

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 1 July 2024 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. S Atkinson; Cllr. N Barningham; Cllr. P Harker; Cllr. R Stones; Cllr. S Stubbs (Chair); County Cllr. Y Peacock

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk); D Southwell (for item 025); P Whickham (for item 025)

021-24/25 Audio/visual recording

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

022-24/25 Apologies and reasons for absence

There were no apologies.

023-24/25 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

024-24/25 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 May 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

025-24/25 Public Session – Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)

25.1 The Council received a proposal from the ACEG to become a subcommittee of the Parish Council in order to benefit from the Council's governance and financial structures and policies. The following points were made in discussion:

- The purpose of the ACEG was to both develop a Community Emergency Plan and to buy the necessary equipment to enable the set up of a community HQ in an emergency.
- The Parish Council was very keen to support the development of an Emergency Plan, on the understanding that the Plan would be a community-led initiative. The council did not have the necessary time and funds available to administrate and oversee an Emergency Plan, and was therefore not in favour of the creation of a Parish Council sub-committee. It had been for this reason that the community had been invited to consider taking on the project last year.

25.2 In order to solve the Group's need for a bank account and treasurer, the Council proposed that the Group could make use of a dedicated Parish Council bank account, through which their grants and other funds could be managed, via the Clerk. It was noted that the feasibility and practicalities of this needed to be checked with YLCA, along with implications for insurance and liability.

25.3 It was agreed that ACEG would look into the ways in which the Melbecks CEG and Parish Council worked together, as this might be instructive.

- 25.4 It was proposed that, should the ACEG wish, the matter would be placed on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting for further discussion, by which time more detail about the proposed option and the Melbecks situation would be known.

026-24/25 D-Day anniversary

The Council received a report from the vice-Chair on the D-D anniversary event. It was noted that it had been a success, with about 40 attendees, and made memorable by a sudden downpour on an otherwise sunny evening, which started as the group arrived on foot at the Cenotaph from Langthwaite, and stopped as everyone entered the Church for refreshments. Grateful thanks were expressed to Ruth Postlethwaite for her home-baked refreshments, to Paul Hutchinson for playing his trumpet, and to Chris Best for a very informative talk on the history of families in the dale involved in, or affected by, the D-Day events.

027-24/25 Clerk's report

- 27.1 The police reports for the period May-June 2024 were noted.
- 27.2 It was noted that the handover from the Barker Partnership to Dawsons for payroll services had been completed.
- 27.3 It was noted that the date for NYC's Executive Meeting where recommendations for changes to the school transport policy would be considered had been rescheduled for 16 July 2024 and that Cllr. Rutter from Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh Parish Council was intending to attend and speak on behalf of the parishes in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. A response to the Council's letter of objection had been received from Rishi Sunak, in which was enclosed a response to Rishi Sunak from NYC. This was noted. It was noted that Muker Parish Council had also been actively objecting to the new transport policy and had received the same standard responses that did not address any of the specific local concerns. It was agreed to wait until after the election and after the 16 July meeting before considering any further action.
- 27.4 A reminder to attend the Richmondshire Branch Annual Meeting on 13 June at Colburn had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that apologies had been sent on behalf of the Council's representatives who had work commitments.
- 27.5 The notice of a UK Parliamentary Election to be held on 4 July 2024 had been received from NYC Electoral Services and was noted.
- 27.6 The public notice and agenda of a meeting of the Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee held on 17 June 2024 in Northallerton was noted. This had been circulated to councillors by email prior to the 17 June.
- 27.7 A request was considered from a resident in Langthwaite for 'residents only' parking spaces on the parish land along the wall near the pinfold because: (a) visitors in holiday cottages were parking multiple cars per holiday let and (b) building skips were regularly standing in parking spaces for long periods of time. The request was considered. It was noted that over the years a lot of time had been invested in trying to work out the best compromise for parking in Langthwaite, and it was unanimously agreed that the informal first-come-first-served system currently in place was still the best solution given the severe shortage of space, and the fact that no one, whether resident or visitor, had a legal right to park on parish green.
- 27.8 Notice of the YLCA Joint Annual Meeting at Drax Hall near Selby on Saturday 20 July 2024 was noted. It was considered sending up to two representatives but no councillors were available to attend on that date.

028-24/25 Review of Data Protection Policy

The following documents, relating to the Data Protection Policy were considered:

- 28.1 Publications Scheme: reviewed and approved.
- 28.2 Privacy Notice: reviewed and approved.

029-24/25 Planning

The following planning application was considered despite having been received on 27 June after the publication of the agenda as it required a response by 18 July: R/01/70B Stables at Braeside, Arkle Town: Full planning permission for erection of animal stable.

The council had no objections.

030-24/25 Items requested by councillors

There were no items requested.

031-24/25 North Yorkshire Councillor's report

Cllr Peacock's report focussed on providing updates from Highways on the issues listed in item 032 below.

032-24/25 Highways

- 32.1 Blocked cattlegrid at the watersplash: It was noted that a quotation for the cleansing of the cattle grid near the watersplash had been requested by Highways and it was expected to be undertaken in the very near future.
- 32.2 Collapsed wall at Foregill Bridge: It was noted that an update had been received from NYC Customer Services in June stating that the construction of the temporary road would start on 1 July, with the works to the retaining walls due for completion by Autumn 2025. It was noted that the work on the temporary road had not in fact started today (1 July) and but there had been confirmation from Highways that NYC's Structures Team would be commencing the work shortly.
- 32.3 Visibility verges: The Council heard that NYC records showed that the junction visibility splay at both Bouldershaw road end, Arkle Town and opposite High Green were on a schedule to be cut by NYC's urban grass cutting contractor, and that it had been observed today (1 July) that the verges had not in fact been cut at Bouldershaw road end, or Arkle Town. NYC were chasing this up. It was noted by NYC that the verge opposite High Green had been cut but not by NYC, perhaps by one of the residents.
- 32.4 Highways site visit in June: [Item 015.2 refers.]
It was noted that the site visit between Highways, the Chair, and Cllr Peacock did not take place in June. However, NYC were able to provide updates on the following issues that had been due to be discussed during the visit:
32.4.1 Booze Road: The blocked drain had been cleared but there was concern about an additional problem with the drain near the corner. Highways were intending to attend to it later in the year. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored and that the Highways Area1 Maintenance Manager should be informed of any issues.
32.4.2 Potholes on the Eskeleth to Seal Houses road: Highways reported that some patching had taken place, and that it had been observed more recently that there were other 'actionable pothole defects' between Seal Houses and Whaw. A works order would be issued to repair these as quickly as possible.
32.4.3 Potholes on Stang Lane: It was noted that the Highways Area1 Maintenance Manager had requested an inspection of this road and for any 'actionable defects' to be actioned where necessary.
- 32.5 Roadside edges and deep potholes from Arkle Town to Tan Hill: The poor state of the Arkengarthdale Road from one end of the parish to the other (and beyond to Tan Hill) was noted. The road edges and potholes were particular bad near Shepherd's Lodge and Beck Crooks. It was agreed to contact Highways and send photos.

033-24/25 Ore Cart

It was noted that the renovation of the ore cart was still underway at Hawes, and that given that the end date for the grant was in August, it would be prudent to approve the amounts for both quotations for the work prior to being invoiced. This would avoid any delays in payment. The following quotations were duly approved in anticipation of receiving identical invoices:

WJ&CM Lambert	Repairs to Ore Cart	£820plus VAT	£984
Jeremy Moon	Paint for ore cart		£ 75

034-24/25 Financial matters

34.1 The bank balances as at 25 June 2024 were noted as follows:

Current account	£6253.93
Community Emergency account	£ 793.37
Seat Maintenance account	£ 19.69
Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account	£1151.86

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

S Dray	Salary May 2024	£221.03
The Barker Partnership	Payroll Apr-May	£ 72.00

34.3 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

S Dray	Salary June 2024	£ 252.60
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34.4 The following receipts were noted:

Interest on CEP account - May	£	0.98
Interest on Seat Maint. account - May	£	0.02
Interest on Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account May	£	4.06

34.5 Virement

A proposal to vire £500 from the Liquidity Manager account to the current account was considered. It was agreed that this would be a temporary measure in case the funds were required in the remainder of the current financial year, owing to the cost of the Clerk's additional hours in 2023/24. The funds would be repaid back into the Liquidity Manager account at the end of the financial year, or earlier if feasible. The transfer would require 95 days' notice and it was agreed to give this notice immediately.

34.6 A statement of receipts and payments for the first quarter was noted.

035-24/25 Clerk's balance of hours

The Clerk reported that over the last 3 months (Apr-June) she had been paid for 60 hours but had worked 67 hours. It was expected that the difference of 7 hours would balance in the coming months, now that the bulk of the work for the audit, the asset register and the risk assessment had been completed.

036-24/25 Annual review of assets

The asset register was noted and it was agreed to undertake the annual survey of the Council's assets before the next meeting on 2 September. The assets for inspection were shared out among the councillors and the clerk.

037-24/25 Date of next meeting: Monday 2 September 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.