothing is known about the existence of any slides.

7 Planning Applications.

7a Decisions.

See updated pro-forma.

7b New Applications.

See updated pro forma.

8. Financial Matters.

8a **Receipts.** Approved as tabled.

Cllr. Robson informed the meeting that £29,940.00 had been received as Section 106 money (dated 19 August 2004) for the perpetual maintenance of the small play area on the Taylor Wimpey site at the eastern side of the development off Station Road.

He noted that the larger play area was still under the control of Persimmon. Persimmon and NYCC were still in negotiation to provide Sowerby Parish Council with a way leave for the Interceptor Tank. He also reminded Council that money had been received some time ago for ongoing maintenance of the grass at The Pines at Blakey Lane.

8b **Payments for approval.** Approved as tabled.

8c A quotation from Cam Tec of £2,108.94 + VAT to upgrade the links for the CCTV had been received. Councillors felt that further information was needed as well as a reassurance that reception would be improved.

8d. Two quotations to resurface the roadway on the Greens in front of 110 - 134 Front Street had been received. A quotation of £3,500 from P. Benson was accepted.

9. To Receive Correspondence.

- HDC. Allocations Development Plan and Annexe 5 Proposals Map adopted in 2010.
- Environment Agency. Allerton Park. Minded to approve but now consulting to make final decision. <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/consultations/80798.aspx>. Is there anything in the draft decision documents which is inaccurate or missing or has any new information become available in the time since the application consultation took place or which was missed last time? Closing date 4th June. Public consultation 13th May 11am - 7.30pm at Knaresborough House, Knaresborough, HG5 0HW.
- HDC Planning. 12/02601/FUL. Victorian Decorative Ridge not seen as a harmful character of the Conservation Area and is acceptable.
- NYCC. Resurfacing works on A19 from south of Blakey Lane junction on the north bound lane of the A19 to the A170 York Road junction commencing on Monday 13th May until Friday 17th May 2013 during night time hours from 7pm. Road to be closed.
- Safer Neighbourhoods. Information to help vulnerable people to avoid Distraction Burglaries. Thanks to Councillors who helped distribution. More copies available at Market Place Police Office.
- NYCC. Alleged reckless driving at Tip. Member of staff reprimanded for telling member of the public he would report the incident and not doing so. From CCTV evidence a decision was made that there was no reckless driving.
- Highways N. Yorkshire. Temporary 30mph Speed Limit on B1448 Topcliffe Road from 10th June for 4 months but valid if necessary until 31 December 2013.
- RAF. Increased Aircraft Activity at Leeming from 13th to 24th May.
- G. France. Wildflower Gromat information.
- Cllr. D. Bentley. Pictures of Worlds End Bridge.
- HDC. Recycling Bag introduction.
- New Office Computer quotes. Standard format with leads £510.82 + VAT. Modern format without tower and leads £698 + VAT
- HDC Planning Appeal for Persimmon Homes for Warehouse Buffer Depot 18th June.
- YLCA response to Council survey about social media. Available but to be discussed later in the year. 37 responses. 23 definitely won't be using it. 7, mostly larger, have facebook and 6, mostly larger, use twitter. Very important to control what is put on. One Council has a social media policy. Many use own websites to advertise news.
- YLCA. Training Courses. Circulated to all Councillors.
- Northern Powergrid. New business plan unveiled for 2015. www.yourpowergridplan.com.
- Zurich. Insurance Renewal invitation.
- Local Works. Campaign to Reverse Community Decline.
- Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Minutes from 11th March.
- Country Air.
- Clerks and Councils Direct.

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

Communications Group. A problem of spam emails connected to the web site enquiry system had been reported by the Clerk and had been addressed by SolutionsNOW.

Skate Park. Cllr France circulated a report expressing thanks to the previous Parish Council Chairman for his help in obtaining new benches. The users of the Park had decided the best location for their installation. £500 had been received from NY Police Disposal fund and will be used to fund Skate Jams on 3rd August and 7th September. A Community Day had been held on 28th April. Unfortunately the date had clashed with other local events and there had not been much outsider presence. Some construction rubble had been removed and future plans were on display.

The Lambert Hospital League of Friends. P. Chapman had been elected Chairman at the recent AGM. £4,000.00 had been raised and spent for the benefit of the patients.

11. Any Other Business.

- It was hoped that the right of way problem with the A19 slip road to Blakey Lane would be corrected during the forthcoming resurfacing works.
- It was made clear that the works to upgrade Cherrygarth would not affect the Chapel Street / Westgate junction.
- Concern was again expressed about the state of the boarded up property on the corner of Silver Street. The Chairman would talk to the owner.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on June 13th 2013.

Chairman

Date