



## Malhamdale Environmental Group

### MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 12 June 2025 in Malham Village Hall.

**Present:** Wendy Carr (WC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Elizabeth Cummings (EC), Jonathan Heath (JH), David Howlett (DH), James Powell (JP), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Judy Rogers (JR), Jane Smart (Chair; JS), Michael Southworth (MS).

**Apologies:** Jane Bagley (JB), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), Stephen Phillips (SP), Margaret Ross (MR), and Leigh Weston (LW).

**Minutes of meeting on held 1 May 2025:** These were agreed.

### Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DH reported that KMPC were happy with suggested way forward on green energy issues, as discussed at last MEG meeting. Progress is likely to be a “slow burn”.</li> </ul>
	<b>Summary of discussion with Action Points</b>
MEG Annual Review 2024 – 2025 (circulated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DH explained that this was requested by KMPC</li> <li>It was completed by JS and PC and submitted to KMPC on 2 June 2025</li> <li>The Chair of KMPC thanked MEG for their excellent report</li> <li>Will be posted on website with KMPC Chair’s report</li> <li>MEG asked to produce a similar report for 2026</li> </ul>
Dales House Nesting Birds Project – next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The early morning “Walk, Talk and Watch” was organised for Saturday 3 May with the RSPB 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.</li> <li>30 nest boxes for installation at suitable sites will be made available in 2025-6 in Malham</li> <li>More boxes will be available for installation in other villages in the Dales next and following year.</li> <li>All those in MEG (and beyond) will need to <u>apply individually</u> through the Project’s website (search for “Homes for Dales House Birds”).</li> <li>JS circulated the table of nest box recommendations observed on the 3 May Walk event.</li> <li>On the walk we met several residents who expressed interest in the having a nest box.</li> <li><b>Action:</b> SMc will look into feasibility of erecting a “Swift tower” in the grounds of St. Michaels.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action:</b> JS will circulate the details on the MEG WhatsApp chat, and then depending on take up, on the MCR; coordination will be through YDMT.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> JR will approach the Chapel, PC will approach the YHA, JS and PC will approach the pubs and the school. Others will approach residents that they know who may be interested.</li> </ul>
Tree Nursery event – potting on seedlings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community event (“Potting on Picnic”) will be organised for Thursday 3 July for planting, maintenance and potting on at Windy Pike. <b>Action: WC</b> to be in touch with YDMT. Lunch will be provided. It was confirmed that MP can attend.</li> <li>• We will discuss a watering plan at that event. All were reminded when passing by the nursery please water the boxes of seedlings and trees growing there.</li> <li>• The rare willow cuttings planted the autumn have suffered from drought</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> keep growth of willows under review and seek further advice from Natural England if necessary.</li> </ul>
KMPC Ash Dieback Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report to KMPC recommending felling of a large number of ash trees was discussed. DH mentioned that the cost to KMPC of felling etc. was likely to be significant and that advice had been received from several organisations regarding possible grants.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> MEG members are asked to look at the trees slated for felling (see maps) and consider whether felling is actually necessary, or if other options such as leaving them in situ (where there are no H&amp;S concerns), or felling and leaving on the ground are feasible. PMc mentioned that one resident has particular expertise in Ash Dieback and can be approached for advice. MP’s advice will be helpful on this issue.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Organise a time for MEG members to look at the trees identified in the survey and offer views on these plans. A resident with land agent experience will be asked to join the visit.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> in due course advise on how and where trees can be replaced through both planting and natural recolonisation.</li> </ul>
Malhamdale Curlew Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JH reported 22 volunteers were hard at work surveying ground nesting wading birds. Some shortage of volunteers lower down in the dale, around Calton and Otterburn.</li> <li>• Following a letter from JH to local farmers, 11 farmers are positively engaged – which is excellent.</li> <li>• We are now in fledgling phase. Curlew numbers look to be good; Redshanks and Oystercatchers appear similar to last year but Lapwings may have been adversely affected by the spring drought.</li> <li>• However, some sites have low numbers observed. Unlikely to be linked to land management as silage is being cut later this year. Could be predation.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nest cameras are not in use this year – JH offered them for use by MEG</li> <li>• YDNPA (Ian Court) is running a Bird Walk on Weds 25 June.</li> <li>• JH / PC were asked to eventually calculate volunteer hours given to this project in 2025.</li> <li>• JH was congratulated for all his hard work on the project.</li> </ul>
'Churches Count on Nature' week, 7 - 15th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recording wildlife in churchyards; see <a href="https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-fags/">https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-fags/</a></li> <li>• Small botanical gathering on 11 June successfully recorded wildflowers in the Churchyard.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> SMc asked to share information about the results of the scheme in due course. All expressed hope that scheme will be repeated next year.</li> </ul>
Pennine Way exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pennine Way 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition has moved to the NP Centre, Malham, until 29<sup>th</sup> June. All urged to go and see it.</li> </ul>
Articles for Parish Magazine: and possible future articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September issue: PMc will to contact Susie Knight of YWT to write an article on importance of volunteering with YWT in Malhamdale.</li> <li>• October issue – Malhamdale Curlew Project.</li> <li>• (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</li> <li>• <b>Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.</b></li> </ul>
Future MEG events / discussion items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible event at Farm Shop featuring local suppliers in the Sept / Oct.</li> <li>• In person meeting with Ariane Heap, NYC Waste Prevention and Recycling Officer following online meeting in early 2025 <b>Action:</b> PC to follow up</li> <li>• <b>Suggestions made at previous meetings:</b> JS / LP to contact North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms) This groups works to identify 'shadow' and ghost woodlands.</li> </ul>
Dates and venues of 2025 meetings	<p><b>Dates and venues of next meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30):</b> 11 September 2 October; 27 November (Malham Village Hall). Venues to be confirmed.</p>
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Himalayan Balsam: PMc reported on some reinfestation in River Aire near Airton. He will discuss further with YWT and Aire Rivers Trust. PMc was thanked for his recent clearance work. PC encouraged MEG supporters to join in a Himalayan Balsam clearance event on 14th June being run by an environmental group based in Gargrave.</li> <li>• Broughton Hall: WC reported on Broughton Sanctuary Walk on the Wild Side that promoted farming practices working to benefit nature. She also mentioned the large number of permissive pathways.</li> <li>• JR mentioned Share Skipton, the Skipton Repair Cafe; she will circulate on MEG Chat</li> </ul>



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WC and SMc mentioned Settle Victoria Hall Repair Cafe and suggested it as a topic for a Parish News article</li><li>• PC mentioned a meeting for local councils on biodiversity and how to enhance it on Weds 25 June</li><li>• DH mentioned that he had joined a committee on land use and net zero through the NY Climate Coalition. NYCC will meet the York &amp; North Yorkshire Mayor on 1st July and raise issues of interest to MEG.</li></ul> |
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