



## Malham Environmental Group

**DRAFT** minutes for Meeting held Thursday 4 April 2024 at 7:30pm in Malham Village Hall

**Present:** Wendy Carr (WC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Jonathan Heath (JH), David Howlett (DH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Stephen Phillips (SP), Judy Rogers (JR), Jane Smart, (Chair; JS), Michael Southworth (MS), Sue McWhinney (SMC).

**Apologies:** Neil Heseltine, Rita Layton and Paul McWhinney and Leigh Weston

**Minutes of meeting on held 29 February 2024:** These were agreed.

**Matters arising:** From previous meeting not under other agenda items. All action points have been addressed or are in progress.

### Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Details
Minutes of meetings	<b>ACTION:</b> JS to ask Chair of KMPC to post minutes of meeting held 29 February 2024 (and future meetings) on <a href="https://www.malhamdale.com/kmpc/malhamdale-environment-group-meg/">https://www.malhamdale.com/kmpc/malhamdale-environment-group-meg/</a> . Dispense with old Google drive for minutes
<i>Reflections</i> paper on work of MEG	<b>ACTION:</b> Add contact details to paper and ask Chair of KMPC to post. <b>ACTION:</b> Include contact email address for MEG ( <a href="mailto:malhamdalevolunteers@gmail.com">malhamdalevolunteers@gmail.com</a> ) in all communications including articles for the Parish Magazine.
Nature and climate friendly farming	Discussion on issue of <b>nature and climate friendly farm subsidies</b> . The world of nature and climate friendly subsidies is very complex: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers</a> . Agreed that such subsidies need to be sufficiently “farmer friendly” also and that MEG should address this issue - that is critical in the Dale. JR described successful events carried out in partnership with YDNPA and YDMT to bring farmers together. <b>ACTION:</b> JS to follow up building from discussion at last meeting to contact YDNPA and consider possible role for MEG.
Tree planting	MP reported that planned tree planting by the Wild Trout Trust has not proceeded on land by water treatment plant. <b>ACTION:</b> Mick to look into reasons for lack of progress with tree planting by Wild Trout Trust and encourage planting next year.  Tree planting has been slow, affected by the weather. Future events include 09/04/24 (Scosthrop), 14/05/24, 11/06/24, 09/07/24, 13/08/24, 10/09/24, 8/10/24, 12/11/24, 10/12/24. Event at Windy Pike Tree Nursery cancelled; alternative dates (April / May) to be circulated by Alice (and coordinated through her).
Tree nursery	Agreement between YDMT and KMPC has been signed by Chair of KMPC. Event at Windy Pike Tree Nursery cancelled owing to bad weather. Alternative dates (April / May) to be circulated by Alice (and coordinated through her). MEG noted thanks to Alice Cummings. Nursery involves significant admin work; MEG and noted gratitude to Wendy.



Peat Bog monitoring	<p>Training Day on Scothrop Moor on 27 March; number of plots were established for monitoring. Local farmer has requested that a plot on a nearby site is included in the Yorkshire Peat Partnership scheme. SP is monitoring three sites on Ingleborough. All sites ideally need to be periodically monitored at the same time by pairs of monitors for H&amp;S reasons; PC to help coordinate.</p> <p>WC highlighted forthcoming Craven Conservation Group meeting, <i>Restoring Our Peatlands</i>; 7.30pm, Thursday 18 April.</p>
Tarn House and Malham Tarn Estate	<p>Feedback from NT Open Days in May was discussed; interesting to see Tarn House and Stables and reflect on the potential of the site. Opportunity to feedback to NT through forms and give ideas on postcards was welcomed. DH and JS reported back on progress of KMPC sub-group on Tarn House: some positive discussions have begun with NT.</p>
YDNPA Management Plan	<p>Results of YDNPA consultation: recovery of nature was #1 priority in all groups; residents also included support for upland livestock farming. Agreed to keep watching brief and respond as necessary to consultations. JR noted that KMPC were not on list of consultees; DH mentioned that KMPC would engage in future.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> KMPC / MEG to attend YDNPA Open Meeting to give views on the developing Management Plan</p>
Malhamdale Curlew Project (MCP)	<p>JH reported that 24 volunteer surveyors have signed up; training on 8 April run by Ian Court, YDNPA, who also led an introductory bird watching walk recently, highly appreciated by attendees. MCP has applied for FiPL funding to support an ecologist to assist with the survey work and help share the load with JH. JS was thanked for her work on the FiPL application. JH and LW were thanked for their work to set up MCP. The <i>Cry of the Curlew</i> exhibition is moving from Hawes to St Michaels Church 13-15 April with artwork and a film. SMC called for volunteers (Cathryn Crisp is coordinating through WhatsApp Group) to help staff the exhibition and explain the project to visitors, as well as bake cakes.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> All are urged to volunteer for both the survey work and help staff the <i>Cry of the Curlew</i> exhibition at St Michael's Parish Church, Kirkby Malham 12-14<sup>th</sup> April. Contact Cath Crisp (through the WhatsApp Group).</p>
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	<p>Reply from NYC about application for insulation of the public toilet roof requested further information which has now been supplied; final outcome is awaited.</p> <p>Reply to an application for a feasibility study on retrofit and renewable energy generation in the Dale indicated that a Council officer would contact us to pursue it. That contact has not yet occurred. PC congratulated for good progress.</p>
Recycling issues	<p><b>ACTION:</b> JR to find out if North Yorkshire Council has plans to re-issue stickers for waste bins that indicate what items can be recycled.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Single use coffee cups: LP and JS to seek advice on possible next steps from Simon Stephenson who runs Gordale Refreshments.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Express thanks to Joyce Thacker for her continued efforts with recycling pill blister packs</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> JR and DH to investigate feasibility of collecting used electric toothbrush heads in the Dale for recycling.</p>



<p>MEG Membership + publicity</p>	<p>Agreed that we need to publicise our work more effectively; wide discussion was held with various suggestions made. LP mentioned need to develop way of explain the work of MEG to show how it is not just about tree planting; how it links up cohesively. Agreed to think how this could be achieved.  <b>ACTION:</b> SMc and JS to make poster for event at Farm Shop, 25 April 2024 (and for following event on 6 June); PC to contact a local radio station re event at the Farm Shop on 25 April.  All to think further about means of improving our reach and membership.</p>
<p>Parish Magazine article (April)</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> JR to write article for April edition of Parish Magazine explaining what can be recycled / what should be put into each waste bin. including, if possible, an update on plans (if any) to re-issue stickers for bins to help make this clear.</p>
<p>Climate change</p>	<p><b>Climate change:</b> DH mentioned that NYC has adopted York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative that provides a pathway for local authorities, businesses, charities, academia and communities to reach net zero by 2034 and net negative by 2040. <b>ACTION:</b> DH agreed to provide short summary of activities linked to tackling climate change in the Dale for the next meeting  DH provided an update on the mayoral elections including the hustings.  DH raised the issue of the muddy path alongside Chapel Gate, outlining various options to address the challenge. Issue to be discussed at forthcoming KMPC meeting.</p>
<p>Future meetings Dates &amp; venues</p>	<p><b>Dates and venues of next meetings:</b> Thursday 25 April at Town End Farm shop, Airton, hosted by Chris Wildman. Thursday 6 June (venue TBC by JS) featuring Edward Sexton, Glencroft, speaking about the woollen industry in the Dales; 4 July at Kirkby Malham Village Hall, 26 September (Malham Village Hall), 31 October (Friends Meeting House, Airton, if available), 28 November (Kirby Malham VH). <b>ACTION: PC will book and confirm venues after 25 April.</b></p>