



## Malhamdale Environmental Group

### MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 12 February 2026

**Present:** Jane Bagley (JB), Chris Bolas (CB), Clive Burnett (CB), Elizabeth Cummings (EC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Jonathan Heath (JH), Robert Hellowell (RH; guest speaker); David Howlett (DH), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Judy Rogers (JR), Em Scott (ES), Jane Smart (Chair; JS)

**Apologies:** Claire Braeburn, Wendy Carr, Laura Parker, Stephen Phillips, Sue McWhinney, Margaret Ross, and Michael Southworth.

**Minutes of meeting on held 22 January 2026:** These were approved.

<b>Matters arising</b>	
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation of trees from the Tree Nursery to agreed planting sites in the Car Park Fields: MP reported that he had moved 35 trees down to the Car Park Fields and planted them.</li> <li>• PMc said he could find some extra tubes and stakes from Molly Wood.</li> <li>• MP, Wendy Carr and Stephen Phillips were thanked for their efforts.</li> <li>• DH requested that no trees be planted in the Cricket Pitch field until after the Show Committee's next meeting in late March.</li> <li>• Clarified that Show Committee awaiting plan for cost of planting trees (as per previous discussion; <b>Action: MP</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Summary of discussion with Action Points</b>	
Malhamdale Curlew Project (MCP): planning for 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 was a good year for curlews breeding in Malhamdale.</li> <li>• Waders observed recently (curlews, oystercatchers, snipe) in Malhamdale may be passing through.</li> <li>• 13 farmers are involved.</li> <li>• Funding (for ecologist) cannot be applied for until April 2026.</li> <li>• The MCP has 22 volunteers, but more are needed.</li> <li>• Volunteer IT expert has been found. Highly welcomed!</li> <li>• JH hopes to source funds for acoustic monitoring.</li> <li>• Following recent meeting in Morecambe Bay, MCP hopes to attract high profile support.</li> <li>• A training day will be organised with support of YDNPA.</li> <li>• JH shared proposal of Malhamdale Curlew Path - in the pipeline</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JH said he would share new guidance from Natural England on tree planting and curlews.</li> </ul>
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JS said she has been in touch with Chair of KMPC to get some high viz vests for litter pickers (for visibility – health and safety and hopefully deter litter bugs).</li> <li>Meeting welcomed this and suggested getting some MEG branded vests in due course. MP said he would like a vest for the lengthsman role.</li> <li>ES suggested a competitive litter pick; CB suggested that local outlets could offer a free coffee in return for a bag of litter.</li> <li><b>Action:</b> Add to later agenda for more detailed discussion.</li> </ul>
Talk on Monitoring Water Pollution in the River Aire, Robert Hellowell, Water Quality Officer, The Aire Rivers Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert gave an excellent and detailed talk on water pollution issues in the River Aire, with a particular focus on Malhamdale and the work he is doing in Bradford.</li> <li>RH answered many questions during the presentation.</li> <li>RH described river fly monitoring; needs to be done 1x per month March – October, upstream and downstream of sewage works, working in teams.</li> <li>RH explained that it was expensive to set up (10K – 15K).</li> <li>Huge thanks expressed to Robert for an inspiring talk and for his excellent display materials.</li> <li><b>A copy of the slides for the talk will be made available to MEG supporters</b></li> </ul>
Articles for Parish Magazine: March 2026 and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Pollution in the River Aire, Robert Hellowell, Water Quality Officer, Aire Rivers Trust.</li> </ul> <p>Future issues (from previous minutes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. (March 2026)</li> <li>Retrofitting houses in the Dales.</li> <li>Challenges of using plastic tubes for tree planting.</li> <li>Eyes on the Bog: update on progress and reasons for bog monitoring (by MEG volunteers).</li> <li><b>Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.</b></li> </ul>
Future MEG events / discussion items (including previous suggestions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shadow and Ghost woodlands, North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms): Thursday 26 March.</li> <li>Visit to Broughton Hall to see re-wilding and beaver reintroduction.</li> <li><b>Action:</b> JS following up.</li> <li>Yorkshire Water to build on River Aire discussions.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malham Tarn Estate: Summer flower walk on National Trust Nature trail. (<b>Thursday 4 June</b>: meet at 5pm for guided walk on Nature Trail; refreshments at 7pm; meeting in Orchid House at 7.30 pm).</li> <li>• Yorkshire Rotters (Compost Group); contact via JR.</li> <li>• Eyes on the Skies talk (Friends of the Dales).</li> <li>• Walk to show best ways to remove Himalayan Balsam (PMc).</li> </ul>
<p>Dates and venues of 2026 meetings</p>	<p><b>Dates and venues of 2026 meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30):</b> Venues TBC. 26 March (Kirkby Malham Parish Hall), 23 April (Friends Meeting House, Airton), 4 June (Orchid House, NT Malham Tarn), 10 September, 22 October, 26 November.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NY Climate Coalition /Green energy event in York will be on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026. More details to follow (DH).</li> </ul>