

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 2 September 2024 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

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

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk); A Fuller, D Southwell, & P Whickham (for item 043)

038-24/25 Audio/visual recording

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

039-24/25 Apologies and reasons for absence

39.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Stones.

39.2 Cllr Stones's reason for absence was considered and approved.

040-24/25 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

041-24/25 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 1 July 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

042-24/25 Public Session

There had been no requests from members of the public.

043-24/25 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)

43.1 Councillors heard from members of the ACEG that they would like to accept the offer from the Parish Council to hold its funds in a dedicated bank account. This would be the existing 'Community Emergency' bank account with a current balance of £795.

43.2 It was agreed that the following would be undertaken:

- A draft risk assessment would be drawn up by the ACEG and the Clerk to be approved at a future Parish Council meeting;
- Any ACEG assets would be addressed in the risk assessment and would be listed on the Parish Council's asset register;
- The Parish Council insurers would be contacted and informed of the change;
- The ACEG would have a standing item on future meeting agendas and representatives would be able to speak under this item;
- A member of the ACEG would be confirmed as the contact person for all financial matters between the Parish Council and the ACEG;
- It was noted that the Parish Council could only make payments from the ACEG's bank account by BACS (not by cash, cheque or card) upon receipt of an invoice or receipt.

43.3 County Councillor Peacock offered the ACEG the opportunity to accept a grant from her Locality Budget for six 2-way radios and six chargers.

The ACEG accepted this offer and it was agreed that the Group would apply via the Parish Council for £400 from the Locality Budget and contribute £50 from the Community Emergency account.

044-24/25 Clerk's report

- 44.1 The police reports for the period June-August 2024 were noted.
- 44.2 NYC Home to School Transport policy: The outcome of NYC's Executive Meeting held on 16 July 2024 was noted, where recommendations for changes to the school transport policy were approved. It was noted that the Council had subsequently sent a Freedom of Information request to NYC for specific costings and risk assessments for the new bus routes, and that a response had been received from NYC stating that this information did not exist. Options for further action were discussed and it was agreed to write to the local MP (Rishi Sunak) and the Transport Secretary (Lousie Haigh) to ask for their help in asking NYC to reconsider their new policy.
- 44.3 A notification was noted from NYC that the first stage of the Government's consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, and other changes to the planning system would now take place in 2025 rather than in December 2024 as originally scheduled.
- 44.4 Information was noted from NYC about the Boundary Commission Parish Sector's online briefing which was held on 29 August 2024. Joining details for the meeting had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.
- 44.5 A notification from LMC Planning was noted about proposed telecoms upgrade works to the mast at High Seal Houses by the Home Office.
- 44.6 It was noted that several complaints had been received about the removal of memorial plaques on the bridge over the watersplash on the Bouldershaw road. It was noted that the bridge was a NYC asset and had recently been renovated in conjunction with the YDNPA. Complaints had been directed to the YDNPA and NYC.
- 44.7 It was noted that the report from the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, had been received along with the *Notice of Conclusion of Audit*. The invoice for the audit was considered and it was agreed that St Mary's Church would be approached and asked to cover the net cost of £210.00 [Minute 010.7-24/25 refers].
- 44.8 Arrangements for the Clerk's annual appraisal were considered. It was agreed that the Chair would consult with councillors to arrange for the appraisal, which would be conducted outside of the meetings.

045-24/25 Planning

No planning applications had been received.

046-24/25 Items requested by councillors

- 46.1 Footbridge at Fothering Holme (Woodhouse)
A complaint received by Cllr Atkinson about the poor state of the stone walls on either side of the bridge was considered. The bridge (which had been demolished by the flood in 2019) had been replaced about a year ago by NYC in agreement with YDNPA. Cllr Peacock agreed to follow this up with NYC.
- 46.2 Remembrance Wreath
Cllr Barningham noted that the timing of the next meeting was close to Remembrance Sunday and therefore the purchase of a wreath needed to be considered. It was agreed to order a wreath and donate the same amount as last year (£30) to the Royal British Legion.

047-24/25 North Yorkshire Councillor's report

Cllr Peacock reported the following:

- The bad weather earlier in the year had delayed road repairs, but these were now being dealt with;
- A feasibility study was underway which was gathering information about the travel needs of people who travel to jobs in the dales.

048-24/25 Highways

- 48.1 Potholes: It was noted that the potholes between Eskeleth and Seal Houses and along the Arkengarthdale road towards Tan Hill had not yet been filled. Cllr Peacock agreed to follow this up.
- 48.2 Collapsed wall at Foregill Bridge: It was noted that an update had been received from the team working on the road, and the temporary road would open in September. A complaint had been received in July from a resident of Arkle Town about the initial position of the welfare unit which was obstructing the view for vehicles existing Arkle Town in the first week of the works. This had been rectified as soon as space had been made for the unit away from the road.
- 48.3 Visibility verges: It was noted that there had been no cuts of the 'visibility' verges by NYC this year, or in the last few years. Cllr Peacock agreed to look into this.
- 48.4 Blocked drain on Booze hill: It was noted that this job had been started but had not yet been finished.

049-24/25 Ore Cart

- 49.1 It was noted that the repaired ore cart was now back on High Green, and that the refurbishment was an excellent job. Cllr Stones was thanked for liaising with the contractor and transporting the cart between Arkengarthdale and Hawes.
- 49.2 Discrepancies between the quotes for both jobs and their actual costs were noted as follows:

| | <u>Quote</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| WJ&CM Lambert | £820 + £164 VAT | £870 + £174 VAT | £60 |
| Jeremy Moon | £75 | £79.04 + £15.81 VAT | £19.85 |

It was agreed that these would have to be covered by the Council as these were not recoverable from the grant.

- 49.3 It was noted that an extension to the project had been granted by the funders and the project deadline had been moved from 31 August to 31 October 2024. It was agreed that once the cart had been painted the Project Completion form should be submitted and the funds reclaimed.

050-24/25 Financial matters

- 50.1 The bank balances as at 27 August 2024 were noted as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Current account | £3528.40 |
| Community Emergency account | £ 795.29 |
| Seat Maintenance account | £ 19.74 |
| Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account | £1159.65 |

- 50.2 Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| S Dray | Salary Jul & Aug 2024 | £ 505.20 |
| WJ&CM Lambert | Ore cart renovation | £1044.00 |
| S Dray | Back pay for 2023/24 | £1319.83 |

- 50.3 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| St Mary's Church | Room hire Mar/May/Jul | £ 90.00 |
| PKF Littlejohn LLP | External Audit fee | £252.00 |
| RBL | Remembrance Wreath | £ 30.00 |

| | | |
|------|---|---------|
| 50.4 | The following receipts were noted: | |
| | HMRC VAT refund | £143.50 |
| | Interest on CEP account – June & July | £ 1.92 |
| | Interest on Seat Maint. account - June & July | £ 0.05 |
| | Interest on Liquidity Mgr Seat Maint. June & July | £ 7.79 |

051-24/25 Clerk's balance of hours

The Clerk reported that at the end of August there were four hours in hand.

052-24/25 Maintenance

The annual survey of the Council's assets, undertaken since the last meeting, was considered. There were no outstanding maintenance issues.

053-24/25 Date of next meeting: Monday 4 November 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.