

**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 1 March 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; Matthew Durdy (resident) for item 82/20; and two members of NYCC and two members of WSP (NYCC contractors) for item 80/20.

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

**80/20 Flood risk in Arkengarthdale**

- 80.1 Councillors received a presentation from Jonathan Mullen (WSP engineer, contracted by NYCC) on the feasibility phase of a flood alleviation study undertaken for NYCC, which proposed potential mechanisms for alleviating the future flooding of properties in Langthwaite and Whaw;
- 80.2 Councillors were offered an opportunity to comment on the proposals, which included a) drainage system modifications; b) flow attenuation; c) natural flood management (e.g. tree planting) and d) property resilience (e.g. flood doors). It was noted that the severe flooding in Arkengarthdale in July 2019 had been a very rare flood event with the probability of reoccurrence being one in one thousand years, and that this should be taken into consideration when evaluating the proposed mechanisms;
- 80.3 Councillors contributed local insights and information relating to the proposals, which would be taken on board or followed up by WSP accordingly. Recommended actions for flood alleviation would be included in a forthcoming report and would be developed according to the availability of funding;
- 80.4 The Chair thanked WSP and NYCC for a very interesting and detailed presentation.

**81/20 Public session**

There were no topics raised by members of the public.

**82/20 Fountain Farm Consultation**

- 82.1 Councillors received a brief verbal summary of a consultation document from the new owner of Fountain Farm, which had been circulated before the meeting;
- 82.2 Councillors were asked for feedback on plans for developing the property and improving the land for grazing and for conservation purposes. It was noted that residents in Booze had been consulted and were supportive of the current ideas;
- 82.3 Councillors were unanimously supportive of the development ideas, including the tree-planting but expressed caution about planting trees in sites that would obscure the fantastic views for neighbouring properties when they matured.

**83/20 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Stones declared an interest in item 87.2 and did not participate in the discussion.

**84/20 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record by the Council, and would be signed in due course by the Chair. **[Action: SD/SS]**

**85/20 Face to face meetings**

- 85.1 A request from YLCA to complete a survey on the power for remote meetings to continue after 7 May 2021, and to be included in primary legislation was considered;
- 85.2 It was agreed that whilst face to face meetings were preferred by the majority of the councillors, the option to be able to hold remote meetings legally when necessary (e.g. during bad weather) was helpful. This preference – i.e. to have the *choice* to hold meetings remotely - would be communicated to YLCA. **[Action: SD];**
- 85.3 It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council (which would be the Annual Meeting) and the Annual Parish Meeting for parishioners, were both scheduled after 7 May, when remote meetings were currently no longer legally possible. Given the uncertainty about the speed at which the lockdown restrictions were being lifted, and the complications with changing meeting arrangements at short notice, it was agreed to reschedule the two meetings immediately after the Bank Holiday, to be held remotely on Tuesday 4 May with Zoom. This change would be clearly publicised. **[Action: SD]**

**86/20 Correspondence received**

The following correspondences, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were noted:

- 86.1 Police reports for January and February 2021;
- 86.2 The agenda for the YLCA Richmondshire Branch meeting on 4 February 2021;
- 86.3 An open letter to all parish councils dated 21/1/21 from Cllr Sue Baxter, NALC Chairman;
- 86.4 A Diversion Order and a public information notice relating to the revised route for the footpath on Sleil Gill (appeared in the D&S on 29/1/21);
- 86.5 Applications were open for National Lottery Heritage funding for projects between £3000-£5million, with priority being given to projects contributing to recovery from the pandemic.

The following correspondences, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were considered:

- 86.6 A request for responses to the YDNPA Local Plan 2021-2040 Consultation No.3 *Exploring Our Options: Building New Homes, January-February 2021*.
- 86.6.1 It was noted that a personal response had been submitted by Cllr Watkins.
- 86.6.2 The council was informed by District Councillor Good that Reeth has been categorised as a 'large village', rather than a 'town' in the consultation document and that this placed Reeth in the same category as villages such as Gunnerside, Muker and Langthwaite etc. in terms of the services that it provided;
- 86.6.3 Councillors were in agreement that this categorisation failed to recognise the importance of the services provided in Reeth for residents in all of the other villages and hamlets of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, and agreed that it should be formally noted as part of the consultation that Reeth was, in practice, an extremely important local "service centre" for the residents and communities of the two dales as well as for Reeth itself. A response to the consultation would be submitted.
- [Action:SD]**
- 86.7 The Coverdale Connect and Protect meeting held on 2 February about the 5G testbed trial and masts being erected in the National Park in that area.

86.7.1 It was noted that YDNPA planning had approved the proposed 5G mast in Coverdale. Cllr Stubbs was in communication with the NYCC project looking into the possibilities for extending 5G into Arkengarthdale to bring fast reliable internet connectivity. Councillors were disappointed to hear that the new mast presently being constructed at Seal Houses was for emergency services only.

86.8 Letters from the leader of NYCC, Carl Les, on a proposal for a single unitary council and from the Leader of RDC, Angie Dale, on an alternative proposal for an “East & West” model for two unitary authorities in North Yorkshire.

86.8.1 Councillors considered the two proposals and unanimously agreed to support the single unitary council proposed by NYCC, as it would be less disruptive for current services provided to the parish, noting that both schemes would result in decreased representation for Arkengarthdale.

86.8.2 The online consultation survey would be completed accordingly. **[Action: SD]**

### 87/20 Flood Funds

87.1 Councillors noted that the grant from the Two Ridings Foundation for additional flood-related work had been successful and that the council was now in receipt of the funds;

87.2 Cllr Stubbs reported that Cllr Stones had started work on the gutters, and that this would require unforeseen additional work costing £300 more than the quotation. Cllrs considered the request and agreed that the work should go ahead and that the Parish Council would cover the £300 overspend. Cllr Stones had declared an interest and did not participate in the discussion.

87.3 Cllr Stubbs reported that Mr Tom Hollingworth and Mr Michael Atkinson had both been informed that the respective work on the trees and in the beck could go ahead as soon as the weather permitted, and that Cllr Stubbs would meet with Mr Hollingworth to prioritise the tree work in order to stay within budget.

### 88/20 Highways

88.1 Work to laybys: Notification from NYCC Highways had been received concerning intended works to laybys between Leyburn and Hawes. This was noted.

88.2 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 hole in the wall of the bridge on Stang Lane. Cllr Watkins was in the process of identifying the responsible department at NYCC, which had not been straightforward. **[Action: JW]**

### 89/20 Planning applications

An application for variation of conditions to Spence Intake, Arkengarthdale (R/01/108B & R/01/108C) had been circulated to councillors on 2/2/21. Comments were due before 19/2/21 so councillors had agreed by email to support the application. A letter of support had been submitted to planning by the clerk on 6/2/21.

### 90/20 Financial matters

90.1 The following expenditure was approved:

S. Dray	salary Jan & Feb 2021	£ 334.08
S. Atkinson	wiping clean old laptop for donation	(invoice to follow)

S. Dray	reimbursement for new printer	£ 99.99
S. Dray	reimbursement for printer ink	£ 78.55
WC. Stones & Son	additional gutter work	£ 300.00

90.2 The following receipts were noted:

NY Flood Grant Two Ridings	£8688.00
NYCC Locality Budget grant for seat maintenance	£1000.00

90.3 Account balances: Councillors received a summary of the balances of the two bank accounts. After deducting funds held on behalf of the community for an end-of-pandemic event, and funds allocated for fuel expenses for volunteer delivery drivers, it was noted that the accounts looked healthy, largely due to a VAT refund.

90.4 Natwest publicity: Multiple postal notifications from Natwest publicising the *Business Banking Switch* were noted.

#### 91/20 Local matters

91.1 Refurbishment of Parish Council seats: It was noted that two additional parish council seats would be renovated as soon as the weather permitted since they could not be removed from their locations. These were sited above CB Yard and at Whaw Lane End.

91.2 Renovation of petrol pumps at Arkle Town: It was noted that a response had been received from the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund Officer, commenting that the YDNPA was supportive of the grant application but that no funds would be forthcoming. It was recommended that, rather than undergo a full restoration, the petrol pumps should be given a light-touch clean-up in situ, such that their current paintwork was retained. In addition, it was recommended that rather than installing an information board, publicity leaflets could be left at the YDNPA tourist information offices. Since this was not Parish Council property the responsibility for the recommended work would be with the owner of the pumps.

91.3 Best Kept Village competition: A request for expressions of interest in entering the Best Kept Village Competition 2021 had been received from Richmond Rotary Club. It was agreed to enter Langthwaite into the competition if the pandemic restrictions allowed the competition to go ahead this year. **[Action: SD]**

#### 92/20 Laptop donation

It was noted that the old laptop had been wiped clean and donated to Richmond School for use by pupils who were home-schooling during the pandemic. This had been unanimously agreed remotely by councillors in January 2021. A letter of thanks had been received from Richmond School.

**93/ 20 Date of next meeting:** It was agreed to change the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting [item 85/20 refers]. The **Annual Parish Meeting** would be followed by **the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 8pm**. Both meetings would be held remotely.

The meeting closed at 10.40pm.