

# Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council

## Minutes for Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm

In Arkholme Village Hall

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No apologies for absence were received. 1 member of the public, City Cllr Roger Mace, Cllrs Charles Waddington, Graham Jackson-Pitt, David Haworth, Chris Preston and Rachael Gibson and the Clerk were present.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were read and signed as a true record by Cllr Waddington
1. No matters arising from the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. PACT Annual Report for the previous year included vehicle crime on or near Locka Lane in April and burglary on or near the Herb Gardens in January.
3. Chair's Report

Charles Waddington (Chair of Arkholme Parish Council 2015-2016)

Colleagues and Guests,

This is my first year as Chair of Arkholme Parish Council and I would like to pay particular tribute to my fellow councillors Graham Jackson-Pitt and David Howarth. Their support has been crucial to keeping the Parish Council functioning during a period when we have needed all councillors to be in attendance in order to be quorate and able to carry on the business of the Parish Council. During the year we have been able to co-opt Chris Preston and more latterly, Rachel Gibson. I welcome them and am delighted to say we are back at full strength. In all of this we have been ably supported by Gill Hodgson, our Parish Clerk, and Roger Mace, who represents our Ward on the City Council. We benefit from his knowledge and experience. Thank you all for your support. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the activities of the Parish Council during the last year.

Planning seems to take an increasing proportion of our time, and this year has been dominated by an application for Outline Planning for the development for 17 houses on land behind the Methodist Church. This will be a significant development, visible on the approach to our village. We have commented on its scale and density, the need for it to be in harmony with the adjacent Conservation area and near-by Heritage buildings; and also whether there is evidence of demand. Furthermore, this development, together with the Sheilings and other proposed individual developments, will increase the housing stock of the Parish substantially.

Of the 3 sites in our Parish included in the Lancaster Strategic Land Allocation for the period to 2031, two have now been granted planning permission for 31 houses in total and the third defined as 'undeliverable', as it would impact adversely on the Conservation area.

In view of this we have also sought an assurance that there will be no further development of this scale for the duration of the current housing plan. We will continue to pursue this.

Other significant consultations on which we have commented include the Arkholme Conservation Area Appraisal.

Road problems, both speeding and highlighting the need for repairs have continued to be recurrent features of our meetings. We are looking into whether speed indicators can be deployed periodically in our village.

Transport in the form of our bus service has also been a very recent and concerning issue. Together with our adjacent Parish Councils, we objected strongly to LCC's proposal to axe subsidised services, but following a hurried consultation process LCC went ahead. As a result we have lost our bus service completely, other than a school bus to Kirkby Lonsdale only. This cuts across the concept of sustainable development, the needs of an ageing population, choice of secondary school and the provision of mandatory affordable housing in already approved developments. With Whittington and Gressingham Parish Councils, we are now starting an exploration of what alternatives, if any, might be possible.

Community activities are a strong feature of our community. The Parish Council helps to support these activities through our donations to a variety of local organisations. More directly, we had a delightful 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' event on the village green, followed by mulled wine and refreshments in the Bay Horse.

This year's Hopewell Cup competition was for Christmas wreaths. First prize and the cup went to Hilary Jagger, with Louise Jones and Rachael, Phil, Ezra and Remy Gibson as worthy joint runners up.

Keeping parishioners informed about what we are doing and the issues we face is greatly helped by the community email list maintained by Chris May and I would like to thank Chris for continuing to make it available to the Parish Council. Do contact us with your views and comments, either directly, through Gill or by joining us at our meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank again my fellow councillors for their help and support. Thank you. We are at full strength and ready to continue representing the views of our Parish.

7. Clerk's Report - The closing balance in the current account at the end of March 2016 is £3,061.65

the bank reconciliation shows this to be a true balance. Precept received from Lancaster City Council 8.5.15 of £3,404.00 Rents for Pounds were received at £12.00 from Mr Pearson and Mrs Fairhurst. The accounts have been internally audited by Michael Cornall. The accounts are due to be accounted externally by BDO LLP, Southampton by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Annual Return, cash book, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to the accounts will be available for inspection and to make copies, by request, from the 30<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 as required by regulations.

1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and LALC Representative.

Cllr Charles Waddington was nominated by Cllr Jackson-Pitt as Chairperson and seconded by Cllr Preston.

Cllr Jackson-Pitt was nominated by Cllr Haworth as Vice-Chairperson and seconded by Cllr Gibson.

Cllr Howarth to remain as LALC representative.

1. Finances: Councillors agree to Rents for Pounds to remain at £12.00 per annum due in December for the following year and the Clerk's Salary to increase to £920.00 Gross per annum payable quarterly
  2. No changes were declared with regard to the Declarations of Acceptance of Office, Notification by Member of the Parish Council of Other Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
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1. Risk Assessment to be completed by Cllr Jackson-Pitt over the summer months.
  2. There was no business introduced by Councillors.