

Sowerby Parish Council

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council
on Thursday 12th February 2026 at 7.30pm in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe.**

Present: Cllr M Robson, Chairman; Cllr P Bardon; Cllr A Jackson; Cllr S Hoyland; Cllr K Till; Cllr C Snowden and Cllr A Turner.

Also Present: Cllr D Sladden, North Yorkshire Council Ward Councillor and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

25/102 Members of the public to raise any items of importance (maximum of 10 minutes)

No members of the public were present.

25/103 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

It was resolved that apologies be received and accepted from Cllr S Bardon, Cllr T Beadle, Cllr Y Bowling and Cllr E Storm

25/104 To approve and sign the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 11th December 2025

It was resolved that the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 11th December 2025 be approved

25/105 To receive report from North Yorkshire Police

No report had been received. Cllr Bardon commented that there were still e-scooters and a car using the Flatts Walk. At 16:15 last Sunday afternoon there was also a petrol engine mountain bike. The Clerk will report this to 101.

25/106 To receive a report from North Yorkshire Council on items of relevance to Sowerby

Cllr Sladden updated members with the following:

1. Some roads in Sowerby are trialling the new red lidded recycling bins as part of 750 across the former Hambleton area, based on the collection being done by a smaller vehicle.
2. Footpaths along Front Street and the Flatts footpath have been redefined ready for the footpaths to be resurfaced and the waste soil has been piled up along the side of the paths.

Members requested that Cllr Sladden give attention to the following:

1. There were cherrypickers working at streetlights on Front Street but they are filthy and have not been cleaned at the same time.
2. Drains have been done in some areas but not on Front Street and parts of Topcliffe Road.
3. Some road sweeping has been undertaken but the impact of this has been minimal as there are weeds growing in the channels. No advance notice was given to allow residents to move cars. Cllr Sladden suggested a meeting with the roadsweeping team and this will be arranged. Councillors also asked if there are any figures available to establish where the drainsweeper has been deployed.
4. Front Street road surface is the worst it has been in 40 years. There are dreadful potholes and worn surfaces. Councillors impressed upon Cllr Sladden that this is desperate for improvement.

A discussion took place in which members commented that there appears to be a degree of apathy amongst residents, which they felt stems from a perception that North Yorkshire Council (NYC) does not engage effectively with local people and lacks accountability. Concerns were also raised regarding value for money and whether resources could be redirected between services, for example prioritising an additional road sweeper rather than installing further litter bins.

It was noted that the Back Lane footpath remains incomplete, with signage having been removed due to being incorrectly sized. Members also reiterated the view that NYC should be more accountable for its costs and that services previously delivered under the former county council arrangements have not been delivered effectively, with some feeling that the situation has worsened since the transition to the unitary authority. Longstanding infrastructure issues were highlighted, including drainage problems on Topcliffe Road first reported eight years ago, ongoing concerns affecting Railway Terrace, and a possible issue with drains at Town End.

In addition, frustration was expressed that improvements to the Gateway junction associated with development and Section 106 contributions remain undelivered some 14 years after they were first proposed. It was also noted that local government faced significant reductions in funding in recent years, under the previous government and that central government support to NYC is not at the level previously provided.

Signed
Chairman
Date

Sowerby Parish Council

25/107 To consider Planning Applications

appendix i

It was resolved that the Clerk will submit comments to the Planning Authority.

25/108 To consider remedial works required for the Parish play areas and approve associated costs

Further to the recent ROSPA report, significant works are required to ensure safety of users in the play areas.

It was resolved that the remedial works be approved and the Clerk will investigate grant funding for replacement equipment

25/109 To agree scope of remedial repairs to the roadway at the entrance to the Parochial Hall

Two quotes had been received to repair the surface of this entrance. It is not the ideal time to undertake these works but a short term solution will be made by scraping back and leveling the existing gravel with a roller with a review taking place in the summer.

It was noted that the Parish Council only does this work because the owner of the lane allows Cllr Robson to arrange it.

It was resolved that the lower quote be accepted as a short term repair and the Clerk will request a donation from the PCC

25/110 Financial Matters

appendix ii

1. To Note Receipts
2. To Note and Approve Payments

It was resolved that payments be made and receipts noted

25/111 To approve the following updated policies: Financial Regulations
Risk Management Policy
Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk

It was resolved that these policies be approved with a review date of May 2028

25/112 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only

The Clerk is continuing to investigate an alternative as there are limited options for face to face banking locally.

25/113 To receive correspondence for information only

A request had been received from a teacher at Thirsk School to look into the possibility of providing a Community Garden. There is no suitable land for this currently.

The Chief Officer at Community Works had written to local organisations encouraging partnering with them and this will be sent to councillors for review.

25/114 To receive reports from Committees and Organisational Representatives

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Works have been undertaken to remove the pigeons living in the Town Hall loft.
Town Hall water pressure has been improved with redistribution of pipes.

25/115 Any other business that may be legally discussed

Items requiring a decision will be placed on a future agenda

An event will take place in the Town Hall to celebrate the return of Honorary Citizen Jasmine Harrison, following her participation in the Mini Globe Race.

25/116 To confirm the date of next meeting as Thursday 12th March 2026

The meeting closed at 20:30

Signed
Chairman
Date

Sowerby Parish Council

Appendix i

Planning Applications

ZB26/00068/FUL Installation at roof level of new plant solution composed of 12x DX units mounted on big foot (or similar) type supports and new access walkways to plant areas. Tesco Station Road Thirsk North Yorkshire

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wishes to see this application approved

ZB26/00016/FUL Application for the replacement of inefficient UPVC windows and doors with like for like UPVC.

17 Victoria Avenue Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wishes to see this application approved subject to the replacement windows being compliant with the Article 4 directive

ZB25/02277/FUL Planning Application for change of use of 1st floor apartments currently C2 use class to open C3 use class.

Lara Nursery/Ruby Court Care Home 1 Elizabeth Court Inspiration Way Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wishes to see this application approved

ZB26/00059/FUL Application for single storey rear extension, internal alterations and alterations to front boundary treatments and widening gated access.

Telford House 8 Sowerby Road Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wishes to see this application approved

ZB25/02250/FUL Retrospective application for a change of use and alterations to existing dwelling to provide hair salon facilities and the erection of a boundary fence.

5C Station Road Thirsk

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wishes to see this application approved

Signed
Chairman
Date