

MNAP AGM 2021

Malton & Norton Area Partnership

Annual General Meeting Saturday 18th September 2021 – Minutes

Present:

In Front: Chairman of MNAP: Martin Brampton,

Executive Members: Di Keal, Roddy Bushell, Ian Conlan

In audience: Approximately 20 members of the public, including Executive and project members and volunteers of MNAP.

1. Welcome from the Chair Martin Brampton

2. Apologies for Absence

3. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM** were approved, with a short explanation from Martin about why there was no AGM in 2020, essentially because of COVID-19 meant were unable to hold a public meeting.

<https://mnap.org.uk/records/AGM2019Minutes-20190709.pdf>

4. MNAP Past, Present and Future – Talk by Roddy Bushell

Roddy Bushell was the Estate Manager for the Fitzwilliam Estate for 20 years until his retirement 3 years ago. He talked about the founding of MNAP linking with Yorkshire Forward (YF), which provided funding direct to MNAP, and not through the local authority, to encourage local partnerships, which can be more effective and cheaper, and get away from the “Let the council do it” mentality. Examples of funding included paving, improvements in the Shambles area, barriers, and signage. In 2012 YF was replaced by the Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, but with no funding. Roddy was keen to maintain MNAP. He outlined the Benefits of Partnerships:

- Politically neutral
- Local
- Members include all parts of the community – the one forum where that happens
- Less bureaucratic
- Volunteers more likely to be drawn to this type of organisation
- Additional capacity engaged to deliver agreed local objectives
- Help and support for small groups who need guidance
- A voluntary-led, not-for-profit organisation that can apply for funding that Councils can't apply for

With the move to unitary authority status and the abolition of district councils, Roddy said the time has come for MNAP to play a greater lobbying role for our communities, drawing upon

a wider area than the individual towns and parishes surrounding them. There can be more opportunities to start working with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

5. Report on period since AGM 2019

a. Lady Spring Wood - work done, current status - Martin Brampton

Martin explained that since he took over as chair in 2019, the bridge over the cut washed down in a flood, so work was undertaken to reposition it, with much appreciated help from the drainage board, who installed 4 posts at the corners to anchor the bridge. It has taken a long time to get the last part of the repair, the ramps put in place, due to the difficulty in getting a company that would agree to do the work. A company has now been sourced, and we are now awaiting for that company to do the work. Other work that has been done includes a volunteer group this year working on tackling Himalayan Balsam: an area was cleared, but they are still a significant presence.

b. Lady Spring Wood - thoughts on future developments - Ian Conlan

Ian was recently appointed as the 2nd councillor representative from Malton Town Council in May this year. He spoke of his discussions with one of the MNAP volunteers, Janice Gwilliam, and agreed with her about exploring the possibility of gaining funding for improvements to access from Orchard Fields to Lady Spring Wood, to make it either fully wheelchair accessible, or general improvement for people pushing buggies. The access does get very boggy in winter, and he felt that the otherwise level and wheelchair friendly Board Walk needed better access. He also talked about encouraging more volunteers to get involved in tackling the Himalayan Balsam next year and what we could do to make volunteers more valued, such as social events. At this point, a question from a member of the public was taken by Martin concerning the cost of the Board Walk, which Martin explained he could not comment on as it related to a time before he was involved in MNAP.

c. Cycle Path Swinton to Malton - Martin Brampton

Martin explained briefly how MNAP provided use of their bank account for Ryedale Cycle Forum, who do not have one, in order to apply for and process payments of a grant to scope out the route. The scoping revealed issues about finding a route, that have yet to be resolved with NYCC and landowners relating to gradients, availability of wide enough spaces to fit a dual use cycle/foot path, and access to private land. Further enquiries should be routed to the Cycle Forum who are leading on this project.

d. Norton Road Skatepark Half Pipe - Di Keal

MNAP offered to take responsibility for managing the Half Pipe project at Norton Road Skate Park as a way of making the project less political, and to provide a home for the project. There was huge public support for the project, and a great deal of effort, skill and specialist knowledge was brought. In February 2021 Norton Town Council debated a motion to scrap the Half Pipe, but the council was split on the issue. A campaign to “Rescue the

Ramp” was begun by supporters, spearheaded by Ryan Swain, emphasizing the iconic piece of kit, and that skateboarding was becoming a new Olympic Sport this year. In April, Malton Town Council pulled out of supporting the whole of the Skate Park. In May, Norton Town Council agreed to continue to support the Skate Park, and agreed to allow MNAP to carry out the first stage of a project to strip down the Half Pipe to the metal structure and prepare a plan for a second stage to bring back to the Council for approval. Stage 1 was completed, closing the skate park whilst the damaged skatelite surface was stripped down by volunteers, who included steel fabricators. In July 2021 Norton Town Council refused permission for Stage 2, citing Health and Safety concerns of allowing 24 hour 7 day a week access to the park, and councillor liability, also costs of ongoing maintenance falling on the council. The MNAP project team and the supporters felt they had demonstrated that good work they had been done already, there was huge community support, and felt extremely upset. A Town meeting was convened, with Norton residents asking the council to reconsider. The Project Team responded behind the scenes, and the Project Team took expert advice on the Town Council’s concerns. The project team and Norton Town Council Skate Park committee met together, and it was felt their respective positions were moving towards each other. The next step was that Norton Town Council were obtaining further legal advice, and a RoSPA inspection. A future extraordinary meeting would be called once the RoSPA report was obtained. The Council had expressed the wish to hand over the whole Skate Park for MNAP to run. On behalf of MNAP, the project team took the view that it was willing to undertake the practical management of the skatepark with the use of volunteers, but did not feel it appropriate for MNAP to take on full financial and administrative responsibility. Norton Town Council would need to maintain the lease, and maintain overall control to pay for insurance and inspections. The takeaway from this project:

- We can source work more cheaply
- We can get volunteers
- We can consult with users – what do they want?

6. Treasurer's Report - Martin Brampton on behalf of Jan Devos

The grant for the Swinton cycle path was £5,600 which was paid out to Ryedale District Council (thus avoiding VAT).

The only other expenditure was

- £1,000 for the Lady Spring Wood lease
- £50 to hire the Milton Rooms for meeting of 18th September 2021.

No income was received in the last 12 months.

7. Elections

a. A business representative (there being no functioning chamber of commerce or similar): James Lindenberg and Paul Tate Smith were approved

b. A resident of a parish adjacent to Malton/Norton: this remains vacant

c. A member of a local charity or voluntary body: Hendrik Klaver, Church of England minister for younger people's ministry was approved.

d. One other person from the meeting: this remains vacant

8. Open Discussion

There was a comment from a member of the public who hadn't realised what we do. Martin said we have a constitution, bank account, volunteers, making us more accountable than some other public bodies. Paul Andrews said that MNAP was the only organisation that represented both Malton and Norton, AND the surrounding parishes, and that this was more important with unitary authority.

A question was asked about Unitary Council, how to fill the gap created?

Di Keal said the plans to implement the new Unitary authority had not got very far, with long discussions about ward boundaries to date, and no discussion about the part that town and parish councils would play, or what role Area Committees and Partnerships would play or how they would relate to one another. There would be 90 Unitary authority councillors, including some big rural areas. This opens up the opportunity for lobbying before minds are set, and in this area we can champion MNAP as a structure. Roddy Bushell made the point that MNAP is not well known. Di Keal said she is happy to raise the role of MNAP with Carl Les and the Executive at County. Paul Andrews said that 8 Unitary council members out of 90 will represent Ryedale, which he said was not satisfactory. He said MNAP could ensure Malton and Norton's interests get representation. Roddy expressed the view that the current NYCC Area Committees did not function effectively. He said that, unlike political entities such as parish and town councils, MNAP does not compete with NYCC.