

## Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting

The meeting took place on **Sunday, 26th February, 1995** at 67 Grove Road in Ilkley.

**Present:** John & Sandra Croose, Alyson Conroy, Douglas Cossar, Frank Sanderson, David Smith Ken & Margaret Staines and Colin Speakman.

1. Apologies were received from Paul Hannon.
2. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 27th November 1994 were agreed to be a correct record.
3. There were no arisings from the previous minutes that are not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.
4. Membership & Finance. The Treasurer reported that the membership currently stood at 236. In the calendar year of 1994 we had lost 69 members, but gained 77.

The number of members offering accommodation at the end of 1994 was 104. During the year 21 had not renewed their subscriptions, but we had had 16 new addresses.

The financial position was healthy with over £1500 in the bank - although we still owe our President some £200 to cover the purchase of the last batch of badges.

The cash flow to date in the financial year was +£645 which is particularly good as this includes a payment of £467 for the stock of sweat shirts. The Spring Newsletter, with postage, will cost around £100. A donation of £50 was noted with thanks from Colin Speakman from the proceeds of 'The Dales Way'. Sales continued to bring in useful income although we had not yet broken even with the Sweat Shirts.

Copies of our order form are now included in copies of Handbooks sold to non members. We also wish to supply membership/order forms to members offering accommodation. In view of the quantities thus involved a new combined leaflet had been designed which would be printed, rather than photo copied. Margaret Staines is to report what figure should go in as a price for the sweat shirts. Douglas Cossar kindly agreed to give a second opinion on the design so we could then go ahead with it as soon as possible.

5. The Discussion Paper. This had been circulated widely as agreed at the previous meeting. David Smith reported on the responses received to date. By and large those from 'Users' were very supportive although that from Ramblers Headquarters was somewhat disappointing. Responses from 'Providers' (National Parks etc) tended to be very cautious.

Following discussion it was agreed to proceed as follows:-

- a. Colin Speakman had recently met and chatted with Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Countryside Commission. There is a possibility that arrangements can be made for him to join us informally for a good walk in the future. Colin Speakman to try and arrange.
- b. Copies of the Discussion Paper to be circulated to members of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Committee. David Smith to get names and addresses and action.
- c. A meeting to be set up for discussion with all concerned. This is to be on **Tuesday, 9th May**. It will be held at Bolton Abbey Village Hall (or Addingham as a second choice). Times 10.30 to 12.30. A buffet lunch to be provided for those attending. Consider hiring a Secretary to take accurate notes of the meeting in view of possible statements by public figures.

Colin Speakman to see if Bob Heseltine of the National Park can be persuaded to attend. Also consider inviting Tourist Authorities and Chatsworth Estate.

6. Footpath Officers report. All Lengthsmen have now been contacted and information is beginning to come in. No major problems have been reported - and the minor ones are to be evaluated and the relevant authorities contacted as necessary. Members in the Burneside area have been contacted to see if they can help with a local scheme of footpath repairs etc.

It was suggested that contact should be made with the Footpath Secretaries of the local Areas of the Ramblers. (Shirley Woodman, YDNP - Clive Bell, Craven - Kendal Group, Lower Wharfedale Group).

How do we get on the Consultation List for any proposed diversions or changes to the Dales Way?

7. The 1995 Handbook had now been produced and Douglas Cossar was congratulated on the high standard achieved. This will be circulated to members with the Spring Newsletter in the first week of March. It was queried whether some, carefully screened, advertising might be incorporated in the future.
8. Dates previously suggested for the 1995 AGM had proved impractical. It was now agreed that this be held on **Saturday, 6th May**. It would be held in Linton with similar arrangements to 1994.
9. Any other business.

Frank Sanderson explained the proposal by Red Alert to install a special feed box for red squirrels on the Dales Way.

It was confirmed that we would, in due course, be re ordering badges. Frank Sanderson needed to know this to inform the manufacturers who were re equipping. (Current stock is nearly 300).

Margaret Staines displayed some posters she & Ken had designed to promote sale of sweat shirts. These were agreed to be fine and that they proceed to get a modest batch printed. A notional limit of about £20 was mentioned by the Treasurer. These would then be distributed to likely outlets on the Dales Way.

10. It was agreed that the next ordinary committee meeting would follow the AGM and be on **Sunday 4th June**. Once again at 67 Grove Road. To be confirmed at the AGM.

Once again, our thanks to Fleur & Colin Speakman for their hospitality.

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