



Malhamdale Environmental Group

MINUTES of Meeting held Thursday 6 March 2025, Malham Village Hall

Present: Jane Bagley (JB), Peter Cummings (Deputy Chair; PC), David Howlett (DH), Laura Parker (LP), Mick Parker (MP); James Powell (JP) Jane Smart, (Chair; JS), Sue McWhinney (SMc). Plus, Catherine Mercer and Eva Irving from YDMT (part).

Apologies: Wendy Carr (WC), Jonathan Heath (JH), Rita Layton (RL), Stephen Phillips (SP); Paul McWhinney (PMc) and Judy Rogers (JR) Margaret Ross (MR) Michael Southworth (MS), Leigh Weston (LW).

Minutes of meeting on held 23 January 2025: These were agreed with one modification regarding possible future articles for the Parish Magazine.

JB was welcomed as a new member of MEG – attending her first in-person meeting.

Summary of discussion with Action Points

	Matters arising
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peat bog monitoring (Eyes on the Bog): SP sent brief update: he is arranging monitoring dates for Whernside and Inglebrough mid Mar - early April. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact SP directly. The new yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan has been published. JS is compiling comments on behalf of MEG. Action: Please contact JS directly if you would like to see the comments.
	Summary of discussion with Action Points
Dales House Nesting Birds Project: presentation from Catherine Mercer and Eva Irving from YDMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catherine and Eva presented the 3-year project – focusses on sparrows, starlings, house martins and swifts 4 fast declining bird species (loss of habitats and nesting sites) that utilise buildings for nests. Several project sites in Dales including Malhamdale Project is community focussed, involves citizen science and creation /restoration of habitat (e.g. community meadow). 30 nest boxes for installation at suitable sites to be made available. Flexible approach – to include habitat management training. First step – organise early morning walk on weekend day with RSPB colleague (Action: JS to be in touch with YDMT to organise date) Agreed that a “wrap up meeting” at end of project could support continuation / legacy of project.
Community Climate Action event, Saturday	North Yorkshire Climate Coalition is arranging a ‘Marketplace’ on Sat 22 March in Harrogate to showcase community-based climate action. DH has circulated details via the MEG WhatsApp. DH, PC, JR and hopefully other



<p>22 March, Harrogate</p>	<p>MEG members will attend. PC is compiling a portable picture-based presentation (laminated pictures with captions) showing how MEG work since 2019 is contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Biodiversity Framework (local to global action). PC was thanked for this effort – which can be utilised for other events as needed. DH also thanked. Action: MEG members attending to register through link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inspiring-community-climate-action-in-north-yorkshire-tickets-1243958837369</p>
<p>Smart Meter challenges in Malhamdale</p>	<p>DH summarised the problem in the Dale and other parts of N England. In short, they do not work well – and this is linked to the use of TV masts (rather than phone masts) to operate. KMPC is addressing issue with support of NYC Councillor Simon Myers (see article by DH in March edition of Parish Magazine). Action: DH helping to organise a meeting with Julian Smith MP.</p>
<p>Pennine Way (wetland area south of Miresfield)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pennine Way just south of Miresfield runs through a wetland making it difficult for walkers. Given its importance for nature conservation, it is suggested by a local farmer and manager of site that a boardwalk should be installed. Action: JS to contact Will Lock / land manager / YDNPA • Pennine Way 65th anniversary. Exhibition at Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes will move the NP Centre, Malham in June. Action: DH & LP to find out more – including about any celebratory event at Malham Moor.
<p>Tree Nursery and Tree Planting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YDMT thanked for supporting successful hedge / copse planting events at Hill Top Farm and Windy Pike (followed by willow cutting workshop in KM Parish Hall). • Tree planting pledged when permission granted for increase in parking capacity in Malham Show Field Car Park has not apparently been carried out. Action: DH to follow up with Malham Show Committee. • Event on farm in Calton with YWT organised for 25th March.
<p>Future events</p>	<p>Possible event at Farm Shop featuring local suppliers. See below: details to be firmed up. Action: JS / PC to contact North Craven Woodland Research Group (Ken Timms) This groups works to identify ‘shadow’ and ghost woodlands. Other proposals to be firmed up during 2025.</p>
<p>Parish Magazine April 2025 and beyond</p>	<p>March 2025: DH to write about 65th Anniversary of Pennine Way. April 2025: JS to ask YDMT to write article on Dales House Nesting Birds Project Possible future articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article sharing info on newly installed solar panels in Malham, after accumulating sufficient data, describing experience of the planning process, as well as costs and benefits (e.g. EV charging). <p>Action: All articles to be submitted via JS please to ensure coordination.</p>
Future meetings Dates & venues	<p>Dates and venues of next meetings (all on Thursdays at 7.30): Dates for 2025 meetings: 3 April (Kirkby Malham Parish Hall, new Walter Morrison Room – to be confirmed); National Trust’s Heart of the Dales project (TBC); 1 May (Airton Farm Shop TBC); 12 June (Malham Village Hall); 11 September; 2 October; 27 November (Malham Village Hall); venues to be confirmed in due course.</p>
AOB	<p>MP reported on pollution incident at Tan Pits Beck, reported to the Environment Agency. The sewage works are earmarked for renovation by Yorkshire Water in three years’ time.</p>