



## Minutes of meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 via Zoom

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), Judy Rogers (JR), David Howlett (DH), Sue McWhinney (SM), Michael Southworth (NS), Catherine Mercer (CM), Alice Cummings (AC)

Apologies: Helen Allen, Rita Leigh, Leigh Weston, Mick Parker, Laura Parker, Simon Watkins, Carol Douglas.

### Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### Action points from previous meeting

PC had made enquiries of the Parish Council about approaching Highways for repairs on the approaches to Malham. The meeting agreed MEG is straying beyond its remit and that issues to do with Highways is a direct function of the Parish Council.

### Update on Tree planting and maintenance

With a final tree planting session in Malham on January 28<sup>th</sup>, the tree planting activities under YDMT's Together for Trees project will cease. Thanks was expressed to YDMT for leading and organising this programme for Malham. YDMT will continue to offer active support in any further tree planting plans it or the MEG decide to implement. This prompted discussion about the "Queen's Green Canopy - Plant a tree for the Jubilee" programme which is being promoted nationwide to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee. **Action 1** – JR to contact YDMT Tree Officer to discuss for support as Malham progresses with making its contribution to this programme. **Action 2** – Several attendees undertook to make inquiries of their local contacts who may be interested in offering a piece of land for a memorial wood<sup>1</sup> as a starting point bearing in mind that the aim of the programme is to have the memorial trees planted before the end of the next tree planting season which stretches from November 2022 to March 2023.

It was learnt that the plastic tree guard removal targets under T4T had been met but that Friends of the Dales still continues with its plans to remove as many unwanted and unnecessary plastic guards as possible. **Action 3** – PC to contact Friends of the Dales to find out if MEG volunteers can be circulated with details of any tube clearance events.

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<sup>1</sup> Possible locations subject to further research - Hanlith – parish land; enquire of KMPC if there is land it is responsible for that could be used in this way; wide verges following the Malham Raikes example; jubilee hedgerow E.g. at the village Primary School; some identified farmers.



Cooperation with YWT continues with a monthly tree planting or maintenance event usually on the first Tuesday of each month. The next two scheduled dates are 8<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Progress on the creation of the sensory garden at Malham Chapel are as follows:

Flower bed spaces have been marked out. Volunteers are needed to dig out the turf and dig over the soil as of this month (January 2022) in preparation for planting up the beds in Spring. Volunteers can help out at any time convenient to themselves but should contact [malhamdalevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:malhamdalevolunteers@gmail.com) for more detailed instructions before they start.

A list of the types of plants needed for the garden – and which will hopefully be donated - will be published in the February 2022 edition of the Parish Magazine.

#### Update on plans to improve Malham Beck Plantation

It was reported that the Parish Council has decided to take advantage of a once-off grant available for use until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in order to essential repairs to the Plantation path. Ongoing are efforts to enable YDNPA to recognise the path as a public, as opposed to a permissive, footpath. When this takes place, a look at longer term plans for the Plantation can be renewed.

#### Update on promotion of value of sheep's fleeces for multiple uses

E-mail, MEG WhatsApp, and local Facebook pages have been used to test possible interest in the purchase by local people of fleeces after sheep shearing in the Dale has finished in July 2022. There were indications of an interest in the purchase of some forty fleeces, potential sales to allotment holders in Skipton, and general but non-specific support for the idea..

An article will appear in the February 2022 edition of the Parish Magazine asking for reactions to the proposal and these can be fed into the next scheduled MEG meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March).

Further discussion on whether and how to pursue sales of fleeces at the end of summer 2022 was postponed until LW is able to attend at the next meeting with feedback from an action point arising from the November 2021 meeting.

#### Views on the promotion of Hubbub

Material produced by Hubbub designed to promote environmentally responsible use of energy within the District has now been sent out to all our contacts. No further action has been taken pending a meeting of interested parties taking place on 28<sup>th</sup> January. It is hoped that this meeting will produce results that lead to clarification of and further steps in the programme. Until this happens, MEG decided to take no further action.

MS indicated that he had found a reliable tradesman to insulate his loft and is prepared to pass on the details if anyone wishes to contact him.

#### Supporting YDMT and The Bee Together project

The YDMT leader of the Bee Together Project (CM) explained that the project began in 2018 to encourage a corridor of “bee friendly territory” stretching from Leeds to Lancaster which also



include Malhamdale. CM is looking to sites which can be used as which can be developed so as to attract bees and is keen to tap into any local knowledge on the possibilities. **Action 4** – SW undertook to explore possibilities around Kirkby Malham church and on verges of the lane leading to Scalegill Mill. **Action 5** – PC to contact a bee keeper in Airtton and recommend a discussion is set up between him and CM to explore ways of achieving the project's aims in Malhamdale;

The Project also has a training and teaching role which would involve bee identification, how to attract bees to gardens by growing plants they like, and how to build bee hotels to encourage growth in the bee population. **Action 6** - JR to discuss with CM how and when to organise these event and how and where to promote them. A potential date is 1<sup>st</sup> June.

#### Article for the Parish Magazine

Action points: PC to write a short report on MEG's achievements during 2021 and prospects for 2022 (bees, the Queen's canopy – requests for suggestions and tree planting sites).

#### Date of next meeting

The next MEG meeting is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March via Zoom at 7:30pm.