

Minutes (369) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7th July 2025

Attending: C. Wildman, N. Heseltine, M. Throup P. Dewhurst A. Bradley, P. Wherity, D. Howlett,

Apologies: M. Harrop, A. Bradley, M. Parker, Jess (NT)

Observing: S Myers, S. Stevenson, J. Smart, J. Powell, S Cummings and W. Locke (YDNPA), Jane Bagley

Public Questions

We have just learned of the sad death of Ronnie Ingham following a short stay in hospital. Ronnie served as a Parish Councillor and ran the Post Office in Malham for many years and we wish to record our condolences.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Approved

Proposed: NH

Seconded: DH

Matters Arising

Have had 2 replies re internet for village halls, neither very helpful

Phone boxes. NYCC have backed our request to keep them open

Changes to Councillors Circumstances

None.

Update from County Councillor, Cllr. S. Myers

KM School and YDNP looking at a safe pedestrian route from KM School to Malham and possibly Kirkby Malham. They would also like an active transport route from Gargrave but that may take some time.

There is a potential £18 million loss to NYCC (yet to be confirmed) following the Government spending review. There is however, some money available for social housing and the government wants to extend the moratorium on right to buy to 35 years. This is provided there is time in Parliament.

A Fire Engine was blocked from attending an emergency call out by carelessly parked cars in Upper Settle. There is a proposal by Settle TC to install double yellow lines at the most congested points. PD to write in support. SM to support it.

YDNPA - Update from Area Ranger: W Locke

- The Cawden steps are almost finished and a handrail is about to be installed to keep walkers from straying from the path but will still allow stock to cross through gaps. Grass seeding will follow. Seasonal rangers will start next week and be available until early September.
- The sand bag store in the NP Car Park is falling apart. MH to investigate a replacement.

National Trust -

Jess is changing her role at The Trust and our new contact will be Ian Clementson. The NT is investigating the possibility of installing metal steps and walkways to make Janet's Foss more accessible and also to instal improved interpretation panels. This would need SSSI consent. Our view is that whilst a rope or handrail along the difficult and often slippery rock steps would be fine, a metal walkway would detract from the natural setting. There is still a huge parking problem at Gordale, PD to write to Highways to try and get them to speed up the installation of the double yellow lines.

Risk Assessment & Rock Falls on Parish Land

CW had a site visit to Gordale on the 28th May with John Fulwood from the British Mountaineering council regarding the rock fall risk. They are happy to help and he will provide a report for us to include in our risk assessment. He also agreed to attend a future meeting. We are still awaiting his response and report. The new signage is on order and will be installed on the gate into Malcolm's field, at the start of the Parish Land and on the boulder above the existing rock fall sign. Brief discussion on the need for similar signage at The Cove. The footpath doesn't run under the cliff in the same way as at Gordale and the rock is less brecciated so less likely to suffer from dangerous rock fall so less need for signage.

The Tree Survey

We have had quotes from Webbers, Tree Tops and Tree Peaks. We are to undertake a tender assessment, DH to send a pro forma.

Discussion about any immediate danger to the land underneath Gordale as there is a dead tree on the cliff top. If needed we would request an emergency closure of the footpath. PW to ask Webbers for advice. PW to ask Webbers for a quote to remove those very inaccessible trees. They would employ a specialist team for this job as it is particularly difficult.

We would likely need to get permission from Natural England as this is a SSSI

Discussion about the state of the trees in the village following the very helpful advice from MEG and Brian Rycroft. We will arrange a time for some of the councillors to do a similar site visit as soon as possible.

Many organisations are donating their woodland to The Woodland Trust who would ensure safe access and management of the woodland. This is something that we could perhaps look at in the future.

Traffic Management

We have had several complaints from residents about the chaotic traffic conditions associated with the recent Macmillan Mighty Hike Event. The event was very successful and raised many thousands of pounds for the charity. However, the half Marathon Route was linear and involved the entrants having to be bussed back to Malham causing big traffic problems. There were also issues with loud tannoy pointing directly at the village and starting very early in the morning. The Show Committee and Robert Hudson to write a joint letter to the organisers.

Another walk this time in support of Alzheimer's is scheduled for the 19th July.

Police & Parking Enforcement Issues

nothing

KMPC Finance

Balance on 18/05/25: £37,216

Income: milk churn donations £1404 QR code donations £255

Payments: £1000 donation to Dales Bus, £200 donation to Parish Mags, Council insurance £541, splashbacks for the toilets £364, and electric bill £37

Total from acct: £491

Net available in bank: £36,725

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Contingency fund: £9,370

Available to KMPC: £23,377

YDNPA Planning Matters

- none

Lengthsman's Update

- Splashbacks and dual flush systems are being installed
- Another bench has fallen apart. Our policy for donated benches to remain - a year and a symbol.
- CW to approach local businesses and organisations re bench sponsorship.

MEG update

The tree nursery at Windy Pike has been very successful. Many thanks given to Wendy Carr.

MEG to get together with the PC to suggest new planting areas.

The Millennium Trust has offered to provide bird boxes and advice about installation.

SM gave a report on the recent Biodiversity meeting that he attended. We will need to have Biodiversity as a future Agenda item.

Litter and dog poo

Nothing new

Correspondence

CW has been approached re filming in Gordale.

Mark Luscome has informed us about a large Ash Tree that is about to be felled opposite his farm entrance.

AOB

none

Next meeting 7.30 pm , Monday 1st Sept , Malham Parish Hall

As there are several important issues ongoing at the moment, we may need to have an extra meeting. If so we will publish date and venue.

