



Malham Environmental Group

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 11 July 2024 at 7:30pm in Kirkby Malham Village Hall

Present: Wendy Carr (WC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Jonathan Heath (JH), David Howlett (DH), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Judy Rogers (JR), Jane Smart, (Chair; JS), Michael Southworth (MS), Aila Taylor (AT; YDMT; for item on tree nursery and tree planting); Sue McWhinney (SMc); Paul McWhinney (PMc); Margaret Ross (MR), Annette Edwards (AE)

Apologies: Rita Layton, Laura Parker, Stephen Phillips, Joyce Thacker, Andrea West and Leigh Weston

Minutes of meeting on held 4 April 2024: These were agreed. Most action points have been addressed or are in progress.

Matters arising and summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
Minutes of meetings	<p>ACTION: JS to ask Chair of KMPC to post minutes of meeting held 4 April 2024 on https://www.malhamdale.com/kmpc/malhamdale-environment-group-meg/.</p> <p>ACTION: Retain old Google drive (that is linked to KMPC website) for photos (with permission) of activities and Parish Magazine articles; DH to update access to permissions. Those with access to help populate.</p>
Malhamdale Residents + Malhamdale Facebook	<p>ACTION: Those on Facebook encouraged to add content on MEG activities.</p>
Nature and climate friendly farming	<p>JS reported that she would meet Adrian Shepherd from YDNPA in late July re nature and climate friendly farming.</p> <p>ACTION: Discuss at next MEG meeting</p>
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Tree nursery	<p>Meeting was attended by Aila Taylor from YDMT, which supports the Windy Pike Tree Nursery</p> <p>ACTION POINTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YDMT will fund an additional storage box (does not need to be lockable) • YDMT will provide windproof ratchet straps for the tree boxes • MEG agreed to help with growing seed and / or cuttings of rare species of willow: (e.g. Tea-Leaved; Eared; Dark-Leaved; Creeping; Purple), at request of Natural England. Windy Pike ideal for this given exposed location! • A seed collection event is under consideration. • MEG confirmed that we are recording provenance of seed collected with dates of collection and dates of planting on in nursery. YDMT to send example of ideal format to JS



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting that landowner’s permission was required, MEG gave examples of species it would like to collect as seed for growing in the nursery, noting that it was difficult to specify when planting sites in Malhamdale are not known as yet. Examples are Hawthorn, Hazel; Guelder Rose (maybe better from cuttings); Bird Cherry; Wild Service Tree. Consider further. • There are biosecurity concerns with planting trees from gardens at the Nursery; this is not recommended at present. • YDMT to inform us of sites where landowners have given permission for planting trees in Malhamdale • YDMT to clarify with DEFRA and the Forestry Commission policy on growing Ash (on the basis that it provides some habitat before it succumbs to Ash Dieback (or not) and Sycamore). • Potentially one box at Windy Pike to be dedicated to hedgerow species. • Importance of quarantining was stressed; consider a “Quarantine box” at the nursery.
Tree planting	<p>MP mentioned importance of work to weed, remove and re-use planting tubes MP highlighted a problem with staff from Yorkshire Water leaving the gate between Simon Stevenson’s Car Park Field and the Sewage Works open. ACTION: All asked to close gate when open.</p>
Malhamdale Curlew Project (MCP)	<p>JH reported that over 20 volunteer surveyors are in the final stage of the MCP. Birds are quiet now. Some birds are heard/ seen alarm calling when fledglings are nearby. Unsure of curlew numbers as yet. Lapwings and oystercatchers may be faring better. Still issues with timing of silage cutting and leaving margins at field edges. 3-4 cameras installed with excellent footage obtained; excellent that 7-8 farmers supportive. Ecologist Ciaran will write up his report next month. JR suggested YDMT as a source of funds for MCP in 2025. ACTION: JH to follow up. Thanks to JH and also Cathryn Crisp who is providing valuable help through WhatsApp Group).</p>
House Bird Nesting Project	<p>YDMT are seeking funding for new project whereby householders / landowners agree to install nest boxes for starlings, sparrows, House martins and swifts. PC and JS have sent letter of support from MEG. All expressed enthusiasm but whilst acknowledging that letter of support from landowners could help with fundraising, agreed that seeking support from landowners was premature before funding is secured. Suggested that project incorporate advice from BTO on positioning; clarify situation regarding nest boxes for additional bird species. ACTION: JS to feedback to YDMT. Ask KMPC for support in due course.</p>
Peat Bog monitoring	<p>PC reported some capacity issues with Yorkshire Peat Partnership, leading to slow identification and establishment of suitable plots. The next Scosthrop Moor monitoring event will be with Emily East (EE) of the YPP along with MP, PMc, and PC. Calton Moor to be monitored by JH and JP. PC to follow up with EE about future arrangements to maximise the beneficial use of all the EoB volunteers. SP is monitoring sites on Ingleborough and Whernside. All sites ideally need to be periodically monitored at the same time, ideally by pairs of monitors for H&S reasons.</p>



Tarn House and Malham Tarn Estate	NT are carrying out significant refurbishment works to Tarn House and Estate with a view to letting House and Cottage. See article in July – August Parish Magazine. <i>Heart of the Dales</i> Landscape recovery Project is underway. Work is to be done on the Malham Tarn dam / sluice. Parish Council are to be invited for a tour and meeting at Tarn House; KMPC in process of agreeing date. A paper on a new Vision for Tarn House has been developed by the KMPC sub group on Tarn House that has been shared with NT. ACTION: JS to circulate to participants.
YDNPA Management Plan and NYC Local Nature Recovery Strategy	NYC Local Nature Recovery Strategy is under development. Completion: March 2025 YDNPA Management Plan is under development (for authorities and organisations that have a major contribution to delivering the objectives in the Management Plan); results of YDNPA consultation show recovery of nature was #1 priority in all groups; to be completed by March 2025. Derek Twine is new Chair of YDNPA. ACTION: Agreed to keep watching brief and respond to relevant consultations.
North Yorkshire Climate Coalition: update	Climate change: DH reported that MEG is a member of the NY Climate Coalition. https://www.nyclimatecoalition.org/ that aims to become a legal entity (presumably a charity). MEG supportive on the basis that the new entity would operate as an apolitical entity (as required for a charity). Update KMPC in due course. Could operate to network with other local groups. ACTION: DH to report on progress at next meeting.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	NYC has turned down application for insulation of the public toilet roof (owing to “lack of local engagement”). MEG members expressed disappointment. Outcome of an application for a feasibility study on retrofit and renewable energy generation in the Dale is awaited. PC following up with relevant NYC officer.
Feedback on events at Airton Farm Shop; future events	Events held at Airton Shop on 25 April (Sustainability Stories), and 6 June (Edward Sexton, Glencroft Countryware about the woollen industry in the Dales) were considered a success, drawing in people from both within and beyond MEG. Chris Wildman was thanked for hosting. A future event at the Farm Shop could be to learn more about Cotton Gin. All requested to think about ideas for future presentations.
Parish Magazine articles (April)	ACTION: September issue: Horticultural uses of Fleece (JH); plus, call to action to remove Himalayan Balsam (a highly invasive species; draft by Wendy) October issue: Results of Malhamdale Curlew Project November: A Sustainable Christmas Future editions: Bird nest boxes (if funding is obtained); hedgehogs; water and sewage issues. SMc noted need to keep articles short to keep costs down; a word count limit was requested to guide contributors.
Future meetings Dates & venues	Dates and venues of next meetings: PC confirmed venues as follows: 26 September (Malham Village Hall), 31 October (Friends Meeting House, Airton), 28 November (Kirby Malham Village Hall).
AOB: Recycling issues	Discussion deferred to next meeting (toothbrush heads and corks)

