



Minutes of meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via Zoom

(replacing meetings originally scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), Alice Cummings (AC), Judy Rogers (JR), David Howlett (DH), Mike Parker (MJP), Laura Parker (LP) David Colgrave (DC), Neil Heseltine (NH), Rita Layton (RL), Michael Southworth (MS), Carol Douglas (CD)

Apologies: Caroline Rosier.

The meetings' guest, Carol Douglas, who is in charge of the Together for Trees (T4T) programme at YDMT was invited to present progress so far and future plans which cover agenda items 8 e) - Working closely with YMDT on the Together4Trees programme, and 8 b) - Connecting with like-minded groups within the Dales to explore complimentary activities. The outcomes of the discussion are as follows.

- i. Local people have been supplying information about locations where tree guards are no longer serving any use and need to be collected up. A spreadsheet has been prepared listing the locations so far reported. Action: **NH to review list to help identify the landowners concerned so that they can be approached for permission to remove unnecessary tree guards.**  
YDMT will also use their resources to try to identify landowners for the same purpose.
- ii. YDMT is organising tree tube collection days on 16<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July. Action: **AC to contact Malhamdale volunteers to advise them of these dates.**
- iii. Finding the best locations for this event and other subsequent ones is the next step. Actions: **CD to tour the locations with, if possible, MEG representatives to identify the practicalities of reaching and clearing the tubes from each site. PC to contact the person who manages the Scale gill Mill grounds where there could be a substantial tube removal task suitable for the collection days mentioned above.**  
A large site at Hawkswick may be suitable for a collection day but needs further investigation
- iv. Someone has volunteered to clear the unnecessary tubes around trees along Gordale lane.
- v. Final plans for planting trees in one field close to the centre of Malham are being brought together so volunteers will be needed during the next planting season after fencing has been erected round the site.
- vi. Possibilities for additional woodland are being explored on land leading up to Pikedaw. There are also plans for tree planting in Crummackdale
- vii. For the educational aspects of T4T, FB at the YDMT is planning a children's woodland story day. Action: **JR is following this up with the local Primary School.**  
YMDT would like a promotional stall at the Malham Show scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Action: **DC will contact the member of the show committee in charge of stalls and stands so that this request can be followed up.**  
CD asked for members to suggest events that could be held to promote the educational aspects of the T4T programme. Action: **All members to put ideas to CD or bring them to the next MEG meeting.** Immediate suggestions were a tree identification session and on-site tree identification walks



- viii. There was discussion about insurance cover for volunteers working on private land. CD is looking into the position from YDMT's point of view. The arrangements in the parish of Crosby Ravensworth point a way forward for the medium to long term. This would involve setting up a group with its own legal identity that could promote local tree surveying, monitoring, and planting, buy insurance in its own right, and also raise funds in its own right. Similar approaches are being explored elsewhere by local groups within YDNPA which in the long term could ensure a sustained community interest in tree health and maintenance well after the current short term grant arrangements are in place. Action: **PC to keep under review for discussion and action by MEG at the appropriate moments.**

#### Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2021 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising that would not be covered in the agenda. All action points from that meeting had been cleared.

#### Sensory Garden

An update had been circulated prior to the meeting which indicated that the Parish Council had approved £250 seed funding for the planning of the garden matching the same level of funding from Malham Chapel. The Chapel minister and two volunteers had done a sponsored walk which has now raised £1000 towards the creation of the garden. Express thanks was given in recognition of their efforts.

A meeting has now taken place with the garden designer to progress matters which will now be fully led by Methodist church representatives.

Action: **When initial designs for the garden have been drawn up, these will be used to approach another potential donor, specifically PC to approach the Lister Arms.**

One member who had expressed concerns about the garden in earlier meetings has had further discussions with key promoters of the plan and these concerns are now being tackled.

#### Lobbying in appropriate quarters on environmental issues

There was some discussion about working with other like-minded groups on environmental issues. The meeting was reminded that one member is involved with a Local Area Energy Plan and that the group will be updated whenever there is progress or if we can provide further constructive input.

Facilities provided by Cambrian Action for Sustainability (CaFS) for energy and sustainability audits on houses which help house owners to decide how to reduce energy costs and promote zero carbon living in the homes were described by one member who has signed up to this scheme.

Other members quickly identified with this need and asked for a presentation to be set up with CaFS so that MEG could understand more and then act accordingly. Action: **PC to contact CaFS about this possibility.**

#### Plastics

Members identified that the problem currently is less to do with plastics than with failure by the public in general to dispose of biodegradable waste in the appropriate bins. More signs



generally together with clearly identifiable recycling bins outside local food outlets would be a step in the right direction. Action:

Action: All members asked to return to the next meeting with ideas about how to encourage better litter disposal habits by tourists.

### Litter

It was pointed out that this is a problem that comes under the Parish Council remit where it is regularly discussed so MEG need not therefore pursue this matter independently. One member highlighted the fact that litter is purely a problem for Malham village and its surrounds but generally in Malhamdale, litter is not a problem.

The above points about plastics in association with recycling, however, remain relevant. Members pointed out that many local people voluntarily go out litter picking as part of their daily/weekly routines so at present no further action needs to be taken on this theme.

### Article for the Parish Magazine

Action: DH and JR agreed to prepare an article about the disturbing loss of peat generally in the soil and what replacements there are for peat sold in Garden Centres.

### Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged for **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7:30pm**. This will be via Zoom.

Subsequent meetings for 2021 are to be as follows: 29<sup>th</sup> July; 30<sup>th</sup> September; 28<sup>th</sup> October; 25<sup>th</sup> November.