



Minutes of meeting held 26th May 2022 via Zoom

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), David Howlett (DH), Mick Parker (MP), Judy Rogers (JR)

Apologies: Laura Parker, Leigh Weston, Sue McWhinney, Paul McWhinney, Alice Cummings (AC), Carol Douglas (CD)

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2022 were agreed as a true record.

Under matters arising, DH confirmed that the Parish Council, at its monthly meeting, is happy to receive the latest meeting minutes of the Malhamdale Environmental Group. Attendance of the MEG Chair, who is not a Parish Councillor, at PC meetings would not be necessary unless there is a clear need.

Action points from previous meeting

Except for Action Point 6, all other action points from the previous meeting were handled within the context of each of the agenda items¹.

Update on Tree planting and maintenance

To show support for the Queen's Canopy project, enquiries with local landowners are ongoing with view to encouraging a "portfolio" of sites lined up for the 2022/2023 planting season beginning October 2022.

Action 1: PC, JR, LW, and MP will continue their discussions with landowners and farmers who may be interested.

CD was not able to join the meeting but hopes to do so in June. However, JR re-iterated YDMT's commitment to provide landowners with free trees, stakes and guards for any planting schemes that will involve at least 100 trees or an area of about half an acre. Any one we know who may be interested in this or in individual landscape trees should contact Chris Lodge at YDMT. CD will lay out her plans for a long term aim setting up an informal network of small nurseries that communities can use for tree planting. **Action 2.** PC to confirm with CD that she can join in the next meeting to explain these plans further

Sale of sheep's fleeces for horticultural purposes

To date it has not been possible to reach conclusions about the possible way ahead discussed at the March meeting as neither LW nor MS were able to attend the May meeting. Item carried forward to the meeting in June. For the same reason the possibility of a MEG stand at the Malham show was also put in abeyance

¹ The Chair overlooked reporting back on Action Point 6 – about following up with the YWT in order to find out whether there is any work to be done on clearing out invasive non-native species (INNS) locally. It appears the Aire valley was cleared of INNS some years ago and are no longer a problem.



Article for the Parish Magazine

For the July/August issue, an article summarising past actions of the Group followed by more details plans for the future (see below) will be drafted. **Action 3** PC will ensure this is done and include paragraph on availability of landscape trees from YDMT.

Presentation to WI

The Chair reported on a presentation he had given to the Malham WI about MEG. He noted a keen interest in that part of his presentation which covered home retrofit, tackling rising energy prices, and the phase out of oil fired heating in the next few years. He subsequently sent on to the WI secretary and to MEG supporters and volunteers a complete list of nine webinars that have been issued by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) and which have been designed to help the general public understand the issues involved in home retrofit, including contact details about where to find out more.

MEG – Future Plans

Attendees reflected on the experiences of the Group since its inception in 2019, on how the circumstances under which it has been operating have changed over time, and how best to proceed in future.

It was agreed that the number of meetings need no longer be monthly. After the June 2022 meeting for which plans are already being made, it was agreed that it is likely there will be no need for a formal meeting until September. Over the winter period, when tree planting and associated activity are greatest, meetings need to probably only be bi-monthly and via Zoom. Spring and summer meetings should hopefully take place in the village hall, the first of these is to be planned for the September 2022 meeting which should perhaps include a presentation that will attract an audience and a discussion on the way forward. (**Action 4** PC to book village hall after final date of September meeting decided upon). AC will continue to run the volunteer database so that YDMT, YWT, and any other similar organisation can easily call upon local volunteers for environmental and sustainability activities. (Attendees at the meeting have sensed that its supporters are keener on practical activities rather than campaigning activities.)

Because Craven District Council has been dissolved and the role of Unitary Authority taking its place is still unclear, there remains a question mark over how MEG might reshape its activities in accordance with the new authority's policies and structure. Joining forces with ACE in Settle may be an avenue individual MEG supporters may want to pursue as ACE is an organization that can call upon more resources and does get involved with campaigning activities.

Action 5: All attendees to explore who might be a suitable guest speaker for the September meeting as an attraction to start the autumn/winter season.

The next MEG meeting is on Thursday 30th June at 7:30pm via Zoom. (Subsequent meeting dates for the rest of 2022 are: - 6th October and (provisionally) 20th October with a final meeting of the year on 24th November).