

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

The Meeting took place on **Sunday, 15th September 1996** at 2.00 pm at 67 Grove Road, Ilkley.

Present:- Douglas Cossar, Pat Hickman, Frank Sanderson, David Smith, Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. **Apologies.** None received.
2. **The Minutes** of the last ordinary Committee held on 16th June were accepted as a true record.
3. **Arising from the Minutes.** All matters are covered in the agenda below.
4. **Officer's Reports.**

Sales. Margaret Staines reported very good sales of Sweat Shirts with 36 sent out since the last meeting. Committee members now had their Polo Shirts and it was agreed that a stock of these would now be purchased for resale. Details cannot be included on our Order Form till reprinted in a year or so. However details would be given in Newsletters and a separate leaflet produced. Two colours will be stocked in Jade and Bottle Green with short sleeves & a collar. Selling prices, including P&P, would be £11.95 for small, medium & large sizes and £12.25 for XL & XXL.

David Smith reported that total income from sales this financial year was already £1,355. This is not profit of course. The greatest proportion of this was for sweat shirts (£855) but other items sold made a very welcome contribution.

Footpaths. Pat Hickman had already made contact with the YDNP about a path problem on the Kettlewell to Buckden section. (Jon Avison & R.Ackrel). This had been initiated by a report from Lengthsman, Rex Madin.

Colin Speakman tabled a report he had prepared on his section from Dent to Sedbergh. This raised many points and Pat was asked to identify the relevant Park Officer for this area and take this up with him. One important point related to a possible improvement to the route using the fairly new Ellers Bridge and continuing by Mire House, Craggs Hill, Burton Hill & Gap Wood. This would avoid a lengthy stretch to Rash Bridge which is on tarmac.

David Smith had produced a draft for the proposed Report Form for Lengthsmen to complete. This is to be amended and copies sent to Pat Hickman so she can send it out reasonably soon.

Colin Speakman reported on an important meeting held recently at Grove Road with representatives of YDNP. Douglas Cossar had attended. This was on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales Society as well as the DWA. This established very welcome contact with the Park and was very positive towards future progress on the Dales Way.

News had been received that the new, mainly permissive, path had now been created to avoid most of the road walking on the Addingham to Bolton Bridge section. There had not been time to go and look at this. It was suggested that David Smith visit the estate office at Bolton Bridge to arrange the supply of way marks. Details will be given in the Autumn Newsletter and next Handbook.

It had been learned with regret from Dorothy Smith at Cam Houses that some individuals had been abusing the trust offering of tea and refreshments. As a result she was considering discontinuing this very welcome arrangement.

New bridge on Ilkley to Addingham section. Douglas Cossar reported no news on this. David Smith stressed the importance of this having seen the same day an elderly couple having difficulty getting past this place despite dry weather.

Douglas Cossar confirmed that he could see no possibility in the foreseeable future of taking any further action to avoid the road walking between Beckermonds and Oughtershaw.

Finance. David Smith reported the current membership to be 286 of whom 101 offered accommodation. At the time of the meeting we had lost 45 members in the calendar year of whom 7 had offered accommodation. No doubt a few of these will in fact pay their subscriptions late. In the same period we had gained 81 members of whom 10 offered accommodation. 58 members paid their subscriptions by Bankers Order.

The Society's current account at the Bank had now risen above £2000 again which was very pleasing.

David Smith reported that he had a meeting arranged shortly with an Alistair Wallace who is a member. This person is a writer and artist who is planning a book on the Dales Way incorporating water colours that he will paint. He is offering a royalty to the Association for each book and each separate painting sold. (At the time of writing these minutes, this meeting has taken place and it is possible that we could receive significant sums from this generous offer. Mr Wallace has already done something similar on the Coast to Coast walk with money going to Mountain Rescue teams).

5. **New Members for Committee.** Margaret & Ken Staines had two possibilities that they agreed to follow up. Frank Sanderson would approach John Nettleton. Hopefully there will be success here and we could have up to three new members by the time of our next meeting.
6. **Progress with Way Marks.** David Smith reported that Leeds and South Lakeland had both received their supply of way marks and had both now paid for them in full. He would be contacting Bradford soon and there should be no problem in getting them to buy a batch. The YDNP would be contacted shortly for this purpose probably when we know the Area Manager for the eastern end of their part of the route.

Ken & Margaret Staines whilst walking the route near Burneside had met and talked to a group of Kendal Ramblers who were installing the way marks for SLDC. David Smith is to write to Kendal Ramblers' expressing our thanks. There was a query about what way marks to use on a length of Permissive Path. The vast majority of way marks purchased by SLDC were yellow with a very small number of blue & red. Surprisingly they had not asked for any white ones which are required for permissive stretches. They will be contacted to suggest that they get some!

7. **Dales Way Seats.** Frank Sanderson reported that progress continued to get finance for the two seats and although he still had quite a bit of work to do on this, things looked hopeful with money ear marked from a number of sources.
8. **Presentation to Arthur Gemmell.** Unfortunately it had not been possible to make arrangements to do this at this meeting. It was agreed that Colin Speakman make a date with Arthur to do this. David Smith would come along to help. The possibility of getting Press coverage was suggested.
9. **Any Other Business.** Our member John Firth had been in touch concerning the success of Scotts operation providing transport along the Dales Way and secure car parking. He asked whether we could distribute his leaflet with the 1997 Handbook. Details do already appear within the Handbook text. After quite a bit of discussion it was agreed that we would agree to this but would require a fair fee of probably £100. It was agreed that for the moment the idea of actually printing advertisements such as this in the Handbook would just be creating difficulties.

Frank Sanderson handed to David Smith a letter/report on a walk along the Dales Way which included a request for a Certificate. Payment had been made by cheque to Frank. David Smith will action this. However it high lighted an error in *The Dales Way* by Colin Speakman. on page 13 this incorrectly states that Certificates are available from Frank and that cheques should be made out for him. This is unfortunate but luckily has not yet led to too much extra work in handling any response to this.

10. **Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting be held on **Saturday, 16th November.** It would take place in the village hall at Hebden (to be confirmed in the agenda). This will follow a YDS meeting at the same venue in the morning. YDS to book the hall for the whole period.

Once again the Committee would like to thank Fleur & Colin Speakman for their hospitality in inviting this meeting to be held in their home.

David Smith