



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Manor Vale Management Committee meeting held on 10 July 2025 at 11am in The Moorside Room, 9 Church Street, Kirkbymoorside, YO62 6AZ.

Present: Councillor S Woodhams and Committee Members, Keith Dowell, Andrew Hall (arrived at 11.23am) and Jim Pewtress.

Also present: Town Clerk L Bolland, Ian Newman Kirkbymoorside Golf Club and Sam Newton NYMNP
Cllr Woodhams welcomed all present.

MV25001 Cllr Woodhams was **elected** Chair.

MV25002 Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting were **received** from Cllr Shields, committee members Tom Denny and Jim Reader. Reasons given for absence were **approved**.

MV25003 There were no Declarations of Interest.

MV25004 Public Session - None present.

MV25005 Minutes and matters arising

- a) It was **noted** that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 6 February 2024 were approved by full council at the Ordinary meeting dated 19 May
- b) There were no matters arising. The Town Clerk offered apologies for not having progressed the suggestion to install signage indicating the locations of dog bins throughout the woodland.

MV25006 Management Plan

- a) Progress of maintenance activities guided by the management plan were **noted**. Recent injection of the Japanese knotweed was noted and consideration was given as to whether the objective of the treatment was containment or eradication. The committee agreed that eradication would be the preferred outcome. Advice and recommendations will be asked of Don Davies.
- b) Completion of surveys by a local botanist, Corey Rathbone and woodland ecologist Sam Newton, from the North York Moors National Park Authority, and separately by various recorders from the Ryedale Natural History Society (Ryenats) were **noted**.

A brief report was received from Sam Newton, NYMNP who is a Woodland Ecologist and Manor Vale volunteer.

Moth recording in Manor Vale wood has been carried out on five occasions in February, April, June and July 2025 11th June, and 25th June with 87 species recorded so far. The highlights have been:

- Beautiful Carpet (*Mesoleuca albicillata*) - an uncommon moth of lowland wooded areas where the larvae feed on bramble and raspberry
- Crescent Plume (*Marasmarcha lunaedactyla*) - a local moth of whose larvae feed on the leaves, buds and young stems of restharrow.

- Grey Arches (*Polia nebulosa*) - patchy distribution across Yorkshire in woodland
- Buff-tipped Marble (*Hedya ochroleucana*) - a local moth, whose larvae feed on rose, or occasionally apple.
- Blue-Bordered Carpet Moth (*Plemyria rubiginata*) – inhabits woodland, damp areas and feeds on brambles.

Reports and information received to date from Ryenats Recorders:

Moths – Charlie Fletcher There were only two moth records from this site prior to 2025, both for Chimney Sweeper in 2011 and 2022.

Arachnids – Arachnid Recorder, Jim Pewtress (Manor Vale Management Committee Member)

Info received from Richard Wilson [Consultant Invertebrate Ecologist, Richard Wilson Ecology Ltd:](#)

A check on the Spider Recording Scheme database has identified 33 arachnid records (24 species) between March 2015 and February 2023 by Jim Pewtress.

20 species listed for all spiders: harvestmen (3 species) and pseudoscorpion (1 species); all common taxa nationally.

Anticipate that the species list could reach 50+ species of spider and half a dozen harvestmen quite easily.

Botany – Corey Rathbone, North York Moors National Park (Report appended to meeting agenda)

Invertebrates - Andrew Grayson (Report appended to meeting agenda)

A review of the invertebrates is in progress. The Invertebrate Report, provided by Andrew Grayson, catalogues entries from 1994, 2001 and 2012. The 2025 findings will be added once received.

Reports yet to be received/in progress:

Beetles (Coleoptera) information received from Bob Marsh:

The YNU Coleoptera database shows only two records for the site (both recorded by Andy Grayson in 1994. It is presumed therefore that any subsequent beetle records would be new to the site. I'll try to pay a visit but can't at this moment say when.

Fungi Recorder and member of the Ryedale Beekeepers Association, Rhona Sutherland – no response yet received.

Diptera and Symphyta - Ian Andrews - (Yorkshire county recorder for sawflies and active dipterist)

The Management Plan document has been updated with the latest findings.

MV25007 Progress of Volunteer Activities was reviewed with an update provided by Keith Dowell on behalf of the Environment Group. The hedge laying was carried out on Saturday 8 March 2025. *Forthcoming activities include* haymaking in late summer and coppicing in early winter.

Progress of the exercise to create bug hotels from wood piles by clearing the felled and fallen wood from the footpath leading from the golf course to the Ancient Ash.

Additional tasks might include clearing of the saplings (Beech, Hazel, Holly and Sycamore) from the base of the more mature oak trees (known as halo thinning or haloing). Shade tolerant Sycamore and Beech, if encouraged to grow will smother the oak. Therefore removal of these saplings as part of the coppicing would be beneficial.

MV25008 Questions to the Chair

Keith Dowell explained that a Wych Elm branch is overhanging the path leading from the Ancient Ash to the golf course and looks to be unstable. The volunteers would be willing to clear this however, because Elms are now rare he asked if an expert could determine whether the regeneration of the tree would be compromised by cutting off the dead wood? Contact details of the NYMNP Tree Officer were provided by Sam Newton to check the principle with them.

Ian Newton asked if the committee were aware of any concerns relating to the Golf Club? He reported that the Golf Club are committed to improve biodiversity and have been guided by Holly Ramsden, NYMNP as part of the Grubs Up! Campaign.

The frequency of mowing in certain areas has been reduced over the growing season with the aim of a final cut and collect in August.

Wherever possible any felled/dead wood will be left in situ.

Trees have been planted to fill any gaps in the tree line to provide links for bats.

Flail cutting of the hedges will be carried out in sections and by rotation so not all the hedges are cut at the same time.

Keith Dowell asked if there were any areas of the golf course that would benefit from hedge laying as the length of hedge in Manor Vale is nearly complete?

MV25009 The date of the next meeting on Thursday 6th November at 11am in the Moorside Room was **agreed**.