

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

The meeting took place on Sunday, 24th July 1994 at Blenheim Lodge, Bowness on Windermere. All those present would like to thank Mr & Mrs Sanderson for their hospitality.

Present: Douglas Cossar, John & Sandra Creese, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines. Members Ray Hood & Don Kelso also attended & were welcomed by the committee.

1. Apologies were received from committee members Alyson Coney & Paul Hannon. An apology was also received from Lengthsman John Nettleton. Member Gordon Fanstone also sent his apology.
2. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 22nd May 1994, were agreed to be a correct record with the exception of Para.7b. Margaret Staines to be substituted for Sandra Creese.
3. There were no arisings from the previous minutes that are not covered by the Agenda.
4. Membership & Finance. David Smith reported the following figures:-

Membership - currently 239 of whom 123 offered accommodation. 30 members had NOT renewed their subscriptions this calendar year to date & are of course not included in the above figures.

A discussion was held on the possibility of becoming affiliated with other organisations such as the Ramblers & LDWA. It was agreed that this was worth looking into although we could not afford any large subscriptions & would have to assess if there were any advantages for us. Douglas Cossar is to let David Smith have details of the Ramblers scheme. David Smith to approach the LDWA.

Finance - Current bank balance £815.53 (+ nearly £90 handed to the Treasurer at the meeting from sale of Sweat Shirts).

Note that £200/300 are due to Frank Sanderson to cover purchase of the second batch of badges.

David Smith confirmed that members will be asked to consider taking out a Standing Order for their annual subscriptions when they renew. New members will also be urged to do the same.

Main items to date in financial year from 1st April. These are round figures only:-

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| Subscriptions | | £150 |
| Donations | | £ 26 |
| Sales | Badges | £ 90 |
| | Handbooks | £ 26 |
| | Certificates | £ 66 |
| | Sweat Shirts | £ 50 (+ see earlier) |
| Purchases | Handbooks | £ 25 |
| | Sweat shirts | £467 |
| | Stamps etc | £ 38 |

The first batch of 500 badges was now nearly all sold (6 left). With the sale of these expected shortly the total profit to the Association will be just over £200. To get the true profit the postage costs need to be deducted from the above but no exact figure is available. As an estimate the true profit is in the order of £150. Frank Sanderson, at the meeting, took 50 badges (from the second batch) for sale in Bowness.

Donations received this financial year are sums of up to £5 either as separate donations or a rounding up of subscriptions or purchases.

5. Way marking. Not a lot to report, but the aim of achieving special way marking for the length of the Dales Way by Summer 1995 was reaffirmed. As reported in previous minutes the western authorities were enthusiastic about this. The problem lay with the Dales National Park who, unofficially, indicate complete lack of interest in the Dales Way.

Resulting from this deplorable situation, Colin Speakman agreed to prepare a policy statement on the Dales Way. This to be circulated to committee members for consideration. When agreed this to be sent out to all those concerned - taking it to a high level. (Circulation List to be agreed). This is probably the most important matter we have in hand & is fundamental to the future of the Dales Way. The Park's complaint that it will increase erosion is easily countered - especially bearing in mind their publicity for overcrowded circular walks from car parks such as Buckden.

6. Sales. It was reported that John & Sandra Creese had agreed to take on the main task of handling sales of Dales Way items (Badges, Sweat shirts etc). David Smith would still hold a small stock so items could be sold from either source. The exception would be Sweat shirts only available from the Creeses' & Certificates which would all be handled by David Smith.

The above is already operating but will not get going properly till after issue of the 1995 Handbook. NB. Discussion needed at the end of the year to decide on wording for Handbook. David Smith to prepare new combined membership application & order form.

Very few badges packed in individual envelopes remain in stock. David Smith to see if he can pack some as they really need this for resale at TIC's etc. David Smith to sell a batch to Ilkley TIC who had expressed an interest.

There was some discussion on the idea of holding some stock of guide books etc for resale. Paul Hannon had already agreed this in principle. Colin Speakman agreed also for his new book. Copies of the Gemmell/Speakman guide are already held for resale by Douglas Cossar. David Smith to investigate the Footprint strip map of the route.

It was agreed NOT to hold the Cicerone guide which does not mention the Association. This to be reviewed in future.

It was not anticipated that sales of the above books would be significant. It was felt to be worth doing as a service to members (& possibly others interested in the Dales Way).

David Smith reported getting details of the Harrogate/Dales Way link from Ramblers Harrogate area (Tony Goldsmith). These are a bit out of date & revision is planned. Douglas Cossar agreed to follow this up to confirm details of supply & the possibility of the Association holding stock. (Note. Details of the 3 Link routes need to be considered for inclusion in the Handbook).

7. Dales Way Register etc. Frank Sanderson explained that he was still collecting reports from those completing the Dales Way. These are normally sent to David Smith now but are passed on. The aim is to use this material to publish a book on the Dales Way - "The Dales Way without Boots"?

Frank Sanderson had reported great interest from the Bowness Bay Boating Company. Arrangements were in hand for a special place, with notice, for successful Dales Way walkers to cool their boots in the edge of the lake. They stock Dales Way guides etc & also now our badges. Frank agreed to arrange for a Register to be held there for those completing the walk & to let David Smith have a simple map for inclusion in the Newsletter showing the location of the above at Bowness. Possibly a Register at Ilkley as well? David Smith to check out Ilkley TIC.

David Smith explained that on receiving reports & other information, he extracted problems or accommodation matters, before passing them on. Problems were then referred to Lengthsmen & accommodation matters to Douglas Cossar.

Regarding the problems, it was hoped that Lengthsmen could assess whether any action was needed from the information given. (Normally people's comments were passed on verbatim).

8. Meets. David Smith reported that the proposed Cam Houses meet over the weekend of 10th September might not take place now. This was mainly due to the fire in the Bunk House. This was now usable - but fully booked!! Only 4 or 5 had expressed any interest in the weekend. It might still happen on a B&B basis at the farm.

David & Pat Walsh had volunteered to lead a walk in January or February - possibly from Lincoln's Inn Bridge. Details awaited for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Other committee members indicated that they would volunteer to lead day walks. Details to David Smith by about the end of September please for inclusion in the Newsletter. (Dales Bus Meet?)

9. Any other business.

Frank reported on a very successful colouring competition that had taken place with local schools. This had featured the Dales Way Seat & hopefully fostered an awareness of the route. Frank now reported interest in repeating this further east - Burneside etc.

The small book of local walks around the Dales Way is now being put together by Norman Buckley for Frank Sanderson.

John & Sandra Creese expressed disappointment at the short length of the route they were allocated as Lengthsmen. It was agreed that this was unfortunate although their stretch from Addingham to Bolton Bridge was critical with a major route improvement required. David Smith agreed to arrange with John Blakeborough that they helped him on the Ilkley to Addingham stretch.

10. It was agreed that the next committee meeting be held in Sedbergh on Sunday 25th September. Meet at the car park on the Dent Road at 10.00 am for a walk followed by pub lunch & meeting in the afternoon. David Smith to announce venue for the meeting on the agenda. It was suggested that this be the Bull Hotel which is listed in the Handbook.

David Smith