



Minutes of meeting held 28th September 2023 in Malham Village Hall at 7:30pm

Present: Peter Cummings (PC), Jonathan Heath (JH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Jane Smart (JS), Leigh Weston (LW).

Apologies: Wendy Carr (WC), David Howlett (DH), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Stephen Phillips (SP), Judy Rogers (JR), Michael Southworth (MS),

Minutes of meeting held on 29th June 2023

The final minutes of the meeting of 29th June 2023 were agreed. Responses to all actions had been addressed in readiness for this September meeting.

Trees update

Carol Douglas (CD) at YDMT has arranged a tree growing workshop for 14th October 2023. Requests to attend have not been encouraging to date but several communications channels have been used to spread the word in the last couple of days and the message will be repeated in the next few days. **AP1: All to alert friends and colleagues about the event and encourage them to sign up.** CD has also been active in working with a MEG supporter on the establishment of a permanent tree nursery for Malhamdale. The site is very promising so CD will now working on all the legal aspects so as to advise on what contracts need to be signed and what approvals have to be sought before the plan can go ahead. **AP2: PC to alert the October KMPC meeting of progress and indicate that all legal, financial, and insurance matters are being addressed by YDMT with a view to requesting KMPC support and approval at its next monthly meeting.** If all goes well, it is hoped to start using the nursery as from planting season 2024-2025.

YWT is planning to start an extensive hedging project across fields approaching Eshton and is requesting maximum efforts to bring in local volunteers for the occasion. **AP3: PC to ensure that, besides the usual outlets for publicizing volunteering opportunities, similar organisations in Gargrave be invited to join in.**

The NT has revealed that it is about to plant up a substantial area of woodland at a site near Darnbrook. The immediate priority is to plan habitat creation but the intention is to begin planting in early 2024. The NT will also be looking for local volunteers to help out.

Peat bog monitoring

On 18th September three more MEG supporters were trained for the Eyes on the Bog programme. The session planned for 20th September had to be postponed due to bad weather. One of the attendees has now been allocated a monitoring plot on Wild Inglebrough. One YPP employee is now in charge of enabling the monitoring of plots on Wild Inglebrough to be effectively carried out by volunteers so more offers of plots should soon follow. The Chair has also asked YPP to liaise with NT which also has a bog monitoring programme so that local potential bog monitoring volunteers do not have to travel too far from Malham to carry out the work. Some volunteers for the Eyes on the Bog programme have still not been trained and they have now been given the address of the YPP person to contact direct so that training can be arranged for them.



Tarn Estate

Over the summer months, all the books, articles, and artefacts held at Tarn House and collected by the FSC over the years when they operated from Tarn House until 2022, have been sent to relevant organisations that can hopefully make them available for research and other reference purposes.

Amongst others, the Malhamdale Local History Group, St Michael's church, the Yorkshire Geological Society, the Folly Museum, The Yorkshire Natural History Museum, and the Craven Pothole Club Library have been the recipients, in compliance with the express wish of the FSC that all the items be donated to recognised institutions rather than to private individuals.

Local concern is increasing over the fate for Tarn House. Currently the NT plans to use part of it as its regional office with no certain future for the rest of the House. All other buildings on the Tarn Estate will apparently be converted into holiday homes and let out on a short term basis. Local citizens are alarmed about the "hollowing out" of the site, the possible loss of habitats, the loss of long-term residents who would work and contribute to the local community and economy, the likelihood of increased vandalism and the apparent distant, unimaginative, and unsympathetic approach of the NT. A meeting, to which a number of interested stakeholders along with NT representatives would be invited, is being called for so that all the misgivings can be shared and a more satisfactory outcome for the whole Tarn Estate be reached. The responsibility for this meeting lies with the KM Parish Council itself, not with one of its sub-committees.

AP4: It was agreed that the Parish Council should be asked to convene a meeting with senior National Trust officials with the objective of conveying the concern of the collective community regarding the future use of Tarn House. Representatives of key stakeholder organisations with an interest in / concern about Tarn House's future should be invited. PC and JS to relay this recommendation to the Parish Council on Monday 2 October.

Curlews

JH reported that he had submitted his report about curlew monitoring in Malhamdale 2023 to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). A number of suggestions had been made to improve it before publication could take place and JH was working on these. The BTO is also to meet with JH and LW to agree on how to best support curlew monitoring in the Dale during the 2024 season. This could involve the provision of field cameras, training, and the use of interactive mapping. There is an emerging need for administrative assistance with these plans. It could be voluntary or, if funding could be found, a paid short-term post. If the latter, JH and LW were asked to consider what a job description might look like as funding could possibly be tapped to meet the need.

It was noted that permission has been given for dogs to be banned on certain grazing areas on Malham Moor during the 2025 breeding season (see poster in YDNPA visitor centre).

ACE report on solar energy

MEG (Settle) has circulated to MEG supporters its recently commissioned report on the potential for renewal energy to be generated by solar panels on the roofs of buildings in Settle. The headline finding is that from the 1481 buildings in Settle, some 11.7gigawatt hours of electricity could be generated per annum. Also, for this agenda item, LW had prepared a document on YDNPA planning policy about installation of solar panels.



The question at issue was whether it is worth commissioning similar research for Malhamdale. It was decided that MEG needs more time to examine the 23 page ACE Settle report and to fully understand the implications of the YDNPA planning policy, which is likely to be highly context specific. In addition, to fully understand whether the same approach is valid for Malhamdale, there is a need to understand what next steps ACE (Settle) needs to take in terms of funding, setting up a suitable commercial structure to handle further progress, how best to influence and convince, and the extent and nature of administrative capacity to handle all this. **AP5: PC to circulate the paper drafted by LW clarifying the guidance by the YDNPA on solar panels and contact the ACE volunteers to find out more about these potential issues. AP6: All to read the Settle report and the document on YDNPA planning to better inform further discussion at the next MEG meeting. AP7: PC include in the agenda for meeting on 26th October 2023.**

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)

North Yorkshire Council is in the process of recruiting an officer to oversee the implementation of LNRS across the County.

A policy/guidance paper to support this process - Nature Recovery Plan for the Yorkshire Dales National Park – has recently been approved by YDNPA to influence the County Council's approach. How to implement the guidance remains the main issue.

Closely related to the LNRS concept are three surveys available in which MEG supporters may wish to take part.

1. Ryedale Environmental Group (REG) is engaged in a number of wildflower trials including wildflower verges. REG already has support in principal from the County Council and is approaching other like-minded bodies in England to join in and share ideas – including MEG.
2. Members of the Collections team at the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly in Settle have set up the North Craven Woodland Research Group to facilitate the study of North Craven's woodlands, past and future and to carry out its own research. It wishes to invite people and organisations to join it to build up the historical and present picture of trees, hedgerows and woodlands and their uses in North Craven, either through direct research projects or being a partner or consultant to the Group.
3. Plantlife International is looking for volunteers drawn from right across the country to monitor plants in specific areas on an annual basis under its "National Plant Monitoring Scheme".

The meeting offered the following recommendations:

1. Since Friends of the Dales (FoD) is conducting similar work on verges, **AP8: PC was requested to put REG in contact with FoD suggesting they work together on this project.**
2. The Folly Museum project involves historical research for the benefit of current understanding as to how our environment has changed. **AP9: LP, as secretary of the Local History Group, was asked to contact its committee and discuss whether participation in this project would appeal to them. AP10: PC to provide LP with the contact details.**
3. All expressed an interest in following up what the scheme has to offer and find out if there are any plots that could be monitored locally. **AP11: LP to follow up. AP12: PC to provide LP with the necessary links to make progress.**



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £22 million, to be spent by end of 2025, has three investment priorities (all cross-cutting): communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. As such funds are available to Parish Councils; MEG could theoretically apply for grants, E.g. under the “Curlew” item minuted above and perhaps for solar panel research if the decision is made to go ahead with that. (MVH and KMVH have been already informed about possibilities for their own specific needs). **AP13: All to keep an eye open for any grants from any source for which MEG might be eligible if one of the projects it is involved with might benefit from such funding.**

North Yorkshire Climate Coalition

At the next NY Climate Coalition meeting with County Council officers, there will be a discussion on transport policy. MEG has already supplied its 2019 Visitor Traffic Management Plan to the co-ordinator of the meeting. DH normally attends these meetings but if he is unavailable PC will attend instead. The Malhamdale Plan is being implemented but was slowed up because of Covid. The North Yorkshire Council at the time the Plan was prepared was unable to find funding for increased bus services to Malham.

Malham water treatment plant spillages

Other than a superficial reply from the water company to an enquiry made by the Parish Council about the number of spillages from the waste treatment plant at Malham, no further action has been taken so far.

Visit to Allerton incineration plant

MEG supporters who had visited the plant on 19th September were impressed by the facilities and by the knowledge of the guide. The guide offered to do a presentation to MEG supporters at one of their meetings or to do so as a webinar. The meeting decided that a webinar would be better. **AP14: JR to be requested to set up the webinar for the MEG monthly meeting in November 2023 or in either of the first two meetings in 2024.**

Future meeting dates

26th October and 30th November. Dates for 2024 meetings to be prepared and agreed at either of the next two meetings.

Article for Parish News

An article on tree planting planned. **AP15: PC to write draft**

Summary of Action Points

Action	Details
1	All to alert friends and colleagues about the tree growing event 14th October and encourage them to sign up. Done, thanks to Sue and Alice
2	PC to alert the October KMPC meeting of tree nursery site progress and indicate that all legal, financial, and insurance matters are being addressed by YDMT with a view to



	requesting KMPC approval at its next monthly meeting. Done but no draft “contract” yet available from YDMT
3	PC to ensure that, besides the usual outlets for publicizing volunteering opportunities, similar organisations in Gargrave be invited to join in. (Hedging at Eshton). Diaried to do but change in plans from YWT
4	AP4: It was agreed that the Parish Council should be asked to convene a meeting with senior National Trust officials with the objective of conveying the concern of the collective community regarding the future use of Tarn House. Representatives of key stakeholder organisations with an interest in / concern about Tarn House’s future should be invited. PC and JS to convey this recommendation to the Parish Council on Monday 2 October. Done
5	PC to contact the ACE volunteers leading their solar panel programme to find out more about these potential issues. Done
6	All to read the Settle report and the document on YDNPA planning to better inform further discussion at the next MEG meeting. Documents circulated to all MEG supporters on 02/10/23. Diaried to send out again with notice of next meeting
7	PC to ensure the subject (solar panels) is included in the agenda for the meeting on 26 th October 2023. Done
8	PC was requested to put REG in contact with FoD suggesting they work together on the verges project. Done 03/10/23
9	LP, as secretary of the Local History Group, was asked to contact its committee and discuss whether participation in this project would appeal to them. Ask for update under agenda item 5 (LNRS)
10	PC to provide LP with the contact details re: AP9. Done 03/10/23
11	LP to follow up (Plantlife NPMS) Ask for update under agenda item 6
12	PC to provide LP with the necessary links to make progress re: AP11. Done 03/10/23
13	All to keep an eye open for any grants from any source for which MEG might be eligible if one of the projects it is involved with might benefit from such funding.
14	JR to be requested to set up the webinar for the MEG meeting in November 2023 or in either of the first two meetings in 2024. JR informed 02/10/23. Half hour Zoom presentation set up for MEG meeting in January 2024
15	PC to write draft for November Parish Magazine. Article submitted on 6/10/23