

Sowerby Parish Council

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council held at Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Annexe on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.30pm

Cllr Robson gave a verbal tribute to the late Cllr Andrew George Turner, who passed away recently after a battle with cancer. Cllr Turner had joined the Parish Council on 13th October 2005 and served until his death. Condolences were offered to his wife, family and friends and it was noted that a great many people had attended the funeral to pay their respects. A moment's silence was upheld in memory of Cllr Turner.

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

Also Present: One member of the public, Cllr Dan Sladden North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and Alexandra Robson, Clerk.

26/044 Members of the public to raise any items of importance (maximum of 10 minutes)

A resident raised concerns regarding the promised improvements to Thirsk Station, including the installation of an accessible lift, noting that the work has been delayed. It was suggested that Thirsk should be given priority over Northallerton, as the station layout includes a pull-in area which helps to reduce delays. The resident also expressed support for ongoing efforts to encourage LNER and CrossCountry to increase the number of trains stopping at Thirsk.

Cllr Sladden advised that the York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Office is keen to progress the project and that delivery by 2029 is considered achievable.

It was agreed that the Council will write to K Hollinrake and the Mayor to establish the correct position.

26/045 To receive apologies for absence

All councillors were present.

26/046 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th July 2026

It was resolved that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th July 2026 be approved

26/047 To receive report from North Yorkshire Police

No report had been received.

26/048 To receive a report from North Yorkshire Council (NYC) on items of relevance to Sowerby

Cllr Sladden added his condolences to Andrew Turner's wife and family.

Cllr Sladden reiterated his apologies for not attending the meetings and he advised that he is working to represent residents in the Sowerby area at NYC but he is not NYC. He also responded to a question regarding attendance at NYC in the last financial year by confirming that this was caused by a health issue.

He advised that the Thirsk Town Investment Plan is progressing and further development is underway. Cllr Sladden will send the most recent document about this to the Clerk.

Cllr Robson highlighted several matters that are outstanding which fall under the remit of NYC:

- Road surfaces around the village, in particular Front Street, are in terrible condition.
- Gravel Hole Lane has significant potholes. Many other roads around the area are similar.
- Significant damage to the road surface on South Moor Road, after Sowerby Parks on the left towards Dalton.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Sowerby Parish Council

- Drains:
 - Outside St Oswalds Church.
 - Gravel Hole Lane and the full length of Front Street.
 - Junction with Front St and Back Lane.
 - Station Road from Tesco. (attenuation tank work at Carlton Miniott should resolve this March 2027)
- Despite a meeting with Street Scene and their assurances, weeds are still growing significantly in the gutters.
- Litter bins are not being emptied in a timely manner, a key area is on Dondeen Avenue/Freemans Way. Council should not have to report this into NYC, as it is a standard function they should be provided.
- Town End realignment is still outstanding from the Taylor Wimpey S106 Condition from 2011 agreement.
- Lack of progress with matters being fed into NYC. There is no sign of working closely with town and parish councils. An example of three site meetings with a tree officer which has still not produced an outcome was given.
- There is an issue with reporting paths matters on the portal. Cllr Bardon gave a similar example regarding waste.
- Kings Meadows works are to be done on the roads and footpaths, residents are concerned that this road will be closed and they will not have access. No proper communication had taken place with householders about what is going to happen and the impact on the household.
- NYC continued investment in Brierly Homes is a concern to residents and feedback on this would be appreciated.
- Is there any indication about how the updated National Planning Policy Framework may impact the ward.

Members reiterated that the Parish Council is the first tier of local government and should have ready access to information, rather than having to fight for it.

Concerns were raised regarding the financial position of North Yorkshire Council and whether funds are being spent wisely on projects. Members noted the cost implications of inaction following meetings, describing this as inefficient and a waste of time. It was felt that the Council is becoming increasingly removed from the communities it serves. Members emphasised that basic issues are those most noticed by residents and therefore should be prioritised.

It was further noted that NYC's mapping software is not up to date and that some NYC staff appear unclear about their areas of responsibility, for example in relation to The Flatts.

26/049 Planning Applications

A list of decisions was relayed to councillors verbally.

Applications were considered.

see appendix i

It was resolved that the Clerk will submit these comments to the planning authority

26/050 Financial Matters

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

It was resolved that receipts be noted and payments made

The Clerk advised council of the Local Government Pay Award of 3.3% and this will be implemented, backdated to April.

26/051 To consider quotations received for village green roadway improvements

Three quotations had been sought for the improvement of the road entrances on the areas around the village greens. One had been received for £1,550 + VAT. No further contractors had supplied quotes.

It was resolved that this quote will be accepted and the works completed as soon as possible

Signed:
Chairman
Date:

Sowerby Parish Council

26/052 To update council on matters arising from minutes for information only

1. Comments had been submitted to the planning authority regarding ZB26/00885/OUT. Discussions are taking place between the officers, Highways team and developer taking these matters into consideration.

26/053 To receive correspondence for information only

1. A resident of the Gateway had asked if the PC could consider putting the Christmas Tree on the estate in a more suitable location. The resident was advised that the Parish Council tree is located on Front Street, Sowerby and has the Carol Service for the benefit of the village. Should a formal arrangement be required, this would need to be put in place by the developer or done with their permissions.

26/054 To consider any other business that may be legally discussed

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

1. Aire Valley Tree Services are coming to review the low lying branches and deadwood.
2. A Remembrance Event Organisation Meeting will take place on 23rd September.
3. There are a number of play area remedial matters.
 - a. Matting around the slide in the play area is lifting, this will be dealt with under warranty.
 - b. The zipwire has been out of use, but a new cable has now been fitted. There is significant wear to the wooden frame and costs will be found for a replacement part.

26/055 To confirm the date of next meeting as Thursday 8th October 2026

It was resolved that the date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 8th October at 1930

The meeting closed at 2040

Appendix i - Planning

26/04220/TCON Application to fell a Scotts Pine and works to a Silver Birch in a conservation area.

14 Blakey Lane.

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

26/04290/FUL Application for the Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single-storey extension to rear of existing bungalow.

11 The Grange, Sowerby, YO7 1NA.

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

26/03478/FUL

Two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling.

40 Kings Meadows, Sowerby, YO7 1PA.

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

Signed:
Chairman
Date: