

Minute (355) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council Meeting – Monday 8th April 2024

Attending: C Wildman, D Howlett, M Throup, S Inman, M Harrop, N Heseltine & NYC Cllr. S Myers,

Apologies: P Wherity, P Dewhurst, A Bradley,

Observing: P Cummings, J Smart, M and L Parker, M Wilson, S McWhinney, S Stephenson, R Hudson, S Morris and J Riley.

Public Questions

None.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Amendments were needed and are to be approved at next meeting.

Changes to Councillors Circumstances

None

Matters Arising from Previous KMPC Meeting

Tree at cove has been felled but now blocking path. PW to be requested to follow up with our contractor on this.

Local Transport – Dales Bus

Jonathan Riley from Long Preston, a Trustee of Friends of the Dale and now a Director of Dales Bus gave an update on local bus provision and the challenges Dales Bus had been facing. They had been running a deficit but fortunately NYC have agreed to cover this deficit for this year, and an announcement is to be made on this. There are government grants for commercial bus companies, but it is a challenge to run a commercial service in the Yorkshire Dales. Dales Bus are campaigning for more services in the Dales and Jonathan sought the view of the Council on bus provision. All agreed this would be good and in two main areas. One for residents to have a service that worked so they could commute and/or access services – currently having only one bus a day leaving at 10:30 am didn't work for this. Second was for increased bus for tourists especially at weekends. It was observed that while Malham Cove was a national tourism destination it was very difficult or sometimes impossible to reach the village by public transport. It was noted there is demand for more buses and that this should be fed back to NYC and YDNPA. Jonathan agreed to feedback to the council on the discussions Dales Bus were having.

Update from Cllr S Myers, County Councillor

He was pleased to report Northern Rail had agreed to open up the line from Rochdale/Manchester via Clitheroe to Ribbleshead. But this was only for Saturdays. He would like to see this becoming a daily service and suggested residents should use the Saturday service to demonstrate there is demand for the service.

Double council tax for second homes in NYC has been agreed. This is expected to raise £12-16 million a year and will be used to help deliver more affordable housing in the county. NYC are planning to discuss with YDNPA on opportunities. The money could be used to support a range of schemes including shared ownership and community driven projects. He would welcome any ideas on this from residents and the council.

NYC are to spend £700,000 to remedy the situation at Kex Gill on the A59 asap, with the new road due to open in two years time.

There is an on going consultation on special needs education and home school transport.

A grant has been made to Settle swimming pool for capital works.

Traffic Management

Contractors to Highways have now installed the gateway but road marking remain to be completed and the gateway should then be more visible but we agreed to monitor this and whether there was any risk to tyres from the granite kerbstones. Bollards to warn motorists had been removed but have now been replaced.

In March there had been two days when cars parking on the brow, tarn and cove roads had caused major traffic problems with a serious risk that if there were an emergency that fire, police and ambulances would not be able to get in. In addition, there were traffic problems when the road was closed due to drainage works but this was a one off.

Councillors first wanted to acknowledge Rob Hudson and Simon Stephenson for their excellent work in getting car parks open and to Ashley Caton and James Middleton for helping sort out problems.

It was agreed that we know when to expect traffic and parking problems – when fields are too wet to open, and a good weather day is forecast for a weekend and/or bank holiday. The changing climate means it is likely that number of problem days will increase, and for an increasing risk of danger if there is an accident or incident in Malham of emergency services not getting through. It was agreed as an interim measure when we expect a bad day for our cones to

be placed on Kirkby Brow by the lengthsman/councillors/volunteers. However, a longer term solution on improving fields may be the answer as well as extending double yellow lines.

Related to this the challenges of parking enforcement, or lack of it, was raised.

YDNPA Update

Rob Ashford was not able to attend but send a written update. Main points were:

- From the 1st April the National Park Visitor Centre will be open 7 days a week 10am – 5pm.
- The National Park Visitor Centre's car park's grassed areas have suffered over the winter and the Ranger service will be repairing the damage once we have a dry spell and looking into long term solutions.
- The Ranger service have improved the accessibility of the gates from Mire Barn towards Janet's Foss and into Janet's Foss from the Gordale end.
- Malham Peregrine Project viewpoint will be open over a limited number of dates in 2024 - 19 & 20 May, 16 & 17 June, and 21 and 22 July. They have been unable to install the peregrine fence at the top of the cove this year, and the public and locals to try and avoid disturbing the peregrines on the right wing of Malham Cove.
- A revetment wall on the Malham Cove path was repaired in March after a large crack appeared in the footpath.
- There will be some changes in the Ranger service with the 'North Yorkshire' area of the National Park in the coming year. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's core budget from DEFRA has been frozen since 2020, and with inflationary pressures our core grant has been cut in real terms by half since 2010. The YDNPA Ranger service maintain the public right of way network under a delegation agreement from North Yorkshire Council and recently approached the new unitary councils that cover the National Park area, North Yorkshire Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, to ask for financial support to continue the Ranger programme which implements statutory duties that the council would normally undertake.
- Westmorland and Furness council agreed to a three-year settlement whereas North Yorkshire Council has rejected any assistance. This was raised with Simon Myers earlier in the meeting. He said he hoped this could be resolved.

Prior to his report Rob and responded on the muddy path on Malham "motorway". In this he said YDNPA were not in a position to help, but he very usefully set out four options to consider:

- Flags and or cobble stones but this would be expensive.
- Concrete or tarmac path
- Plastic mesh and grass seeding
- Grass/gravel path

Councillors agreed to keep this under review.

National Trust Update

Jess Darwin was not able to attend but sent a written update. In summary:

- New signs are being installed across the Malham Tarn estate, great to get up to date information for visitors around the Malham area.
- Tarn House open days were very well attended, and lovely feedback from the local community sharing memories. Thanks to all who visited and made a contribution.
- Fishing on the Tarn will start in May through the Friends of Malham Tarn group who run it. Contact them for any further details Friends of Malham Tarn (<https://friendsofmalhamtarn.org/>)

Finance report for January and February

No update

Police & Parking Enforcement Issues

Nothing new

YDNPA Planning Matters

Nothing new

Future of Malham Tarn

Discussion took place after National Trust update. Points to note:

- A number in the room had visited Tarn House and said Trust staff had been very welcoming and friendly.
- Staff said they weren't in a position to answer questions on the future of Tarn House and Estate.
- One person was informed that three of the Estate houses are to be holiday lets and one is to be made a residential let.
- Locals welcomed the opportunity to share feedback. CW had asked if the Trust could share this feedback with the Council but this is apparently not possible.
- The sub-group of KMPC will meet on 16 April and will discuss how we can work with the Trust on a long term and sustainable solution to a successor to FSC.

Lengthsman's Update

Provided by M. Parker, Lengthsman.

Toilets had been fixed. New mower was excellent. Need to replace Milk car park signs. Question whether businesses should be asked to pay for use of noticeboard.

MEG Update

The Curlew training and peat bog monitoring had taken place. Tree nursery agreement with YDMT had been signed. There will be a "Cry of the Curlew" exhibition in the Parish Church from the 12th to the 14th April. On the 25th April there will be a MEG meeting at Town Head Farm Shop on local sourced food.

Peter Cummings noted that the application for grant funding from the SP fund to help with the costs of insulating the roof space above the Toilets was proceeding but that budget had been revised and that KMPC contribution would increase by £100 to £775, all agreed to this increase.

Litter and Dog Poo

Nothing to report except Gordale bin had a late collection

Correspondence

None

AOB

Next Meeting

Monday 13th May 2024 @ 7.00pm in Kirkby Malham Church Hall. This includes the AGM.