

## **DOCUMENTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

### **Agenda item 52.25 Arthington Cricket Club fund request**

Arthington CC is a community cricket club which fields two senior teams playing on Saturdays and through a partnership with Otley CC, stage junior, girls' and women's matches throughout the week and on Sundays. We have players of all ages playing senior cricket, with youngest 14 and the oldest 65. We have 35 playing members and 20 non- playing members and every week we have members of the community coming down to watch us.

Through actively developing participation in the community, the Club has gone from strength to strength. Our outreach strategy which identifies and supports young cricketers, provides opportunities to play cricket, transport to and from matches and training sessions, including indoor nets during the winter.

The 1st team has made rapid progress having gone from division 5 to winning the 1st division Championship of the Nidderdale Cricket League in successive seasons, all within the space of 7 years! The 1st team have now moved up into the Yorkshire Premier League North through the ECB (England Cricket Board) pyramid system. Consequently, the club has had to make enormous improvements to the ground and facilities to meet the expected standards of playing at a higher level.

Last year we completed a new build pavilion which was funded through tireless money raising, grants and loans. Ground and facility improvements have been ongoing and we are now need to provide additional sight screens and a new scoreboard. We have raised £3,600 through donations and have applied for a grant from LCC for £2,400. If we are successful with this application we will have a shortfall of **£448**. We have also started raising funds to buy the two additional sight screen at a cost of £1500 including VAT each, which is again a requirement of playing at a higher level.

Would you be able to provide any funding towards either the scoreboard, sight screen or both? Both companies are Leeds based. Scoreboard is manufactured by Bespoke Scoreboards and the sightscreens by ACS Cricket. Invoices can be presented on request.

We would love to meet you and show the new pavilion and other facilities.

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### **Agenda item 54.25 Assertion 10**

#### **PRACTITIONERS' GUIDE ASSERTION 10 – DIGITAL COMPLIANCE**

**What is SAPPP (Practitioners' Guide)** – [Small Authorities' Proper Practice Panel](#) (previously JPAG, Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance).

**What is the Practitioners' Guide** – It supports the preparation of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and provides best practice that all councils should follow.

**What is Assertion 10** – A new assertion on the AGAR whereby the Council must state whether it has followed digital and data compliance during the current financial year.

**When does Assertion 10 come into force** – It is in force as of 1 April 2025 and will be part of the AGAR for the financial year ending March 2026.

**Is [Council name] currently compliant with Assertion 10?**

What	How	Compliant
Data protection and security	Using authority-owned email accounts.	[Yes or no]
Accountability and transparency	Using authority-owned email accounts.	[Yes or no]
Consistency, trust and professionalism	Using authority-owned email accounts.	[Yes or no]
Ease of data gathering for Data Subject Access or Freedom of Information requests.	Using authority-owned email accounts.	[Yes or no]
IT Policy which covers use of emails.	Having a clear IT Policy	[Yes or no]
Website	Authority-owned website.	[Yes or no]
Website accessibility	At a minimum the website must include an accessibility statement which explains why some or all the website is not compliant. This can be carried out if it would place a disproportionate financial burden on the council to update the website.	[Yes or no]
Data Protection	Registered with the ICO as a data controller.	[Yes or no]
Freedom of Information	Publication scheme.	[Yes or no]
Transparency Code*	Publishing all documents and financial information required.	[Yes or no]

**[Council name] would be unable to answer ‘Yes’ to Assertion 10 at the current time.**

*[\*NB: Even if your council has a turnover of between £25,000 and £200,000 and thus is outside the two transparency codes, it is still best practice to adhere to the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. Councils with turnover above £200,000, must adhere to the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.]*

**Does the Council have to have .gov domain and email addresses** – If the Council owns the domain name and email accounts, it could use a .org website/email and this will comply. Any .org website/email would still need to be compliant with the requirements of Assertion 10. To be able to do this a website hosting company would still be required. The costs for a .org are similar to those for the .gov hosting sites.

**Why use a .gov domain/email** – It enhances credibility, security, and professional management. It increases trust, credibility and public recognition. There are improved levels of security with Government-level protection (which is important during a time when there have been increased cyber security incidents). Whilst [council name] is the bottom tier of local government, it is still a government body. It is likely that at some point in the future a .gov domain will become mandatory.

**What will happen if the Council doesn’t update the website domain/emails and thus answers ‘No’ to Assertion 10** – There will be an ‘except for matters’ raised on the external audit. Copies of minutes and any agreed plan showing corrective action to be taken to address these matters will be requested at the following years audit. If further action is not carried out to allow a ‘Yes’ response on the following years audit, a further ‘except for

matters' will be raised. This could lead to increased scrutiny by the external auditor of the Councils finances and practices. Whilst this would not be a problem, per se, it will increase the Clerks workload and could lead to additional expenditure.

All external audit reports are published, which means the public may question why the Council is not ensuring it is compliant with Assertion 10. Members of the public could raise this as an issue with the auditor during the public inspection period. This could result in further expenditure for the Council as the auditor undertakes increased scrutiny of the accounts and proper practice. This in turn would increase the workload of the Clerk.

**Does a company have to be used to host the domain** – No, the Council could register it themselves and maintain it. However, this would be hugely time consuming for the Clerk to have to undertake this additional role. There would be a need for further IT training and the associated expenditure, too.

Could a local company be used – Yes, if they can ensure that any site is compliant (or can help provide an accessibility statement as to why it is not) and that the domain and website are owned by the Council and they have full administrative access to it. (It would not be best practice to have someone from the parish with access to the domain).

**Why use an outside provider** – The companies offering this service have been doing so for many years now. They are aware of all legislation and ensure that websites and emails comply with all current (and future) policies. They provide support and assistance should there be any technical issues.

**Three quotes for gov.uk website and emails will be sent separately**

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### **Agenda item 56.25 Yorkshire Local Council Association (YLCA)**

Please see attached the first Advice Note in the set that we provide to member councils. This explains the benefits of membership, so please do circulate it to the councillors.

The fee to join for financial year 2025/2026 is £238 (that is from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026).

However, as we are part way through the year, we could pro rata the fee from 1 August 2025 to 31 March 2026, and that would be £158.64

Please let me know if the Council wishes to join and we will issue an invoice. Also, if there is any aspect of the membership that either you or the Chair wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to give me a ring.

**Advice note will be sent separately**

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