

Minutes (365) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council Meeting – Monday 3rd March 2025

Attending: C Wildman, N Heseltine, P Dewhurst, D Howlett, A Bradley, M Throup, M Harrop, Cllr. S Myers
Apologies: P Wherity, Will Locke (YDNPA Area Ranger)
Observing: J Smart, R Hudson, R Ingham, Rev. S McWhinney, P Cummings, Mr & Mrs M Parker, H Kay (YDNPA) and K Storey (YDNPA)

Public Questions None

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Approved Proposed: MH Seconded: MT

Matters Arising

Traffic Management

- Repairs on Gordale Lane not happened yet. MH to nudge Area 5/Highways about these repairs still needing to be done.
- Campervan parking (overnight) was further discussed and concluded that there are no rules/laws preventing this happening. Overnight campervans do impose on village resources – toilets, bins, etc. Meaning there is a knock-on impact.

Changes to Councillors Circumstances

None, other than S. Inman, Malham Moor Ward, has now resigned as a councillor due to relocating to live outside of area. No other changes.

YDNPA – ‘Dark Skies’ – Update and Overview

Provided by Hannah Kay and Kathryn Storey from YDNPA following a visit and walk round Malham Village accompanied by NH and PD from KMPC in Nov '24.

Kathryn Storey: Tourism Officer

Hannah Kay: Park Services Officer & Dark Skies Manager

Dark Sky Reserve Status (DSRS) exists in Kirkby Malhamdale, awarded in late 2020 for YDNPA. Across the UK 85% of population cannot see the ‘Milky Way’ from where they live.

We need to do certain things to maintain DSRS otherwise it can be removed. Therefore, important to try and preserve this across whole of YDNPA and KM is a ‘buffer’ area. Important for plants, wildlife, e.g. birds, and also for tourism.

Key Fact: There are only 22 DS Reserves across the entire world.

Some suggestions/ideas from the Dark Skies specialists from YDNPA:

- ‘Light the area you need but only for as long as you need it’ – use timers and sensors.
- Shield light.
- Less bright light bulbs and warm (yellow) colour rather than bright white light bulbs.
- Engagement with local businesses to help ensure they (1) are aware of our DSRS and (2) might implement some changes to enhance the position for Kirkby Malhamdale and help protect/preserve DSRS for YDNPA overall.

Update from Cllr S. Myers, County Councillor

- Budget now through. £5m having to come out of reserves due to Government enforced budget cuts in the rural grant.
- NYC have issued letters before action to challenge this, but question of legal costs involved in doing this (c. £250,000) need to be considered fully before final decision on whether to take legal action.
- Cash from Central Government to use towards making 2000 council houses more energy efficient.
- Made GB news for buying 3 houses to home families re-housed from Afghanistan.

- Spending 100% of 2nd homes Council Tax premium on new housing to assist with housing needs sector specifically.
- £50m per year is the current cost of transporting children to school in N. Yorkshire.
- Email to KMPC (CW) from Friends of the Dales bus company about different bus services treating concession passes differently – some accepting, some not. Jonathan Riley at Friends of the Dales flagged this up.

Smart Meters – Update on Connectivity Issues in KMPC Area

- Thanks to Malham this was raised with CEO of NYC.
- The situation is fixable but some way to go in achieving that result/outcome.
- Attempt to move forward to a meeting with Rt. Hon. Julian Smith, MP to highlight and emphasise the connectivity issues in certain rural locations including Malhamdale.
- New mast has resulted in excellent 4G service between Tenant Ghyl and Arncliffe.

Traffic Management

- Field parking performed an excellent service in w/e 27th/28th Feb to mitigate very busy vehicle/visitor activity.
- Road sweeping around chicane/chapel due to debris/mud covering double yellow lines... urgently needed ahead of peak season/months for visitors. **MH to raise this with Area 5 Highways.**

NT Update

Provided by NH from KMPC

- NT/KMPC meeting at The Orchard House, Malham Tarn House/Centre was very useful.
- Changes to land management to benefit nature and wildlife habitat by April 2026 to be a very challenging timeline to meet the April '26 date, with proposal to DEFRA needing to be completed by Dec '25.
- Malham Tarn House – extensive work going on currently.
- Conservation Mgt. Plan – publishing a summary.
- Marketing of Tarn House well advanced, with a tenant lined up for front section of Tarn House and High Stables. The NT will retain north offices in Tarn House. Tenant starting to move in in April '25.
- Cottages being converted for holiday lets generally, with one exception where L-T let to a family already.

YDNPA Update from Area Ranger (Will Locke) - provided by H. Kay and K. Storey (guest visitors from YDNPA):

- A question to be put to Alan Hulme, YDNPA about their approach to overnight campervan usage, and YDNPA plans regarding this moving forward. **CW to raise this with Alan Hulme.**
- 60th anniversary of The Pennine Way in 2025 24th April – an exhibition '**A trail of inspiration**' doing the rounds, currently in Hawes. **Coming to Malham Visitor Centre for the month of June 2025**, and this exhibition is working its way along the length of the Pennine Way.
- Farmers and Land Managers in Protected Landscape project – there's a 'team' and YDNPA 'Farming in Protected Landscape (FIPL).
- Cawden footpath improvement project due to commence in April '25.

Police & Parking Enforcement Issues Nothing to report

KMPC Financial Update

Balance on 18/01/25:	£37,930.79
Income:	£5.67
Payments:	£8,378.54 (incl. £8,298 Curlew Project funds which will be refunded)
Net Balance, in acct:	£29,552.25, incl. 'Contingency Fund' of £9,873
Total Available to KMPC:	£15,655.97

Parking and Toilets contributions £6,031 for 24/25 year to 31st March '25 with one month (March) still to come.

YDNPA Planning Matters Nothing new to report.

Lengthsman's Update

- QR codes all sorted.
- Highways to remove 'slippery road surface' signs. **MH to contact Area 5 Highways to collect (pick-up) these now.**
- Lengthy debate/discussions around the rockfall situation at Gordale and this needs to be furthered within KMPC and additional dialogue with Insurers, YLCA, English Heritage.
- Malham Toilets project – update to be provided to HF Holidays Footpath fund in order to obtain approval/agreement to proceed with next phase of works. PD to provide this update to HF Holidays with very useful and helpful input from Lengthsman (MP).

MEG Update

- Funds available for nesting boxes to be installed in domestic gardens under Dales House Nesting Birds Project.
- Curlew project going ahead again funded by Millenium Trust.
- Climate Action Event in Harrogate on 22nd March 2025, funded by Shared Prosperity Fund within NYC.
- Feasibility study for local renewable energy ongoing. P Cummings to produce further tender info for April '25 KMPC meeting.
- Meeting on 18th Feb '25 with local waste and recycling representative from NYC. How to deal with the hard to recycle items/waste... such as blister packs, corks, soft plastics, etc.
- Lot of talk with NYC waste representative about dog poo waste about possible solution to use this type of waste more efficiently... ongoing dialogue between MEG and NYC on recycling/waste to energy.

Litter & Dog Poo Nothing to report.

Housing Needs & Local Housing Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Note from Jonathan Riley at Friends of the Dales, via email to CW dated 03.03.25 already covered in Cllr. S. Myers update section.

AOB

- New milk churn 'lids' made to fit existing milk churns, with significant upgrade thanks to Malham Smithy to reinforce system and refresh. Stirling work here by A Bradley (Blacksmith) recognised and thanks given by whole of KMPC
- NH Raised question about whether WiFi should be installed in Malham Village Hall – question to be put/directed to Village Hall committee to get their input/opinion on this.

Next Meeting: Monday 7th April 2025 @ 7.30pm in Malham Village Hall.