



Malhamdale Environmental Group

MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 1 May 2025 in Friends Meeting House, Airton

Present: Jane Bagley (JB), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), David Howlett (DH), Colin Jollies (CJ), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Mick Parker (MP); Judy Rogers (JR) Jane Smart (Chair; JS). Plus, Robert Bellfield and Paul Kelly from Settle Energy Local Club.

Apologies: Wendy Carr (WC), Jonathan Heath (JH), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Laura Parker (LP), Stephen Phillips (SP), James Powell (JP), Margaret Ross (MR), Michael Southworth (MS), and Leigh Weston (LW).

Minutes of meeting on held 3 April 2025: These were agreed.

Colin Jollies (CJ) was welcomed attending his first in-person meeting.

Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Green Energy issues: open discussion on experience from the local area with Robert Bellfield and Paul Kelly Settle Local Energy Club (SELC) (see paper from Robert and Paul)	<p>Robert and Paul introduced their paper. Please see the paper (already circulated to MEG) for full details. Discussions covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up Settle Energy Local Club (SELC), that went live in April 2025: constraints/difficulties/opportunities Metering issues across Settle Renewable energy generation (microgrid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SELC came out of ACE Settle and its energy group. It has its own Directors and bank account and sits under Energy Local Community Interest Company. It has Members – consumers and producers and relies on Smart Meters. Its mission is to help communities get more from small scale renewable generation by using the electricity locally; see www.energylocal.org.uk/settle SELC helps match electricity use with power from local renewable sources, reduce household bills and support local renewable energy. You can be both a consumer and producer. Reasons people involved – social justice, producing green energy, reducing individuals’ carbon footprint, and reducing bills. SELC defined area is Settle, Giggleswick and half Langcliffe



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Starting small – 20 signed up members on website. Members decide energy price – currently 14p per Kilowatt hour. ○ 100 Green = supplier in Settle (Octopus in Malham) ○ Local generation equally shared amongst members using power at the time. Extra power from 100 Green on “time of use” tariff. ○ Several grants have been received to cover Energy Local support ○ Volume of consumers needs to reasonably match producers otherwise the consumers end up with minuscule amounts of electricity at the match price. ○ To start with SELC is a Solar panel only Club - would like to bring wind and hydro on board. ○ The Smart Meter issue needs to be fixed first ○ ACE also did a roof top solar survey: useful in identifying properties. ○ A Wind Turbine Feasibility Study has been carried out. ● Robert and Paul were sincerely thanked for the presentation with a round of applause.
<p>Green Energy issues: Challenges/ next steps in Malhamdale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To move forward in Malhamdale we need to find people with relevant experience and skills who have the time and interest to move this forward. Need to find people who could commit to setting up a new entity to run the initiative. ● DH has done some research on the Malhamdale substation that includes Hellifield and Long Preston. ● He will find a map of the substation area (Malhamdale, Hellifield and Long Preston). ● DH will help identify experts in that area and will contact Cllr. Simon Myers for contacts to identify a group of Energy Champions ● DH to invite Paul and Robert to make a presentation to Kirkby Malham Parish Council. ● Eventually organise a public meeting / consultation in the Dale to gauge interest. ● SMC said Kirkby Malham Church exploring solar panels on roof but first need to establish the feasibility of 3 Phase electricity ● Eventually ask YDNPA to be a partner. Visitors Centre has further potential for PV. ● Smart meters: Colin Jollies (CJ) was thanked for the huge amount of work on this. He has collated problems and sent them to Octopus who should respond in 2 weeks. ● Once Champions have been identified the Shared Prosperity Fund could be approached for funding support, with a new version of the application made by PC in 2024 about PV, Water and Wind energy for Malhamdale.



<p>Dales House Nesting Birds Project: Bird Walk, Saturday 3 May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early morning “Walk, Talk and Watch” has been organised for Saturday 3 May on a weekend day with the RSPB and YDMT to look at potential nesting sites for sparrows, starlings, house martins and swifts (fast declining species that utilise buildings for nests) on and around buildings in Malham. • Action: Please register and spread the word that all are invited. • Walk may include a look at some suitable back gardens. • 30 nest boxes for installation at suitable sites to be made available in 2025 in Malham • More boxes will be available for installation in other villages in the Dales next and following year.
<p>‘Churches Count on Nature’ week, 7 - 15th June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording wildlife in churchyards; see https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-fags/ • All urged to participate using iNaturalist – available for iPhone and Android. Works by submitting a good quality photo through the app.
<p>Tree Nursery and Tree Planting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC / JS suggested that a hosepipe at Windy Pike could help with watering. Action: PC will consult WC and ask YDMT for funding. • Action: All reminded: when passing by the nursery please water the boxes of seedlings and trees growing there • WC has suggested organising a community planting session (“Potting on Picnic”) at Windy Pike. Action: JS to contact WC. • SMC to follow up with YDMT re planting out willows near the Church.
<p>Pennine Way (wetland area south of Miresfield); celebration exhibition plans;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH thanked for organising successful picnic event on 24 April on Malham Moor. • Awaiting news from Hannah Kay from the YDNPA regarding the possibility of installing a boardwalk on the wetland on the Pennine Way just south of Miresfield. This would be good for the wetland habitat and good for walkers. Hannah Kay was keen and was due to inspect the area. • Pennine Way 60th anniversary. The exhibition at Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes will move the NP Centre, Malham in June. Action: dates and details to be confirmed when known.
<p>Sheep wool and fleeces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponed to a later meeting
<p>Articles for Parish Magazine: May 2025 and beyond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2025: DH will write an article on the Community Climate Action event on Sat 22 March. • June 2025 SMC to write article on Churches Count on Nature • July 2025: JS will approach Zana or Angela Jackson to see if she may be interested in writing about the Dales horses (and Cawden Dew Pond) at Malham.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (From previous minutes) JR to write article for an autumn issue on recycling points (including blister packs collection in Malham and Airton) for various items that cannot be put into blue, green or brown bins • Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.
Future MEG events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 13th May tree maintenance with YWT • Church Wildflower Walk on 3rd June at Lee Gate clashes with a YWT volunteer event. Action: PMc to ask if this can be rescheduled Now scheduled for Monday 2nd June at 1.30pm • Possible event at Farm Shop featuring local suppliers in the autumn. • Suggestions made at previous meetings: JS / LP to contact North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms) This groups works to identify 'shadow' and ghost woodlands. • In person meeting with Ariane Heap, NYC Waste Prevention and Recycling Officer following online meeting in early 2025
Dates and venues of 2025 meetings	Dates and venues of next meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30): 12 June (Malham Village Hall); 11 September; 2 October; 27 November (Malham Village Hall). Other venues to be confirmed.
AOB	Taken under wildflowers in churchyards item above.