

Sowerby Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7.30pm in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe.

Present: Cllr M Robson (Chairman), Cllr P Bardon, Cllr T Beadle, Cllr G France, Cllr D Hannan, Cllr S Hoyland, Cllr A Jackson, Cllr C Snowden and Cllr E Storm.

Also present: One member of the public and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed councillors that Derek Stratton, long serving Councillor and Chairman of Sowerby Parish Council and also District Councillor, has sadly passed away recently.

Members of the Public - A member of the public noted fading of the road markings throughout the town, in particular York Road. Cllr Baker will feed this into highways.

21/049 To receive and consider apologies for absence and to receive declarations of interest

It was resolved apologies be noted and accepted from Cllr D Gray and Cllr A Turner

21/050 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 8th July 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings be accepted and signed as a correct record

21/051 To receive Report from NY Police

The report was circulated in advance. It was noted that there had been a reduction of incidents in the village.

21/052 To receive Report from the County Councillor on items of relevance to Sowerby

An email had been circulated regarding the drainage works on Topcliffe Road and the delay to this. It has been moved into summer 2022 by the in-house NYCC Highways team. Cllr Baker encouraged motorists to drive cautiously in periods of flooding until this issue is resolved. Cllr Bardon feels that NYCC should have been more proactive in checking that the work which has damaged drains was completed to the correct standard and this damage should have been put right at the time. Cllr Hannan asked what action had been taken by NYCC legal services to recoup some of the costs of this damage caused by private enterprises. Cllr Bardon reiterated that the timeframe to complete work, which is currently at three years and eight months, has been unacceptable. Cllr Hoyland asked if the issue of lack of companies to tender for work was widespread.

Cllr Baker also advised that Social Care is under immense pressure and there is additional concern that the staff may have to be laid off if the government insists that these workers have double covid jobs. The county council is approaching a crisis point, due to the increased costs of this service and staff shortages.

Community Funding has opened again, Cllr Baker has two locality funds of £5,000 each available.

Cllr France noted a hole of 5 inches deep and 4 feet long on Front Street and asked Cllr Baker to review this.

21/053 To receive Reports from District Councillors

Cllr Bardon listened to the appeal for Karbon Homes on the Back Lane planning application refusal, the Inspector has been to site today and a decision is awaited.

It was confirmed that the government has supported a Unitary Authority in North Yorkshire.

Cllr Robson noted that, subject to council approval, there will be a Making A Difference fund of £250,000 available for 2022 financial year plus a separate fund of £150,000 for Towns and Parishes to apply for post covid recovery support.

Signed
Chairman
Date

Sowerby Parish Council

HDC will be directing CIL funding for the year as follows: 50% to Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre; 25% to Sowerby Sports Village and 15% to Northallerton and 10% to Bedale. The priorities for the Sports Village are as follows: for resurfacing of the All Weather of the Hockey Pitch, upgrading lighting and decor. Fencing for dog exercising area, 3G pitch match funding plus approx £400,000 for the pavilion.

21/054 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only

1. Town End works are waiting for the electricity company to do a diversion of cabling before this commences.
2. The cenotaph work is due to be done and plaques for the Queens Jubilee ordered
3. Additional dog waste bins have been ordered and the officers will meet Cllr Robson on site to agree positioning

21/055 Planning

1. Decisions were noted
2. To consider new applications Appendix i
3. To ratify comments submitted during a period of no meetings Appendix ii

It was resolved that the Clerk will feed back comments to the planning authority

21/056 Financial Matters

1. To note Receipts
2. To note and approve Payments Appendix iii

It was resolved that receipts be noted and payments be approved

21/057 To receive late correspondence for information only

Items of correspondence which have been circulated between meetings require no further action

Correspondence has been received from Rail Users for alteration at the station. Councillors wish to reply in support of it and the Clerk will attend to this.

21/058 To receive Reports from Sub Committees

Cllr France updated councillors on the new piece of artwork by Sixth Form student M. Ballard and he expressed his gratitude for this and congratulated her on the work. The School is keen to continue to work with the Town Hall.

Cllr Snowden advised that the Community Works trustee meeting is in September, finance is in a good position and the shop is making a profit.

21/059 Any other business that may be legally discussed

(items requiring a decision will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting)

1. Cllr Bardon noted the overhanging trees on the footpath at the play area
2. Cllr Hoyland commented on the positive sum raised from the local schools IT fundraising project. He asked Cllr Baker when the bus service would be in place. At the moment only a short area is adopted so this is not imminent
3. Cllr Hannan advised that Scutts Wall on Gravel Hole Lane is leaning. It will be looked at and reported to highways
4. A resident had asked Cllr Jackson if there was tree work due as they considered them to be quite large. There is an ongoing programme in place to review these
5. Cllr Robson advised council that he and the Clerk attended the licencing of the new Priest In Charge, Rev D Biggs
6. Cllr France offered congratulations to Cllr Robson and the Clerk on their recent marriage
7. Cllr France noted the following items:
 - a. A lack of bark and damage to the membrane on the aerial slide. The Clerk advised that bark has been ordered and is due for delivery
 - b. The play area was not fully closed off when the contractors were working & the Clerk will take this up

Signed
Chairman
Date

Sowerby Parish Council

- c. Football cars are parking on the Flatts, they do not have permission for this and it will be addressed by the Flatts Preservation Trust
- d. Car Parking on the greens has become a problem in certain areas. Cllr Snowden noted that there is a holiday let which has regular change of users. Councillors will circulate another reminder leaflet.

21/060 To agree date of next meeting as Thursday 14th October 2021

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed
Chairman
Date