

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

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

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk); D Southwell, ACEG (for item 075); P Wickham, ACEG (for item 075); M Wickham, independent advisor (for item 075)

070-24/25 Audio/visual recording

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

071-24/25 Apologies and reasons for absence

71.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Peacock.

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

072-24/25 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

073-24/25 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 November 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

074-24/25 Public Session

There had been no requests from members of the public.

075-24/25 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)

75.1 The Council and the ACEG considered three options for governance of the ACEG and the development of the Community Emergency Plan (CEP). These were:

- 1) Maintain the current situation and do not submit a plan to NYC;
- 2) The ACEG is *independent* and manages its own funds independently of the Parish Council, and submits a plan to NYC;
- 3) The ACEG is *community operated*: The Parish Council is responsible for making available, and managing, funds for the ACEG, and acts for the community as endorser of the plan that ACEG submits to NYC. This option would require a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the two parties and a Charter for the ACEG.

75.1.1 The following points were noted in discussion:

- The ACEG's preferred choice was for a Community Operated ACEG (Option 3);
- The ACEG did not consider an independent ACEG (Option 2) to be a viable option.

- 75.1.2 The Council voted on Options 1 and 3 only. Option 3, a community operated ACEG, received all 5 votes, and it was agreed *in principle* that the Parish Council would manage the funds of the ACEG under the terms specified in the SLA and Charter once these documents had been finalised and agreed by the Council and the ACEG.
- 75.1.3 It was agreed that the Parish Council, under these terms, would be responsible for acting on behalf of the community, and would therefore be required to endorse the CEP before it could be submitted by the ACEG to NYC for publishing on an online platform shared by emergency teams and services.
- 75.1.4 It was agreed that the ACEG would meet on 18 February 2025 to clarify their amendments to the documents, and that the Council's draft Financial Risk Assessment (items 043.2-24/25 and 059.2-24/25 refer) would be included in the SLA.
- 75.1.5 It was agreed that the work required to achieve the final drafts of the SLA and Charter would be done in time for approval and signing at the next Parish Council meeting in March. This included confirming the suitability of the level of cover provided by the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and ensuring the activities of the ACEG sat within the appropriate liability cover.
- 75.1.6 It was agreed that it would be preferable if the work required to finalise the draft CEP was also done in order for the Parish Council to consider endorsing it at the next meeting in March.
- 75.1.7 Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Mark Wickham for all the work he had done, and the enormous amount of time he had spent researching the background to CEPs and drafting the SLA and Charter accordingly.
- 75.2 Receipt of the NYC Locality Grant for £450 for radios for the ACEG was noted.
- 75.3 A request from the ACEG to purchase a large scale map of the parish and surrounding area using OS data was considered. Quotations in the region of £110 to £240 had been received, depending on whether the map was laminated or backed with Foamex. It was agreed in principle to purchase a map or maps up to the value of £240. It was agreed that the Parish Council would buy one laminated map for the Council's own use for £111 to check for quality before considering buying multiple copies at a reduced price.

076-24/25 Clerk's report

- 76.1 The police reports for the period October 2024 to January 2025 were noted.
- 76.2 It was noted that a request from a local fell running event to park 30 cars in Langthwaite at Christmas had been received and that the organiser had been directed to NYC to enquire about the use of the car park.
- 76.3 It was noted that at the YDNPA Parish Forum in November it had been agreed to support the communities of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale in their objections to the new NYC *Home to School Transport Policy*.
- 76.4 It was noted that the period for notifying the Council of bench ownership had ended and that the owners of the benches in Scar Woods as well as the owner of Scar Woods itself, had not been identified. It was noted that the terms of the Bench Policy stated that any benches for which the Council had been unable to identify owners would be removed if they became unsafe or damaged. It was agreed that the three benches in Scar Woods would be removed by the Parish Council once they became unusable.
- 76.5 It was noted that a letter of full support had been received from Rishi Sunak MP in response to the Parish Council's objection to the changes to NYC's *Home to School Transport Policy*. It was also noted that a letter had been received from the Department for Education, acknowledging the Council's request for support that had

been forwarded to DfE by the Department for Transport. It was noted that DfE was removing itself from any responsibility for the new policy, stating that all complaints should be sent to North Yorkshire Council and would be dealt with by NYC.

077-24/25 Planning

77.1 TPO and Conservation decisions:

It was noted that an application (ref. F106200) had been received and approved in November by YDNPA (TPO & Conservation Area) to fell 1 poplar and 1 willow and prune 4 spruce trees at Yealands Cottage, with replant recommended.

77.2 TPO and Conservation applications:

It was noted that an application (ref. F106200) had been received to fell 1 cherry tree and prune 1 silver birch at Yealands Cottage.

078-24/25 Items requested by councillors

Arkengarthdale School mosaic (SS)

A request was considered to relocate the mosaic made by the children of Arkengarthdale School (and formerly located in the school playground) to the cenotaph (parish land). The costs would be covered by Arkengarthdale Sports Association. It was agreed that this was a suitable public location and would help preserve the mosaic for future generations.

079-24/25 North Yorkshire Councillor's report

No report was received owing to the absence of Cllr Peacock.

080-24/25 Highways

80.1 Roadside railing at Whaw: It was noted that a damaged, rotten safety railing at Whaw along the roadside at Whaw needed attention and it agreed to report this to Highways.

80.2 Potholes: It was noted that although the potholes at Eskeleth had been recently fixed one of them near the Chapel already needed urgent attention. This would be reported to Highways.

80.3 Foregill Bridge/temporary road: It was noted that work had stopped at Foregill Bridge at the start of December and would resume after the winter weather.

80.4 Fothering Holme/Woodhouse footbridge: It was noted that the Bridges Team had confirmed that the bridge was on their maintenance plan and it would be addressed within the next 2 years.

80.5 Visibility verges and grass cutting arrangements for 2025: It was noted that NYC had been contacted in November for confirmation of grass cutting duties, but no response had as yet been received. The annual Urban Highway Grass Cutting letter had since been received from NYC offering a total payment of £11.43 (8p/m²) for the Parish Council to cut NYC's visibility verges in 2025. This was considered and it was agreed to decline this offer from NYC as usual, and to ask again for confirmation as to who is contracted to cut the visibility verges in Arkengarthdale.

80.6 Water on Raw Bank: It was noted that the NYC Bridges team had temporarily fixed the drain before leaving the site for the winter period.

80.7 Winter Gritting: It was noted that residents had been informed of current NYC winter maintenance policy, and given contact details for requesting emergency gritting.

081-24/25 Christmas lights

It was noted that the Christmas lights had been well received this year as usual, and that the tree on High Green had been pruned when the lights were put up, and that this had improved the display. Thanks were expressed to the owners of High Green Cottage, Mr & Mrs Bacon, for their generous donation of electricity. Cllrs Harker,

Stones and Stubbs and George Harker were thanked for installing and removing the lights.

082-24/25 Financial matters

- 82.1 The bank balances as at 31 January 2025 were noted as follows:
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| Current account | £2114.45 |
| Community Emergency account | £1251.87 |
| Seat Maintenance account | £ 19.86 |
| Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account | £ 676.39 |
- 82.2 Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:
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| S Dray | Salary Nov/Dec/Jan +backpay | £ 883.80 |
| S.Coleman | Grass cutting | £ 706.50 |
| St Mary's Church | Room hire Sept & Nov | £ 60.00 |
| Walter Dawson | Payroll services for period ending 5/10/24 | £ 144.00 |
- 82.3 The following payments were considered and approved:
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| CEP/ACEG Account | Laminated parish map | £ 111.00 |
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- 82.4 The following receipts were noted:
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| YDNPA | Ore cart grant | £895.00 |
| NYC Locality Grant (for ACEG) | Radios | £450.00 |
| Interest on CEP account Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan | | £ 4.65 |
| Interest on Seat Maint. account Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan | | £ 0.08 |
| Interest on Liquidity Mgr Seat Maint. Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan | | £ 9.57 |
- 82.5 A statement of receipts and payments for the third quarter was noted.

083-24/25 Clerk's balance of hours

The Clerk reported that at the end of January there were 11 hours in hand. This included some hours relating to ACEG admin as there had been too many hours to allocate all of them as voluntary.

084-24/25 Date of next meeting:

It was noted that the start time of meetings was inconvenient as there was a Zumba class in the Church every week immediately before the Parish Council meeting. It was agreed to move all future meetings to the later start time of 7.15pm.

It was noted that not all councillors would be able to attend the next meeting scheduled for 3 March 2025 and it was agreed that, room availability permitting, the meeting date would be changed to **Monday 10 March 2025 at 7.15pm in St Mary's Church.**

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.