



Minutes of meeting held 29th July 2021 via Zoom

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), Judy Rogers (JR), David Howlett (DH), Rita Layton (RL)

Apologies: Alice Cummings (AC), Mick Parker (MJP), Laura Parker (LP), Michael Southworth (MS), Carol Douglas (CD)

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 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 was unable to attend the meeting, provided a written report that responds to her action points from the previous meeting and provides some updates as follows:-

- a) Tube clearance days have now been organised for the 6th August and 11th September at locations near Scaleber Force and Stainforth. Other sites being investigated are two sites in Hawkswick, one at Rylstone and one near Malham Tarn in association with the National Trust. Further development of a series of woodland maintenance days are ongoing. It was noted that the event on 11th September is on a Saturday which will enable a wider age range of volunteers to participate and that efforts should continue to be made to include volunteer days that fall during a weekend for this very reason,
- b) Concerns were raised at the previous meeting about plastic tree guards and their alternatives. CD's report supplied a web link and an email address which would enable follow up that has yet to be done. PC to follow up and report back to MEG as necessary.
She also provided information about tube collection days for tubes to be recycled. PC will circulate this to MEG members who may have collections of old tubes that they want to dispose of in an environmentally friendly way.
- c) CD confirmed that she would be submitting an article for the Malhamdale parish magazine by the 12th August, for the issue in September 2021.
- d) PC confirmed that he and MP would have a MEG presence, alongside YDMT, at the Malham Show. However many MEG members will be away on holiday or will be fully committed to other aspects of the Show so further support and input to the YDMT stand cannot be foreseen.
- e) CD is organising, for late September/early October, an ash dieback and tree protection training session.
- f) CD continues to make efforts to find tree planting locations for the planting season end 2021/start 2022. She listed five new promising sites that she is investigating and confirmed progress on one site already lined up.

Sensory Garden



The meeting alluded to in the minutes of 24th June duly took place on 6th July 2021. The Chapel and its chosen garden designer have reached agreement with the Chapel's neighbour about concerns that had arisen. A planning application has now been submitted to the National Park Authority. And the outcome is awaited. PC to check whether the Chapel authorities have contacted KMPC to confirm that the offer of £250 seed funding is still valid bearing in mind the recent changes to the circumstances that had been pertinent at the time the offer was made.

Local volunteer tree maintenance group

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. Before the meeting MEG members were circulated with a link to a recent webinar issued by an unincorporated association based in Crosby Ravensworth which surveys trees in that Parish. It is actively engaged in raising funds and applying for grants so that more trees can be planted throughout their local district. Attendees were invited to discuss whether this example should or could be followed up here in Malhamdale because it is becoming clear that, with the volume of trees expected to be planted in the coming few years, volunteer labour is going to be essential in facilitating ongoing maintenance of the young trees during the first five years in which they become fully established.

The consensus was that the arrangements we have at present are satisfactory for the near future. These arrangements are the maintenance of a database of people who wish to volunteer for tree maintenance and similar countryside activities. Environmental bodies such as the YWT and YDMT can call upon these volunteers when woodland maintenance work needs to be done. Bearing in mind MEG's limited human resources, it was felt that, although this set up may be suitable for now, the example of Crosby Ravensworth would be worth following up if it becomes clear over the coming months that such a step would be advantageous to the community and the promotion of activities that combat climate change. The Chair to keep the situation, together with links to other regional volunteer groups, under review for follow-up as necessary at future meetings.

Effects of tourism on Malham

PC explained that he had approached the Chair of the parish council to suggest that when he gives permission for a media company to use Malham as the location for its programmes, one of the conditions of grant should be that a Country Code type mention is included somewhere in the eventual media output. PC also asked the parish council to consider sending a letter, a draft of which PC had prepared and submitted to the council, to Countryfile. The letter suggests a feature on that programme about the damage that is caused by tourists in the countryside and how this could be overcome. At the parish council meeting on 5th July, PC's submission was briefly mentioned and referred to councillors for their attention and discussion at the next meeting.

Since the MEG meeting in June, a pop-up camping site had been set up near Scalegill Mill and the Chair of MEG had been contacted by a representative of those living in the Mill asking for support in resisting the continued existence of the site. The Chair had replied that MEG has no powers in such a situation and referred the representative to the Chair of the parish council and to the National Park Authority. DH, in his role as a parish councillor, reported that the situation had been taken up by the parish council and a satisfactory



solution found. The council plans to encourage all landowners and farmers to consult with the parish council if / when they plan similar initiatives in the future with the aim of enabling the plans to go ahead both successfully and without inconvenience to local residents. PC was requested to contact the Chair of the parish council to indicate that MEG too considers this to be an excellent way to resolve this kind of issue.

Under this agenda item, attendees noted that the promotion of Malhamdale through the media has benefited local businesses but that this has been at the expense of great inconvenience to local residents whose views can often be ignored. The list of concerns came quickly to attendees' lips- litter, barbeques, knocked down dry stone walls, uncontrolled dogs, dogs' muck, sheep worrying, inconsiderate car parking, etc. They expressed the hope that these views will in future be taken into account. These concerns serve to emphasise the potential value to persuading media outlets to promote more good behaviour habits amongst tourists. DH indicated that a number of local residents do know media personalities who promote the countryside but who do not necessarily promote good countryside behaviour. Getting the message across informally through this network could also be beneficial to all communities which have become tourist hotspots as a result of media attention.

Article for the Parish Magazine

For the September 2021 parish magazine, DH has written an article on how radical changes to eating and dietary habits can contribute to preventing climate change. This is in addition to the article to be submitted by CD.

Other Business

PC indicated that no one has yet come forward to replace him as Chair of MEG so he would continue in the role until a new Chair is found.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged **for Thursday 30th September at 7:30pm**. After some discussion as to whether to resume meetings physically at the village hall because CoVid restrictions have been lifted, it was decided to continue them via Zoom as more people from a wider area within Malhamdale are tempted to attend especially as forthcoming cold winter evenings will make physical attendance less attractive.

Subsequent meetings for 2021 will be on 28th October and 25th November. There will be no meeting in December but, after the November meeting, a list of meeting dates for 2022 will be issued.