

## ARKENGARTHDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Susan Dray/Lorna Bleach  
Email: clerk@arkengarthdale-pc.gov.uk

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### Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 May 2026 at St Mary's Church, Arkengarthdale.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Stubbs, Cllr Harker, Cllr Atkinson, Cllr Barningham, Cllr Stones, L Bleach (Clerk)

- 1\_26/27    The Chair reminded all present of the Council's expectations for the audio or visual recording of the meeting
  
- 2\_26/27    Apologies and reasons for absence
  - 2.1    No apologies were received
  - 2.2    No approvals were required.
  
- 3\_26/27    Declarations of interest
  - 3.1    No declarations of interest not already declared under the council's code of conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest were received
  - 3.2    No applications for dispensation were received.
  
- 4\_26/27    Election of Officers and Declarations of Acceptance
  - 4.1    It was proposed by Cllr Harker and seconded by Cllr Stones that Cllr Stubbs be re-elected as Chair; this was unanimously agreed.
  - 4.2    It was proposed by Cllr Stubbs and seconded by Cllr Atkinson that Cllr Harker be re-elected as Vice-Chair; this was unanimously agreed.
  
- 5\_26/27    It was agreed that as with previous years, the voting representatives of the Parish Council at the YLCA Branch Meetings would be the Chair and Vice Chair.
  
- 6\_26/27    The Clerk's salary and reasonable expenses were postponed to the next meeting. (Minute 102.3\_25/26 refers).
  - 6.1    Storage arrangements for archive material were discussed; Clerk to bring additional information to the next meeting.
  - 6.2    The handover of the Clerk role was noted and S Dray was sincerely thanked for all her work in the role. Cllrs presented a gift by way of thanks.
  
- 7\_26/27    The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 25 March 2026 were confirmed as a true and correct record.
  
- 8\_26/27    It was resolved that banking arrangements for the financial year are to stay the same and that any action required to ensure the new Clerk had access to the account should be taken.
  
- 9\_26/27    Public Session  
No issues from members of the public were raised.

- 10\_26/27 Arkengarthdale Community Emergency Group (ACEG)/CEP
- 10.1 It was approved to submit the completed NYC Grant Completion form for the radios [Min 91.2\_25/26 refers]
  - 10.2 Minutes of a meeting of the ACEG on 7 April 2026 were noted and an update on the group's latest action was received. The plan had not needed to be activated since there had been no incidents since May of last year. Vice Chair and Financial Liaison posts were now filled. The group is currently looking into options for liability insurance and potential funding for this.
- 11\_26/27 Annual Governance and Accountability Return
- 11.1 A Statement of accounts to 31 March 2026 was received and it was noted that the council meets the criteria for exemption from external audit for the fiscal year 2025/26. It was resolved to sign the exemption certificate (AGAR p3).
  - 11.2 The Annual Internal Audit Report for 2025/26 included at page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 was noted and David Williams was thanked for carrying out the internal audit. A donation of £60 to his chosen cause, the Reeth and District Community Sports Club was approved.
  - 11.3 It was resolved to approve and sign Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 for Arkengarthdale Parish Council on page 5 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025/26
  - 11.4 It was resolved to approve and sign Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26 for Arkengarthdale Parish Council on page 6 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26
  - 11.5 It was resolved to approve the publication of the documents required by Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities
  - 11.6 It was resolved to approve the "period for the exercise of public rights" (1 July -11 August 2026) during which the accounting records are available for inspection by any interested members of the public. The period must be exactly 30 working days and, must include the first 10 working days of July 2026.
- 12\_26/27 Maintenance Arrangements
- The following remuneration or in-kind agreements were approved:
- 12.1 Grass Cutting up to a maximum of £850 per year
  - 12.2 War Memorial Maintenance £40.00 per year
  - 12.3 Bench repairs up to a maximum of £150 per bench per year
  - 12.4 Langthwaite Pinfold in-kind maintenance arrangements
- 13\_26/27 Clerk's report
- 13.1 It was noted that no police reports had been received for several months.
  - 13.2 It was agreed that a response was not necessary regarding stakeholder feedback on the recent local authority electoral review from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
  - 13.3 A consultation on a new Local Transport Plan from York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority/NYC (closed on 30 March 2026) was noted
  - 13.4 The outcome of the Chair's discussion with Mr Moses regarding the condition of the bench on High Green was noted; both Cllrs Stones and Stubbs are satisfied with the condition.
  - 13.5 It was noted that the small team responsible for the reconstruction of Fore Gill Bridge had won the Smeaton Award at the 2026 ICE Yorkshire & Humber Civil Engineering

Awards, recognising their work as the best civil engineering project in the region delivered for under £5 million.

- 13.6 An update on the closure of Reeth Medical Centre at the end of May 2026, which was publicly announced on 2 April 2026 was noted and support for the Central Dales Practice was expressed.
- 13.7 An update on the switchover to a gov.uk domain was noted. Cllr Atkinson was in contact with the provider but the switchover had not yet been implemented.

#### 14\_26/27 Review of policies and documents

Amendments to the following policies and documents were considered and not currently required. It was resolved to review again by December if necessary.

- 14.1 Constitution
- 14.2 Code of Conduct, including the use of the NYC complaints procedure
- 14.3 Freedom of Information Policy & Publications Scheme
- 14.4 Standing Orders
- 14.5 Records Management Policy
- 14.6 Data Protection Policy & Privacy Notice
- 14.7 Financial Regulations
- 14.8 Risk Assessment
- 14.9 Biodiversity Policy

#### 15\_26/27 Planning

- 15.1 It was agreed that a response to the YDNPA consultation on main modifications to the Local Plan was not required.
- 15.2 TPO and Conservation applications  
The following decision was noted:  
F106200 Braeside, Arkle Town: Crown reduce by 25% and thin 7 sycamores and 1 silver birch. Approved, no replanting.

#### 16\_26/27 Hope Moor Wind Farm – Community Liaison Group (HMCLG)

- 16.1 It was noted that a response had been received from Rishi Sunak MP in reply to the Clerk's letter detailing concerns about how the wind farm team were implementing their community liaison process and feedback had been provided to Fred Olsen.
- 16.2 The response received from the Hope Moor Project Team to the council's queries following the first meeting of the HMCLG was noted.
- 16.3 An update from Cllrs Harker and Barningham on the second HMCLG meeting held on 5 May 2026 at Barningham Village Hall was received. Councillors had raised the issue that a visual impact assessment had not been provided and were told this would not be until a later stage in the process. Arrangements for the environmental consultation were noted.

#### 17\_26/27 Matters requested by Councillors

- 17.1 Parking notice on high green (RS)  
It was noted that to the best of their knowledge, the Parish Council believed that there was a right of access over land leading to Pepper Hall (land adjacent to the parish land).

## 18\_26/27 County Council report

Councillor Peacock explained that the majority of conversations and action had centred around Reeth Medical Centre. She provided a report on how arrangements for refuse/recycling would likely change by the end of the year.

Cllrs explained that if the site at the car park is closing, that could result in an issue for people living in Booze who currently bring items down to the car park. The Clerk agreed to look into this officially as well and raise it with NYC.

## 19\_26/27 Highways

To note or consider the following matters:

- 19.1 It was noted how the road at Eskeleth - Seal Houses – Whaw [Min 99.1-25/26 refers] is deteriorating again due to an insufficient repair. In addition, the drain was filled with tarmac. The Clerk will follow up on this.
- 19.2 Roebeck Bridge - planned road closure between Langthwaite and Tan Hill for up to 19 days between 1-19 June 2026: this was noted.
- 19.3 Full road closure on Arkengarthdale Road from Raw Bank to the Stang Junction for 6 weeks from 13 April for carriageway patching: this was noted.
- 19.4 The Clerk agreed to follow up again on the missing grit bins at Whaw.
- 19.5 It was noted that the dangerous pothole on the Stang road in April was fixed soon after being reported.

## 20\_26/27 Financial matters:

- 20.1 The following bank balances as at 30 April 2026 were noted:

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Current account                       | £3533.98 |
| CEP account                           | £ 609.08 |
| Seat Maintenance account              | £ 20.12  |
| Liquidity Manager Seat Maint. account | £1213.47 |

- 20.2 The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:

|            |                                           |         |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| S Dray     | Salary Mar & Apr                          | £547.60 |
| P.Goodyear | Whaw bench repairs                        | £320.00 |
| YLCA       | annual subscription April 2026-March 2027 | £153.00 |
| WDS        | payroll services to 5/4/2026              | £144.00 |
| Vision ICT | Webhosting 2026/27                        | £242.05 |

- 20.3 It was resolved to make the following payments:

|            |                                               |         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Vision ICT | domain fully managed year 1 - invoice pending | £265.00 |
| Zurich     | Insurance                                     | £277.00 |

- 20.4 The following receipts at 30 April 2026 were noted:

|                                           |                                      |          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| NYC                                       | Precept (1 <sup>st</sup> instalment) | £3300.00 |
| Northern Powergrid                        | Wayleave                             | £ 60.00  |
| Interest on CEP account for March         |                                      | £ 0.60   |
| Interest on Seat Maint account for March  |                                      | £ 0.02   |
| Interest on Liq. Mgr Seat Maint for March |                                      | £ 2.89   |

21\_26/27 Meeting dates 2026/27

The following meeting dates for the forthcoming municipal year were provisionally approved:

Monday 6 July 2026

Monday 7 September 2026

Monday 2 November 2026

Monday 4 January 2027

Monday 1 March 2027

Monday 10 May 2027

(Annual Meeting of the Parish Council & Annual Parish Meeting)

22\_26/27 The date of the next meeting, Monday 6 July 2026, in St Mary's Church at 7.15pm was noted.

The meeting was closed at 21:45.