

Minutes (371) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council Meeting – Monday 2nd June 2025

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

Apologies: C. Wildman

Observing: J Fullwood, E.Martinez, G.Scott (BMC) , M.Egan, Cllr Myers, R Hudson, P.McWhinney, S.Stevenson, J.Smart, S .Cummings, M.Parker , K. Hilditch and W. Locke (YDNPA)

Public Questions

None

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Approved

Proposed: MH

Seconded: MT

Matters Arising

MH reported on non-acceptance of argument for keeping PO box open

Changes to Councillors Circumstances

Awaiting confirmation from NYCC re Margaret Egan as Malham Moor Cllr

YDNPA - Update from Area Ranger: W Locke

- Jury is out about whether to add stones next to the Cawden footpath steps to prevent walkers from using the muddy areas adjacent to the steps.
- The cove path is being upgraded
- The works to the Pennine way path to Black Hole bridge are nearly complete and there are plans to create a turning circle for the Trampers and to add a seat.

National Trust -

Update postponed until next meeting

Plans for Janet's Foss safety measures have yet to go to Planning

MT has yet to hear from the NT re Heart of The Dales project

Risk Assessment & Rock Falls on Parish Land

- MH has completed Risk assessments for The Cove, Gordale and The Plantation.
- DH presented an update on the situation at Gordale. Full report is here



Microsoft Word
Document

- The BMC have offered to do a roped inspection. The site is too large to inspect in one visit. They hope to do the 1st inspection over the next couple of weeks. The drone footage will be very useful. They will send us an initial assessment. There won't be any climbing now until April when the cliffs dry out. The recent rockfall likely to be caused by tree roots penetrating and enlarging joints in the rock and high wind speeds rocking the trees. This coupled with alternating very dry and very wet spells of weather. There is highly likely to be other rockfalls following this event.
- The inspection will cover more than just the climbing areas and will extend to the potentially unstable slopes above the cliffs.
- After we receive the report from the BMC and after Webbers carry out the tree work, we will probably need to have a professional risk assessment of Gordale. It would be unrealistic to ask them for measures to reinforce the slopes but advice about whether the rockfall risk is a 10 yr/50/yr,100/yr event would be very useful. We have several contactors that we could approach for quotes.

- The risk at the Cove is far less but trees are still present on part of the rock face. BMC will also inspect that as part of their regular assessment and will send report.

The BMC have been extremely helpful.

- Discussion with Kate Hilditch (YDNP) re footpath closure
- Currently a 21 day closure, can extend easily for another 21 days and can also request a 6 months closure but needs to be advertised first. KH will progress this as we are unlikely to have completed the assessment before the 21 day closures expire.
- We will keep YDNP informed about contractor dates
- Discussion about potential more permanent footpath diversion. It would be safer for the footpath to be moved over towards the bank of the stream. This could be done by building a low wall with some extra signage.

Tree work.

- Webbers will start at Gordale over the next few weeks.
- Advice has been received from Natural England about adding herbicide to prevent re growth.
- Excellent Habitat Regulation Assessment report from Jane and David.
- Natural England will visit and give advice about ongoing management and how much felled timber we can leave on site.
- Need to be aware of the Ecological importance of the site and trampling and timber removal could cause significant degrading.
- YDMT can also help with Management and would be useful to liaise with the NT. We will do a habitat management report for The Cove
- We could also approach the Woodland trust to help us manage it in the future.
- We may not need a felling licence
- We will ask Webbers to deal with the trees near Cromwell Cottage as part of the initial phase.

Update from County Councillor, Cllr. S. Myers

The wall collapse in Gargrave is causing problems with traffic congestion. It should be eased when the road is temporarily realigned which should happen quickly

There are plans to restrict access to the refuse facility at Swindon Quarry and in Settle to residents only.

Registration will be online but will also be available in other ways

NYCC is likely to need to make savings of £60 million each year for the next 3 years.

Traffic Management

Nothing new

Police & Parking Enforcement Issues

We are still waiting for the deputy Mayor in charge of policing to attend one of our meetings.

KMPC Finance

Balance on 18/08/25:	£36,317
Income:	£757
Payments:	£705

Total to acct:	£52
Net available in bank:	£36,369
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Contingency fund:	£9,370
Available to KMPC:	£23,021

Discussion of the precept for next year.

- There is no limit to the figure we can set.
- If under £5,000 it's paid in April otherwise in 2 instalments, 2nd in September
- It's based on the "Band D" average
- There are 177 properties in the parish so the precept divided by 177 is a rough guide as to what the residents would pay.
- We will decide this in time for the December meeting once we know more about the survey costs for Gordale.

YDNPA Planning Matters

- There has been an application for change of use at Miresfield, B and B to self-catering Holiday let.

Lengthsman's Update

- No more progress on the toilet improvements – awaiting steel panel and sign delivery.

MEG Update

Plants from the tree nursery could be used to restock some of the areas to felled at Gordale or The Cove. Requests for seedlings grown in pots from parishioners. Seedlings from potentially "immune" Ash trees worth trying.

Litter and dog poo

Invoice from MH for gloves and bags. PW to pay

Housing needs

Nothing new

Correspondence

Request for PTA organised visit to the Plantation to help to raise School funding was approved.

AOB

none

Next meeting 7.30 pm , Monday 3rd November , Malham Parish Hall

