

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting
held at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale on
Monday 5 January 2026 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); D Southwell and B Southwell (ACEG) [for Item 75-25/26]

70-25/26 Audio/visual recording

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

71-25/26 Apologies and reasons for absence

71.1 Apologies were received from County Cllr Y Peacock.

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

72-25/26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

73-25/26 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 November 2025 were confirmed as a true and correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chair.

74-25/26 Public session

No requests from parishioners had been received.

75-25/26 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)/CEP

75.1 The minutes of the ACEG meeting held on 3/11/2025 were noted.

75.2 The following matters were considered:

75.2.1 Recruitment of 2 committee members to fulfil the roles, as per the Service Level Agreement, of Finance Liaison and vice-Chair: It was noted that these posts had not as yet been filled. The council noted that the ACEG needed to be quorate in order to operate and it was agreed that the Group should have until the Annual PC meeting in May 2026 to fill the vacancies.

75.2.2 Purchase of radios (Locality Grant): A request to purchase 4 radios (2 pairs) was considered. It was noted that Radio Solutions had provided the best quote at a cost of £219.42 and that the radios would be maintained and frequently charged by ACEG members. It was agreed to buy these radios on behalf of the ACEG with the funds from the associated Locality Grant.

76-25/26 Wuthering Heights Film trip

Possibilities were considered for arranging a trip to Richmond for Arkengarthdale residents to see the new Wuthering Heights film due for release on 14 February. It was agreed to check the cost of a bus and ticket prices and, if the price was feasible, offer places on a first come first served basis.

77-25/26 Authority-owned gov.uk domain

It was noted that it had been confirmed with VisionICT that the new domain (website and email addresses) would be set up in February 2026 for payment in April.

78-25/26 Clerk's report

- 78.1 The police reports for the period October-December 2025 were noted.
- 78.2 It was noted that the Christmas lights had attracted some appreciative comments and that they cheered up the December nights. Thanks were expressed to Richard and Monica Bacon of High Green for providing the electricity.
- 78.3 A press release from the Parish Council was approved which emphasised the gratitude of the community for the impressive quality of the work undertaken by a very small team rebuilding the bridge and main Arkengarthdale road at Foregill this year. The minimal disruption to the community and excellent local communications were also noted.
- 78.4 Attendance at the rescheduled YLCA Joint Annual Meeting 2025 to be held on 17 January 2026 at Walshford, Wetherby was considered. It was noted that no members of the council would be available to attend, and apologies would be sent.
- 78.5 It was noted that the police had made their annual request for a list of meeting dates for 2026 in order that they may attend a parish council meeting. It was noted that the police had not as yet ever attended a meeting.
- 78.6 It was noted that the clerk would like to resign, but would continue in post (within reason) until a replacement clerk could be found. It was agreed to advertise the post locally.

79-25/26 Hope Moor Wind Farm

It was noted that the Chair and the Clerk had both attended the drop-in information event at Reeth Memorial Hall on 17 November 2025. Arkengarthdale Parish Council had not been previously included in the Wind Farm's circulation list despite sharing parish boundaries with the proposed site. It was confirmed that the Arkengarthdale community qualified as a local community that would be entitled to considerable community benefits should the site go ahead. The community benefits would need to be identified and agreed by a community committee in due course.

80-25/26 Matters requested by councillors**Damaged bench at Whaw Lane top. (SA)**

It was noted that a vehicle had driven into the bench at the top of Whaw Lane and caused considerable damage. The driver was expecting to be contacted by the Parish Council about repairs. The bench had been temporarily made safe, with the broken parts being removed. It was agreed that the bench seat was still sound, but that the wooden backrest would need completely replacing. Quotes would be obtained for the cost of the repairs and the driver would be informed of the cost.

81-25/26 Planning

No planning applications or decisions had been received.

82-25/26 County Councillor's report

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

83-25/26 Highways

- 83.1 Overhanging trees: It was noted that the overhanging trees along the verge between Arkle Town and Langthwaite which had caused an accident last year had been reported to Highways, and NYC had confirmed receipt of the complaint and had put the matter on their list. It was noted that the trees at Lion House which were overhanging the road causing an obstacle for large vehicles had been attended to by the owner of the property.
- 83.2 Blocked gutter at CB Yard: It was noted that a report with location details and photographs had been submitted to Highways via the parish council's 'customer portal' complaining of a blocked gutter causing surface water during heavy rain on Arkengarthdale Road at CB Yard, and that this gutter had now been attended to.
- 83.3 Rotten fence at Whaw: It was noted that the rotten roadside fence at Whaw had at last been replaced in November and that a note of thanks had been received by the Parish Council from Mrs Gladys Atkison, thanking them for persisting with NYC over the matter.
- 83.4 Missing grit bins: It was noted that 2 grit bins and 1 grit heap were missing from Whaw Lane, and that these had been reported to Highways via the parish council's 'customer portal' in November. It was noted that the heap had since been replenished but that the bins were still missing. This would be followed up with direct communication with the relevant Highways engineer.
- 83.5 Black Hills Culvert: It was noted that the road at Black Hills Culvert had reopened on schedule in November and that the work was complete.
- 83.6 Park Head Bridge: It was noted that the planned work at Park Head Bridge had been delayed and that this would now take place in 2026.
- 83.7 Foregill Bridge: It was noted that the new bridge and road at Foregill, Arkle Town, had been resurfaced in December and had reopened on 17 December 2025.
- 83.8 Carriageway patching on Arkengarthdale Road: It was noted that the planned six-week closure of the main Arkengarthdale Road between Raw Bank and the Stang junction for carriageway patching would now be undertaken with a traffic light system rather than a full road closure on the grounds that the alternative routes in and out of the dale were not suitable under winter weather conditions.
- 83.9 Broken cattle grid above CB Yard: It was noted that the cattle grid above CB Yard on the Arkengarthdale Road was broken and highly dangerous. Councillors had erected a temporary warning sign and reported the matter directly to the relevant NYC engineer as a matter of urgency.

84-25/26 Financial matters

- 84.1 The bank balances as at 31 December 2025 were noted as follows:
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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Current account | £2830.97 |
| Community Emergency (CEP) account | £ 781.28 |
| Seat Maintenance account | £ 20.07 |
| Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account | £1205.36 |
- 84.2 Payments made since the last meeting were noted as follows:
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|---------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| S Dray | salary Oct/Nov/Dec & backpay | £864.40 |
| Walter Dawson & Son | payroll services May-Oct | £144.00 |
| S Coleman | grass cutting | £769.50 |
| St Mary's Church | Room hire Jul/Sep/Nov | £ 90.00 |

84.3 The following payments pending were noted and approved:

S Dray	back pay for Oct 2025	£ 8.60
S Atkinson	IT support	£120.00
S Dray	reimbursement for Norton licence	£ 19.99
Radio Solutions	twin pack walkie talkie (for ACEG)	£219.42

84.4 The following receipts at 31 December 2025 were noted:

Interest on CEP account for Oct/Nov/Dec	£ 1.91
Interest on Seat Maint. account for Oct/Nov/Dec	£ 0.05
Interest on Liq Mgr Seat Maint. account for Oct/Nov/Dec	£ 9.24

84.5 A statement of receipts and payments for the third quarter was noted.

85-25/26 Date of next meeting: Monday 2 March 2026 in St Mary's Church at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.