

**ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting  
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on  
Monday 4 December 2023 at 7.00pm

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Simon Atkinson; Councillor Nichola Barningham; Councillor P Harker; Councillor R Stones; Councillor S Stubbs (Chair)

**In attendance:** S Dray (Clerk)

**068-23/24 Audio/visual recording**

The Chair reminded all present of the council's expectations for audio or video recording of the meeting

**069-23/24 Apologies and reasons for absence**

None

**070-23/24 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**071-23/24 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 October 2023 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

**072-23/24 Public Session**

No requests from parishioners had been received.

**073-23/24 Clerk's report**

- 073.1 It was noted that NYC had confirmed with YDNPA that the footbridge at the watersplash was their asset, and that they would maintain it. It was confirmed that the Parish Council was not responsible for any costs relating to this bridge.
- 073.2 A request to respond to the NYC Draft Housing Strategy consultation was noted. It was agreed that councillors would look at the online consultation and individually decide whether or not to respond, as the consultation appeared to be targeted at individuals, not councils.
- 073.3 The Police reports for October and November were noted.
- 073.4 The NYC consultation on polling districts and polling places was noted.
- 073.5 It was noted that a request had been received from the Upper Dales Community Land Trust to attend a future council meeting to outline plans to undertake a housing survey in order to make the case for affordable housing in the dale.
- 073.6 Councillors received an update on the progress of the Community Emergency Group and considered their request to cover the cost of room hire (£30) for their initial meeting on 7 November 2023 from the Council's Community Emergency Fund account, and to also consider the transfer of these funds to the CEG. It was agreed to make a one-off payment for the room hire from the council's CE Fund

account and to advise the CEG that the Community Emergency funds held by the parish council were available for them to spend for CE related projects and items through the parish council's grant scheme. It was agreed that as these funds were public money, the council needed to be able to account for how they were spent, and the grant application process would achieve this.

- 073.7 Councillors received an update on the current situation with the "Booze residents only" bins in Langthwaite car park. It was noted that NYC were hoping that the new locks and the refreshed signage would stop the fly-tipping. One of the new locks had already needed changing, and NYC were still monitoring the situation.
- 073.8 It was noted that several residents had expressed their gratitude about the newly installed replacement defibrillator at the CB Inn.
- 073.9 Councillors considered a request to contribute to the consultation on the *Draft Statement of Community Involvement* (North Yorkshire Local Plan) and it was agreed not to make a submission as none of the councillors was able to commit the necessarily large amount of time required to complete it before the deadline on 22/12/23.
- 073.10 It was noted that the North Yorkshire Police had advised that they would be attending future meetings as and when their duties allowed.
- 073.11 An update on the A66 Trans-Pennine Project was noted, specifically that the Secretary of State for Transport had decided to extend the deadline for consent to start construction until 7/3/2024.
- 073.12 A response from Openreach about the switchover to digital telephones and the removal of the copper cables had been received via Rishi Sunak MP. This was considered in relation to the concerns of several parishioners about the lack of information about the potential replacement technology for analogue telephones in a long-term power cut. It was noted that there was very little information currently available about the switchover plans for our particular area, and more specifically how general support information would apply to Arkengarthdale, which currently lacked a mobile phone signal. It was agreed to wait until more information, specific to the dale, was available before taking any further action.
- 073.13 A request from NYC to circulate information regarding a Household Waste Recycling public consultation was noted. It was also noted that this consultation document had been circulated to residents via the council's residents mailing list.
- 073.14 The latest newsletter from the YDNPA dated 27 November 2023 was noted.

**074-23/24**      **Items requested by councillors**  
There were no items requested.

**075-23/24**      **Christmas lights**  
It was noted that the Christmas lights had been put up on High Green during the week, by Cllrs Stubbs and Harker, Jack Stones, and George Harker. Thanks were expressed to all, and a special mention of thanks was expressed to the owners of High Green for the use of their electricity.

- 076-23/24 Precept**  
It was noted that the precept request for 2024/25 had been submitted. This was for £4750, an increase of £250 on last year.
- 077-23/24 Risk assessment**  
The draft risk assessment was noted. It was agreed that, given the shortage of time, this would be considered and approved at the next meeting in January.
- 078-23/24 Bench survey**  
Councillors received an update on the progress of identifying the owners and relevant licences of the 24 benches in the parish. It was noted that this had proved difficult owing to a lack of historic records and, in addition, NYC had not been forthcoming in providing a list of licences. Notwithstanding this, it had been possible to identify most of the benches that belonged to the parish council. This information would be considered and confirmed at the next meeting in January.
- 079-23/24 Maintenance**
- 079.1 A quote for the treating of two benches on High Green was considered. It was noted that advice had been sought, and that the timber used for the two benches in question did not require treatment. It was agreed not to treat these benches.
- 079.2 Quotes for the refurbishment of the ore cart on High Green had been received and were considered. It was agreed to accept a quote from Mr Jeremy Moon, painter and decorator, for the painting of the ore cart, in two colours, for the cost of the materials only. The labour had been kindly offered free of charge, as this was a community project. Councillors expressed their gratitude for this gesture. It was noted that the supporting timber struts would need replacing with hard timber before the cart could be painted and the council was still awaiting a quote for this job.
- 080-23/24 Highways**  
The following updates were received:
- 080.1 Damaged bridge at Whaw: This had been added to a programme of works and had not been deemed urgent.
- 080.2 Damaged wall at Park Head Bridge: This had been added to a programme of works and had not been deemed urgent.
- 080.3 Grass cutting agreement with NYC: It was noted that Highways would not cut the grass verges that they were responsible for unless the need to cut them had been reported to them. They no longer surveyed the verges. It was agreed that next summer Councillors would monitor the verges at the road junctions in order to ensure that the grass was cut.
- 080.4 Riverside retaining wall at Whaw: It was noted that this had been completed.
- 081-23/24 Planning**  
There were no planning issues.
- 082-23/24 North Yorkshire Councillor's report**  
Councillor Peacock was not present at the meeting, owing to a last-minute decision not to attend due to the bad weather conditions. Councillors had hoped to receive a report on the changes to NYC's gritting policy which had left the dale with treacherously icy roads over the current cold spell of the past week, and which had resulted in several incidents. It was agreed to write a letter of complaint to Highways and copy to Rishi Sunak, MP for Richmondshire, and to ask the other parish councils in Swaledale and Upper Wensleydale to do the same.
- 083-23/24 Financial matters**
- 083.1 The bank balances as at 28 November 2023 were noted as follows:
- |                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Current account             | £5248.27 |
| Community Emergency account | £ 816.54 |
| Seat Maintenance account    | £1147.50 |

083.2 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

St Mary's Church	Room hire Apr/Jun/Aug/Sep/Oct	£ 150.00
S Dray	backpay (Jun-Dec)	£ 122.50
S Coleman	grass-cutting	£ 724.50

083.3 Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:

S Dray	Salary October & November 2023	£ 407.06
The RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath	£ 30.00

083.4 There were no receipts.

083.5 It was noted that the application was underway to open a savings account with a higher interest rate.

083.6 The new rates of pay for local council employees were noted. These were applicable from 1 April 2023 to 1 March 2024. It was proposed that the clerk should receive the recommended back pay for the period June-December 2023 as a one-off payment, and that from January 2024 the clerk's salary would increase in line with the new rate of pay.

**084-23/24**      **Date of next meeting:** Monday 8 January 2024

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.