

Sowerby Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 8th December 2016

Present: Cllr. M. Robson, Cllr. P Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. E. Storm, Cllr S. Hoyland, Cllr. D. Gray and Cllr. G Foxton.

Also present were 3 members of the public, County Cllr. R. Baker, the Clerk Alexandra Little and a representative of North Yorkshire Police.

1. Members of the Public

The Clerk had received an email from a member of the public questioning whether the Chairman, Cllr Robson, should preside over this part of the meeting. It was their opinion that, as he is a District Councillor and Leader of the Council, Cllr Robson should not. The Chairman acknowledged the residents concerns however felt that his 28 years experience as a Parish Councillor, the fact that he has no pecuniary interest in this matter and that no financial decision was to be made he would still preside over this part of the meeting.

Mr L Wiles spoke on behalf of Thirsk Library, advising the council of the situation in which the volunteers find themselves regarding fundraising to be able to keep the library operational. An outline of the library usage was given, explaining that it has 3200 active users and offers other activities such as pre school groups, PC buddies, Primary School Reading Challenge and so on. He discussed business rates, administrative costs and the fact that the 60 volunteers did not want to be spending all their time on fundraising activities. The steering group also plan to approach other villages to ask for financial support.

County Cllr Baker added that the decision regarding funding of libraries made by NYCC, of which County Cllr Dadd was also party, was a difficult one but was necessary.

Councillors were asked for their observations and made the following comments:

- The library is a community asset and we would like to see the Parish Council support the library if possible
- It was disappointing that other Parish Councils hadn't been approached yet
- Have the business rates been reassessed and was the rateable value of the premises correct?
- Have County Cllrs Dadd and Baker been approached for any donation from their available funds?

It was agreed that Sowerby Parish Council feel it is important to do what they can to support the library. Cllr Robson reminded the meeting that Sowerby Parish Council had already pledged to support the library by underwriting up to 50% of any shortfall of the business rates.

Signed:
Chairman
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Other public matters

A resident offered thanks to the County Council for the grit bin on Blakey Lane.

It was requested that the Parish Council look into the matter of speeding in the village and investigate the possibility of a speed camera.

Another member of the public shared their views on the Business Rates being charged to the Library. They consider that the District Council is passing the buck by not waiving the rates and do not accept that it would open up issues with other charity organisations. The Parish Council was invited by the resident to take this matter forward to the District Council and tell them it was wrong. No Councillor comments were made regarding this request.

2. **Apologies for absence** from Cllr A Turner and Cllr. P. Chapman.
3. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council** held on Thursday 10th November 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. **NY Police Incident Report:**
 - 1 Theft
 - 2 Criminal Damage
 - 1 ASB Personal - a word of advice given
 - 3 ASB Nuisance - fighting, shouting and revving of car engines
 - 2 Acts of Violence
 - 5 RTC

NYP are monitoring a number of locations (hot spots) and regularly patrol these areas.

Cllr Bardon reiterated the problem with Green Lane/Croft Head junction parking, the entrance of Saxty Way and also Sowerby Road.

5. **Report from County Councillor Baker:** Cllr Baker was pleased to report that the grit bin had been put in place in 5 days. The drains have also been cleared and rebuilt.

It was put to Cllr Baker that NYCC consider another crossing on Topcliffe Road as it was the feeling of this council that it would be in the interests of safety. Concerns were also raised regarding the change in speed limit from 30 to 20 to 30 MPH on Topcliffe Road and the council would be grateful if Cllr Baker request that this be 20 MPH for the whole section past both Thirsk High School and Sowerby Primary School.

Resolved that the council formally request the addition of a pedestrian crossing on Topcliffe Road in the region of Cocked Hat Park and 20 MPH limit be consistently applied on Topcliffe Road past both schools

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6. Reports from District Councillors:

Cllr Bardon advised that the planning application for 3 Belgrave Terrace was approved at the meeting today.

Cllr Robson had visited the new facilities at Bistro 13 and the care provision in Orchard House which was reported as very good. There will be 2 rooms with step up/step down facilities which will provide palliative care and will be funded by the CCG.

The new art work had been unveiled at Sowerby Gateway which Cllr Robson had attended.

Cllr Gray offered congratulations to the district council on the way it had handled a lighting issue, as a member of their team had phoned with an update, which was gratefully received.

7. To discuss matters arising:

- a. Cllr Bardon and Cllr Hoyland raised concerns about the care to be provided at Orchard House and reiterated that the CCG needs to continue to look at provision of care for the community in Sowerby. Cllr Robson confirmed that other discussions are still taking place regarding use of the Lambert building and Cllr Baker advised that NYCC are still putting pressure on the Health and Scrutiny Group
- b. Cycling Signage on the Flatts footpath is in hand

8. Planning Applications:

see appendix i

Cllr Foxton declared an interest in 8 Mowbray Place.

The land on Sowerby Gateway is still waiting to receive the viability appraisal regarding the percentage of affordable housing and this will be fed back to the Parish Council when received.

Resolved that the Parish Council would like to see the policy of 40% affordable housing adhered to. Cllr Bardon declared an interest as this will be determined by the planning committee of which he is a member.

The Parish Council wish to see all applications approved.

9. Financial Matters:

9a Receipts None

9b To Note and Approve Payments

see appendix ii

10. New Agenda Items:

Thirsk and Sowerby Festival will take place on Sunday 6th August with free admission and lots going on on the Flatts and in the Market Place. A donation towards organisation has been requested from the committee to be paid at a future date. If the event did not go ahead this money would be returned.

Resolved Sowerby Parish Council donate £500 to Thirsk & Sowerby Festival when required

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11. Correspondence for information only

see appendix iii

The land for the Sports Village has been transferred to HDC and a grant of £4500 has been given to Thirsk SK8 park to allow volunteers to plant the boundary area. Cllr Hoyland asked how the committee for the sports village will be constituted and Cllr Robson advised that a representative from the Parish Council will be requested at the time.

12. Sub Committees

Cllr Foxton shared the Town Hall report

13. Any other business that may be legally discussed

Remembrance Sunday had been well attended and Cllr Robson had also been invited to the Thirsk Sixth Form Senior Citizens Christmas Party to represent the Parish Council. This is organised by the School Council and invites are sent to local residents who are entertained and given a light supper by the sixth form, funded via their own fundraising activities.

A local scout group had assisted in the bulb planting on the Memorial Park and the donation as previously agreed will be made.

Cllr Storm raised concern about the footpath behind Blakey Bridge, which will be looked at. A drone has been seen over the play area, Cllr Robson will speak to local police about this.

14. Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th January 2017.

Cllr Robson thanked councillors for their attendance and wished everyone well for the festive season.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

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Chairman
Date:

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Appendix i Planning

Decisions		SPC Comments	Decision
16/02142/FUL	20 Saxty Way Single Storey Extension	Wish to see approved	Granted
16/02338/CAT	48 Topcliffe Road Tree Works	Wish to see approved	Granted
	16/02181/FUL Flat 3, Meadowfields see approved Granted Replacement of window		Wish to
16/01752/ADV	Stoneacre Motor Group Flag Poles	Wish to see approved	Granted
16/02102/ADV	Aldi Store Signage	Wish to see approved	Granted

Applications

16/01950/FUL	30 Saxty Way Retrospective application for the installation of window in place of garage door
16/02402/FUL	8 Mowbray Place Installation of external door
16/02269/REM	Land east of Topcliffe Road Reserved matters in relation to 641 homes

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Appendix ii Finance

Balances

Community Account as 1st November 2016	£ 117,081.65
Business Saver Account Balance as 4th October 2016	£ 9,042.35

Receipts

£ 00.00

Payments

		Chq No	£	VAT
16.11.2016	M Robson Christmas Tree and Related Costs	102203	435.00	
16.11.2016	SGS Additional Maintenance Costs	102202	480.00	
22.11.2016	NEST Standing Order Clerk Pension	n/a		
01.12.2016	Office Rent Standing Order Payment	n/a	312.00	
08.12.2016	Thirsk Chamber of Trade Christmas Lights Donation	102204	250.00	
08.12.2016	Royal British Legion Food and Band	102205	262.50	
08.12.2016	Thirsk School and Sixth Form Senior Citizens Christmas Party	102206	200.00	
08.12.2016	Thirsk Town Council Parish Council Meeting Room Hire Charge	102207	54.94	
08.12.2016	C M A Little Office Heater	102208	25.00	
08.12.2016	St Oswald's Church Donation	102209	1000.00	
15.12.2016	C M A Little Clerk's Salary	SO	737.92	

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Appendix iii Correspondence

Emails have been circulated during the time since the last meeting and no further action necessary

Hambleton Area Committee Meeting 12th October 2016

Letter from D Tucker re Yarnbombers and Remembrance

Town Hall Meeting Report 14th November 2016

Library Steering Group Meeting Minutes 15th November 2016

Copy of letter to Dr J Ives re Library funding

Letter objecting to Local Plan site T/139/002

Hambleton Community Awards Nominations Request

Sowerby Sports Village Update

Signed:
Chairman
Date: