

**Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting
of the
Dales Way Association
held at 2:30pm on
Saturday 26 Oct 2013
in the
Riverside Hotel, Riverside Gardens, Bridge Lane, Ilkley LS29 9EU**

Before today's AGM thirteen DWA members joined Chairman Colin Speakman for a most enjoyable stroll along the river Wharfe from Burnsall to Grassington following the path of the Dales Way. We utilised the excellent Dales Bus service from Ilkley for the start and finish of the walk.

Introduction

Colin welcomed Dales Way Association (DWA) members and remarked that the walk undertaken that morning held special significance as this included crossing the Hebden Suspension Bridge to view progress on the improvements. The new planking had been paid for by a generous donation from DWA member Eileen King in memory of her late partner Roy Docherty and had been a lovely way to remember him.

Colin also sent warmest good wishes to Frank Sanderson, our President, who was sadly unable to attend.

Present:

Colin Speakman (Chairman - Ilkley), Alex McManus (Footpaths Officer - Harrogate), Donald Holliday (Treasurer/Cumbria Rep - Windermere), Chris Grogan (Secretary - Saltaire), Kath Doyle (Committee Member – Yeadon), Tony Hill (Member – Burneside), Alan Sutcliffe (Member – Ilkley), Gordon Tasker (Member – Yeadon), Eileen King (Member – Great Dunmow, Essex), Andrew Gibson (Member – Cottingham), Elaine Gibson (Member- Cottingham), Ros Langdon (Member – Sunbury on Thames), Julia Jardine (Member Ellesmere, Shropshire), Chris Musson (Member – South Normanton)

Apologies:

Frank Sanderson (President), Tony Grogan (Web Administrator), Kevin Yates, Malcolm Wray, Rowan Brockhurst, Mary Wood, Steve Taylor.

Minutes of the AGM Saturday 27 October 2012 were passed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed Donald Holliday

Seconded Chris Grogan

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Colin presented his report on the year's activities. He commented that it had been a landmark year in which the Association had for the first time run entirely web based. What had seemed to be a problem had become an opportunity and far from losing members had increased our membership and interest in the DWA. Colin paid tribute to the work of Chris and Tony Grogan who had led the transition of the Association from paper and post based membership to the development of membership via the internet. He observed that the DWA ran on a tiny committee of 6 and thanked "our man in Cumbria" Donald Holliday, Alex Mc Manus for his energy ,efficiency and inspiration, Kath Doyle for the Autumn Newsletter and Frank Sanderson for his advice and wisdom. Colin reflected on the walk and enjoyable meal undertaken with Douglas Cossar in April and said he would personally miss him as Vice Chair of DWA.

Colin commented on the terrific working relationship with all the local authorities who demonstrated tremendous support and enthusiasm for the Dales Way.

He reflected on the changes to the Cam High Road and forest and the potential to use the alternative route. Also the development of the dairy processing plant in Grassington which the associaton had unsuccessfully opposed.

There were no questions.

Treasurer's Report

Donald presented the annual accounts. Eileen King asked what constituted "Donations to others" and Donald clarified that this included membership of the Yorkshire Dales Society and Friends of the 3 Peaks and a significant contribution towards the Dry Stone Walling Competition held at Dent. YDNPA had purchased a cup with the name of the DWA on it. The report was accepted as an accurate record of the finances of the DWA.

Proposed Donald Holliday

Seconded Chris Grogan

The vote was unanimous.

Sutcliffe and Riley continued as the DWA Accountants for 2013-14

Membership Secretary's Report

Chris presented the Membership Secretary's Report. Since moving to the website we had received 4 resignations from the Association and membership was growing steadily with currently around 600 members. With 75% paying membership by Bankers Order or other electronic payment. Only 65 members had registered for Gift Aid and we needed to look for opportunities to encourage members to sign up.

Website Report

Presented by Chris in Tony's absence, confirmed that all new members are now paying membership on line via the website. A facility is now available for committee members to add and highlight issues eg flood warnings or temporary routes. The DWA handbook is held and maintained on the website and accommodation provider information can be updated very regularly. Facebook interest is growing all the time with people planning to walk the DW asking questions and advice of those who have completed it.

The Pennine Way Association had asked how we managed the transition to being a web based association and this has been shared with them.

Gordon Tasker asked if there was an opportunity to promote the Dales Way before and during the Tour de France (Yorkshire Stages) to be held in early July 2014. This is something which Chris Grogan agreed to explore.

Footpath Officer's Report

Alex presented the comprehensive Footpath Officer's Report. He provided an update on the work at Cam Woodlands and stated this now provided a clear forest with path and graded road and would overcome the long running issue of walkers getting lost in Cam Wood. Changes to the Cam High Road had now been incorporated in the DVD. Dales Way Information Boards had been updated and replaced in 7 locations with a couple more to complete. Colin expressed his gratitude to Alex for all his superb work in this regard. Alex reported the work on the Hebden Suspension bridge will be completed by December 2013.

There were no questions.

Election of Officers and Committee

The following people agreed to stand as Officers and Committee Members for the year 2013-14. It was felt that it was very important to have someone join the committee to represent the DW accommodation providers and Tony Hill agreed to stand in this capacity.

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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Frank Sanderson |
| Chairman | Colin Speakman |
| Footpaths Officer | Alex McManus |
| Treasurer | Donald Holliday |
| Secretary | Chris Grogan |
| Web Administrator | Tony Grogan |
| Newsletters/ Minutes | Kath Doyle |
| Accommodation Providers | Tony Hill |

Proposed Gordon Tasker

Seconded Elaine Gibson

The vote was unanimous.

Any Other Business

Colin raised the issue of the potential reduction in the Dales Bus Service from April 2013 and the impact on Dales Way walkers. He reflected that the walk just completed would not have been possible without the 74 Dales Bus service. Local people were also very concerned about the impact on their businesses. It was agreed that Colin would write to protest to North Yorkshire County Council on behalf of the DWA and would add information on the proposal to the Dales Way website.

Eileen King asked if it would be possible to place a memorial seat on the Dales Way route. Chris Grogan stated that YDNP authority appeared reluctant and agreed to go back to them with a further request.

Colin thanked everyone for coming, especially those members who had travelled from afar, and the meeting closed at 4pm.