

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The meeting took place on **Sunday, 17th September, 1995** at 67 Grove Road in Ilkley.

Present: Alyson Coney, Douglas Cossar, John & Sandra Creese, Paul Hannon, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Colin Speakman & Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. 100% Attendance.
2. The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th June 1995 were agreed to be a correct record.
3. Arisings from the Minutes.
European Routes. Douglas Cossar agreed to respond to the Ramblers' letter. Ramblers' at Harrogate had responded to our suggestions for amendment to their draft of the Link from that town. They noted these but did not wish to make any changes.
4. Officers Reports.
John Creese. Details in following Agenda items.
David Smith. Membership now 236 of whom 108 offered accommodation. 47 members have not renewed their subscriptions this calendar year to date. Of these 5 offered accommodation. So far we have gained 61 new members in the year with 7 of them offering accommodation. Bankers Orders are held for 34 members.
Current bank balance is £2118.50. This is an increase of £597 during our financial year to date. This includes the cost of the special Bolton Abbey meeting. Other major costs to date in the financial year are £111 for stamps, £169 for stationery & £262 for purchase of a batch of sweat shirts. The apparently high cost for stationery covers the printing of our Membership/Order forms (£130).
5. Frank Sanderson & Douglas Cossar reported on the very successful meeting held with Authorities with responsibility for the Dales Way at Bolton Abbey Village Hall on 17th July. (Brief minutes of this were circulated so details will not be repeated here). Briefly however general agreement was received from all attending that we should proceed with the design and purchase of way marks for the route. Based on estimates of quantities needed for each stretch, these would then be sold to the Authorities who, almost certainly, would undertake their installation.

6. The main disappointment at the Bolton Abbey meeting was the failure of the Yorkshire Dales National Park to attend or offer any constructive suggestions. As a result Douglas Cossar had written a letter to Officers of the Park, Members of their Committee and to the Countryside Commission.

Responses to this had been received very promptly. Full support for our aims, particularly with way marking, had come from the Countryside Commission and also a Park Committee member (Beth Graham). The Park itself had accepted that their responses to the meeting had been unsatisfactory and asked that we go ahead and 'mend bridges' with them so we can work in harmony in the future.

It was felt that this was a very satisfactory outcome and that Douglas Cossar would now send out follow up letters. In general these would seek to 'mend bridges' as suggested.

7. Way Marks. Lengthy discussion took place on the design of a suitable way mark. In the end it was agreed that David Smith go ahead to get details of price etc for these from a Supplier. (Douglas Cossar had arranged for a Supplier to send their brochure to David Smith as a first step).

The final guide lines were that this would incorporate a direction arrow and have the words - Dales Way - repeated twice around the circumference. It probably would not be practicable to incorporate any logo. A similar design would be needed for the three Link routes with the word "Link" added.

John Creese had had a very good response from Lengthsmen on likely quantities needed for each stretch of the route. However as it was decided that these would be considered as the sole way marks, not relying on existing Countryside Commission Arrows, the quantity needed would be considerably increased. To ensure we have plenty without having to reorder for replacements, this is likely to be something like 2000.

8. Any Other Business.

Douglas Cossar to approach the National Trust about an off road route between Beckermonds and Oughtershaw.

David Smith to write to Bunk Houses and Camp Sites along the route suggesting that they should join the Association.

Consideration to be given to means to estimate numbers walking the route each year. Information from B&B's & possibly a count on specific days carried out by ourselves. This to be on Agenda for next meeting.

9. The date for the next meeting was agreed to be **Sunday, 3rd December**. This will be at 67 Grove road again. A walk on the Bradford Link from Shipley to Ilkley will be arranged for the Committee in the morning. Meet Ilkley Railway Station. Details with the Agenda.

Once again the Committee are grateful for the hospitality given by Fleur & Colin Speakman which made the meeting a very enjoyable occasion.

David Smith