

## Minutes of a Meeting called by the Dales Way Association

This meeting took place on **Monday, 17th July 1995** at Bolton Abbey Village Hall.

**Present:**

Benedict Heyes	Bolton Abbey Estate	
Rick Hill	Bradford Metropolitan Council	
Richard Perham	Bradford Metropolitan Council	
Roger Brookes	Leeds City Council	
Helen Shepherd	North Yorkshire Council	
George Flynn	South Lakeland Council	
Alyson Coney	Dales Way Association	
Douglas Cossar	Dales Way Association	Vice Chairman
Frank Sanderson	Dales Way Association	President
Ken Staines	Dales Way Association	
David Smith	Dales Way Association	Hon. Treasurer

**Apologies** were received from:

Countryside Commission (Yorkshire & Humberside)
Paul Burgess Harrogate Council
Lake District National Park
John Sheard Bolton Abbey Estate
Paul Hannon Dales Way Association

**Also invited:** Yorkshire Dales National Park

The meeting was opened by Frank Sanderson, who welcomed those attending and presented a brief history of the Dales Way from antiquity to the present day.

Douglas Cossar then explained the reasons why the Dales Way Association had felt it useful to call the meeting. He stressed the popularity of the route both nationally and from overseas.

The present responsibility for the route (including the links from Bradford, Harrogate and Leeds) is split up into seven different public bodies with nobody having any overall overview of its full length. For this reason the Association had been formed to attempt to provide a coordinating influence in policies relating to it.

Following discussion the meeting was unanimous in agreeing that a coordinating committee would fulfil a useful purpose. It is unlikely that such a committee would meet very frequently - possibly once a year unless some specific and urgent matter affecting the whole route

should arise. The Association will be fully prepared to take on the secretarial duties needed to support such a committee.

The most urgent specific policy that needed resolving was the provision of suitable way marking for the full length of the Dales Way. Way marking was needed both to indicate the direction of the route and to give it a specific identity. The present Countryside Commission arrows can be adequate to indicate direction - although they do need attention in some places and need improvement for those starting the walk in the Lakes.

Various ideas were aired for a suitable additional sign which would be unique to the Dales Way and give identity to the walk. The meeting fully agreed that such identity would be worthwhile and an improvement. The Countryside Commission, in their letter of apology, also supported such action. In the end the meeting unanimously agreed that the Dales Way Association would go ahead with the design of a suitable way mark. It would seek comment from all concerned before proceeding with it, but would then be responsible for purchasing the necessary number needed for the whole route. The various Authorities would then purchase the quantities needed for their sections.

The foregoing is a very brief record of the meeting. The Dales Way Association would like to thank those who attended for their contribution to it.

David Smith