

Sowerby Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annexe on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr M Robson; Cllr T Beadle; Cllr P Bardon; Cllr S Bardon; Cllr S Hoyland; Cllr A Jackson; Cllr C Snowden and Cllr K Till.

Also Present: Six members of the public and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

26/033 Members of the public to raise any items of importance
Residents were present to discuss the planning application at Back Lane.

26/034 To receive apologies for absence

It was resolved that apologies for absence be received and accepted from Cllr Y Bowling; Cllr E Storm and Cllr A Turner

26/035 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th June 2026

It was resolved that minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th June 2026 be approved

26/036 To receive report from North Yorkshire Police

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Bardon asked if there had been any feedback from the Police regarding apprehension of e-scooters. This will be followed up again.

26/037 To receive a report from North Yorkshire Council on items of relevance to Sowerby

Cllr Sladden was not present and he has requested that the Chairman contact him regarding any items that are outstanding in Sowerby. There are a number of wider issues and matters closer to home that are not being fed back to the Council. Cllr Robson advised that, despite requesting Cllr Sladden to come along, he is under no obligation to attend the meetings.

It was resolved to write to him again to express disappointment in his non attendance

26/038 Planning Applications

see appendix i

Residents were present to discuss the application ZB26/00885/OUT.

Residents Comments:

- It was noted that a resident had circulated a note and plan relating to the matter.
- It was commented that the method of notifying the application was inappropriate, with the notice wrapped around a lamppost, which was considered ineffective.
- Members observed that this represents a rare opportunity to tidy up the legacy of a previously messy application, particularly in relation to the roadway and chicane.
- Concern was expressed that vehicular access in the area is already under pressure and is likely to worsen as a result of the proposal.
- The proposed narrowing point was described as unnecessary and ineffective.
- It was noted that the current footpath alignment causes vehicles to strike the kerb when exiting Sandholme Close. A straightened footpath and an inward adjustment of the junction were suggested.
- Members expressed concern about the manner in which the site was cleared, including the felling of trees and removal of the hedge. It was hoped that landscaping reinstatement would be required, given the wildlife previously present on the site.

Signed
Chairman
Date

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- It was noted that Biodiversity Net Gain will be calculated using historic site data (up to ten years), including Google Earth imagery and that a tree-planting scheme will be required at the detailed application stage.
- A query was raised regarding the felling licence for the site and it was noted that no licence had been applied for or granted.
- Although the plans are currently outline, overshadowing concerns were raised for properties on St Oswald's Close and Bede Close, which should be addressed at the detailed stage.
- Members requested that the footpath be completed, as planning approval may take some time.
- It was suggested that the entrance alignment be amended so that it corresponds with Sandholmes Court and is set further back.
- The Planning Officer has raised concerns regarding the height of the proposed five-bedroom dwelling and is liaising with the Planning Consultant to ensure appropriate mitigation.

Members Comments

- Cllr Jackson suggested the site access should be positioned opposite Sandholme Court to best accommodate neighbouring residents.
- Members expressed a wish to retain existing on-street parking provision.
- It was noted that the telegraph post, signage and lamp-post will require relocation as part of the works.
- The possibility of introducing a one-way system was raised for consideration.
- A query was raised regarding responsibility for hedge maintenance; the Clerk confirmed that this matter has been addressed, as the required maintenance has not been carried out.

It was resolved that the Sowerby Parish Council wish to see this application deferred and request the following:

- Amended plans showing improvements to access and roadway alignment
- Maintenance of on street parking
- Clarity around property height

26/039 Financial Matters

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

see appendix ii

It was resolved that payments be made and receipts noted

26/040 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only
No additional items covered.

26/041 To receive correspondence for information only

- A letter had been received regarding hemlock along the side of a public footpath near the Flatts. This has been reported to NYC and they have advised that it will be removed.
- A public consultation had taken place for development on Back Lane Phase 2.
- A resident had expressed concern about a box being put on a post at the back of his house on Back Lane.
- There is ragwort on the Sports Village which needs to be managed as part of the wildflower programme. The Clerk will advise NYC of this issue.
- At the Town Hall Committee Meeting, Cllr Robson had been elected as Chairman for the coming year.

Signed
Chairman
Date

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26/042 To consider any other business that may be legally discussed

Items which require a decision will be placed on the next meeting agenda

26/043 To confirm the date of next meeting as Thursday 10th September 2026

It was resolved that the date and time of the next meeting will be Thursday 10th September 2026

The meeting closed at 2027

Appendix i - Planning

ZB26/00979/MRC Application for modification/removal of condition 2 (plans) and 3 (external materials) for previously approved application ZB24/00740/FUL Thirsk Farmers Auction Mart Thirsk Rural Business Centre Blakey Lane Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wish to see the application approved

ZB26/00885/OUT Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved considering Access and Layout for erection of up to 7no. dwellings Land To South Of St Oswalds Close Back Lane Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wish to see the application deferred

ZB26/00896/FUL Retention of a small, simple, lightweight ancillary stock-storage structure in the narrow side passage at the side/rear of the existing convenience store 1 Back Lane Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wish to see the application approved

ZB26/00874/FUL Application to demolish current wall separating the yard of applicants property and that of number 3 South Crescent. Rebuild to original height of 1.8 metres between the rear of the property. 2 South Crescent Sowerby

It was resolved that Sowerby Parish Council wish to see the application approved

Signed
Chairman
Date