

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 7 July 2025 at 7.15pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. S Atkinson; Cllr. P Harker (Vice Chair); Cllr. R Stones; County Cllr. Y Peacock

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk); D Southwell (Chair of ACEG, for item 28_25/26)

22-25/26 Audio/visual recording

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

23-25/26 Apologies and reasons for absence

- 23.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs Stubbs and Barningham.
- 23.2 Reasons for absence for both Councillors were considered and approved.

24-25/26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25-25/26 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 May 2025 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Vice Chair.

26-25/26 Acceptance of Office

In his absence, the Declaration of the Acceptance of Office by Cllr Stubbs was postponed until the next meeting [Minute 4.1-25/26 refers]

27-25/26 Public session

No requests from parishioners had been received.

28-25/26 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)

- 28.1 A proposal from ACEG to purchase several items for a start-up kit totalling £369.78 was considered. It was noted that the Locality Grant from Cllr Peacock would cover £300 and that the balance would be paid for from the CEP account. It was agreed to purchase the start-up kit.
- 28.2 A proposal from ACEG for the Council to register an account with Viking Direct in order to purchase the above items was considered and agreed.
- 28.3 A request from ACEG for feedback on the potential purchase of powerpacks and generators was considered. It was agreed in discussion that a generator was not viable for both economic and practical reasons, and that one battery pack would be an adequate solution. Cllr Atkinson would advise ACEG on the most suitable pack.

29-25/26 Annual review and inspection of assets

- 29.1 The asset register was considered and it was agreed to share the undertaking of the annual asset inspection in the same way as last year. It was agreed that councillors

and the clerk would inspect their allocated assets and bring the completed logs to the next meeting in September.

- 29.2 It was noted that in order to progress the registration of the Pin Fold in Langthwaite it would be necessary to appoint a solicitor. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the Chair of Grinton Parish Council, who would be able to advise.

30-25/26 Clerk's report

- 30.1 The police reports for the period May-June 2025 were noted.
- 30.2 A request from Quickline to notify them of summer events in Arkengarthdale that may be impacted by Quickline's work in the Gunnerside area had been considered by email before the meeting and a response had been sent to Quickline.
- 30.3 The outcome of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Yorkshire Council held on 21 May 2025 to vote on a motion to revert to using 'catchment' areas to determine eligibility for free school transport rather than the nearest school (as proposed in the controversial new Home to School Transport Policy) was considered. It was noted that individual families were currently appealing decisions, and that risk assessments of the new bus routes would only be undertaken when tenders went out. It was agreed that there was no obvious action the Council could take at present.
- 30.4 A request from the YDNPA Committees Officer for ideas and suggestions for how the YDNPA Parish Forum can best engage with parish councils was considered. It was agreed that the clerk should draft a response to this request.
- 30.5 It was noted that the YLCA Richmondshire Branch Annual Meeting had been held on 17 June 2025 in Middleham and that councillors had received the agenda and papers on 9/6/2025.
- 30.6 It was noted that the Swaledale Housing Needs Survey closed on 30 May and the UDCLT/Housing Enablers would be in touch to present the findings to the parish council in due course.
- 30.7 It was noted that an invitation had been received several times to submit comments on the consultation for NYC's Local Plan. It was also noted that the NYC Local Plan is for areas outside of the National Park and was therefore not relevant.
- 30.8 It was noted that the re-declaration of compliance with the Pensions Regulator in respect of the Clerk's role had been due and had been completed by W Dawson & Son on the Council's behalf.
- 30.9 A requirement for all councils to establish an authority-owned website and email account domain (either .gov.uk or .org.uk) before the end of the financial year was considered (Practitioners Guide 2025, Assertion 10. PKF Littlejohn). It was agreed to ask Vision ICT for the cost of adding 6 email accounts to the council's website domain.

31-25/26 Matters requested by councillors

VE Day event at the Red Lion (SS): It was agreed that a donation would be made to the Red Lion to cover the catering costs given the particular circumstances by which this situation had come about. [Minute 16-25/26 refers]

32-25/26 Planning

It was noted that a TPO & Conservation application (Ref F106200) to fell 1 Sycamore at Mill Stable, Arkengarthdale had been approved with replant recommended.

33-25/26 County Councillor's report

Cllr Peacock summarised current priorities at NYC and asked that an information sheet about the NYC system for diversion signs during road closures be forwarded

to all councillors, following a discussion about the forthcoming road closure at the collapsed culvert on the Arkengarthdale Road near Spence Intake on 16 July.

34-25/26 Highways

- 34.1 It was noted that none of the highways issues reported this year, including the severe potholes and eroded roadsides on the Eskeleth – Seal Houses road, and the broken fence at Whaw - had been dealt with. In addition, two new issues were identified:
- The cattlegrid on Bouldershaw Lane was full of silt and livestock were walking over it. It was agreed that Highways would be informed.
 - Overhanging trees between Bouldershaw Lane junction and the School Building were blocking the view up the dale and causing a hazard for drivers. The owner of the trees would be informed.
- 34.2 It was noted that residents had been cutting the visibility verge at Arkle Town for years and were continuing to do so, in the absence of any grass cutting by NYC contractors. It was noted that someone had been observed cutting the grass verge between Bouldershaw Lane and the School Building in May, but it was not clear if this was a NYC contractor, or if this was indeed an NYC 'visibility' verge.

35-25/26 Financial matters

- 35.1 The bank balances as at 30 June 2025 were noted as follows:
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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Current account | £2478.99 |
| Community Emergency (CEP) account | £1146.65 |
| Seat Maintenance account | £ 19.96 |
| Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account | £1186.34 |
- 35.2 Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:
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|-------------------------------------|---|---------|
| S Dray | salary May & Jun 2025 | £530.40 |
| Vision ICT | web hosting/support May 2025-April 2026 | £214.46 |
| YLCA | annual subscription April 2025-March 2026 | £149.00 |
| W Dawson | Payroll services Oct 2024-April 2025 | £144.00 |
| Reeth & Dist. Community Sports Club | for audit | £ 60.00 |
| Zurich | Insurance | £277.00 |
- 35.3 The following payments pending were noted and approved:
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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| St Mary's Church | Room hire for Feb/Mar/May | £90.00 |
| Information Commissioners Office | Annual registration fee | £47.00 Direct Debit |
| The Red Lion Inn | VE Day event | £85.90 |
- 35.4 The following receipts were noted:
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|---|--------|
| Interest on CEP account for May & Jun | £ 2.10 |
| Interest on Seat Maint. account for May & Jun | £ 0.04 |
| Interest on Liq Mgr Seat Maint. account for May & Jun | £ 4.26 |

36-25/26 Date of next meeting: Monday 1 September 2025 in St Mary's Church at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.