

Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 7 December 2020

This meeting was held remotely due to the social distancing requirements of Covid-19

Present: Cllrs Graham Jackson-Pitt, David Howarth, James Huddleston, Chris Preston, Helen Dinsdale, Co Cllr Phillippa Williamson and the Clerk Claire Helme.

- 1 **Apologies:** none received as all present.
- 2 **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none declared.
- 3 **Minutes of the last meeting held 2 November:** Cllr Howarth proposed acceptance of the minutes of 2 November, this was seconded by Cllr Huddleston and will be signed as a true record by Cllr Jackson-Pitt.
- 4 **Planning updates:**
Applications **20/00773/FUL** Docker Park Farm, **20/00786/FUL** Bullcopy Farm, **20/00879FUL** The High Farm and **20/0225/TCA** Longbarrow were all awaiting decision at time of the meeting.
Applications **20/01026/FUL** Gunnerthwaite Farm and **20/0186/TCA** Kiberick permitted.
- 5 **Finance:**
 - a) The Clerk presented the annual budget forecast to councillors. As a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions spending this year was considerably less than the year before with a forecast balance of approx £3,439. This includes the donation towards the Christmas tree and the VAT refund. The PROW grant was ring-fenced for footpath improvements in the new year. The forecast spend for the next financial year was approx £3,755. The auditor had advised the parish council to build up reserves of approx £3,500 by gradually increasing the precept however owing to the difficult circumstances for residents this year it was decided to set the precept at £3455.55 resulting in no increase on Band D despite the slight reduction in the tax base. The motion to set the precept for 2021/22 at £3455.55 was proposed by Cllr Jackson-Pitt, seconded by Cllr Huddleston and agreed by all present.
 - b) Cheque 647 for £278.10 for the Clerk's wages (Oct/Nov/Dec) was proposed by Cllr Jackson-Pitt and seconded by Cllr Huddleston.
 - c) S137 donation requests for this financial year were considered. The following requests were approved and awarded a grant of £100 each (cheques 648-653):- Arkholme Village Hall (replacement consumables for defibrillator and also mowing/upkeep of the village playing field), Arkholme Baby and Toddler Group, Arkholme and District WI, Arkholme School PTFA and Arkholme Crown Green Bowling Club (subject to confirmation that the lease will be renewed in February). Arkholme Village Hall's request for funding for external decoration of the hall was not accepted by majority decision.
Acknowledgement for audit purposes would be needed and, as agreed at the last parish council meeting, a short report on how the recipients have spent the donation should be received at some point by the parish council. Cllr Huddleston reported that any remaining monies held by Arkholme Lunch Club will be donated to a local charity for the Homeless.

The motion to accept the above was proposed by Cllr Jackson-Pitt, seconded by Cllr Howarth and agreed by all present.

- d) Cheque no 639 (£20) for the Best Kept Village competition was never presented and was officially stood down. This was approved by Cllr Jackson-Pitt and seconded by Cllr Howarth.

6 **500 words competition update**

Hayley Whitaker has confirmed that this will be deferred until the Spring term when there will be more space in the curriculum given all the recent disruption.

7 **PACT report:**

On the constabulary website there were 16 offences in the Kellet Ward with no crimes reported in Arkholme. Co Cllr Williamson was currently working on her latest Parish/Town Council update.

8 **Additional business:**

Local government reform

The Clerk and Cllr Dinsdale gave a brief resume of their recent online briefing session with Lancaster City Council on proposals for local government reform. This included discussion regarding the possible formation of a unitary council for the Morecambe Bay Area incorporating Barrow, Lancaster and South Lakeland.

Highways

Potholes located on Snab Green Lane after the Snab Green cul de sac junction, are getting worse and need reporting to Highways.

Action: Clerk to report

Christmas

The Christmas tree lights loaned, by Trevor Manton, have now been PAT tested by Jack Benson and a timer will be fitted shortly. There are approx 50 bulbs with a wattage of approx 20 watts each.

Action: Cllr Jackson-Pitt and Trevor Manton to oversee the purchase of any additional items needed and the installation of the lights on the tree when erected.

Planning

Outline planning permission had been applied for some years ago on land at the back of the Sheiling/Methodist Church on Kirkby Lonsdale Road. As some recent activity had been noticed the status with regard to planning timelines, footings etc should be investigated.

Action: Clerk to check the planning portal

Village pound

The second village pound is now rented out to Sara Saul from January 2021.

Action: Clerk to invoice for the rent.

Resignation

Cllr Jackson-Pitt announced his resignation, with immediate effect, as councillor and Chair of Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council and would write his formal notice after the meeting. He stated that he had very much enjoyed his 9 years on the parish council but now had additional commitments at work. He agreed to carry out the village risk assessment, completion of the Christmas tree lighting arrangements and to act as signatory until another is in place. He was thanked by all present for his valuable contribution and commitment to the work of the parish council over the years and was assured that he will be very much missed by all

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Date of next meeting:

This was scheduled for Monday 1 February at 7.30pm to be held remotely.

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