

Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting of the Dales Way Association.

This was held at 2 00 pm on Saturday, 6th May 1995 in the Anderton Memorial Institute in Linton.

Colin Speakman introduced and chaired the meeting in the absence of the President.

Present: Alyson Coney, Douglas Cossar, John & Sandra Creese, Alec Freeman, Paul Hannon, Pat & Geoff Hickman, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. Apologies were received from Alan Barrett, Frank Sanderson, Pat & David Walsh.
2. The Minutes of the 1994 AGM and also the previous ordinary Committee Meeting held on 26th February 1994 were agreed as being correct records.
3. The only matter arising from the Minutes, not covered elsewhere, was the meeting with interested parties to the Dales Way Discussion Paper that had been agreed to be held on 9th May. This had not been arranged in practice due to some later unfavourable responses received. It was felt that our case would be badly weakened if we could not show a reasonably united front from users. Item 8 discusses the Paper.
4. There were no arisings to discuss from the 1994 AGM.
5. Colin Speakman presented the President's Report in the absence of Frank Sanderson who was unable to attend due to an urgent family emergency.

He reported a good year for the Association with a high standard being achieved with the Handbook together with two issues of the Newsletter. The work of the Lengthsmen was now falling into place under the direction of John Creese. The Dales Way Discussion Paper had been prepared and sent to the Countryside Commission with copies to interested parties. Responses were generally favourable, although some had proved to be disappointing and some displayed worrying ignorance by some Authorities about the Dales Way.

Frank Sanderson's successful painting competition on a Dales Way theme for schools had increased awareness of the route at that end.

6. **Report of Footpath Officer - John Creese.**

Contact had been established with and reports received from the majority of Lengthsmen and no major problems were reported along the full length of the route. Contacts had also been made with various Authorities with helpful responses. The South Lakeland Authority in particular had been helpful, although it had yet to be seen whether this would be translated into action. (Such as at Greenhead Farm).

It was hoped that the above contacts made would result in our being consulted about any possible diversions or other matters about the route.

No information was available about any progress on the reported possibility of a new path to avoid road walking on the Addingham/Bolton Bridge section.

The committee were delighted to hear from Douglas Cossar that he had made contact with Bradford Council about the need for a footbridge on the Ilkley/Addingham section (Where previously reported) He had had a very positive response to this initiative and felt it most likely that a scheme would now go ahead. It had been suggested that we might be asked to contribute to the costs which were estimated to be about £300. It was agreed that we would willingly pay at least £100 as our share of this which would be good publicity for us. Possibly the Ramblers would also pick up some of the cost.

Douglas Cossar also agreed to make contact with the relevant National Park warden about the possibilities of a new path being created between Beckermonds and Oughtershaw. Such a path would be a big improvement on the present necessity to walk on the road.

Report from Sales Manager - Margaret Staines.

Sales of sweat shirts continued slowly and it was agreed that a new batch be ordered as required. It was confirmed that we should remain with the same supplier as the quality was satisfactory. However it was noted that the sizes were definitely smaller than the description. Sweat shirts had been returned for a larger size as a result. The sizes now quoted on our order form are however correct and should be taken note of rather than the description - "Small" - Medium" etc.

Report from Treasurer - David Smith

Our paid up membership currently totalled 200 of whom 100 provided accommodation. The above totals do not include some 24 members whose subscriptions fall in this quarter. Renewal requests had only gone out about 2 weeks previously and it was hoped that a number would rejoin. Two of those outstanding offer accommodation.

25 members had failed to renew in the first quarter of the year and, very regrettably, 6 of these had offered accommodation. Reminder letters are sent to the latter.

30 members now paid their subscriptions by Standing Order on their banks.

Alan Barrett had kindly checked the accounts for us in previous years, but unfortunately, due to other commitments, at the last minute had had to decline to do this this year.

The Income & Expenditure Report for the financial year April 1994 to March 1995

was presented to the meeting. This as is usual compared figures for last year and the previous one. It showed out finances to be in a healthy state with roughly £1,500 now in our current account.

A copy of the report is attached and forms part of these minutes. The overall result for the year was a surplus of £598 which was about £250 less than in 93/94. In reality performance was much better as we had purchased a considerable quantity of goods for resale in the last year.

Donations are always welcome - often given by rounding up subscriptions. However two must be recorded in particular with many thanks. These were from Colin Speakman from the proceeds of his new Dales Way book, and from Frank Sanderson who had paid for more than half the cost of our latest batch of badges.

7. After some discussion, and failing any alternatives being suggested, the current office holders were asked to continue for another year.

David Smith said that whereas he was very happy to continue with his multi titled tasks, he felt that what he did was largely limited to background work. He suggested that someone else was needed to take on the outside tasks needed to further the aims of the Association - in particular forging links with contacts in the various authorities along the route. Such a person really needs to be resident within easy reach of the Dales Way.

In discussion it was suggested that rather than one person as mentioned above, possibly four could each take on one of the main authorities along the route and report back to the committee. This to be followed up at the next meeting.

Sandra Creese very kindly offered to help in any way possible with the secretarial work. This will be kept in mind although most of the tasks are linked and it would not be easy to separate out any particular aspect.

8. **The Dales Way Discussion Paper.**

As mentioned previously, responses to this had been varied to say the least and had caused a change in policy. After some discussion it was now agreed that the best course of action would be to prepare an article for a magazine - possibly The Great Outdoors who had recently included a paragraph mentioning the Paper.

David Smith to draft an article which would be knocked into shape and submitted by Colin Speakman. A separate, short, press release might be produced at the same time for general distribution. (Doubtful if possible before next meeting).

Some discussion followed about the Link Paths joining the Dales Way from Leeds, Bradford and Harrogate. It was agreed that these should be firmly and officially linked to the Dales Way although there was some uncertainty as to whether one of them (from Leeds) would become part of THE Dales Way. There was felt to be political advantage in getting the metropolitan authorities interested.

9. There was no other business. The date of the next ordinary committee meeting was confirmed to be on **Sunday 4th June** at 67 Grove Road.

David Smith

The Dales Way Association

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st March 1995

INCOME	1994/1995	1993/1994
Subscriptions	863	721
Donations	110	66
Bank Interest	5	0
SALES		
Badges	253	397
Handbooks	79	37
Certificates	126	104
Sweat Shirts	343	0
Cost of Sales of Sweat Shirts	-29	
	1750	1325
LESS EXPENDITURE		
Photo Copying	115	0
Stamps	183	220
Stationery	80	83
Office Equipment	0	35
AGM	5	8
Subscriptions : Ramblers	16	0
LDWA	7	0
Misc	4	-4
PURCHASES for RESALE		
Badges	100	0
Handbooks	175	142
Sweat Shirts	467	0
	1152	142
SURPLUS for YEAR	598	841