

Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 7 March 2022

Present: Cllrs David Howarth, Helen Dinsdale, James Huddleston, Chris Preston and the Clerk, Claire Helme.

Also present

Katy Waddington

1 **Apologies:** County Councillor Phillippa Williamson

2 **Arkholme School Grounds:**

Katy Waddington, School Administrative Officer, addressed the Parish Council on behalf of the Headteacher with regard to the use of school grounds out of school hours. She explained that to meet Covid regulations the back gates to the school had been locked but that local children had previously always been allowed to use the playground after school. Now that the grounds have been reopened the school is finding more instances of damaged property which is costing the school a lot to repair from their budget. Instances include damage to bins, evidence of fire damage to wood items in the playground, items from the garage at the back being thrown around, removal of sand from the 'digging zone' in the sandpit which was contaminated with soil etcetera - replacement sand for this area costs the school about £15 a bag. As the school/PTFA recently spent £20k on a new rubber soft pour playground surface it is inappropriate for children to be riding bicycles over it as it may cause damage. Lancashire County Council's legal team would prefer that the gates remain locked (although the fence could still be climbed over) which the school may have to implement if there is no improvement. CCTV may also be considered to deter antisocial behaviour. A letter has gone out to all parents with very little response but the youngsters involved may not be from the school or even the immediate area. The Parish Council stated their support for any measures that need to be implemented to stop the vandalism; it is important that parishioners be made aware of the problems that the school face and the thousands of pounds that it costs the school from their own budget to rectify.

3 **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none declared

4 **Minutes of the last meeting:**

Cllr Huddleston proposed acceptance of the minutes of 7 February, this was seconded by Cllr Dinsdale and was signed as a true record by Cllr Howarth.

5 **Matters arising:**

a) With regard to S137 grant applications the Parish Council has made it very clear that the legislation does not allow for grants to be made to organisations to support their running costs.

b) The signpost on the village green will be cleaned imminently by Cllr Howarth.

c) With reference to the cheque recently approved for Charlesworth Tree Care, Cllr Huddleston informed councillors that the missing Christmas tree lights have now been located and stored away for use next year.

6 **Finance:**

a) Cheque no 000677 for £332.79 for the Clerk's wages Jan/Feb/March was approved

b) Cheque no 000678 for £205.68 for Gibson and Sons, Kirkby Lonsdale for repair to the kissing gate on Footpath 9 (from PROW grant)

Proposed Cllr Howarth
Seconded Cllr Huddleston

c) Approved since last meeting

Cheque no 000673 for £60 for Arkholme Village Hall for room hire for meetings.

d) **Bank reconciliation**

The balance of account on 5 January was £5,870.50. Rent for the village pound of £15.00 was received in February resulting in a balance of £5,855.50. Cheques written at the last meeting, when cleared, give a balance of £4,623.50 minus the payments authorised above will result in a final balance of **£4,085.03**.

7 **Planning notifications:**

21/00912/FUL and **21/000913/LB** Bay Horse Hotel, Kirkby Lonsdale Road, Arkholme, LA6 1AS

With regard to the above amended and partially retrospective consents for various works councillors resolved to resubmit the Parish Council's letter from last September for consideration at the relevant planning committee meeting as the observations made were still relevant.

22/00012/REF Bainsbeck Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale Road, Arkholme, LA6 1BA

Planning appeal against decision made with regard to **prior approval of demolition of outbuilding** by Lancaster City Council (original planning ref: **21/01447/PAD**).

Councillors noted the results of the appeal which has been turned down.

Arkholme Conservation Area

It was resolved to obtain a detailed map of the Arkholme Conservation Area in order to determine in detail which areas lie within the Conservation Area and which lie outside this designated area.

8 **Village pounds/rental agreement**

The Clerk has not received any enquiries about the village pound which is currently available to rent from the Parish Council although details were circulated.

Councillors resolved to approve the new rental agreement drawn up by Cllr Dinsdale who was thanked by all present for undertaking the task.

Proposed Cllr Huddleston

Seconded Cllr Preston

9 **Platinum Jubilee**

It was resolved that the Clerk send out an email to establish interest/availability in provisional plans for a 'Bring and Share' lunch at Arkholme Village Hall on Sunday 5 June. Parishioners will be asked to notify the Clerk or Cllr Howarth if they are interested in attending the lunch as owing to the half term many residents may be on holiday.

Queen's Green Canopy

Various locations in which a deciduous or evergreen tree could be planted were discussed. It was resolved that Cllr Dinsdale investigate different types of trees and their suitability for different locations.

10 **PACT report:**

The Lancashire Constabulary website had no further updates since the last meeting.

11 **Additional business:**

- Councillors noted with regret the recent death of Brian Shepherd who was a longstanding member of the Parish Council, including in the role of Chair, and contributed a great deal to the life of the village in general.
- The physical risk assessment of council assets in the village needs to be undertaken in due course. The inspection was undertaken on 28 March 2021 by Cllr Howarth.
- The Parish Assembly has not been held for 2 years due to covid restrictions.. It was noted that other parish councils hold an annual meeting and annual parish council meeting but not a parish assembly in this format. As the Parish Assembly is not generally well-attended and it can be difficult to find suitable speakers councillors resolved not to continue in future.
- The potholes between Docker Lane/Snab Green Lane have still not been repaired. Councillors also reported the pooling of water opposite Storrs Hall which needs attention.

12 **Date of next meeting:**

This is scheduled for Monday 4 April at 7pm in Arkholme Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Claire Helme
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