

Climate Action Menston Annual General Meeting

Minutes (Francesca Bridgewater)

09/06/2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Present: Karen Casson, Francesca Bridgewater (Acting Secretary, Minutes), Goodith White (Acting Chair), Marilyn Banister, Roger Banister, Jamie Needle, David Palmer, Hannah Bayston, Dale Smith, David Bridgewater, Gavin Andrews (Leeds Solar), Jeff Davitt (Yorkshire Rewilding Network), Antony Butcher (Wharfedale Greenway Friends), Catherine Westhead, Candy Talbot

Apologies: Tommy Knowland, Alison Davies, Chris Steele, Trish Mersh, Hazel Goulden

1.0	Talks
1.1	Antony Butcher from Friends of Wharfedale Greenway gave an update on the state of the plans for a Greenway from Pool in Wharfedale to Bolton Abbey. Planning permission is awaited for the first section, from Otley to Burley. The route will have a spur to Menston. Biodiversity will be increased along the route, forming a safe passage for animals across main roads. Anyone interested, see their Facebook page (website in construction) or contact friendsofwharfedalegreenway@gmail.com .
1.2	Gavin Andrews from Leeds Solar explained how they have been working with CA Ilkley, arranging surveys in groups and giving a 5% discount on work. This scheme is now being extended to Menston. Please contact Leeds Solar if you are interested in having a survey done.
1.3	Jeff Davitt from Yorkshire Rewilding Network gave a brief but excellent introduction to the philosophy of rewilding and how it can enhance habitats and increase wildlife. He stressed the importance of taking a listening approach with landowners, as a shared dialogue is more likely to lead to finding ways forward. For more information, visit their website at https://www.yorkshirerewildingnetwork.org.uk/
2.0	Updates from Groups
2.1	Land & Nature – Treewilding: Francesca gave a short presentation of the highlights from the Treewilding group this year, namely the planting of the Jam & Jelly hedge behind Kirklands, planting along the Burnsall riverbank, and the new Trust now being set up – Menston Area Nature Trust – to acquire land and create nature reserves in and around the village. Anyone interested in getting involved with MANT please contact info@mant.org.uk
2.2	Travel & Transport: The “hole in the wall”, originally initiated by CAM, is now built and in regular use. Marilyn updated the meeting with the latest information about the Main Street improvement project. The next stage involves designing a scheme for the area in front of the school, and undertaking a survey of traffic.

	Marilyn is now the village representative for the Airport Consultative Committee.
2.3	Zero Carbon Energy – David Palmer, who has had to step down from leading this group, reported that Kirklands now had the information needed to decide on how to proceed with solar panels, if required. The group has hosted a talk from Andy Walker on insulation of dwellings, and has plans to host some more later in the year. Improvements to the website are being designed to promote energy saving.
2.4	Business & Community: Goodith reported that 10 local businesses are now proudly displaying blue stickers in their windows pledging to reduce their carbon footprints. Three local walks have now been published in Menston News.
2.5	Other work: Household tips are now posted on the website and in the Menston News. CAM has made several representations to government consultations including the Environment Land Management consultation, the Tree Planting Policy, and Evidence on Biodiversity & Ecosystems. CAM has also objected to Network Rail about their scorched earth policy, submitted suggestions to Bradford Council's Wharfedale Development Plan and made constructive objections about local planning consultations.
3.0	Finance Report Finally managed to get a bank account with Nat West up and running. The only expenditure so far has been webhosting. Membership fees have brought in £395. There is £495.70 in the bank and £31.90 cash. It was noted that £25 is ringfenced for trees.
4.0	Membership Report Currently 24 paid members, and another 25 interested. Francesca recommended that CAM start using Membermojo, an on line membership application, which is free up to 50 members (and not a lot after that). This application allows all the member list to be in one place, automatic renewals to be sent out, different membership dates, online payments, and automatic emails to different groups of members. It also allows CAM to be GDPR compliant easily, and would ensure we all knew exactly who our members were. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Executive meeting.
5.0	Election of Officers: Goodith White (Chair) and Francesca Bridgewater (Secretary) both announced they wished to stand down. Marilyn gave a vote of thanks to GW for all her hard work in getting CAM underway, and Goodith thanked FB for her work as Secretary.

	<p>Goodith proposed Marilyn Banister for Chair, seconded by FB. She was voted in unopposed.</p> <p>The post of Vice Chair is consequently currently vacant.</p> <p>No one offered to be Secretary, so Goodith proposed that she would be prepared to be provisional Secretary until another volunteer could be found.</p> <p>Treasurer (Roger Banister), Membership Secretary (Chris Steele) and Jamie Needle as Executive without portfolio will all stay in place unopposed. Francesca Bridgewater will stay on the Executive also without portfolio.</p>
6	<p>Date of Next meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 8th September 7:30 Location to be decided.</p>