



Malhamdale Environmental Group

MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 3 April 2025 in Morrison Room, Kirkby Malham Parish Hall

Present: Jane Bagley (JB), Wendy Carr (WC), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), David Howlett (DH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP); James Powell (JP), Judy Rogers (JR) Jane Smart, (Chair; JS), Leigh Weston (LW), Paul McWhinney (PMc), Sue McWhinney (SMc). Plus, Ashleigh Atkinson and Alice Keenan from the National Trust.

Apologies: Jonathan Heath (JH), Rita Layton (RL), Stephen Phillips (SP), Margaret Ross (MR) and Michael Southworth (MS).

Minutes of meeting on held 3 April 2025: These were agreed with one modification regarding celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the Pennine Way.

Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of discussion with Action Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMc welcomed participants to the new Morrison Room in Kirkby Malham Parish Hall and explained briefly the work done to refurbish it. All expressed appreciation of the new facilities.
Heart of the Dales: presentation from Ashleigh Atkinson, and Alice Keenan, National Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashleigh and Alice presented the Heart of the Dales project – a major (25 year) landscape recovery project covering 9,400 ha and including 22 tenant farmers and 9 neighbours. Heart of the Dales is supported by DEFRA and Natural England. It focuses on delivering gains for both nature and climate working in partnership with tenant farmers and landowners across the area – that includes the Tarn Estate and Upper Wharfedale and some small satellite sites. The presentation included an update on funding in the light of recent changes in support for farmers. Now in year 2 of the pilot phase, work is focussing on planning how landscape recovery can be delivered through farming while delivering for nature, climate resilience and carbon sequestration, with a bespoke approach for each farm. A lively discussion followed the presentation covering plans to support curlew conservation, tree planting and the importance of working alongside farmers. Action: JS and LW will follow up with NT on how, specifically, the work will support conservation of curlews. Ashleigh and Alice were thanked for the presentation with a round of applause - and asked to update us next year with a progress report.



<p>Community Climate Action event, Saturday 22 March, Harrogate</p>	<p>The Community Climate Action event, Sat 22 March, Harrogate organised by the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition was very successful with 80 participants attending. It included a ‘Marketplace’ to showcase community-based climate action. PC and DH participated in this to explain the work of MEG, and DH reported on some good interactions with soil scientists regarding regenerative farming as well as politicians and decision-makers. The event may be repeated next year. DH and PC thanked for their efforts.</p>
<p>Pennine Way (wetland area south of Miresfield); celebration exhibition plans; picnic on Thursday 24 April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS has been in touch with Hannah Kay from the YDNPA regarding the possibility of installing a boardwalk on the wetland on the Pennine Way just south of Miresfield. This would be good for the wetland habitat and good for walkers. Hannah Kay was keen and was due to inspect the area; we await her feedback. • Pennine Way 60th anniversary. The exhibition at Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes will move the NP Centre, Malham in June. Action: precise dates to be confirmed when known. • MEG picnic is being organised for Thursday 24 April (precise anniversary date) on Malham Moor for local residents. Time: 3.30pm; details to be confirmed nearer the time through the MEG WhatsApp by DH.
<p>Tree Nursery and Tree Planting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC reported on successful tree planting days at Darnbrook and Calton (amongst others) where MEG helped plant 200 trees at each site. • LW has some young trees that can be donated to the nursey • MP asked those passing by the nursery to water the boxes of seedlings and trees growing there • DH reported that the Malham Show Field has planted some trees in the main field. It was also suggested that the strip of land between Tan Pits Beck and the southern boundary of the Show Field would be a good place to plan more trees. Action: DH to follow up
<p>Dales House Nesting Birds Project: Bird Walk on Saturday 3 May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early morning “Walk, Talk and Watch” has been organised for Saturday 3 May on a weekend day with the RSPB and YDMT to watch for sparrows, starlings, house martins and swifts (fast declining species that utilise buildings for nests). Action: spread the word that all are invited! • Walk may include a look at some suitable back gardens – MP and LP offered theirs as a possibility. • 30 nest boxes for installation at suitable sites to be made available. • More boxes will be available for installation in other villages in the Dales in due course.
<p>Himalayan Balsam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is early in the season but agreed that Action: all would keep an eye out for its likely appearance around Airton / other places and make plans for its removal as necessary. PMc has a plan for removing a particular patch.



<p>Articles for Parish Magazine: May 2025 and beyond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2025: JS has written an article on Dales House Nesting Birds Project • June 2025: DH will write an article on the Community Climate Action event on Sat 22 March. • (From previous minutes) JR to write article on recycling points (including blister packs collection in Malham and Airton) for various items that cannot be put into blue, green or brown bins <p>Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please, to ensure coordination.</p>
<p>Future MEG events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible event at Farm Shop featuring local suppliers to be arranged in the autumn. • Outstanding action: JS / LP to contact North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms) This groups works to identify 'shadow' and ghost woodlands. <p>Discussion of various issues linked to green energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work progressing on Smart Meters through KMPC • PC reported on the challenges of moving forward with the local renewable energy generation proposal (for a microgrid), that include the need to find people with relevant experience and skills who could commit to setting up a new entity to run the initiative. KMPC may not be best equipped in this regard so Action: PC discuss further with KMPC and recommend (1) seeking advice from similar initiatives based in Settle, (2) exploring possibilities of working with similar groups in Hellifield and Long Preston which share the same electricity substation as Malham. Also as part of this, Action: DH to contact Robert Bellfield and Paul Kelly from ACE in Settle and invite them to the MEG meeting in either May or June to share their experience on this subject with us. Details to be firmed up.
<p>Dates and venues of 2025 meetings</p>	<p>Dates and venues of next meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30): 1 May (friends Meeting House, Airton, TBC); 12 June (Malham Village Hall); 11 September; 2 October; 27 November (Malham Village Hall). Other venues to be confirmed.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Discussed under Future MEG events</p>