

ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held remotely via Zoom in accordance with
The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020
Monday 11 May 2020 at 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Councillor P Harker; Councillor P Lundberg (Vice-Chair); Councillor R Stones; Councillor S Stubbs (Chair); Councillor J Watkins; District Councillor R Good

In attendance: S Dray (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Y Peacock.

01/20 Public session

There were no topics raised by members of the public.

02/20 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

03/20 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 March 2020 were confirmed as a correct record by the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would collect a signed copy from the Chair in the next few days.

04/20 Meeting arrangements during the Coronavirus pandemic

04.1 Remote meeting arrangements during the pandemic were considered and the following arrangements were agreed in accordance with *The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) 2020*:

04.1.1 It was resolved to postpone the Annual Parish Council Meeting until next year, and that Councillor Stubbs would remain in post as Chair until then;

04.1.2 It was resolved to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting (a meeting for parishioners) until next year;

04.1.3 It was resolved that voting would be carried out via Zoom and/or via emails;

04.1.4 It was resolved that members of the public would be able to access documents and notice of remote meetings on the Parish Council's website and the Parish Council's notice board in Langthwaite;

04.1.5 It was resolved that the press and the public would be able to access remote meetings (using Zoom) by contacting the Chair for details prior to the meeting;

04.1.6 It was noted that there was a requirement to conduct essential business only until further notice from UK government.

05/20 Statement of accounts to 31 March 2020

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 were approved, having been circulated prior to the meeting. After taking into account income and expenditure the balance at the end of the year was £5323. It was noted that the income from contributions to flood repairs had exceeded £25k and therefore an external audit would be required this year in addition to the usual internal audit. The accounts had been prepared and were currently with the internal auditor.

06/20 VAT

A proposal to claim back VAT this year was considered. It was noted that this was not usually worth doing, but with the sums involved for the flood repairs, the amount of VAT had accumulated and it was agreed that this would be done this year. **[Action: SD]**

07/20 Coronavirus community support funding

- 07.1 A funding application to the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust for fuel costs for the volunteer delivery drivers in the dale had been circulated to councillors via email prior to submission and had been considered and approved. Parish Councillors expressed their thanks to all in the delivery team, and thanked Richard Smith and Susan Dray for setting up and organising the service.
- 07.2 It was agreed that Personal Protective Equipment should be purchased urgently for the volunteers, and the Parish Council would happily cover the cost of this. Councillor Stones would make enquiries with a supplier that was likely to still have masks in stock. It was agreed that a grant application would be submitted to RDC's Coronavirus community support grant for the cost of the PPE. **[Action: RS/SD];**
- 07.3 It was noted that the volunteer delivery team in the dale had organised a 'Lamb Count' competition to win a hamper (kindly donated by the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archeology Group) and had requested voluntary pledges from entrants to put towards an end of pandemic community event. It was proposed that the Parish Council offer the 'Seat Maintenance' bank account to hold the pledged funds until the time came when an event could be held. This was agreed, and thanks were expressed to Bruno Iesini, who had very successfully organised and coordinated the competition. Bruno would be informed about the availability of the bank account. **[Action: SD]**

08/20 School building

It was noted that the School Building Community Group had not progressed with raising funds for the school building during lockdown and that the moratorium on the sale of the building would end on 12 June, at which point the building would be placed on the open market.

09/20 Affordable housing

It was noted that the Upper Dales Community Land Trust (UDCLT) (with support from RDC and Broadacres Housing Association) was interested in bidding for the School Building as an alternative site for the affordable housing project, previously intended to be sited next to the war memorial. A local needs survey had been undertaken by Cllr Watkins prior to the pandemic and Broadacres

Housing Association and the RDC Housing Officer had concluded from this survey that there was a local need. A meeting had been cancelled by RDC's Housing Officer before lockdown and progress had since stalled. A new meeting was scheduled for next week. It was noted that this was a matter for UDCLT not the Parish Council.

10/20 Flooding matters

Progress with the four footbridges destroyed by the floods was discussed. It was noted that RDC's Community Investment funds were still available but that priority was being given to Coronavirus funds and applications at the present time. It was agreed that if the Parish Council were to work with the YDNPA to reinstate one or more bridges, the CIF was not suitable, and so no application would be made. It was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that the £1250 contribution made by Richmond Motor Club to Arkengarthdale for flood-repair work should be put towards the cost of rebuilding the most heavily used bridge in the dale near Arkletown. The funds would be transferred this coming week. It was noted that NYCC were contributing towards the other destroyed bridges at Wood House, Whaw and Punched. The YDNPA was waiting to hear from DEFRA about further possible contributions. **[Action: SD]**

11/20 Correspondence received

The following correspondence were noted or considered:

- 11.1 The police report for April 2020 was noted;
- 11.2 RDC's request for information about numbers of parish burials during the Coronavirus pandemic was noted;
- 11.3 The unavailability of wreaths for VE Day in May was considered and it was agreed to make a contribution nevertheless to the Royal British Legion even though there would be no celebration. A contribution of £25 would be sent electronically to the RBL **[Action: SD]**;
- 11.4 The Employment Law changes taking effect from 6 April 2020 were noted;
- 11.5 A request for a letter of support from YDNPA for their application for Dark Skies Reserve status was considered and it was agreed to send a letter of support **[Action: SD]**;
- 11.6 A request from YLCA for photos of features in the parish for their Annual Review was noted.

12/20 NYCC Highways

- 12.1 Work undertaken to the walls and the bridge on Stang Lane in March was considered. It was noted that the walls had been rebuilt well, with only the cap stones on the wall and a hole in Eskeleth bridge left to do. It was noted that there was a lot of debris under the bridge. The hole in the bridge was to be done by the Bridges Dept. Highways were waiting for the cap stones to be delivered in order to finish the job when current working practices under Coronavirus restrictions allowed;
- 12.2 Road and gully repairs and issues since February were considered. It was proposed and agreed that a revised list of issues be prepared and resent to Highways, with another request for a site meeting. Issues identified for the site meeting included:
 - Drains still blocked between Arkle Town and Langthwaite;
 - Culvert by tree stump near the sign for Langthwaite still blocked;

- Camber on Arkengarthdale Road outside CB Yard needed a solution to stop surface water running towards properties;
- Potholes on Eskeleth to Whaw road and at Whaw needed addressing;
- Culverts on Stang Lane possibly needed clearing and there was erosion on the road sides near the cattle grid on Stang Lane;
- Debris under Eskeleth bridge needed removing;
- Drains and culverts still blocked on Bouldershaw Lane;
- Pot hole in road at entrance to Langthwaite Bridge.

13/20 Planning matters

Councillors noted the following planning decisions:

- Planning application R/01/164/OH (overhead lines/replacement of poles) at Kitley Cottage, Whaw: approved;
- Planning application R/01/108B at Spence Intake, Arkengarthdale: approved conditionally.

14/20 Financial matters

14.1 The following expenditure was approved:

S.Dray	salary 2 months(mar/apr 2020)	£ 203.20
YLCA	annual subscription	£ 123.00
Barker Partnership	payroll preparation	£ 216.00
YDNPA	footbridge repair contribution (Richmond Motor Club)	£1250.00
Zurich Municipal	annual insurance renewal - due 1 June	£ 257.60

14.2 The following receipts were noted:

Richmond Motor Club Ltd	Flood contribution	£1250.00
NYCC Locality Budget grant	2 years' web hosting 2020-22	£ 300.00
RDC	annual precept	£3700.00
Northern Powergrid	wayleave	£ 60.00

14.3 The alteration to the period of the exercise of public rights to inspect the council's accounts due to the Coronavirus pandemic was noted. The 30 working-day period could be delayed from starting on 1 July to 1 September if required (Local Audit and Accountability Act).

14.4 It was proposed that the Clerk calculated the average number of hours/month she had worked last year so that, if necessary, she could be reimbursed, and that a budget was also drafted for this coming year for consideration at the next meeting now that the flooding contributions had all been allocated.

15/20 Local matters requiring attention before the next meeting (essential matters only)

15.1 Local matters had been addressed under item 12/20.

- 15.2 It was agreed that an informal meeting would take place via Zoom on the first Monday in each month where there was no formal meeting of the Parish Council for the duration of the pandemic in order to receive updates on essential local matters and decide on actions as appropriate. These meetings would not require an agenda. Decisions and actions would be noted and included in the minutes of the next Parish Council meeting.

16/20 2020/21 Meeting dates

The following meeting dates were confirmed:

6 July 2020

7 Sept 2020

2 Nov 2020

11 Jan 2021

1 Mar 2021

10 May 2021 (Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting)

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.