



KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Manor Vale Management Committee meeting held on 26 November 2025 at 11am in The Moorside Room, 9 Church Street, Kirkbymoorside, YO62 6AZ.

Present: Councillor S Woodhams and Committee Members, Keith Dowell, Andrew Hall, Jim Reader and Mike Simpson.

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

MV25010 Apologies for absence

- a. Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting were received from Cllr Shields and Jim Pewtress.
- b. Reasons for absence were approved.

MV25011 There were no Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda.

MV25012 Public Session - There were no members of the public present.

MV25013 Minutes and matters arising

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2025 were received and approved.
- b. There were no matters arising.

MV25014 The NEYEDC Site survey report confirming designation on Manor Vale as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) was **received**. The document will be included with reference materials to the Manor Vale Management Plan. These will be linked on the Town Council website for public access.

With reference to the Management recommendations detailed in the report:

Bluebells - Jim Reader explained that even if there were some evidence of bluebell hybridisationⁱ in Manor Vale, it would be unlikely to be a serious problem. Whilst he has not examined the Manor Vale bluebells, it is doubtful whether any volunteer effort would be required, contrary to the NEYDEC recommendation.

Sycamore - Sam Newton suggested inclusion of Beech when considering management of these shade tolerant trees in order to avoid over competing.

MV25015 Progress of maintenance activities guided by the management plan were noted. The exercise to cut back the top bridlepath will be undertaken before the end of February 2026 to allow adequate width and height for horse ridersⁱⁱ.

It was noted that the vehicle gate at the Castlegate entrance had been lifted off the hinge pins and was propped at the side of the track to allow clear access. The post to fasten the gate open has been removed and needs to be reinstated.

Ian Newman referred to occasions when the golf course road has been blocked by fallen trees, which is more frequent in the winter months, and whether there were any monitoring procedures in place. The clerk explained that there are triennial tree inspections, in accordance with insurance requirements as detailed in the management

plan. The purpose of the surveys is to evaluate the safety of the woodland and identify any recommended works. The next tree inspection is due in Spring 2026. However, the report cannot predict which trees will succumb to the forces of a storm so the most effective approach is to make Phil Gospel aware whenever the road or any rights of way have been compromised, in order that it can be addressed promptly with minimum inconvenience.

MV25016 Progress of the volunteer activities were reviewed. Keith Dowell confirmed that the coppicing exercise is next due to be carried out in mid January and routine maintenance activities are ongoing. The Environment Group have welcomed a number of new volunteers to these exercises.

MV25017 There were no questions to the Chair

MV25018 The date of the next meeting on Wednesday 15 April 2026 was **agreed**.

ⁱ Bluebell Hybridisation

The hybridisation of bluebells, particularly between the native English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and the Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*), has been a topic of concern due to the potential for hybrid vigour, which could lead to the extinction of pure native bluebells. However, recent research indicates that the genetic threat from Spanish bluebells is relatively minor and has been largely mitigated by human efforts to increase plant populations. The hybridisation process is primarily found in public parks rather than natural habitats, and the majority of native bluebells sampled from natural habitats showed only a small percentage of evidence of introgression. This suggests that while hybridisation occurs, it does not pose a significant threat to the native bluebell population.

ⁱⁱ Bridleway management - width and height

The management of bridleways involves ensuring that they are maintained to a minimum width and height to facilitate safe and efficient use by horse riders. Here are some key points regarding bridleway management:

Minimum Width: The minimum width for bridleways is typically 2 to 3 metres, depending on the level of use. For heavy use, such as near stables or riding schools, a width of 3 to 4 metres is recommended.

Height: The height of bridleways should be maintained to allow for safe passage of horse riders. The absolute minimum space required is a diameter of 3 metres on clear, flat ground with no protrusions or overhanging vegetation.