

Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 4 December 2023

Present: Cllrs David Howarth, Chris Preston, Helen Dinsdale,
Co Cllr Philippa Williamson and the Clerk, Claire Helme.

1 **Apologies:** Cllr James Huddleston, Cllr James Sommerville (LCC).

2 **Declaration of conflicts of interest:** none declared.

3 **Minutes of the last meeting:**

Co Cllr Williamson proposed acceptance of the minutes of 6 November 2023, this was seconded by Cllr Preston and was signed as a true record by Cllr Howarth.

4 **Finance:**

a) Annual Budget Forecast

With receipts this financial year of £7,944 the balance carried forward at the end of March 2024 is estimated at approx. £3,688 after deduction of the unspent PROW grant of £260. This does not include new PROW grants worth £1,600 which are ringfenced. Spending this year has been similar to the previous year; unforeseen expenses include the Coronation lunch, maintenance of the Jubilee bench/noticeboard and the purchase of a new minute book.

The forecast spend for 2024/25 is approx. £4,103. If the precept was to remain the same at £3,538 the end of year balance would be estimated at £3,458 (not including the recent PROW grants).

Precept

In order to keep pace with inflation and maintain healthy contingency reserves it was resolved that the 2024/25 precept increase by 5% to **£3,715**. The tax base this year is slightly higher at 174.54 resulting in an amount of £21.28 per Band D household.

Proposed Cllr Dinsdale

Seconded Co Cllr Williamson.

b) Cheque no 000717 for £447.54 for the Clerk's wages Oct/Nov/Dec at the new NALC agreed hourly rate of £12.63 (including £37.06 backpay from 1 April 2023) was approved by all present.

Proposed Co Cllr Williamson

Seconded Cllr Dinsdale

c) S137 grants

It was agreed to send out the guidelines and application form via Chris May with a deadline to be set in January; decisions will be made at the February meeting.

5 **Planning updates:**

23/00020/ENF or Inspectorate reference APP/A2335/C/23/3324020

Land to the South West of Thorneycroft, Kirkby Lonsdale Road, Arkholme.

Appeal against enforcement notice.

The appeal is still in progress.

23/01164/PLDC Bay Horse Hotel, Kirkby Lonsdale Road, Arkholme

Proposed lawful development certificate to convert existing bowling green to a padel court with associated fencing for up to 12 months.

The application was refused by Lancaster City Council on 30 November with the Case Officer's report finalised prior to any comments received from the Parish Council.

23/01239/HLDC Meadowlands, Main Street Arkholme

The application was withdrawn before the Parish Council meeting.

23/0188/TCA Meadowlands, Main Street, Arkholme

Tree works application for T1-Birch-30% crown reduction.

Application awaiting decision.

No comments were made by councillors.

6 Christmas update:

a) The Blessing of the Christmas Tree by the Vicar and associated refreshments was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Huddleston for arranging both the delivery/erection of the tree and the event on the 1st of December.

b) It was agreed that a cheque for £200 be forwarded to Crabtree Christmas Trees once the invoice has been received by the Clerk.

Proposed Co Cllr Williamson

Seconded Cllr Dinsdale.

c) Cheque 000719 for £13.19 to Cllr Preston and cheque no 000720 for £14.48 to Cllr Huddleston were approved for reimbursement of replacement parts for the Christmas tree lights.

Proposed Cllr Dinsdale

Seconded Co Cllr Williamson

7 Speed Indicator Devices:

Although County Highways can now overcome the technical problems relating to variable speed (vis-à-vis the 20mph flashing school sign) the estimated cost of a SPiD of up to £3k is not currently within the scope of the parish council budget. It was agreed to put the item on hold for the time being but to continue to investigate potential funding opportunities.

Residents concerned about speeding motorists should report incidents directly to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

8 Public Rights of Way:

a) Grants

The Parish Council is now in receipt of both County Council grants giving a total of £1,600. Some of the biodiversity grant will be used to fund bird/hedgehog boxes which are being constructed at a local school as part of a design project.

b) Footpath updates

Footpath 2

Cllr Preston reported that he had sourced some 'kissing gates' priced at £357 at Jackson's but the parish council will need to get the agreement of the landowner before proceeding.

9 Village pounds:

The rental agreement and rent still needs to be sorted out with regard to Pound A.

10 **PACT report:**

October	11 crimes in the constabulary area 1 crime in the Arkholme area
Arkholme (on or near Meadoway)	1 violence/sex offence
Borwick	1 anti-social behaviour
Halton-with-Aughton	2 violence/sex offence
Priest Hutton	1 violence/sex offence, 1 criminal damage arson, 1 public order offence
Over Kellet	1 violence/sex offence
Nether Kellet	2 anti-social behaviour, 1 other theft

11 **Additional business:**

- The Parish Council noted the contents of the email regarding the use of the school playground from the Chair of Governors.
- No further information was available at the present time regarding the village lunch next April.

12 **Date of next meeting:**

This is scheduled for Monday 5 February at 7pm in Arkholme Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

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