

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held remotely via Zoom in accordance with
The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020
 Monday 11 January 2021 at 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Councillor P Harker; Councillor P Lundberg (Vice-Chair); Councillor R Stones; Councillor S Stubbs (Chair); Councillor J Watkins, District Councillor Good and County Councillor Peacock.

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk)

64/20 Public session

There were no topics raised by members of the public.

65/20 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

66/20 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record by the Council, and would be signed in due course by the Chair. **[Action: SD/SS]**

67/20 Code of Conduct and Constitution

The draft versions of the Council's Code of Conduct [item 56.17/APCmin_201102 refers] and Constitution, which had been circulated in advance were considered and approved. These would be finalised and held by the clerk. **[Action: SD]**

68/20 Local government reform

Councillors had agreed in email communication in November not to submit feedback on NYCC's proposal for a unitary council at this stage.

69/20 Correspondence received

The following correspondence, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted:

- 69.1 A request from a BT contractor to replace a decayed pole on High Green in November 2020 had been approved by email in November. It was noted that the work had now been completed;
- 69.2 Notification from YDNPA of a proposed new route for the public footpath on Sleil Gill, and a request for comments by 9 December, had been considered prior to the meeting by email. It was noted that councillors were all in agreement with the new route and a response had been sent to YDNPA accordingly;
- 69.3 An update from NALC providing guidance on holding remote meetings was noted;
- 69.4 A request to publicise the outcomes of *A Green New Dales* conference was noted. The information had been placed on the notice board;
- 69.5 Notification of the Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee meeting held on 25 November was noted;
- 69.6 Police reports for November and December were noted.

The following correspondence, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was considered:

- 69.7 Notification of the forthcoming digital ONS Census 2021 was noted and a request to identify hard to reach local populations was considered. Following a discussion about the distribution of the internet and the extent of digital skills of the residents in the dale, it was agreed that the service that would be provided by Hudson House at Reeth for those requiring either internet access or IT support would be adequate;
- 69.8 An invitation to participate in the YDNPA Annual forum on 20 January 2021 was considered. It was agreed that Councillor Watkins would attend. A response would be sent to YDNPA. **[Action: JW];**
- 69.9 A request from Highways England for nominations to sit on the Community Liaison Group (CLG) of the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project was considered. It was noted that the 'Reeth' exit onto and across the A66 near Barnard Castle was of high importance to residents in the dale, and that this should not be compromised by the extension of the dual carriageway. It was agreed that a response would be sent asking to be kept up to date with the project's developments, but that the Parish Council would not submit nominations for representatives to sit on the CLG **[Action: SD].**

70/20 Flood Funds

- 70.1 It was noted that no communication had been received from the Two Ridings Community Foundation concerning a grant application for further flood-related funds which had been submitted last September. Councillors were keen to know if the application had been successful. Requests for feedback had been made twice in November and again in January, but no replies had been received;
- 70.2 It was noted that other parish councils had already been informed of the funding decisions and it was advised that the Chief Executive of the Foundation be contacted directly for information. Cllr. Good also agreed to follow this up. **[Action: SD/RG].**

71/20 Highways

- 71.1 Erosion on Stang Lane: It was noted that the skid hazard caused by chippings on the road surface had now been addressed but that the roadsides (where the chippings had originally been) were now once again washed out and had created deep ruts at the edge of the road that presented a danger to vehicle wheels and tyres. This ongoing erosion would be reported to Highways. **[Action: SD]**
- 71.2 Stang Lane walls and bridge: It was noted that the top stones along the newly built wall near the bridge had still not been replaced and that there was still a perilous hole in the wall of the bridge on Stang Lane. Cllr. Peacock would follow this up with Highways. **[Action: YP]**
- 71.3 Notification from Highways on a road closure in the Downholme area on 1 December had been previously circulated.
- 71.4 Gritting delays: It was noted that complaints had been received from residents concerned about the safety of the roads in Arkengarthdale following ice and snow in December. Councillors noted that Highways had been contacted prior to the meeting and asked to grit the main Arkengarthdale road earlier in the morning to ensure safety for the school buses, and that Highways had responded, stating that no remedial action could be taken because Priority 1 routes (such as Swaledale) needed to be gritted first. As a 'Priority 2' route, Arkengarthdale Road could only be gritted once the Priority 1 routes had been attended to, even though the weather in Arkengarthdale could be more severe than in neighbouring dales at times. It was agreed that the NYCC general contact number for queries and

complaints (01609 780 780) would be made available to residents on the Council's website to ensure that the County Council was aware of the severity of the road conditions in the dale. It was noted that calls about winter weather to this number needed to state that the call related to "Area 1". **[Action: SD]**

72/20 Planning applications

- 72.1 A request had been received from a potential purchaser of Carter's Cottage asking for information on previous planning applications and decisions relating to the property, and of any previous restrictions;
- 72.2 It was noted that there had previously been issues relating to access to the property but that YDNPA would hold any information relating to planning decisions. Cllr Good agreed to follow this up with YDNPA. The potential purchaser would be informed. **[Action: SD/RG].**

73/20 Financial matters

- 73.1 The following expenditure was approved:
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|----------------|--|----------|
| S. Dray | salary Nov & Dec + back pay (2nd instalment £655.85) | £ 822.90 |
| PKF Littlejohn | external audit fee | £ 240.00 |
| S. Coleman | seat Maintenance - Jubilee Seat | £ 140.00 |
- 73.2 The following receipt was noted:
- | | | |
|------|------------|----------|
| HMRC | VAT refund | £2286.22 |
|------|------------|----------|
- 73.3 Confirmation of the conclusion of the external audit had been received from PKF Littlejohn and was noted. It was also noted that the *Notice of Conclusion of Audit* had been posted online and on the noticeboard before 30 November 2020, as per requirements and agreed by all councillors via email.

74/20 Website

- 74.1 A proposal from the Chair to replace the Parish Council website with a Facebook account next year was considered.
- 74.2 It was noted that the maintenance of a Facebook site would be time-consuming if the information being posted was to be kept current. No volunteers were forthcoming.
- 74.3 Councillors voted unanimously against the proposal and it was agreed that the website would be closed down when the maintenance fees were due in March/April 2021 (or 6 months thereafter, depending on the pro-rata fee provisions of the web hosting company).

75/20 Local matters

- 75.1 Refurbishment of Parish Council seats: It was noted that the refurbishment of two more parish council seats located at the war memorial had been agreed by councillors via email after the last meeting for a maximum cost of £100. Councillors heard that a request had subsequently been received from Alan Richardson and Steve Coleman to increase the refurbishment fee to £120 per seat owing to the high cost of materials. This request was considered and agreed in principle. It was agreed that the refurbishment of any parish council seats should go ahead up to a maximum cost of £150 per seat, and that the Clerk should be notified before work started on any seat that would cost more than £150.
- 75.2 Seat maintenance grant: It was noted that Cllr Peacock had offered funds of £1000 from the NYCC Locality Budget to be used towards the costs of refurbishing seats. Councillors

unanimously accepted the offer and Cllr Peacock was thanked. The acceptance form would be completed and submitted to NYCC. **[Action: SD/SS]**

- 75.3 Renovation of petrol pumps at Arkle Town: It was noted that an application to the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund had been submitted by Cllr Lundberg for the Parish Council and that the Sustainable Development Officer, Andrea Burden, would inform the Council if there were any issues with the project concerning the renovation of privately owned pumps on private land. An update would be provided at the next meeting in May. **[Action: PL]**
- 75.4 Foot bridges: Councillors heard that James Walker, NYCC engineer, had made a site visit to inspect the bridges (or absence thereof) at Wood House and Low Faggergill in November 2020 and was aiming to have them reinstated by June 2021.
- 75.5 Christmas lights: Thanks were expressed to Richard and Liz Smith for supplying the electricity for the Christmas lights on High Green, and to Cllr Stubbs, Cllr Stones, Cllr Harker and Jack Stones for putting up and taking down the lights. The lights had been particularly appreciated by everyone this year, bringing some welcome cheer at the end of a difficult year.
- 75.6 Bin collections: It was noted that the post-Christmas bin collections had been missed owing to the snow and would now be rolled over to the next collection. It was also noted that the recycling bins in Langthwaite carpark were already full and overflowing and needed emptying as soon as the weather allowed. RDC would be informed. **[Action: PL]**

76/20 Parish precept meeting

A consultation meeting organised by RDC to discuss the changes and issues of concern to parishes relating to the precept was held in November 2020 and attended by Cllr Watkins.

77/20 Upper Dales Area Partnership

A meeting of the UDAP had been held on 15 December 2020 and attended by Cllr Stubbs. The council's application for a grant for a new printer had been successful, although the cost of the ink cartridges had been ineligible for a grant. It was agreed to accept the grant offer. **[Action: SD]**

78/20 UDCLT affordable housing project

- 78.1 An update on the UDCLT's affordable housing project was received from Cllrs Stubbs and Watkins.
- 78.2 Councillors heard that the UDCLT was working with partners with expertise in the Charity Commission and in charity work to lobby for change in the Charity Law so that properties such as the Arkengarthdale School building could not legally be sold in the future to the highest bidder, but would be sold according to the notion of "common good" rather than "best value".
- 78.3 Councillors heard that UDCLT had turned its attention back to the original site for the affordable housing project next to the old Methodist chapel, and had commissioned new plans that would reduce the costs. Fundraising was underway. UDCLT had applied for charity status and was hoping to hear the outcome in March.

79/ 20 Date of next meeting: Monday 1 March 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.