

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 3 November 2025 at 7.15pm

MINUTES

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

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk)

54-25/26 Audio/visual recording

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

55-25/26 Apologies and reasons for absence

55.1 Apologies were received from County Cllr Y Peacock.

55.2 The reason for absence from Cllr Peacock was considered and approved.

56-25/26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

57-25/26 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 1 September 2025 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

58-25/26 Public session

No requests from parishioners had been received.

59-25/26 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)

No matters for consideration had been received from the ACEG.

60-25/26 Christmas lights

60.1 The arrangements for the Christmas lights on High Green were considered.

60.2 It was noted that the tree on the green would need pruning again before the lights were put up. It was agreed that the tree would be pruned at the same time as the lights were put up on a Saturday at the end of November, or early December, according to the weather, and that electricity for the lights would be requested.

61-25/26 Authority-owned gov.uk domain

61.1 Councillors considered a report from Cllr Atkinson on the options and associated costs of switching to a fully-managed versus self-managed domain with Vision ICT.

61.2 The domain name for emails and the website was considered and confirmed, as was the format for parish council email addresses.

- 61.3 It was agreed that in the longer term it would be beneficial to be self-managed, but that it might be worthwhile being fully-managed by VisionICT in the first year. This would be discussed with VisionICT.
- 61.4 It was noted that Cllr Atkinson would be required to provide IT support to councillors and the clerk in switching to the new gov.uk domain, as well as liaising with VisionICT's technical team, and it was agreed that the current budget of £250 for IT support needed to be ringfenced for this expense (after deducting costs for IT support relating to new software licences).

62-25/26 Clerk's report

- 62.1 The police reports for the period August-October 2025 were noted.
- 62.2 The public notice and agenda of the NYC Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee meeting on 15 September 2025 at County Northallerton was noted. This had been circulated to councillors on 9/11/2025.
- 62.3 An invitation for 2 council representatives to attend the online YDNPA Autumn Parish Forum on Tuesday 4 November was considered. It was noted that no representatives were available to attend, and that the reasons for this had been outlined in feedback sent to YDNPA in September [Minute 30.4-25/26 refers].
- 62.4 The clerk reported that a request from a visitor to site a bench in Arkengarthdale had been received but it did not meet the terms of the Council's Bench Policy, which was limited to residents of the dale, and the condition that there was a space for a bench on Parish land. The visitor had been informed and had been very understanding.
- 62.5 The agenda and papers of the YLCA Richmondshire Branch meeting on 13 October 2025 at Scotton was noted. This had been circulated to councillors on 6/10/2025.
- 62.6 The agenda for the Richmondshire (Yorks) Parish Liaison meeting at Bedale on 29 October 2025 was noted. This had been circulated to councillors on 21/10/2025.

63-25/26 Business Continuity Plan

The draft plan was considered, edited and approved.

64-25/26 Matters requested by councillors

No matters had been requested.

65-25/26 Planning

No planning applications or decisions had been received.

66-25/26 County Councillor's report

There was no report on account of Cllr Peacock's absence.

67-25/26 Highways

- 67.1 A public notice, which had been received from the NYC Bridges Team, was noted. This was informing of 4 road closures between Arkle Town and Tan Hill before Christmas, and of the subsequent arrangements for access to affected properties. The notice had been circulated to residents on 18/9/2025.
- 67.2 The clerk reported that a complaint had been received from a resident about the gutter on the Arkengarthdale Road at CB Yard, and a request for the council to report this to Highways. The resident had been asked to provide photographs of the gutter and location information, but this had not been forthcoming. Without this information a report could not be made.
- 67.3 It was noted that Highways were planning to attend to the rotten roadside fence at Whaw at the end of the month, and that the road from Whaw to Seal Houses would be closed. It was noted that this road closure would be likely to coincide with the

road closure on the Arkengarthdale Road between Whaw lane top and CB Yard, which would cause a lot of inconvenience for Whaw residents.

67.4 Overhanging trees on the Arkengarthdale Road

67.4.1 The clerk reported that a complaint had been received from residents about overhanging trees along the verge between Arkle Town and Langthwaite which had caused an accident, and also overhanging trees at Lion House – both were creating obstacles for large vehicles. It was noted that Highways had been informed of the locations of these trees with supporting photographs, and of the safety issue.

67.4.2 It was noted that some of the trees overhanging the highway at Lion House were the responsibility of the owner of the property, not Highways, and that these trees caused a particular hazard for vehicles at the junction of High Green. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the owner of Lion House notifying them of the need to attend to the trees.

67.4.3 Councillors agreed to send a formal letter of thanks from the council to the owner of the overhanging trees between the Bouldershaw junction and the School Building for their very quick action in pruning the trees in the summer [Minutes 34.1-25/26 and 47.2-25/26 refer].

68-25/26 **Financial matters**

68.1 The bank balances as at 28 October 2025 were noted as follows:

Current account	£4698.87
Community Emergency (CEP) account	£ 779.37
Seat Maintenance account	£ 20.02
Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account	£1196.12

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

S Dray	salary Aug & Sept 2025	£530.40
Stubbs Electricals	MS Office Licence	£119.99
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	wreath	£ 30.00

68.3 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

Vision ICT	gov.uk domain (payment due April 2026)either	£265.00 or £250.00
S Coleman	grass cutting	£769.50
S Atkinson	IT support [Minute 61.4-25/26 refers]	up to £250.00
W Dawson	Payroll services May-Oct 2025	£144.00
Norton	software licence	£ 19.99

68.4 The following receipts at 28 October 2025 were noted:

NYC	precept second installment	£2975.00
HMRC	VAT refund	£ 453.37
	Interest on CEP account for Aug & Sept	£ 1.42
	Interest on Seat Maint. account for Aug & Sept	£ 0.04
	Interest on Liq Mgr Seat Maint. account for Aug & Sept	£ 6.37

68.5 A statement of receipts and payments for the second quarter was noted.

68.6 Bank reconciliation: Bank statements were checked for consistency against the council's accounts and these were confirmed and signed by Cllr Barningham.

68.7 Budget setting for 2026/27 precept: The draft budget was considered and approved, and the precept for 2026/27 was agreed at £6600.

69-25/26 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 5 January 2026 in St Mary's Church at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.