



Malhamdale Environmental Group

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 31 October 2024 in Friends Meeting House, Airton

Present: Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), David Howlett (DH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Judy Rogers (JR), Michael Southworth (MS), Jane Smart, (Chair; JS), Paul McWhinney (PMc); Sue McWhinney (SMc).

Apologies: Wendy Carr, Jonathan Heath (JH), Rita Layton, Stephen Phillips, Margaret Ross; and Leigh Weston (LW)

Minutes of meeting on held 26 September 2024: These were agreed. Most action points have been addressed or are in progress.

Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
	None
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Nature and climate friendly farming	JS reported that she had had an excellent meeting with Adrian Shepherd from YDNPA in late July re nature and climate friendly farming . JS circulated Farming at the Sweet Spot.pdf before the meeting to introduce the discussion (that is sensitive) and an example of a nature and climate friendly approach that can be taken. Local farmer Neil Heseltine will attend the next meeting to discuss issues raised by the Report. General discussion held on approach and other relevant stakeholders. Action: All urged to digest report before meeting on 28 November.
Planting an orchard	PC reported back on funding guidelines for planting a new orchard with support from the Tree Council. These include tree care, use of heritage varieties, archaeological constraints. In Malhamdale the environment (e.g. soil depth and climate) may be challenging. It was agreed that if an appropriate parcel of land were made available by a landowner, the issue should be re-visited. Planting a hedge of wild nature fruit trees of local provenance is a good solution. PC and MP were thanked for their research into the issues. Action: PC to review an orchard scheme introduced some years ago by the Clapham Environmental Group to see if it offers approaches that could apply to Malham
Malhamdale Curlew Project (Results 2024; plans for 2025)	Detailed discussion is postponed until JH and LW can attend. JS reported that she, Jonathan and Leigh have been reviewing the report produced by the ecologist. All expressed the hope that we can keep the work going next year.



Active Travel: plans for the Yorkshire Dales	PC reported that <i>Active Travel England</i> whose aim is to increase the number of local journeys being walked, wheeled or cycled by 2030, are carrying out surveys to determine where there may be a demand for routes to be established to link to public transport. YDNPA are seeking route suggestions on an interactive map. Action: PC to circulate details of the survey.
Tree Nursery and Tree Planting	YDMT cancelled tree growing workshop owing to staff illness. To be rearranged. MP reported that some additional tools are needed for the Tree Nursery; he will compile a list and ask for support from YDMT. Future tree planting dates shared.
Peat bog monitoring	Challenges of locating old quadrats highlighted in YPP sites. JP and JH have re-established survey plots on Weets Top. Stephen Phillips thanked for considerable efforts made for Eyes on the Bog. NT provided training for PC who now monitors Tennant's Gill EoB site. Action: PC to help YPP establish links with landowners and asked the Group to watch out for any local landowner they know who might be interested in offering EoB sites.
North Yorkshire Climate Coalition	Some challenges with completion of survey. Action: DH will report back on outcome of survey to determine future of https://www.nyclimatecoalition.org/ (that aims to become a legal entity) at next meeting.
Tarn House and Malham Tarn Estate	No updates since Parish Council's meeting with NT at Tarn House. KMPC hope to see outcome of consultations by Buttress following Open Day at Malham Village Hall.
Recycling issues: Blister packs for pills (paper circulated before meeting) Corks, including plastic corks	Blister packs: Outcome of approach to KMPC awaited re request to contribute to costs of Terracycle recycling boxes. Two large boxes per year needed (£420 per year). [During discussion it emerged that MEG has budget of c. £2,500 to support its activities, held by KMPC]. Action: MS said he would encourage a similar initiative in Airton / adjacent areas. Corks: The Vic in Kirkby Malham is participating and the Listers has been approached. MP clarified that soft plastics are incinerated not recycled.
Future events	Talk on NT <i>Heart of the Dales</i> proposed for 2025. PC/ JR / DH suggested a MEG (with ACE) Green Café on alternative energy in Malhamdale from those with direct practical experience. Farm Shop event in spring featuring suppliers may be a possibility worth exploring. Ideas to be firmed up in 2025.
Parish Magazine Dec 24 – Jan 2025 edition	December – January 2025: Results of Malhamdale Curlew Project (JH and LW). Future editions: JR offered to write article on recycling points for various items that cannot be put into blue, green or brown bins; bird nest boxes (if



	<p>funding is obtained); PC and DH: Alternative energy installations in Malhamdale.</p> <p>Action: All articles to be submitted via JS to ensure coordination.</p>
<p>Future meetings Dates & venues</p>	<p>Dates and venues of next meetings: 28 November (Kirby Malham Village Hall) followed by drinks (please bring a bottle!). Dates for 2025 to be available at 28 Nov meeting. January meeting to be online.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>None</p>