



Minutes of meeting held 26th October 2023 in Malham Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Jane Smart (JS), Michael Southworth (MS).

Apologies: Wendy Carr (WC), Isabel Draken (ID), Jonathan Heath (JH), David Howlett (DH), Mark Kerr, Sue McWhinney (SMc), Laura Parker (LP), Stephen Phillips (SP), Judy Rogers (JR), Leigh Weston (LW).

Minutes of meeting held on 28th September 2023

The final minutes of the meeting of 28th September 2023 were agreed. Responses to all actions had been addressed in readiness for this October meeting.

Matters arising

Arising from Action Point 13 of the 28th September meeting, MP explained that on the DEFRA website there seems to be no clear guidance about the advisability of planting ash tree saplings but it is clear that landowners have a legal duty as regards the health of ash trees on their land and must take appropriate action if they detect any suffering from ash dieback. A list of recommended replacement tree species is provided should ash trees have to be felled. Grants are also available to fund replacements for felled trees. AP1: MP and PC to share the relevant web link, and if necessary, make local people who may be landowners aware of their legal duty, and point out that grants are available to fund the planting of replacement trees.

Trees update

The tree growing workshop for 14th October 2023 was a success with seven attendees. Two people who could not attend have been given the opportunity to collect the materials necessary. Carol Douglas (YDMT) is still working on what contracts need to be signed for the proposed tree nursery in Malhamdale and what approvals have to be sought before the plan can go ahead. AP2: PC to follow up progress on this contract and whether YDMT still requires a contract with landowners who want to plant trees on their land.

CD has supplied JS with a spreadsheet the purpose of which is to record information about numbers and species of trees being grown by local people to record provenance. AP3: JS to circulate the spreadsheet so that it can be completed by all those who have been growing trees of their own initiative.

The YWT's volunteering day on 12th December will be at Eshton where a long hedge will be planted. This will be done in association with volunteers from the Environment Agency.

Information was shared about tree planting projects being considered by local landowners and the extent to which they could be appropriately supported to achieve a successful conclusion.

Peat bog monitoring

Subsequent upon the Eyes on the Bog (EoB) training on 18th September, one MEG supporter has been allocated bog monitoring sites and will begin this in early November. Other volunteers, however, have not been allocated a monitoring site and yet others have still not received the



necessary training. AP4: PC to contact EoB staff to encourage progress although those who have already been trained are welcome to contact EoB themselves.

Tarn Estate

For the KMPC meeting on 6th November, there is an open agenda item for public discussion about the future of Tarn House and the Tarn Estate. Local (and regional) stakeholders are also invited. The National Trust has been invited to attend but only a local representative is expected to attend. All agreed that there needs to be a vision for a positive future for the estate which is currently being neglected. There needs to be maximum attendance so that all concerns can be heard. A follow up meeting may be held with the National Trust. AP5: PC to advertise this on the MEG and MCR WhatsApp groups as many people up and down the Dale have expressed much concern about this issue.

Concern was expressed about the wide dispersal of artefacts and documents until recently stored at Tarn House. JS (who has been helping with the disposal of documents to a “good home”) explained that she was working on a list of which bodies had received which documents. This will be available for those who need to consult it.

Curlews

No updates for this meeting.

Spillages from sewerage works

No updates for this meeting.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

The YDNPA have prepared their Nature Recovery Strategy, with a view to positively influencing North Yorkshire Council who are the “responsible authority” for the Nature Recovery Strategies in the area. Guidance/instructions are still awaited about requirements at parish level.

Plant monitoring for Plantlife

Update postponed until the next MEG meeting, as was the item from the September meeting about co-operation with the North Craven Woodland Research Group. (Ref. Action Points 9 and 11 of the September meeting) AP6: PC to ensure inclusion of this item in next MEG meeting agenda

ACE report on solar energy / Energy Surveys for Malhamdale

The meeting considered the ACE report on solar energy along with a summary of YDNPA planning policies as regards installation of renewable energy resources. The meeting also considered the report prepared in 2007 entitled “Renewable Energy Study of the Malhamdale Area” which was a much more extensive report about potential renewable sources of energy available in Malhamdale. 15 years on, much of this report needs to be updated but it does represent a starting point for an informative revised report that could point the way ahead for the development of renewable energy resources in the Dale.

Even though the UK Shared Prosperity fund now offers grants for this type of study, it was agreed that, should a new report be commissioned, it would not be practical to implement its findings as



local resources in terms of volunteer time, and the necessary skills and knowledge are not available. However, the possibility of commissioning such a report should not be entirely dismissed. The circumstances for effective implementation of any recommendations forthcoming may become evident as more certainty about effective technologies emerges and the legal frameworks within which to operate become less arduous.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

It was identified that there might be a possibility of a successful application to this fund for the insulation of the public toilets in Malham. AP7: PC and MP to work together on a draft application for a grant on behalf of KMPC.

Transport

Item transferred to the November meeting. AP8: PC to ensure inclusion of this item in next MEG meeting agenda

Single use coffee cups

Item transferred to the November meeting. AP9: PC to ensure inclusion of this item in next MEG meeting agenda

Future meeting dates

Dates for MEG meetings for the coming year have been set as follows:

30th November 2023, 25th January 2024, 29th February, 4th April, 25th April, 6th June, 4th July, 26th September, 31st October, 28th November. The first part of the January 2024 meeting will be a presentation about the Allerton Incineration Plant. It will be a remote presentation via Zoom and the rest of the meeting will be continued on Zoom. It will be decided at that meeting whether the February meeting should also be on Zoom. Arising from misgivings expressed in previous meetings about the location of MEG meetings, it is planned, from the meeting on the 4th April onwards, to hold in-person meetings and to arrange these alternately between locations in Malham, Kirby Malham, and Airton. AP10: PC to organise this subject to feasibility and cost implications.

Article for Parish News

An article on peat bog monitoring is planned to be written by SP. AP11: SP to write draft.

Other Business

AP12: PC to provide information to MS and MR about availability of tree guards from YWT.

Summary of Action Points

Action	Details
1	AP1: MP and PC to share the relevant web link, and if necessary, make local people who may be landowners aware of their legal duty, and point out that grants are available to fund the planting of replacement trees. Emailed MP for necessary links 31/10/23. Grants not available for this part of the country. Trees on KMPC land have been assessed.



2	PC to follow up about progress on this contract and whether YDMT still requires a contract with landowners who want to plant trees on their land. Emailed CD 31/10/23. CD not available until 18 th December
3	JS to circulate the tree seed spreadsheet so that it can be completed by all those who have been growing trees of their own initiative. Spreadsheet issued but questions raised.
4	PC to contact Eyes on the Bog staff to encourage progress. Emailed YPP 31/10/23
5	PC to advertise this on the MEG and MCR WhatsApp groups as many people up and down the Dale have expressed much concern about this issue. Message issued 31/10/23
6	PC to ensure inclusion of Plantlife and North Craven Woodland Research Group In next MEG meeting agenda
7	PC and MP to work together on a draft application for a grant on behalf of KMPC. Process started 01/11/23.
8	PC to ensure inclusion of Transport in next MEG meeting agenda
9	PC to ensure inclusion of single use coffee cups in next MEG meeting agenda
10	AP10: PC to organise locations for future meetings subject to feasibility and cost implications. Emailed PC Chair 01/11/23 to start the process. OK with KMPC chair – to be progressed for 2024 meetings
11	SP to write draft for December Parish Magazine. In progress.
12	PC to provide information to MS and MR about availability of tree guards from YWT. Email sent 01/11/23