

## Minutes (375) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council Meeting – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2026

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

**Apologies:** P Dewhurst, M. Harrop.

**Observing:** Cllr Myers, S. McWhinney, J. Smart, S. Cummings, R. Hudson, M Parker, J Bagley, S Stevenson, C. Braeburn (National Trust) and W Locke (YDNPA),

**Public Questions - None**

**Minutes of the Last Meeting** Approved. Proposed: MT Seconded: DH

### **Matters Arising**

none

**Changes to Councillors Circumstances - No change**

### **Update from County Councillor, Cllr. S. Myers**

- Likely to be a 4.9% increase in Council tax as a result of Govt. cuts
- This will still not be enough to balance the books so some will come from reserves
- SM will share the Procedural Policies from Long Preston Council with us

### **National Trust Update –**

- DEFRA to make a decision on The Heart of The Dales Project in March
- There will be several local meetings to publicise the project, There's "Chat and Chilli," in The Buck and it will also be discussed at the Local History group meeting in KM Parish Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb
- There will be a "Stargazing" evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. Children 7+ and adults.
- Awaiting the Planning Decision on the tenancy of High Stables.
- Permission is being sought for a 10 pitch campsite, 2 large tents on each pitch for up to 60 days a year. Some concern was expressed about the numbers.

### **YDNPA - Update from Area Ranger: W Locke**

- Some discussion about YDNP reopening the Gordale path. YDNP have reviewed the Risk Assessment but have not shared it with us. The Parish Council do not agree with this and have written to the Park saying that they need to accept the responsibility for any risk. We will invite Alan Hulme to the next meeting to discuss the issue.
- The work on the Cove path has almost finished and wider gates will be installed to make it more accessible.
- Work on changing place at the visitor centre and the roof improvements is still very slow. The deadline for the contractors is the beginning of March, after which they will face penalties.
- There are reports of delivery drivers following their sat- navs and ending up using the footpath in front of King House. YDNP to install suitable signage.
- Request for Malham residents to provide evidence of use of the footpath from King House down across the Beck. AB has some evidence from the old Safari events and PW to source some maps showing areas designated as Common Land. If designated as a path, then it will be possible for the YDNP to maintain it. We need evidence of at least 20 years of use.

## **Rock Falls & Tree work on Parish Land**

- Treetops have almost finished the work at The Cove. Some piles of logs have been left for residents to collect as firewood if they wish. Larger pieces left as seats but not anywhere that they would block paths.
- The area in front of the Cove is now far more open and the unofficial climber's path much more visible. This has enticed several members of the public to follow it. We need to install some suitable signage to discourage them.eg. "For use of climbers only"?
- Work to resume after a week's break and priority will be to do Gordale , (week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb) if weather and half term holidays permit. YDNP will need around 3 days notice to close the footpath again. If weather is poorer then work to be done on The Plantation, outside the Old School House and the rest of the village.
- Current advice from a forestry consultant is not to replant at the Cove or at Gordale but to let the area regenerate naturally. Important to make the area stockproof though, as there are some gaps in the wall. Maybe sensible to do a small amount of "Political Planting" to help reduce any criticism from the public.
- Michael Appleton from YDMT is happy to help with a management plan and with a grant. They will send us a report.
- Some work has been done on Atkinson's Copse, but a large Ash tree will also need to be felled. Atkinson's Copse is not officially owned by the Parish Council but if we don't make it safe then nobody else is likely to.

## **Finance**

Summary - Balance on 18/12/25 £42,816

### **Income**

QR code donations £152

Milk kit donations £924

Total income £1076

### **Payments**

Skipton Brass, carols at the Cove £200

Water Bill £294

Electric bill £37

MEG meeting £15

Total payments £547

Net available in the bank £43,345

Malham Initiative now has £2,662.

Brochure £1314.

Contingency fund £9370

**Total available to KMPC £29,997**

## **Traffic Management**

Nothing new

## **Police & Parking Enforcement Issues**

Nothing new

## **YDNPA Planning Matters**

- DH attended the planning committee meeting and spoke in support of the change of use from B+B to short term lets at Miresfield. This was alongside a statement from the applicant. The meeting overturned the planning officer to reject the proposal. The Head of Development is likely to bring this decision back to the next planning meeting with further advice to reconsider the decision.

### **Lengthsman's Update**

- The salt piles on the Cove Road need renewing and the salt bin by the bus stop also still needs filling. There is also a need for salt in the bins on the way over to Settle from Kirkby Malham.
- For the toilets, we are still waiting for the plumber but Annabelle has the remaining splashbacks and signage and will pass them on.
- Milk churns are still being broken into in spite of being emptied regularly and having extra locks. We urged Annabelle to be careful when emptying them. The QR code donations are slowly overtaking cash donations and AB periodically checks the QR code labels to make sure they haven't been tampered with
- Discussion about holiday cover for Mick with grass cutting and restocking/cleaning the toilets. We are to advertise for this in the newsletter and the MCR WhatsApp and Facebook

### **MEG Update**

- Volunteers still needed for the Curlew Project.
- There is soon to be a talk from The Rivers Trust about Upper Aire Catchment Management.

### **Litter and dog poo**

Nothing new

### **Housing needs**

Nothing new

### **Correspondence**

- Many thanks from Skipton Brass for the £200 donation. They are happy to do it again next year but will need to think about the date
- We've had an update and request for financial help from Dales Bus. We agreed to give our annual £1,000 grant. The service seems well used but will ask them for some data to back this up.

### **AOB**

CW suggested we have another agenda item from now on. **Policy and Procedures**

We need to look at an aspect of these procedures each month and update our documents.

Next meeting 7.30pm, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Malham Parish Hall