



## Minutes of meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Malham Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), David Howlett (DH), Rita Layton (RL), Laura Parker (LP), James Powell (JP), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Judy Rogers (JR), Jane Smart (JS) (after Item 3 on the agenda).

Apologies: Wendy Carr (WC), Jonathan Heath (JH), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Mick Parker (MP), Leigh Weston (LW).

### Minutes of meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The final minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were agreed. Responses to all actions (except AP2 which cannot be dealt with until Carol Douglas becomes available) had been addressed in readiness for this November meeting. **AP1: PC to contact C D to ensure response for the January 2024 meeting.**

### Election of new Chair of MEG

The current Chair, wishing to step down, has in recent months asked for a volunteer to take over the role. JS has agreed to do this provided that this would not be before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, that the current Chair take on a new role as vice-Chair, and that she be elected to take on the Chair's role at a meeting when she would not be present.

This proposal was unanimously accepted. JS therefore becomes Chair from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and PC becomes vice-Chair as at the same date.

Jane thanked Peter and said that she was honoured to take up the role and was happy that there is so much interest in environmental concerns in Malhamdale.

### Matters arising

SMc indicated that the planned meeting for January could take place via Zoom using her Zoom account.

St Michael's church is looking at the possibility of installing solar panels provided funding can be found and permission possible (it is a Grade 1 listed building).

### Trees update

YWT can still provide small quantities of stakes and tree guards to individuals planting small numbers of trees within Malhamdale.

Arising from October's tree growing workshop a spreadsheet has been devised to record information about numbers and species of trees being grown by local people and to record provenance. This has been done but parameters as to what information need be recorded were established at this meeting, namely that the record should start from the date of the workshop (14<sup>th</sup> October 2023) and exclude any data relating to the workshop in November 2022 or any data where the origin of the seed cannot be determined. **AP2: PC to circulate the spreadsheet to the six participants at the October 2023 workshop so that they can include the data about the seeds they planted.**

### Peat bog monitoring



On 27<sup>th</sup> November, four MEG volunteers attended a peat bog monitoring training day on South House Moor led by three staff members of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership. The four are now able to start the monitoring of peat bog quadrants as soon as they become available. One of the volunteers has been allocated a site on Ingleborough. YPP are working with NT and YWT staff to secure other sites much closer to Malhamdale for allocation to the remaining three volunteers.

#### Tarn House and the Malham Tarn Estate

The parish's concern about Tarn House and the Malham Tarn estate are clearly set out in the December 2023/January 2024 edition of the parish news. The latest update on this is that KMPC will be offered a tour around Tarn House (date TBC) and has been assured that the fate of the Estate will include consideration of the local community's views. KMPC has requested participation in relevant meetings but this has not yet been agreed to. The MP for Skipton & Ripon constituency has been informed and he has expressed an interest in progress but the KMPC group negotiating with the National Trust has decided not to get him involved just yet. The Estate has been now adopted by Friends of the Dales as one of its campaigning issues. A next step is for local stakeholders to express their views regarding the future of the House and Estate with a view to making a more detailed case for the potential of the property to be fulfilled.

#### Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

The YDNPA Nature Recovery Strategy has been summarised with pertinent web links in the December 2023/January 2024 edition of the Parish News. This should help influence the development of LNRS strategy being developed by North Yorkshire Council. The objectives and target of the YDNPA Strategy should be incorporated into the YD Management Plan – to be revised next year. **AP3: PC to find out the contact details for newly appointed LNRS officer at NY Council.**

#### Curlew Monitoring

A meeting, specifically formulating plans for wader monitoring during breeding season 2024, will be held at MVH at 7:30 on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. In the meantime, JH had provided a short summary indicating that contact has been made with other Yorkshire groups involved with curlew surveys. He also emphasized that more volunteers to do monitoring would be very welcome. There is a curlew monitoring WhatsApp group and anyone interested in helping out should contact LW for access.

SMc is to follow up with a representative the Clapham Sustainability Group who is interested in bringing the school Curlew Project exhibition to St Michael's for a weekend in April/May

#### Plant monitoring for Plantlife

LP told the meeting that she has signed up to the NPMS (National Plant Monitoring Scheme) and had been allocated a quadrant near Malham. Subject to obtaining landowner permissions, she will start plant monitoring from Spring 2024 and from then on will update MEG. JR and JS offered to help with the plant monitoring.

As regards an 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), JP asked for further information so that she can discuss the idea (identifying areas of "Ghost woodlands" with the Malhamdale Local History Group. **AP4: PC to find this information and send it on to LP.**



### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Application to this fund for the insulation of the public toilets in Malham is still being pursued. **AP5: PC and MP to work together on a draft application for a grant on behalf of KMPC.**

Attendees were urged to look closely at the grants available from this fund as it is very wide-ranging and could finance many projects for many communities, businesses and other organisations in North Yorkshire to which they have links. Details are found at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/community-and-volunteering/grants-and-funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-0> or by Googling “UK Shared Prosperity Fund North Yorkshire”.

### Transport

A short report was given about a meeting between the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition and North Yorkshire Council officers on 20<sup>th</sup> October last. NYC Transport Team is working on a new local transport plan (LTP) but progress is hampered by lack of sufficient guidance by central government and the fact that, with mayoral elections in May 2024, there can be no strong local lead on how to progress. The carbon footprint of transport in North Yorkshire is significant and since the Council has full control of the LTP, it is within its gift to make a substantial contribution towards its net zero objective. The public’s attitude towards transport within North Yorkshire will mean that significant behavioural changes would be involved to achieve success. The Foundation for Integrated Transport has funded the employment of a timetabler of national repute to prepare a whole-of-Yorkshire integrated bus timetable. The aim is to present it to each mayoral candidate and encourage them to make it a key issue for them in the upcoming election. DH will continue to provide input to and feedback from the Coalition, bearing in mind that transport is a complex issue for Malhamdale.

The subject of the mayoral elections arose and this will be referred to under agenda item 11 – Article for the Parish Magazine.

MEG supporters may wish to attend a webinar to be held by provided by Friends of the Earth on how to tackle mayoral candidates on climate change issues. Registration for the event is at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/york-and-north-yorkshire-mayoral-election-campaign-planning-registration-769782719837>.

### Sheep’s Wool

Attendees were recommended to register for the 6<sup>th</sup> December webinar on sheep’s wool at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/funding-for-sustainable-business-community-projects-in-the-dales-tickets-709342631907?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/funding-for-sustainable-business-community-projects-in-the-dales-tickets-709342631907?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1). This shows how a UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant has been used to support the use of wool from sheep whose fleeces, in the past, have not been deemed of sufficient quality to be made into cloth. Glencroft, a business in Clapham, has invested in better using this lower grade wool for yarn which means that such fleeces will in future not necessarily be valueless.

### Supporting the TerraCycle recycling concept

RL explained the TerraCycle concept and invited discussion as to whether the approach would work in Malhamdale. TerraCycle focuses on the recycling of waste products that are hard to recycle so



only relate to very specific products. This is a drawback for villages as small as those in Malhamdale. However, there is one recycling line for “air, house, and laundry” waste products which could be successful in the Dale. RL is prepared to try this line out on an experimental basis. She is already using one line for Flash products and will approach local pubs about TerraCycle recycling of very specific products such as KP nuts packets. Further developments to be discussed at subsequent MEG meetings.

#### Single use coffee cups

LP referred to a newspaper article she had seen (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/14/it-was-a-plague-killarney-becomes-first-irish-town-to-ban-single-use-coffee-cups>) about the successful introduction of single use coffee cups and invited a discussion as to whether a similar idea could be successful in Malhamdale. It was decided to seek the advice of one successful local shopkeeper who may be able to assess viability and how to proceed. **AP6: JS to follow up.**

#### Yorkshire Rewilding Network

The above network has filmed a presentation available on YouTube which illustrates how rewilding could work in Yorkshire based on successful rewilding projects in other European countries. It included a specific focus on Airedale and Malhamdale. All MEG supporters and volunteers are recommended to watch the presentation which is at <https://www.yorkshirerewildingnetwork.org.uk/yrn-webinars/>.

#### Future meeting dates

The date of the next meeting will be 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The first part of the 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.

#### Article for Parish News

Arising from the discussion on transport, it was decided to write an article in the Parish News about the mayoral elections in May which will aim to set out the issues that voters will need to think about as they decide which candidate to vote for. This will be an apolitical piece but will stress how important the election will be in terms of the number of powers and the size of the budget that will be handed down to the new NY mayoral authority. The article will be written in time for the March edition of the Parish News with a view to also sending it to the Craven Herald. **AP7: DH and JS to draw up the article.** For the February Parish News, an article on peat bog monitoring is being prepared. **AP8: SP to write draft.**

#### Other Business

Ongoing problems concerning the litter picker at Goredale are a matter for the Parish Council and can be taken up at its next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December.



### Summary of Action Points

Action	Details
1	<b>AP1: PC to contact CD to ensure response for the January 2024 meeting. Email sent 01/12/23. Responded with draft contract on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Contract now being reviewed by interested parties. Aim is final contract signed by KMPC on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>
2	<b>AP2: PC to circulate the spreadsheet to the six participants at the October 2023 workshop so that they can include the data about the seeds they planted. Email sent 01/12/23. Reminder sent 09/01/24</b>
3	<b>AP3: PC to find out the contact details for newly appointed LNRS officer at NY Council. Shaun Berry – outcome from NYCICo meeting with NY officers 08/12/23. Information on this and other LNRS now shared with JS</b>
4	<b>AP4: PC to find this information and send it on to LP. Email sent 01/12/23</b>
5	<b>AP5: PC and MP to work together on a draft application for a grant on behalf of KMPC. In progress but quotes slow in arriving – being chased up</b>
6	<b>AP6: JS to follow up on single use coffee cups</b>
7	<b>AP7: DH and JS to draw up the article. Carry forward to January meeting</b>
8	<b>AP8: SP to write draft. Draft prepared and submitted</b>