

Draft Minutes (327) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council

Meeting by Zoom on Mon. 4th Oct. 2021

Attending: Parish Councillors: N. Heseltine (Acting Chair), P. Dewhurst, D. Howlett, S. Inman.

Observing: M. Harrop, P. Cummings, L. Wood, M. Parker, J & S Stephenson, R. Rand (joined meeting at 8.15pm)

Apologies: C. Wildman, P. Wherity, A. Bradley, Cllr. A. Sutcliffe.

N. Heseltine kindly agreed to act as Chair for the October KMPC Meeting in the absence of C. Wildman, Chairperson.

Questions: P. Cummings – offered to answer questions on Malham Plantation. Acting Chair of the meeting – N. Heseltine – suggested this item was covered later in the course of the PC meeting.

Draft Minutes: Approved by D. Howlett as an accurate record of the September 2021 KMPC Meeting. Seconded by S. Inman.

Matters Arising: None as such.

Social Distancing Measures: It was confirmed that the road closed signs at the Malham end of Gordale Road have now been removed by Highways Area 5 as previously indicated by them. The road narrowing, traffic calming measures on entering into Malham village, from the Kirkby Malham side are able to remain in place and will do as it is felt these remain effective and helpful to pedestrian safety in Malham.

The timeframe for the installation of the new double yellow lines in Malham, by Area 5 Highways was raised and PD confirmed that this is with Area 5 Highways who have indicated an approximate installation timeframe of 5-8 weeks, so hopefully will be completed before the end of 2021. PD to follow up with further enquiry with Area 5 Highways on timeframe.

The drainage ditch coming off Cawber, near the top of Finkle Street and Tarn Road, was mentioned again due to the flooding risk created by the onset of winter and heavy rainfall levels. NH confirmed that KMPC should get this drainage ditch cleared without waiting for any further action from Area 5 Highways due to the importance and urgency of this work being undertaken.

YDNPA: – A very helpful update and comment was provided by Kate Hilditch from YDNPA covering (1) The Macmillan “Mighty Hike 2022” including explanation of YDNPA’s approach to large scale events like this involving significant numbers of participants, and (2) The new Map and orientation board sited outside the Visitor Centre in 2020 has been a big success with many visitors noted as taking photos of the map on their mobile phones. KH indicated that the intention is to install additional signage in the car park pedestrian entrance/exit

area in order to enhance the signage at the Visitor Centre to further help with visitor orientation, which the Lengthsman (M. Parker) confirmed is still a frequent issue – visitors not knowing which way to walk from the village centre to Malham Cove, Malham Tarn, Gordale, or Janet’s Foss – so any measures which assist visitor orientation are welcomed.

Macmillan Mighty Hike 2022 – is scheduled to take place over 2 days of Sat. 2nd July and Sun. 3rd July 2022 with anticipated participant numbers of 1,500 and 1,000 on these respective days, so it is classed as a “large scale” event. KH confirmed that YDNPA approach to such large-scale events is to;

- Advise event organisers to ensure they take great care in organising the event and its logistics.
- Advise organisers to consult with local “stakeholders”, local community and landowners affected by the event.
- YDNPA recommend a maximum participant number of 1,000 although KH stressed that this can only be an advisory recommendation from YDNPA.

Following the helpful outline by KH, KMPC confirmed its feedback to YDNPA, and the Event organisers as follows:

- That they should use smaller buses to transport participants in order to minimise traffic and road congestion which at the last similar event was chaotic.
- To make sure that there was no early morning disturbance from loudspeaker announcements, etc...
- To try and minimise the “on-road” involvement in the finalised walking route.
- Acknowledging that this event is for an excellent, very good cause.
- That advice from KMPC to event organisers is that it would be better and preferable to mitigate traffic issues if the “Mighty Hike” was arranged as a circular walk, starting and finishing in Malham so as to avoid any need for bus transport to bring participants back to Malham after finishing since it was that bus transport which created the worst of the traffic congestion and chaos last time. So, if you are going to ask for feedback please learn from past experiences and this feedback from local “stakeholders” including the Parish Council.

NH reminded everyone, particularly all KMPC councillors of the forthcoming YDNPA Parish Forum being held online, via Zoom, on Wednesday 13th October with all or any Parish Councillors welcome and encouraged to attend.

Simon and Jules Stephenson – the new owners of the first field car park as you arrive into Malham, at the bottom of Malham Brow, suggested that it would be sensible to install an additional signpost in their car park field directing visitors who park there to access Malham village via the footpath running through the fields rather than via the main road – for safety and wear and tear on the grass roadside verges. This suggestion was supported by KMPC although unclear who will take this forward and provide the relevant sign/finger post(?).

Malham Plantation: Peter Cummings provided a detailed presentation on the work required to the footpath through the plantation, why this is necessary and indicative general idea of potential cost involved in the work. This included a video presentation which was slightly challenged by technology not working particularly well but the overall message came across clearly. Disabled access requiring wider gates than currently was outlined and it was indicated by P. Cummings that the indicative cost for the full works he outlined would be in the region of £3,800-£4,000. Possible sources of Grant Funding were discussed including the Farming in Protected Spaces/Landscapes Grant (not felt to be applicable to this “project”) and YDNPA – Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) (which it was felt might be more suitable to this project). The YDNPA – SDF is under the responsibility of Andrea Burton, Officer for SDF and it was discussed whether this potential Grant Funding should be pursued further with P. Cummings going to investigate this and report back to KMPC. If this route was feasible it was noted by K. Hilditch from YDNPA that YDNPA could not lead this application process and therefore KMPC would need to undertake the majority of the Grant application process which is time consuming but could be undertaken if there is reason and agreement to proceed in that direction.

As base materials for the rejuvenated walkway through the plantation ideas suggested were Yorkshire flagstones (very costly but extremely durable) or M. Harrop referenced a “boardwalk” option similar to the boardwalk solution which has worked effectively at Malham Tarn.

The discussions encompassed several issues, perhaps the most troublesome being the question of flooding and the flood impact created by alternative solutions and how the proposed remedial and preservation works were ultimately undertaken. **The important question was raised about – identifying and setting out what are the priorities within this “project” – for example restoration of the footpath, protecting the woodland, and flood impact considerations(?)**. It was therefore agreed that no definitive decision was made at this KMPC Meeting and to treat this “Malham Plantation Project” as an ongoing area for further, future discussion with P. Cummings asked to report back to KMPC with further thoughts and project design ideas following lengthy debate on this during the Oct.’21 KMPC Meeting.

Police & Parking Enforcement: – Nothing to discuss as such other than the already mentioned update on the timeframe for the installation of the new double yellow lines, and removal of the Road Closed sign on Gordale Road.

KMPC Finance Matters: In the absence of P. Wherity, Treasurer P. Dewhurst summarised the cash held in the No.1 Account (£29,804.20) and in the No.2 Account (£14,956.55) at the current time. A further financial update will be provided by the Treasurer at the next PC Meeting.

Planning: One new Planning Application(C/55/73) had recently been received regarding the installation of a new cattle grid at a location on Malham Moor was discussed and subsequently supported by KMPC.

Lengthsman Report: M. Parker confirmed that the donations/takings for Malham Toilets run by KMPC remain very good and much improved on previous years. MP has reseeded the ground and verges around the new flagged footpath on the stream side opposite Old Barn Café and running to the Smithy. MP suggested that the large boulder on that same verge needed to be slightly relocated, by a couple metres, to assist with pedestrian traffic and wear and tare impact on the verge and to help protect the tree roots in that specific location. This was agreed and MP will organise.

MP also confirmed that the new gate for Malham Plantation should be arriving and fitted within the next few weeks to replace the existing, damaged gate.

Litter & Dog Poo: Laura Wood who leads the volunteer group that take responsibility for trying to keep on top of this ongoing problem, confirmed that there are currently plenty of volunteers and this “project” is going well. NH recorded the thanks of KMPC to Laura and her team of volunteers for this work.

Parish Council Meetings & Protocol: The Vacancy for a Councillor in Malham Ward, following the resignation of Carol Newhouse has been advertised as required and to date there have been no applications to fill this position. Subsequent to the Oct.’21 PC Meeting a resident of Malham village – Mike Harrop who already leads the Malhamdale Emergency Plan - has expressed interest in this vacancy. As a result of this development, in the week following the 4th October meeting Mike Harrop has been “co-opted” onto KMPC as the new Councillor for Malham Ward. PD and MH have subsequently liaised to complete the necessary paperwork for this, and that paperwork has been electronically submitted to Craven District Council, Democratic Services. MH will be officially welcomed to KMPC at the next (November) PC Meeting.

The format of future KMPC meetings was again discussed. These will continue to be held predominantly via remote format using Zoom meetings although discussion is ongoing about perhaps gradually re-introducing “in person” meetings subject to a satisfactory venue and large enough space being available. Kirkby Malham village hall was mentioned as a possible venue, and this will be considered in the coming weeks with a hope to re-introduce some “in person” meetings in the coming months. Definitive decisions on this will be made by KMPC via internal communication between the members of KMPC and under the lead of C. Wildman, Chairperson.

AOB: M. Harrop confirmed that the sandbag store located at the Beck Hall car park had been moved to a less than ideal position in the car park so he will liaise with Beck Hall to hopefully get this matter rectified.

R. Rand raised the issue of the building development at Cherry Tree Croft which is currently under review by the Enforcement Officer for YDNPA following representations made to YDNPA by KMPC regarding the positioning of gas tanks buries into the land beyond the agreed planning development boundary. This was debated in detail with N. Heseltine explaining that KMPC has effectively done all that it can do in reporting this matter to

YDNPA Planning and that it is not totally in their hands to determine whether any enforcement action is going to be imposed on the development. The reaction from R. Rand was commented on by P. Dewhurst and D. Howlett who both indicated that they were unhappy with R. Rand's comments and the matter was then drawn to a close by N. Heseltine and PD will again email the Enforcement Officer for an update on whether any enforcement action is to be taken in relation to this matter.

It was also noted that a tree had been taken down in Dale House, Malham on 4th October in response to the recent ash die-back walk around Malham village. It was also commented that there is a tree in Malham Plantation which is felt to look unsafe so a quote for felling this tree will be obtained in order to then undertake the necessary tree surgery.

DATE OF NEXT KMPC MEETING: Monday 1st November 2021 commencing at 7.30pm via Zoom.