



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

Church House
7 High Market Place
Kirkbymoorside
YO62 6AT

Tel: 01751 432217

town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Manor Vale Management Committee meeting held on 6 February 2025 at 11am in The Moorside Room, 9 Church Street, Kirkbymoorside, YO62 6AZ.

Present: Councillor S Woodhams and Committee Members Tom Denny, Keith Dowell, Andrew Hall, Jim Pewtress and Jim Reader.

Also present: Town Clerk L Bolland, and 1 member of the public.

Cllr Woodhams welcomed all present.

MV24015 The resignation of Jean Illingworth from the Town Council was **noted**. Cllr Woodhams was **elected** Chair.

MV24016 There were no apologies for absence.

MV24017 There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda.

MV24018 Public Session - to allow members of the public to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any items of business. **None present.**

MV24019 Minutes and matters arising

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2024 were **received** and **signed**.
- b. There were no matters arising.

MV24020 Management Plan

- a. It was **noted** that the revised Management Plan was adopted by the full Council and at the Ordinary meeting dated 16 September 2024, Minute 24068.
- b. The clerk **reported** progress of maintenance activities guided by the management plan, Section 2.3.3.2 'Occasional tasks'.

- I. The following organisations have been contacted to determine interest in undertaking biodiversity surveys:

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

Natural History Museum

North York Moors National Park

Royal Entomology Society

RSPB

Ryedale Natural History Society

York Ornithological Club

York University, Department of Biology

Yorkshire Naturalists

All responses have been encouraging and the following specialist have registered their interest:

NYMNP - Holly Ramsden would be interested in assisting with surveying woodland ground flora in the areas of ancient woodland as part of the GrubsUp! Project;

Ryedale Natural History Society:

- Botany Recorder, Gill Smith
- Botanist, Nicola Woosnam
- Fungi Recorder and member of the Ryedale Beekeepers Association, Rhona Sutherland
- Mammal Recorder, specifically moths and other insects, Sam Newton,
- Arachnid Recorder, Jim Pewtress (Manor Vale Management Committee Member)

Further information on progress of the surveys and the findings will be provided when available. This information will be recorded as Appendices to the Management Plan.

- II. Annual clearance of the top bridlepath has been carried out to cut back vegetation to allow sufficient height and width for horse and rider.
- III. Repairs to the hand rails and steps leading from the golf course road to Neville's Castle were completed in November 2024 and it was necessary for the repairs to be repeated following Sorm Darrugh. These works were contracted by North Yorkshire Council as the PRow Authority.
- IV. Arrangements have been made for the increased frequency of cuts to the verge of the golf course road, the cost to be shared with Kirkbymoorside Golf Club.

MV24021 Pursuant to concerns raised by a member of the public about the stability of Neville's Castle (Minute MV24010 dated 5 September 2024), the determination by an Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England of no structural problem with the standing fabric of the monument was **noted**.

Extract of Inspector of Ancient Monuments' report:

"I can't see any structural problem with the standing fabric. There is no cracking, and no visible signs of movement. I understand that large, tall, single slabs of masonry seem to defy gravity and generate anxiety. If concerns persist, I can always ask one of our structural engineers to drop by the site and look it over.

Vegetation:

Woody growth: This is the primary concern. If woody growth gains a foothold, the root action can dislodge stone and cause movement. The best thing to do is to hire a contractor who can gain access to the wall top, cut off the woody growth and poison the root stump. They should also check the uppermost stonework to see if it is loose. If it is loose we will need to come up with a repair method. If the stones are very loose they should be removed and kept close to the monument for reuse.

Soft cap and ivy: Soft capping to a monument is beneficial. It initially acts like a sponge, holding water at the top of the fabric, and thereafter the root action draws moisture up from inside the wall. A thick soft cap also reduces thermal expansion, absorbing heat and thereby reducing the amount a wall expand and contracts.

Ivy can be a problem, but it just needs to be managed. The ideal is to keep it flat against the fabric, and not let it develop into a 'sail'. It is only when ivy has a mass that it is a problem because its movement then exerts movement onto the underlying fabric.

Trees: As you no doubt know, trees are under a lot of pressure with climate change and proliferation of new variants of disease. There are no trees dangerously close to the

monument, but I would keep an eye on the trees which are near to it – just to check their health.

Archaeology and History:

I think it would be a useful thing for the local history society to do some research, and assemble what they can find about the structure and the excavations. “

The clerk confirmed that the Town Council’s contractor has been instructed to cut off the woody growth on the top of the wall and poison the root stump, and to check the uppermost stonework, as recommended.

Cllr Woodhams proposed to specify the frequency of inspections of Neville’s Castle by an Inspector of Ancient Monuments, triennially, consistent with the tree safety inspections. **Agreed.**

MV24022 The Committee **noted** that the Town Council have submitted Manor Vale woodland as a Nature Corridor to the North Yorkshire Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy call for sites, Minute 24163 dated 20 January 2025.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will consider land at a county scale and will identify locations to improve nature and provide other benefits, such as capturing carbon from the atmosphere, flood regulation and access to nature-rich spaces where this is most needed for health and wellbeing.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will:

- *agree priorities for nature's recovery, such as increasing woodland cover or creating wetlands*
- *map the most valuable existing areas for nature*
- *map specific proposals for creating and improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals*

As required by law under the Environment Act 2021, every county in England will produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. These strategies will work together to restore, create and connect habitats across England.

MV24023 Keith Dowell, **reported** on the volunteer activities organised by Kirkbymoorside Environment Group under the supervisions of Don Davis. The next hedge laying session is on Saturday 8th March 2025 between 10 am & 1pm.

Haymaking is scheduled for late summer and coppicing in early winter.

Keith proposed an additional exercise to create wood piles of the felled wood to create bug hotels and different habitat areas. **Agreed.**

MV24024 There was no information available for consideration of an art trail.

MV24025 Questions to the Chair

The clerk asked if North Yorkshire Council would be responsible for injecting the Japanese knotweed next to the public footpath. Andrew Hall confirmed that this would not be a PRoW responsibility. Keith Dowell proposed asking Don Davis, as an independent and suitably qualified contractor, to be appointed. **Agreed.**

Jim Pewtress asked if it would be possible to have maps installed at appropriate locations along the footpaths within the woodland, indicating the locations of the dog poo bins to encourage dog walkers to deposit their bags in the next bin enroute rather than leaving them next to the paths. **Agreed.**

MV24026 The date of the next meeting on Thursday 10th July was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 11.42am.