

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 4 November 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); P Wickham (for item 059)

054-24/25 Audio/visual recording

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

055-24/25 Apologies and reasons for absence

55.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Stones.

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

056-24/25 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

057-24/25 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 September 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

058-24/25 Public Session

There had been no requests from members of the public.

059-24/25 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)

59.1 Councillors considered information from the insurers regarding liability when holding an unregistered community group's funds. It was agreed that under these circumstances a comprehensive and clear service agreement and risk assessment would need to be agreed by both parties, which would need to include a process by which any payment had to be approved by the Parish Council prior to payment and that all payments for goods and services would be paid directly by the Parish Council to the suppliers. All invoices would need to be made to the Parish Council's postal address. No reimbursements would be made from the Parish Council to personal bank accounts, and ACEG members would be made aware that they could not pay for any goods or services personally.

59.2 It was agreed that a financial risk assessment would form part of the service agreement and that the Chair would meet with Mr Mark Wickham to discuss this, as he had considerable experience in this kind of agreement.

59.3 The terms and conditions of the NYC Locality Grant for £450 for two-way radios were considered and approved. This entailed an additional contribution of £50 from the Community Emergency Fund bank account, totalling £500. The Chair and the Clerk signed the acceptance form on behalf of the ACEG on condition that the radios would not be purchased until a service agreement had been finalised and accepted by the Parish Council.

060-24/25 Clerk's report

- 60.1 The police reports for the periods August-October 2024 were noted.
- 60.2 An invitation to the YLCA Richmondshire (Yorks) Branch meeting on 24 October at 7pm in West Burton Village Hall, West Burton was noted. Having been circulated prior to the meeting it was noted that no one had attended owing to work commitments.
- 60.3 Notifications of the NYC Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee meetings held on 16 September and 23 October were noted. Having been circulated to councillors prior to the meetings, it was noted that no one had attended owing to work commitments.
- 60.4 NYC Home to School Transport Policy: Responses to the email sent in September from the Parish Council to Rishi Sunak MP and the Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP (Department for Transport) were considered. The Parish Council had requested their support in asking NYC to reconsider their decision to implement the new Home to School transport policy for Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. No reply had been received from Rishi Sunak MP. It was agreed that a follow up email would be sent. The DfT had replied to advise that the route for complaint was to North Yorkshire Council, and the matter was nothing to do with them. A further response was later received from DfT in October, stating that the Parish Council's email had been forwarded to the Department for Education. No response from the DfE had as yet been received.
- 60.5 It was noted that the DCC had kindly agreed to pay the net cost of the external audit and that these funds (£210) had been received.
- 60.6 An invitation from Reeth, Fremington and Healaugh Parish Council to attend the Remembrance Day parade in Reeth on Sunday 10 November 2024 was considered. It was agreed that Cllr. Barningham would attend.
- 60.7 It was noted that a notification from YDNPA had been received of the Park's approval of a request to fell one beech tree at Plantation Cottage, Arkengarthdale, and that the YDNPA recommendation that this should be replaced with a native species in the first planting season after felling.
- 60.8 An invitation for two councillors to attend the online YDNPA Autumn Parish Forum on 6 November 2024 was considered. It was noted that the Home to School bus policy was on the agenda and that councillors from Reeth and Muker Parish Councils would be attending. It was agreed that Cllr Peacock would represent the concerns of Arkengarthdale Parish Council.
- 60.9 It was noted that a letter had been received from Harbus, notifying the Council of a letter it had sent to the Public and Community Transport Manager (Integrated Passenger Transport, NYC) regarding the Government's support for bus service improvements.
- 60.10 A message was noted from the Head of Resilience and Emergencies at NYC informing members of the public how to request sandbags during a flood incident. It was also noted that this message had been circulated to Arkengarthdale residents via the mailing list.

061-24/25 Planning

No planning applications had been received.

062-24/25 Items requested by councillors

- 62.1 Pink October – It was noted that a request to hang pink ribbons in Langthwaite and outside the Church had been approved in support of Cancer Research UK's Breast Cancer awareness campaign during the month of October. Councillors noted the success of the events held during the month, and thanked the Arkengarthdale community for their involvement and support (SS)

- 62.2 Christmas lights – It was agreed to install the Christmas lights on High Green as usual towards the end of November. It was noted that the tree needed pruning and would be pruned at that time. (SS/RS)
- 62.3 Plaque, High Green – It was noted that this needed cleaning as it was unreadable. The Chair agreed to attend to this. (RS)

063-24/25 North Yorkshire Councillor's report

Cllr Peacock reported that funding is the main focus currently at North Yorkshire Council.

064-24/25 Highways

- 64.1 Potholes: It was noted that the potholes between Eskeleth and Seal Houses had been attended to, but the very poor roadside erosion along the Arkengarthdale Road towards Tan Hill had not been fixed and was getting worse, making the passing of two vehicles difficult in places. It was noted that the pothole near CB Yard was a bigger issue than that reported previously and Cllr Barningham would send the Clerk photos to forward to Highways. There was a pot hole on the Stang Road that was getting worse and was being monitored by Cllr Barningham.
- 64.2 Foregill Bridge/temporary road: It was noted that confirmation had been received from the Bridges Team that the completion of the works, which would also include the removal of the temporary road once the new bridge was open, would be by Autumn 2026.
- 64.3 Fothering Holme/Woodhouse footbridge: It was noted that NYC and YDNPA were in discussion about the loose stonework on both sides of the footbridge, and that NYC had installed the bridge and that the responsibility for fixing the bridge rested with them. It was noted that the NYC Bridges team were aware of the issue.
- 64.4 Visibility verges: It was noted that there had been no cuts of the 'visibility' verges by NYC this year, and the Clerk had now been given the details of the appropriate person to contact. It was agreed that enquiries should be made to this contact.
- 64.5 Water on Raw Bank: It was noted that several complaints had been received from residents concerned about the water running down Raw Bank towards the sharp bend in the temporary road now that the winter weather was approaching. It was noted that this had been reported to Highways.
- 64.6 Parish Workshop: A report was received from the Clerk on a workshop she had attended at Area 1 Highways Offices, Brompton on Swale on 21 October. It was noted that the opportunity to have a conversation with a knowledgeable, helpful person, rather than a portal or a 'customer services' telephone operative had been extremely useful and informative.

065-24/25 Ore Cart

The completion of the ore cart project grant was noted. The project completion form had been submitted and the SDF grant funds from the YDNPA of £895 had been received. Thanks were expressed to the following people:

Cllr Robert Stones for removal and transportation

William Lambert for renovation

Jeremy Moon for re-painting

Derek Harker for fitting security chains

Cllrs Simon Atkinson and Stephen Stubbs for removing/reinstating the stones

066-24/25 Financial matters

- 66.1 The bank balances as at 29 October 2024 were noted as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Current account | £2766.35 |
| Community Emergency account | £ 797.22 |

Seat Maintenance account	£ 19.78
Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account	£1166.82

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

S Dray	Salary Sept & Oct 2024	£ 505.20
Jeremy Moon	Ore cart paint	£ 94.85
St Mary's Church	Room hire Mar/May/Jul	£ 90.00
PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee	£ 252.00
RBL	Remembrance Wreath	£ 30.00

66.3 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

ACEG account	NYC Locality grant contrib	£ 50.00
Steve Coleman	Grass cutting	£706.50

66.4 The following receipts were noted:

DCC (for St Mary's Hub)	Reimbursement external audit	£210.00
Interest on CEP account – Aug & Sept		£ 1.93
Interest on Seat Maint. account - Aug & Sept		£ 0.04
Interest on Liquidity Mgr Seat Maint. - Aug & Sept		£ 7.17

66.5 A statement of receipts and payments for the second quarter was noted.

66.6 Bank reconciliation

Bank statements were checked against the banking records (spreadsheet) and approved and signed by Cllr Barningham.

66.7 Budget setting for 2025/26 precept

The budget for 2025/26 was considered and approved. It was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary in accordance with the rates of pay recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for the present year (from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025). This would incur a back payment (from April to October 2024) of £88.20. This was approved. From 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2025 the monthly salary payments would increase to £265.20. This was approved. It was noted that another pay increase was likely to occur on 1 April 2025 and this was factored into the budget for next year. The precept for the forthcoming year was agreed at £5950.

067-24/25 Clerk's balance of hours

The Clerk reported that at the end of October there were eight hours in hand, excluding time relating to ACEG admin which was done on a voluntary basis.

068-24/25 Remembrance Sunday

Arrangements for the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 10 November 2024 were considered. It was agreed that Cllr Harker would lay the wreath at the war memorial this year.

069-24/25 Date of next meeting: Monday 6 January 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.