

Minutes of a Dales Way Association Committee Meeting.

The Meeting took place on **Sunday, 16th November 1996** at 2.00 pm at the Village Hall in Hebden.

Present:- Pat Hickman, Joan & Russell Jamieson, David Smith,
Colin Speakman, Ken & Margaret Staines.

1. **Apologies.** Douglas Cossar & Frank Sanderson.
2. **The Minutes** of the last ordinary Committee held on 15th September were accepted as a true record.
3. **Arising from the Minutes.** All matters are covered in the agenda below.

Joan and Russell Jamieson were welcomed to their first committee meeting of the Association and were formally co-opted into it.

4. **Officer's Reports.**

Sales. Margaret Staines reported continuing good sales of Sweat Shirts. She now had purchased a significant stock of these together with the new Polo Shirts. For interest David Smith had prepared some figures showing the long term sales results for these. Over the three years that they had been on sale and assuming the sale of existing stock at full price, we would have made £774. (That is better than £200 p.a.) In fact the figure will be a little better than this as it did not take account of old stock still held.

Footpaths. Pat Hickman tabled her report. 15 of the new Report Forms had been sent out to Lengthsmen and responses received from 9 of them. A copy of this report is attached as part of these minutes.

Resulting from the reports, Pat had written to the relevant National Park officers about the long standing problem above Cam Houses where the route is blocked by forestry. She had also written about the alternative route from Ellers Bridge in Dentdale suggested by Colin Speakman. (Ref. Minutes of last meeting).

The report contains a lot of very useful other information which is being acted upon if and as needed by David Smith.

In addition, Ken & Margaret Staines had been busy in Kettlewell on their way to the meeting and were able to pass on a useful up date on the accommodation position in the village.

A brief letter had been sent to the relevant Authority to oppose a planning application for a caravan & chalet development that would affect the route between Ilkley & Addingham. Douglas Cossar had been in touch with Bradford Council about this and believed that the proposals would not form any significant detrimental intrusion to the route. The proposed landscaping and screening should

eventually largely hide it from the line of the path which might gain some advantage from a realignment nearer the river. Douglas had suggested that having made contact indicating our concern about the implications for the Dales Way, we should keep a low profile. This opinion relates entirely to the effect on the Dales Way and does not reflect the position relating to such use of Green Belt land.

Finance. As subscription reminders for the fourth quarter had only been sent out a couple of weeks earlier, David Smith was not able to give any firm figure for the real current membership numbers. It had peaked to over 300 during the year, but unless more than expected rejoin, this is not likely to stay so high. It is likely to be nearer 300 than 250 by the end of the year however.

Following the purchase of Sweat Shirts etc (see Sales report), the Society's current account at the Bank was now over £1,600.

5. **Progress with Way Marks.** Way Marks supplied to Leeds Council for the Leeds Link but no progress report yet on installation programme. Bradford Council are to purchase a supply for the Bradford Link and the main route on to Bolton Bridge. This just awaits paper work. Harrogate Ramblers' are preparing a quantity estimate for North Yorkshire Council who will duly purchase signs for the Harrogate Link. Way Marks have been supplied to the northern part of the Yorkshire Dales Park and are to be paid for. David Smith has yet to arrange this with the southern part. The long section of the route in South Lakeland has now been fully way marked with the help of a local Ramblers' group. (They have been thanked for their efforts on our behalf). The Lakes Park remains a bit negative but have agreed to install signs at a low priority if we let them have some. This will be done - but probably without any payment.
7. **Dales Way Seats.** In the absence of Frank Sanderson there was no information to up date the position on these. It is believed however that both the two seats planned should be built in the fairly near future.
8. **New Guide Book.** David Smith reported on the guide book being written by our member Alistair Wallace together with a set of water colours. A significant contribution to Association funds would be made for sales achieved. It was suggested that we should have the opportunity to view the content in advance in the unlikely event that we might not agree with some detail. David Smith to contact the author about this.
9. **Presentation to Arthur Gemmell.** The committee were more than pleased to welcome Arthur Gemmell who had been invited to the Meeting. In the absence of Frank Sanderson, Colin Speakman made a presentation to him of a framed Certificate to commemorate the vast amount of work done by Arthur in the past in the formation of the Dales Way and countless other rights of way. Arthur is an Honorary Member of the Association.
10. **Any Other Business.** There was nothing to report under this heading.
11. **Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting be held on **Saturday, 18th January**. It would take place in the village hall at Long Preston and start at the slightly earlier time of 1.30pm. This will follow a YDS meeting at the same venue in the morning. YDS to book the hall for the whole period.

A date for the 1997 AGM was provisionally arranged to be on **Saturday, 17th May** in Dent. Starting time at 11.00pm.

David Smith