

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 4 March 2024 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. S Atkinson; Cllr. P Harker; Cllr. R Stones; Cllr. S Stubbs (Chair)

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk)

101-23/24 Audio/visual recording

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

102-23/24 Apologies and reasons for absence

102.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Barningham and Cllr. Peacock.

102.2 Reasons for absence were considered and approved.

103-23/24 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

104-23/24 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 January 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

105-23/24 Public Session

No requests from parishioners had been received.

106-23/24 Clerk's report

106.1 The police reports for the periods Nov 2023-Jan 2024 and Jan-Feb 2024 were noted.

106.2 A request from the police to log potential speed gun locations in the parish was considered. It was agreed that there were currently no on-going speed concerns in the parish, and therefore no current requirement for speed guns.

106.3 It was noted that apologies had been sent to the Richmondshire Branch of the YLCA for a remote meeting held on 1 February 2024 as no one was available to attend owing to other work commitments.

106.4 Options for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings on 6 June 2024 were considered. It was agreed that the level of public interest in the event needed to be ascertained before any plans could be confirmed.

106.5 It was noted that a response was pending from the NYC Mobile HWRC in relation to a request from the council to schedule mobile waste collections outside of the road closure dates for the Foregill Bridge work, and to confirm the arrangements of fortnightly waste and recycling collections during the road closure.

106.6 It was noted that an invitation to contribute to the first public consultation on updating the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan had been received with a closing date in February. It was agreed that, given the number of consultation

requests the council was receiving, and the amount of time each took to complete, the council would not contribute to this consultation.

- 106.7 A request from NYC to respond to an online consultation about proposed changes to the NYC Home to School Travel Policy (H2S) was considered. It was noted that the survey and the accompanying information was lengthy and the questions were aimed at individuals, parents and pupils, not parish councils. It was agreed to circulate the survey to residents and to submit a written letter from the Parish Council based on the feeling in the dale about the proposed changes.
- 106.8 Information from NALC about guidance and funding to enable parish councils to move to a “.gov.uk” domain for security and efficiency purposes was considered. It was agreed to explore this possibility at a later date.
- 106.9 An invitation from the Rotary Club of Richmond to enter the ‘new’ Best Kept Richmondshire Village Competition 2024, with a focus on biodiversity, was considered. It was agreed not to enter this year.
- 106.10 It was noted that NYC were intending to change the number locks back to key locks on the Booze Bins in the recycling enclosure at Langthwaite for security purposes.
- 106.11 An invitation to respond to the YDNPA Strategic Housing Market Assessment Stakeholder Questionnaire was considered. It was agreed that, given the number of consultation requests the council was receiving, and the amount of time each took to complete, the council would not contribute to this consultation.
- 106.12 The visit of the Conservative Mayoral candidate, Keane Duncan, to Arkengarthdale on 23 February 2024 was noted.

107-23/24 Items requested by councillors

New communications mast: It was noted that a new communications mast/pole had appeared at High Eskeleth and that there had been no official notification of this installation, or confirmation of its purpose.

108-23/24 Ore cart renovation project

The grant offer letter had been received from the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund with the project’s start and end dates. This was noted and considered, and it was agreed that councillors would empty the cart of stone and transport the entire cart to Hawes before April for renovation work, in order that it could then be painted and reinstated on High Green by the end of August.

109-23/24 Risk assessment document

The revised draft of the risk assessment document was considered and approved. In accordance with the document, the council considered and approved affording the Clerk the following emergency powers:

- i) Emergency power to deal with urgent repairs to assets such as benches and noticeboards;
- ii) Emergency power to deal with urgent maintenance work on trees and open spaces

110-23/24 Review of assets

The current condition of the council’s assets was considered. It was agreed that there were currently no pressing issues or actions required.

111-23/24 Maintenance

111.1 It was noted that the caretaker of the War Memorial, Mrs Rowena Hutchinson, had been doing the job since May 1974. Councillors agreed that it would be

appropriate to express their gratitude to Mrs Hutchinson and congratulate her on her 50 years of service.

111.2 Potential arrangements for the ongoing maintenance of Langthwaite Pinfold were considered. It was agreed that Cllr Stubbs would monitor the pinfold and undertake any general maintenance.

112-23/24 Highways

- 112.1 Inadequate winter maintenance: It was noted that Muker and Melbecks Parish Councils had also experienced gritting issues and had been in communication with Highways.
- 112.2 Collapsed wall at Faggergill Road End: It was noted that the work on the retaining wall had been completed.
- 112.3 Potholes on the Eskeleth-Seal Houses road: It was noted that despite reporting this issue to Highways via the portal and by email, there had been no response, no update and no progress.
- 112.4 Damaged wall at Whaw bridge: It was noted that work had been completed.
- 112.5 Damaged retaining wall at Park Head Bridge: It was noted that work had still not started, but that Highways had confirmed that a local Highways Officer would monitor the situation and that when the work had been programmed to take place, the Parish Council would be informed.
- 112.6 Collapsed retaining wall at Foregill Bridge: It was noted that engineers had confirmed that the road could be closed for up to 12 months, and that they were in the process of reviewing the feasibility of a temporary road during the work. It was agreed to contact the Conservative Mayoral candidate, Keane Duncan in his capacity as the Executive Member for Highways and Transport to request a by-pass road at Foregill when work starts on the collapsed retaining wall.
- 112.7 Highways Customer Communications: Options were considered for complaining to NYC about the communication difficulties the council and residents had experienced when reporting issues relating to winter maintenance/gritting. It was noted that the clerk had attended a Parish Workshop organised by Highways in February (item 112.11 refers), and Highways had been informed of the difficulties experienced with customer services and the portal, and had requested specific details with a view to improving their communications. It was agreed to wait and see if communications improved.
- 112.8 Foregill Bridge Road Closure: Options for communicating residents' concerns to Highways about the forthcoming road closure at Foregill Bridge were considered. With the recent news of a possible temporary road, it was agreed to wait until the plan for the works was confirmed, and in the meantime the council would push for a by-pass road (item 112.6 refers).
- 112.9 Urban Highway Grass Cutting: The Council considered the annual request from NYC for the Parish Council to take over the urban highway grass cutting for Highways at a rate of 8p/m² to cut the visibility verges (£11.43 in total for the year 2024/25). It was agreed not to accept this offer. Highways would be informed.
- 112.10 Whaw road closure: The planned road closure on 20 February at Whaw village for Yorkshire Water was noted. It was also noted that the road was closed on that date but no work took place.
- 112.11 Parish Workshop: A report was received from the Clerk on a Parish Workshop she attended on 6 February organised by Highways to discuss 'hot topics'.
- 112.12 Potholes – Arkengarthdale Road and the Watersplash: It was noted that the potholes reported on Arkengarthdale Road in February had already been repaired but a very large pothole at the cattlegrid near the watersplash reported the same week was still a hazard.

113-23/24 Planning

The following planning application was considered:

R/01/162A - Full planning permission to demolish the existing timber pole agricultural equipment shelter and replace with a steel framed agricultural storage barn with solar panels to southern roof slope at Elderberyy, Arkengarthdale.

It was agreed to support the application. There were no objections.

114-23/24 North Yorkshire Councillor's report

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

115-23/24 Financial matters

115.1 The bank balances as at 29 February 2024 were noted as follows:

Current account	£3550.63
Community Emergency account	£ 819.52
Seat Maintenance account	£ 19.60
Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account	£1136.08

115.2 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

S Dray	Salary Jan & Feb 2024	£442.06
St Mary's Hub	Room hire (7/11/23 CEP & 8/1/24)	£ 60.00
Vision ICT	Webhosting 5/2024-4/2025	£225.76

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

S Dray	reimbursement – Norton 2 year licence	£ 19.99
S Atkinson	Laptop service and licence renewal	£ 40.00

115.4 The following receipts were noted:

Interest on CEP account	£1.07
Interest on Seat Maint. account	£0.03
Interest on Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account	£4.27

116-23/24 Date of next meeting: Monday 13 May 2024.

It was noted that the next meeting would be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would follow this at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.