



Malhamdale Environmental Group

MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 22 January 2026 by Zoom

Present: Claire Braeburn (National Trust; CB), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Wendy Carr (WC), David Howlett (DH), Mick Parker (MP), Stephen Phillips (SP), James Powell (JP), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Judy Rogers (JR), Jane Smart (Chair; JS) and Leigh Weston (part; LW).

Apologies: Jane Bagley, Jonathan Heath, Laura Parker, Sue McWhinney and Margaret Ross

Minutes of meeting on held 27 November 2025: These were approved.

	Matters arising
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	Summary of discussion with Action Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Ash Dieback (AD). • Malham woodland management, restoration and tree planting: fundraising and planting plans. • Approach and possible sources of funds/trees (including YDMT, White Rose Forest, Quarry Funds). • Malham Cove and Gordale Scar. • Village locations (Plantation and Atkinson's Copse). • Car Park Fields . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following discussion, agreed that MEG, a subgroup of KMPC, are the appropriate body to advise on tree planting, woodland management, including, appropriate choice of species and restoration through natural colonisation. • Also agreed that tree planting / woodland restoration at Malham Cove and Gordale Scar, the various village locations (including the Plantation and Atkinson's Copse) and the Car Park Fields should be tackled separately. • Malham Cove and Gordale Scar - Ash Dieback: DH summarised KMPC action to date. Felling and monolithing will begin at Malham Cove on Monday 26 January. Treetops will be carrying out the work. Felled trees and branches will be left <i>in situ</i> for wildlife habitat at the Cove. • Footpath at Gordale has been reopened following the rock fall. • DH and JS to meet with YDMT and NT in early February to discuss regeneration / restoration of Malham Cove and Gordale, and possibility of YDMT funding a management plan for the area. • There are several sources of funding for tree planting including White Rose Forest and various quarry firms. YDMT have August deadline for tree planting applications. • Car Park Fields: JS, MP, DH reported on meeting with owners of Car Park fields including Chairman of Show Committee to discuss agreed areas to plant on the riverside (east side) of the new footpath.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show Committee will apply to the Finance Committee to support costs of tree planting in 26/27 planting season. • Action: MP agreed to draw up plan and costings for the planting up the Cricket Field for the Show Committee. • Begin planting whips in Car Park fields to show good faith with YDNPA (condition of FiPL grant). • Sourcing trees: YDMT to be asked for spare trees for Car Park fields. PC reported we have access to tubes and stakes from a local tree maintenance site managed by YWT. Action: CB will see if NT have any spare trees available. • Plantation: removal of Ash Trees in Plantation will allow additional light in - offers opportunity for future tree planting and habitat creation. Seek advice from YDMT in due course. • Agreed that growing Ash Tree Seedlings was desirable given likelihood of increasing resistance to AD in seedlings.
<p>Proposal to purchase a new projector for MEG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that MEG should purchase a projector and stand for MEG talks in Malham Village Hall, to ensure availability (costs are reasonable). Could utilise Malham Initiative funds ACTION: JS to follow up. • DH and JR kindly offered ongoing loan of their equipment.
<p>Articles for Parish Magazine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of YDNPA Visitors Centre, Malham, with focus on renewable energy aims / solar panels. Action: JS to contact YDNPA Visitor Services. • Future issues: (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. • Retrofitting houses in the Dales. • Challenges of using plastic tubes for tree planting. • Eyes on the Bog: update on progress and reasons for bog monitoring (by MEG volunteers). • Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.
<p>Future MEG events / discussion items (including previous suggestions).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 February 2026 Robert Hellawell, Aire Rivers Trust, on water quality (pollution from several sources including agricultural run-off) in the River Aire (with a view to considering how MEG could engage, e.g. through monitoring of water quality). • Visit to Broughton Hall to see re-wilding and beaver reintroduction. Action: JS to follow up. • CB kindly offered (offer accepted with thanks!) to host a MEG meeting and summer flower walk on National Trust Nature trail.



	<p>(Thursday 4 June: meet at 5pm for guided walk on Nature Trail; refreshments at 7pm; MEG meeting in Orchid House at 7.30 pm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms): identifying ‘shadow’ and ghost woodlands. Date TBC. • NY Climate Coalition /Green energy event in York in Spring, date TBC by DH asap. • White Rose Forest. • Yorkshire Rotters (Compost Group); contact via JR. • Eyes on the Skies talk (Friends of the Dales). • Walk to share info on best ways to remove Himalayan Balsam (PMc).
<p>Dates and venues of 2025 meetings</p>	<p>Dates and venues of 2026 meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30): Venues TBC. 12 February (Malham Village Hall), 26 March (Kirkby Malham Parish Hall), 23 April (Friends Meeting House, Airton), 4 June (Orchid House, NT Malham Tarn), 17 September, 22 October, 26 November.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS reminded those who have requested nest boxes as part of <i>Homes for House Nesting Birds</i> project to complete doodle poll sent by email from YDNPA to confirm date for installation of nest boxes. (Friday 6th or Sat 7th February) • DH asked if MEG would consider sending letter objecting to proposal to initiate drilling for gas (using “small scale fracking” in Burniston, near Scarborough). MP said he could not support this; maybe best if people object individually.