



Malhamdale Environmental Group

Minutes of Meeting held Thursday 26 September 2024 at 7:30pm in Malham Village Hall

Present: Wendy Carr (WC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), David Howlett (DH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Judy Rogers (JR), Jane Smart, (Chair; JS), Alicia Turner, National Trust (AT) for item on tree nursery and planting; Sue McWhinney (SMc).

Apologies: Jonathan Heath, Rita Layton (RL), Stephen Phillips, Michael Southworth, Joyce Thacker (JT), and Paul McWhinney (PMc); Margaret Ross and Leigh Weston

Minutes of meeting on held 11 July 2024: These were agreed. Most action points have been addressed or are in progress.

Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
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 . ACTION: Discuss at a future MEG meeting
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Recycling issues Blister packs for pills (refer to paper circulated before the meeting)	A local resident has led on recycling of blister pill packs by taking them to Superdrug in Keithley. However, they no longer take them for recycling so MEG discussed funding of boxes for recycling through Terracycle. The same local resident was thanked for their previous efforts to recycle blister packs and for sponsoring a recycling box. Malham WI were also thanked for purchasing a large box for recycling pill packs. JR said that St Johns, Settle, take blister packs for recycling. ACTION: Approach KMPC to contribute to costs of recycling boxes. Note: 2 larger boxes per year are likely to be sufficient (cost c. £420 per year). Malham Show and Airton WI are other possible sources of funding. ACTION: MP said he would he would clarify situation re recycling of soft plastics by Settle Recycling Centre.
Recycling issues Corks, including plastic corks	Another local resident was thanked for her efforts to recycle corks (including 'plastic' corks and Prosecco tops) by taking them to Majestic in Skipton. She will also ask local pubs to collect corks. ACTION: JR agreed to collect old toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes for recycling.
Fleeces – making use of low value fleeces	PC was congratulated for producing an informative paper circulated before the meeting outlining possible ideas to help market low value sheep fleeces. Various innovative uses of fleece were discussed. The issue is challenging partly because the fleeces may be contaminated – the main constraint to putting farmers with



	<p>fleeces in touch with potential users, including horticultural users. LP suggested approaching Friends of the Dales to see if they could help / give advice.</p> <p>ACTION: PC will send the paper to Edward Sexton of Glencroft, Clapham for his information and to the Clapham Environmental Group. He will also follow up with British Wool asking for more information on how farmers are reimbursed for fleeces.</p> <p>ACTION: JR will attend Yarndale and try to get more information on uses of fleece.</p>
<p>Tree planting and nursery</p>	<p>National Trust planting at Darnbrook: Meeting was attended by Alicia Turner, National Trust, who presented and distributed maps and explained the new large scale mixed native planting scheme ('treescape') at Darnbrook with funding from White Rose Forest. Choice of species was discussed. One proposed site has not been approved by Natural England as canopy cover was deemed to be too high. MEG expressed appreciation for this work and congratulated the NT. One of the parcels will be designed for the community (including MEG and refugee groups) to assist with planting. MEG also offered to take any excess trees for planting elsewhere in the Dale.</p> <p>Tree nursey and planting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP was thanked for his work to erect the shed • YDMT were thanked for funding shed and ratchet straps • Ash seedlings from seeds affected by ash die-back: It was agreed that although keeping an eye out for possibly resistant trees remains a good idea, propagating them is not. • However, Defra/YDMT have now approved sycamore for use in planting schemes. • Other items raised by YDMT at the last meeting were not discussed given they were not present. • Yew trees: although native, this species may be toxic in large quantities to livestock but it is a natural constituent of the vegetation and could be planted on limestone crags. • Sell Gill: some planting may take place with support from YDMT • Leigh Weston and Neil Heseltine are considering planting an orchard. All expressed enthusiasm. • MP said that planting of an old tree line is being explored at Cawden Hill.
<p>Energy Efficiency: local microgrid?</p>	<p>PC updated the meeting: unfortunately, despite innovative application to NYC, and full support from KMPC, no funds are currently available to explore development of Malhamdale 'microgrid' for generating sustainable energy for both supplying the Dale and selling back to the grid. PC will further explore other funding sources.</p>
<p>Malhamdale Curlew Project (MCP)</p>	<p>JS reported that JH, LW and herself had only just received the final draft report from Haycock and Jay and were yet to study it.</p> <p>NT said that they had also used an ecologist to survey New House Farm last year.</p> <p>AT will follow up with relevant NT staff.</p>



House Bird Nesting Project	YDMT have submitted a proposal to Heritage Lottery Fund following receipt of a letter of support provided by Chris Wildman as Chair of KMPC.
Peat Bog monitoring	Capacity issues with Yorkshire Peat Partnership have been resolved. New contact is Lucy Cardy. Stephen Phillips was thanked for his diligent work. Tenants Gill and Darnbrook are to be opened up as survey sites. PC has agreed with YPP and NT to send out a request for additional monitors.
Tarn House and Malham Tarn Estate	Parish Council have had positive meeting with NT at Tarn House; NT are carrying out significant refurbishment works to Tarn House and Estate. Buttress (an organisation working for NT to determine future maintenance requirements as well as researching relevant local heritage issues) held an Open Day at Malham Village Hall. They are in touch with the Local History Society. <i>Heart of the Dales</i> Landscape recovery Project is underway. Work is underway on the Malham Tarn dam / sluice.
Future of North Yorkshire Climate Coalition:	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). Update KMPC in due course. Could operate to network with other local groups. ACTION: DH to circulate an online survey that aims to elicit views from local groups regarding future operation of NYCC and report on progress at next meeting.
Proposal for Climate Ambassadors	DH to find out more about this Government Dept of Education Programme, that aims to have a climate action plan for all educational institutions, supported by 'Volunteer Ambassadors'.
Future events	It was agreed that so much is going on that we will wait until 2025 before proposing new event ideas. Talk on NT <i>Heart of the Dales</i> and speaker from RSPB proposed for 2025.
Parish Magazine articles for November and December – January 2025 editions	October: PC has written article on a possible microgrid for Malham November: JR to write article on 'A Sustainable Christmas'. December – January 2025: Results of Malhamdale Curlew Project Future editions: Bird nest boxes (if funding is obtained); water and sewage issues. SMC said a new printer is being used and noted need to keep articles (just one MEG article per issue) short to reduce costs. ACTION: All articles to be submitted via JS to ensure coordination
Future meetings Dates & venues	Dates and venues of next meetings: PC confirmed venues as follows: 31 October (Friends Meeting House, Airton), 28 November (Kirby Malham Village Hall).
Invasive Himalayan Balsam	Problem of Himalayan Balsam spotted growing near Airton Mill was raised. All agreed that swift action was needed and possible MEG action was discussed. YWT could be asked for advice. ACTION: SMC to talk to some local residents. See article in September Parish Magazine.
AOB	Agreed that further discussion re MEG tree planting was needed at future meeting

