

## Minutes (376) of Kirkby Malhamdale Parish Council Meeting – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

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

**Apologies:** D Howlett, M. Harrop. Cllr Myers

**Observing:** S. McWhinney, J. Smart, S, R. Hudson, M Parker, J Bagley, S Stevenson, Ian Clement (National Trust) Alan Hulme and W Locke (YDNPA), Netta Hollings, Rucksana Mamood, Gary Scorsby and Harold Bond (Scouts)

**Public Questions** - None

**Minutes of the Last Meeting** Approved with minor amendments. Proposed: MT Seconded: NH

### **Matters Arising**

Asking again for Malham residents to provide evidence of use of the footpath from King House down across the Beck.

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

Nothing new other than confirmation of the 4.9% rise in Council Tax

**Changes to councillor's circumstances** - none

### **Update from the Scouts on their plans to lease Tarn House and the surrounding facilities.**

High Stables – will have 12 bunk rooms to accommodate 30 to 40 people as well as a new kitchen and toilet. Full time Warden on site

Campsite adjacent to High Stables- 20 year lease, ready in 4 to 5 months, 10 pitches each with a 6 person tent and a cooking tent. Planning application will be submitted but awaiting Ecological report and liaising with Natural England.

Tarn House- quite a lot of work has been done but still much to do. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of costs from NT. Accommodation for 36 people, Scouts, guides, Youth groups and Universities/ education groups and training courses. Disabled facilities and warden accommodation will be provided.

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

- Work on resurfacing The Cove path is just finishing
- Work still ongoing at The Visitors Centre
- Budget available for work on the footpath near the Mill Leat at Scalegill, work to begin after April

### **Update on Risk Assessment at Gordale from Alan Hulme.**

- Background – *In last month's meeting there was 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 invited Alan Hulme to the next meeting to discuss the issue.*
- YDNP has had similar decisions to make in other parts of the park. AH has been called as an expert witness in several incidents over the years.
- YDNP are required to protect and maintain the rights of way to the public. They have quarterly meetings of the health and safety Committee, a health and safety advisor, 2 solicitors and Lawyers that support them from Zurich Insurance.
- The Area ranger makes the Risk Assessment, the Visitors Safety group provides documents and the Park Consultants help to make the decision
- Alan suggested that we carefully review our Risk Assessment, including explaining what we did and didn't do ie carrying out a Geological Survey. Document all decisions and record dates of inspections etc.
- PW to send updated details about tree safety to Alan.
- Discussion about possible re-routing of the path away from the cliff. Open Access so visitors not restricted to paths and difficult to find any perfectly safe route as rocks have fallen over a wide area
- A key part of their risk assessment is summarised in this statement from the **Health and Safety Executive** **"Responsible Risk Taking should be regarded as normal, and we should not discourage members of the public from undertaking certain activities solely on the grounds that there is an element of risk to themselves. Excessive paternalism and concern with safety may lead to infringements of personal**

**rights. Those who are competent to judge the risk to themselves should be free to make their own decisions so long as they do not threaten the safety of others."**

- Work on the trees is scheduled to start on the 16<sup>th</sup> March weather permitting and the path will be closed to allow it to be completed safely.
- YDNP have sent us their Risk Assessment

#### **National Trust Update –**

- NT happy with the leasing arrangements with the Scouts
- There are plans to convert the wooden shed at the back of Tarn House into an accessible disabled toilet.
- The Home farm is being renovated and be a residential let. The Holidays Team are considering the use for the other 3 empty cottages If not suitable for holiday lets then they would need to be renovated and used as residential lets.
- There will be a meeting about The Old Offices at Waterhouses to discuss opportunities for people with disabilities.
- The damaged ground near the Tarn Dam has been fenced off. It may regenerate naturally otherwise remedial action will need to be taken.
- 20% of the trees planted last year have died due to the drought conditions and will need to be replanted this Spring
- Heart of The Dales – submission to DEFRA by the end of the month.
- There was a successful Dark Skies meeting one evening last week in spite of the cloudy conditions.
- A new ranger – Charlie, will be starting next week.

#### **Finance**

|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance on 18/01/26                | <b>£43345.60</b>  |
| <b>Income</b>                      |                   |
| Jan QR code donations              | £74.00            |
| <b>Total income</b>                | <b>£74.00</b>     |
| <b>Payments</b>                    |                   |
| EDF energy Jan                     | £38.80            |
| Town end farm shop toilet supplies | £46.74            |
| Bank charge                        | £4.10             |
| Treetops Forestry Cove work        | £4,116.00         |
| MD and SJ Harrop Sand bag store    | £180.98           |
| <b>Total payments</b>              | <b>£4,386.62</b>  |
| <b>Total from acct</b>             | <b>£4,312.62</b>  |
| <b>Net Available in bank</b>       | <b>£39,033.07</b> |

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>The Malham Initiative acct now has</b> | <b>£2662.95</b> |
| <b>the Brochure has</b>                   | <b>£1314.67</b> |
| <b>Contingency fund now has</b>           | <b>£9370</b>    |

**Total available to KMPC £26,885.45**

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, Police & Parking Enforcement Issues**

Parking under pressure already this year. PD to write to Highways re road cleaning and refreshing of double yellows.

## **YDNPA Planning Matters**

- We have supported the applications for solar panels on the village hall and for the extension at the Mahon House in Kirkby Malham

## **Lengthsman's Update**

- Still waiting for the plumber to finish the work in the toilets. MP to do this himself rather than waiting. AB to pass on invoices to PD for the Holiday Fellowship grant.
- Discussion about holiday cover for Mick with grass cutting and restocking/cleaning the toilets. We still need to advertise for this in the newsletter and the MCR WhatsApp and Facebook. Mick can help to draft.

## **MEG Update**

- Good response for Volunteers for the Curlew Project.
- Following a talk from The Rivers Trust – a project on mayfly nymphs in the R Aire is to be set up and volunteers are needed.

## **Litter and dog poo**

High Viz jackets are available for the volunteers and for Mick.

## **Housing needs**

Nothing new

## **Correspondence**

- Nothing new

## **AOB**

Nothing new

Next meeting 7.30pm, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Malham Parish Hall