



Malhamdale Environmental Group

MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 11 September 2025 in Malham Village Hall.

Present: Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Elizabeth Cummings (EC), James Powell (JP), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), Jane Smart (Chair; JS), Michael Southworth (MS).

Apologies: Jane Bagley (JB), Wendy Carr (WC), Jonathan Heath (JH), David Howlett (DH), Stephen Phillips (SP) and Judy Rogers (JR).

Minutes of meeting on held 12 June 2025: These were agreed with one small amendment (clarified under the Dales House Nesting Birds Project).

	Matters arising
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Himalayan Balsam: PMc and other MEG members and residents were thanked for recent clearance work. ● PMc emphasised that the need to highlight the issue again early in 2026. ● The effort has been worthwhile given that the plant has successfully been removed from Hanlith in the past and has not yet got any further north. ● Need to print and laminate pictures of Himalayan Balsam as there is confusion with, for example, Great Hairy Willowherb (PMc). ● MEG response to NYC draft Nature Recovery Strategy: JS thanked for compiling.
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Dales House Nesting Birds Project – next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 nest boxes for installation at suitable sites to be made available in 2025-26 (and for a further two years); agreed that these should be offered to residents in the whole of Malhamdale. ● JS and PC approached the two pubs and Beck Hall who said they would apply for nest boxes. Others will approach residents that they know who may be interested. ● SMc reported that it would not be feasible to erect a “Swift tower” in the grounds of St. Michaels given its Grade I listed building status. However, given the probable need to fell ash trees (affected by Ash Dieback) in the future, it was noted that a swift tower could be erected on a monolith retained for the purpose. ● The meeting was reminded that residents will need to <u>apply individually</u> through the Project’s website (search for “Homes for Dales House Birds”). ● Action: Clarify with YDMT when applicants will hear back. ● Action: JS will circulate the details (again) on the MEG WhatsApp chat; request inclusion in October Parish News.



Malhamdale Curlew Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report by ecologist has been completed.
6. Tree Planting and Nursery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A seed box making and seed planting event is organised for Weds 22 October in KM Parish Hall. • MEG meeting 2nd October: focus on tree nursery. Wendy Carr and JS have agreed items for discussion (see forthcoming agenda). MP will not be able to attend JS to share agenda in advance. • KMPC Ash Dieback Report and follow up: it was reiterated that the follow up work to fell diseased Ash Trees is being led by KMPC. MEG can advise on species choice and how and where trees can be replaced through both planting and natural recolonisation. • MP, PC and JS reported on MEG surveys to look at affected trees. Report sent to KMPC (September meeting). • Clarify YWT advice concerning proximity of tree planting to ground nesting wader sites (JS).
7. Flea and tick treatments for pets: pollution of rivers and streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS highlighted the dangers of chemicals used for pet Flea and Tick Treatments in UK Waterways that often contain potent insecticides. • Some are 7,000 times more toxic to bees than DDT. They do not simply vanish after application but instead are washed off during bathing, rain, or when pets swim in becks, streams, rivers, lakes or ponds. • Defra are looking into the issue. All agreed that this needs to be highlighted by MEG; JS has written article for October Parish Magazine.
Articles for Parish Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October issue: Flea and tick treatments for pets: pollution of rivers and streams (article for Parish News circulated at the meeting by JS) • November issue – Malhamdale Curlew Project. • December issue – MEG plans for 2026. • Future issues: challenges of using plastic tubes for tree planting • (From previous minutes) article on recycling points (including blister packs collection in Malham and Airton) for assorted 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 / discussion items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person meeting with Ariane Heap, NYC Waste Prevention and Recycling Officer following online meeting in early 2025 Action: PC to follow up. • Invite Judith Allinson (expert botanist and all-round naturalist from Craven Conservation Group) to give a talk to MEG (JS to ask her) • JS to contact North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms) to speak about identifying ‘shadow’ and ghost woodlands.
Dates and venues of 2025 meetings	<p>Dates and venues of next meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30): 2 October (Kirkby Malham Parish Hall, focussing on trees and the nurseys); 27 November (Malham Village Hall; it was agreed that a roundup of the MEG year - could be presented at this meeting, followed by Christmas drinks).</p>



AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LP mentioned good wildflower identification course in Butterlands meadows in the summer organised by YDMT.• MS asked about event to highlight retrofitting houses in the Dales as a possibility for a future article in Parish News
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