

**ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting  
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on  
Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.00pm

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor S Atkinson; Councillor N Barningham; Councillor P Harker; Councillor R Stones; Councillor S Stubbs (Chair)

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

**085-23/24 Audio/visual recording**

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

**086-23/24 Apologies and reasons for absence**

86.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Peacock.

86.2 Cllr Peacock's reason for absence was considered and approved.

**087-23/24 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**088-23/24 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 December 2023 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

**089-23/24 Public Session**

No requests from parishioners had been received.

**090-23/24 Clerk's report**

090.1 It was noted that the charge for room hire for the previous meeting on 4 December 2023 had been waived because the heating had not been turned on and the church had been extremely cold.

090.2 It was noted that a consultation meeting on NYC's new online service for household and garden waste collection had taken place on 11/12/2023.

090.3 The monthly police report for December 2023 was noted.

090.4 It was noted that a notification from NYC had been received confirming that a mobile phone service had been switched on in Arkengarthdale in December, using the mast at Seal Houses, and that the service was currently for EE customers only.

090.5 A request was considered from Reeth Parish Council to circulate a questionnaire to residents about the impact on individuals of the removal of the copper wire telephone service. It was agreed to circulate the questionnaire and to ask all responses to be sent directly to the clerk of Reeth Parish Council.

**091-23/24 Items requested by councillors**

There were no items requested.

**092-23/24 Biodiversity policy**

The draft Biodiversity policy was considered and approved.

**093-23/24 Risk assessment document**

The draft risk assessment document was considered. It was agreed to contact the insurance company to check the controls were adequate in order to update the document appropriately. The document would be re-considered and approved at a future meeting, once the relevant information had been received.

**094-23/24 Maintenance - Bench policy**

- 94.1 Councillors received an update on the names of owners of benches in the parish.
- 94.2 Benches owned by the Parish Council, and for which the council was responsible, were identified and agreed.
- 94.3 It was noted that it had not been possible to find the contact details for most of the owners of memorial benches, and it was agreed that a message should be posted on the council's noticeboard and website, and on Facebook, asking bench owners to contact the parish council in order to be informed of the new policy relating to memorial benches and their maintenance, in the light of insurance requirements and reduced funds.

**095-23/24 Maintenance – Ore Cart, High Green**

It was noted that a grant application for the refurbishment of the ore cart on High Green had been submitted to the Sustainable Development Fund (YDNPA), and supported with quotes received for (a) re-painting the cart and (b) replacing the rotten supporting frame and bolts.

**096-23/24 Highways**

- 096.1 Inadequate winter maintenance: A response had been received from NYC to the parish council's request for an improvement in the gritting service, following a recent icy spell in which roads remained hazardous for several days. It was noted that NYC had explained that they based their gritting decisions on the information provided by weather/temperature monitors on other routes, but they did not acknowledge that these readings did not necessarily reflect the temperatures on the routes in the dales, especially on those routes that don't get the winter sun. NYC advised that residents should contact them directly to request a gritting service if human or animal welfare or safety was a concern. It was noted that this information had been circulated to residents in December. It was also noted that Muker Parish Council were also questioning NYC's winter maintenance policy, having also experienced difficulties with inadequate gritting.
- 096.2 Road closure at Faggergill Road End: It was noted that the work on the retaining wall had started on 8 January.
- 096.3 Potholes on the Eskeleth-Seal Houses road: It was noted that photographs of potholes and erosion had been submitted to Highways via email, as the portal would not allow files to be uploaded.
- 096.4 Damaged wall at Whaw bridge: It was noted that work had still not started.
- 096.5 Damaged retaining wall at Park Head Bridge: It was noted that work had still not started.
- 096.6 Collapsed retaining wall at Foregill Bridge: It was noted that engineers had inspected the road and that it was currently still open to traffic.

**097-23/24 Planning**

There were no planning issues.

**098-23/24 North Yorkshire Councillor's report**

There was no report as Cllr Peacock was not at the meeting.

**099-23/24 Financial matters**

099.1 The bank balances as at 31 December 2023 were noted as follows:

Current account	£3844.21
Community Emergency account	£ 818.45
Seat Maintenance account	£ 19.57

099.2 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

S Dray	Salary Dec 2023	£203.53
S Atkinson	Laptop service and licence renewal	£ 40.00
S Dray	Norton Licence 2 Years	£ 19.99
S Stubbs	Waterproof box for Christmas lights	£ 12.56

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

S Dray	back pay	£122.50
St Mary's Church	room hire 5 meetings	£150.00
S Coleman	Grass cutting	£724.50

099.4 The following receipts were noted:

Interest on CEP account	0.94p
Interest on Seat Maint. Account	0.70p

099.5 *Seat Maintenance Liquidity Manager 95 Day Notice Account*

It was noted that the new savings account had been opened and that £1130 had been transferred into this account from the Seat Maintenance account in December, but that the account was still not available to view in Bankline. This was being followed up. It was agreed that any income generated from future bench agreements would be paid into this account for bench maintenance.

**100-23/24 Date of next meeting:** Monday 4 March 2024

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.