

Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 19 May 2025

Public Participation:

A member of the public voiced concerns over the increase in speeding motorbikes and other vehicles since the introduction of the average speed cameras on the other side of the valley. This traffic is now funnelled through Arkholme and Whittington and also affects Borwick and Capenwray. Speeding motorbikes of up to 100mph have been observed on the way out of Arkholme towards Whittington taking no account of slow-moving vehicles like tractors exiting the farm. Possible traffic calming solutions like extending the 30mph zone further out of the village, SPiDS or other traffic warning signs could be considered but it will be necessary to gauge public opinion before making any final decisions; the high costs of SPiDS would also be an issue. The Parish Council resolved to contact the relevant authority to arrange a highways speed assessment survey as soon as possible.

Present: Cllrs David Howarth (Chair), James Huddleston,
Chris Preston and the Clerk, Claire Helme
One member of the public was present.

1 **Apologies:** Cllr Phillippa Williamson

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

3 **Appointment of Chair, Vice-Chair and LALC representative:**

Cllr Howarth was nominated as **Chair** by Cllr Huddleston and was seconded by Cllr Preston.

Cllr Preston was nominated as **Vice-Chair** by Cllr Howarth and was seconded by Cllr Huddleston

Cllr Huddleston was nominated as **LALC representative** by Cllr Howarth and was seconded by Cllr Preston.

4 **Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer:**

The Clerk was nominated as **RFO** by Cllr Howarth and was seconded by Cllr Huddleston.

5 **Declaration of acceptances of office:**

Councillors completed their acceptances of office forms for the coming year.

6 **Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 7 April:**

Cllr Huddleston proposed acceptance of the minutes of 7 April 2025, this was seconded by Cllr Preston and was signed as a true record by Cllr Howarth.

Matters arising:

The Parish Council is waiting for an estimate of the costs of the paediatric defibrillator costs before making a donation.

7 **Finance:**

a) Annual rent for the village pounds:

It was resolved that the rent for the village pounds remain at the rate of **£20** per annum next year.

Proposed Cllr Howarth

Seconded Cllr Huddleston

- b) Clerk's salary:
It was resolved that the Clerk's annual salary remain at **LC1 SCP9** on the NALC scale. It was noted that there will be a NALC pay increase for all clerks later in the year.
Proposed Cllr Howarth
Seconded Cllr Huddleston
- c) Renewal of the Parish Council Insurance:
As the cost of the Parish Council insurance with Clear Councils has risen substantially from £522 to £674 for a 3-year fixed term it was resolved that the Clerk investigate the cost of a standard policy with Zurich for parish councils with a very small precept and few areas of risk and then a decision can be reached.
Proposed Cllr Howarth
Seconded Cllr Preston
- d) It was resolved to pay the LALC annual subscription of £78.45 (cheque no 000749) although it was noted that the rate had risen by £20 owing to the higher number of electors currently on the Electoral Roll.
Proposed Cllr Howarth
Seconded Cllr Huddleston
- AGAR documentation:**
- e) Internal audit report and approval of Internal Auditor's invoice:
The internal audit report was noted; there were no concerns raised by the Internal Auditor. Payment of the internal audit fee of **£36.00** (cheque no 000748) was proposed by Cllr Huddleston and seconded by Cllr Howarth.
- f) Approval of the Certificate of Exemption:
Approval of the Certificate of Exemption was proposed by Cllr Howarth and seconded by Cllr Preston. The Certificate will be sent off to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, in London.
- g) Annual Governance Statement:
Approval of the Annual Governance Statement was proposed by Cllr Howarth and seconded by Cllr Preston.
- h) Accounting Statements 1-9:
Approval of the Accounting Statements was proposed by Cllr Howarth and seconded by Cllr Preston.
- i) Period of commencement of the exercise of public rights:
It was proposed by Cllr Huddleston and seconded by Cllr Howarth that the period **Tuesday 3 June to Monday 14 July** be fixed for the exercise of public rights of inspection of the accounts. The Clerk will post the relevant notification on the noticeboard in due course.
- j) Approval of end of year accounts and ledger:
Approval of the end of year accounts and balance in the accounts ledger (end of year balance **£6,224.34**) was proposed by Cllr Howarth and seconded by Cllr Huddleston.

k) Bank reconciliation:

The balance of account currently stands at **£10,124.34** with the precept of **£3,900** received in early April.

l) Risk assessment:

Cllr Howarth will complete the physical risk assessment over the course of the year as it is a very short time since it was last completed. There are no obvious areas of concern that need to be addressed at the moment.

8 **Planning:**

Appeal Ref: APP/A2335/W/3353408

Land East of Arkholme Methodist Church, Kirkby Lonsdale Rd.

The appeal for the erection of up to 23 dwellings on the site was permitted by the Planning Inspectorate on 9 April but there are no further details as to how the dwellings will be allocated. Despite many concerns previously raised by the Parish Council, including the proposed treatment of effluent, there is nothing further that can be done as the Inspectorate decision is final.

25/00380/FUL Land at Bullcopy Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale Rd, Arkholme.

Erection of a two-storey extension

Awaiting decision.

25/00502/CU Gowan View and the Shippon, Gowan Hall Farm, Arkholme

Awaiting decision.

The Parish Council had no objections to the proposed change of use of the holiday lets but would like to see the farmhouse itself renovated for residential use.

9 **Hopewell Cup:**

This will be judged in August and entries this year will be for ‘miniature gardens.’

10 **Public Rights of Way/footpaths:**

The 3 new kissing gates have now been installed at the agreed locations; a vote of thanks was expressed to Cllr Huddleston and all the landowners and farmers who had made the project possible. It was resolved to pay Rolling View Landscapes the sum of £1,212 (cheque no 000751) which will be taken from the ringfenced grants previously received from the County Council.

11 **Dates of meetings 2025/26:**

The remaining meetings are scheduled for 7 July, 1 September, 3 November and 5 January 2026.

Additional Business:

- Cllr Huddleston proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair for all the time and effort he has put into the role.
- The Parish Council has again received complaints about dog fouling on the village green.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Claire Helme

Clerk

Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council

