

Sowerby Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council on Thursday 13th November at 7.30pm in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall Annexe.

Present: Cllr M Robson, Chairman; Cllr P Bardon; Cllr S Bardon; Cllr T Beadle; Cllr Y Bowling; Cllr S Hoyland; Cllr A Jackson; Cllr C Snowden; Cllr E Storm, Cllr A Turner and Cllr K Till.

Also present: Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

25/078 No members of the public present.

25/079 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

All councillors were present.

Cllr D Sladden, North Yorkshire Council (NYC) had given apologies for the meeting.

25/080 To approve and sign the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 10th October 2025

It was resolved that the minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 10th October 2025 be approved

25/081 To receive report from North Yorkshire Police

No report had been received.

Cllr Bardon raised the continuing issue with vehicles driving on the Flatts Walk and with e scooters.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Police asking what had been done to deal with this issue and what members of the public should do if they witnessed this issue.

25/082 To receive a report from North Yorkshire Council on items of relevance to Sowerby

1. No report had been received.
2. A copy of an email had been sent to the Clerk advising that the Conservative Club had been given 28 days to reinstate the fallen wall. It is understood that an application will be submitted to replace this wall with a close boarded fence. The available space along the footpath is being reduced as a result of the plastic barriers being laid down on the floor. The Clerk will raise this with Area2 Highways.
3. Roadworks on Front Street have not been done and signage is still in place. There has also been no prior notice in writing of these works.
4. Topcliffe Road works are ongoing but the water is still unable to get down the new drains as the soil and weeds on the roadside are preventing the water from flowing.
5. Gulleys and drains are blocked around the village in general but specifically on Front Street, this will be reported to Area2.

25/083 To consider Planning Applications

appendix i

1. No planning applications had been received at the time of the agenda.
2. A licensing request for a nanobrewery on Topcliffe Road had been raised by a resident as they were concerned that there would be traffic movements at the back of this property and people drinking on the premises. Based on the details of the application, which confirms that no sales or collections will take place from the property, the Parish Council has no issues with this.

25/084 Financial Matters

appendix ii

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

It was resolved that receipts be noted and payments made.

3. To consider a budget and agree precept requirements for 2026/2027

A detailed budget was discussed including the projected balance of the council account at the financial year end. This included consideration of the potential for tree works and play area maintenance and repairs. The increase to this budget will equate to 3.9% or £2.12 increase per year on a Band D property.

Signed
Chairman
Date

Sowerby Parish Council

It was resolved that the budget for 2026 2027 will be agreed as £136,400

It was resolved that the Clerk will submit the precept request of £137,000 to North Yorkshire Council

25/085 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only

1. No further update had been received regarding the deterioration of the concrete adjacent to Pack Horse Bridge
2. Flags removed but not other items on the lampposts - can report this online via the portal
3. A meeting is taking place with Area2 Highways to update the council on the Station Road works.
4. Remedial works from the Play Area inspection have been undertaken.

25/086 To receive correspondence for information only

1. A resident has raised concerns about the village roadways outside his property on Front Street as there is an uneven surface. The Chairman has looked at the surface and will ensure that any uneven areas are levelled out when the weather improves in the spring.
2. The Vicar has requested that someone from the council read at the Carol Service on 21st Dec at 6pm. The Clerk will do this.
3. A Town Investment Plan meeting will take place and councillors are invited to join on 18th November at 1300 - 1530.

25/087 To receive reports from Committees and Organisational Representatives

A Town Hall Committee Meeting had taken place and Cllr Robson reported that the water pressure was being investigated as it is very low, causing issues with flushing the toilets. Also lights on the annexe side of the building will be replaced with LED lights on a sensor.

25/088 Any other business that may be legally discussed

Items requiring a decision will be placed on a future agenda

1. Changes to NYC Bin collections had caused some issues but seem to have settled down. Recycling was discussed as some information had suggested that NYC no longer process the recycling separately. The Clerk will check this.
2. NYC Annual Budget Consultation has suggested a deficit is expected and Parish Councillors were urged to reply to this consultation. NYC Unitary Authority promised to bring one council being more efficient, delivering all services and offering £45 million savings but this is not the current position. There have been no signs of these savings and a decline in services with no local delivery. Concern was raised about what happened to all the monetary assets that were transferred over to NYC from Hambleton District Council. Members feel strongly that NYC does not listen to the Town and Parishes.
3. Works on the footpath at the back of the TIC in the Market Place is taking longer than expected due to the erosion of the path.
4. There is no indication that the construction of a lift at the railway station is imminent.
5. Repairs had been done to a flower tub at the Town End.
6. A resident had phoned the office to report that there had been devastating removal of habitat for wildlife on a plot on Back Lane. Shrubs and trees had been pulled out, scrub has been removed and the land cleared. It was noted that this is private land, not in a conservation area and with no protected trees. There has been no maintenance on this site for many years. It was confirmed that should a planning application be submitted the Parish Council will consider this and make comments.
7. The Carol service around the tree will take place on 16th December at 1900.
8. The Remembrance Sunday parade went smoothly and a debrief meeting will be held with stakeholders to ensure any learning points were covered.

Thanks were offered to Cleancore UK for the cleaning of the cenotaph and planters at the Town End in advance of Remembrance.

25/089 To confirm the date of next meeting as Thursday 11th December 2025

It was resolved that the next meeting will be Thursday 11th December at 1930

The meeting closed at 20:40

Signed
Chairman
Date