

Arkendale, Coneythorpe & Clareton Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 March 2012 at 7.30 p.m.
in Arkendale Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillor P Topham (Chairman), Councillor D Bailey, Councillor P Houseman,
Councillor Mrs S Shipman and Councillor D Smith.
In Attendance: Miss C Brown (Outgoing Clerk) and Mr C Hudson (Incoming Clerk)

Also present were Councillor Anthony Alton (Harrogate Borough Council), Councillor John Watson (North Yorkshire County Council), PCSO Alastair Graham-Merrett (North Yorkshire Police) and four members of the public.

Prior to the commencement of formal proceedings the Chairman welcomed Mr Christopher Hudson, who would be taking over as clerk to the council with effect from 1 April 2012. Miss Brown had regretfully tendered her resignation.

2011.100. **Apologies for absence:** There were none.

2011.101. **Declarations of interest:** There were none.

2011.102. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to previous minute 2011.87, an update was given regarding the sign at the St Bartholomew's Church junction with Moor Lane, one side of the sign directing road users to Coneythorpe was missing and the remaining side was damaged, possibly due to a vehicle colliding with it. The matter would be reported to NYCC as a matter of urgency.

In relation to previous minute 2011.95, Mr Bailey reported that the former BT phone kiosk would be secured in due course, and in relation to minute 2011.97, that he would assess what was required in order to repair or replace the notice board in Arkendale.

2011.103. **Visit from PCSO Alastair Graham-Merrett:** The Council welcomed PCSO Alastair Graham-Merrett from North Yorkshire Police who had attended the meeting to discuss the issue of vehicles speeding through villages in the parish. PCSO Graham-Merrett informed the Council that in the period from 1 January 2012 the Police had not received any complaints about speeding in the parish and described the difficulties for residents to assess the speed of traffic. The officer explained that the Council could request that the Fire Service come to the area to temporarily install special strips along the roads which would record the number of vehicles and also their speeds. The necessary forms to fill in were left with the Clerk and it was noted that the speed kits were in short supply with already a lengthy list of villages wishing to use them. PCSO Graham-Merrett advised the Council to check speed limit signs within the parish to ensure that they weren't obscured by foliage and to check whether they were illuminated at night, both these measures could assist in combating the problem.

PCSO Graham-Merrett advised the meeting that the Police now used a new non-emergency phone number, 101, and encouraged residents to report speeding incidents. The Council felt that the speeding problem was worst during rush hour traffic, between 07:00-08:30 and 17:00-19:00 and PCSO Graham-Merrett agreed that officers should conduct a speed check in the area. Residents present at the meeting referred to the lack of a white line down part of Moor Lane which marked the centre of the road and understood that NYCC Highways had felt it was unnecessary to provide a line when the road had been resurfaced. The issue of HGVs also using the roads through the parish as a means of a shortcut was also noted. PCSO Graham-Merrett agreed to look into the white line issue with NYCC and also to speak with the businesses whose lorries had been using the roads seemingly against weight restrictions. He advised that the Council could also report the latter issue to Trading Standards at NYCC.

Following these discussions PCSO Graham-Merrett referred to local crime figures and reported that since

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1 January 2012 there had been a report of only one crime in the area, the theft of a gate from a farm. He informed of the rising number of metal thefts throughout the country and urged residents to be vigilant and report any such crimes via the 101 number.

2011.104 **Public Participation:** It was reported that the Arkendale village sign on Westfield Lane was missing. It was agreed that the clerk should report this to NYCC and the request made for NYCC to supply a new sign that could be fixed to a stone, as done by other local villages. The stone to be supplied by Councillor Houseman.

Councillor Anthony Alton gave an update on current affairs at Harrogate Borough Council. The Council had given the necessary approvals for officers to further plans for the sale of five council buildings and movement of staff to a new purpose built office building on the site of the current police station on North Park Road in Harrogate. It was expected that the new build and office moves would take three years to complete. Parking was an issue still to be worked through with discussions currently centring around the use of part of the Jubilee Multi-Storey Car Park. The new building would replace those council buildings that were no longer fit for purpose and would be carbon neutral and allow savings to be made in energy bills and maintenance costs. The new building would also provide space to host a town centre contingent of the police force.

Council tax had been frozen for the third consecutive year and the new exhibition halls at the International Centre were now complete and in use. The new halls had been required in order for the venue to keep up with competition in what was a tough market and business now seemed to be picking up.

2011.105. **Planning decisions notified by Harrogate Borough Council:** There were none.

2011.106. **Planning applications dealt with between meetings:** There were none.

2011.107. **Planning applications:** There were none.

2011.108 **Elections 2012:** The clerk reminded councillors that the deadline for submission of election papers to the Elections Office at Harrogate Borough Council was noon on 4 April 2012. Those standing for election were encouraged to return their papers sooner just in case there were any problems. Replacement nomination papers are available from the clerk on request.

2011.109. **Allerton Waste Recovery Park:** The Chairman gave an update on the proposed Allerton Waste Recovery Park. Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) was a consultee on the County Council's application, in the same way that the Parish Councils were. The HBC Planning Committee had considered the application at its meeting on 14 February 2012 and despite officers recommending a submission to the County of no objections, the Committee had voted, with only one abstention, to object strongly on a number of grounds. Councillor John Watson had spoken against the application at the meeting and Councillor Alton had also publicly opposed the proposal. The Chairman referred to the County Council's Waste Core Strategy vision which appeared to contradict the proposals which would include an incinerator. The Chairman would be writing to the County on this issue and encouraged others to do so. It was now felt likely that there would be a public inquiry into the proposals following a decision on the application by the County Council's Planning Committee expected between July and September 2012.

2011.110. **Village Spring Cleans:** The Chairman advised that arrangements had been made for Arkendale and Coneythorpe to undertake village spring cleans over the weekend of 14 and 15 April. Mr and Mrs Rowe would take delivery of cleaning kits from Harrogate Borough Council for use in Arkendale on the Saturday and these would be passed onto Coneythorpe for the Sunday. Waste would be collected from the Village Hall in Arkendale and the kits and additional rubbish collected from the Chairman's home in Coneythorpe, the following Monday. The meeting places would be the Village Hall in Arkendale and the Village Green in Coneythorpe. Mr Holman would be asked to publicise the event on the website and also to email residents. Councillor Shipman and Mrs Rowe would coordinate arrangements and an announcement made at the next Church service.

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2011.111. **Queen's Jubilee Celebrations:** The Chairman informed that at the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee, it had been agreed that Arkendale would be holding a 'Big Lunch' in the Hall on 3 June 2012, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Mrs Rowe and Mrs Cox would be coordinating arrangements and residents asked to bring their own picnic food. The Village Green in Coneythorpe would be hosting a BBQ also on 3 June. A service of thanksgiving will be held at 10.00 am at St Bartholomew's Church, Arkendale.

2011.112. **The Mar:** Following discussions at the previous meeting, the clerk advised that she had contacted the Church of England and Methodist Churches to establish whether they held any records relating to the village from where it may be possible to establish ownership of the Mar. Responses had been received and it appeared that any records would be lodged at the County Records Office in Northallerton. Details as to which deposit boxes the records may be found in had been provided and these would be passed onto the incoming clerk to take forward.

Following correspondence from Councillor Shipman in relation to the moles that had set up home on the Mar, and their subsequent removal which had been funded by Councillor Houseman, the clerk had contacted the Yorkshire Local Councils Association to seek advice as to what could be done to establish ownership of the land and therefore liability for the removal of moles in future years. A request had been made for a reply on this matter to be sent to the new clerk and was still awaited. The Council wished to record their thanks to Councillor Houseman for arranging clearance of the site.

2011.113. **BT Phone Kiosk, Moor Lane, Arkendale:** The clerk had received two quotations from local tradesmen in relation to the possible refurbishment for the former BT phone kiosk. Detail of these quotes would be copied and circulated to members of the Council and the matter discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed that the issue would also be discussed at the Parish meeting where residents would be asked to choose a preferred option for the future of the kiosk. A recommendation would then be made to the Council who would make a final decision. The incoming clerk would also investigate the council's public liability insurance to ensure that it would cover the kiosk should it be kept for public use, and would report back at the next meeting.

2011.114. **Statement of accounts for the period 1 April 2011 – 20 March 2012:** The statement of accounts for the current year was noted and the following payments approved:

	Yorkshire Local Council Association – Annual	
P17/11	membership fee 2012/13	127.00
P18/11	Village Hall hire charge for 20 March 2012	18.00
P19/11	Clerk's salary and expenses to 31 March 2012	288.42
P20/11	HM Revenues and Customs PAYE for 2011/12	74.60

2011.115. **Correspondence received:**

1. It was reported that Mrs Houseman had been selected, through her work with a local charity, to carry the Olympic torch on part of its journey through Knaresborough. This was a fantastic honour and the Council wished to record its congratulations and hoped that Mrs Houseman enjoyed the experience.
2. Following the Chairman's meeting with engineers from NYCC, the clerk had emailed confirmation that the Council was content for its allocation from the Harrogate Rural Safety Scheme to be spent repairing potholes shown on supplied plans. The agreement to spend the allocation is detailed in Minute 2011.32.3
3. Details were received on opportunities for residents to purchase discounted compost bins and these would be fixed to the notice boards.
4. Booklet from NYCC relating to the Core Waste Strategy – noted.
5. Letter from local resident relating to noise nuisance from a trials bike – The Chairman would respond.

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2011.116. **Report from the Village Hall Committee:** The Chairman had received a report from the Village Hall Committee and detailed the current state of finances. The last three film showings had made a profit and the required change to the lease agreement had been finalised. Yorkshire Water had compensated the Committee for a fault with the water meter. New trustees were required. Work was required to fix the seals in some of the windows and to remedy the peeling wall coating. All of the groups meeting in the Hall were now well established and running successfully.

2011.117. **Matters for inclusion on the next Agenda:**

1. BT phone kiosk – a final decision
2. Notice board in Arkendale – Councillor Bailey to report
3. Missing/damaged road sign, Moor Lane junction with St Bartholomew's Church
4. Potholes – The clerk to seek an update on progress from NYCC
5. Speeding vehicles issue

2011.100. **Date and time of next meetings:** Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 7.30 pm, Annual Meeting and Parish meeting.

The dates for the remainder of 2012 and 2013 will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting but the proposals are as follows:

11 September 2012
13 November 2012
15 January 2013
12 March 2013
14 May 2013
10 September 2013
12 November 2013