



Minutes of meeting held 24th June 2021 via Zoom

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), Alice Cummings (AC), Mike Parker (MJP), Laura Parker (LP), Rita Layton (RL), Michael Southworth (MS), Simon Watkins (SW), Carol Douglas (CD)

Apologies: Judy Rogers (JR), David Howlett (DH)

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2021 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising that would not be covered in the agenda.

Update on Together for Trees (T4T)

Carol Douglas who is in charge of T4T at YDMT gave an update as follows:-

- a) Progress on finding owners of land with tree guards that need removal is proving to be a slow and difficult process. CD is investigating with YDNPA the possibilities for tube clearance at Hawkswick. The National Trust was approached and they do have maintenance work that MEG volunteers can help with but not necessarily involving tube clearance. Some of the potential clearance sites are close to Settle and the possibility of teaming up with ACE to work jointly was suggested. A site near Draughton has also been identified. **Action: CD is continuing to follow up all these possibilities and others with a view to developing a set of tube clearance / tree maintenance days**
- b) Discussions about when such days should take place: it was felt that the most rewarding approach would be the drawing up of a schedule over a period up to (say) October identifying different days of the week for each of the different events and to make this schedule available as early as possible. This will enable volunteers on our database to have plenty of notice to arrange their free time accordingly. **Action: CD was asked to draw up a schedule for circulation.**
- c) As part of a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of tree guards, SW highlighted the benefits of a properly constructed experiment to observe the benefits and drawbacks of different kinds of tree guards so as to be able to offer more scientifically informed advice about which guards should be used where, when, and with what species of tree in future plantings. **Action: CD has contacts that are following up similar ideas, she will put forward this idea for inclusion in their work, and report back.**
- d) CD explained that she is planning to prepare a Press Release which will include an appeal to landowners who need tree tubes removed to come forward so that volunteers could do the work involved. **Action: CD agreed that as part of this she will provide an article including this appeal for the Malhamdale parish magazine by the submission date, 12th August, for the issue in September 2021.**
- e) YDMT will be having a stand at the Malham Show and MEG will have an opportunity to advertise itself as part of this. **Action: PC and MP agreed to work on materials and content for the stand promoting MEG and its activities.**
- f) CD had asked at the previous meeting for members to suggest events that could be held to promote the educational aspects of the T4T programme. **Action: CD will prepare an educational event on tree identification with specific attention to ash dieback, its symptoms and implications.**



- g) Efforts to find tree planting locations for the planting season end 2021/start 2022 are ongoing.
- h) Efforts to develop a local volunteer tree maintenance force, together with link-ups to other like-minded environmental groups in the surrounding region are ongoing. CD to supply information to PC about outcomes of meetings with other groups over the coming weeks so that proposals and ideas can be put to the July MEG meeting.

Sensory Garden

Malham Methodist chapel have accepted gratis design assistance from a local resident with a longstanding connection to the chapel, who has produced an outline proposal and offered to install some of it without charging for labour.

Besides the £1000 raised for the garden, the parish council will be approached by the chapel authorities to check whether the £250 seed grant it offered can still be claimed in full.

Second –hand and recycled material will be sought and local voluntary labour will do the work. Requests will be made for the donation of plants. Kirkby Malham Primary School has been approached and there is an interest in getting the children to make tiles to incorporate into some of the paving. An irrigation system may be necessary but at the very least an outside tap will be provided. A local craftsman will donate a carving. Donations will also be sought for a bench.

YDNPA has been informed of the plans but as yet there is no need to seek planning permission for the changes.

RL expressed her concerns about loss of privacy that the garden could cause to a neighbouring private house. She identified some ideas to preserve privacy.

Action: AC to check the day (probably 6th July), time (hopefully 5:00p.m.), and location (likely to be the chapel itself) of the next meeting of the chapel garden group and invite RL to join in so that a way can be found to ensure the adoption of a design which does not detract from neighbour's privacy.

Promotion of zero carbon living

Referring back to the MEG meeting on 13th May, PC explained that he had been unable to persuade a representative from *Cafs* to give a presentation to the group on zero carbon living. A link has however been provided which will enable group members to learn more about refitting their homes and making them environmentally sustainable. Action: PC to circulate members with the link to the webinar issued in *Cafs* and to provide the name of the company which he used to prepare an energy and sustainability report.

PC has received such a report and will be pursuing next steps to implement it. He will report back to MEG about his experiences and may well write up a suitable article when he has completed the process.

Effects of tourism on Malham



At May's MEG meeting on the subject of plastics and litter it has become clear that within the limits of its resources, Malham residents are able to keep the village in relatively good shape but there emerged an action point on all members to return to this meeting with ideas about what further could be done.

Two ideas were put forward because "bad behaviour" in the countryside is a societal issue that cannot be resolved by local tidying up efforts alone:-

- a) That whenever a media company wants to make a film or use Malham as a backdrop to a broadcast, they should, when seeking permission, only be granted it if they undertake to include a promotion, however small, about the Countryside Code.
Action: PC to approach the Chair of the parish council, as he gives permission, to suggest we grant it if a Country Code type mention is included somewhere in the eventual media output. Also, to approach the Malham Show committee and suggest they create a reserve to be used to promote responsible behaviour in the local countryside.
- b) The editor of Country File to be approached to suggest a feature on that programme about the damage that is caused by tourists in the countryside and how this could be overcome. **Action:** PC to prepare such a letter

Article for the Parish Magazine

Action: CD agreed that she will provide an article appealing for local landowners as regards tree guard removal and small areas suitable for T4T plantings to be printed in the Malhamdale parish magazine by the submission date, 12th August, for the issue in September 2021.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged **for Thursday 29th July 2021 at 7:30pm**. This will be via Zoom.

Subsequent meetings for 2021 are to be as follows: 30th September; 28th October; 25th November.