



Malhamdale Environmental Group

MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 27 November 2025 in Malham Village Hall

Present: Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), Elizabeth Cummings (EC), Jonathan Heath (JH), David Howlett (DH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP), James Powell (JP), Sue McWhinney (SMc), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Judy Rogers (JR), Margaret Ross (MR), Jane Smart (Chair; JS), Leigh Weston (LW).

Apologies: Jane Bagley, Wendy Carr and Michael Southworth

Minutes of meeting on held 2 October 2025: These were approved.

	Matters arising
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Summary of discussion with Action Points	
Presentation and discussion The MEG Year – a presentation of all the work done with discussion and ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Key points relating to future / articles / events noted in relevant sections below.</i> • LW asked if areas for re-establishment of willow scrub had been identified following Steve Heaton's (Natural England) presentation • Action: Ask Steve Heaton, NE willow expert to help identify areas suitable for re-establishment of scrub willow habitat (via YDMT). • Thanks to Wendy Carr and MP noted for support with Tree Nursery. • Malhamdale Curlew Project: Good progress with farmer interactions. JH will continue to engage with farmers. More volunteers needed next year. Audio monitoring to be considered for 2026. Thanks noted to JH, LW and Cath Crisp. • Eyes on the Bog: bog pool sampling to compare created and natural bog pools (with the University of Leeds). • Thanks to DH for organising 60th Anniversary Pennine Way walk. • Rare breeds in Malhamdale: Action: Ask National Trust about management using Exmoor ponies. • Blister pack recycling: MP noted that blister packs should be flattened (stood on) before adding to recycling boxes. • Ash Dieback: DH summarised KMPC action to date. DH and JS to meet with YDMT to discuss regeneration / restoration of Malham Cove and Gordale. JS noted that Malham Cove is under-recorded from a biodiversity perspective.
Eyes on the Skies – Friends of the Dales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEG members agreed to wholeheartedly support this campaign to end illegal killing of birds of prey.



<p>campaign to raise awareness of raptor persecution in Yorkshire Dales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS explained that Friends of the Dales may seek support from other local groups. • JH suggested using the Bird track app https://www.bto.org/get-involved/volunteer/projects/birdtrack to report sightings of birds of prey.
<p>Articles for Parish Magazine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Retrofitting houses in the Dales. • Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.
<p>Future MEG events / discussion items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 January talk (on Zoom) from 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). Action: JH to follow up with Aire Rivers Trust. • NY Climate Coalition /Green energy event in York in Spring, date TBC by DH asap. • Prof Jonny Grey from the Trout Trust on pollution, rivers management etc. • Eyes on the Skies talk (Friends of the Dales) • In person meeting with Ariane Heap, NYC Waste Prevention and Recycling Officer following online meetings in 2025 Action: PC to follow up. • Judith Allinson (expert botanist and all-round naturalist from Craven Conservation Group) to give a talk to MEG (JS to ask her). • The North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms) has agreed to speak about identifying ‘shadow’ and ghost woodlands. Date TBC. • Walk to share info on best ways to remove Himalayan Balsam (PMc). • Speaker from White Rose Forest – discuss support for tree planting in Malhamdale
<p>Dates and venues of 2025 meetings</p>	<p>Dates and venues of 2026 meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30): Venues TBC. 22 January (online), 19 February, 26 March, 23 April, 4 June, 17 September, 22 October, 26 November.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC mentioned tree planting grants available from White Rose Forest; decided not to pursue given short deadline for applications