



Minutes of meeting held 6th October 2022 at Malham village Hall

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), David Howlett (DH), Mick Parker (MP), Judy Rogers (JR), Laura Parker (LP), Jonathan Heath (JH), Malcolm Wilson (MW).

Apologies: Sue McWhinney, Paul McWhinney, Alice Cummings, Steven Philips, Leigh Weston, Carol Douglas, Michael Southworth.

Over the summer period we learnt that, as the Tarn Field Centre has now closed down, the initial contacts we had with teaching staff there have ceased.

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2022 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Action points from previous meeting

Action points 1, 7, 9, 10, had been carried and completed. Under action point 8, it was reported that no speaker for a public event on curlews could be found for the projected date of 20th October but there is the possibility of a Zoom presentation from one possible speaker which could perhaps be given to MEG supporters with a view to building up support for protecting and promoting the future survival of curlews in the Malhamdale area. JH is a volunteer involved with curlew protection locally. He outlined his experiences and the nature of the work involved. Further discussion is included under the agenda item ““Eyes on the Bog” and curlews”. All the other action points are considered under the agenda items for this meeting.

Trees update and outline of tree planting/maintenance plans over winter 2022/2033

Written update from CD on trees

On 5th November there will be a seed processing/tree growing workshop at Kirkby Malham village hall;

On 13th December there will be a joint event with NT and YWT planting trees near Tarn Field Centre;

Chair's note: On 2nd November there is a Plastic, Trees, and Woodlands conference in Leeds. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/forest-plastics-working-group-plastics-trees-and-woodlands-conference-tickets-403394542937?aff=erelexpmlt>.

Action point 1: PC to circulate this conference information to MEG supporters again and also ask CD for a few words about the tree propagation event to include in next month's Parish Magazine.

Malham Raikes

YDNPA was contacted about potential for tree planting along verges above Malham Raikes (an area of some 5 metres (minimum) wide *over roughly 500 metres in length. Any progress on this will apparently be met with many administrative obstacles and be costly both in terms of money and time but crucially planting trees could conflict with another aim of the group, namely the conservation of curlews. **Action point 2:** PC to contact the farmer owning the field on the other side of the verges for his views and arising from such discussion decide how to proceed, if at all.



Malham Cove

The National Trust will be planting 150 trees in the fenced area along Malham Beck during the coming winter after Natural England permission has been granted. No dates for this volunteering possibility have yet been fixed.

Other potential tree planting locations

Action point 3: JR undertook to contact four local landowners and organisations to follow up on tree planting and hedging possibilities.

The YWT will be re-scheduling tree planting days for Nov/Dec/Jan and will each time change the day of the week chosen for volunteering to enable a wider range of volunteers to come along.

The new timetable is still awaited as whips suitable for planting will be late in arriving this year. Parish Council land at the foot of Malham Cove needs a tree survey to be done and this is being handled directly by the Parish Council.

Ownership of trees in fields on slopes to the east of the Cove is unknown. **Action point 4:** PC to make enquiries via YDNPA.

Action point 5: PC to contact one farmer in the Dale about possible planting of trees in one location.

YDMT Dales' Climate Champions

In August, YDMT sponsored a Climate Champions webinar which two MEG supporters attended. The webinar explained what climate change is and asked participants to make pledges about active steps they would take in their personal lives and in the community as a contribution to combatting climate change. Under this heading, PC explained that he was researching Doughnut Economics and the contribution it is making to the rethink Economics with the context of sustainability. JR is organising a Sustainable Christmas event at St. Aidan's church in Skipton on 3rd December.

NYC Climate Coalition

PC explained that this is a new body arising from the Zero Carbon Yorkshire initiative which has brought together environmental groups from all the Divisions within the new North Yorkshire Council with the purpose of enabling them to network and develop a credible and reliable voice within the County. A network provisionally called the "Climate Coalition" has been set up and all relevant groups within the County have been invited to join. The MEG meeting decided that it would like to connect up with the coalition but owing to its own lack of human resources, would attend meetings without necessarily any further participation until the coalition's structure and aims become clearer. **Action point 6:** PC to tell the coalition of MEG's interest. **Action point 7:** JR to attend any meetings that are set.

ACE Settle and Clapham Sustainability Group have already signed up to the coalition.

DH recommends that MEG approach the Parish Council with a request that it declare a climate emergency on the basis of perhaps 10 suggested actions. **Action point 8:** DH to follow up with MEG and Parish council.

NYC Climate Emergency Strategy Plan

In September, a presentation about steps toward an NYC Climate Emergency Strategy Plan was delivered by NYC officers via Zoom for anyone living within Craven district to attend. PC had been unable to attend but will attend the same presentation in a different Division that will take place on 11th October and will report back to MEG on the content at the next meeting. (**Action point 9**).



“Eyes on the Bog” and curlews

PC and two other MEG members have committed to take up to four readings per year to monitor the state of peat on Scosthrop, Calton and Hanlith Moors. Beth Thomas, of the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) is seeking landowner permissions and will organise training for us to carry out the work. Others who may want to help with this venture are welcome as volunteer “peat monitors” are scarce. **Action point 10:** PC to write an article on the subject for the next Parish Magazine on the subject. **Action point 11:** PC to encourage Beth to organise training as soon as possible even though the process of getting landowner clearance/permission is an ongoing and slow process.

From the earlier discussion about curlews, it was realised that both require walks onto the moors surrounding Malhamdale at certain times of the year and as such, those who volunteer to monitor peat bogs may also be happy to monitor curlews – and vice versa! **Action point 12:** PC to contact LW about setting up a Zoom presentation in November for MEG members about curlews and their monitoring with a follow up in early spring on the ground when curlews are beginning to nest. Combined with this could be a search for more volunteers to keep their “eyes on the bog”. Two local landowners were identified as owning what may be designated bog land. **Action point 13:** MW will enquire further with a farmer he knows. **Action point 14:** PC will enquire with the farmer he knows if the maps provided by YPP indicate bogs on these farmers’ land.

Article for the Parish Magazine

See **Action point 10** above.

Forthcoming local events:

Yorkshire Dales River Trust Open Day on 8th October. Registration essential, Visit their website to register;

Sustainable Christmas Fair at St. Aidan’s church in Skipton on 3rd December.

Date of next meetings

The next MEG meeting is on Thursday 24th November at Airton Farm Shop.

A Zoom event on curlews will follow on as soon as can be arranged

Subsequent meetings will be on 26th January 2023, 23rd February (the week following half term at all local schools), and 30th March – the day before term ends. Decisions as to whether the meetings should be via Zoom or in person will be made nearer the time for each meeting and will certainly move on to Zoom if CoVid rates of infection are high.